

Third Sunday of Advent

~ Masses and Intentions for the Week ~

Sunday, December 16 Rose

Third (Gaudete) Sunday of Advent, I Class

8:30 AM Sonnen family 10:30 AM Pro Populo

Monday, December 17 Violet

Advent Weekday, II Class 7:30 PM Joseph Wilson

Tuesday, December 18 Violet

Advent Weekday, II Class

12:15 PM Josh and Bridget Vedane

Wednesday, December 19 Violet

Ember Wednesday of Advent, II Class 12:15 PM Alexander Hipp

The Ember Days represent an ancient and cherished tradition of the Roman Church. Four times a year, at the change of seasons, three days of the week, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, were traditionally devoted to prayer and fasting to call down God's blessing upon the new season and on the ordinations that would traditionally take place on the Saturday. Advent has endowed the December Ember Days with their special character of expectation and preparation for Christmas, thus reducing the idea of fasting and penance to a secondary position. The Mass for Wednesday gives prominence to our Lady, by way of the prophecy of Isaias and the Gospel of the Annunciation.

Thursday, December 20 Violet

Advent Weekday, II Class 12:15 PM Sonnen family

Friday, December 21 Red

St. Thomas, Apostle, II Class Commemoration of Ember Friday of Advent

12:15 PM Josh and Bridget Vedane
 6:00 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 7:30 PM All Marriages in the Parish

St. Thomas, the Apostle who at first did not believe, has become for the Church one of the first witnesses to her Faith. She is fond of appealing to his testimony and frequently puts in our mouths at the Elevation of the Host those simple words whereby he expressed the fervor of his regained faith: *Dominus mesus et Deus meus*, "My Lord and my God." It is known that he preached the Gospel in Asia beyond the frontiers of the Roman Empire, most likely in India.

Saturday, December 22 Violet

Ember Saturday of Advent, II Class

9:00 AM Dean Neis

Sunday, December 23 Violet

Fourth Sunday of Advent, *I Class* 8:30 AM Joseph Wilson 10:30 AM Pro Populo



Season of Advent. We are in the midst of the season of Advent. Although not carrying as strictly a penitential tone as does Lent, the Church does mark this preparation period before Christmas with penitential sentiments. Liturgically, violet vestments are worn on Sundays and on weekdays that have no saint assigned, the *Gloria in excelsis* is absent, the joyful *Alleluia*, although present, is not as frequent, and the organ is subdued. All are encouraged to follow these sentiments with some suitable penance and devotions in preparation for the arrival of the Christ Child in four short weeks, perhaps an added Mass during the week, a family Advent wreath and prayers, small sacrifices that add straw to the home Manger, among other things that better serve to keep Christ in Christmas.

Beginning on December 17, the great "O Antiphons" are sung in office of Vespers, all which tell of some quality of the Infant King, finally hailing Him as *Emmanuel*, that is "God with us" on December 23.

Sunday Socials are back, at least on a limited basis. Join us today at Gardens of Salonica Restaurant at 19 5th Street NE (just down the road from the church) following the 10:30 AM Mass (until about 2:00 PM). Parking is available in the Wells Fargo lot across the street. It is hoped to have this every third Sunday of the month to start off; if it proves successful, then another Sunday could be added. It's a lovely setting and we are grateful to the restaurant owners for their hospitality.

Retirement Fund for Religious. There will be a second collection today to support the archdiocesan retirement fund for religious. Please be as generous as means allow.

First Communion Registration forms are available in the vestibule. Please fill them out and return by January 6. Please note that registration is open to registered and attending parishioners only. Classes will begin in late January and First Communion will be in May. If there is a question about a child's readiness, please contact Fr. Saguto.

Any expecting mother is encouraged to receive the special blessing. Please ask one of the priests if you have not yet received this blessing.

Direct Deposit is now available! Weekly or monthly donations and tithes can now be made via direct deposit! This can be done by clicking on the new "Online Giving" link on the parish website and creating an account to enable automatic recurring gifts; one-time gifts are also possible through this link without creating an account. The link is user-friendly and should be self-explanatory. A ConnectNow Giving app can be downloaded to the phone as an option as well.

Church of All Saints

Baptism

Within the first month of birth. The Godparents must be practicing Catholics in good standing. Please contact the office to schedule.

