

Third Sunday of Advent – *Gaudete* Sunday – 12-12-2021

Fear not...the Lord, our God, is in our midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over us with gladness, and renew us in his love.

In the gospel today the crowds were asking John the Baptist what they needed to do in order to be renewed in God's love.

John told them to radically reorient their lives in preparation for the coming of the messiah.

We need to do the same. Radically reorient our lives in preparation for the second coming of the Messiah.

The greatest preparation that we can make is to stay close to his Church at all times. When we are here Jesus is never far away.

I've heard some people say they don't need the Church to find God. They say they find him in nature, or in music, or in any number of other places and things.

But I want to say to them, point him out to me. Where exactly is he? Show me God in all these things.

But they really can't. The fact is, outside of a Catholic Church God is everywhere and nowhere at the very same time.

Nature, music, and so many other beautiful things can be inspiring and can point us toward God but they are not God. All those things are created...they are not the Creator.

But in a Catholic Church, Jesus is so near that he makes himself truly present at the word of his priest every time he calls upon him at Mass and Jesus remains a prisoner of love locked away in a little tabernacle until the end of time just waiting for us to pay him a visit. In this place God is truly here just as he promised.

John told the crowd that they had to radically reorient their lives in preparation for the coming of the messiah.

The Church tells us the same. We too must radically reorient our lives in preparation for the second coming by making our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ the very center of our existence.

Our Lord is in our midst and he longs to renew us in his love.

On this third Sunday of Advent – *Gaudete* Sunday – the Church bids us to cry out with joy and gladness: for among us is the great and Holy One of God.

Over 2000 years ago Jesus Christ, the Messiah and the Son of God, came to us as a helpless little baby – hidden within our human flesh – so that humanity would not fear to approach him.

Today he remains with us hidden under the form of bread and wine, again so that we won't be afraid to draw near.

However, when he comes again in all his glory he will not hide himself and many will want to flee and yet be unable.

But for those us who have gazed upon him in the Holy Eucharist with the eyes of faith and sought him here at Mass I am convinced that he will beckon us to his side and we will not fear to approach him.

Fear not...the Lord, our God, is in our midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over us with gladness, and renew us in his love by feeding us even daily with his very own Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity from this very altar.