



**CONSOLATA SHRINE
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR B**



17th DECEMBER 2017

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-2a.10-11

“I will greatly rejoice in the Lord”

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Luke 1:46-50.53-54

Response. My soul shall exult in my God

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. **(Response)**

For he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation
to generation. **(Response)**

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of
his mercy. **(Response)**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

“May your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless.”

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

Brethren: Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this

is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit, do not despise prophesying, but test everything; hold fast what is good, abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

The word of the Lord



Alleluia

The Spirit of the Lord is Upon me, he has sent me to preach good news to the poor.

Alleluia



GOSPEL

John: 1:6-8.19-28

“Among you stands one whom you do not know.”

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John



There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priest and Levities from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed, he did not deny, but confess, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” And he answered, “No.” They said to him, then, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the

voice crying in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one whom you do not know, even he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” This took place in Bethany beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord

LIGHTING THE THIRD CANDLE OF THE ADVENT WREATH

On the third Sunday of Advent the pink or rose-colored candle is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the "Shepherds Candle" and it represents JOY. During this Sunday, the readings lead us to be happy trusting in the realization of the Promise of God, in the coming of Jesus Christ. The source of our Joy is He, and in Him we find strength and real light to our lives.

During this week the father prays:

"O Lord, we beg You, incline your ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of your visitation.

Who lives and reigns forever. Amen."

The mother then lights the two previously lit purple candles plus the rose candle.



O Key of David, Jesus Christ, the gates of heaven open at your command,
Come and show us the way to salvation.

You can also...

Light the 1st purple candle (repeat 1st week's prayer)

Light the 2nd purple candle (repeat 2nd week's prayer)

Light the rose candle (recite the prayers above)

Scriptures for your reflection:

Isaiah 9:6-7, John 1:19-34, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Philippians 2:1-11

REFLECTION

ONE WHO IS COMING by Scott Hahn, Ph.D.

The mysterious figure of John the Baptist, introduced in last week's readings, comes into sharper focus today. Who he is, we see in today's Gospel, is best understood by who he isn't. He is not Elijah returned from the heavens, although like him he dresses in the prophet's attire and preaches repentance and judgment. Not Elijah in the flesh, John is nonetheless sent in the spirit and power of Elijah to fulfill his mission. Neither is John the prophet Moses foretold, although he is a kinsman and speaks God's word. Nor is John the Messiah, though he has been anointed by the Spirit since the womb. John prepares the way for the Lord. His baptism is symbolic, not sacramental. It is a sign given to stir our hearts to repentance. John shows us the One upon whom the Spirit remains, the One who fulfills the promise we hear in today's First Reading. Jesus' bath of rebirth and the Spirit opens a fountain that purifies Israel and gives to all a new heart and a new Spirit. John comes to us in the Advent readings to show us the light, that we might believe in the One who comes at Christmas. As we sing in today's Responsorial, the Mighty One has come to lift each of us up, to fill our hunger with bread from heaven. And as Paul exhorts in today's Epistle, we should rejoice, give thanks, and pray without ceasing that God will make us perfectly holy in spirit, soul, and body - that we may be blameless when our Lord comes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Christmas Novena begins today. Special prayers will be prayed in every Mass.
2. The envelopes for Christmas dues are available at the entrances of the church.
3. Charities Committee wish to thank all parishioners for their generous support after the fire tragedy in Deep Sea recently. There will be no Jumble Sale this month as donated clothes will go to the affected.
4. The Parish has organized a pilgrimage to Holy Land early next year. For more details visit the Parish Office.
5. The car stickers to support the construction of the Allamano Centre are still on sale, kindly get more detailed information about them outside the church. Thank you for your continued support.



6. The Construction of the ALLAMANO CENTRE to build a new block of pastoral offices, hall and parking is on-going. We kindly request you to stop by the tables at the entrances of the church and get detailed information about the project. We also invite you to give your contribution or make a pledge towards the project.
7. The Bible Diary 2018 with daily reflections are now available at the desk outside the church and at the Bookshop.

DAILY READING

Monday: Nu 24:2-7.15-17; Ps 25:4-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3: 1-2.9-13; Ps 34: 2-3,6-7.17-19.23;
Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Isaiah 45: 6-8.18.21-25; Ps 85:9-14;
Lk 7:19-23

Thursday: Isaiah 54:1-10; Ps 30:2.4-6.11-13; Lk 7:24-39

Friday: Isaiah 56:1-3.6-8; Ps 67:2-3.5.7-8; Jn 5: 33-36

SCHEDULES FOR MASSES:

Sunday: 7.30 am **Kiswahili**


9.00 am, 10.30 am, 12.00 noon
and 5.30 pm **English**

Saturday: English 7.00 am, 9.00 am
and 5.30 pm

Monday to Friday: English 7:00 am
and 1.15 pm; 5.30 pm **Kiswahili**

Parish Website: www.consolatashrine.org • **Parish E-Mail:** info@consolatashrine.org

Parish Priest's E-Mail: parishpriest@consolatashrine.org  [@ConsoShrine](https://twitter.com/ConsoShrine)

 Consolata Shrine, Westlands, Nairobi

Parish Mpesa Business Number: **508702** • P.O. Box **14930** - **Nairobi**

Cell Phone: **0722 615 105**