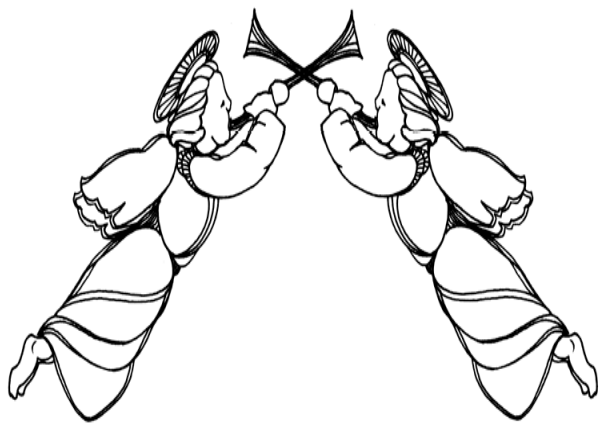


# REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS



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## MASS INTENTION

**Francisco Perez**  
**Happy Birthday**

### *St. Regina's Church Staff*

**Pastor:** Fr. ANTHONY ONYEKWE

**Secretary:** Patricia Humble

**DRE:** Christina Hammond

**Choir Director:** Susan Slattery

**Facilities Manager:** Jim Molitor

**Web Page:** [saintreginacatholicchurch.org](http://saintreginacatholicchurch.org)

**Email Address:** [saintregina@outlook.com](mailto:saintregina@outlook.com)

## Third Sunday of Advent

### December 16, 2018

**The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear.**

— Zephaniah 3:15b

### REJOICE!

Today has traditionally been called “Gaudete Sunday.” The Latin tag is derived from Paul’s appeal in the second reading to “rejoice always in the Lord,” and the Latin Mass text based on that reading. The irony and paradox of this Christian joy is underlined by the fact that Paul wrote those words in prison. But from there he could see the progress of God’s work.

Is it obvious to us? We feel that this is not the time for joy when there is so much suffering and moral evil. It is interesting, then, that the first reading is from the prophet Zephaniah, who is almost exclusively concerned with gloomy visions of Judgment Day. Today the Church selects the only optimistic text in Zephaniah, in which the prophet has been touched by the spirit of joy.

This, we are assured on all sides, is “the season of joy.” Let us recapture that feeling of joy in our lives and reflect it to those who are joyless.

### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Years ago, the trick question on religion quizzes would be to name all the liturgical colors, or the colors of the vestments worn at Mass. Rose is a color seldom seen, used at most two days a year. Today, “Gaudete Sunday,” is one of those days. The name of the day is drawn from an opening verse in the old Latin Mass texts: *Gaudete* is Latin for “Rejoice!” This year’s Gospel certainly reflects that mood as Elizabeth feels her infant within her leaping for joy at the presence of Mary. Mary’s visit to her aged cousin is an act of compassion between women, as two kinswomen who are bearing children into the world share their joy.

Some churches retain the custom of having the priest wear rose vestments today, and many will use a rose candle in the Advent wreath. Violet is the official color for Advent and Lent, but many parishes employ different hues for each season, trying to keep them distinct. In medieval times, dye was costly, and poor parishes used unornamented plain cloth for vestments. Dyes were expensive and some colors, particularly purple, difficult to achieve. In England, purple dye was made from mollusks, yielding at best a deep indigo or blue and not the desired violet. Thus, the color of Advent in the British Isles has long been a deep blue, reminding many people of Mary’s presence at the heart of the Advent mystery. That theology is largely unplanned: it’s all because of the clams!

### TODAY’S READINGS

**First Reading** — Your God will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

**Psalm** — Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12:6).

**Second Reading** — Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! (Philippians 4:4-7).

**Gospel** — Whoever who has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. Whoever who has food should do likewise (Luke 3:10-18).

### WITNESSES

Our actions are the best witnesses of our thoughts.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17;

Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19;

Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab,

16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Thursday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38

Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a;

Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19;

Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

### IMPRESSIONABLE

A child’s life is like a piece of paper on which every passerby leaves a mark.

Dec. 23rd

**Lector :** Jeff

**E M :** Maurisio/Florencia

**Ushers:** Diane/ Peach

**Server :** Ty

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent;

*Las Posadas* begins

Tuesday: International Migrants Day

Friday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins

### Remember In Prayer

Michaelle Box, Connie Galvan,  
Fr Robert Ponticello , Don Reed ,  
Emanuel Milligan, Charley Therrell,  
Leonard Humble , Louis Humble Sr.  
, Dolores Mullins , Martha Jo Neuenschwander,  
Paul Jelonek

**December 21st through December 26th:** The office will be closed.

**December 31st and January 1st:** The office will be closed.

There will be no class on December 23rd or December 30th.  
Classes will resume on January 6th.

### Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Vigil

December 24th

St Andrew at 10:00 pm

Christmas Day

December 25th

St Andrew at 9:00 am

St Regina at 11:00 am

Offering AN ACT OF WORSHIP	
12/9/2018	
BUDGET	\$1249.00
ACTUAL	807.00
	-\$442.00
Immaculate Conception	
	\$108.00
Fund for Retired Religious	
	\$126.00
Flowers	\$40.00