

# *Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish-Shrine*

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 11th, 2016



The Italian National Parish of the Archdiocese of Chicago  
Served by The Missionaries of Saint Charles – Scalabrinians  
1101 N 23rd Ave - Melrose Park - IL- 60160  
P (708) 344 4140 — F (708)344 0902

## *Staff*

### *Pastor*

-Fr. Miguel Alvarez, C.S.

### *Associate Pastors*

-Fr. Augusto Feccia, C.S.

-Fr. Juan F. Aguiar C.S.

### *Parish Deacons*

-John Battisto

-Giulio Camerini

-Jose Ramon Arenas

### *Secretaries*

- Nancy Diaz

- Daniel Michel

## *Office Hours*

### *Sunday*

-8:00am—3:00pm

### *Tuesday- Friday*

-8:30am—8:30pm

### *Saturday*

-8:30am — 1:00pm

-2:00pm—5:30pm

### *Monday*

- *We're Closed*

## *Sunday Mass Schedule*

5:30pm - Sat. Vigil Mass

7:45am - English

9:00am - Español

10:30am - Italiano

12:00pm - English

1:30pm - Español

5:00pm - Español

## *Weekly Mass Schedule*

### *English*

-Monday - Saturday at 7:45am

### *Español*

-Martes y Jueves a las 6:30pm

### *Italiano*

-Sotto richiesta



THE SCALABRINIAN MISSIONARIES  
AT MOUNT CARMEL SINCE 1905



Our Lady of Mt Carmel, is served  
by the Congregation of the Missionaries of St.  
Charles – Scalabrinians – .

We are an community of Catholic religious  
serving migrants and refugees of different cultures,  
religions and ethnicities in 32 countries.

The Congregation was founded in Italy  
on November 28, 1887,  
by Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini (1839-1905),  
bishop of Piacenza (Italy).

Our missionary focus is to be migrants  
with the migrants and to be in mission  
with people on the move,  
with a special priority for the poorest  
And neediest migrants.

**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL**  
**-MISSION STATEMENT-**

We are a faith community bound by the Grace of God the Father who adopted us all as beloved children through Baptism. We journey as brothers and sisters inspired in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, nourished with the Eucharist and strengthened by the love of the Holy Spirit.

Encouraged in the practice of our Catholic Tradition, we experience and honor the maternal protection of Our Lady of Mount Carmel while joyfully celebrating the religious practices of our ancestors in Faith. Heartened by the zealous ministry of the Missionaries of St. Charles (Scalabrinians), we strive to create a welcoming space where justice for all and the wellbeing of God's people become the inspiration in our efforts to build God's Kingdom.

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**NUESTRA SENORA DEL MONTE CARMELO**  
**-VISIÓN-**

Somos una comunidad de fe vinculada por la Gracia de Dios Padre, que nos ha adoptado como hijos amados por el Bautismo. Caminamos como hermanos y hermanas inspirados en el Evangelio de Jesucristo, nutridos con la Eucaristía y fortalecidos por el amor del Espíritu Santo.

Alentados en la práctica de nuestra Tradición Católica, experimentamos y honramos a la protección materna de Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo, celebrando alegremente las prácticas religiosas de nuestros ancestros en la Fe.

Animados por el celo ministerial de los Misioneros de San Carlos (Scalabrinianos), nos esforzamos por crear un espacio de bienvenida donde la justicia para todos y el bienestar del pueblo de Dios nos inspiran en nuestros esfuerzos para construir el Reino de Dios.

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## Church Services

We encourage all to register  
at the Parish-Shrine.

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*Les invitamos a registrarse  
en el Santuario Parroquial.*

*Support Staff*

Business Manager  
Alexander Sanchez 708.345.3632

Religious Education  
Modesta Martinez 708.344.4140

Activities Coordinator  
Miguel Aldana 708-345-3632

Music Coordinator  
Ann Marie Nabor 708.579.5373

Community Center Site Director  
Pablo Cruz 708.345.3632

### *Sacramental Life*

Confessions *Confesiones*

Saturdays—*Sábados*

4:00pm—5:30pm or by appointment/ *o con cita.*

Baptisms *Bautizos*

Come to the parish office. *Pase a la oficina parroquial.*

Weddings *Bodas*

Contact the priest at least six months in advance.

