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Forward Together in Faith



Gaudete
SUNDAY

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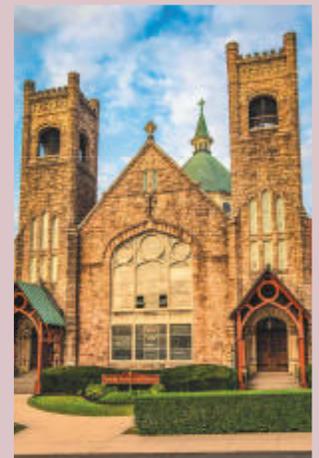
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12 December 2021 | Third Sunday of Advent

The Parish Communities of ST. JOHN NEUMANN & ST. PAUL of the CROSS

Celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe



Welcome, Bishop Bambera!

The *Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe* is being celebrated **today, December 12**. This joyous event begins with a procession at 3:30am from St. Peter's Cathedral to Nativity Church for Morning Prayers followed by Mass at 6:30am.



Our shepherd, **Bishop Joseph C. Bambera**, will celebrate Mass with our community at 1pm this afternoon, with a festival reception to follow in our school auditorium.

The schedule for today is as follows:

- 3:30am Procession from Cathedral to Nativity Church
- 6:30am Morning Mass at Nativity
- 1:00pm Pontifical Mass with Bishop Bambera
- 2:30pm Feast Day Festival in School Auditorium

About Today's Feast Day

As our parish community knows, the *Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe* is of great importance to the entire Church, and is being celebrated with great enthusiasm by our Hispanic brothers and sisters!

It marks the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1531 to Juan Diego, a poor, humble, indigenous Mexican peasant who had recently converted to the Catholic faith. These miraculous events ultimately resulted in *Our Lady of Guadalupe* being recognized as the Patroness of the Americas.

Remembering Those Never to be Forgotten

Week of December 13 - 17

- Monday, December 13** **St. Lucy**
8:00am / SPC Patricia Simrell (*Maria & David Budnick*)
- Tuesday, December 14** **St. John of the Cross**
8:00am / SPC Pauline E. Fallon (*Her Loving Children*)
- Wednesday, December 15** **Advent Weekday**
8:00am / SPC **Special Intention** (*Victoria Chokshi Family*)
- Thursday, December 16** **Advent Weekday**
8:00am / SPC Josephine Toczyłowski (*Margaret Crowther*)
7:00pm / NAT Steven Liriano (*Family*)
Mass in Spanish
- Friday, December 17** **Advent Weekday**
8:00am / SPC **Special Intention** (*Agnelly Bedoya*)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- Saturday, December 18**
4:00pm / SPC Deceased SPC Parishioners
4:30pm / NAT Bob McGoff (*Marita McGoff*)
- Sunday, December 19**
8:00am / SPC Paul & Ann Lalley (*Debby Walsh*)
8:00am / HNJ Jerry Burke (*Rose Saar*)
9:30am / NAT Harry Sawicki (*Marge & Family*)
11:00am / SPC Helen & Frank Szymansky (*Children*)
1:00pm / NAT Fasuto Gonzalez (*Joe & Barbara Sudano*)
Mass in Spanish

Weekly Offerings of Remembrance

ALTAR BREAD & WINE

donated at SPC in memory of
Louis & Juel Jimmie, Sr.
Offered by their Daughters

ALTAR BREAD & WINE

donated at NAT in memory of
Bob McGoff
Offered by Marita McGoff

SANCTUARY CANDLE

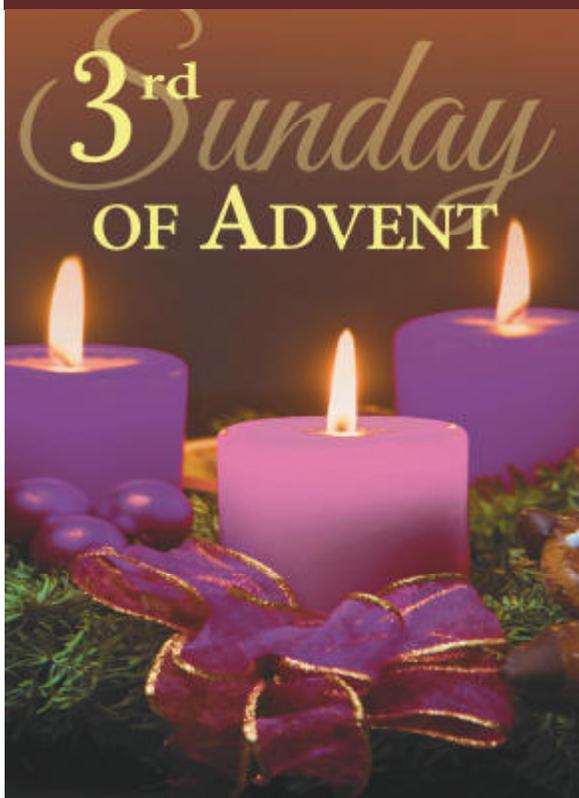
burns at SPC in memory of
Walter & Pat Pasiak
Offered by Betty Phillips & Family

SANCTUARY CANDLE

burns at NAT in memory of
John & Jule Igoe
Offered by Sean Igoe

Due to revised bulletin publishing schedules during this holiday season, the support report for the weekend of December 5th will be published in subsequent issues.

