

December 17, 2023 • Third Sunday of Advent



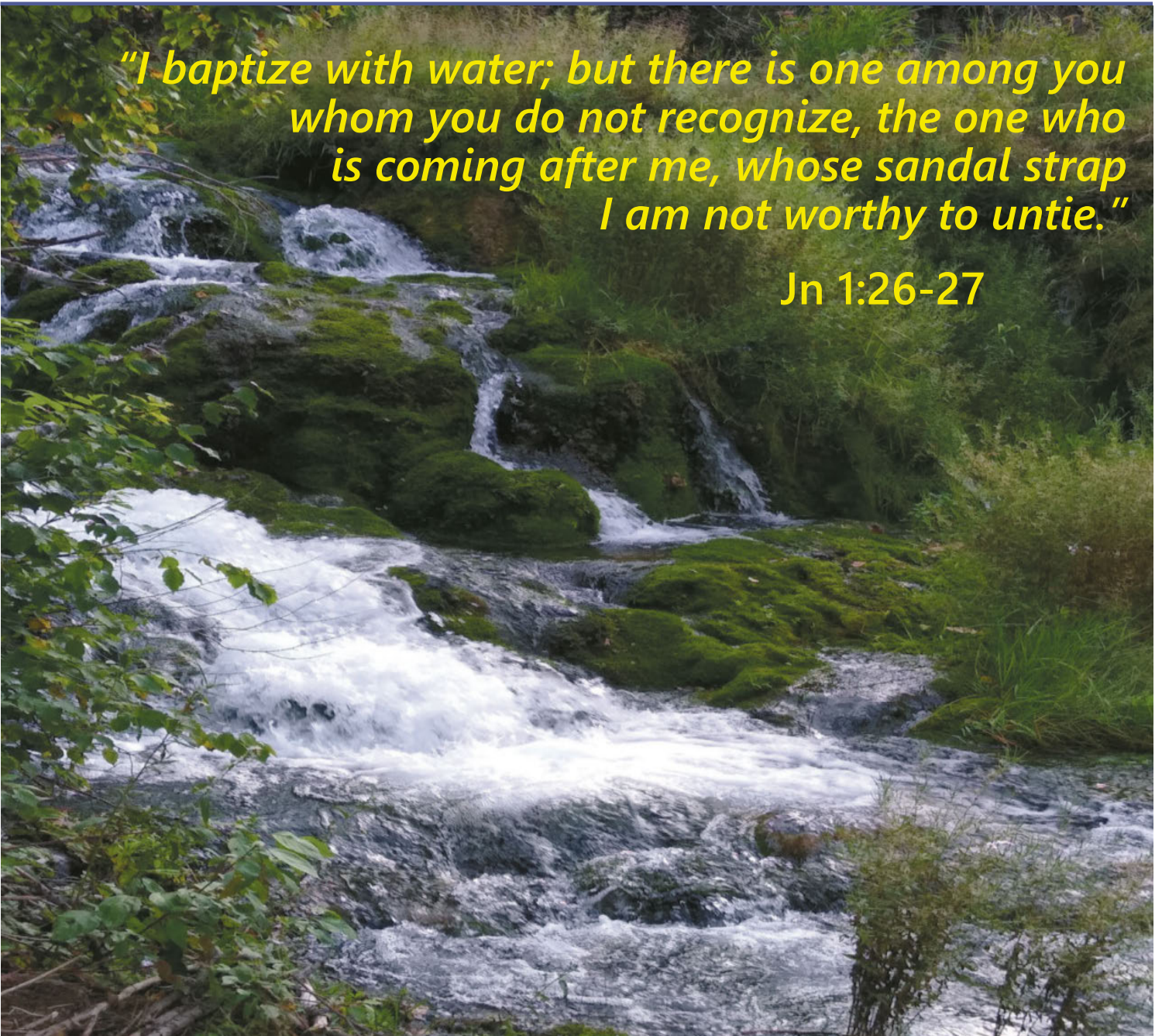
# *The Cathedral of* **SAINT JOSEPH**

521 North Duluth Avenue • Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

[www.stjosephcathedral.net](http://www.stjosephcathedral.net)

*"I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."*

**Jn 1:26-27**



## LITURGY GUIDE – December 17, 2023

### Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome to the Cathedral of St. Joseph and thank you for joining us for the celebration of Holy Mass today! **Please, silence your cell phones and refrain from eating, drinking or chewing gum in the Cathedral.** Help keep our Cathedral tidy by utilizing the waste baskets found near the main entrances.

