

Father Jim's Weekly Bulletin Article for December 10 2017

This week's celebrations: Tuesday is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This is special day for us in the Americas, especially in terms of thinking about both our diversity and our unity. Mary's appearance at Guadalupe brought about new understanding and respect between the peoples of Mexico, both European and native, helping them to celebrate together as one family of faith. The work of Guadalupe is not and never will be finished. There will always be tension between diversity and unity, and yet there is much to celebrate in our different blessings, and is essential that celebration be together in one faith.

Readings for next week: Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28

Reflection: It is a rare society in which those comfortable with their own power and positions call for change. Isaiah proclaims liberty for captives, healing for the broken hearted, and glad tidings for the lowly. Nothing happens. His nation's leaders are not among the lowly, feel no need for healing, and would oppose the release of those they have jailed. John the Baptist calls for reform. Great crowds accept his baptism. The Pharisees and priests are not among them. They feel no need for reform. They are comfortable with the status quo, not only within the community but in relationship with God. Christ the Messiah preaches change. To receive him fully, we must always be open to the Spirit, testing everything, retaining what is good, and seeking a life of holiness.

1. Consider aspects of your life with which you are most comfortable. Visualize your reaction to a call to change.

2. Share with another in a renewal of baptismal promises. Bless each other using water.

Prayer: Jesus, we are sometimes tempted to think that in knowing you, we no longer need to seek you. Give us the peace of knowing your presence. Give us the openness and the thirst of always seeking you more. May your gifts never be exhausted in us.