

Dear Padre,

Do non-Catholics go to heaven?

Yes, they do, because of the grace of God at work in his people. To suggest otherwise would seem to imply that Catholics somehow have a "golden ticket," or some kind of right that simply does not exist.

The Incarnation of Jesus healed the division between heaven and earth, a division established by the "sin of Adam" and confirmed by our own lives of sin. Through his passion, death, and resurrection, all has been restored to the manner that the Father first envisioned through his Creation. The division was between humanity and divinity, not between religious practices and divinity. Catholics believe and celebrate that God accepts all people of a good heart and a good spirit. God is not blinded by the labels that sometimes blind his people to the bigger reality.

When Catholics, or people of any religion, proclaim exclusivity and specialness, particularly when it concerns eternal life, all people should be very cautious about what they assume. To assume a certain type of arrogance—to yourself and to your belief and life of faith—that excludes others or separates another as "not one of us" simply has no place in the kingdom of God. ●

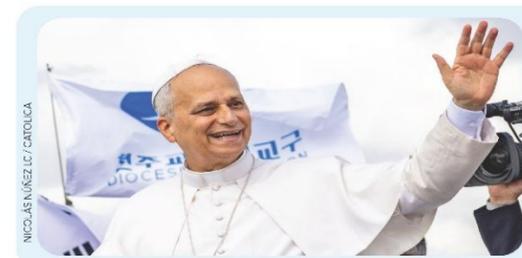


PASCA HIOT/SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 8 <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Gn 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38	December 9 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 40:1-11 Mt 18:12-14	December 10 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30	December 11 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15	December 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47	December 13 <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i> Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13	December 14 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Is 35:1-6a, 10 Jas 5:7-10 Mt 11:2-11

Do you have a question for the Padre?
Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



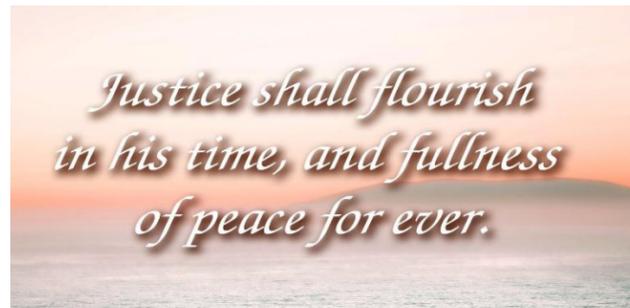
A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

With the light and the strength of the Holy Spirit, let us build a Church founded on God's love, a sign of unity, a missionary Church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word, allows itself to be made "restless" by history, and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 18, 2025

Liguori Publications Catholic. Pastoral. Trusted. © 2025 Liguori Publications. *Inprimi Potes*: Fr. Kevin Zube, CSsR, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists. Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of the Redemptorists. To learn more about the Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists.com. No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from *The New American Bible, Revised Edition* © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA. Visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

CHRIS ROLWES
(314) 852-7471
ROLWESPLUMBING@GMAIL.COM
FIND US ON FACEBOOK
LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED



St. James Catholic Church
201 N. Missouri Street
Potosi, MO 63664

Second Sunday of Advent December 7, 2025



(Photo courtesy of Jeremy Boyer)

E-MAIL:
stjameschurch@centurylink.net

WEBSITE:
www.stjames-potosi.org

FACEBOOK: St. James Catholic Church

PHONE NUMBER: 573-438-4686

PSR: Phone: 573-366-5235
stjamespsr@gmail.com

Mass Schedule December 2025

Mon: 8:00 AM (St. Joachim)

Tues: 8:15 AM (St. James)

Wed: 8:15 AM (St. Joachim)

Thurs: 8:00 AM (St. James)

Fri: 8:00 AM (St. Joachim)

Sat: 8:00 AM (1st Sat. of the Month @ St. James)

Saturday: 4:00 PM
(1st & 3rd weekend @ St. James; 2nd & 4th weekend @ St. Joachim)

Sunday: 8:00 AM (St. James)
10:00 AM (St. Joachim)

Confessions:

Saturday: 3:15-3:45pm
Prior to Sat. evening Mass or by appointment



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, Dec. 8th: **Amylee Hellwig**

Tuesday, Dec. 9th: **Raymond J. Degonia**

Wednesday, Dec. 10th @ St. Joachim

Thursday, Dec. 11th: **Theresa West**

Friday, Dec. 12th @ St. Joachim

Saturday, Dec. 13th @ St. Joachim

Sunday, Dec. 14th: **Lucy Politte**

St. James Parish Family

201 N. Missouri Street
Potosi, MO 63664



Staff
**Rev. Anthony Dattilo-
Pastor**
AnthonyDattilo@archstl.org
Phone: 573-436-0580 (St. Joachim Rectory)

**Rev. Vince Nyman-
Associate Pastor**
Phone: 314-614-0718

Angie Mitchell
Office Manager (part-time)

Vicki Thurmond
Parish Secretary (part-time)
stjameschurch@centurylink.net

Judy East: Custodian

Tommy Roy: On Call Maintenance

St. James PSR
Dr. Melissa Cordia
Co-Coordinator
Laura Allen
Co-Coordinator
Jamie Thompson
Co-Coordinator
stjamespsr@gmail.com

December 14th

Lector:

Saturday 4pm:
Sunday 8am: Jeanne Degonia

Eucharistic Ministers:

Saturday 4pm	Sunday 8am
C:	Donna Kennon
L:	Glenda Farrow
R:	Don Thompson

Servers

Saturday 4pm:
Sunday 8am: Ava West

Music:

Sat: 4:00pm. Chala Short
Sun: 8:00am Rebecca Richards
Sun: 10:00am Anita Govero or The Little Way Band



Heavenly Dusters

Faye Jarvis 12/5-12/12
Diane Mull 12/19-12/26
Jeanne Degonia 1/2-1/9

Altar Linens

Faye Jarvis 12/8-12/15
Glenda Farrow 12/22-12/29
Connie Scott 1/5-1/12

Money Counters

Mary Ann & Donna 12/9
Becky & Rhonda 12/16
Jeanne & Rhonda 12/23

(FYI: The office will be CLOSED Dec 8 for the Holy Day)

Weekly Collection 11/30/2025

Envelopes:	\$2664.00
Loose:	367.00
Online Giving	15.00
Maintenance:	135.00
St. Vincent de Paul:	205.00
Votive:	27.00
Solemnity of Mary	30.00
Christmas Offering	45.00
Christmas Flowers	105.00
Seminary	70.00
Immaculate Conception	30.00

Total Giving: \$3693.00
of Contributors: 49

Thank you for your generosity!

December 7, 2025 2nd Sunday of Advent

"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."
MATTHEW 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Jesus? Do you spend time in prayer or do you waste it with mindless activity? Do you use your talent to help others or are you too busy? Do you use your treasure to support the Church or do you buy more things that go unused. Our time, talent, and treasure are gifts from God. What we do with these gifts is our gift back to Him. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

****FORMED****

What Is the Immaculate Conception?

Join Drs Tim Gray and John Sehorn as they examine Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception. This dogma of the Catholic faith, promulgated in 1854 by Pope Pius IX, speaks of Mary's conception and what it means to the Church.

Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message

Enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego, an encounter that has influenced the conversion of millions of people.

Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Juan Diego | Catholic Saints

Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Dr. James Prothro to discuss Mary's apparition to Saint Juan Diego on Tepeyac hill under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

*Go to <http://signup.formed.org>
*Enter our parish's zipcode 63664
*Enter your name and your email address.
*Enjoy!

MONDAY December 8 <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Gn 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38
TUESDAY December 9 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 40:1-11 Mt 18:12-14
WEDNESDAY December 10 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30
THURSDAY December 11 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15
FRIDAY December 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
SATURDAY December 13 <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i> Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13
SUNDAY December 14 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Is 35:1-6a, 10 Jas 5:7-10 Mt 11:2-11

Good News!