*Contactar al sacerdote seis meses antes de la ceremonia*

Quinceañera

*Contactar a la secretaria cuatro meses antes de la ceremonia.*

*Presentaciones*

*Contactar la Secretaria al menos dos semanas antes*

### *Religious Services*

Recitation of the Holy Rosary

Mon—Sat at 7:00am

Adoration *Adoración al Stmo. Sacramento*

Wednesdays 6:00pm—8:00pm

Novena & Benediction

Wednesday/Miércoles 7:30pm

Grupo de Oración Carismática

Martes a las 7:00pm

Grupo de Estudio Bíblico

Miércoles a las 7:00pm

### *Other Services*

Gift Shop Hours *Venta de Artículos Religiosos*

During the regular office hours.

*Durante las horas de oficina*

Community Center *Centro Comunitario*

Social outreach *Servicios a la comunidad* (708) 345 - 3632

Food Pantry *Despensa de comida*

Wednesdays 4:00pm—6:00pm

### Religious Education—*Catecismo*

Saturday - *Sábados* 3:30pm — 6:30pm

Sunday - *Domingos* 10:00am—1:00pm

*- Mass Included—Incluye la Misa*

## For the Month of



**Dec 3rd Sat/Sab**

7:00pm Novena a Ntra. Sra de Guadalupe

**Dec 8th Thur/Jue**

6:00pm English Mass — Immaculate  
Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Dec 9th Fri/Vier**

6:00pm Presentacion de la Rosas a la  
Virgen de Guadalupe / Rose Presentation

**Dec 11th Sun/Dom**

11:00pm Misa en honor de la Virgen  
De Guadalupe / Mass to our Lady of  
Guadalupe

**Dec 12th Mon/Lun Our Lady of Guadalupe**

5:00am Misa en Español  
7:30pm Misa de Rosas / Bilingual Mass

**Dec 24th Sat/Sab Christmas Eve**

5:30pm English Mass with CCD kids  
7:30pm Spanish Mass  
12:00am English Midnight Mass

**Dec 25th Sun/Dom Nativity of the Lord**

Regular Sunday Schedule

**Dec 26th Mon/ Lun**

7:30pm Misa por la Paz

**Dec 31st Sat/Sab New Year's Eve**

5:30pm Bilingual Mass of Thanksgiving

**Jan 1 Sun/Dom**

**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**  
Regular Sunday Schedule

## Wedding Banns

♥ Jose Luis Garcia & Veronica Galvez...3

## Weekly Offering

**December 3 – 4, 2016**

Regular Sunday Collection: \$4,697.00

Second Collection: \$1,870.00

Children: \$493.00

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### From the Pastor's Desk



**Joy is to be considered a must in the lives of those who believe in Jesus.** We cannot imagine faith life apart from an authentic experience of happiness. To know that the Son of God became one of us in order to provide humanity with the gift of Grace and Salvation should be sufficient when searching for reasons to validate our optimism. In the liturgical calendar, the third Sunday of Advent is also called *Domenica in Gaudete* which translates to: The Sunday of Joy! Believers in Christ are called to rejoice this day because salvation is at hand, resting in a manger. The Almighty God will wait for us to surrender and, therefore, understand how by the simple presence of a child the human heart is moved to joy, and how the gift of life, made concrete in that defenseless little one, becomes available for all peoples of good will.

This year, The Sunday of Joy concurs with the eve of the Feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Mother of the True God, the woman of joy who knew how to make out of God's will the first purpose of her life. The story of the Marian apparitions in Mexico is well known to most believers. The way this woman, clothed in the Sun, came to the encounter of a little one and thus made him her ambassador, is a story that has captivated the hearts of millions of believers throughout Church's history. Her visit to our newly discovered continent made it possible for the Christian faith to be embraced by the natives of the Americas. The Church has declared Our Lady of Guadalupe the Queen of Mexico, Empress of all the Americas and Patroness of the Philippines. As we can see, her maternal protection embraces all peoples regardless of where we live or which country we have embraced as our homeland. The Mother of Christ is a secure shelter for all.

As we continue our journey towards Bethlehem, may the maternal intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary continue to aid us in our struggles and our resistances. One of the most beautiful titles we have given her is: Cause of our Joy. Let us implore this day that each one of us, followers of her son, may learn to rejoice as we understand the vicinity of God's gift, and may true happiness conquer our hearts as we get ready to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

*Adsum,*



**Be patient until the coming of the Lord**

### Festivities of Our Lady of Guadalupe

We invite you to join us and be a part of Our Lady of Guadalupe festivities. Most of the services will be held in Spanish, except the 7:30pm mass which will be held in bilingual.

