



**Monday, December 15, 2025**

- 7:30 AM Maria Hroncich
- 12:30 PM Cathy & Rob Mondello (Living)
- 7:30 PM Spanish Mass

**Tuesday, December 16, 2025**

- 7:30 AM Antonio Oliveira Lopes
- 12:30 PM Rich Going

**Wednesday, December 17, 2025**

- 7:30 AM Erlinda Aquino
- 12:30 PM Antonio Pires

**Thursday, December 18, 2025**

- 7:30 AM Jennifer Lynn Reilly
- 12:30 PM Edathinakom Ulahanan

**Friday, December 19, 2025**

- 7:30 AM Antonio Oliveira Lopes (Birthday)
- 12:30 PM Carmella DeStefano

**Saturday, December 20, 2025**

- 5:00 PM Kathleen Miller  
Joseph & Marta DeSorbo  
Antonio da Silva & family  
Fr. Patrick Callan  
Victor Olcese Wall –  
(18th anniversary)  
Francisco Caetano  
Robert Teemsma

**Sunday, December 21, 2025**

- 7:00 AM Anibal & Mariana Santos
- 8:30 AM Portuguese Intentions
- 10:00 AM John Kenneth Rode
- 11:30 AM People of the Parish
- 5:00 PM Spanish Intention
- 7:00 PM The hungry

**PRIEST CELEBRANTS' SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, December 20, 2025**

5:00 PM Fr. Malcolm

**Sunday, December 21, 2025**

7:00 AM Fr. Ken

8:30 AM Fr. Tomaz

10:00 AM Fr. Ken

11:30 AM Fr. Malcolm

5:00 PM Fr. Rodrigo

7:00 PM Fr. Yesudas

*(Schedule is subject to change)*



**STEWARDSHIP**

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

***"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand."***

**- JAMES 5:8**

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. Stewards are able to better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

**December 7<sup>th</sup> Actual Collections = \$10,427**

**December 7<sup>th</sup> Mail-In Donations = \$3,262**

**December 7<sup>th</sup> Electronic Donations = \$1,031**

**December 7<sup>th</sup> Total Collection = \$14,721**

**Attendance = 1,235**



*Please Pray For  
The Deceased*



**Hipolito Jorge**



**CMA Numbers for 2025**

**Goal = \$95,900**

Pledges = \$42,435

Donors = 162

Payments = \$42,165

Average = \$262

**Thank you to all the families who already have made a sacrificial gift. Please consider a yearly offering.**





DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2025

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

Merry Christmas!

Throughout this year, we have marked many significant milestones in the life of the Church leading us to the Lord's Nativity and this holy season of Christmas, most especially the passing of Pope Francis at Easter and the election of Pope Leo XIV in May.

What a gift it has been to walk these months with our new Holy Father, to learn from his teaching, and witness his example.

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Leo released his first Apostolic Exhortation, *Dilxit Te - I Have Loved You*. It is a profound meditation on love for the poor and speaks powerfully to the mystery of the Lord's Birth and the grace of this season.

The Holy Father reminds us: "The Gospel shows us that poverty marked every aspect of Jesus' life. From the moment he entered the world, Jesus knew the bitter experience of rejection. The Evangelist Luke tells how Joseph and Mary, who was about to give birth, arrived in Bethlehem, and then adds, poignantly, that 'there was no place for them in the inn' (*Lk 2:7*). Jesus was born in humble surroundings and laid in a manger; then, to save him from being killed, they fled to Egypt (cf. *Mt 2:13-15*). At the dawn of his public ministry, after announcing in the synagogue of Nazareth that the year of grace which would bring joy to the poor was fulfilled in him, he was driven out of town (cf. *Lk 4:14-30*). He died as an outcast, led out of Jerusalem to be crucified (cf. *Mk 15:22*). Indeed, that is how Jesus' poverty is best described: he experienced the same exclusion that is the lot of the poor, the outcast of society. Jesus is a manifestation of this *privilegium pauperum*. He presented himself to the world not only as a poor Messiah, but also as the Messiah of and for the poor." (n. 19)

Before these words of Pope Leo, we recall the wonderful truth: Christ became poor so that we who are poor might become rich (cf. 2 Cor. 8:9). This is the good news of Christmas. We are not alone. We are not left to ourselves. A Savior has come - Christ the Lord.

