

## Theme Sharing

### Rejoice!

#### The Lord is Near!

(3rd Sunday of Advent)

The Entrance Antiphon of the third Sunday of Advent, often known as Joyful Sunday, invites us to be joyful: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! For the Lord is near." Rightly so, Christmas is around the corner, and the day of our Lord's coming is near.

In the first reading, Isaiah delivers a comforting message to us: God will bestow everlasting joy on his people. No infrequently in the course of our lives, we would encounter brokenness and sadness, and experience pains and sufferings. However, God is our loving and merciful Father. His plan of salvation is to restore wholeness and joy to humanity, and it pleases him to see happiness in all his children. Isaiah prophesizes thus in today's first reading, "The eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed; the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongues of the mute sing for joy.... Those the Lord has ransomed shall return and come to Zion shouting for joy, and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; joy and gladness shall accompany them; sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

What a wonderful vision! And indeed it is in complete harmony with God's plan. Our human minds can never fully visualize how much God loves us and wishes us to be happy. He always invites us to be happy and show us the ways to attain happiness, ways that perhaps require painful changes to our lives for the better.

Today's gospel makes no direct mention of joy. All along John the Baptist had preached that the Messiah to come would be a stern judge, a strong leader destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel. However, Jesus did not appear to be such a forceful figure. Instead, he appeared to be meek and merciful, and willing to reach out to everyone including sinners. Not surprisingly, John was somewhat bewildered by what he had heard. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the true Messiah. However, Jesus did not give a direct answer to the question. Instead, he pointed out that the signs of a Messiah prophesized by Isaiah were being fulfilled, and he added that "Good News" had been proclaimed to the poor. In essence, the

## 2013 年慶祝基督聖誕及新年彌撒時間表 2013 Christmas and New Year Mass Schedule

12月24日 (聖誕夜) December 24 (Christmas Eve)	星期二 Tuesday	晚上 7 時 晚上 8 時 30 分 7:00 p.m. 8:30 p.m.	聖誕短劇『上禮堂』 英、國、粵語彌撒 Christmas Play (Upper Hall) English / Mandarin/ Cantonese Mass
12月25日 (聖誕日) December 25 (Christmas Day)	星期三 Wednesday	早上 9 時 30 分 早上 11 時正 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	英文禮儀 中文禮儀 English Mass Chinese Mass
12月31日 (除夕) 歲末謝主彌撒 Dec 31 (New Year's Eve Thanksgiving Mass)	星期二 Tuesday	早上 9 時 9:00 a.m.	英文彌撒 English Mass
1月1日 (元旦求恩彌撒) Jan 1 (New Year's Mass)	星期三 Wednesday	早上 9 時 30 分 早上 11 時 9:30am 11:00am	英文彌撒 中文彌撒 English Mass Chinese Mass

"Good News" was the Lord's comforting and reassuring message to the poor, the weeping, the mourning and those deprived of joy and happiness in their lives. So although the word "joy" is not expressly mentioned in today's gospel, it is really implicit in Jesus' answer to John's disciples.

In the second reading, Paul speaks about patience that we all need while we await the Lord's coming. Whereas we are eagerly expecting his coming, we never know when that is going to happen. It can be a long time ahead, because we are talking about his final and ultimate coming. So we should anticipate the coming of our Lord with patience, hope and joy.

God is ever present in our lives. As Christmas is drawing nearer, we can feel more strongly his presence among us. Therefore, in the words of the priest in the Communion Rite of today's mass, let us wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ!

## Rejoice in God's Mercy

With God anything is possible. There is the danger to think that God will never forgive you or that you cannot change yourself or the world. In Advent we are reminded that we do not need to do everything ourselves and we should not look to inferior substitutes for God. Jesus has ransomed us and we respond to the psalmist by crying out: "Lord, come and save us." It may be that the healing or the change for which we long does not come quickly enough for us. Advent is also about waiting. In Advent we have to be patient and trust that the coming of the Lord is near. With God the blind can see, the lame walk, the sick are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor receive good news! The Lord continues to do these things for us but we have to put aside all substitutes for God in order to see and receive the healing promised through Jesus Christ.