December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent (A)
Isaiah 11:1-10 / Romans 15:4-9 / Matthew 3:1-12

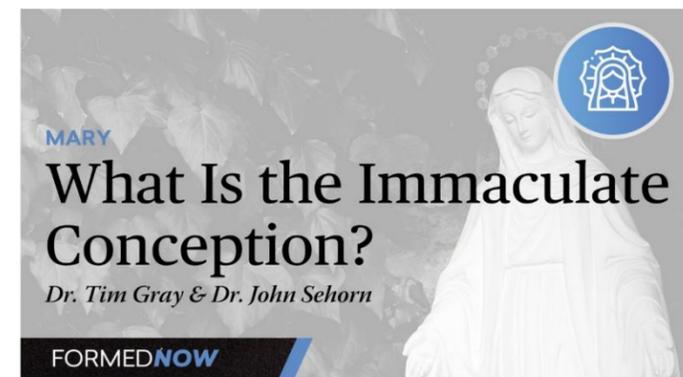
ANN M. GARRIDO

Today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah offers a familiar Advent image: the shoot sprouting from the stump of Jesse. The verses immediately preceding speak of God walking through the forest with an ax: "The tall of stature shall be felled, and the lofty ones shall be brought low" (Isaiah 10:33). But now, amidst all the destruction, a tiny sign of new life emerges, and the Spirit of God descends upon it, bearing many gifts—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, delight.

So often, when we scroll through the news, our attention is captured by violence and war and the "mighty" who make great noise when they fall. "Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees," echoes John the Baptist in today's gospel. If we are looking for where God's Spirit can be found, however, Isaiah reminds us we will need to look elsewhere. We will need to attend to the quiet, fragile resurrections taking place below the surface when it appears as if all has been lost. If we seek wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, and delight, we will need to look where the little ones of the earth are found. We must have our eyes open for the shoots.

The gospels emphasize that Jesus was one such little one. Although the glory days of his people seemed to have come to a crashing close, they have not. In him, we glimpse the truth that life is stronger than death. We see that the future has not been erased, no matter how terrible the past. In him, we find our hope. ●

© 2025 Liguori Publications. Imprimi Petest Fr. Kevin Zubel, CSSR, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists, Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of the Redemptorists. To learn more about the Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists.com. No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from The New American Bible, Revised Edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA. Visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.



formed™
Forming Catholics for Life.

What Is the Immaculate Conception?

Join Drs Tim Gray and John Sehorn as they examine Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception. This dogma of the Catholic faith, promulgated in 1854 by Pope Pius IX, speaks of Mary's conception and what it means to the Church.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish to get free access to this content and much more!



An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

Interested in Becoming Catholic? (OCIA: Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Rite of Acceptance

The following candidates, Joey Thebeau, Anthony Pashia, Judy Vance, and Kaitlyn Gibson have completed the period of Inquiry (Precatechumenate) and will be received into the Order of Catechumens. We also greet Tiffany Lilly Pashia, Chris McCoy and Jerry Randall who wish to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. We give thanks and praise to the God who has led them by various paths to oneness in faith. In the months to come they will prepare for their initiation and continuing conversion into the Christian faith by Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Catechumens and Candidates express their intention to follow the way of Christ by participating in the Liturgy of the Word on Sunday/Saturday, and holy days with the community when possible, to continually purify their motivation for Baptism and receive the sacraments, to live an upright life, and to be ready to witness to their conversion to Christ as they seek to grow in their knowledge of and assent to what the Church believes and teaches. Catechumens and Candidates may participate in apostolic and charitable works of the church especially works of mercy, take advantage of opportunities to provide religious education for their children, to be buried in a Catholic cemetery and to be a lector or serve on the altar during the Liturgy.

The responsibility of the Catholic Communities of St. Joachim & St. James is to pray for and support the catechumens and candidates by example and through invitation to become a part of this Faith community.

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, in being fully received, or in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, contact the parish office, or call coordinator, Joyce Politte 636-328-1343. All are welcome.

Father Tony would like to thank everyone who worked together to make the Sunday brunch a successful and joyful event!

