

**December 7-8, 2019**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

**Romans 15:4-9**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

While we live within the digital age and Alexis is happy to play ‘Funky Town’ whenever we wish, the Season of Advent roots us in stories, truths and hopes that transcend the newest I-whatever. Within Isaiah we expand upon last week’s ‘swords being beaten into plowshares and nations no longer training for war...’ This week the Isaiah prophecies foretelling the arrival of Jesus become almost giddy: The spirit of Lord will rest upon him, a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord....’ Further on we read “ the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid and the calf and the young lion shall browse together...’ Advent being the opportunity to AGAIN enliven our conversation and commitment to Jesus, this can be hard to do, living as we do amid so much disillusionment, betrayal, doubts and lies. The temptation to dismiss Isaiah as a fable for the weak and depressed can be strong; yet, the stories and prophecies we hear this weekend are the same as we and our ancestors have heard for centuries. Corruption, crime, disillusionment have come and gone throughout the millennium, yet the tomb of Easter morning has nonetheless remained empty. These Advent weeks are entwined with our deepest yearnings, if we want the empty tomb of Resurrection on Easter morning (as well as every other day throughout our lives), these are the days in which to renew once again our belief, trust and familiarity in the one who leads us home to our heavenly Father... ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths...’ again, again and again.

Even as the chill of winter’s approach surrounds us, thank you for coming and sharing the warmth of your relationship with Jesus with our Santa Clara community. Honoring all things ‘Blessed Mother Mary’ (The Immaculate Conception and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe) with the help of our Mariachi players, our Knights of Columbus are not to be outdone, offering Christmas TAMALES for purchase after Mass...supplies are limited and when they are gone, they are gone...so shop wisely. A reminder that NEXT SUNDAY, December 15<sup>th</sup>, is the Annual Rectory Christmas OPEN HOUSE from 2pm to 5pm. Please swing by for some light snacks, Christmas music and of course the traditional Wassail and EGG NOG...not to mention having the opportunity to explore the Rectory, upstairs and downstairs, wherever you want to go!