**Please, do not take pictures during the Mass celebration.**

You are welcome to take pictures after Mass.

### INTROIT - (9:15 AND 11:00 AM THE INTROIT IS SUNG BY THE CHOIR)

*Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, Gaudete: modestia vestra nota sit omnibus hominibus: Dominus prope est. Nihil solliciti sitis, sed in omni oratione petitiones vestrae innotescant apud Deum. (Verse) Benedixisti, Domine, terram tuam: avertisti captivitatem Iacob.*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near. Do not be anxious over anything; but in all manner of prayer, let your requests be made known unto God. (Verse) Lord, you have blessed your land; you have put an end to Jacob's captivity.

### OPENING HYMN

615

### TRURO

Lift Up Your Heads

### PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

**(striking breast three times)** *through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;* Therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-2A, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God. I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

**(Refrain sung first by cantor, then congregation repeat)**



Text: Refrain trans. Lectionary for Mass. © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL; verses, New American Bible. © 1970, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. Music: Michel Cluonmont. © 1994, 1998, GIA Publications, Inc.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: **R**

The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. **R**

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy. **R**

### SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

Do not quench the Spirit.

Do not despise prophetic utterances.

Test everything; retain what is good.

Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Please Stand**

**(Sung first by cantor, then congregation repeat)**



Music: A. Gregory Murray, OSB. © 1958, The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. **R**

### GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God.

He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John.

When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?"

He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted,

"I am not the Christ."

So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?"

And he said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."



So they said to him, “Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?” He said: “I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘make straight the way of the Lord,’*” as Isaiah the prophet said.”

Some Pharisees were also sent.

They asked him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?”

John answered them, “I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.”

This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*Please Stand*

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, *(bow here)* and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**  
PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND GIFTS

**OFFERTORY HYMN (4PM & 7:30AM)**  
**554**

**ELLACOMBE**  
Hail to the Lord’s Anointed

**OFFERTORY ANTIPHON (9:15 AM)**

*Benedixisti, Domine, terram tuam:* O Lord, you have blessed your  
*avertisti captivitatem Jacob: remisisti* land, you have put an end to  
*iniquitatem plebis tuae.* Jacob’s captivity; you have  
forgiven the guilt of your people.

**OFFERTORY MOTET (11:00AM)**

Felix Mendelssohn

There Shall a Star Come out of Jacob

(1809 - 1847)

There shall a star come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel;

With might destroying princes and cities!

As bright the star of morning gleams, So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams of light and consolation. Thy Word, O Lord, Radiance darting, Truth imparting, gives salvation; Thine be praise and adoration!

**Celebrant:** Pray brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**R.** May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

**SANCTUS**

San-ctus, San-ctus, San-ctus Do-mi-nus De-us Sa-ba-oth.  
Ple-ni sunt cae-li et ter-ra glo-ri-a tu-a. Ho-san-na  
in ex-cel-sis. Be-ne-di-ctus qui ve-nit in no-mi-ne  
Do-mi-ni. Ho-san-na in ex-cel-sis.

**MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Re-sur-rec-tion un-til you come a-gain.

**AGNUS DEI**

A-gnus De-i, qui tol-lis pec-ca-ta mun-di: mi-se-re-re no-bis.  
A-gnus De-i, qui tol-lis pec-ca-ta mun-di: do-na no-bis pa-cem.

