

Announcements.

1. Today there is second collection of St Vincent de Paul to assist the needy of our Parish.
2. Charities Committee wish to thank you all for your generous contribution towards St Vincent de Paul. These go a long way in supporting our weekly feeding programme and other projects. God bless you.
3. After 12 o'clock mass, we shall pray the Rosary in front of the Blessed Eucharist. All are welcome.
4. The Junior Youth will be going to Naivasha 11th to 14th this month for the annual camp. Registration is in progress at the desk outside the church and the charges are Kshs. 5000.
5. Tuesday 12th, is the Public Holiday and masses follows Saturday schedules as 7am, 9am and 5.30pm.
6. The Parish has organized a pilgrimage to Holy Land early next year. For more details visit the Parish Office.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. The Bible Diary 2018 with daily reflections are now available at the desk outside the church and at the Bookshop.

Weekly Meeting

- Communication Committee on Monday 10th at 6.15pm

Daily Readings

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10-13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103: 1-4. 8. 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145: 1.9-13; Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4. 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Si 48:1-4. 9-11; Ps 80:2-3. 15-16. 18-19; Mt 17:10-13

Schedules for Masses:

Sunday: 7.30 am Kiswahili and 9.00 am; 10.30 am; 12.00 noon & 5.30 pm English

Saturday: English 7.00 a m; 9.00 am & 5.30 pm

Monday to Friday: English 7.00 am & 1.15 pm 5.30 pm Kiswahili

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CONSOLATA SHRINE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B 10th December 2017



FIRST READING

"Prepare the way of the Lord."

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lit it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms, he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

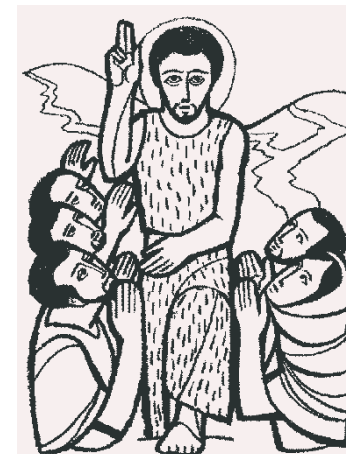
Psalm 85:9-14

R. Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God speaks;
he speaks of peace for his people and his faithful.
His salvation is near for those who fear him,
and his glory will dwell in our land. **R**

Merciful love and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have kissed.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth,
and justice look down from heaven. **R**

Also the Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.
Justice will march before him,
and guide his steps on the way. **R**



SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-14

"We wait for new heavens and a new earth."

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Peter

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing towards you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come, like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burnt up. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be kindled and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire! But according to his promise we wait for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you wait for these, be zealous to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

ALLELUIA

Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. ALLELUIA



GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

"Make straight the paths of the Lord."

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather belt around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worth to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with Holy Spirit."

Second Week of Advent

Blessing for the Advent Wreath (in case that you have not done it before): O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth thy blessing upon this wreath and grant that we who use it may



prepare our hearts for the Coming of Christ,

and may receive from thee abundant graces. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

During the second week of Advent, the father prays:

"O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds. Who lives and reign forever. Amen."

The oldest child then lights the purple candle from the first week plus one more purple candle. On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is lit. This candle typically represents LOVE. Some traditions call this the "**Bethlehem Candle**", symbolizing Christ's manger.

Second Week

O King of all nations, Jesus Christ, only joy of every heart, come and save your people

Reflection: Straighten the Path by Scott Hahn, Ph.D.

Our God is coming. The time of exile - the long separation of humankind from God due to sin - is about to end. This is the good news proclaimed in today's liturgy. Isaiah in today's First Reading promises Israel's future release and return from captivity and exile. But as today's Gospel shows, Israel's historic deliverance was meant to herald an even greater saving act by God - the coming of Jesus to set Israel and all nations free from bondage to sin, to gather them up and carry them back to God. God sent an angel before Israel to lead them in their exodus towards the promised land. And He promised to send a messenger of the covenant, Elijah, to purify the people and turn their hearts to the Father before the day of the Lord. John the Baptist quotes these, as well as Isaiah's prophecy, to show that all of Israel's history looks forward to the revelation of Jesus. In Jesus, God has filled in the valley that divided sinful humanity from himself. He has reached down from heaven and made His glory to dwell on earth, as we sing in today's Psalm. He has done all this, not for humanity in the abstract, but for each of us. The long history of salvation has led us to this Eucharist, in which our God again comes and our salvation is near. And each of us must hear in today's readings a personal call. Here is your God, Isaiah says. He has been patient with you, Peter says in today's Epistle. Like Jerusalem's inhabitants in the Gospel, we have to go out to Him, repenting our sins, all the laziness and self-indulgence that make our lives a spiritual wasteland. We have to straighten out our lives, so that everything we do leads us to Him. Today, let us hear the beginning of the gospel and again commit ourselves to lives of holiness and devotion.