



Making Room for God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

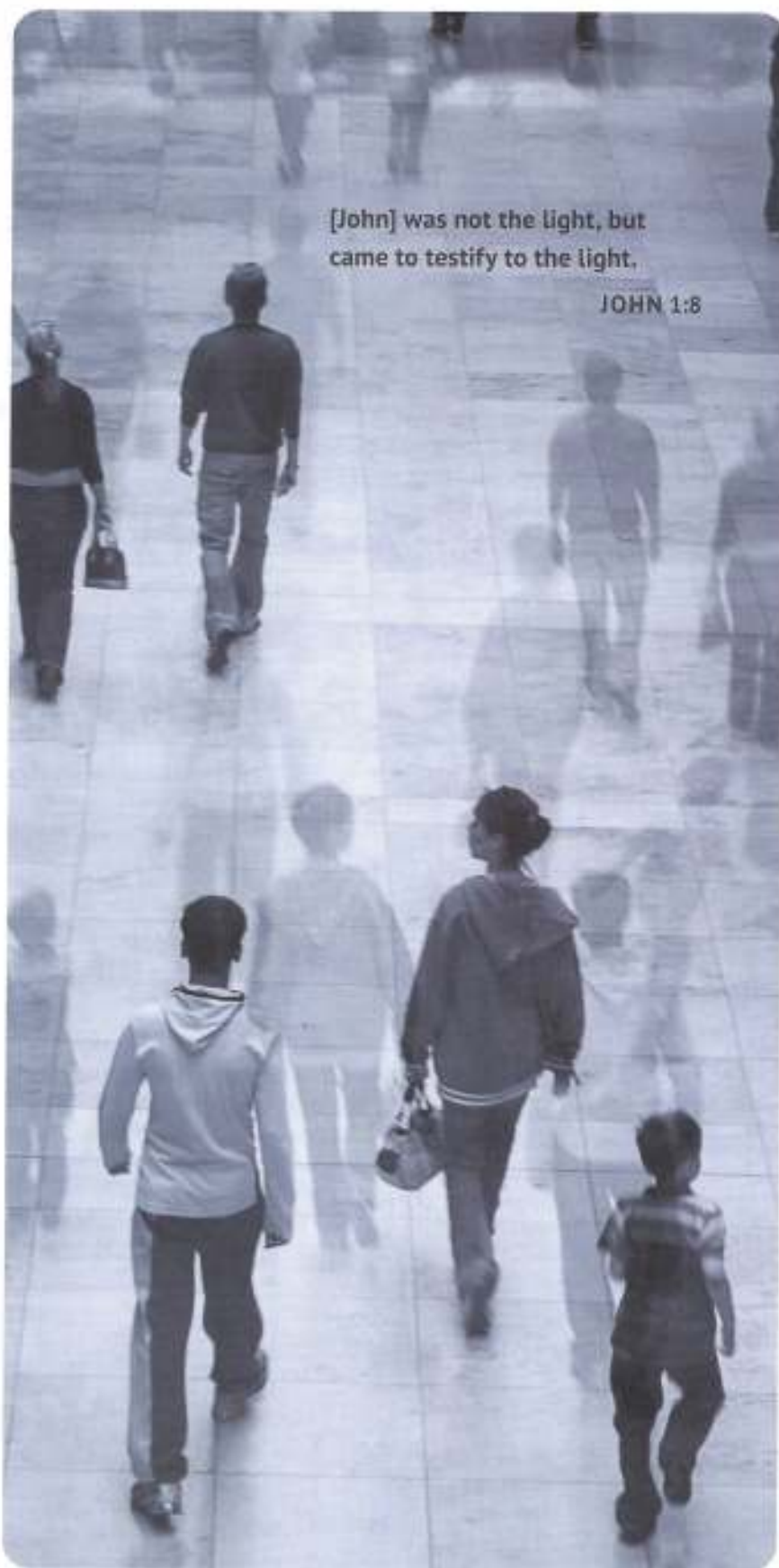
The story of John the Baptist is the story of taking a back seat to Jesus, of fading into the background so that Jesus might be the light. Fading out of the picture is something we may find ourselves doing more than once in our lives. Sometimes it's also a choice we have to make, even when it's painful.

