

# Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church

1000 North Jefferson Avenue, Goldsboro NC 27530-3141

919-734-5033

Rev. Alex Gonzalez, Pastor

Deacon Webster James

---

December 6, 2015—Second Sunday of Advent

---

## The Second Sunday of Advent

This week we light the second candle on our Advent wreath...the candle of Peace.

Peace is one of God's gifts to us. John the Baptist was a prophet calling the people of Israel to repent, to find peace with God.

John also declared that it is in our actions of love and justice that God's peace is shown. May we by our actions help to prepare the way for the coming of Peace.

We light the second candle to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. His light helps us find ways to share God's peace with others.

The prayer of St. Francis asks God to help us be peacemakers. Find a copy and pray this prayer during this Second week of Advent.



## EUCCHARISTIC LITURGY

<u>Weekend</u>	<u>Fin de Semana</u>
Saturday Vigil	
5:00PM English	Sábado ~ 5:00 PM En Inglés
7:00PM Spanish	Sábado ~ 7:00 PM En Español
Sunday	
10:00 AM English	Domingo ~ 10:00 AM En Inglés
1:00 PM Spanish	Domingo ~ 1:00 PM En Español

<u>Weekdays</u>	<u>Días de Semana</u>
9:00 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	lunes, martes, miércoles, viernes
7:00 PM	Jueves en Español
No 9 AM Mass on Thursday	
No hay Misa los jueves a las 9 AM	

Holy Days check inside Bulletin  
Revise dentro del Boletín que se entrega en las Misas

First Friday Adoration begins after morning Mass and ends with Benediction at 9:30 PM.  
Todos los viernes primero de mes de 10:00 AM Adoración al Santísimo a 9:30 PM.

## WELCOME VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS

New members may register by calling the parish office (weekdays from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM).

## BIENVENIDOS LOS NUEVOS MIEMBROS

Para registrarse hablar con Elvira Ponce o llamar a la oficina

## Mission Statement

Saint Mary is a diverse Catholic community working together to live the Gospel, grow in faith through the Eucharist, and share our gifts in service to others.

## Misión de la Parroquia

La parroquia de Santa María es una comunidad católica y diversa que trabaja unida para vivir el evangelio, crecer en fe por la Eucaristía y compartir nuestros talentos en servicio a otros.

**PARISH DIRECTORY  
CHURCH**

Office (Oficina): 919 734-5033  
 FAX: 919 580-0730  
 E-Mail:  
[office@saintmarygoldsboro.org](mailto:office@saintmarygoldsboro.org)  
 web: [www.saintmarygoldsboro.org](http://www.saintmarygoldsboro.org)

**PARISH STAFF**

Rev. Alex Gonzalez, Pastor.....ext. 27  
 Deacon Webster A. James.....ext. 29  
 Director of Faith Formation  
 Mrs. Carole Sears.....ext. 34  
 Liturgy Coordinator  
 Mrs. Debbie Gambella,  
 Parish Secretary.....ext. 10  
 Mrs. Kathy Hennessy,  
 Parish Secretary.....ext. 26  
 Mrs. Tracey Davis,  
 Parish Bookkeeper.....ext. 28  
 Mrs. Vicki Ellis,  
 Choir Director, 10:00 AM  
 Mr. Philip Eubanks, Organist  
 Mr. Mike Nault, Organist & Choir  
 Director, 5:00 PM  
 Mr. Van Tran, Sacristan

**SCHOOL**

Office: 919 735-1931  
 FAX: 919 735-1917  
 E-Mail:  
[lynnmagoon@smmsgoldsboro.org](mailto:lynnmagoon@smmsgoldsboro.org)  
[annemariiegambella@smmsgoldsboro.org](mailto:annemariiegambella@smmsgoldsboro.org)

**SCHOOL STAFF**

Mrs. Lynn Magoon,  
 Principal.....ext. 22  
 Mrs. Anne Marie Gambella,  
 Admn. Assistant.....ext. 11

**MAINTENANCE STAFF**

Mr. Harold Jones,  
 Supervisor.....ext. 31  
 Mr. Larry Jones,  
 Assistant.....ext. 31

**PASTORAL ADVISORY  
COUNCIL**

Chair Harold Breindel, Vice-Chair Gene Seward, Secretary Sharon Thomas  
 Finance Council Chair John Heeden,  
 John Beatty, Pat Emery, Lonnie Fissori, Anne Hurrey, Paula Long, Carlos Morales-Barrientos,  
 Phyllis Radford, Donna Stevenson.

