

# ST PIUS X, RAIWAQA, PARISH NEWSLETTER

## TO RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

P.O. Box 5175, Raiwaqa, Suva - Phone & Fax # 3383183

Email Address: stpiusx810@gmail.com

Parish Priest: Fr. John McEvoy: email: mcevoyfj@gmail.com website: www.stpiusxfj.com

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, CYCLE A: 11/12/16

### Sunday and Weekday Mass Schedule

**Sundays:** 7:00 am & 8:30 am

**Weekday** 6:30 pm - [Monday to Friday]

**Saturday & Public Holidays:** - 8:30am.

**Wednesday:** Fijian Mass [Misa Vakaviti]

**Thurs: Holy Hour,** Adoration & Benediction: 5:00pm – 6:00pm

**Holy days** 7:00 am & 7:00 pm. except Christmas & New Year.

**Confessions:** - Friday & Saturdays after Mass.

**Baptisms:** The 8:30am Mass on the first Sunday of the month is reserved for Baptisms. Parents seeking baptism for their child make arrangements with the Parish Priest before commencing session with Baptism helpers.

**Matrimony:** Those preparing for marriage must contact a priest at least 3 months before and are required to undertake preparation sessions. Guidelines are available at the Parish Office.

**RCIA:** Session every Sunday after the 7am Mass.

### Reflection for the Third Sunday of Advent: Joy in the Lord

“Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God”. Today is Rejoicing Sunday. Today the candle on the wreath is pink, not purple as on the other Sundays of Advent; to express the joy felt at the nearness of the Lord. Some people seem to be happy by nature; others mournful by nature. Here is the story of a priest who always preached mournful sermons. He was asked by his parish priest to preach about St. Joseph instead, as he was a cheerful man. The following Sunday the priest spoke about Joseph who happened to be a carpenter and as a result spent a lot of his time making coffins and here we go again with sad, sad tales.

Three things about happiness: first, happiness needs to be appreciated *right now*. We convince ourselves that life will be better when we get married, have a baby, then another. Then we are frustrated that the kids are not old enough and we will be more content when they are. After that we are frustrated that we have teenagers to deal with. We will certainly be happy when they are out of that stage. We tell ourselves that our life will be complete when our spouse gets his or her act together. The truth is there is no better time to be happy than right now.

Second, ‘If you are happy, *let your face know*.’ Maybe we could begin to be more joyful by glancing in the mirror and asking ourselves: does my face look like the face of someone who has heard the good news of the Gospel, namely that I am loved unconditionally by God?

Third, joy will come to us if we set about trying to *create it for others*. If I go about my life demanding that others carry me rather than seeking to carry them; feeding off others rather than feeding them; demanding that others meet my needs rather than trying to meet theirs, joy will never find me no matter how hard I party or try to crank up good cheer.

**In Loving Memory:** Milika Rokoraiviu, Lomainasau, Tokatoka, Tailevu (78) cousin of Lewa 4C who died on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec and was buried on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2016. Litia Marama Nawalu, Namoli, Lautoka, who died on Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Nov. and buried on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec after Requiem Mass in the parish here. May they rest in peace.

**Mass for the Anointing of the Sick and Elderly:** Will be celebrated here in the Church today Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> of Dec at the 8.30 Mass followed by refreshments in the hall. We are doing it this way this year so there can be many people present for this celebration. The elderly and sick look forward to this Mass every year.

**Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation:** This Annual Pre Christmas Celebration will be held here in the parish on the Evening of 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. immediately after the 6.30 Mass. So it is hoped that many parishioners will avail of this sacrament so that we can celebrate worthy the Birth of Christ into our lives and communities. Community Leaders and other Liturgical Community Reps – please spread this word within your communities. Thank YOU..

**The Prophet Mohamad’s Birthday:** Is celebrated tomorrow Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec - is a **Public Holiday**.