For more information you can refer your attention to the Month of December schedule towards the front of the Bulletin.



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

When the ties of affection and authority that bound Europe's Catholics unraveled in the sixteenth century, many cultures lost time-honored customs of faith. Some customs proved to be especially difficult for the reformers to wrest away from the people, especially those celebrated in the home. This week in Sweden, a country where the Catholic Church was disestablished four hundred years ago, a Catholic martyr from Sicily is the most beloved figure. St. Lucia, Lucy, is celebrated on December 13. The long-story-short is that Lucy was a Christian whose father wanted to marry her off to a pagan fellow, and she rejected her father's authority. To make an example of her, her father had her killed. In the course of the brutal martyrdom, Lucy lost her beautiful eyes, but her vision was miraculously restored. The candles worn today by the eldest daughter of the family are tokens of the fire that refused to harm the saint. So this patroness of light and clear vision is revered on the shortest, darkest days of the Nordic winter. Before the reform of the Gregorian calendar in the sixteenth century, December 13 was the winter solstice.

Today, young girls appear in the morning wearing lighted candles on their crowned heads (battery-operated now after many mishaps), and serve sweet rolls and coffee to everyone in the house. For the Swedes, who are not churchgoers, the "Lucias" are the official heralds of the holiday season and a sign of everyone's yearning for more light in this world. Europe once abounded with customs like this; the survival of this custom in Scandinavia is a sign of God's grace, and how fertile the soil is to receive the true message of Advent.



A SEASON OF HOPE

Today we can bask in the imagery that the Mass readings offer us. In particular, Isaiah's vision of a parched land that blooms with abundant flowers holds a message for each of us. Too often we are just like that parched land. We can allow ourselves to become absorbed in the waves of consumerism that grip so many. We look for fulfillment in the things that money can buy. Unfortunately, this leaves us like parched land, thirsting for something that money can't buy. This holy season has much to offer to quench our thirsts. In a word, this season offers hope. We are told that those who are ransomed by God will know joy and gladness. For them, sorrow and mourning will be no more. Let us place our hope in these promises.



ARE YOU  
THE ONE  
WHO IS  
TO COME?



Be generous with your church  
this Christmas season.

Don't forget to add Our Lady of Mount  
Carmel to your gift list.



## Mensaje del Párroco



En nuestro caminar de Adviento, este domingo es conocido como la *Domenica in Gaudete*, es decir: el Domingo del Gozo. Estamos ya cercanos a la celebración del nacimiento de Cristo, por ello la Iglesia invita a los creyentes a llenar su vida de alegría y regocijo. La Salvación está cerca, aquel a quienes los profetas y los patriarcas habían esperado con singular ansiedad, llegó a nuestra historia para impregnarla con la Misericordia, la Compasión y el Amor de Dios. En otras palabras, este día somos llamados a recordar y a reafirmar que el Gozo es la actitud adecuada de aquellos que creemos en Jesús. No podemos permitir que las ansiedades o las preocupaciones de este mundo conquisten nuestras existencias, pues en el Hijo de Dios que se ha hecho hombre para salvarnos, somos llamados a entrar en la Fiesta de Dios.

Curiosamente, este año, el Domingo del Gozo coincide con la Vigila de la Fiesta en honor de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, la mujer llena de Dios que vino a colmar de alegría a un pueblo sufriente, a llenar de libertad el corazón de los oprimidos y a recordarnos a todos que el Verdadero Dios por quien se vive, se complace en los pequeños y en los humildes. La imagen de la Virgen de Guadalupe se celebra en el Adviento con un profundo sentido de espera gozosa. Ella es la mujer preñada de Dios que trae en su seno al autor de la vida. En ella somos llamados a descubrir la Causa de Nuestra Alegría (como la llamamos en las letanías cuando rezamos el rosario), en su capacidad tremenda para cumplir la voluntad de Dios somos llamados a inspirarnos y a abrazar con fuerza el cumplimiento de todo lo que Dios Padre quiera de nosotros, pues sabemos que solo eso nos conduce verdaderamente a la Vida, solo en ello radica nuestro bienestar.

Celebremos pues con alegría la Fiesta de la Morenita. Dejemos que su amor maternal llene nuestra historia y nos descubra la cercanía de Dios. Que al volver nuestros ojos a su imagen bellísima, quedemos encantados ante su maternal cariño. Que estas fiestas, nos ayuden también a caminar con gozo hacia el pesebre, pues sabemos que la celebración de la Navidad ya cercana, nos ofrece la oportunidad para reafirmar el amor inmenso que Dios nos tiene al habernos dado a su hijo unigénito para nuestra salvación. Como dijera la Reina del cielo cuando apareció a San Juan Diego: *Que no se turbe vuestro corazón...* por el contrario ¡llenémoslo de Gozo!