As we celebrate the Christmas season, we remember with Pope Leo that "Christian holiness often flourishes in the most forgotten and wounded places of humanity." (n. 76)

How beautifully the followers of Christ have responded to the cry of the poor and looked with love upon the most vulnerable among us. As we rejoice in Christ's Birth, we renew our commitment to love others as he has loved us.

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

On Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> at the Cathedral of Saint Agnes, on the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we will conclude our Jubilee Year of Hope.

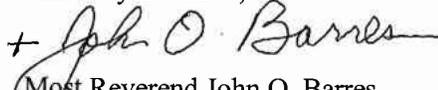
We thank both Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV for igniting hope within our families, the global mission of the Church, and the human family, and we contemplate the light and grace that radiates from the refugee Holy Family (73) and that radiates to every family.

Our Catholic biblical and sacramental worship, especially at the Catholic Mass, focuses and ignites both our global mission to the poor (n. 42) and our humble openness to being evangelized by the poor (n. 102), the treasures of our Church (n. 38).

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

May the Light and love of the Christ Child animate and guide our global Catholic missionary spirit this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,

  
+ John O. Barres  
Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre

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## **Confessions Before Christmas**

Our Bishop John Barres has asked that all of the parishes in our Diocese of Long Island begin a new Advent tradition: offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Penance prior to Christmas Eve/Day!!

What a wonderful gift it would be to cleanse our souls before celebrating the joy of Christ born in Bethlehem. Every Church will be open on Monday 22 December from 2:00pm to 4:00pm and from 6:00pm to 9:00pm, to share the sacred mystery of God's mercy and forgiveness for our sins. Here at Corpus Christi, these priests will be available in the church at the following hours:

2:00pm-3:00pm	Fr. Tomaz & Fr. Ken
3:00pm-4:00pm	Fr. Malcolm & Fr. Yesudas
6:00pm-7:00pm	Fr. Tomaz & Fr. Yesudas
7:00pm-8:00pm	Fr. Malcolm & Fr. Ken
8:00pm-9:00pm	Fr. Malcolm & Fr. Ken

In addition, both Fr. Malcolm & Fr. Ken will be present on Saturday 20 December from 4:00pm-5:00pm for Confessions. Please open your hearts to the Lord's grace in the Sacrament of Divine Mercy!

Yours in Christ,  
Father Malcolm Burns



Christmas 2025

My Dear Friends and Families of Corpus Christi Church,

“Now there were shepherds in that region, living in the fields and watching over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For today in the city of David, a Savior has been born for you, who is Messiah and Lord’”. (Gospel according to Luke 2: 8-11)

This mystical encounter between the angel and the shepherds reminds us of the glorious union of heaven and earth in the new-born Christ Child. The radiant angel reflects the infinite divinity of the Living Word; and the simple shepherds symbolize the humble humanity of the Infant Jesus.

The angelic words to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid”, are the same spoken separately to Mary and Joseph in the Scriptures; revealing the mystery of Christ conceived in their love by the Holy Spirit. Today all of us need that same spiritual encouragement not to live in fear; but to embrace faith. We are called to believe ever more deeply in the love of the Child Jesus, and the hope that every new-born baby brings into our broken world.

I thank you for being so generous with your time, talents and treasures; not only at Christmas, but all year long. May Jesus, Mary and Joseph watch over your family, children and grandchildren, with the greatest gifts of faith, hope and love.

God bless your Christmas season and New Year 2026 to come.

Yours in Christ,  
Father Malcolm Burns



**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2025**

**Christmas Eve (Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>)**

4:00 P.M. Family Mass (English)

6:00 P.M. (English)

8:00 P.M. (Spanish)

11:00 P.M. Midnight Mass (English)

**Christmas Day (Thursday), December 25<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 A.M. (English)

8:30 A.M. (Portuguese)

10:00 A.M. (English)

11:30 A.M. (English)

**There is no Mass on Christmas Day at night.**

**CONFESSIONS**

**Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**

4:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

**Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

2:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M. & 6:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.