Marriage

Please arrange at least six months in advance of the anticipated date. Pre-Cana instruction with a priest.

Convert Instruction

On a rolling basis. Please contact the office to schedule an interview with a priest.

Exposition and Benediction

Fridays from 6:00-7:15 PM First Saturdays from 7:45-8:45 AM.

St. Joseph's Men's Guild

Second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

Monthly Recollection

Third Saturday of the month from 10:00-11:30 AM.

Choir and Schola Gregoriana

Jacob Flaherty, Director. For info call (612) 801-5467

While direct deposit is encouraged, check and cash donations are still welcome. However, the envelope system will be discontinued at the end of November. After that time, for cash donations to be credited for tax purposes, please be sure to put your name and address on the envelope that is used so it can be identified and recorded. Thank you!

Parish registration forms are available in the vestibule. Registration is encouraged as it assists the pastor to know to whom he is bound to provide pastoral care, enables him to baptize and witness marriages, as well as provide sacramental preparation for his parishioners. For this reason, and in justice and charity to the respective pastors, as well as to those who attend and sacrifice for a parish and church, an individual or family should not be

registered at two or more parishes, and should be attending their registered parish regularly. If address or status changes, please kindly inform the parish office.

Contributions May God reward your generosity.

December 9 \$7318.17

Calendar of Events

December 16 Sunday afternoon social

December 25 Christmas

December 31 New Year's Eve (Holy Hour)

January 1 Octave of Christmas (Holyday of Obligation)

January 4/5 First Friday/First Saturday January 6 Epiphany of Our Lord

A Final Thought...

When we are faced with things that we find unpleasant or consider negative, in ourselves or in our situations, there are three possible attitudes. The first is rebellion. For example, we do not accept ourselves as we are; we rebel against God who made us like this, against life that has permitted this or that event, against society and the like. True rebellion is not always negative— it may be an instinctive and necessary reaction in certain situations of desperate suffering; then it is a healthy reaction, provided that we do not remain fixated upon it. Rebellion can also be positive as the rejection of an unacceptable situation, against which one takes action, for just motives, and using legitimate and proportionate means. What we are considering here, however, is rebellion as the rejection of reality. That is often our first, spontaneous reaction to difficulty or suffering. But it has never solved anything. All this sort of rebellion does is add another wrong to an existing one. It is the source of despair, violence, and resentment. A certain type of literary romanticism champions rebelliousness, but common sense tells us that nothing great or positive has ever been built upon rebellion as a rejection of reality: it only increases and spreads the wrong it aims to remedy.

Rebellion may be followed by *resignation*. We realize we cannot change this situation, or cannot change ourselves, and end up resigning ourselves. Resignation may represent a certain degree of progress beyond rebellion, in the sense that it leads to a less aggressive and more realistic approach. But it is not enough. It may be a virtue for philosophers, but it is not a Christian virtue, since it does not include hope. Resignation is a declaration of powerlessness that goes no further. It may be a necessary stage, but if one stops there it is also sterile.

The attitude to aim for is *consent*. Compared with resignation, consent leads to a completely different interior attitude. We say yes to a reality we initially saw as negative, because we realize that something positive may arise from it. This hints at hope. We can, for example, say yes to what we are in spite of our failings, because we know God loves us; we trust that, out of our deficiencies, the Lord is capable of making splendid things. We can yes to the poorest and most disappointing raw materials, because we believe that "love is so powerful in deeds that it is able to draw good out of everything, both the good and the bad it finds in me," as St. Therese said.

The ultimate difference between resignation and consent is that with consent, even though the objective reality remains the same, the attitude of our hearts is very different. They already contain the virtues of faith, hope, and charity in embryo, so to speak. For example, consenting to the deficiencies of our own being means trusting in God, who created us as we are. That act of consent, therefore, contains faith in God, confidence towards Him, and hence also love, since trusting someone is already a way of loving him. Because of this presence of faith, hope, and charity, consent acquires great value, scope, and fruitfulness. For wherever faith, hope, and charity are, openness to God's grace, acceptance of grace, and, sooner or later, the positive effects of grace are necessarily present. Where grace is accepted, it is never in vain, but always extraordinarily fruitful.

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