The Parish Advisory Council meets August through May. Our next meeting will be December 1, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Faith Formation Conf. Room. All parishioners are invited to attend.

**Penance and Reconciliation**

Saturday ~ 4-4:40PM and by appointment.

**Mass Intentions and Readings  
for December 5 to December 13**

<b>Sat. 12/5</b>	<b>Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Psalms 147:1-6; Matthew 9:35 -- 10:1, 5a, 6-8</b> 5:00PM Denise Griffith, dec. by Francis Lawrence 7:00PM Pro Populo
<b>Sun. 12/6</b>	<b>Baruch 5:1-9; Psalms 126:1-6; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6</b> 10:00AM Donald Daniels, dec. by K of C Council #5487 1:00PM Deceased Souls in Purgatory by Gia Nguyen
<b>Mon. 12/7</b>	<b>Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalms 85:9-14; Luke 5:17-26</b> 9:00AM Special Intention, dec. by Kuczynski Family 7:00PM Spanish Vigil Mass for Immaculate Conception
<b>Tue. 12/8</b>	<b>Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Psalms 98:1-4; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38</b> 9:00AM Pro Populo 7:00PM Lois B. Kastern, dec. by Her Family
<b>Wed. 12/9</b>	<b>Isaiah 40:25-31; Psalms 103:1-4, 8, 10; Matthew 11:28-30</b> 9:00AM In Honor of Laurie Kuczynski (Birthday) by Kuczynski Family
<b>Thu. 12/10</b>	<b>Isaiah 41:13-20; Psalms 145:1, 9-13ab; Matthew 11:11-15</b> 7:00PM No Spanish Mass Tonight
<b>Fri. 12/11</b>	<b>Isaiah 48:17-19; Psalms 1:1-4, 6; Matthew 11:16-19</b> 9:00AM William Kleski, dec. by Kuczynski Family 7:00PM Celebration with vigil Mass at midnight for Our Lady of Guadalupe
<b>Sat. 12/12</b>	<b>Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47,</b> 5:00PM Catherine Gambella, dec. by Russ & Maureen Prys 7:00PM Pro Populo
<b>Sun. 12/13</b>	<b>Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18</b> 10:00AM Father Gerald McMahan, dec. by Yurksaitis Family 1:00PM For a Special Intention by Brian Casey

**Sacramental Life**

Baptism

Baptisms are during Mass the third weekend of each month. Preparation is required before *scheduling* the time and date.

Marriage

Contact the Deacon *six months in advance* of the ceremony.

Sacrament of the Sick

If you wish to receive the sacrament of the sick during a prolonged illness or before surgery, please call the office.

Communion

If you wish to receive communion from a Eucharistic Minister due to illness, age, or handicap, please call the office. These visits are made after the Mass has been celebrated.

**Altar Flowers**

are in Loving Memory of **Paula Stevenson** by Donna Stevenson.

**The Sanctuary Lamps for the week of December 6 to 12**

**Church Lamp:** will be lit in Loving Memory of **Denise Griffith** by Francis Lawrence.

**Chapel Lamp:** will be lit in Loving Memory of **Father Lawson (birthday remembrance)** by Gary & Debbie Vaccaro.

**Advent Holy Hours for Vocations...**

Our Church is in need of vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life...prayer is one way for us to do something to help...If you missed the first Holy Hour join us on one of the following Monday's in Advent to spend an hour with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and pray for Vocations: December 7,14 and 21. Holy Hours are from 6 to 7PM in the Chapel...unless we have so many people responding to this hour of prayer that we need to move to the Church!!

**Ladies Guild...**

The Ladies Guild will have their annual Christmas gathering on Monday, December 7th starting at 6:30pm in the School Cafeteria. All Ladies of the Parish are welcome to join them for this potluck dinner and Christmas fellowship.

