



**Third Sunday of Advent -  
Gaudete Sunday  
December 14, 2014**

## **Sunday Liturgy Guide for the Church of the Poor in the Spirit of the New Evangelization**

**The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, lives by the new history of salvation when she joyfully recognizes Jesus in the poor as the alternative of God.**

In light of today's theme: The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, lives by the new history of salvation when she joyfully recognizes Jesus in the poor as the alternative of God, let us continue to ponder on PCP-II's vision of a Church Renewed that focuses on Discipleship in Community. In the context of the Church as a community-in-mission, it now talks of "our missionary vocation".

### ***"C.3 A Community-in-Mission***

#### **A) Our Missionary Vocation**

**(108)** A growing awareness of the missionary potential of Filipino migrant workers abroad has also dawned upon us. For economic reasons, wave after wave of Filipinos have sought work in other countries. There they witness through their religiosity and piety whenever this is possible for them. Many are the stories of the positive effects of their faith witness on others. Pope John Paul II told Filipino overseas workers in 1987: 'Indeed in Europe you are called to be the new and

youthful witness of that very faith which your country received from Europe many generations ago.' This witnessing must be strengthened through various ways such as an appropriate catechesis before they go forth to other lands. We also need to provide pastoral and social care for them and their families. In that way their spiritual and material welfare is served, their rights protected, and their faith strengthened.

**(109)** And here on our land is a vast field of mission related to the Filipino-Chinese apostolate. Less than 20% of the Chinese in the Philippines have had some effective evangelization. The progress made in evangelizing through the education and pastoral work of the Filipino-Chinese apostolate is a great encouragement. We need to intensify this. But we must look beyond our shores and take note of the missionary opportunities opened by the contacts that our Filipino-Chinese brothers and sisters have with East Asian Chinese communities, including the People's Republic of China whose openness to religion remains fluid. We need to provide encouragement, support, and personnel to this important mission."

There then is the call and the challenge. Make your choice. Be a missionary, lay or ordained, abroad or here inside our land. As an individual ... as a couple ... as a family! Dare! ■

## Introductory Rites

### Entrance Antiphon: (Phil 4:4-5)

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen.*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And with your spirit.*

## Introduction and Welcome

P: Dear brothers and sisters: we celebrate today the Third Sunday of Advent. It is the Sunday of joy, marked with the color pink or rose. We rejoice because the Lord is near! Let us ask the Lord to make us worthy to celebrate the birth of his Son and to prepare for his coming by awakening in us a new sense of mission, a more profound sense of partnership with the people and a more joyful recognition of the presence of Jesus among the poor as the sign of God's contradiction.

## Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Lord God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.

*(Lighting of the three Candles)* Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath; may their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever.

R. *Amen.*

## Penitential Act

P: Brothers and sisters: to celebrate worthily these sacred mysteries, let us now recall to mind our sins and ask God's loving forgiveness and compassion.

P: I confess...

A: *to Almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words,*

*in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore, I ask blessed Mary ever-virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.*

P: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

C: *Amen.*

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: *Lord, have mercy.*

P: Christ, have mercy.

C: *Christ, have mercy.*

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: *Lord, have mercy.*

C: *Amen.*

## Collect

P: Let us pray: O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C: *Amen.*

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11

L: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a

bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

**Commentary on Is 61:1-2a, 10-11:**

When the people of Israel returned to their homeland from their Babylonian exile, they found disenchantment and decaying faithfulness to Yahweh, instead of joy and great hopes for a new future. Why? Because the promises of Second Isaiah were nowhere fulfilled. They were divided into opposing factions: the practical conservatives vs. the visionary idealists. Thus, the prophet here has risen to make that hope for a better future alive. He announced his prophetic mission: to proclaim the intervention of God on behalf of the poor, the marginalized and the excluded on that year that was favorable to Him. A prophetic joy erupted from within him: he was made new, he was clothed with a justice that saved. His own experience of newness mirrored the construction of the new Jerusalem, of peace based on justice for all the nations.

**Responsorial Psalm: Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54**

***R: My soul rejoices in my God.***

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:

***R: My soul rejoices in my God.***

The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

***R: My soul rejoices in my God.***

He has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy.

***R: My soul rejoices in my God.***

**Commentary on Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54:**

This is the revolutionary song of Mary, popularly known in the tradition as the *Magnificat*, the first word in the Latin translation of the song. There is a movement in the song: from Mary's personal experience of God's mighty deeds to what God has done to the people of Israel. The movement is fraught with contradictions: history should have been written by the mighty, the rich and the influential culture-makers; but no, God chose Mary, instead, the insignificant, poor little girl to be the mother-maker of the new history. In the contradiction between riches and power on the one hand, and the poor and the powerless on the other, God chose to side with the poor and the powerless, the victims of the rich and the powerful, for a new history whose direction is salvation. This is the God that Mary believes in and the history that she lives by.

**Second Reading: 1 Thess 5:16-24**

L: The second reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of

our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

### **Commentary on 1 Thess 5:16-24**

At the end of Paul's letter to the Christian community in Thessalonica, he exhorts the people to keep the Spirit in their lives. And the Spirit manifests itself in joy: happiness is the mark of Christian life. This joy of the Spirit arises from the harmony in the Christian community, in the unity of the people and their leaders, in their diverse and common tasks of admonishing the idlers, encouraging the fainthearted, helping the weak and being patient with each one. It is in celebrating the Eucharist and in prayer, in seeking the good for all and for each one in the diversity of the gifts of the Spirit, in living the peace and holiness of God in spirit, soul and body.