*Adsum,*

## TIEMPO DE ESPERANZA

Hoy podemos deleitarnos con el simbolismo que las lecturas de la misa nos ofrecen. En especial, la visión de Isaías de una tierra sedienta que florece en abundancia contiene un mensaje para cada uno de nosotros. La mayoría de las veces somos como esa tierra sedienta. Dejamos que las olas del consumismo, que se apoderan de tantos, nos absorban. Buscamos realizarnos en las cosas que el dinero puede comprar. Lamentablemente, esto nos deja como una tierra baldía, sedienta de algo que el dinero no puede comprar. Este tiempo sagrado tiene mucho que ofrecer para saciar nuestra sed. En una palabra, este tiempo ofrece esperanza. Se nos dice que los rescatados por Dios conocerán el gozo y la dicha. Para ellos, la pena y la aflicción habrán terminado. Tengamos esperanza en estas promesas.



El día Sabado 17 de Diciembre a las 7 de la tarde, se estara Presentando una obra navideña "Retablo de Navidad" presentado por Fundacion Huellas de el Salvador. Los invitamos a que venga con su familia, la entrada es gratis.



**TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE**

Muchos conocemos la historia de la Virgen de Guadalupe en el Tepeyac, pero ignoramos que en Extremadura, España ya había una imagen de la Virgen con el nombre de Guadalupe. En 1252, la Virgen se le apareció al campesino Gil Cordero pidiéndole que trajera a los sacerdotes del pueblo para que escarbaran al lado del Guadalupe (río escondido). Al hacerlo, encontraron una pequeña estatua morena de la misma Virgen. Esta imagen, según la documentación enterrada con ella, la cual también relata su origen, fue escondida durante el ataque de los moros en el año 711.

Había sido un regalo del Papa Gregorio Magno al obispo de Sevilla después de que había resultado milagrosa. Su primer milagro fue el salvar al pueblo romano de una plaga en el año 591. Cuando la llevaron en procesión alrededor del castillo papal se apareció un arcángel que luego terminó la plaga.

Esta misma imagen fue un regalo al Papa Pelagio II traída de Constantinopla donde había sido trasladada con los restos del evangelista san Lucas en el siglo IV. Estaba con los restos de este santo porque él mismo la había esculpido en el primer siglo.

**CELEBRACIONES EN HONOR DE LA SANTÍSIMA VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE**



- Dom. Dic. 3:** 7:00pm Comienzo de la Solemne Novena predica el *Padre Jesus Ramirez, c.s.*
- Vier. Dic. 9:** 6:00pm Presentación de las Rosas a La Virgen Morena
- Dom. Dic 11:** 2:30pm Danza "Indios del Tepeyac"  
10:00pm Serenata a la Virgen Santísima con el Mariachi *Perla de México.*  
11:00pm Misa Solemne con Mariachi
- Lun. 12 Dic:** 12:00am Mañanitas a Ntra. Madre del Cielo con Banda  
- Al termino de las mañanitas se ofrecerá menudo y café a las personas que gusten pasar al Carmel Hall.  
4:00am Mañanitas Festivas a La Virgen Santísima de Guadalupe con Banda  
5:00am Misa solemne de Acción de Gracias por todas las Familias Migrantes  
6:00am Desayuno con Menudo para todos en el Carmen Hall  
7:30pm Santa Misa Bilingüe en Honor de los no-nacidos recordando que la Virgen Stma. de Guadalupe es Madre de Todos.  
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No olvides de ser generoso con tu parroquia en esta Navidad.

Agrega a Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo a tu lista navideña.