### Action

Look for the goodness of God in your life, in the people around you, and in the world.

## Gospel of joy

### Evangelii Gaudium

#### Pope Francis advised "Gospel of joy" (Evangelii Gaudium) for 2014 «Gospel of joy»: Church to open the door, issuing prophetic voice

The Vatican Holy See on Nov. 26 announced a new Pope Francis advised «Gospel of joy». Pope played a proclamation of the Gospel in today's world the theme of the advice, the fruit of revenue in 2012 Synod therein. Advice at the beginning, wrote: "The Gospel is filled with the joy of Jesus met people and whole life." Pope points out several ways the church in the coming years to be walking in the advisory. Here we introduce one of five.

First, the pope intends to open with joy as a new stage characterized evangelization. He sincerely appeal to all people who receive baptism with a new passion and motivation to the love of Jesus to establish friendship with Him joy and good to others. Christians are called to do "action by the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel of man": in their mouth must be re-sounded "first pass" or "preaching God's salvation," the words: "Jesus loves you, to save you and give up their own lives. He is now living a day at your side, to shine upon you and strengthen you and make you free. "

Vatican Radio News

To Be Continued

## Pope Francis' words

Jesus didn't save us with an idea. He humbled himself and became a man. The Word became Flesh.

## Diocese & Other News

### Save the Date! Coldest Night of the Year

February 22, 2014. The RC Diocese of Calgary and KAIROS Calgary are pleased to hold this fundraising event in the New Year. Register a team to walk in support of Homelessness Awareness, Acadia Place and Feed the Hungry. Our route will visit key points of contact for Calgary's Homeless citizens in the downtown core. 10KM and 5KM routes have been established for this family friendly event. Visit [www.coldestnightoftheyear.org](http://www.coldestnightoftheyear.org) or call Samantha Jones at 403-218-5531 for more

information.

## Parish Activities

### The Sacrament of Reconciliation –

will be available at parishes throughout the Diocese of Calgary all the Wednesdays of Advent. December 18 from 7:30pm–8:30pm

### 2013 OLPH Christmas Play

The annual Christmas Play will be held on Christmas Eve and this year's play is titled "*Waiting for the Christmas Guest*" and it focuses on a poor cobbler and his wife who prepare their table on Christmas Eve for a visit from the Lord Jesus.

Participating in the play include the Young Adults Group, Youth Choir, Sunday School, St. Gabriel Choir, Mandarin Choir, Perpetual Help Harmony Choir and English Choir. With God's Love as the theme "*Waiting for the Christmas Guest*" let us find our Christmas guest together on Christmas Eve! All parishioners, relatives and friends are welcome to come for a great night!

### YAG Choir and Youth Choir

#### Christmas caroling

YAG Choir and Youth Choir are going Christmas caroling to Carewest Vernon Fanning on December 22 at 3:00 p.m. All parishioners are encouraged to join, please e-mail [olphyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:olphyouthgroup@gmail.com) or call 403-993-0933 to confirm your attendance.

### Together in Action 2013

Theme: "You will be my witnesses"  
Our parish's final target is \$50,000. Donation envelopes can be picked up from both the front and the side entrances. As of December 1, our campaign has received a total of \$ 58,072.44. May God bless you for your generous support!