Caring Hearts Christmas Meal

Join us for a Christmas meal on Friday December 19 from 11:30am-12:30pm at the Caring Hearts Family Resource Center located in the shopping center next to Save a Lot grocery store. RSVP to Mande by 12-12-25 at 573-436-2000

Bulletin Advertising

We are now accepting advertisers for the back of our bulletin. The cost is \$180 per year. This will help offset the cost of paper & ink for the bulletin. Please call or email the office for more details. If you are interested, all we need is a business card to get you added onto the back. Thanks!

December Reconciliation Services

We will have Reconciliation Day at St Joachim from 10am-2:00pm. on Thursday December 11, 2025. Fr Tony will hear Confessions from 10am.-12:00pm. and Fr Dyer will hear Confessions from 12:00pm-2:00pm.

St James Reconciliation Service with Confessions will be on Tuesday December 16, 2025 from 6:00-8:00pm. Three priests will hear Confessions: Fr Dyer Fr Huber and Fr Tony.

Please take advantage of these opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation!



Attention!!

Sign up sheets are posted in the vestibule of church for the Holy Days of Obligation for Immaculate Conception and Mary, Mother of God and also for our Christmas Masses. If you would like to volunteer for any of the lector, servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers and Giftbearers, please sign up on the sheets or you can also email or call the office. Thanks so much!!

Parish Calendar

Dec 2: Ladies Sodality meeting 5:30pm

Dec 3: 1st Reconciliation for PSR students @ St. Joachim 6pm- All Students are encouraged to attend

Dec 4: Christmas Parade

Dec 6: Adoration & Benediction @ 8am

Dec 8: Men's Faith Sharing Group 6:30pm

Dec 8: Holy Day Mass for Immaculate Conception 6pm; PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED

Dec 10: PSR Welcome Baby Jesus Party

Dec 12: Clarity House @ 6pm

Dec 15: Rural Clinic here; St. Vincent de Paul meeting at 6pm

Dec 16: Reconciliation Service with 3 priests 6pm-8pm

Dec 17: PSR Christmas Play & Choir Celebration @6pm

Dec 20: St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Day

Dec 22: Men's Faith Sharing Group 6:30pm

Dec 23: Decorating for Christmas after 8:15am Mass

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Mass 4pm

Dec 25: Christmas Day Mass 10am

"I am a parishioner of St James. Catholic education is an important part of our heritage as Catholics, especially in this challenging and divided world. In Washington County, we have one Catholic school at St. Joachim. I believe we should all support this school whether we are from St James or St Joachim. It is our school for our children and grandchildren. For that reason, I am donating to our school at St. Joachim."

~~Anonymous Donor from St. James to St. Joachim School

THE COUNCIL'S CORNER

We want to thank all those who helped cook and all those who attended our Fifth Sunday Brunch! It was well attended and enjoyed by all. Our next Fifth Sunday Brunch will be March 29.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ERIC AUBUCHON @ 314-605-6268

St. James PSR NEWS

What a day for celebration! Our 2 students made their First Reconciliation this past Wednesday successfully! Special thanks to Tara for getting them to this point and being there for them!

There are some calendar updates for PSR as there have been a few changes.

*Our "Welcome Baby Jesus" party has been moved to 12/10. This is a regular PSR night.

*Our Parish Christmas play & choir celebration will be on 12/17. As this is also a regular PSR night, all children will participate and families are encouraged to attend.

From Dr. Melissa Cordia

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

St. James Food Pantry provided food to 250 families (677 individuals) on Nov.15th. We only packed for 200 families. If it hadn't have been for the 500 items collected by our PSR students, we would have run out of food! Thanks to all our amazing volunteer! Also thanks to those who bought turkeys or contributed financially. Our mission thrives because of you!

If God is the center of your life, no words are necessary. Your mere presence will touch hearts.

St. Vincent de Paul

***St. Vincent de Paul collection:
Canned meat, canned chili w/meat, spaghetti w/ meat,
canned stew, tuna***

Ladies Sodality

We would like to welcome new members to join our Ladies Sodality. Our next meeting is on January 7th from 5:30pm-6:30pm in the Parish Hall. Please consider joining us!