**(Every Parish Church)**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS SCHEDULE 2025**

**(Holy Day of Obligation)**

**New Year's Eve (Wednesday, December 31st)**

5:00 P.M. (English)

**New Year's Day (Thursday), January 1st)**

7:00 AM, 8:30 AM (Portuguese), 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM, 1:00 PM (Spanish)

**There is no Mass on New Year's Day at night.**

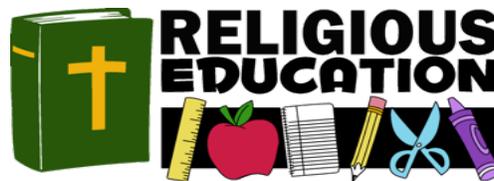
# ONLINE *giving*

**Make giving easy! No Envelopes!!**

Corpus Christi offers Online Giving as an additional option to support our ongoing mission and ministries. Our Church is a spiritual home for all of us. It relies on our time, talent and treasure to fulfill that mission. Online giving helps support our Church by allowing you to make donations via your mobile phone, smart device, or computer.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you begin donating through online giving, but are still receiving envelopes, please let us know and we will discontinue paying to send you envelopes.

It's easy: go to the parish website [www.corpuschristi-mineola.net](http://www.corpuschristi-mineola.net). Click on the Online Giving link, sign up, pick a weekly gift amount and that's it!



**Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025**

*“Journey to Bethlehem”*

**10:00 AM Mass**

**Tues., Wed., Thurs.,  
Dec. 16, 17, 18, 2025**

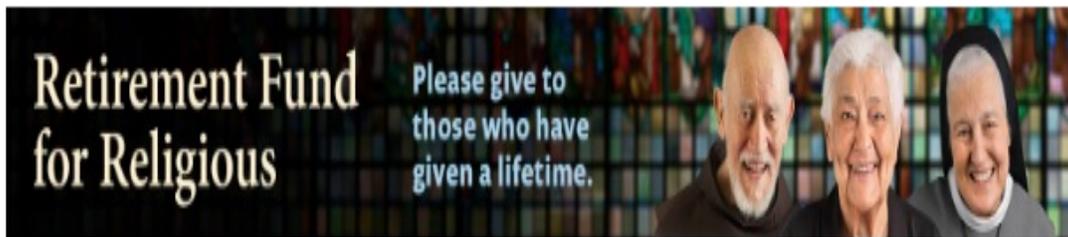
*No classes-Christmas recess begins.*

### *Junior Lector Christmas Schedule*

<i>Christmas Eve</i>	<i>4:00 PM</i>	<i>Robert Basel and Kylie Cunha</i>
<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>10:00AM</i>	<i>Mark DaCosta</i>
<i>Solemnity of Mary (January 1, 2026)</i>	<i>10:00 AM</i>	<i>Vivian Siracusa and Jane Siracusa</i>

### **Junior Lectors 10:00 AM Mass**

<b>Sunday, December 21, 2025</b>	<b>Diana Lima and Alcina Lima</b>
<b>Sunday, December 28, 2025</b>	<b>Lucy Romito and Mateo Manipol</b>
<b>Sunday, January 4, 2026</b>	<b>Nick Baker and Nicole Henriques</b>



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Pope Leo XIV has called on those serving the Church to be missionary disciples, actively sharing their faith and the love of Christ and the Gospel with others.

Our retired Religious Sisters and Brothers and Religious Priests have exemplified this call.

They have served the Lord, and through their vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, have witnessed to the power, beauty, and joy of the Gospel. We have seen their example and have been the beneficiaries of their service and witness within our parishes, schools, and ministries.

Our Religious Sisters and Brothers and Religious Priests have done so much for us, and now, we called to do something for them.

May I ask that you remember them in your prayers, and may I also humbly ask that you make a gift to the Religious Retirement Fund to help care for them in their time of need?

Thank you for your time, generosity, and consideration in helping to support those who have given so much to our faith community.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barres

## **Religious Retirement Collection**

**This Weekend - December 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>**

The Religious Retirement Collection continues in all parishes in the Diocese of Rockville Centre this weekend, December 13/14. Our continued goal is to provide financial assistance for the challenges that our religious face because of the rising cost of healthcare. This collection helps to fund daily essentials like prescription medications and nursing care.



