



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2018

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 15 ~ 3rd Sunday in Advent/Vigil
 5:30 PM Gail DiMartino, Christine Vann Long

Sunday, December 16 ~ 3rd Sunday in Advent
 9:30 AM Susan Sprague, Marie & Vinnie Lubrano, Lucy Diborio

Monday, December 17
 9:00 AM Hettie Eriksen

Wednesday, December 19
 9:00 AM Fr. Patrick McGuigan, O.Carm.

Friday, December 21
 9:00 AM Margaret Barry

Saturday, December 22 ~ 4th Sunday in Advent/Vigil
 5:30 PM Julio Polli, Vincent Rodenwold

Sunday, December 23 ~ 4th Sunday in Advent
 9:30 AM James Predmore, Sylvia Maliga

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, December 22 ~ 4th Sunday in Advent/Vigil
 5:30 PM Robert DeBeauvernet

Sunday, December 23 ~ 4th Sunday in Advent
 9:30 AM Paris Cook

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Saturday, December 22 ~ 4th Sunday in Advent/Vigil
 5:30 PM Eileen Ernst


Sunday, December 23 ~ 4th Sunday in Advent
 9:30 AM Frank Schmaus

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday, December 22 ~ 4th Sunday in Advent/Vigil
 5:30 PM Barbara Cinque, Joe Herschel,
 *Jennifer Zupetz

Sunday, December 23 ~ 4th Sunday in Advent
 9:30 AM Josephine Lust, Barbara Ceriale,
 *Sue Schmaus

PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

 Lt. JG Alexandria Baker (Navy)
 Lt. JG Dylan Bonitz (Navy)
 Chase Bowen (Navy)

Sarah Bowen (Navy) Juan Gonzalez (Navy)
 Kaila McGowan (Marines)

David Nguyen (Marines) Joseph Ruize (Navy)
 Warrant Officer 3 Elliott Weidel (Marines)

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Hank Bodendorf, Sr. Margaret Ellen Burke, S.C.,
 Mary Ann Costa, Bob Cross, Brian Cross,
 Kevin Crowley, Lucy D'Amato, Michael DiMare,
 Helen Ryan Felice, Anna Gallo, Michael Gallo,
 Maggie Horne, Johanna Luciano, Paul Milazzo,
 Stephen Morrow, Agnes Poole, Corey Rometo,
 Frank Rometo, Helen Ryan, Sadie, Frances Salewski,
 Pam Sibley, Chris Strobl, Tommy Waterman,
 Katylynn Auer Weidel, Ann Marie Willard

PRAY FOR THOSE IN NURSING HOMES

Fr. Raymond Bagdonis, O.Carm., Rosella McKane,
 Dorothy Forni Rusch, Virginia Steinbeck, Robert Wise

THE CALENDAR - LOOKING AHEAD

Food Pantry
 Call Church Office (733-1477) for a Saturday pick-up

Sunday, December 16
 Christmas Brass Concert Fundraiser for the GMIC's
 Middletown Warming Station for the Homeless
 St. John's Lutheran Church, Middletown ~ 3 PM

Monday, December 17 ~ Advent Reconciliation
 Offered at OLMC & St. Paul's *Only* ~ 4:00-8:00 PM

Tuesday, December 18
 Religious Education ~ 6:30-8:00 PM

Saturday, December 22
 Christmas Choir Rehearsal ~ 10:00 AM

Sunday, December 23
 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal after 10:30 AM Mass

Monday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve
 9:00 AM ~ Daily Mass in the Chapel
 5:30 PM ~ Children's Mass & Christmas Pageant
 10:00 PM ~ Christmas Mass

Tuesday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day
 Christmas Mass ~ 9:00 AM



Today's Scripture

Zephaniah 2:14-18a

Philippians 4:4-7

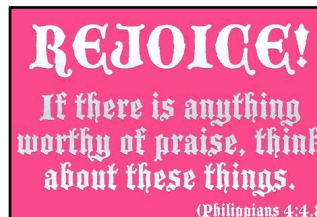
Luke 3:10-18

If God is the center of our lives, we will find joy.

Saint Paul's imprisonment and having to face the possibility of being put to death helped him to gain a clearer perspective on life and faith. He asked that we dedicate ourselves to the only things that are really important — prayer, petition, thanksgiving, and above all, joy. If God is the center of our lives, then we will find joy, no matter what happens.

Mass Attendance & Receipts

December 8 & 9, 2018
 Mass Attendance: 188 Weekend Collection: \$2,982.00



Gaudete Sunday

Why is one Advent candle not like all the others? Advent and its counterpart, Lent, are seasons of penitence. On the Advent wreath, the three purple candles mark the preparation Christians undergo while awaiting the arrival of Christ on Earth. But, unlike dour Lent, Advent is usually a happy season, full of food, parties, shopping, music and lights. In the retail world, Christmas begins right after Halloween and then kicks into overdrive on the day after Thanksgiving. Many people mirror this, barely putting away the leftover turkey before putting up every Christmas decoration they own.

This calendar is fine for secular society, but has nothing to do with the Child at the heart of the season. He won't be here until Christmas Eve. That's why it's traditional (though not required) to refrain from putting the Christ Child into a Catholic church's Nativity scene manger until the appointed moment.

So, why do we need a reminder to rejoice on the Third Sunday of Advent, called Gaudete Sunday (Latin for "rejoice") by lighting a rose-colored candle on our wreaths and having priests wear rose-colored vestments at Mass? Because the happiness that comes from fun and

friends and a full belly is not the same thing as Christian joy. *The Season of Advent is our time of preparation.*

Christmas Concert

This Sunday, December 16, at 3:00 PM, you are invited to enjoy a Christmas Brass Concert at St. John's Lutheran Church, 391 Mount Hope Rd. in Middletown. A free will offering will be taken. All monies collected will go in support of the Greater Middletown Interfaith Council's Warming Station for the Homeless in Middletown. A light reception follows the concert.

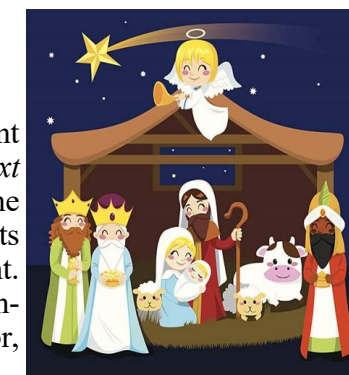


Flower Memorials

This is the last weekend we can accept Christmas Flower memorial intentions. Please use the special envelope you received in the mail. Please write your intentions clearly and place the envelope in the collection basket today at Mass.

Christmas Pageant

The only Christmas Pageant rehearsal will take place *next* Sunday, December 23 after the 10:30 Mass. All participants are asked to please be present. If you have any questions, contact our Pageant Coordinator, Mildred Pitt, at 733-4051.



Bells & Stars

Thanks to the dedication and commitment of AnnMarie Minerly and helpers, and the wonderful generosity of our parishioners, our Bells & Stars Gift-Giving Ministry provided gifts for 99 children in 33 families. It has been another special time of outreach to those less fortunate. *We are both blessed, and grateful!*

John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Luke 3:16

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BULLETIN SPONSOR of the WEEK