Gaudete Sunday: "Rejoice and Be Glad!"

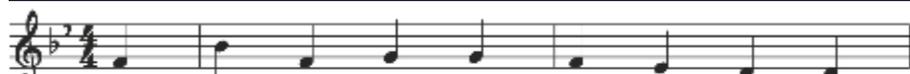


We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? Imagine a world filled with laughter, because we sometimes take life all too seriously. Fear, worry, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad of other human experiences can rob us of the joy we need. 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.

On this *Gaudete Sunday*, we celebrate today with hearts filled with joyful expectation, wonder and awe as we ready ourselves for the coming of our Savior! Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something may be preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells in your life. God's presence within us assures us that we are loved. What more is really needed? "Rejoice and be glad" in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a more credible way to show 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)

12 December 2021 | Third Sunday of Advent

Opening Hymn | On Jordan's Bank



1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An -
2. Then cleansed be ev - 'ry soul from sin; Make
3. For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, Our
4. All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee Whose



1. nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and heark - en,
2. straight the way of God with - in, Pre - pare we in our
3. ref - uge and our sure re - ward; Shine forth, and let thy
4. ad - vent set thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



1. for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2. hearts a home, Where such a might - y guest may come.
3. light re - store Our souls to heav'n - ly grace once more.
4. we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.



Christmas 2021 Mass Schedule

Friday, Christmas Eve

- 4:00pm Mass at SPC
- 4:00pm Mass at NAT
- 6:30pm Mass at NAT
in Spanish

Saturday, Christmas Day

- 9:30am Mass at NAT
- 10:00am Mass at HNJ
- 11:00am Mass at SPC

Sunday, Holy Family

- 9:30am Mass at NAT
- 11:00am Mass at SPC
- 1:00pm Mass at NAT
in Spanish

NAT: Nativity of Our Lord
SPC: St. Paul of the Cross
HNJ: Holy Name of Jesus

St. John Neumann

St. Paul of the Cross

Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has removed the judgment against you he has turned away your enemies; the King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading Philippians 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Isaiah 12



God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.

R. Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Give thanks to the Lord, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name.

R. Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Sing praise to the Lord for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

Gospel Luke 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages." Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ.

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

12 December 2021

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son,
our Lord, who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell; on the third day
He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father Almighty,
from there He will come
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the Resurrection of the body
and life everlasting.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

O Come, Divine Messiah

Verses

1. O come, di - vine Mes - si - ah; The world in
2. O Christ, whom na - tions sigh for, Whom priest and
3. You come in peace and meek - ness And low - ly

1. si - lence waits the day When hope shall sing its
2. proph - et long fore - told, Come, break the cap - tive's
3. will your cra - dle be; All clothed in hu - man

1. tri - umph And sad - ness flee a - way.
2. fet - ters, Re - deem the long - lost fold.
3. weak - ness Shall we your God - head see.

Refrain

Dear Sav - ior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dis - pel the
night and show your face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace. O
come, di vine Mes si - ah; the world in si lence waits the day when
hope shall sing its tri - umph and sad - ness flee a - way.

Reflecting on the Advent Season | Prepare for an Amazing Truth!



At Christmas, we celebrate the truth that God came into our midst and lives among us. What's even more amazing is that He will come again at our death or at the end of the world, whichever comes first. To help us prepare, the Church created the season of Advent. It is a watchful time during which we can **live intentionally**. It is a time during which we can live our lives as *intentional disciples of Christ*.

If you knew that Jesus would come for you tomorrow, how would you spend today? Chances are you would devote the day to asking and granting forgiveness, spending time with loved ones, and preparing your heart for your Savior. Try to live each day that way! Embrace graces rather than goods. The graces come along when Jesus calls for you, but the goods stay behind. *"But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?'"* (Luke 12:20).

If Jesus came for you tomorrow, you would want to be in a state of grace to go with Him. So, prepare now by getting to Mass on Sundays, going to Confession regularly, and avoiding evil and sin so that you'll be ready to greet Jesus with joy anytime. **(And just so you know, an additional opportunity to get to confession is set for this coming Saturday, Dec. 18 at 5:15pm.)**

SAN PABLO DE LA CRUZ & SAN JUAN NEUMANN

¡Avanzamos juntos en fe!

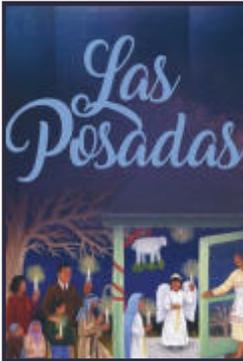


¡NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUADALUPE, RUEGA POR NOSOTROS!

La celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, que se apareció a San Juan Diego en 1531, es más importante que nunca. La aparición de Nuestra Señora a San Juan Diego en 1531 nos recuerda que la obra de Dios se realiza a través de los pobres y los humildes; que el plan de salvación del Señor se lleva a cabo a través de la humildad y la debilidad, no de la fortaleza y la violencia; y si vamos a estar con nuestro Señor, debemos volvernos pobres y débiles, porque sólo a través de la confianza en su amor, y recibiendo su gracia, el mundo puede ser sanado, y podemos recibir la nueva vida que Él nos ha prometido. ¡Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, ruega por nosotros!

¡BIENVENIDO OBISPO BAMBERA!

Damos gracias a nuestro obispo José para su presencia por la celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Es un honor tener el pastor del comunidad del Diocesis de Scranton con nosotros para celebrar la Misa. Durante mucho tiempo, el Obispo Bambara ha mostrado su cuidado y aprecio por la comunidad hispana, ¡y le agradecemos por su amoroso apoyo con nosotros hoy!



Estas invitadas a asistir en nuestra celebración de las Posadas. Celebraremos las Posadas cada noche a 6:30 PM, 16 de diciembre a 23 de diciembre, en la Iglesia Bajo. Únase a nosotros durante estos días especiales para preparar espiritualmente para la celebración del nacimiento de nuestro Señor.

LA MISA DEL SABADO

Ahora que ha llegado el invierno, hemos decidido suspender nuestra celebración de la Misa en español del sábado a las 6:30 PM. Si ha estado asistiendo a la Misa del sábado, esperamos que esto no le cause demasiados inconvenientes. Por supuesto, está invitado y animado a asistir a la Misa dominical de la 1:00 PM en español, uno de las misas en inglés, y unirse a las jueves a las 6:00 PM para la Confesión y adoración al Santísimo, y la Misa en español a las 7:00 PM.

LAS MISAS NAVIDEÑAS



Viernes, 24 de diciembre
4:00pm a San Pablo de la Cruz
4:00pm a Natividad
6:30pm a Natividad en español
Sábado, 25 de diciembre
9:30am a Natividad
10:00am a Santo Nombre
11:00am a San Pablo de la Cruz

También, tendremos nuestra misa dominical regular el 26 de diciembre a la 1:00, ¡espero verlos allí!

LA EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

Las clases educación religiosa están los domingos por la mañana en la escuela de St. John Neumann, comenzando a las 11:15 y concluyendo a las 12:30, excepto para los grados 7 (CP1) y 8 (CP2), con cada reunión en semanas alternas de 11:15 a 12:45.

Horario

12 de diciembre: **DESCANSO POR NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUADALUPE - NO HAY CLASES**
19 de diciembre: EP1, EP2, RCIC, RCIT, CP1B, Grados 3-6
26 de diciembre: **DESCANSO NAVIDEÑO - NO HAY CLASES**
2 de enero: **DESCANSO NAVIDEÑO - NO HAY CLASES**

ST. PAUL of the CROSS & ST. JOHN NEUMANN

Forward Together in Faith

“Let Us Dream!” An Advent Faith & Scripture Series



*Join us this
Tuesday with...*

Fr. Stephen Asomah
*Assistant Pastor
Our Lady of the Snows*

Join us for our ongoing series exploring the themes of **hope, vision, and courage**, as found in Advent Sunday Scripture readings. We are using Pope Francis' 2020 book, “*Let Us Dream*,” to help guide our sessions, the last of which is scheduled for:

Tuesday, Dec. 14th - Fr. Stephen

*This final session will take place at **6:30 pm**
in the Lower Level of the Nativity Rectory.*

FAITH FORMATION CLASS SCHEDULE



Our thanks to the more than 200 students joining us each week at the school at St. John Neumann:

Sunday, December 19

11:15 am - 12:30 pm
EP1, EP2, RCIC, RCIT

11:15 am—12:45 pm
CP1B, Grades 3-6

Sunday, December 26

Christmas Weekend - No Classes

Sunday, January 2

New Years Weekend - No Classes

 **Faith
FORMATION**

CHRISTMAS WAFERS!

Traditional Oplatki Christmas Wafers are available at St. Paul of the Cross Church this weekend.

A donation of \$3 per pack is greatly appreciated as we continue this wonderful holiday tradition!



Retirement Fund for Religious

Support Today's Special Collection!

The Diocese of Scranton is conducting the *Retirement Fund for Religious* collection this weekend! Proceeds help religious communities across the country to care for aging members.

Last year, the Diocese of Scranton donated \$50,029.74 to the collection. In 2021, the *Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary* received financial support made possible by the *Retirement Fund for Religious*.

Distributions are sent to each eligible order's central house and provide supplemental funding for necessities, such as medications and nursing care.

The 2020 Appeal raised \$20.7 million, and funding was distributed to 321 U.S. religious communities. Give as generously as you can to those who gave a lifetime to us all!

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