## Weekly Activities

Wed, Fri Dec 18, 20

#### OLPH Senior Centre

Time: 9:00a.m.-12:00 noon  
Place: OLPH Church, Upper Hall  
Fri 20: Potluck lunch

Wed Dec 18

#### Advent Reconciliation

Time: 7:30pm–8:30pm

Place: OLPH Church  
Perpetual Help Harmony Choir  
Time: 7:00p.m.-9:00p.m.  
Place: OLPH Church, Upper Hall

Fri Dec 20

At. Angela School Advent Mass  
Time: 9:00a.m.Mass  
Faith Sharing Group ( Sacred Heart)  
Time: 7:30p.m.-10:00p.m.  
Contact: Doris Ho 403-271-6884  
OLPH Scout  
Time: 6:30pm.-8:30 pm  
Place: Upper Hall & Lower Hall

Saturday Dec 21

Legion of Mary ( meeting )  
(Immaculate Heart of Mary Praesidium )  
Time: 9: 45 a.m.  
Place: K of C Room at OLPH Church  
Wing Kei Care Centre ( Mass)  
Time: 11:00 a.m.-12.00 noon  
Place: 1212 Centre Street, NE.  
Tai Chi Lesson  
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Place: OLPH Church Lower Hall  
Yoga beginner class  
Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:15p.m.  
Place: OLPH Church Lower Hall  
Young Adults choir practice  
Time: 5:30 p.m-8:30p.m.  
Place: OLPH Upper Hall  
Faith Sharing Group ( N.W.)  
Time: 7:30p.m.-10:00p.m.  
Contact: Wendy Tai 403-208-2268

Sunday Dec 22

R. C.I.A  
Adult Catechumenate Class  
(Cantonese, Mandarin and English)  
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 1:30p.m.  
Place: OLPH Church Lower Hall  
Youth Choir- choir practice  
Time: 11:00a.m.-12:30p.m  
Place: Office Building  
Christmas play practice  
Time: 11:15a.m.-12:45p.m  
Place: OLPH Lower Hall  
YAG group & Youth group  
Christmas Caroling  
Time: 3:00p.m. meet at church  
Place: Carewest Vernon Fanning

## Imitating Christ

### Chapter 25 :

#### Zeal In Amending Our Lives

Labor a little now, and soon you shall find great rest, in truth, eternal joy; for if you

continue faithful and diligent in doing, God will undoubtedly be faithful and generous in rewarding. Continue to have reasonable hope of gaining salvation, but do not act as though you were certain of it lest you grow indolent and proud. To Be Continued

## Stories Faith Sharing

### A Giving Competition

A television commercial I enjoy at Christmastime shows two neighbors in a friendly competition with each other to see who can spread the most Christmas cheer. Each keeps an eye on the other as he decorates his house and trees with lights. Then each upgrades his own property to look better than the other's. They then start competing over who can give the most extravagantly to other neighbors, running around cheerfully sharing gifts. God's people aren't in a competition to see who can give the most, but we are called to be "ready to give, willing to share" (1 Tim. 6:18). The apostle Paul instructed the church at Corinth: "Let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7). At Christmastime, as we share gifts with others, we remember the generosity of God toward us—He gave us His Son. Ray Stedman said, "Jesus set aside His riches and entered into His creation in a state of poverty in order to enrich us all by His grace." No gift-giving could ever compete with the Lord's extravagance. We thank God for the indescribable gift of Jesus! No gift is greater than the gift of Christ Himself.

### Read More Know More

#### Advent and the deeper truths

Recently I read something I had written about Advent in an essay rather a while ago, and in it I pointed out that this holy season every year is a healthy kind of crisis. The Chinese character for "crisis" consists of two strokes: one stands for "danger" and the other "opportunity." Advent is an opportunity to think deeply about Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell. If The Four Last Things are dangerous subjects, they also are an opportunity to be rescued from living life superficially. The tradition of

preaching on these mysteries is especially important when silly worldliness distorts the world.

Without Advent, the only thing to do is to "rush" Christmas, with celebrations without much purpose. That turns Christmas inside out and can even make it depressing. Superficial Christmas is "joy without a cause" as G.K. Chesterton said in 1911 in his epic poem, *The Ballad of the White Horse*. He also said a couple of years earlier: "There is no more dangerous or disgusting habit than that of celebrating Christmas before it comes."

Our Lord spoke of people who "loved the dark rather than the light" (John 3:19), and we see that today in those who would ban any mention of Christmas. The tendency to set up Christmas decorations before Christmas is at least a clumsy way of expressing a desire for light rather than dark, but it is futile without a moral awareness of what light and dark are.