**Thank-You...**

We extend a very BIG Thank You to the chair of our Social Committee, Mrs. Carla Berger, for the wonderful meal she provided for our Annual Ministry Thank You Dinner. We also thank all of her committee members who assisted in preparing the meal and our teens who so professionally served us.

**Holy Day of Obligation...**

Tuesday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary we will have Mass her at 9:00am and 7:00pm.

**SVDP Breakfast...**

Join us on Sunday, December 13th for a wonderful home cooked breakfast of eggs, sausage, pancakes, grits, biscuits, fruit, coffee and tea. Eat and help support our SVDP Society by giving a donation for the breakfast.

**Offertory Report**

November 22: \$10,813.26  
    \$7,750.00  
 \$ 3,063.26

Campaign for Human Development : \$759.81

**Second Collection December 13:**  
 Retirement Fund for Religious

**Parish Calendar**

**Sunday, December 6 –Second Sunday of Advent**

* RCIA	Lounge	After 10:00am Mass
* Faith Formation MS & HS	Classrooms	11:15am to 12:45pm
* Faith Formation K to 5th grade	Classrooms	11:30am to 12:30pm
* AAMEN Meeting	Parish House	After 10:00am mass
* Spanish Language Choir	Church	After 1:00pm Mass
* K of C Social	Auditorium	2:00pm
* Middle School Youth Night	Auditorium	6:00 pm to 8:00pm

**Monday, December 7**

* Advent Holy Hour for Vocations	Chapel	6:00pm to 7:00pm
* Ladies Guild Christmas Gathering	Cafeteria	6:30pm
* Adoration	Chapel	8:30pm to 6:30pm Tue.

**Tuesday, December 8-Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

* Adoration	Chapel	midnight to 6:30pm
* Mass	Church	9:00am
* SVDP Meeting	6th grade classroom	6:00pm
* Mass (English)	Church	7:00pm
* Perpetual Novena	Chapel	6:45pm
* Legion of Mary	Library	7:00pm

**Wednesday, December 9**

* 27:17 Fellowship (Men's Group)	5 Star Restaurant	7:00am
* Youth Night, High School	Parish House	6:00pm
* Bible Study—Corinthians	5th grade classroom	7:00pm

**Thursday, December 10**

* Children's Christmas Choir Practice	Lounge	5:30pm
* 10:00am Choir Practice	Lounge	7:00pm
* No Spanish Mass this evening		

**Friday, December 11**

* School Liturgy	Church	9:00am
* Vigil Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe	Church	7:00pm
* Spanish Choir Practice	Lounge	6:00pm

**Saturday, December 12**

* Soup Kitchen Team 4	Soup Kitchen	10:00am to noon
* 5:00pm Choir Practice	Church	4:00pm

**Sunday, December 13-Third Sunday of Advent**

* SVDP Breakfast	Cafeteria	9:00am to noon
* RCIA	Lounge	After 10:00am Mass
* Faith Formation MS & HS	classrooms	11:15am to 12:45pm
* Faith Formation k to 5th grade	classrooms	11:30am to 12:30pm
* Spanish Language Choir Practice	Church	After 1:00pm Mass

**“The Star Tree”**...what is a Star Tree...it is our way of assisting those in need during the Christmas Season. This year our school will have a “Star Tree”. You can take a star off the tree and purchase the items listed...bring the **unwrapped** gift back with the star attached as the tag. All the items will be to assist the Wayne Pregnancy Center. If you have helped with out Dove Tree in the past this is taking the place of the Dove Tree this year. So lets be generous and help the young mother's and mother's to be and their babies. Wayne Pregnancy Center needs our assistance. Stars available week of Nov. 28/29. **Gifts must be returned by Thursday, December 17th.**



### In our thoughts and prayers:

Pray for the intentions of those in nursing facilities, the homebound, the chronically ill, and those who are critically ill.