Advent Candles and Advent Wreaths: The History and Meaning, Colors, Symbolism, Themes, and More

During Advent, we prepare for His coming – He who brought Light into the darkness – for four weeks, represented by the four candles around the Advent wreath.

The word “Advent” comes from the Latin word “*adventus*,” which means “*a coming, approach, arrival*.” When we expect guests to arrive at our homes, we turn the lights on; we anticipate their arrival and welcome them with joy. In Advent, we prepare our homes and churches as we joyfully anticipate His arrival, and the light also gets brighter as we near Christmas day, the day on which the *Light of the World* was born. St. Gregory of Nyssa wrote,

“Today, the darkness begins to grow shorter and the light to lengthen, as the hours of light become fewer. [...] Do you see that the beams of light are more intense and the sun higher than it has been? Realize that the true light is now here and, through the rays of the Gospel, is illuminating the whole earth.”

Advent wreaths and candles are commonly seen in Catholic churches during the liturgical season. Many people also display Advent wreaths in their homes and light a candle each Sunday as families. Read more to learn about the history, traditions, and symbolism behind Advent wreaths and candles and how you can celebrate Advent at home with family and friends.

Advent wreaths

The Advent wreath is a centuries-old Christian tradition. Potentially overlooked by the candles it holds to light the way for the birth of Jesus, the Advent wreath itself symbolizes many themes and beliefs central to the Christian faith. In parishes, Advent wreaths are placed anywhere on the altar, on a side table, or even hung from the ceiling. In the home, you might place your Advent wreath on an entry or dining table or another location where you, your family, and your guests can enjoy the wreath during the Advent season.

History of the Advent wreath

The origin of the Advent wreath has been traced back to Germany, though the exact dates are unknown. Historians have suggested that pre-Christian Germanic peoples would light candles around wreaths in the dark winter months in anticipation of the warmer, lighter months in springtime. This tradition likely evolved into an “Advent wreath” at some point during the Middle Ages, transforming the pagan tradition into a Christian one. Rev. William Saunders explained that “By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.” Ultimately, the Advent wreath tradition spread beyond Germany and into other areas of the world, namely throughout the western Church.

Advent wreath meaning

The circular shape of the Advent wreath symbolizes God’s infinite love for us – it is never-ending, just like the true Light of the World, Jesus, who leads us into eternal life with Him. The materials of the Advent wreath similarly lead us to reflect on the everlasting nature of God; traditionally, Advent wreaths have been made of evergreen leaves, such as pine or fir, which maintain their green color beyond the season in which they are collected. Nowadays, there are many modern interpretations of Advent wreaths that still help us celebrate the traditional meaning of the wreath: preparing the way for the Light of the World, Jesus. Battery-operated/LED wreaths are a good example of this as they simulate the four candles but don’t require lighting each week.

Advent candles

The four Advent candles each have meaning.

What do the four candles of Advent symbolize?

The four candles of Advent represent the four Sundays of Advent, and they respectively symbolize hope, peace, joy, and love. In some homes and parishes, people will also light a fifth candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to represent the birth of Jesus; this candle, when added to the Advent wreath, is typically white and larger than the other candles and is placed in the center of the wreath.

Advent candle weeks, names & colors

- Advent week 1 – Hope: Prophecy Candle (purple)
- Advent week 2 – Peace: Bethlehem Candle (purple)
- Advent week 3 – Joy: Shepherd’s Candle (pink)
- Advent week 4 – Love: Angel’s Candle (purple)



Article credit <https://hallow.com/blog/advent-candles-and-advent-wreaths/>



Will You Notice the Shoot?