## THANKSGIVING 2025 AT PARISH OUTREACH

**YOU** are abundantly Generous!!!!

We are humbled, blessed and so grateful for all that **YOU** do to serve others so beautifully. We thank all of those who used our **Blessing Bags** this year and donated so many groceries as well as gift cards and cash to the Food Pantry so that those members of our community in need would be able to have a



delicious Thanksgiving meal and leftovers. We put out over 350 Thanksgiving Blessing bags on the Cross this year and

**YOU**, in **YOUR** spirit of living out one of the Corporal Works of Mercy, Feeding the Hungry, **YOU** took them all. Due to **YOUR** generosity, we were able to provide over 170 people with a bountiful Thanksgiving meal and leftovers. A special word of gratitude to the Long Island Portuguese Lions Club, the Mineola Leos' Club, the Corpus Christi Knights of Columbus, Mineola High School and Mineola Memorial Library, who donated so much food

through their generous food drives. This wonderful act of charity, compassion and service speaks well of the



generosity of heart from this community. Another word of thanks to Ceriello's Fine Foods in Williston Park for their generous donation of all of this year's Blessing Bags. Our prayers of thanksgiving are endless; our neighbors in need have been served with love, respect and dignity. We couldn't do it without **YOU!!!!** Many Thanks-Many Blessing upon **YOU!!!!**





## CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

For many people, the holidays are extremely difficult. This year the Christmas season looks difficult for many. Hunger, poverty, unemployment, loss of a loved one prevent many people from experiencing the joy of the Christmas season. The Church of Corpus Christi helps bring the miracle of Christmas spiritually and materially to families that are in need through our Giving Tree. Please take an ornament off the tree and purchase the requested gift card which is inside the stocking and return the gift card to us by December 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your wonderful kindness and generosity by making this Christmas season a little brighter for those in our community who are in need.

## REMEMBERING YOU AT CHRISTMAS TIME

At this wonderful time of the year when we remember and celebrate our Savior's birth, we give thanks for the many gifts and blessings we have received. One way to give thanks is by remembering our friends and families by offering Christmas greetings, writing and sending Christmas cards. Once again, Parish Outreach is sponsoring our "Remembering You AT Christmas" program. Our outreach is simple and easy. When writing out your Christmas cards, write one extra Christmas card for a sick or homebound parishioner. These unseen and still important members of our parish won't be able to join us in person for our parish Christmas celebrations, but we want to let them know that they are still remembered in our hearts, thoughts and especially our prayers.



Bring the Christmas card with you to Mass during the weeks of December 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> and drop it into the specially prepared mailbox in the lobby of the church or drop it off at the rectory during normal business hours. Don't worry about addressing it to a specific parishioner or sealing & stamping the card. Members of our Parish Outreach team will take care of that and deliver your joyful greetings to our homebound parishioners. Help spread the joy and peace of this holy season to those in need who can't be present with us at Christmas.

**A new Christmas Tradition at Corpus Christi**



Help us to remember your deceased loved ones during the Christmas season by bringing a Christmas ornament to the church to be placed on one of our two Christmas tree in the sanctuary. These ornaments will help beautify our trees and serve as a loving tribute and reminder of those who now celebrate the Savior’s birth in our awaited eternal home. These ornaments will serve a permanent collection and will be used to decorate the trees in future years,

therefore, the ornaments will not be returned at the end of the Christmas season but will stored here at the church. If you would like to bring in an ornament for inclusion on the Christmas tree, please drop it off at the rectory during normal office hours.



**CORPUS CHRISTI ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY**



The Corpus Christi Rosary Altar Society would like to wish everyone a very "Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year (2026).

We just wanted to remind everyone that our regular monthly Mass for December will be on Saturday, December 27th, at the 5:00 pm Mass. Also, note, that our next scheduled Rosary meeting will be in February, 2026 and "not" in March, 2026!

Additionally, anyone in the Parish who has a special devotion to our Blessed Mother's Rosary, as well as would like to learn how to incorporate it into their daily life, please contact Lisa at: (516) 770-8201. We are always welcoming new members!



Happy Holidays everyone!

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, COLUMBIATTES AND THEIR  
FAMILIES AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO THE Members  
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Knights of Columbus located on 186 Jericho Tpke in Mineola**

**Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 12:30-3:30 pm**



**Come spend some time with friends and enjoy an assortment of food from Peter our great caterer and Rosa from Arditos. Christmas cookies and coffee and tea will be provided.**

**A choice of mimosa, beer, wine, juices, water and soda @ \$35. Under age 16 - \$10.00. Enjoy liquor drinks at reasonable Council prices.**

**Guest speakers from the Mineola Historical Society and other Mineola Services will present short discussions on the services they provide.**

