Second Sunday of Advent
December 9, 2018

Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God.

Baruch 5:5
John the Baptist preached from the desert. The desert not far from Jerusalem is extremely rugged, where steep hills and deep valleys are common across a barren landscape. When John quoted Isaiah in today's Gospel, this rough terrain stirred the imagination of John's listeners. John proclaimed that these hills and valleys are to be made level, to provide a smooth path for God to enter.

John's listeners recognized that the height of hills and the depth of valleys are similar to human attitudes and relationships: heights of personal pride and depths of discouragement and fear. Hills and valleys evoked how people treat each other, with some people raised high and others brought low. They suggested how social structures embody and harden these tendencies with large-scale systems of military, political, or economic oppression. John proclaimed that God was about to alter this social landscape through the work of Jesus.

**EARTH-MOVING**

Transforming the human landscape, like the task of smoothing the desert hills and valleys, is an enormous undertaking. Truly the work of God. Yet God looks for partners in this transformation. John the Baptist, and Jesus afterward, called followers to participate in God's work, and to begin with repentance. We, the Church, respond to this call today, and acknowledge our ongoing need for God's mercy and forgiveness. Our Advent preparation for Christmas includes opening our hearts to God's forgiveness, so that Jesus might come to take residence there.

We join in God's earth-moving project by repenting of how we block God's path with resentments and fears. When we are brought low in our lives, we seek God's help, and God will enlist the help of others. When we realize that we reside on mountains of advantage or privilege that place others in valleys, we are to repent and to change how we live. When we bring healing and justice to others, we are sharing in God's earth-shaking work, and preparing a straight pathway for our God.

Today's Readings: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

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**Church Office Phone:** 304-845-1593  
**Church Hall Phone:** 304-845-9238  
**Xavier Hall Phone:** 304-845-7080  
**Rev. That Son Cell:** 408-858-7467  
**Parish Office Email:** sfxmoundsville@comcast.net  
**Website:** sfxmoundsville.org  

**MSS SCHEDULE:**  
**Weekends:** Saturday - 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday - 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.  
**Weekdays:** Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m.  
**Holy Day Mass Schedule:** 8:00 am, 7:00 p.m.

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**Sacramento of Reconciliation (Confessions):**  
Sat. 3:30 p.m., or any other time upon request.

**Sacramento of Marriage:**  
By appointment. Contact the Parish House at least six months before the date of the marriage. Pre-Cana is required.

**Sacramento of Baptism:**  
By appointment. The Diocese requires instructions beforehand for the parents. Contact the parish office.

**Religious Education (C.C.D.):**  
Sundays during the school term at 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. for Grades 1-12.

**Registration and Church Support:**  
Parishioners should be properly registered at the Parish Office.
Second Sunday of Advent
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God has commanded
that every lofty mountain be made low.
— Baruch 5:7

WEEKLY SCHEDULES

Lectors/ Eucharistic Ministers:
12/15  4:00 p.m. Julie Fecat/ L. Yoho
12/16  8:00 a.m. M. Hitt/ John Hess
12/16  10:00 a.m. L. Remke/ P. Remke

Altar Servers:
12/15  4:00 p.m. Whitlatch
12/16  8:00 a.m. Kent
12/16  10:00 a.m. Swift/ Miller

Gift Bearers:
12/15  4:00  p.m. Kay Bossworth & Daunel Gump
12/16  8:00  a.m. Pete & Judy Mysliwiec
12/16  10:00  a.m. Georgia Pettit

Sacrists Cleaners: Week of December 10, 2018
Linda & Butch Miller

Greeters:
12/15  4:00 p.m. Danny Prado
12/16  8:00 a.m. Sherrie Kent
12/16  10:00 a.m. Linda Miller

Bingo December 14, 2018
Raffle – John & Loretta Niemiec
Kitchen – Daunel Gump & Pam Ryan

COLLECTION: November 25, 2018
Envelopes - $ 2,600.00
Loose Offering - $ 867.00
Electronic Giving - 35.00
Building Fund - $ 20.00
Memorial Offerings - $ 150.00
Pennies for God - $17.85
Attendance - 298

Please come help decorate the church for Christmas on Sunday, December 16th after 10:00 mass.

All are welcome to help deliver Christmas flowers to the shut-in members of our parish. Meet at the church at 9:00 am, Saturday December 15.

Please welcome some of our newly registered parishioners:
Mike & Abby Lewis, Dale & Susan Whitlatch
Brianne Boger, Mary Beth Boger, Brett Nadolski,
Deanna Manning, Carlene Crow, Kimberly Peffley,
and Wyatt & Leah O’Neil and family.
ON A MISSION OF LOVE
Throughout the Mountain State, Catholic Charities West Virginia provides assistance at every state of life for all people in need. Annual contributions to the second collection on Christmas directly impact the amount of assistance and quality of service CCWVa provides in our area. At masses next week, Trish Whitelatch, Program Assistant at the Neighborhood Center in Wheeling, will speak about the importance of your contribution to this collection on Christmas.

Fish Fry
Knights of Columbus Fish Fry
Friday, December 14
Xavier Hall 11 to 5
Fish, Fries, Cole Slaw,
Pierogi, Macaroni & Cheese, Drinks,
Homemade Desserts
Workers and baked goods are needed!
Contact Greg Green 304-238-3621 or
Cork Potts 304-845-2686

Why I am Catholic (and you should be too)
You will find this easy-to-read-and-very-thoughtful book, Why I am Catholic (and you should be too) in boxes near the side altars. It is an Advent gift from our parish for our parishioners. We encourage you to read it, talk about it and share it with your family and friends. You are welcome to have one book per family and if we have any left over, you are most welcome to have another!

Thank you for taking the time to help prepare the church for Advent and Christmas. Your dedication is appreciated more than you will ever know! God Bless!


WINNER OF QUILT RAFFLE Linda Berry
Thank you to the Seams Sew Snugly Quilt Guild for donating the $1011 raised by this raffle toward the installation of our new seat cushions.

Thank you for taking the time to help prepare the church for Advent and Christmas. Your dedication is appreciated more than you will ever know! God Bless!
