

# St. Stanislaus

*Parish Family*

**December 12, 2021**  
**3rd Sunday**  
**Of Advent**

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#### PARISH STAFF

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Sister Gloria Jean Kozlowski, Director of  
Religious Education  
Angelica Agosto, School Principal  
Dora Castellanos, School Secretary  
Heladia Rivera, Church Secretary

#### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday**

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm (by appointment)

**Office Closed:** Wednesday,  
Friday, Saturday & Sunday

#### TELEPHONE

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Convent	397-7059
School	398-1316

#### MASSES

Saturday 4:30pm

Sunday 8:30am

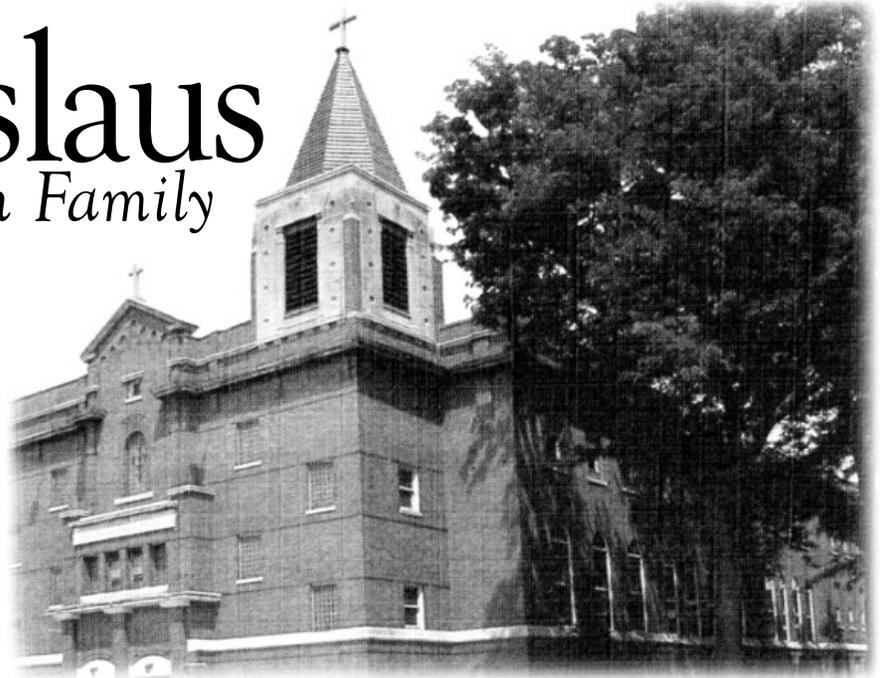
#### WEEKDAY MASSES

There are no weekday Masses or Word &  
Communion Services at this time.

