



**CATHOLIC DIOCESE  
OF RICHMOND**  
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**Linda Adamos**  
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## Mass Intention



### Our Parishioners

Contact Elizabeth to schedule a Mass or if you have any questions. Please give Mass intentions to Father.

*Póngase en contacto con Elizabeth para programar una misa o si tiene alguna pregunta. Por favor, den intenciones de misa al Padre.*

### Praying With Next Week's Readings

Reading I: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,  
8b-12, 14a, 16  
Responsorial Psalm: 89:2-5,  
27-29

Reading II: Romans 16:25-27  
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

## December Birthdays

- 3 **Angel Leon**
- 4 **Emily Felipe-Segundo**
- 6 **Lucas Torres**
- 8 **Carlos Nery**
- 11 **Fitzgerald Marcelin**
- 14 **Maribel Garcia**
- 21 **Cindy Vallejo**  
**Emily Plascenia**  
**Brenton Gorman**
- 25 **Cynthia Baux**  
**Vanessa Carillo**
- 29 **Magdalena Alston**
- 31 **Eli Henry Smith**

## Our Lady of the Lake



### Council 9309

#### Officers for 2023-2024

**Chaplain:** Fr. Jong R. Bayta

**Grand Knight:** Mark Fracassa

**Deputy Grand Knight:** John  
Husson

**Chancellor:** Dave Thomas

**Recorder:** Bob Hathaway

**Treasurer:** Jay Warfel, PGK\*

**Financial Secretary:**  
Tom O'Neill, PGK\*

**Advocate:** Bob Oravits

**Warden:** Paul Kurilla

**Guards:**  
Inside: Kip Boisot, PGK\*  
Outside: Richard Rumprik

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

**Trustee One Year:**  
Chuck Youse

**Trustee Two Years:**  
George McCall

**Trustee Three Years:**  
Bobby Berndt, \*PGK  
\*PGK-Past Grand Knight

*Catholic men 18 years or older are eligible to join the Knights of Columbus. Please contact Mark Fracassa (804) 305-6175 or Tom O'Neill (252)519-3050.*



*Please use this list to pray for those who are in need. May we all lift one another up in prayer.*

*Steven Goellner; Rosemary Buskirk, Mary Frances Kramer, Nina Gendron & family, Esther Zepeta*

*Please contact the office with updates.*

### Upcoming Events:

- Dec. 19-Knights Meeting**
- Dec. 22-29-Office Closed**
- Dec. 24-Fourth Sunday of Advent**
- Dec. 24-Christmas Vigil Mass 4pm**
- Dec. 25-No Christmas Day Mass**

# St. Richard Catholic Church

[office@strichardscatholicchurch.org](mailto:office@strichardscatholicchurch.org)

[www.strichardscatholicchurch.org](http://www.strichardscatholicchurch.org)

117 Laurel Street, Emporia, VA 23847



We welcome all visitors and guests to our parish family and wish you safe travels and a happy visit to Emporia.

#### Mission Statement:

We, the Church of Saint Richard, have been anointed by Jesus Christ to continue His Mission. For us to participate in the mission of Jesus, we are challenged by the Gospel to a daily conversion to God, leading to spiritual growth and holiness. We invite others to join us at the Eucharistic table. Mindful of our neighbors, we will work to bring about a just and peaceful society. At every opportunity, we will work with other faith communities to further God's Kingdom.

**Pastor:** Fr. Jong R. Bayta  
[jbayta@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:jbayta@richmonddiocese.org)

**Rectory:** 434-636-7782

**Secretary/Bookkeeper:**  
Elizabeth Martin  
434-636-6277

### Liturgical Schedule

Weekday Mass:

**Wednesday: 12:00 pm at SVMC**

Weekend Masses:

**Saturday—1:00 pm (Spanish)**

**Sunday—10:30 am**

Rosary:

**Wednesday—11:45 am at SVMC**

**Sunday—10:00 am**

Reconciliation:

**Sunday—10:00 am**

**Pastoral Council—Brenton Gorman: 801-682-0892**

**Finance Council—Janet McKenzie: 614-579-8185**

**Religious Formation—Timmy Grace Gorman: 757-561-6046**

**Music Coordinator—Francis Mendoza**

**Altar Ministry—Stevie Thomas: 434-634-6713**

**Family Service Advisor—Linda Adamos: 434-774-9376**

# Third Sunday of Advent—December 17, 2023

## Study of the Readings

### Background on the Gospel

**Reading** *John 1:6-8,19-28*

Today's Gospel combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, it begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue", which places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness. Following this prologue, John reports on the

ministry of John the Baptist and the attention he received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine. The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes Isaiah. John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. His

response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day. The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