### **3rd Sunday of Advent: Blessing the Candle of Joy.**

*Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ, experience the joy of Salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Outreach to Cyclone Victims:** The Team of Columban Ex Lay Missionaries and Columban Companions in Mission who visit the Villages of Vidrala, Namuriwai and Nasau in Ra, Parish of Naiserelagi, Navunibitu – one of the most devastated areas by Cyclone Winston have returned with some distressful stories from there and lack of action on the part of Government Agencies even 10 months after Cyclone Winston. They lived in these villages for a week, talking, counselling and walking with the communities – giving a helping hand and gifting them with some basic domestic commodities. Thank You, Ex Columban Lay Missionaries and Columban Companions in Mission for this initiative and sacrifice on your part. We will be interested to hear more stories presently.

#### **Evangelization:**

- Charismatic Prayer meeting at 3.00pm in church
- World Apostolate of Fatima prayer meeting at 4.00pm in church.
- Carol Singing: 17/12/2016. Communities are encouraged to participate and bring in donations picked up from the Jesse Tree on the evening of carol singing. Dress code – Christmas
- Evangelisation meeting after 8.30am Mass on Monday 18/12/2016 in the hall. Evangelisation reps please note.
- Communities are encouraged to continue with 7 steps on Tuesdays.

**World Apostolate of Fatima Meeting:** Thanks to Fr David Arms for offering Mass for member of the Greater Suva Group of the Organisation. During the Mass 12 new members received the Brown Scapular. About 30 members attended the meeting afterwards in the parish hall. Mere Avaiki is the president of the Raiwaqa Parish branch. Next year 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017 will be the 100 anniversary of the Apparitions of our Lady in Fatima.

#### **Men of the Parish:**

1. 18<sup>th</sup> December – Sunday 8.30am Liturgy and Christmas Break up Lunch;
2. 21<sup>st</sup> December – Big Christmas Clean Up.

#### **Liturgy**

- Meeting of Extraordinary Ministers Next Sunday after 8.30am Mass.
- Construction of two cribs are in progress. Youth is reminded to help Marj with the construction of outdoor Crib.
- Thanks to all who are helping in any way to celebrate the coming of Christ anew into our parish this Christmas.

**Choir practice in preparation for Carol Singing 17<sup>th</sup> Dec:** In Community 1B at Visoni and Selina's Residence at 7.00pm Sunday Evening. Hopefully all other communities are getting their Carols ready for this event on next Saturday. The CCD Class has their item ready.

**Faith Formation Commission: CCD Classes: Confirmation/Holy Communion** continues every Sunday. Mrs Niseta wants to start again next Sunday for Advent with both those who made 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion and new member who will make their 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion next year – **she deems Advent important and wants to start training the Children for their Christmas Drama.** The Christmas Drama is well on the way – Thanks Ms Niseta and children.

**St Vincent de Paul: Jesse Tree Tags:** Please deliver items on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec at 4.00pm during the Carol Singing in front of the Church or leave them with Kele at the Office before 17/12/16. Thank You.

- **Church Gate Collection for St Vincent de Paul for month of Nov. was \$88.60.**

**Catholic Times Available this weekend.** Now selling at \$1.00 each. The 5% Archdiocesan Tax – not sufficient to print the Paper. Perhaps we will have to ask each Community leader to sell these in their communities. Please let us know your numbers.

**For your Generous Contributions:** Thanks to members of St Peter Chanel, Community (4a) for animating the Liturgy during the week and the clean-up of the church & compound yesterday. We invite Members of St Patrick's 4B to continue with this responsibility from tomorrow 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2016.

Thanks for your generous contribution last Sunday.

**Last Sunday's Collection: First Collection - \$536.65; Second Collection - \$64.55 = \$601.20; Envelops \$95.00.**

**Readings for Next Week: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent** [11/12/16] Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; James 5:7-10; Matt 11: 2-11; Mon [12/12/16] **Our Lady of Guadalupe:** Numbers 24: 2-7, 16-17; Matt 21: 23-27; Tue [13/12/16] **St Lucy:** Zephaniah 3: 1-2, 9-13; Matt 21: 28-32; Wed [14/12/16] **St John of the Cross:** Isaiah 45: 6-8; Luke 7: 24-30; Fri [16/12/16] Isaiah 56: 1-3, 6-8; John 5:33-36; Sat [17/12/16] Genesis 49: 2, 8-10; Matt 1: 1-17; **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent** [18/12/16] Isaiah 7: 10-14; Romans 1-7; Matt 1: 18-24.