**R: Alleluia, alleluia.** . The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor! **Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And with your spirit.*

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

C: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent

priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Praise be to you, O Lord Jesus Christ.*

### **Commentary on John 1:6-8, 19-28**

God sent John the Baptist to lead the world to believe in Jesus, the light of the world. This light of the world would reveal God's plan for the world. The Jews and their religious leaders sent a delegation to John the Baptist to establish his identity. The Baptist's testimony did not point to himself as the Christ, but to somebody else. There was someone in their midst whom they failed to recognize, the Christ.

Join Fr. Ben Alforque, MSC of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in **GOSPEL BREAK**, a short yet entertaining and insightful discussion of this Sunday's Gospel on YouTube.

Visit [gospelbreak.wordpress.com](http://gospelbreak.wordpress.com). Or scan this QR code with your Smartphone or tablet.



**Homily: The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, lives by the new history of salvation when she joyfully recognizes Jesus in the poor as the alternative of God.**

Summary of the Sunday Reading Message	Concrete description of the poor people and their situation	Reflection/ Points for reflection/ Call/ Challenge
The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, lives by the new history of salvation when she joyfully recognizes Jesus in the poor as the alternative of God.	How can the poor in your community, BEC and parish be missionaries of the faith both here and abroad? How can you help them become makers of the history of salvation? Are you conscious that formation in the Catholic faith is finding God in the poor today?	“Awaken in us a new sense of mission, a more profound sense of partnership with the people and a more joyful recognition of the presence of Jesus among the poor as the sign of God’s contradiction.”

**Profession of Faith**

A: I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the

Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Prayers of the Faithful:**

P: Dear sisters and brothers: let us now elevate our hearts and minds to God our Father, and, with joy, humbly present to him our prayers. For every prayer let our response be: Lord, help us to be joyful signs of contradiction.

**R: Lord, help us to be joyful signs of contradiction.**

L: Let us pray for the Church: that, being a Church of the Poor spread all over the world, she may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in her continuing witness to the presence of Jesus among the poor as the joyful sign of contradiction in the unfolding of the history of salvation. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, help us to be joyful signs of contradiction.**

L: For our Holy Father, Pope Francis I, for the bishops, priests, deacons, for those in consecrated life and for all those who are entrusted with the care and administration of the church as

People of God: that, by sharing the sentiments of the heart of Christ, they may continue to serve as missionaries of God's love, justice and peace who inspire others to live the missionary life that is joyful, daring and creative in reflecting the alternative of God's Kingdom. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, help us to be joyful signs of contradiction.**

L: For world leaders and all those entrusted with governance and administration of the goods of the earth: that they may continue to promote the common good by providing a home for overseas and migrant workers, with attendant welfare and social care for them and their families, the protection of their rights and the guarantee of freedom of religion and the practice of their faith. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, help us to be joyful signs of contradiction.**

L: For all of us, inhabitants of the earth and citizens of heaven: that we may inspire one another to envision and build a future human community as communion by educating ourselves on the social conditions of our people, on the fundamental causes of poverty, prejudice, discrimination, marginalization and exclusion and on finding just and fair ways to better the common human condition as a deeper way of preparing the way of the Lord and celebrating the joy of Christmas. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, help us to be joyful signs of contradiction.**

L: For our beloved dead: that in the forgiveness of their sins, they may find eternal rest in the heart of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, help us to be joyful signs of contradiction.**

L: For our special intentions, in the silence of our hearts. (*pause*)... Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, help us to be joyful signs of contradiction.**

P: Lord God of love and compassion, listen to the prayers of your people. Help us to prepare the way of your Son when he comes again in glory. We ask this through the Christ our Lord.

R: *Amen*

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### Preparation of the Altar and the Gifts

P: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, ....

C: *Blessed be God forever.*

P: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

C: *May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.*

### Prayer over the Offerings

P: May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord.

C: *Amen.*

### Prayer of the Eucharist

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And with your spirit.*

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: *It is right and just.*

P: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For all the oracles of the prophets foretold him, the Virgin Mother longed for him with love beyond all telling, John the Baptist sang of his coming and proclaimed his presence when he came.

It is by his gift that already we rejoice at the mystery of his Nativity, so that he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts of Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

*A: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

#### **Acclamation**

P: The mystery of faith.

**Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

*(Concluding the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest says:)*

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever.

*C: Amen.*

#### **Communion Rite**

The Lord's Prayer

#### **Doxology**

*C: For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever.*

#### **Sign of Peace**

P: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles; Peace ... Who live and reign for ever and ever.

*C: Amen.*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

*C: And with your spirit.*

P: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

#### **Breaking of the Bread**

*A: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world ... grant us peace.*

#### **Communion**

P: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

*A: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.*

#### **Communion Antiphon:**

*(Cf. Is 35:4)*

***Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.***

#### **Prayer after Communion**

P: Let us pray: We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord.

*C: Amen.*

#### **Final Blessing**

P: The Lord be with you.

*C: And with your spirit.*

P: Bow down for the blessing: May the almighty and merciful God, by whose grace you have placed your faith in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son and yearn for his coming again, sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent and enrich

you with his blessing.

*C: Amen.*

P: As you run the race of this present life, may he make you firm in faith, joyful in hope and active in charity.

*C: Amen.*

P: So that, rejoicing now with devotion at the Redeemer's coming in the flesh, you may be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life when he comes again in majesty.

*C: Amen.*

P: And may the blessings of almighty God, + the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you forever.

*C: Amen.*

### **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace, and rejoice in the Lord always.

*C: Thanks be to God. ■*

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