Advent is awkward because its mysteries are not the sort of things entertainers dressed as elves sing about. While the Church calls attention to reality, avuncular clergymen often succumb to fantasy themselves, with Christmas parties in Advent and wreaths without reason. Of course, this is illogical, because it contradicts the way the Logos arranged the world. The Logos, or the Word, is Jesus himself, who uttered all things into being by saying, "Fiat" — "Let there be." And the first thing he let there be was light: "Light from Light" as the Creed chants it. But the only way to recognize the illogic of Christmas without Advent is to "walk as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8).

The choice of darkness rather than light is a preference for the Prince of Darkness rather than Christ the Light. The best way to walk in the Light is to get rid of the darkness in the soul, and so Advent is a prime time for confessing sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Then the penitent is re-united with the Light of the World. Christ sheds light on Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell, giving moral cogency to the mystery of life itself. "He is before all things, and by him all things are held together" (Colossians 1:17). As the highest truths are very simple, the simplest logic is this: Without the Christ of Christmas, all things fall apart.

Fr. George

## 主日分享

### 常常歡樂

(甲午將臨期第三主日)

本主日是將臨期第三主日。禮儀涉及耶穌兩次來臨之間的一段時期，就是我們所生活的教會時期。它不必再強調基督再次來臨的迫切性，但它鼓勵我們重新體驗期待耶穌的誕辰，好從耶穌那裏接受豐富的救恩。所以它給我們的教訓是常常歡樂。

本主日彌撒中的進堂詠援引聖保祿宗徒的話說：「你們應常在主內喜樂，我再說一次，你們應當喜樂，因為主快要來臨了。」(斐 4:4-5)

讀經一描述流亡異地的猶太人回歸祖國的情況。這是一個新紀元的開始。大自然和人都將復興，重現他們原始的美麗和健康。

主內的兄弟姐妹們，

喜樂和忍耐：這是慈母教會在本主日的彌撒禮儀中給予我們的勸諭。我們實在十分需要這樣的勸諭。我國有一句成語說：“驚弓之鳥難安”；法國也有一句類似的諺語說：“燙傷貓怕冷水”。今日的中國天主教徒都好比“驚弓之鳥”和“燙傷貓”，都是一群“心有餘悸”的可憐人。但是慈母教會，從信德著眼，鼓勵我們喜樂，“因為主已臨近了”。為了同一理由，她有勸勉我們忍耐，像農夫期待著田地裡寶貴的產物，盼望著時雨似地忍耐，效法和學習那因上主的名而講話的先知們受苦忍耐的榜樣。

基督我們讚美你。亞孟。

“節錄自梵崗電台主日聖道禮儀”

## 福音的喜樂

### 教宗方濟各的 2014 年新勸諭

《福音的喜樂》(Evangelii Gaudium)

福音的喜樂：教會要敞開大門，發出先知性的聲音

梵蒂岡聖座於 11 月 26 日公佈了教宗方濟各的新勸諭《福音的喜樂》。教宗在勸諭中發揮了在當今世界宣講福音的主題，將 2012 年世界主教會議的果實收入其內。勸諭在開端寫道：“福音的喜樂充滿與耶穌會晤的人心及整

個生命。”教宗在勸諭中指出了教會在今後幾年所要行走的幾條途徑。在此我們介紹其中 5 條。

1. 首先，教宗有意開啓以喜樂為特徵的福傳新階段。他衷心呼籲所有領受聖洗的人，以新的激情和動力將耶穌的愛、與祂建立友誼的喜樂及美好傳給他人。基督信徒蒙召做“藉聖神行動傳福音的人”：在他們口中必須重新響起“初傳”或“宣揚天主救恩”的話：“耶穌基督愛你，為救你而捨棄自己的性命。現在祂每天活在你身旁，為光照你，堅固你，使你獲得自由。” 待續 梵蒂岡電台訊

