

December 16-17, 2017
Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-11

Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-28

Once upon a time....

A long time ago...

Once there was a little girl, a little boy who lived in a land far, far away....

Fleeting yet precious, the ability to read bedtime stories to our children is an unspoken treasure of parenting. Regardless of the language in which the stories are shared or the heritage from which they are drawn, both the listener and storyteller are woven together in a web of imagination, safety and love. Planting the seeds for tranquil slumber and dreams by which grace can speak without interruption, good bedtime stories put the punctuation mark at the end of each waking day. The words of Isaiah could easily be every parent's bedtime prayer/wish for their child: 'The spirit of the Lord God is upon YOU...to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners...to announce a year of favor from the Lord!' These concluding Scriptures of Advent are God's bedtime stories to us, tender expressions of how he sees us and his hopes for what we will strive to become.

'May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.'

Now close your eyes and go to sleep and let God's graces lead you to become what you never imagined you could be.

Thank you for joining with our Santa Clara community as we honor the grace of JOY by which we are able to face the struggles and disappointments of life. The 2018 calendars are available (free) at the doors, please help yourselves. Sunday (today) afternoon, from **3pm to 6pm**, you are invited to the **Rectory Open House**. Please stop by to see this year's decorations, enjoy some holiday beverages, tasty foods, carolers and each other's company. **5475 Bayberry Way is the address**, please park wherever you can find open space but be careful to not block any driveways. Next weekend may be a bit CRAZY... remember that the Saturday 5pm Mass is the 4th Sunday of Advent...as are the Sunday 8am and 10am Masses...there is NO 12NOON Mass next Sunday...but we do switch gears and start celebrating the Christmas Eve Masses at 4pm, 6:30pm and 9pm. All are crowded, please plan accordingly and arrive VERY early to insure you have indoor seats. On Monday, Christmas Day, we have a single Mass at 10am. Knowing it will be crowded, please come with your happiest face and BIGGEST smile to greet any/all newcomers and visitors to our parish. As you conclude your Advent and make your final preparations for Christmas, please know that you are loved. FKB