**ECCE AGNUS DEI**

**Celebrant:** Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R.** Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

### HOLY COMMUNION

All Catholics who have prepared themselves to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward. Our brothers and sisters of other faiths are invited to approach with arms crossed over the chest to signal their desire to receive a blessing.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON (4PM)

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong, and do not fear. Be -  
hold, our God will come, and he will save us.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON (9:15 AM AND 11 AM)

<i>Dicite: Pusillanimes confortamini, et nolite timere: ecce Deus noster veniet, et salvabit nos</i>	Say to the faint of heart: Be strong, and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.
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### COMMUNION MEDITATION (11:00AM) Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him Who freed us from our sins, Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God. Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; the need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

<b>HYMN OF THANKSGIVING</b> 497	<b>CREATOR ALME SIDERUM</b> Creator of the Stars of Night
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<b>CLOSING HYMN (4 PM &amp; 7:30 AM)</b> 651	<b>VENEZ, DIVIN MESSIE</b> O Come, Divine Messiah
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### RECESSIONAL (9:15 AM)

*Alma Redemptoris Mater*

*Alma redemptoris mater, quae pervia caeli porta manes, et stella maris succurre cadenti surgere qui curat populo.*  
*Tu quae genuisti, natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem.*

Nourishing mother of the Redeemer, thou who remains the open gate of heaven and the star of the sea, help the fallen people who strive to rise again.

*Virgo prius, ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore, summens illud ave, peccatorum miserere.*

Thou who gave birth, to the wonder of nature, to thy holy Creator. Virgin before and after, From Gabriel's mouth accepting that Ave, Have mercy on sinners.

### RECESSIONAL (11:00 AM)

*Ave Maria*

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

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**Risen Savior Music Ministry presents: Glorious Light of Christmas.** A Christmas Cantata with performances on:  
**December 17th** at Risen Savior Church, Brandon 5:30 pm (potluck to follow)  
**December 20th** at St. Rose of Lima Church, Garretson 7:30 pm. No admission fee. Donations are welcome.



The Adoration Sisters invite you to visit their gift shop of religious articles and gifts at **Mater Ecclesiae Monastery**. The Monastery and gift shop are located in the parking lot behind St. Joseph Cathedral. Great ideas for Christmas gifts.  
**Open Monday through Saturday 9:30am to 5:30pm.**

## The Cathedral of St. Joseph

### Join us for the Celebration of Christmas!

<p><b>Sunday</b></p> <p><b>Mass Times:</b></p> <p>Dec 23   4:00 pm (Vigil)</p> <p>Dec 24   7:30 am</p> <p>Dec 24   9:15 am</p> <p>Dec 24   11:00 am</p>	<p><b>Christmas Eve</b></p> <p><b>Mass Times:</b></p> <p>Dec 24   4:00 pm</p> <p>Dec 24   6:00 pm</p> <p>Dec 24   11:00 pm</p> <p>(Lessons &amp; Carols)</p> <p>Dec 25   12:00 am</p> <p><b>Midnight Mass</b></p>	<p><b>Christmas Day</b></p> <p><b>Mass Times:</b></p> <p>Dec 25   7:30 am</p> <p>Dec 25   9:15 am</p> <p>Dec 25   11:00 am</p> <p>Dec 25   4:00 pm</p> <p>(St. Josephine Bakhita)</p>
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# COMMUNITY NEWS



**“Transept Christmas: Little Rose”  
with Conductor, Timothy Campbell  
December 21, 2023 – 7:30 PM**

Coming for the first time to the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Transept’s beloved Christmas program

interweaves music by Lassus, Praetorius, Distler, Frank, Stopford, Weir, Mahler, and more, Transept Christmas is not to be missed! Ticket information may be found at [stjosephcathedral.net](http://stjosephcathedral.net) (under Sacred Music).

**Camp Sydney**-The Lourdes Center will be offering a Grief Camp for youth and their families at Broom Tree Retreat Center, beginning at 6:00 p.m. June 21, 2024 until 11:00 a.m. June 23, 2024. This two-day camp will include fun activities, discussion and support. The Grief Camp is offered free of charge. Please register at [www.thelourdescenter.com](http://www.thelourdescenter.com) beginning **January 15, 2024 at 8:00am**. For more information please call: **The Lourdes Center at 605-988-3775**.