## 教宗方濟各的話

耶穌並非用意拯救我們。他屈尊就卑，降生成人。聖言成了血肉。

## 堂區活動

### 將臨期悔罪禮

卡加利教區內所有教堂在將臨期內逢星期三(12月18日)晚上 7 時 30 分至 8 時 30 分，將開放給教友辦告解聖事。教友應盡量參與與天主修合，以準備主基督的來臨！

### 聖誕話劇

本堂週年聖誕話劇將於平安夜舉行。今年聖誕話劇為「等待·聖誕的來賓」，主角為一位貧窮的鞋匠和準備迎接耶穌在平安夜到來的妻子。永援聖母青年團、主日學、聖佳播聖詠團、國語基督信團、青少年聖詠團、英文聖詠團及永援聖母歌詠團現正積極排練。並誠意邀請各位教友及其親友於平安夜當晚七時前來觀賞「等待·聖誕的來賓」的演出，一起等待並一同分享基督降生的喜訊！

### 永援聖母青年團及青少年團

#### 聖誕報佳音

永援聖母青年團及青少年團將於十二月二十二日(星期日)下午三時在永援聖母堂集合到 Carewest Vernon Fanning 獻唱聖詩。歡迎所有教友踴躍參加。請電郵 olphyouthgroup@gmail.com 或

致電 403-993-0933 報名參加。

## 2013 教區公益金，齊來獻愛心

主題:「...為我作證人...」  
本堂今年的目標是 50,000 元，捐款信封可在聖堂入口處拿取。截至 12 月 1 日，捐款已累積 58,072.44 元。就讓我們立即行動，繼續慷慨解囊。在此感謝各位教友，並願主降福您們！

## 活動一週

星期三、五 12 月 18, 20 日

### 永援聖母松柏軒

時間：上午 9 時至正午 12 時

地點：永援聖母堂上禮堂

星期五 20：大食會聚餐

星期三 12 月 18 日

### 將臨期悔罪禮

時間：晚上 7 時 30 分至 8 時 30 分

地點：永援聖母堂

### 永援聖母歌詠團

時間：晚上 7 時至 9 時

聯絡：永援聖母堂上禮堂

星期五 12 月 20 日

### St. Angela School 將臨期彌撒

時間：早上 9 時

信仰小團體 (Sacred Heart)

時間：晚上 7 時 30 分至 10 時

聯絡：Doris Ho 403-271-6884

### 永援聖母堂童軍

時間：晚上 6 時 30 分至 8 時 30 分

地點：永援聖母堂上禮堂及下禮堂

星期六 12 月 21 日

### (聖母軍聖母無玷聖心支團)

時間：早上 9 時 45 分(開會)

地點：聖堂二樓騎士會室

### 榮基護老中心 (彌撒)

時間：上午 11 時至正午 12 時

地點：1212 Centre Street, NE.

### 楊式太極班

時間：上午 10 時至 12 時 30 分

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

### 瑜珈初班

時間：下午 2 時至下午 3 時 15 分

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

### 永援聖母青年團練習聖詩

時間：晚上 5 時 30 分至

晚上 8 時 30 分

地點：永援聖母堂上禮堂

信仰小團體 (西北區)

時間：晚上 7 時 30 分至 10 時

聯絡：Wendy Tai 403-208-2268

星期日 12 月 22 日

### 成人慕道班 (粵語、國語及英語)

時間上午 9 時 30 分至 1 時 30 分

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

### 青少年聖詠團-練習聖詩

時間上午 11 時至下午 12 時 30 分

地點：寫字樓大廈

### 聖誕話劇排練

時間:上午 11 時 15 分至 12 時 45 分

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

### 永援聖母青年團及青少年團

#### 聖誕報佳音

時間：下午 3 時永援聖母堂集合

地點：Carewest Vernon Fanning

## 師主篇

### 第二十五章、勤於改過自新

現今出些力氣，後來能得大平安，並得永遠的福樂。你事奉天主，若能忠信、熱心，天主也必忠信地待你，大加恩賞。你該切望得天國的光榮，然而不可自以為有把握，怕的是你後來起驕傲，生懈怠。 待續

