

Pastor's Letter

December 7, 2025—2nd Sunday of Advent

Dear Church Family,

In our readings for today we learn what a blessing it is to be rooted in Christ. We see how Jesus himself is rooted in the promise of God to bless the world through a descendant of David, described as a shoot growing from the stump of Jesse. Jesus himself is empowered by the Holy Spirit to bear fruit, the fruit of justice and peace that brings people from all over the world together into the family of God.

All of us who have experienced the love of God in Christ are also called to bear fruit. The Spirit that filled Jesus lives in us also through our baptism into his life, death, and resurrection. The gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, and fear of the Lord that characterized his ministry have been passed on to us so that we can continue to bring others into relationship with God. We have to be careful though not to fall into the trap of thinking that we can keep the gift of faith all to ourselves.

In our Gospel reading John the Baptist criticizes the Pharisees for not using their gifts as God wanted them to. He reminds them that they have been blessed so that they can bless others. They have been saved as God's chosen people so that they can be messengers of the good news that God wants all people everywhere to be part of his family. They forgot that being God's people comes with the responsibility to plant the seeds of faith in the hearts of the next generation of believers.

That is the kind of fruit that God calls us to bear. Just as Christ fulfilled the promises that God made to the patriarchs so that the love of God might go beyond the borders of Israel, we too are called to expand the reach of God's love to an ever-wider audience until the whole world comes to know the joy of living as the planting of the Lord, rooted in faith.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott

Tri-Parish Penance Service

**Tuesday
December 16
6:30 PM @ ST. JOSEPH**



Catholic Heart Work Camp

Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser

**ORDERS CAN BE PLACED BY ANY CHWC CAMPER
OR JEANNE CRAMSEY @ 217-653-3962.**

ORDER SHEETS WILL ALSO BE AT EACH CHURCH.

All orders must be placed by

Friday, Dec., 12

Cost is \$20 per dozen

Rolls can be picked up

Dec. 20, after the 4:30 pm mass at St. Brigid

Dec. 21, after 9 am mass at St. Joseph

Or they will be delivered between Dec. 22-24