Please remember in a special way the following parishioners who have requested your prayers:

Santiago Acevedo, Robert Ames, Dolores Barton, Jesse Brickhouse, Nubia Cano, Marco Castaneda, Judy Cordeiro, Andrea Cruz, Lee & Sarah Davis, Marjorie Dixon, Elaine Evans, Chris Griffin, Gustavo Gonzalez, Chris Griffin, Agnes Harris, Mary Hayman, Joan Jones, Laura Jones, Dianne Kendall, Bertha Kish, Chuck Kirk, Erma Lawrence, Denise Lewis, Dorothy Lewis, Pat Marguglio, T.J. Mendoza, Billie Myers, Jim Myers, Wilburt & Mary Perry, Benjamin Raposa, Ben Rodriguez, Sr., Dolores Santi, Angela Scalia, Simon Scott, Natalie Ulrey.

If you would like your name included in the Prayers for the Sick in the Bulletin please contact our coordinators for "Prayers for the Sick", Gloria at 919-734-3810 or Barbara at 919-751-0024.

### Baby Bottle Drive...

Don't forget our Baby Bottle Drive is still going on...if you took a baby bottle please continue to fill it with money and remember to return it to the Church office by December 23rd.

### March for Life...

The annual March for Life in Washington, DC will take place on Friday, January 22, 2016. We will have a bus, again, this year. If you would like to reserve a seat or sponsor a seat the cost is \$40.00. Just contact John Marguglio at 919-988-2389.

### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

By now, trees are beginning to appear in living rooms throughout the parish. To a complete outsider to our culture, it must seem an odd thing indeed. The "roots" of this custom are in liturgical drama: religious plays performed in the churches and town squares of medieval Europe. The favorite theme for this time of year was the "Paradise Play," a dramatic history of the human race from the Garden of Eden to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. The language and music varied from place to place, but one feature was always in place: a great tree decorated with apples. As a prop, it provided lots of material for the actors: the temptation, shelter for the manger, and a reminder of the wood of the cross. Soon people began to bring "paradise trees" into their homes, decorating them with gifts and lighted candles.

Many Germans give credit to Martin Luther for transforming the "Paradise Tree" into the evergreen Christmas tree. Walking home on a starry Advent night, he was so awed by the beauty of the night that he hauled a pine tree inside and decorated it with lighted candles. Americans were holdouts. It took until 1856 for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to decriminalize Christmas decorations, the old Puritan dislikes falling before the waves of Irish and German immigrants with traditions firmly in hand! --Rev. James Field, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

### Diocese of Raleigh

[www.dioceseofraleigh.org](http://www.dioceseofraleigh.org)

### Sixth Annual Love My Life Youth Rally

On Saturday, January 16 at 10:00 the Sixth Annual Love My Life Youth Rally will be held at Halifax Mall in downtown Raleigh. The Rally is an opportunity for Catholic teens to come together in celebration, to connect with others from across the Diocese, and to learn more about living and promoting the pro-life culture. Contact your school or youth leaders for more information on this awesome, spirit filled event. The Diocesan Respect Life mass will immediately follow at noon. All of these events will be held in a heated tent!

### Project Rachel Support

**Group** Abortion is one of the most common procedures in the US, experienced by millions of women, many of whom are Catholic. Abortion creates a wound in post-abortive women, (and men) resulting in spiritual and emotional problems. The Project Rachel ministry assists women and men who have been wounded by abortion to find truth and healing. There is a support group beginning in the Triangle area in January. If you have experienced an abortion and would like more information about the support group, contact Project Rachel at (919) 852-1021 or email [projectrachel@nc.rr.com](mailto:projectrachel@nc.rr.com). For more information go to <http://projectrachelnc.org/> (website) Calls and appointments are kept strictly confidential.

### Rite of Blessing of Child in the Womb...

Expectant parents in the Diocese of Raleigh are invited to participate in a ceremony to bless their child in the womb, which will be held on Sunday, December 13th at all Masses.

This Sunday is sometimes called Gaudete Sunday (Gaudete means "Rejoice") which reminds the church of the joy that Christ's birth will bring to us.

This ceremony during Mass not only provided the opportunity for God's blessing for expectant parents and their child in the womb, but also for effective witness to the sanctity of human life from the first moment of conception.

