



Third Sunday in Advent December 15, 2024

REJOICE

The prophetic writings we hear in today's scriptures call us to rejoice and celebrate the goodness of God. Zephaniah, Isaiah, Saint Paul, and John the Baptist in Luke's Gospel all follow the rich tradition of the Biblical prophets, a tradition that reaches full expression in Jesus. The prophets warn that human failings have truly disastrous consequences. All are summoned to repent, and to change their lives. Today we hear the Good News that God's gracious love exceeds and overcomes all human corruption. God has not given up on us. Indeed, God keeps pursuing us, and eagerly seeks to reconcile with us. God's initiative to set the world aright culminates with Jesus, whose coming John the Baptist announces. John's prophetic message summons us to join in God's reconciling work, by living generously and justly in our daily lives. As we rejoice in God's grace, we then extend the fruits of this grace to all.

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!

National Collection
Villa Vianney-Retired Priest Home
December 25, 2024

Reflection question:

How am I faithfully awaiting the Lord's Nativity?

St. Regina's Church Staff

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Remember In Prayer

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Shout for joy! Sing joyfully! Be glad and exult! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

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

Second Reading — Rejoice! The Lord is near. Make your requests known to God (Philippians 4:4-7).

Gospel — John tells his hearers to share their possessions with the needy; be honest; do not threaten or accuse others falsely (Luke 3:10-18).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Num 24:2-7,15-17a; Ps 25; G Matt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Gen 49:2,8-10; Ps 72; G Matt 1:1-17

Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72; G Matt 1:18-25

Thursday: Judges 13:2-7,24-25a; Ps 71; G Luke 1:5-25

Friday: Isaiah 7:10-14; Ps 24; G Luke 1:26-38

Saturday: Song 2:8-14; Ps 33:2-3; G Luke 1:39-45

Sunday: Micah 5:1-4a; Psalm 80:2-3,15-16.18-19:
G Luke 1:39-45

No PRE class from December 23 until January 8th

The Office will be closed December 23rd through January 3rd, for the Christmas Holiday.

There is a change to the calendar
January 1st Mass will be St. Andrew at 9:00 am and St. Regina at 11:00am. It is a Holy day of obligation

12/8/2024
\$1202.00
Flowers
\$20.00

Dec 1st	1 st Sunday of Advent
Lector	Mary
Lectors for December	
Server	Jesus
Dec 4 th	Peggy
Eucharistic M	Ann C, Anita, Jim M
Dec 11 th	Cheri
Counter	Mary & Ann
Dec 18 th	Beverly

Dec 8 th	2 nd Sunday of Advent
Lector	Janet & Marina
Server	Carlos & Max
Eucharistic M	Peggy, Tom, Beverly
Counter	Tom & Beverly

DEC 9 th	Immaculate Conception
Monday	
LECTOR	Beverly
Eucharistic M	Peggy

DEC 15 th	3 RD Sunday of Advent
Lector	P eggy
Server	Jesus
Eucharistic M	Janet, Florencia, Ann F.
Counter	Mary & Ann

DEC 22 nd	4 TH Sunday of Advent
Lector	Beverly
Server	Carlos & Max
Eucharistic M	Jim, Peggy, Anita
Counter	Tom & Beverly

DEC 25	Christmas
11:00 A M	Wednesday
Lector	Mark
Server	Jesus
Eucharistic M	Ann C., Anita, Jim
-DEC 29 TH	
Lector	Mary
Server	Max
Eucharistic M	Tom, Florencia, Janet
(Counter	Tom & Beverly)