ANN M. GARRIDO

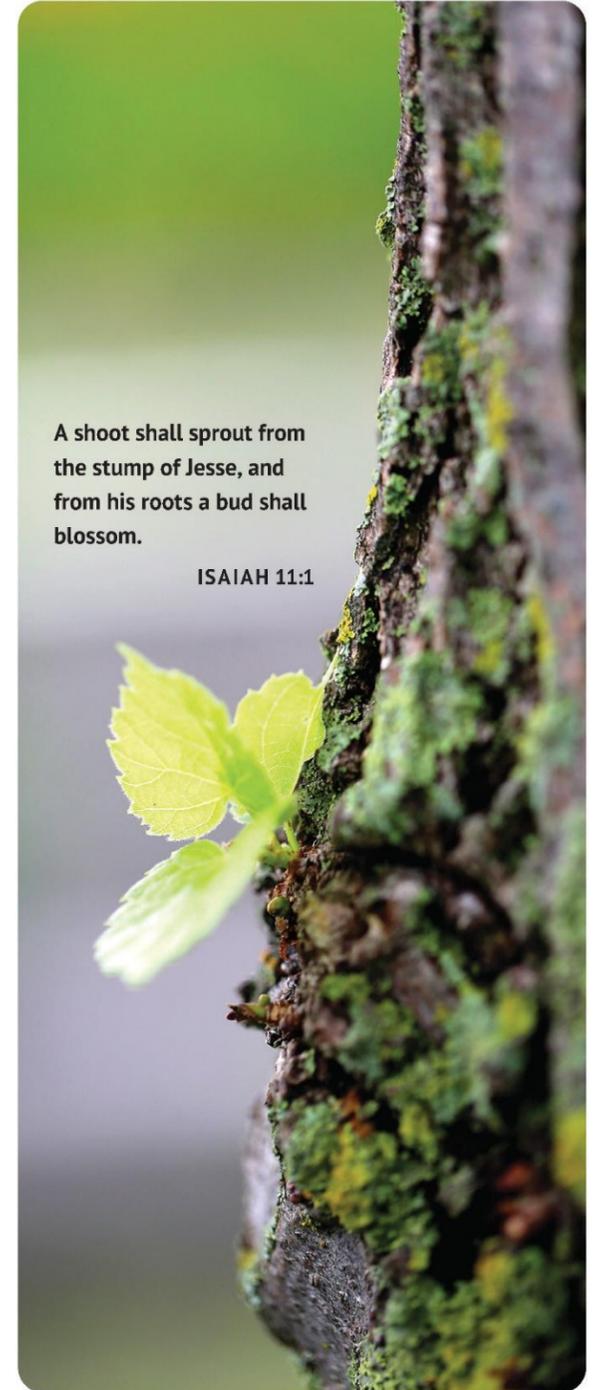
Today’s first reading from the prophet Isaiah offers a familiar Advent image: the shoot sprouting from the stump of Jesse. The verses immediately preceding speak of God walking through the forest with an ax: “The tall of stature shall be felled, and the lofty ones shall be brought low” (Isaiah 10:33). But now, amidst all the destruction, a tiny sign of new life emerges, and the Spirit of God descends upon it, bearing many gifts—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, delight.

So often, when we scroll through the news, our attention is captured by violence and war and the “mighty” who make great noise when they fall. “Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees,” echoes John the Baptist in today’s gospel. If we are looking for where God’s Spirit can be found, however, Isaiah reminds us we will need to look elsewhere. We will need to attend to the quiet, fragile resurrections taking place below the surface when it appears as if all has been lost. If we seek wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, and delight, we will need to look where the little ones of the earth are found. We must have our eyes open for the shoots.

The gospels emphasize that Jesus was one such little one. Although the glory days of his people seemed to have come to a crashing close, they have not. In him, we glimpse the truth that life is stronger than death. We see that the future has not been erased, no matter how terrible the past. In him, we find our hope. ●

Reflect

Are my eyes open to the small signs of God’s work in the world, or am I too distracted to notice?



A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.

ISAIAH 11:1



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR ANN
M. GARRIDO

for where God’s Spirit can be found, however, Isaiah reminds us we will need to look elsewhere. We will need to attend to the quiet, fragile resurrections taking place below the surface when it appears as if all has been lost. If we seek wisdom, understanding, counsel,

strength, knowledge, awe, and delight, we will need to look where the little ones of the earth are found. We must have our eyes open for the shoots.

The gospels emphasize that Jesus was one such little one. Although the glory days of his people seemed to have come to a crashing close, they have not. In him, we glimpse the truth that life is stronger than death. We see that the future has not been erased, no matter how terrible the past. In him, we find our hope. ●