



CONSOLATA SHRINE
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8th December 2024



FIRST READING

Baruch 5:1-9

“God will show your splendour.”

A reading from the Book of Baruch

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting. For God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For your name will forever be called by God, “Peace of righteousness and glory of godliness.” Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went forth from you on foot, led away their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God’s command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him. **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 126:1-6 (R 3)

R: *What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.*

When the LORD brought back the exiles of Sion, we thought we were dreaming. Then was our mouth filled with laughter; on our tongues, songs of joy. **R**

Then the nations themselves said, “What great deeds, the LORD worked for them!” What great deeds the LORD worked for us! Indeed, we were glad. **R**

Bring back our exiles, O LORD, as streams in the south. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **R**

They go out, they go out, full of tears, bearing seed for the sowing; they come back, they come back with a song, bearing their sheaves. **R**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:4-6,8-11

“Be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.”

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brethren: Always in every prayer of mine for you all I make my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruits of righteousness which come through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. **The word of the Lord.**



Alleluia, Alleluia

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

Alleluia



GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6.

“All flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke



In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness; and he went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, The voice of one crying in the

wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

ADVENT WREATH - SECOND WEEK



Since Advent is a time to stir-up our faith in the Lord, the wreath and its prayers provide us a way to augment this special preparation for Christmas. Moreover, this good tradition helps us to remain vigilant in our homes and not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas.

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: The Road Home by Scott Hahn, Ph. D

Today's Psalm paints a dream-like scene - a road filled with liberated captives heading home to Zion (Jerusalem), mouths filled with laughter, tongues rejoicing. It's a glorious picture from Israel's past, a "new exodus,"

the deliverance from exile in Babylon. It's being recalled in a moment of obvious uncertainty and anxiety. But the psalmist isn't waxing nostalgic. Remembering "the Lord has done great things" in the past, he is making an act of faith and hope - that God will come to Israel in its present need, that He'll do even greater things in the future. This is what the Advent readings are all about: We recall God's saving deeds - in the history of Israel and in the coming of Jesus. Our remembrance is meant to stir our faith, to fill us with confidence that, as today's Epistle puts it, "the One who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it" until He comes again in glory. Each of us, the Liturgy teaches, is like Israel in her exile - led into captivity by our sinfulness, in need of restoration, conversion by the Word of the Holy One. The lessons of salvation history should teach us that, as God again and again delivered Israel, in His Mercy He will free us from our attachments to sin, if we turn to Him in repentance. That's the message of John, introduced in today's Gospel as the last of the great prophets. But John is greater than the prophets. He's preparing the way, not only for a new redemption of Israel, but for the salvation of "all flesh". John quotes Isaiah (40:3) to tell us he's come to build a road home for us, a way out of the wilderness of sin and alienation from God. It's a road we'll follow Jesus down, a journey we'll make, as today's First Reading puts it, "rejoicing that [we're] remembered by God."

Announcements

1. Today, we will dedicate 1 pm Mass for thanksgiving of newly commissioned Catechist Revocat Ndyaisaba. All are welcome.
2. Registration for the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation for both School children and adults and for Couples planning to get married is ongoing at the catechist's Office.
3. The Annual MYM (Teenagers) Camp will take place from Tuesday 10th – Friday 13th December, in Nkubu Town 20 km from Meru town. The Cost is Kshs 7,000. Please sponsor a teenager. For registration and more information visit the blue tent outside the Church.
4. Thursday 12th December, is a Public Holiday (Jamhuri Day). Masses are at 7:00 am & 5.30 pm
5. Tomorrow will be the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception. St Bakhita SCC will animate the Rosary after 5:30 pm Mass; on

Thursday 12th (Our Lady of Guadalupe) Rosary will be animated by Our Lady Consolata SCC after 5:30 pm Mass and Padre Pio on Saturday 14th after 5:00 pm Mass.

6. Next Sunday 15th December, the Divine Mercy Group will have the Cenacle meeting at 2:00 pm at the Allamano Centre 3rd floor room 3E.
7. The Archbishop of Nairobi Most Rev. Phillip Anyolo requests all parishes to have a second collection next Sunday to support the Jubilee of consecrated life, please come prepared.
8. The Christmas Concert organized by the Consolata choir will be held next Sunday 15th December from 2:00 pm in the Auditorium. All are invited to praise God with our choir.
9. CMA invites all men to join them for a special retreat “Advent Strengthening our Faith”, on Saturday 21st December 2024 at Allamano Centre 3rd floor room 3F from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Wedding Bans

There is a promise of marriage between:

1. *Francis Modi Ochieng & Gladys Kemunto (3rd Announcement)*
2. *Gabriel Gachuhi Mahia & Ruth Wairimu Thuita (2nd Announcement)*
3. *Edgar Nyambane Ombatti & Serah Mumbua Mutungi (2nd Announcement)*

Kindly visit the parish notice board for more information. If anyone has an objection, please notify the father in charge.

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communications@consolatashrine.org; PARISH PRIEST'S E-MAIL: parishpriest@consolatashrine.org; Tithe Account No:

002215001004856 – ABC Bank: A/C Name: Consolata Fathers –Shrine; Allamano Project Account No.

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