

The Third Sunday of Advent**Year A**

Sunday, December 11, 2016

Readings: 1) Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 2) James 5:7-10 3) Matthew 11:2-11

Sunday Liturgy

The focus for today's Mass is:

Rejoice in the Lord always; for indeed, the Lord is near.

In the first reading, the prophet proclaims the joyful news that God saves his people and gives them great reason for rejoicing. Saint Paul, in the second reading, exhorts the faithful to prepare for the coming of the Lord with patience and a firm heart. In the Gospel, John the Baptist asks if Jesus is really the Messiah, or should they seek another?

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS**PRIEST:**

**With open hearts and confidence in our merciful Father,
we offer our petitions to him.**

**For Pope Francis, bishops and all clergy,
may they continue to model, through their words and actions,
joyful devotion to Jesus Christ, inspiring all the faithful.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For world leaders, may they work to foster respect among their people for the
languages, religions, ethnicities and customs of neighboring nations.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For those Baptized this weekend.

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For those who are sick in mind and body;
may they be healed and strengthened.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For the faithful departed,
may they come to perpetual peace and joy in heaven.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For the members of this faith community,
may we be joyful heralds of the Good News this Advent season.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For our own personal intentions, (long pause).

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

PRIEST:

Loving God, we rejoice in the blessings you bestow.

**Please continue to offer your blessings by granting these petitions according
to your will. Through Christ our Lord.**