

Deacon Tony's December 11, 2022 Homily
for the
3rd Sunday in Advent

REJOICE – the Joy of being saved. The relief of having a heavy burden lifted off of our shoulders. Isaiah speaks to the Israel nation after coming home from 70 years of exile.

Israel's message is full of vindication and forgiveness. The blind will have their sight restored and the deaf will hear. A prophet speaks of God's love and forgiveness.

A true prophet speaks for the Lord. "BE PATIENT FOR THE LORD IS NEAR". The Lord's promises will be fulfilled. The desert will bloom.

In our Gospel we come upon John who is in prison. He is the one who is calling for his followers to repent. That seems like an easy thing to do, but John was very strong. When Herod married his brother's wife, it was John who called him out.

He stood up to someone who had the power to put John into prison. As John was patiently waiting, he continued to be concerned about his followers. DID THEY HAVE THE FAITH IN THE MESSIAH THAT WOULD BE NEEDED TO SAVE THEM.

He sent them to Jesus to ask if Jesus was the promised Messiah. Jesus told them to look at the fruits of His labors. And He quotes Isaiah as to what God is doing to restore eyesight to the blind and hearing to the deaf. John wanted his followers to hear God's calling and make their decision for Him.

Deciding to give up your life to follow Jesus is a personal decision that only a person can make. We don't make a decision to give Jesus our life by reading a book about Jesus. No one can make that decision for us. John's followers had to make that decision in their heart.

John spoke as a true prophet for God when he said

“HE MUST INCREASE AND I MUST DECREASE”

And so we are left with the decision of hearing God's message to our hearts and live to grow closer to Him. God must increase and we must decrease.

In following John the Baptist' calling to repentance, let us take advantage of our Churches opportunity to have Jesus forgive our sins.

We are holding a penance service this TUESDAY, 12/13 at 7 pm here at St Thomas More.

Let us enjoy the glory and splendor once again.

Let us open our eyes and clear our ears.

Let us walk with the strength of Our Lord.

Deacon Tony