## Fr. Feccia's Reflection



**Nella prigione piena di ombre e di oscuri presentimenti** in cui i potenti lo hanno rinchiuso, il Battista viene assalito dal dubbio: il messia, che ha creduto di riconoscere, non si comporta da giudice sovrano, da inflessibile esecutore delle sentenze divine contro i malvagi. Sconcertato, smarrito, Giovanni fa chiedere a Gesù: «*Sei tu il messia che attendevamo, sei tu il non violento, il paziente, il misericordioso?*»

La sua domanda attraversa i secoli e risuona più viva che mai in un'epoca in cui ci troviamo disorientati di fronte all'apparente silenzio di Dio nella nostra società scristianizzata. Ci aspettavamo dal Vangelo delle risposte ed esso ci pone delle domande; cercavamo soluzioni pronte, ed esso ci invita ad inventarle; pensavamo di assistere a manifestazioni spettacolari, ed esso ci sottomette alla legge di ogni lenta germinazione. Quanta fatica facciamo ad accettare che il cristianesimo sia una questione di libertà e di amore, e quindi di fede e di rischio! Come Giovanni dobbiamo entrare nell'Avvento della nostra fede e riconoscere il volto che Dio ha scelto di assumere in Gesù Cristo, umile, misericordioso, liberatore.

I segni della sua venuta sono in mezzo a noi, esili ma vivaci! Ci sono cristiani che incarnano con fede la parola di Dio nel nostro tempo: essi cominciano già a cambiare il mondo, ad abbattere i muri delle nostre prigioni. Sempre più numerosi, si sentono anch'essi responsabili della chiesa, si impegnano in nome del vangelo a ridare coraggio ai poveri, interrogano incessantemente Gesù nella preghiera per ardere del suo amore. Costoro non si accontentano di sperare con pazienza: sono i profeti del messia del nostro tempo.

Che cosa aspettiamo ad unirci al numero di coloro che lavorano per l'avvento di Dio, inventando così il futuro dell'uomo?

**Un vangelo sconcertante**— Giovanni Battista è sconcertato: Gesù forse non è il messia che attendeva: non castiga, ma guarisce; non condanna, anzi ridona la vita. Il precursore rischia di scandalizzarsi di fronte a tutto ciò. Gesù fa l'elogio di Giovanni, che è il culmine dell'Antico Testamento; ma è qualcosa di più alto: il regno. Giovanni annunciava una speranza indefinita; Cristo è una certezza; l'Antico Testamento annunciava una novità: Cristo è già il «*regno di Dio in mezzo a noi*». Dio è imprevedibile, vorremmo spingerlo a difendere la nostra causa, ed egli si fa avvocato degli altri: attendiamo da Lui delle risposte, ed egli ci pone dei quesiti; vorremmo apparizioni strepitose, e Dio viene a noi nel silenzio.



## Rallegratevi: la liberazione è vicina

Gioia del ritorno in patria, gioia per il recupero della sanità, gioia per la libertà riconquistata: ecco il frutto dell'intervento di Dio che salva. Annunciato dai profeti (prima lettura) come nuovo esodo, il ritorno dall'esilio è visto come un atto della potenza e dell'amore di Dio per il suo popolo rappresentato da un

«piccolo resto» di deportati. L'intervento divino per alcuni, forse, non ha corrisposto del tutto alle aspettative. Ma l'annuncio rimane sempre valido, perché proiettato in un tempo in cui sarà pienamente compiuto. Cristo viene come colui che guida l'umanità smarrita, sfiduciata e stanca, nel ritorno a Dio; egli è il capo dei redenti, sulla strada santa dell'obbedienza e della fedeltà. Ma questo ritorno, di fatto, deve esplicitarsi nel corso delle generazioni; la liberazione esige tempo e fatica, e la gioia è piuttosto quella di un traguardo parziale raggiunto che rimanda, nella speranza, alla mèta finale.

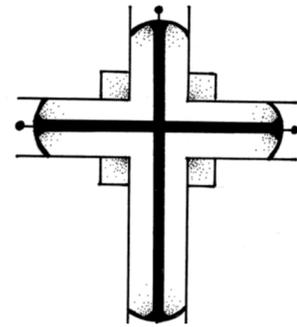


# Mass Intentions

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS  
WHO ARE ILL OR INFIRMED :

<b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10</b>	<b>ADVENT WEEKDAY</b>
7:30 am †	
5:30pm †	Ralph & Grace Doyle by Children † Hank Akimori by Family
<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11</b>	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
7:45am †	Richard Di Domenico by Family For the Birthday of Carmen Di Domenico by Xochitl & Family
9:00am †	
10:30am †	
12:00pm †	
1:30pm †	
5:00pm †	
11:00pm †	
<b>MONDAY, DECEMBER 12</b>	<b>OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE</b>
5:00 am	
7:30 pm	
<b>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13</b>	<b>SAINT LUCY</b>
7:30 am †	Michael & Lucia Devito by Doyle Grandchildren
6:30 pm †	
<b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14</b>	<b>SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS</b>
7:30 am †	
7:30 pm	NOVENA
<b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15</b>	<b>ADVENT WEEKDAY</b>
7:30 am †	George Kudrna Jr. by Sister Corinne Principe
6:30 pm †	
<b>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16</b>	<b>ADVENT WEEKDAY</b>
7:30 am †	
<b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17</b>	<b>ADVENT WEEKDAY</b>
7:30 am †	
5:30pm †	Mary Lou Campanella by Sheri
<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18</b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
7:45am †	Josefina Villareal by Family
9:00am †	
10:30am †	
12:00pm †	
1:30pm †	
5:00pm †	