Actor Nick Nolte talked about what it was like for him when he turned seventy; how his body would hurt and how painful it was to get out of bed some mornings. He told of how he cried when a longtime friend passed away and of the sadness death brings. But the worst part, he said, is coming to the realization that your children have grown up, are on their own, and don't need you the way they once did. His son has a family, and for him the family comes first, as it should be. That's the painful part, Nolte says, the letting go of your children because they are no longer yours; in reality, they never were.

From the perspective of faith, why do we need to fade into the background? To leave room for the hand of God in life, that's why. So that God can do what God does best, and so that we don't get in the way of it all. That is a task not only at the end of life but for all of life. ●

Reflect

*When has it been difficult for you
to fade into the background?*





Holy Trinity



St. Thomas More



St. Patrick

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Tuesday - Friday 9 am - 1 pm

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Adoration Room at STM
Open Monday - Sunday
Regular Hours
9 am - 6 pm

Rav/Tort Group taking orders now
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Leave name, phone number, & your order
Ravs/Tort are \$8.00/bag

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Website for the Three Churches
www.bureaucatholic.org
and on Facebook at
"Bureau Catholic Churches"

Facebook for the Three Churches
Use Link on Home Page
www.bureaucatholic.org

Christmas Eve Choir Practice
Tues, Dec. 19th @ 6:30 pm

Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164



9:45 am - 11:00 am at Cherry Church Hall
Sunday, December 17th - 5th thru 8th Grade
Sunday, December 24th - No Class / Christmas Break

Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of December 18, 2023

Monday	12/18			+ No Mass
Tuesday	12/19	9:00 am	STM	+ Sharon Riva
Wednesday	12/20	5:30 pm	HT	+ Bob Lehn
Thursday	12/21	9:00 am	HT	+ Jerry Simkins
Friday	12/22	9:00 am	STM	+ Cecelia McCormick

Mass Intentions for the weekend of December 23-24, 2023

Saturday	12/23	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ Sy Pyszka
Sunday	12/24	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	+ For the Parishioners
		10:30 am	St Patrick	+ Dave & Angela Miller
		4:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ Christmas Eve - John Balma
		10:00 pm	St Patrick	+ Christmas Eve - Parishioners

REJOICE! THE SAVIOUR IS ON HIS WAY

The third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete Sunday" because the Mass for today (in its original Latin text), begins with the opening antiphon: "Gaudete in Domino semper" – "Rejoice in the Lord always." To remind ourselves that we are preparing for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus, we light the rose candle in the Advent wreath, and the priest may wear rose vestments. The common theme of the day's Scripture readings is one of joy and encouragement. The readings urge us to make the preparations required of us as we await the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. Holy Scripture reminds us that the coming of Jesus, past, present, and future, is the reason for our rejoicing.

For starter, the Prophet Isaiah, in the first reading, encourages the Jewish exiles returning from Babylon to rejoice because their God, Yahweh, is their strong Guide, Provider and Protector.

Then, the Responsorial Psalm is taken right out of the Magnificat (Luke 1:46 ff.); Mary rejoices in the great blessing given to her, exclaiming: "My soul glorifies the Lord; my spirit finds joy in God my Savior."

St. Paul, in the second reading, advises the Thessalonian Christians to "rejoice always" by leading blameless, holy and thankful lives guided by the Holy Spirit, because Christ's Second Coming is near, and he is faithful in his promise to reward them.

Today's Gospel tells us that John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus as the Light of the world. The Baptizer wants all the Jews to rejoice because the long-expected Messiah, as the Light of the world, will remove the darkness of sin from the world. We rejoice at the humility of John the Baptizer, who tells the priests and Levites from Jerusalem that he is unworthy even to become the slave of Jesus the Messiah. We also rejoice in the sincerity and commitment of John who spent himself completely in preparing people for the long-awaited Messiah. We have an additional reason to rejoice because, like John the Baptizer, we, too, are chosen to bear witness to Christ Jesus, the Light of the world. (Excerpted from fratneyhomilies.com)



December 24th Masses

Please be informed that the Sunday, December 24th morning Masses are for the 4th Sunday of Advent, whereas the evening Masses are Christmas Eve's. Because they are not the same, the faithful ought to attend both morning and Christmas Eve Mass if this is their Christmas choice Mass – 4:00pm @STM or 10:00pm @SP.