## PARISH NEWS

### Christmas Flower Donations in Memory/Honor of:

*Timothy Gownley*

*Bob & Sandy Thomas*

*Leda & Nelson Thomas*

*Agnes Pepper*

*Joe Comorat*

*Ann & Russell Newsome*

*Anne, Edwin & Allyson*

*Brinser*

*Romeo Gasalao*

*Franklin Epps*

*Gloria & Santiago Besares*

*James J. McConnell, Jr.*

### Last Week's Offertory

	Needed	Actual
Offertory:	\$914.04	\$1286.25
Immaculate Conception:	\$175.00	<b>\$372.21</b>

### Online Giving

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/>  
Strichardemporiava OR Text  
GIVE to 434-603-6341

MASS ATTENDANCE:

**December 10th**  
**79**

# Tercero Domingo de Adviento

## Estudio de las lecturas

### Antecedentes de la lectura del

**Evangelio** *John 1:6-8,19-28*

El Evangelio de hoy combina un breve pasaje del prólogo del Evangelio de Juan con un informe sobre Juan el Bautista. El Evangelio de Juan no contiene ninguna narración del nacimiento. En cambio, comienza con una reflexión teológica que se ha dado en llamar el "prólogo", que sitúa la historia de Jesús en su marco cosmológico. Habla de la existencia de Jesús con Dios desde el principio de los tiempos. En el Evangelio de Juan, Jesús se presenta como el cumplimiento del Antiguo Testamento y la culminación de la Palabra, la luz que viene a las tinieblas del mundo. Después de este prólogo, Juan informa sobre el ministerio de Juan el Bautista y

la atención que recibió de las autoridades judías. Los mensajeros de los sacerdotes judíos, los levitas y los fariseos interrogan a Juan sobre su identidad y el significado de los bautismos que está realizando. El Evangelio de Juan utiliza estas preguntas para establecer la relación entre Jesús y Juan el Bautista. Juan el Bautista no es el Mesías, ni es Elías ni el Profeta. En las negaciones de Juan, escuchamos ecos del tipo de expectativas mesiánicas que eran comunes en la Palestina del primer siglo. La única respuesta afirmativa que da Juan el Bautista es cuando cita a Isaías. Juan anuncia que el salvador que buscan ya está entre ellos, pero aún no ha sido reconocido. Su respuesta pone de relieve para nosotros

un tema importante del Adviento: Jesús ya ha venido al mundo como nuestro salvador. Durante el Adviento, oramos para que podamos reconocer la presencia de Jesús en medio de nosotros. El Adviento también nos recuerda que Jesús vendrá de nuevo para cumplir la promesa de salvación. Oramos para que sigamos vigilantes mientras anticipamos ese gran día. El tercer domingo de Adviento también se llama domingo de Gaudete. Gaudete, una palabra latina que significa "regocijarse", está tomada de la antifona de entrada para la misa dominical. Este tema se repite en la segunda lectura de hoy de la primera carta a los Tesalonicenses. Es un recordatorio de que el Adviento es un tiempo de alegría porque nuestra salvación ya está cerca.

## NOTICIAS PARROQUIALES

(El 24 de diciembre a las 10:30 de la mañana, celebraremos la santa misa del cuarto domingo de Adviento. Por la tarde, a las 4, celebraremos la misa de la Vigilia de Navidad (Misa de Nochebuena). No hay misa el 25 de diciembre en nuestra iglesia. Por favor, no vengas el día 25.)

Nuestro Servicio Parroquial de Reconciliación de Adviento es el 11 de diciembre a las 7 pm en San Pedro Apóstol. Tendremos 3 sacerdotes visitantes. Considere la posibilidad de celebrar esta Santa Cena para comenzar su santa temporada de Adviento.

### Next Week's Ministry Schedule

READERS	E. MINISTER	USHERS	SERVERS
Mary Anne Newsome	Maria Vasquez	Elizer Carillo	Monserrat Ramirez
	Manuel Vasquez	Dave Thomas	Jesus Ramirez
			Vanessa Ramirez

### Next Week's Cleaning Group

Timmy Gorman  
Belinda Baron  
Ramis Celedona  
Mary Joy Lerdon  
Pee Jay Andres