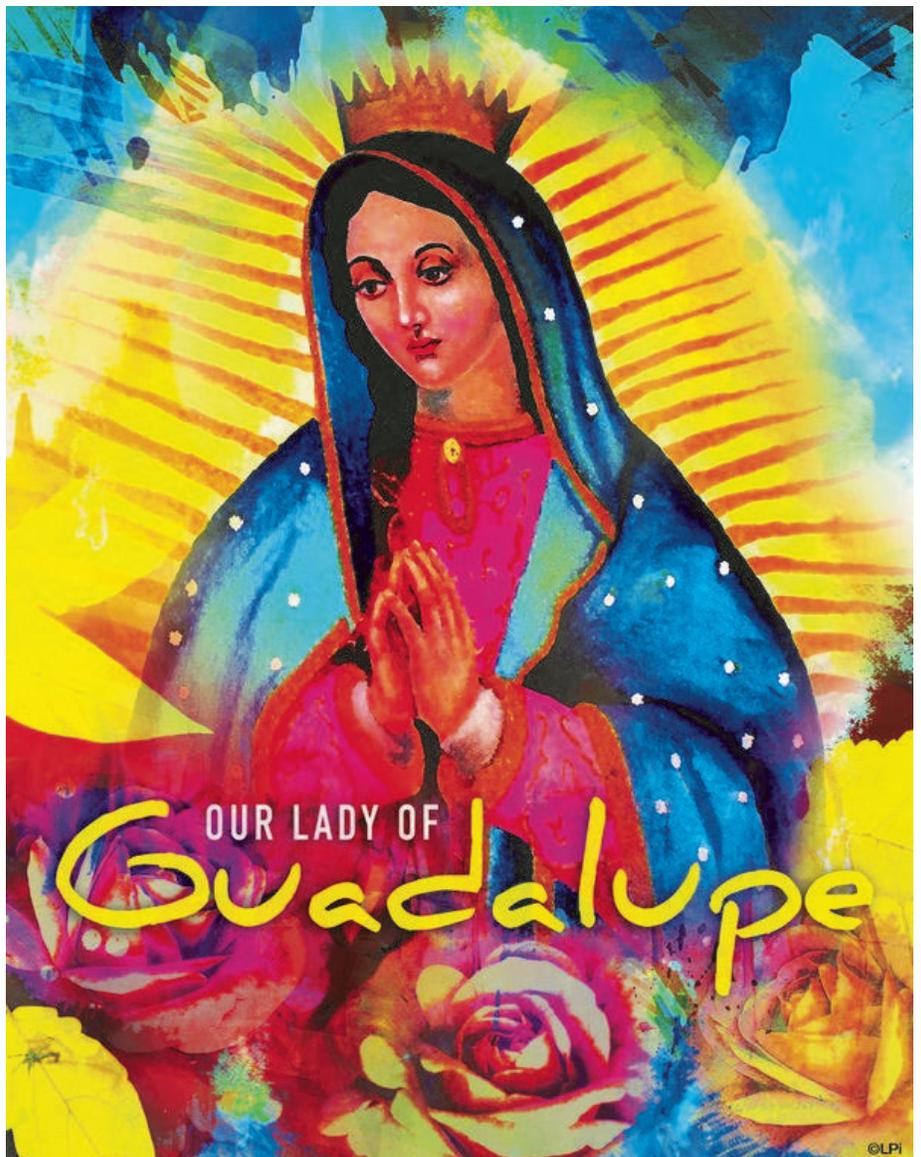
#### CONFESSIONS

Saturdays from  
4:00pm-4:15pm

and after the 4:30pm Mass.



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# Liturgical Notes for the Week

Rejoice - rejoice - again

I say REJOICE

Gathered today on this the 3rd Sunday of Advent, we see rose on our celebrant, we light the pink candle and we are very much aware that we are not looking at all this through rose-colored glasses but observing it as God envisions it. The author of Living Liturgy assure us of our given reality as our readings today on this Gaudete Sunday are filled with images of rejoicing. The prophet Zephaniah tells us to shout for joy, for the Lord is in our midst. Likewise, St. Paul insists that the Lord is near and exhorts us to rejoice in the Lord. Although it takes a more somber tone, even the gospel reading speaks of rejoicing as John the Baptist warns his followers that there is still time to turn to God before the wheat is gathered and the chaff is burned. These Advent readings emphasize an important element of discipleship: The kingdom of God is both "here" and "not yet." God is present in our lives, yet we still look for the time when God's kingdom will come to full fruition. We are never not in the presence of God, yet we know there will be a time when, wars and poverty and injustice and division will be no more. We wait in hope but must also commit ourselves to spreading the reign of God. Emmanuel, "God with us," is such a powerful reality that is far beyond what we can possibly comprehend. Even so, we can reflect on the idea that God loves us so intimately that God becomes one of us, so as to rejoice with us on this special day. The Word Among Us in its Advent edition made available in the vestibule has a great meditation for today - Read it and rejoice all the more! AND... to double your pleasure and pondering these words are shared from an unknown author and source to be an awakening source of joy ... as well as THE soul-sick alert!

It's the halfway mark of counting off the last shopping days 'till Christmas. It's the time where Advent and The reminder of Jesus' coming are somehow wrapped up into all of that. I wonder what most people think of as they make their "gift-list", as they go trudging thru the stores trying to find the right present or the one that meets their pocket-book budget. I wonder if the beauty behind gift-giving touches their hearts... I wonder if they recall that Advent is a time to wake our spirits up again to the greatest Gift any of us could ever have: the gift of Jesus in our lives. I wonder about all that, and then, I turn to my own heart and I wonder some more ...

What will I do with these last days before Christmas?  
What will I pray for in this Advent? What will I have to offer to the Lord on His day-of-birth celebration?

Christmas and the time before called Advent are ties to open our hearts and our hands - to look with new and bright eyes at the Gift that Jesus is in our lives - to look with greater intensity and honesty at the gift we are to be

for others in His name. Advent calls us to be generous to re-new the heart of our giving  
To open up ourselves  
To make the way smooth for others  
To be alert + watchful for signs of Jesus  
To be quiet + waiting for His gentle presence stirring and lighting up the darkness of our days.  
A prayer for these Advent days, these gift-searching-finding wrapping-giving-receiving days:  
*Dear Jesus, Gift of my life,  
I am waiting for You to come  
Yet, knowing You've come already so many times —  
Awaken my heart to a new understanding of You  
Of how wonderfully You've gifted my life —  
For You are like light calling forth dawn  
Like water breaking thru soil  
Like life surging thru sleep  
You are a Gift of hope in my hopelessness and frustrations  
You are a Gift of faith in my unbelieving moments and anxieties.  
You are a Gift of love in my darkness and silences.  
It is Advent. Come. Be. Gift my life. Gift my dear ones.  
Gift all unloved ones. Amen.*

## WARNING ... Advent Virus

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner HOPE, PEACE, JOY, & LOVE. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world. Some signs and symptoms of **The Advent Virus**:

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

*Please send this warning out to all your friends.*



### Scripture Reflection

**“From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!” St. Teresa of Avila**

We’ve all heard the adage, “Laughter is the best medicine.” In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters. St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, “Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace.”

Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God’s gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven’t laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God’s power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. “Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter.” (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina)



### Everyday Stewardship

Depending on how your mood is today, the words of Paul will hit you differently. “Rejoice always,” he tells us. Well, if your football team is poised to win this weekend or next, maybe you’re really feeling this vibe. But if you’ve got a long slog at work ahead of you this week and a to-do list that only seems to grow and never shrink, it may make you grumble. “Rejoice always? Always? When I’m tired? Cranky? When I’m sick of doing and giving? Thanks, Paul. I’ll be sure to scribble that phrase on a Post-It and stick it to my dashboard for when some entitled punk inevitably cuts me off on tomorrow’s morning commute.” When we feel this way, we know it’s time to head back to the well. Think of all the places in Scripture where God compares His love, His mercy, His salvation to water. And not just any water — living water, water that moves. God’s strength is not a stagnant puddle sure to evaporate and disappear. It’s water you can keep coming back to. It’s water that never dries up. Which is good news for us, because we never stop failing to do what we should, never stop failing to feel the joy and the compassion and the selflessness we are called to. We need a source of living water if we are going to ‘rejoice always.’ To be everyday stewards, we need a well that never empties. The fountain of salvation never dries up. There is always more there for us to draw from. It’s a sign of His commitment — so let us, in turn, be committed to Him.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

### Inspiration For The Week

Shout for joy! When was the last time you ever felt like doing that? Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of joy. We can never predict what life will bring. As unsettling as that can often seem, life’s unpredictability is also the very thing that allows it to be exciting and adventuresome! We know that life can be difficult, and it is unrealistic to expect it to be otherwise. God never promised an easy road. But, when a person truly falls in love with God and discovers the peacefulness and assurance of God’s presence, then a depth of understanding will be brought to everything they do and experience. Nothing will be able to rob them of joy! When we realize that God, the King of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We celebrate the beauty and wonder of God’s gift of joy today as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. There is a power and presence within us, our God, who has made us, who loves us and who will keep us. What more do we need? Rejoice!



DECEMBER 12, 2021 •  
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# CLPI MASS INTENTIONS

**Monday, December 13 - St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**

**Tuesday, December 14 - St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

**Wednesday, December 15**

**Thursday, December 16**

**Friday, December 17**

**Saturday, December 18**

4:30pm †David Martinez int. Mon, Dad, & Brothers  
 †Ben Kmiatek - Birthday int. Kmaitek Family  
 Health & God's Blessings for our Parishioners

**Sunday, December 19 - 4th Sunday of Advent**

8:30am †Casimir Radziwiecki int. Teresa Radziwiecki and Family  
 †Lupe & Trino Porras int. Lopez Family  
 †Julia Lelek int. Daniel & Carol Gonsiorowski

## Quote from Pope Francis

Mary sustains our journey toward Christmas, for she teaches us how to live this Advent Season in expectation of the Lord. For this time of Advent is a time of waiting for the Lord, who will visit us all on the feast, but also, each one, in our own hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for him!



## Why Do We Do That? Catholic Life Explained

**Question:** What is holy water and how do I explain the reason that it is placed at the entrances of churches to my non-Catholic friends?

**Answer:** Holy water is a sacramental, a reminder of the life of the Church expressed and celebrated through the sacraments. God's grace is mediated through word and gesture (the outward signs). This comes to us through Jesus (instituted by Christ) as he entrusts to the Church his saving mission (to give grace). In turn the Church, through the sacraments, shares that grace and mission with us. On Ash Wednesday, we receive ashes on our foreheads to remind us of our origins, humbly created from the dust. But by blessing ourselves with holy water, we are reminded of our destiny! We are baptized sons and daughters of God. This is also a call to conversion, to live more fully our baptismal call to live as disciples of Jesus. We see holy water whenever we renew our baptismal promises. This will occur during the Easter liturgy as well, reminding us that we are indeed on a journey of faith and renewed in Christ. Blessing ourselves with holy water reminds us that we are baptized into a community faith, and always in need of turning from sin and toward God. Holy water is a visible sign of our baptism!

