

## *Our Lady of the Desert*



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**Padre: Victor C. Yakubu,**  
**Administrador Parroquial**

**Padre: Julius Kayiwa, Vicario Parroquial**  
**Confesión el Sábado:**  
**Por cita en (Español y Inglés)**

**Rosario el Sábado: Y Letanías de la Santísima**  
**Virgen María—3:20pm**

**Misa el Sábado: (Vigilia) / Inglés 4:00 p.m.**

**Rosario el Domingo: Y Letanías de la Santísima**  
**Virgen María— 9:40am**

**Misa el Domingo: Español /10:00 a.m.**

### **Liturgia en los Días de la Semana**

**Cada Día a las Doce: Angelus/Regina Caeli**

**Lunes: Adoración 7:30am y Misa a las 8:00am**

**Martes, Miércoles Jueves, Viernes:**

**Adoración 7:30am y Misa 8:00am**

**Viernes: a las 6:00pm Rosario Reina de la Paz**  
**con Adoración**

**Sábado: Adoración: 7:30am y a las 8:00am**

**Misa en Honor de Virgen María**



## **December 10th, 2023**

**Rev. Victor C. Yakubu, Parochial Administrator**  
**Rev. Julius Kayiwa, Parochial Vicar**

### **Confession on Saturday:**

By appointment English/Spanish

**Saturday Rosary:** With Litanies of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary - 3:20pm

**Saturday Mass (Vigil):** English -4:00 p.m.

**Sunday Rosary:** With Litanies of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary—9:40am

**Sunday Mass: Spanish 10:00am**

### **Liturgy of the Weekdays**

Every day at Noon: Angelus/Regina Caeli

**Monday:** 7:30am Adoration & Mass 8:00am

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:**  
**Adoration 7:30am & Mass 8:00am**

**Friday:** At 6:00pm Rosario of Queen of Peace with  
Adoration

**Saturday:** Adoration: 7:30 a.m. & 8:00 a.m. Mass  
**In Honor of the Virgin Mary**

Reflection for Second Sunday of Advent : Year B  
Second Sunday of Advent – December 10, 2023  
Fr. Timothy Eck

Readings: *Is* 40:1–5, 9–11 • *Ps* 85:9–10, 11–12, 13–14 • 2  
*Pt* 3:8–14 • *Mk* 1:1–8 [bible.usccb.org/bible/  
readings/121023.cfm](http://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/121023.cfm)

Our Gospel presents us with the familiar scene of John the Baptist in the desert along the banks of the Jordan. There he is baptizing those seeking to repent of their sins. Mark identifies this action of John as fulfilling the prophecy from Isaiah that one would prepare the way (that is, a road) of the Lord. Turning back to the original prophecy, why was there a need for the way to be prepared? What was wrong with the existing road? For whom was the way made? Where was it going?

To start, we find that purpose of this highway is to connect the people of God with the Lord. The people have been in service and have had to serve a tour double that of a normal one for their crimes. But what kind of service have they served? In Hebrew, the word used for service indicates it is military service, and so the people on account of their infidelity had been pressed into the military and sent off into a foreign land, Babylon in exile. Their spiritual battle in that place was to give witness to God's glory in these foreign lands since they did not do so while in Jerusalem.

There they fulfilled their duty twice over. So too in the midst of our earthly pilgrimage, as members of the Church militant, our spiritual service and trials can seem great and unending. The length of our service seems prolonged and caused by the delay in God's return; however, as St. Peter says in our second reading, this delay is according to God's designs. But why does he delay in giving us consolations in this life? He gives us time to repent, to finish our tour of duty well. Often our spiritual progression stalls because there is still some sin which we will not let go of, some forgiveness we will not offer.

The longer we cling to sin, the longer our service is prolonged. But why does this prolong our tour of duty? Because sin is the rejection of God and his glory. It creates obstacles between us and God. How can we finish a tour of duty if we are constantly not fulfilling our orders or deserting our post?