*"God, author of all life, bless, we pray, this unborn child; give constant protection and grant a healthy birth that is the sign of our rebirth one day into the eternal rejoicing of heaven..."* ~excerpt from "Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the womb."





## Saint Mary School Corner

*Keeping Spirit and Faith in Education*

### The Week at Saint Mary School:

- Tuesday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and our students will attend the 9:00am Mass that morning.
- Thursday, December 10th Pre-K has the Bake Sale.
- Friday, December 11th School Liturgy at 9:00am.

Look for our “**Star Tree**” in the hallway at the main entrance to the school. This year we will be collecting gift items for Wayne Pregnancy Center. Just take a star, purchase what is listed on the star then return the **unwrapped** gift with the star as the tag. Gifts need to be returned to the school by December 17th.

### TYM ...What are They Doing?

Our TYM program is a busy one, over the next few months the teens will be participating in the *Love My Life Rally* held in Raleigh on January 16th. Some of the teens will attend the DC March for Life on January 22nd. On February 7th the teens will do the “Souper Bowl” collection after all Masses with all donations going to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

### Annual Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious...

On the weekend of December 12/13 we will be doing this annual collection. In the US today there are more than 33,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. These religious worked tirelessly in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies, usually for little to no pay. As a result, many religious communities lack adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to this collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

## Respect Life



### Why Does Human Life Matter?

Society clearly operates on the premise that there is something special, unique and noble in being human. Indeed, we all seem to have an innate conviction that life does matter.

If you think about it, this is surprising for those who do not believe in God and believe that we are all just random accidents, whose life is not a result of thought or design, but rather of blind chance. Although the secular, humanist view has no answer for why human life matters and is unable to explain why life matters, atheists and agnostics nevertheless live their lives on the assumption that it does and that there is a reason for their being. This is surprising because one cannot have it both ways. Either God made us and assigned a special value to us, or God did not make us and human life would appear to be both worthless and meaningless.

Conversely, Christians can easily explain why life matters. We know that although humans, in terms of physical make-up, are roughly 95% identical to Chimpanzees, we are spiritually superior, because of the simple fact that God made us in His image. As a result, the value of one human soul transcends the value of the material universe. Indeed, we believe that one human soul is more valuable than all the great masterpieces, all the jewels and all the precious metals the world has ever known.

This is why we place a unique value upon all human life. This is why the humanity of every unborn child qualifies that child for love and protection. This is why every single aborted baby is a terrible tragedy.

~ProLife articles for Bulletins

## PUT ON JOY

Today, Baruch speaks of the splendor that lies ahead for the city of Jerusalem and for all of us, regardless of where home is for us. Throw off strife, he tells us, and put on joy. Like a favorite old sweatshirt, joy fits, and how warm it keeps us, even when the winds blow cold.

Paul knows of this joy as he pens his letter to the Philippians, praying that they may grow in their ability to discern what is righteous and good. And Luke speaks to us of John, who was foretold by Isaiah and who sings a similar song--"Prepare the way of the Lord," for salvation is at hand.

A man ahead of his time, Baruch spent his days joyfully awaiting a distant glory. On this Second Sunday of Advent, Paul and John know that this glory is upon us.

Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

### Reflection on Peace for the Second Sunday of Advent...

When the prophets spoke of peace, they didn't just mean making everything calm, they were talking about peace for the whole of life. Jesus taught us the same thing. As the Prince of Peace, Jesus came to put everything right. He came to help us love one another and accept one another, even when we are very different or even disagree with each other. He came to include the poor, the lonely the unusual and rejected. He came to bring peace between one another. He came to show us that God forgives us for all the wrong things we do and that we can be at peace with God.

- What are some situations in the world around us that don't seem fair, just or right; where the peace of Jesus is needed?
- Is there a situation in your own life where you need to experience God's peace?

Is there someone you have fallen out with? Perhaps they've been mean to you or you've been mean to them? What could you do to put things right with them?