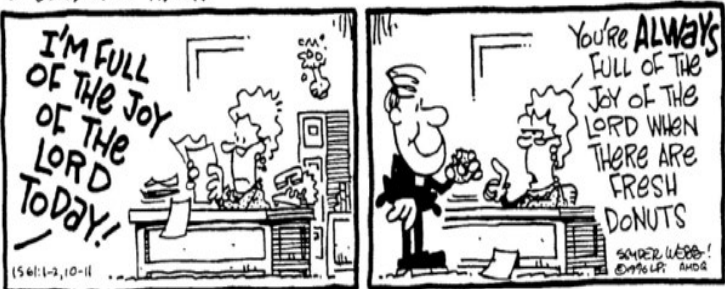
**Lessons and Carols** - Enter into the last week of Advent with a beautiful evening of prayer, Scripture readings and classic musical compositions during **“Lessons and Carols” at Holy Spirit on Sunday, December 17, at 7:00 pm**. The evening will conclude with refreshments in the lower level of the Church.

**Employment Opportunity** - Pastorate 20 (JP2, Christ the King & St. Mary) is seeking a qualified Business Manager. This is a full time, salaried position. Please send a resume and cover letter to [communication@jp2sd.org](mailto:communication@jp2sd.org) to apply or for details.

**Silent Retreats: 2024**  
**Women’s:** Feb. 1-4/Feb.29-Mar. 3/  
 Apr.18-21/July 25-28  
**Men’s:** Feb. 15-18/April 4-7  
**Day of Recollection: Retreats:**  
 Jan. 16, 2024/Feb. 13, 2024  
**Special Retreats 2024:**  
**Healing Retreat:** Feb 23 -25  
 \*Register at [www.broom-tree.org](http://www.broom-tree.org) or call 605-263-1040\*



3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Liturgical Roles



December 23/24

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

- 4:00 pm Jessie Schmidt, Jon Schmidt
- 7:30 am Sandy Lown, John Lown
- 9:15 am Rick Hazen, Bonnie Poppenga, Don Rahn
- 11:00 am Bill Earley, Bev Earley, Nancy Kadinger
- 4:00 pm Ministers as Scheduled

**Lectors**

- 4:00 pm Susan Albers, Ashley Stoltenburg
- 7:30 am Steve Mogle
- 9:15 am Kathryn Muller Jarrod Muller
- 11:00 am Bob Lux, Tess Simon
- 4:00 pm Readers as Scheduled

**Altar Servers**

- 4:00 pm Pontifical Servers
- 7:30 am Thomas Mogle, James Mogle
- 9:15 am Finnegan McManus, Dominic Hardie, Nathan Hardie
- 11:00 am Jonathan Billion, Nicholas & Andrew Simon
- 4:00 pm Servers as Scheduled

**Mini-Bus Driver**

- 4:00 pm Tom Meyer
- Dow Rummel** Diane Bauch
- Good Sam** No Service

**Readings for the week of December 17, 2023**

- Sunday:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
- Monday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
- Tuesday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
- Wednesday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
- Thursday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
- Friday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
- Saturday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
- Next Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to **Verdeen Ahrendt**, 500 Club’s third winner for December 2023. He has received a check for **\$ 95.** Anyone interested in joining will find applications at the front entrance (Duluth Ave) doors of the Cathedral. They must be received by **December 30** to be in the **January 2024** drawings. For information call Cathedral **605-336-7390**.



## Mass Intentions

<b>Mon. Dec. 18•</b>	<i>Late Advent Weekday</i>
12:00 pm	Pro Populo
<b>Tues Dec. 19•</b>	<i>Late Advent Weekday</i>
12:00 pm	✠ Louis Regner
<b>Wed. Dec. 20•</b>	<i>Late Advent Weekday</i>
12:00 pm	✠ Rosie Schafer
<b>Thu. Dec. 21•</b>	<i>St. Peter Canisius, Priest &amp;</i> <i>Doctor of the Church</i>
12:00 pm	✠ Gary Gustaf
<b>Fri. Dec. 22•</b>	<i>Late Advent Weekday</i>
12:00 pm	✠ Leo Tauke
<b>Sat. Dec. 23•</b>	<i>St. John of Kanty, Priest</i>
4:00 pm	✠ John Traynor
<b>Sun. Dec. 24•</b>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
7:30 am	Celebrant Intentions
9:15 am	Celebrant Intentions
11:00 am	Celebrant Intentions
<hr/>	
4:00 pm	<i>Christmas Eve Mass</i>
6:00 pm	<i>Christmas Eve Mass</i>
11:00 pm/12:00 am	<i>Lessons &amp; Carols followed by</i> <i>Midnight Christmas Mass</i>

