

# third SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## ■ LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit ... Come Lord Jesus, transform our lives! Open our hearts and minds to experience joy as we serve our neighbors in need.*

## ■ READ THE GOSPEL for the Third Sunday of Advent (Cycle C) Luke 3:10-18

*“Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none.”*

## ■ REFLECT WITH A STORY

John the Baptist answers a familiar question in this week’s Gospel: “What should we do?” How many of us ask ourselves this question when we see members of our global family living in poverty?

John provides a very simple answer. He tells us, “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none.” But John the Baptist does not stop there. In fact, as different people in the crowd question him—tax collectors, soldiers and more—he gives answers that are specific to each person. John recognizes that each of us has unique gifts to give—and unique needs based on where we are in our lives.

In the Holy Land, not far from where the angel Gabriel announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds, a group of artisans carve beautiful nativity scenes out of olive wood. This is how Nawal Gharib provides for her family. The work she does is important—not just because it helps pay for food and other supplies, but because it allows her to share her God-given gifts with others.

Not so long ago, her workshop was dangerous. It was hard to breathe and see, which meant she and her fellow workers often got sick.

Now their workshop is healthy, clean and safe. “This is the best Christmas gift we have ever received,” says Nawal, with a big smile on her face. “Now we are working in a better place, a healthier place.”

What did she need? A safe place to work. Now Nawal and her family are able to ask the question, like the people asked John the Baptist, “What should we do?”



Photo by Debbie Hill for CRS

### PRAY

Jesus Christ, fill us with your joy as we serve our brothers and sisters in need. May the joy you bring inspire us to care for each other as one human family. Amen

### REFLECT

How can I serve those in need in my community?

### ACT

This week, choose some toys or household items—make sure they’re in good condition—and give them to a family in need.

### GIVE

Share what you have with others! Give a Catholic Relief Services Gift of Hope to a family in need this Christmas.

Visit [crs.org/gift-tree](https://crs.org/gift-tree).