# St. Mary Catholic Church Mobile App



## 3 ways to get the app

1. Scan the QR code
2. Search in the app store
3. Go to [www.parishsolutionsco.com/marygold](http://www.parishsolutionsco.com/marygold)



THE  
**PARISH**  
SOLUTIONS COMPANY



ST MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

# **BABY BOTTLE DRIVE**

**FROM: NOV 28, 2015 TO: DEC 24, 2015**

**BENEFIT! WAYNE PREGNANCY CARE CENTER**

Choose Jesus

Choose Family

Choose Life

Children are a gift from God

**Directorio**

Padre John Alexander Gonzalez  
919 734-5033 ext. 27

Bautismos—Elvira Ponce 919-252-0768

**Sacramentos**

**Bautismo:** Asistir a la preparación, padres y padrinos y fijar la fecha con el sacerdote.

**Confesión:** Sábados de 4:00pm a 4:40pm

Para enfermos en el hospital o en casa comuníquese con la parroquia.

**Unción de los Enfermos:** Si usted quiere recibir el sacramento por enfermedad u operación favor de comunicárnoslo.

**Comunión para enfermos:** Si tiene algún familiar en el hospital o en casa que desee recibir la comunión comuníquese con la parroquia.

**Matrimonios:** Iniciar la preparación con seis meses de anticipación.

**Platicas Pre-Bautismales**

Requisitos:

- \* Asistir a las pláticas, padres y padrinos.
- \* Traer copia del acta de nacimiento del niño (a).
- \* Traer copia del acta de matrimonio de los padrinos.
- \* Llenar una solicitud por niño.
- \* Estar registrados o registrarse en la parroquia.

**Confirmaciones**

- \* Estar bautizado.
- \* Haber hecho la primera comunión.
- \* Ser mayor de 15 años.

**Presentaciones**

Requisitos:

- \* Solicitarla 2 meses antes.
- \* Estar bautizado (a).
- \* Donación
- \* Se hacen en la Misa del sábado o Domingo

**XV Años**

Si cumples y/o deseas celebrar tus XV años en los primeros 6 meses del año te invitamos a inscribirte para la preparación:

Requisitos:

- \* Estar bautizada

- \* Haber hecho la primera Comunión
- \* Inscribirse con 4 meses de anticipación con María la coordinadora.
- \* Asistir a la preparación
- \* Donación
- \* Llevarse un volante de información y seguir las reglas.

**TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE**

En 1726, Juan de la Cruz (1542-1591) fue canonizado por el Papa Benito XIII. Nació en la región de Castilla en España, este doctor de la Iglesia junto con Teresa de Ávila fue reformador de la Orden Carmelita. Muchas órdenes religiosas del siglo XV sufrieron grandes decadencias. Por eso mientras los Protestantes se separaban de la Iglesia, los religiosos descalzos, recoletos y observantes buscaban reformar órdenes religiosas, como la Orden de la Bienaventurada Virgen María del Monte Carmelo, uniéndose siempre más a la Iglesia Romana.

Para los reformadores católicos quedarse en la Iglesia no fue fácil, ¡sin embargo se quedaron! Aunque sus reformas fueron apoyadas por los Papas, muchos de ellos como Juan de la Cruz tuvieron que aguantar muchas oposiciones y persecuciones para lograr sus reformas. Estas reformas ardían con el deseo de amar bien a Cristo Jesús y a su cuerpo que es la Iglesia.

En sus poesías, Juan de la Cruz muestra la fuerza de esta llama de amor vivo a pesar de la oscuridad de la noche que no lo deja encontrar al amante (Dios).

--Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Glz, OFM, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

**VÍSTETE DE GOZO**

Hoy Baruc nos habla del esplendor que se acerca para la ciudad de Jerusalén y para todos nosotros, sea donde fuere nuestro hogar. Despójate de conflictos, nos dice, y vístete de gozo. Como una vieja cobija favorita, el gozo nos queda a la medida, y qué bien nos mantiene calientes, por muy frío que sople el viento.

Pablo sabe de ese gozo cuando escribe su carta a los filipenses, orando para que crezcan en su habilidad

de discernir lo que es bueno y justo. Y Lucas nos habla de Juan, el que fue anunciado por Isaías y que canta una canción parecida: "Preparen el camino del Señor" pues la salvación está al llegar.