## Sanctuary Candles

This week the five sanctuary candles in the Sacred Heart Chapel have been requested for the following intentions:

- 1.) Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 2.) Eucharistic Revival
- 3.) For all the Holy Souls in Purgatory
- 4.) ✠ Donald & Mabel Walter
- 5.) Ada Lux

## Cathedral Events Calendar

### Tuesday, December 19 -

- 9:00 am - Quilters Group
- 10:00 am - Women's Group

### Wednesday, December 20 -

6:45 pm - RCIA

### Thursday, December 21 -

- 7:00 pm - Adoration & Reconciliation in the  
**Sacred Heart Chapel**
- 7:30 pm - Transept Concert in the Cathedral

### Friday, December 22 -

7:00 pm - Reconciliation in the Cathedral

### Saturday, December 23 -

- 12:00 & 3:00 pm - Reconciliation in the Cathedral
- 4:00 pm - Sunday Vigil Mass
- Sunday, December 24 - 7:30, 9:15, 11:00 Sunday Masses
- Sunday, December 24 - 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm Christmas Eve (Vigil) Masses
- Monday, December 25 - Midnight, 7:30/9:15/11:00 am,  
& 4:00 pm Christmas Day Masses

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Cathedral Sunday & Christmas Mass Times are on Page 4

### Citywide Communal Penance Services:

**Sunday, December 17:** 2:00 pm - Christ the King Parish  
7:00 pm - St. Katharine Drexel Parish & St. Therese Parish

**Monday, December 18:** 7:00 pm - Holy Spirit Parish

**Tuesday, December 19:** 7:00 pm - St. Michael Parish

**Cathedral of St. Joseph** will not have a Communal Penance Service but will offer reconciliation at the following times:

**Thursday, December 21 - 7:00 pm** (with Adoration) in the Sacred Heart Chapel

**Friday, December 22 - 7:00 pm** in the main Cathedral

**Saturday, December 23 - 12:00 (noon) and 3:00 pm** - in the main Cathedral.

**Year End Reminder** - any donations/contributions that you would like to have credited for the 2023 year must be received in the Parish office by **3:00 pm - Friday, December 29th**, post marked by **Saturday, December 30th**, dropped in the collection baskets at the weekend Masses on Dec. **30 & 31** or **Online (QR Code below) by Dec. 31st**.

**Thank you** for supporting the Cathedral Parish with your regular offerings and year end contributions!

**Ministry Scheduler Update** time. Emails have been sent out. Please update your availability for the next schedule starting in January before December 22. Thank you to all who serve our parish to make our liturgies so beautiful.



### Celebrate the Lord's many blessings

this Christmas by supporting our annual Christmas appeal project that helps members of our parish family facing financial challenges. Please drop

off donations (cash or a checks made payable to "Cathedral of St. Joseph") in the weekly collection in a sealed envelope labeled "**Christmas Project**". Donations may also be mailed to: Cathedral of St. Joseph, 521 N. Duluth Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57104, Attn: Christmas Project. Please be sure your gift reaches the parish by **December 18th**. Father Morgan will distribute your gift to the families in need before Christmas. Thank you!

### WEEKLY OFFERINGS DECEMBER 9 / 10



Due to an earlier Bulletin submission deadline December 9/10 offering totals will be included in the December 24, 2023 Bulletin.