**Questions: contact – Lou LiBrandi @646-841-3102/librandi@optonline.net**



**2025 Symbolic Christmas Bulbs Sale**

*We would like to continue the tradition of offering the opportunity to purchase a Symbolic Bulb for the beautiful blue-spruce Christmas tree outside the church in memory or honor of a loved one. We will be offering two opportunities for you to purchase a \$5.00 bulb. • Fill out the form in the church bulletin and place in the collection baskets during each of the masses or send or drop off at the rectory. The intentions will be placed in a journal and placed on the altar during the Christmas Eve Mass on the 24th. Your intentions will need to be returned to the rectory by Friday 22nd.*

*Donor:*

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*In Memory of:*

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*In Honor of: (someone who is still alive)*

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Please remember the sick in your daily prayers, including the following who have asked to be included in our list:

Connie Altvater, Aurora Antunes, Armandina Araujo, Evelyn Athas, Violeta Bernal, Anne Boland, Diane Bombardi, Erin Burke, Marie Byrnes, Jeanne Carroll, Jackson Carvalho, Michael Castalino, Frank de Carolis, Sue Citro, Emmanuel Colon, James Cunney, Kate Donovan, Laurie Fefta, Lilly Fuentes, Anne Gallagher, Kenneth Gallagher, Elba Garcia, Vanessa Gomes, Pat Kober, Diane LaBianca, Joseph LaBianca, Lorraine Liqury, Gus Lodato, Vincent Lodato, Thomas Lowe, Christine Lucivero, Augustus & Camella Lodato, Jason Lopes, Thomas Mitchell, Susan O'Brien, Mary O'Neal, Gabriel Palhete, Livia Pascoa Pereira, Linda Pires, Charles Procaccini, Dennis Radovic, Elizabeth Rose, JoAnn Russo, Mary Santucci, Robert Santucci, Ann Schwarz, Victoria Sheridan, Lisa Simeone, Lucy Elena Sivirichi, Paul Tubito, Lorraine Verdade, and any other members of our parish who are sick at this time.

### Church Parking

With more people coming to Masses on weekends (Thank God), parking can be a challenge! In addition to parking on both sides of Garfield Avenue, please use our Church parking lot, our school lot, or the **large parking field** owned by the Chancery building on Willis Avenue across the street (thanks to their generosity!).



Recently, **no-parking/tow-away signs** have been posted on the small lot by the Red Cross north of us, as well as the small lot by the new Korean Baptist Church south of us. You may run the risk of having your vehicle towed during Mass (God forbid!). Please park properly, so that you can participate peacefully in the Eucharist.

### Altar Server Schedule



Sat., Dec. 20	5:00 PM	M.Machado/M.Trejos
Sun., Dec. 21	10:00 AM	S.Heras/S.Heras
	11:30 AM	R.Kearns/H.Kearns/E.Corona

### Church Donation Envelopes



Before giving your Church donation envelopes, please make sure that the amounts of your donations are written on the envelope. Please also avoid using tape to seal the envelopes.

The money counters, thank you very much.

### KING KULLEN RECEIPTS



If you shop at the King Kullen in Garden City Park, please save your register receipts and place them in the white basket in the vestibule or in the collection basket or together with your donation in the stewardship envelope. 1% of your total

purchase gets donated to the Corpus Christi Religious Education Program.

### Memorials Bread & Wine

Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> – 5:00pm Mass  
In Loving Memory of  
Donna Hoag (6<sup>th</sup> Month Anniversary)  
Requested by Darlene & Ted Englis