YOU & YOURS ARE INVITED...

Our upcoming 2023 CCD Christmas Program will be very special this year: we have lots of participants. All members of our churches, especially the parents and grandparents, are encouraged to bring their children to this wonderful program. After the Christmas program is over you are all invited to the STM hall for the CCD Christmas party.

BCR Alert Update

We recently have been told by Shaw Media that our phone text communication with BCR Alerts will be discontinued at the end of the month. We will send more information once we have a replacement app. After December 31st reminders and cancellations will be sent to WLPO radio by either on their public announcements or on their website, on our own parish website or church announcements.

STM Mass Intention Shortage

STM Church is in dire need of Mass intentions, therefore we would appreciate Mass intentions from members.

LATEST OFFERING'S

DEC 10TH WEEKEND

HT – \$1,607.00

C. SCHOOLS \$15 | HUMAN DEVELOP \$515

RETIRE \$25 | SEMINARIAN \$165

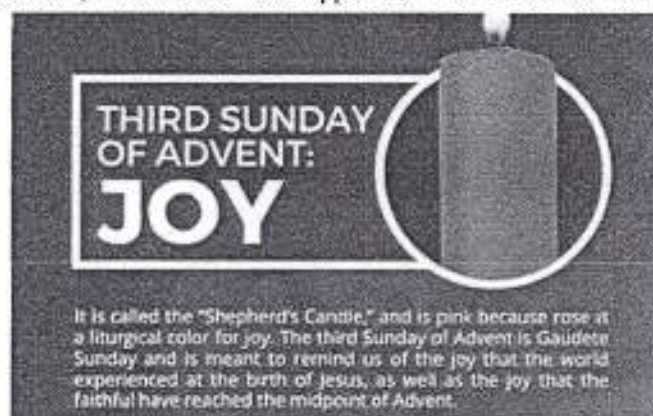
SP – \$ 499.00

RETIRE \$35 | SEMINARIAN \$224.62

STM – \$1,447.00

C. SCHOOLS \$25 | RETIRE \$175

SEMINARIAN \$60



CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE

SAT. DEC 23RD

10:30 - 11:15 AM AT

ST THOMAS MORE

IN THE HALL

Dear Padre,

Was Jesus born in a stable or a cave? The Christmas scene in our church has Jesus born in a little shed, but in my friend's church it looks more like a cave. The Bible says Jesus was born in a manger, so just where was Jesus born?

The Christmas scenes, sometimes called Nativity scenes or crèches, vary from church to church. In Scripture, we find more details about the Nativity in Luke's Gospel, but even he simply says that Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because the inn was full (Luke 2:7).

In none of the Scriptures do we have any details about what the place looked like, but since a manger is a place where caregivers feed livestock, we can assume that Jesus was born in a stable of some kind. At that time, small caves sometimes were used as stables.

Nativity scenes, though, are not an attempt to present a historically accurate picture of where Jesus was born. Rather, scenes of the birth of Jesus remind us of the special love that God shows for us in sending the Son to us. We do not care so much about creating an exact picture of what took place as we do of beholding the beauty and wonder of God born among us. ●



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The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The Baptist is a model for those in the Church who are called to proclaim Christ to others: they are able to do so only by detaching from themselves and from worldliness, by not attracting people to themselves but directing them toward Jesus. This is joy: directing toward Jesus. And joy must be the characteristic of our faith.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 13, 2020

MONDAY

December 18
Advent Weekday
Jer 23:5-8
Mt 1:18-25

TUESDAY

December 19
Advent Weekday
Jgs 13:2-7,
24-25a
Lk 1:5-25

WEDNESDAY

December 20
Advent Weekday
Is 7:10-14
Lk 1:26-38

THURSDAY

December 21
Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a
Lk 1:39-45

FRIDAY

December 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24-28
Lk 1:46-56

SATURDAY

December 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1-4,
23-24
Lk 1:57-66

SUNDAY

December 24
Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Sm 7:1-5,
8b-12, 14a, 16
Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38

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