Linda Bandy	Bobby J. Villa
Art Conti	Luke Westrick
Mary Conti	Ann Yench
Antonela De Biasio	Angela Williams
Nico De Biasio	Alexandra Vitali
Mary Donato	Vicki Parisi
Judith Escamilla	Ken Douglas
Jacob Duda	Michael Turso
Kristie Goldi	Anna Baffa
Linna Goldi	Jan Clark
Susan Humpf	Sara Zonca
Carol Maioni	Nancy O Shea
Vandy Liala	Madeline Vittori
Ethan Maidl	Victor Mejia Jr.
Joseph Pulido	Tony Stellato
Lauren Rendi	Nico Felice



## Rest In Peace

† Phyllis Aiuppa  
† Eleanor Culotta  
† Pascual Aguirre

### Reflecting on God's Word

How do you prepare a heart for Christmas? It is not all that different from how we prepare any room for the season. We move some things out and bring others in: lights, candles, and appropriate decorations. We can also apply this to our hearts, both our individual heart and our community heart. Today four voices offer direction.

Jeremiah calls us to remember the God who worked on the house of Israel and Judah, bringing "a just shoot" (Jeremiah 33:15) to flower from the old stump that Israel had become, replacing lifeless leadership with a new branch of the house of David. Justice would flourish for all the people. Jeremiah calls us to trust God's designs that go beyond the surface.

Jesus' words, however, seem to contradict all this, predicting signs that will dismay and perplex, with people dying of fright. What happened to security and justice? But all this frightening activity is not for those waiting on the Lord. Jesus' words are strong: Don't cower; stand erect. Don't let your heart sink into sleep, dive into drink, or be corrupted by carousing. Redemption is in the room, a heartbeat away.

Paul reminds us that we best renovate our hearts by filling them with God's love for others. We do this by how we treat each other. A new year offers time to bring healing to damaged relationships, to reach out to someone we have neglected. And God works along with us, pouring the Holy Spirit into our hearts. —James A. Wallace, c.ss.r.

### Reflexionemos sobre la Palabra de Dios

¿Cómo se prepara un corazón para la Navidad? No es tan diferente de como preparamos cualquier habitación del hogar para este tiempo. Quitamos algunas cosas y ponemos otras: luces, velas y decoraciones apropiadas. Eso mismo podemos hacer con nuestro corazón, tanto personalmente como dentro de la comunidad. Hoy hay cuatro voces que nos indican una dirección.

Jeremías nos pide que recordemos al Dios que hizo tanto por la casa de Israel y la casa de Judá, haciendo nacer "un retoño legítimo" (Jeremías 33:15) del viejo tronco en que se había convertido Israel, y remplazando el liderazgo sin vida con una rama de la casa de David. La justicia florecerá para todos. Jeremías nos exhorta a confiar en los designios de Dios, que van más allá de lo que podemos ver.

Las palabras de Jesús, sin embargo, parecen contradecir todo esto, pronosticando señales que consternarán y desconcertarán a las gentes, que se morirán de espanto. ¿Qué pasó con la seguridad y la justicia? Toda esta actividad que asusta no es, sin embargo, para los que aguardan al Señor. Las palabras de Jesús son fuertes: Pongan atención y levanten la cabeza. Estén alertas y no se embriaguen ni se dejen arrastrar por los vicios. La redención está cerca y a nuestro alcance.

Pablo nos recuerda que mejor renovemos nuestro corazón llenándolo del amor de Dios por los demás. La manera de hacer esto es llevándonos bien los unos con los otros. Un año nuevo nos ofrece tiempo, tiempo para sanar las relaciones que se han dañado y para extender nuestras manos a alguien que hemos desatendido. Dios permanece a nuestro lado derramando el Espíritu Santo en nuestros corazones.

—James A. Wallace, c.ss.r.

# Carbonara Funeral Home



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Memorial Services + Immediate Burials**  
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