#### St Anthony HS

Honor Roll First Quarter  
Gabriela Rodriguez

#### Kellenberg HS

National Honor Society  
Caitlin Azzara

Jarithza Cortez Navarrete

National Junior Honor Society

Oliver Acampado  
Xavier Griffin

Perfect Attendance 2024-2025

Jarithza Cortez Navarrete

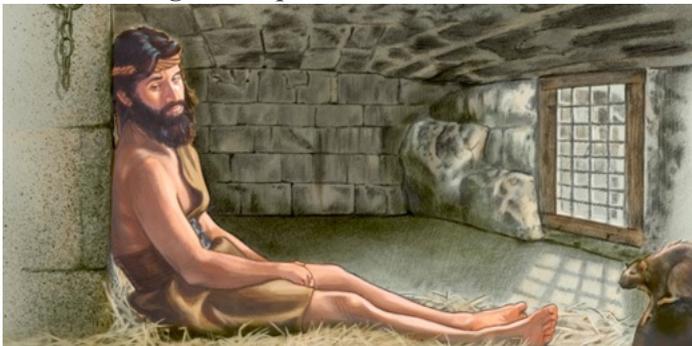
# Español

## III DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO



### EVANGELIO DE SAN MATEO 11, 2-11

En aquel tiempo, Juan se encontraba en la cárcel, y habiendo oído hablar de las obras de Cristo, le mandó preguntar por medio de dos discípulos: "¿Eres tú el que ha de venir o tenemos que esperar a otro?" Jesús les respondió: "Vayan a contar a Juan lo que están viendo y oyendo: los ciegos ven, los cojos andan, los leprosos quedan limpios de la lepra, los sordos oyen, los muertos resucitan y a los pobres se les anuncia el Evangelio. Dichoso aquel que no se sienta defraudado por mí". Cuando se fueron los discípulos, Jesús se puso a hablar a la gente acerca de Juan: "¿Qué fueron ustedes a ver en el desierto? ¿Una caña sacudida por el viento? No. Pues entonces, ¿qué fueron a ver? ¿A un hombre lujosamente vestido? No, ya que los que visten con lujo habitan en los palacios. ¿A qué fueron, pues? ¿A ver a un profeta? Sí, yo se lo aseguro; y a uno que es todavía más que profeta. Porque de él está escrito: *He aquí que yo envío a mi mensajero para que vaya delante de ti y te prepare el camino. Yo les aseguro que no ha surgido entre los hijos de una mujer ninguno más grande que Juan el Bautista. Sin embargo, el más pequeño en el Reino de los cielos, es todavía más grande que él*".



Herodes había encarcelado a Juan porque éste había cuestionado públicamente la moralidad de su matrimonio con Herodías (14:1-12). En esos tiempos corruptos, Juan, al igual que muchos judíos de la época, esperaba que el Mesías traería un juicio severo y violento sobre los pecadores; esto hace que dude de la identidad de Jesús. La lectura de hoy refleja esta duda cuando Juan, desde la cárcel, envía a sus discípulos a cuestionar su identidad mesiánica. Esta visita de los discípulos será la ocasión para precisar lo que Jesús nos trae, y lo que no hay que esperar de él. Jesús responde usando los pasajes del profeta Isaías que describían la venida del Mesías. La frase: "Feliz aquel que al encontrarme no se aleja desilusionado", es una advertencia a Juan y a sus discípulos de no dudar de él porque sus expectativas del Mesías no se habían realizado. Una vez que los discípulos de Juan se han marchado, Jesús hace un sincero elogio de la grandeza de Juan y lo reconoce como el más importante de los profetas mesiánicos. Sin embargo, lo coloca claramente en el tiempo de las promesas. Juan no inaugura el Reino de Dios, esto lo hace solamente Jesús.



La primera lectura, del profeta Isaías, es un mensaje de esperanza y restauración divina, que promete que el desierto florecerá, los enfermos serán sanados (ciegos verán, sordos oirán, cojos saltarán, mudos cantarán) y se abrirá un "Camino de Santidad" para los redimidos, culminando en un regreso a Sión con alegría eterna y sin llanto, donde Dios mismo vendrá a salvar y traer gozo inmenso.



La segunda lectura de la carta de Santiago se centra en la [paciencia y perseverancia en la fe](#) ante las pruebas, comparándonos con un labrador que espera la cosecha, recordando la pronta venida del Señor, y tomando a los profetas como ejemplo de sufrimiento y constancia, llamando a no quejarse para no ser juzgados, mientras se confía en el Juez supremo que ya está cerca para traer justicia, enfatizando la esperanza en la vindicación final de Dios.