Scan QR code to be directed to our Giving Page  
*Thank you for your Support and Prayers!*

## CATHEDRAL INFORMATION

**Parish Office:** [605-336-7390](tel:605-336-7390)

**Parish Office Email:** [cathedral@sfcatholic.org](mailto:cathedral@sfcatholic.org)

**Office Hours:** 8:30am-5pm M-Th, 8:30am-3pm Friday

**Cathedral Church Hours:**

8am-5pm Monday-Saturday

7am-Noon & 3:30-5:00 Sunday

**Weekend Mass Schedule**

Saturday 4:00pm

Sunday 7:30am, 9:15am, 11:00am,

4:00pm (St. Josephine Bakhita Community)

**Weekday Masses**

Monday - Friday 12pm (Noon)

**Confessions**

Thursday 7:00pm

Saturday 12 Noon & 3:00-3:30pm in Cathedral

(In the Chapel if a Wedding is scheduled)

**Adoration**

Thursdays 7pm-8pm (In the Chapel during Confessions)

First Friday of the month at 11am in the Cathedral

**Self Guided Tours**

1:00 pm Monday-Friday (except Holy Days)

**Guided Tours-By appointment 605-336-7390**

**Parish Staff**

**Rector,** Very Rev. James P. Morgan

**Parochial Vicar,** Rev. Pasquale Armando Francesco

**Deacon,** William Radio

**Deacon,** Tim Dickes (Prison Ministry)

**Administrative Assistant,** Mary Anne Lux

**Director-Operations & Finance,** Heidi Solem

**Director-Liturgical Music,** Dr. Jared Ostermann

**Director-Faith Formation & Social Media,** Abigail Carter

**Tour Docent/Guide,** Susan Albers

**Wedding Coordinator,** Mary Enderson

**Counseling Services**

**The Lourdes Center** (Formerly Catholic Family Services)

Counseling and Grief Programs [605-988-3775](tel:605-988-3775)

**Sacraments**

**Baptism** The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated for our parishioners on Sundays after the 11AM Mass. Parents must attend a Baptism preparation meeting. To schedule preparation, contact the parish office.

**Matrimony** Six months preparation required. Registered parishioners, please contact the parish office. All others, contact the pastor of your home church. For wedding information, go to [www.stjosephcathedral.net](http://www.stjosephcathedral.net), under Sacraments.

**Anointing of the Sick**

Please call the parish office to request this Sacrament if you have been diagnosed with an illness, in preparation for surgery or in case of serious illness.

**Catholic Cemetery - St. Michael's Cemetery** [605-338-3376](tel:605-338-3376)

## CLERGY REFLECTION

### Gaudete Sunday

Advent guides us to explore what Christmas means to us personally and to discover what the greatest gift we can give to our family, friends and the world. The traditional themes of Advent allow us - through meditation, prayer, and affirmation - to contemplate ways to share our deepest gifts: hope and faith, peace, love, and joy.

A poor single mother had three kids and the kids hardly went to church because they were busy searching for their daily food. Sometimes they ate from the trash. One day their mother took them to the church and that very day a parish priest in his homily preached about the four different themes of advent season; hope, peace, joy, and love. He also talked about 'good news for the poor' so when they went back to their home the kids asked their mother "what does it mean to proclaim good news to the poor?" And said "how can they rejoice while they are suffering?" She explained everything and said "we hope in faith, we rejoice hoping that God will provide our daily bread on Christmas day" but they waited until the vigil and the kids could not see any one to help them. Finally they said to their mother "if God is not providing anything we are not going to believe him anymore." She kept telling them to have faith and hope and they will see God's caring love. They had nothing to cook and eat but early in the dawn on Christmas day a pet dog came into the kitchen with a leg of lamb. The mother saw before all and washed the meat and started cooking it, because she did not want to disappoint God. When the kids woke up they saw their mother cutting the meat and came close and asked her where did she get the meat and she replied "God provided". From that day the kids became devoted faithful and celebrated Christmas very well.

Believing in God's providence let us then, ask the Spirit to draw us beyond the glitter and even the welcome good - will of this Advent season to a deeper learning of God's ways for our own lives. 'The time' has come - the moment of opportunity. What difference will the birth of Jesus within each one of us make this Christmas, and will it be good news for the poor?

*Fr. Pasquale Armando Francesco*

### **Eucharistic Revival -**

The Eucharist is the Source and Summit of our Catholic Faith. Pope Francis has called all of us to be more alive in our faith by turning to Jesus in the Eucharist.

A very generous donor has contributed the book "**Beautiful Eucharist**" for reflection and meditation during this Eucharistic Revival Year.

**Please pick one up at the entrances.**



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