Hombre adelantado a su época, Baruc se pasó la vida alegremente esperando una gloria lejana. En este segundo Domingo de Adviento, Pablo y Juan saben que esta gloria se acerca.

Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

**Año Jubilar de la Misericordia**

6 de diciembre de 2015

Segundo Domingo de Adviento  
Este martes es la Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción, y será el día en que el Papa Francisco abra la "Puerta Santa" en la Basílica de San Pedro, simbólicamente abriendo el Año Jubilar de la Misericordia. En las Escrituras de hoy, Baruc confiadamente anticipa la sanación que Dios hace de la desesperanza de la humanidad y Pablo ve a Dios llevar a su cumplimiento nuestro discernimiento, conocimiento y amor. Desde nuestra experiencia de vida y de nosotros podemos hacer que esas profecías parezcan muy optimistas aunque irremediablemente ingenuas. El Papa Francisco nos desafía a vivir este Año Jubilar como un tiempo de gracia cuando la misericordia de Dios despierte nuestro entusiasmo para vivir nuestra llamada bautismal como personas del Evangelio, nuestra esperanza renovada y nosotros vueltos a comprometer a una caridad desinteresada. Observen que en el Evangelio de Lucas, Dios pasa de largo a los líderes religiosos y políticos para en su lugar hablar en el desierto estéril con un creyente humilde la palabra salvadora que transformará la historia. Así que la misericordia de Dios continúa realizando la salvación de la humanidad en y por medio de instrumentos ordinarios e imperfectos, ¡aún nosotros mismos!

--Peter Scagnelli, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



**Lecturas De La Semana**

- Lunes:** Isaías 35:1-10; Salmos 85 (84):9-14; Lucas 5:17-26
- Martes:** Génesis 3:9-15, 20; Salmos 98 (97):1-4; Efesios 1:3-6, 11-12; Lucas 1:26-38
- Miércoles:** Isaías 40:25-31; Salmos 103 (102):1-4, 8, 10; Mateo 11:28-30
- Jueves:** Isaías 41:13-20; Salmos 145:1, 9-13ab; Mateo 11:11-15
- Viernes:** Isaías 48:17-19; Salmos 1:1-4, 6; Mateo 11:16-19
- Sábado:** Zacarías 2:14-17 o Apocalipsis 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Judit 3:18bcde, 19; Lucas 1:26-38 o Lucas 1:39-47
- Domingo:** Sofonías 3:14-18a; Isaías 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Filipenses 4:4-7; Lucas 3:10-18

**¿Por qué la vida humana importa?**

La sociedad opera claramente con la premisa de que hay algo especial, único y noble en ser una persona humana. De hecho, parece que todos tenemos una convicción innata de que la vida es importante.

Si lo piensas bien, esto es sorprendente para los que no creen en Dios y creen que todos somos accidentes simplemente al azar, cuya vida no es un resultado del pensamiento o el diseño, sino de una casualidad ciega. Aunque esa visión humanista secular no tiene respuesta para la importancia de la vida humana y no es capaz de explicar por qué la vida importa, los ateos y los agnósticos sin embargo viven sus vidas en el supuesto de que sí importa y que hay una razón para sus existencias. Esto es sorprendente porque no se pueden tener las dos cosas. O

Dios nos hizo y nos asigna un valor especial, o Dios no nos hizo y la vida humana parece ser a la vez sin valor y sin sentido. Por el contrario, los cristianos pueden explicar fácilmente por qué la vida tiene importancia. Sabemos que aunque los seres humanos, en términos de la constitución física, son más o menos un 95% idénticos a los chimpancés, somos espiritualmente superiores, por el simple hecho de que Dios nos hizo a su imagen y semejanza. Como resultado, el valor de una alma humana trasciende el valor del universo material. De hecho, creemos que una alma humana es más valiosa que todas las grandes obras maestras, todas las joyas y todos los metales preciosos que el mundo jamás haya conocido. Es por ello que le damos un valor único a toda vida humana. Esta es la razón por la cual la humanidad de cada niño aún no nacido califica a ese niño para el amor y la protección. Es por esto que cada bebé abortado es una terrible tragedia.