# Português

## DOMINGO III DO ADVENTO



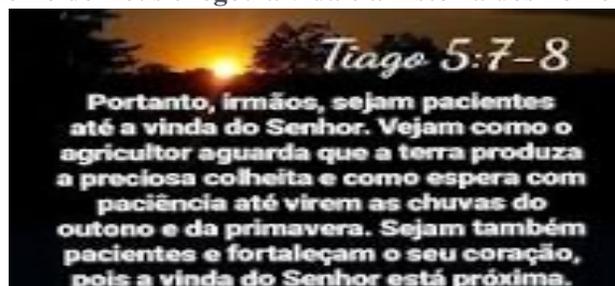
### EVANGELHO DE SÃO MATEUS 11, 2-11

Naquele tempo, João Batista ouviu falar, na prisão, das obras de Cristo e mandou-Lhe dizer pelos discípulos: «*És Tu Aquele que há de vir, ou devemos esperar outro?*». Jesus respondeu-lhes: «*Ide contar a João o que vedes e ouvis: os cegos veem, os coxos andam, os leprosos são curados, os surdos ouvem, os mortos ressuscitam e a Boa Nova é anunciada aos pobres. E bem-aventurado aquele que não encontrar em Mim motivo de escândalo*». Quando os mensageiros partiram, Jesus começou a falar de João às multidões: «*Que fostes ver ao deserto? Uma cana agitada pelo vento? Então que fostes ver? Um homem vestido com roupas delicadas? Mas aqueles que usam roupas delicadas encontram-se nos palácios dos reis. Que fostes ver então? Um profeta? Sim – Eu vo-lo digo – e mais que profeta. É dele que está escrito: ‘Vou enviar à tua frente o meu mensageiro, para te preparar o caminho’. Em verdade vos digo: Entre os filhos de mulher, não apareceu ninguém maior do que João Batista. Mas o menor no reino dos Céus é maior do que ele*».



Depois de ter sido batizado por João, o “Batista”, nas águas do rio Jordão, Jesus começou a “ver” claramente a missão que o Pai lhe confiava. Deixando João nas margens do rio Jordão, Jesus voltou para a Galileia e instalou-se em Cafarnaum. Entretanto João Batista continuou nas margens do rio Jordão a propor a sua mensagem de conversão e o seu batismo purificador. Com ousadia profética denunciava o pecado de todos, inclusive do próprio rei Herodes que tinha repudiado a sua esposa legítima e vivia com a mulher do seu irmão Filipe. João denunciou publicamente a atitude de Herodes, considerando-a contrária à Lei. Herodes, com medo que as palavras de João incendiassem os ânimos da população e causassem uma revolta, mandou prendê-lo. Foi da prisão que João Batista enviou

alguns dos seus discípulos a Jesus com uma questão que o incomodava e que ele desejava ver esclarecida: “*és Tu Aquele que há de vir ou devemos esperar outro?*” A pergunta sugere dúvida; mas não é desprovida de sentido... João esperava um Messias que viesse lançar fogo à terra, castigar os maus e os pecadores, dar início ao “juízo de Deus”, mas, ao contrário, Jesus aproximou-Se dos pecadores, dos marginais, dos impuros, estendeu-lhes a mão, mostrou-lhes o amor de Deus, ofereceu-lhes a salvação. João e os seus discípulos sentiam-se desconcertados: Jesus era o Messias esperado, ou seria preciso esperar um outro que viesse atuar de uma forma mais decidida, mais severa e mais justiceira? Não é fácil reconhecer o messias de Deus. Formado pelos profetas, Israel esperou-o durante séculos e, no entanto, quando chegou, até mesmo aquelas pessoas espiritualmente mais preparadas tiveram dificuldade em o entender e acolher. No Evangelho, o próprio Jesus define a missão que o Pai lhe confiou quando o enviou ao encontro dos homens: dar vista aos cegos e tirá-los da escuridão onde se afundam, libertar os coxos de tudo aquilo que os impede de caminhar, curar os leprosos. Com Jesus, o Reino de Deus chegou à vida e à história dos homens.



Na segunda leitura, da Carta de São Tiago, que se apresenta como “servo de Deus e do Senhor Jesus Cristo”, avisa os pobres, vítimas das prepotências dos poderosos, que o Senhor, o “juiz” dos homens, está a chegar para fazer justiça. A sua vinda irá libertá-los da opressão a que têm estado sujeitos. Enquanto esperam, os pobres devem colocar a sua confiança em Deus e continuar a percorrer, com fidelidade e sem desânimo, o seu caminho que têm à frente. Para explicar o seu pensamento, Tiago recorre ao exemplo do lavrador. Que faz o agricultor? Não fica sentado a olhar para o campo, esperando que produza sozinho. Empenha-se o mais possível: trabalha, cava, semeia, rega, arranca as ervas daninhas. Mas também sabe esperar.

### INTENÇÕES PARA O DIA 21 DE DEZEMBRO

Alice e Mario Adão + Manuel e Joaquina Portela  
+Leonardo e Lurdes Albuquerque + Julian Barreto  
Albuquerque + Joaquim Martins Carvalho + João  
Rodrigues + Ana Rodrigues Nogueira + Joaquim  
Estevinho + Maria e José Pereira Cunha + Américo  
Pereira Mendes + Glória e João Barbosa Martins  
+Almas do Purgatório.

# Coloring Page