But this way is not just made for us; most accurately, it is made for another, God. In the prophecy we heard that

the Lord was coming in his glory with a herald proclaiming victory before him. The Lord appears as a general returning glorious from battle, coming to his beleaguered army to refresh their spirits with the good news (that is the gospel) of victory. But will we welcome the victorious king's arrival? Do we desire his approach?

If we have acted like a soldier without discipline, with contempt for the general's orders, and disregard for duties assigned to us, then the Lord's arrival is surely a dreadful thing. If we have been a faithful soldier in the midst of our trials, then our Lord's arrival will be one of rejoicing. In both cases the Lord's arrival will be like fire, as we heard from St. Peter, cleansing us of our impurities, making a highway straight to our souls. All our sins, all these obstacles we have erected, will be dissolved in the fire of his love.

The question then is, what will remain of us when our sin is removed? Should we spend a life dedicated to raising obstacles between us and God, what treasure will be stored up in our souls? Will it not have been spent on barriers, leaving us spiritually bankrupt? But if we spend a life repenting and so tearing down the obstacles between us and God, so that his highway of love might run clear and straight to our souls, then we can store up treasures of charity and good works. For all that will remain after the fire of divine love comes upon us is charity itself.

The Church in her ministers continues this plan of preparation. She aids us in directing us as to how we should prepare the way of the Lord to our souls. We know that the Lord is on his way, he is coming in glory. May we use this Advent season to set in order the camp of our souls and set aright the paths to it. May we fight against those vices and sins that cling to us, and instead strive to grow in love and virtue. For the Lord is coming indeed; may we be found at the watchtower, ready to joyfully greet him when he arrives. Amen.

*Our Lady of the Desert*

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

A voice cries out:  
In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!  
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!  
(Is 40:3)

### Psalm:

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your  
salvation. (Ps 85)

### Second Reading:

We await new heavens and a new earth  
in which righteousness dwells. (1 Pt 1:13)

### Gospel:

John the Baptist appeared in the desert  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the  
forgiveness of sins. (Mk 16:4)

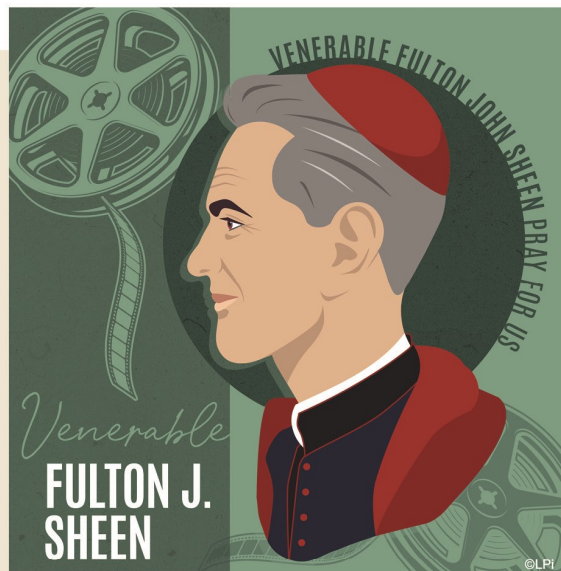
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Christ is making a journey into each of our hearts  
this Advent. Clear away whatever blocks his way.  
Make straight the path. Invite him in.

## Observances for the week of December 10, 2023

- Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Advent
- Monday:** St. Damasus I, Pope
- Tuesday:** Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Wednesday:** St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
- Thursday:** St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Advent



## Saint of the week

Venerable Bishop Fulton John Sheen was a prominent American Catholic bishop, theologian, and media personality. Considered one of the first televangelists, his charisma and defense of the faith made him a household name for American Catholic families.

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, source of all holiness, You raise up within the Church in every age men and women who serve with heroic love and dedication. You have blessed Your Church through the life and ministry of Your faithful servant, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. He has written and spoken well of Your Divine Son, Jesus Christ, and was a true instrument of the Holy Spirit in touching the hearts of countless people.