## Question Of The Week

### First Reading:

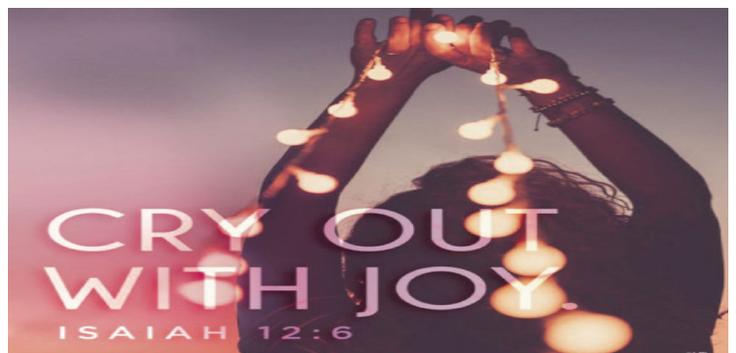
The words of the prophet Zephaniah focus on hope for a new beginning of the Lord's presence in their midst. How has the season of Advent thus far brought you spiritual renewal?

### Second Reading:

As his letter draws to a close, Paul encourages the Philippians to be a community that rejoices in the Lord. How would you rate your own spiritual happiness?

### Gospel:

John the Baptist exhorted the crowds, tax collectors, and soldiers to live a moral and other-centered life within the parameters of their day-to-day work. What would this look like for you in your current station in life?

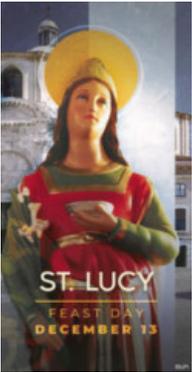


# Community Events



## Christmas Decorating

Christmas decorations will go up on Friday, December 17th at 10am. We are asking all those who have some time that day, to come over and help make the church look beautiful for this much awaited Christmas Time.



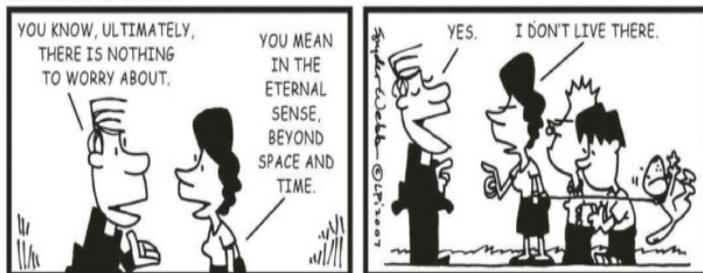
### St. Lucy Feast Day December 13

A name that means “light,” St. Lucy (283 - 304) is the patron saint of those blind or suffering with eye trouble. Not much is known about her life, except that she was determined to remain a virgin and thus refused marriage. History tells the story of a frustrated suitor who eventually accused St. Lucy of being a Christian (a crime at the time), and she was executed in Syracuse, Sicily, in the year 304.

Today, we celebrate a number of traditions that incorporate symbolic meaning of St. Lucy as the “bearer” of light in the darkness of winter. This is particularly seen in Scandinavian countries, with their long dark winters. There, a young girl dressed in a white dress and a red sash (as the symbol of martyrdom) carries palms and wears a crown or wreath of candles on her head. In Denmark, Norway and Sweden, girls dressed as Lucy carry rolls and cookies in procession as songs are sung.



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



### John Paul II's Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

O Immaculate Virgin, Mother of the true God and Mother of the Church!, who from this place reveal your clemency and your pity to all those who ask for your protection, hear the prayer that we address to you with filial trust, and present it to your Son Jesus, our sole Redeemer. Mother of Mercy, Teacher of hidden and silent sacrifice, to you, who come to meet us sinners, we dedicate on this day all our being and all our love. We also dedicate to you our life, our work, our joys, our infirmities and our sorrows. Grant peace, justice and prosperity to our peoples; for we entrust to your care all that we have and all that we are, our Lady and Mother. We wish to be entirely yours and to walk with you along the way of complete faithfulness to Jesus Christ in His Church; hold us always with your loving hand. Virgin of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas, we pray to you for all the Bishops, that they may lead the faithful along paths of intense Christian life, of love and humble service of God and souls. Contemplate this immense harvest, and intercede with the Lord that He may instill a hunger for holiness in the whole people of God, and grant abundant vocations of priests and religious, strong in the faith and zealous dispensers of God's mysteries. Grant to our homes the grace of loving and respecting life in its beginnings, with the same love with which you conceived in your womb the life of the Son of God. Blessed Virgin Mary, protect our families, so that they may always be united, and bless the upbringing of our children. Our hope, look upon us with compassion, teach us to go continually to Jesus and, if we fall, help us to rise again, to return to Him, by means of the confession of our faults and sins in the Sacrament of Penance, which gives peace to the soul. We beg you to grant us a great love for all the holy Sacraments, which are, as it were, the signs that your Son left us on earth. Thus, Most Holy Mother, with the peace of God in our conscience, with our hearts free from evil and hatred, we will be able to bring to all true joy and true peace, which come to us from your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

His Holiness John Paul II Mexico, January 1979. Visiting Her Basilica during his first foreign trip as Pope.



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