## 靈修小故事

### 刺入良心的話，值得謙遜聽從

天主的話就像雙刃的利劍，可以刺透人心，有時候我們讀經或在參與彌撒時，聆聽神父講道，所聽到的似乎是直接切入我們的問題核心，這完全是聖神在工作，然而我們要如何保持我們良心的敏感度呢？

一個經常告解的人，他的靈魂會是潔白，而良心會是敏感的，然而一個很久沒告解的人，他的靈魂是污濁的，就像長了厚繭的腳，踏在凹凸不平的土地上感覺非常遲鈍，良心遲鈍的靈魂不覺得自己做錯了什麼。

以前有一個猶太人，在他年輕的時候，遇到一位好老師，不斷地鞭策他，最後他終於功成名就，之後由於他的地位與財富，人們怕得罪他而不願意對他說真話，他感嘆周圍的人沒有一個真心對待他，他只好花錢請顧問來

給他指點及糾正，使他有再進步的空間。

九十七年十月二十六日在鮑思高堂參與彌撒，張神父講了一個非常好的比喻，他說：「有一個演木偶劇的主人，他擁有許多各式各樣的木偶，他很努力的表演，使節目日益精彩，得到觀眾的喜愛。

其中有幾個漂亮的木偶，飾演主角的角色，它們覺得自己是佔有重要地位，因此對主人抗議，要擁有更好的待遇，否則要罷演，主人好言相勸無效，只好尊重它們的自由，任其罷演，於是將他們放在一旁，誰知那些木偶沒有主人的巧手什麼也不能作，而主人只好請工匠另外作了更好的木偶加入演出，依然成效卓著。

天主也同樣尊重人的自由，讓人自願地歸向祂，但祂沒有把我們當作木偶，而給我們理智及意志，讓我們能判斷是非黑白，所以我們要自由地全心、全靈、全意、全力愛上主，這是最重要的誠命。」

## 知多一點點

### **將臨期-Maranatha！吾主，來罷！**

Maranatha（或作 Maran Atha）意譯為「吾主，來罷！」。在初期教會，這個阿拉美語的短句，已和「亞孟」（Amen）、「阿肋路亞」（Alleluia）等成為通用於不同語言教會團體的祈禱短句。

Maranatha，「吾主，來罷！」，專指基督徒對天主聖子第二次光榮來臨的渴望和呼喚，所有信耶穌的人都渴望主快來，讓救恩圓滿上再加圓滿。詳細地說，耶穌的出現共有兩次：第一次已經是歷史，是祂在白冷降生，是屈尊就卑的到來；第二次仍未出現，是祂在世界末日時光榮地再度來臨，同時是全人類的「公審判」和整個宇宙的重整，即「新天新地」。聖保祿清楚地刻劃出基督再來時的種種步驟：天使吶喊，號聲大作，聖子頭戴著尊威的冠冕，披著偉大的光榮出現；聖人圍繞著祂，死人們復活起來前往迎接，在天空雲彩中與祂會合，其後就是公審判。

耶穌在福音中清楚地指出：「至於那日子和那時刻，除了父以外，誰也不

知道，連天上的天使和子都不知道。」保祿宗徒亦訓勉信眾，主來臨的日期在不知的一天，故此應時常警醒，恆心等候，努力工作，「將你們整個的靈魂和肉身，在我們的主耶穌基督來臨時，保持的無瑕可指。」

為基督信徒，主耶穌第二次來臨之遲早及何時來，都是無關重要，最主要還是「保持醒寤、振作、祈禱」（將臨期第一主日的意義）。但換個角度，熱切等待及關心耶穌再來的心情，對整個教會的信友來說，是有重大意義及價值的，因為它使信友致力於上主的事務，更以希望及愉快的心情，來善度此生，亦以完全依恃及愛慕的心情，來準備及淨化自己的心靈（將臨期第二、三主日的意義。林勝文神父