If it be according to Your will, for the honor and glory of the Most Holy Trinity and for the salvation of souls, we ask You to move the Church to proclaim him a saint. We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer Source: <https://celebratesheen.com/prayers-2/>)



## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

### The World Is Pregnant

There is a character, Rose of Sharon, in John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* who is pregnant with her first child. As her impoverished family migrates from their native Oklahoma to California, Rose of Sharon's all-consuming preoccupation is her unborn child. Everything she eats, every drink she lets pass her lips, every action she takes — none of it is done without thought for the child that is still so small as to make his mother's expectancy barely discernible to the naked eye.

"For Rose of Sharon was pregnant," wrote Steinbeck. "And the world was pregnant to her."

It is the same for us Christians in the Advent season. We can feel a change coming, and the hope of this change consumes us. It shapes our actions and our plans, we feel it in our hearts and in our souls and in our limbs. From the food we eat to the clothing we wear to the words we use, the unseen Child lives and breathes and works in every small part of this blessed season.

Even the commercial clamor that is the secular "Christmas holiday" cannot fully distract us from the holy sense of anticipation we have. We are baptized, and so it is inside of us, this voice that cries out in the desert. When we hear it, we cannot help but listen.

The Virgin is pregnant, and the world is pregnant to us.

*"We await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." — 2 Peter 3:13*

*Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

### Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

#### Question:

The Bible says that Jesus condemned gambling, but I notice that so many parishes have them at festivals and other events. What's correct?

#### Answer:

Although Jesus speaks of our relationship with material wealth and the very human struggle with greed, the gospels do not include any specific instructions related to gambling. At the same time, the Church is very sensitive to the needs of those who might struggle with an addiction to gambling, and pastoral care should always be offered to those who struggle with this reality in their life.

While it is true that many parish or school communities include gambling or games of chance in festivals and fundraisers (e.g. bingo, roulette, ring tossing, dunking booths, etc.), there is nothing inherently wrong these sorts of events, given they are played fairly and within the limits of reason are not morally objectionable. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us: "Games of chance (card games, etc.) or wagers are not in themselves contrary to justice. They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others" (no. 2413).

As in all things, moderation and a sense of healthy limits should be applied to gambling and games of chance. For those who find themselves living with addiction to gambling, help is available in various 12-step and addiction recovery programs.

*Fr. Victor is scheduled  
To be at “Our Lady of the Desert”  
the 4th Sunday of every month.  
(Dates are subject to change)*



**FOLLOW  
HIM AND  
BE TRULY  
FREE**

## **Gospel Meditation**

### **Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture**

We like to think we are totally free, but the bitter truth is we simply are not. Or better put, our freedom is limited on every side — by governments, corporate giants, physical and mental frailties, genetic shortcomings, and even the boundaries of time and space, and above all, the burden of our sins and pending deaths. In our day, we are perhaps particularly aware that we are not free to disconnect from the technocratic rulers of the air. If you doubt me, try not paying your internet bill and see what happens. We are not totally free.

It's nothing new, of course. In Jesus' day, everyone felt the crushing weight of the Roman Empire. You can say you're free all you want. But try not paying your taxes to Rome and see what happens.

Once we feel this burden in our own lives — however it comes — we are ready to hear the stunning announcement that commences Mark's gospel, **“The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”** It's not a simple perfunctory introduction, but a dramatic announcement of new freedom. The word “gospel” was a political, even military, term. It meant: a great victory has been won and a new king is in charge. This Jesus — not the Roman emperor — is God's son, and he has defeated all that crushes human freedom. It's time to follow him and be truly free. This week let's refuse to submit our freedom to false rulers — especially that of sin. And let's rejoice that Christ is coming to make us perfectly free from all our oppressors.

— Father John Muir

## **Readings for the week of December 10, 2023**

### **Sunday:**

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14  
(8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

### **Monday:**

Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/  
Lk 5:17-26

### **Tuesday:**

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/  
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

### **Wednesday:**

Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/  
Mt 11:28-30

### **Thursday:**

Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/  
Mt 11:11-15

### **Friday:**

Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

### **Saturday:**

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16,  
18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

### **Next Sunday:**

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54  
(Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28





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