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Office hours: Mon - Thur 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., **Fri Closed**



Third Sunday of Advent



December 13, 2020



Gaudete Sunday: A Shift in Focus

ADVENT FEATURE

GAUDETE SUNDAY

The Third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete Sunday*, the day when we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath (hence the 'pink candle' Sunday). Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near. Gaudete means "rejoice". This day reminds us of the joy that is to come, and serves, amid this season of penance, as a kind of 'break' when we recall the hope we have because of the coming of Our Lord Jesus.

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What is special about the Third Sunday of Advent? For much of the Church's history, this Sunday had a special name: "*Gaudete*" Sunday. The traditions surrounding this Sunday go back as far as the fourth or fifth century, as does the season of Advent itself. Advent, our preparation for Christmas, was originally a forty-day penitential season like Lent. In fact, since it used to begin on November 12 (just after the Memorial of St. Martin of Tours), it was called "St. Martin's Lent." "*Gaudete Sunday*" was the Advent counterpart to "*Laetare Sunday*," which marks the midpoint in Lent.

On *Gaudete Sunday*, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning on the third week, the summary might be, "The

Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation. Liturgically, the colors lighten up. The priest may wear rose-colored vestments rather than the usual violet, but whether or not a parish displays this color of vestment, the church seeks to highlight the importance of joy during the season. In an age when life feels uncertain, where depression is at an all-time high and people seem to be in the most despair, this color points to a future, brighter horizon.

"*Gaudete*" translated from Latin is "Rejoice," so when the focus of our anticipation trends toward the negative and fearful, today's celebration is a heartening reminder that God who loves us is still in

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charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy.

Today's second reading, from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians, reflects this joy:

“Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”

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Our Advent journey begins with the words of the Prophet Isaiah,

“Oh House of Jacob come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!” (Is 2:5)

... and with the words of our Lord in the Gospel “Stay awake!” Advent is a time of holy longing, of joy-filled expectation of the coming our Savior ... He who was, He who is, and He who shall be. To make our time of Advent preparations fruitful, we invite you to look at these online resources to make this your best Advent ever! Together, may we walk in the light of our Lord this Advent!

The **3rd Sunday of Advent** is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of the Advent season.

The third candle symbolizes JOY. It is also known as the “Shepherd’s Candle,” and is “rosy” because, of course, that’s the liturgical color for joy.

“Be the Light” Prayer Intentions

In these dark and difficult times – we are called to be the light and hope for others by lighting a devotional candle for an end to struggles and difficulties and for all the loved ones that have been lost with this pandemic.

- For yourself — light a candle for personal intentions or in gratitude for blessings received.
- For others — for their intentions and wellbeing and all we have promised to pray for.
- For the Holy Souls in Purgatory and loved ones who have passed from this life.

Intenciones de oración “Sé la luz”

En estos tiempos oscuros y difíciles – estamos llamados a ser la luz y la esperanza para los demás al encender una vela devocional para el fin de las luchas y las dificultades y para todos los seres queridos que se han perdido con esta pandemia.

- Por ti mismo, enciende una vela por las intenciones personales o en gratitud por las bendiciones recibidas.
- Por los demás, por sus intenciones y bienestar y todo por lo que hemos prometido orar.
- Para las Almas Santas en el Purgatorio y los seres queridos que han pasado de esta vida.

Pastoral Corner

by Fr. John

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally referred to as Gaudete Sunday. The word "*gaudete*" is Latin for "rejoice" and our readings this Sunday express and radiate this joy. True joy is the deep satisfaction experienced whenever we come into possession of something good. Such joy cannot be bought nor is it found in anything apart from God.

From the beginning, God placed in our hearts a longing for a joy that will never disappear. This joy is rooted in our desire to be known and loved completely, unconditionally and eternally, by another. Joy is the result of knowing that God is always with us, knows us thoroughly, and loves us infinitely. Keeping that awareness fresh in our minds and hearts keeps our joy strong, even when life's trials seem to be overwhelming.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we must always give a joyful witness. In the Second Reading, St. Paul teaches us how to keep this joy from alive: "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks." Each morning, we should wake up with a grateful heart and if this is our practice, we will spread joy to others. According to Pope Francis, St. Paul "indicates the conditions for being 'missionaries of joy': praying constantly, always giving thanks to God, giving way to his Spirit, seeking the good and avoiding evil." If this becomes our lifestyle, then the Good News will be able to enter so many homes and help people and families to rediscover that in Jesus lies salvation. In Him it is possible to find interior peace and the strength to face different life situations every day, even the heaviest and most difficult. No one has ever heard of a sad saint with a mournful face. This is unheard of! It would be a contradiction. The Christian's heart is filled with peace because he knows how to place his joy in the Lord even when going through the difficult moments in life. To have faith does not mean to never have difficult moments but to have the strength to face those moments knowing that we are not alone. And this is the peace that God gives to his children.

What we celebrate this Sunday is the joy that comes from the *closeness of God*, from his *presence* in our life. From the moment Jesus entered into history, with his birth in Bethlehem, Jesus has come to bring joy to all people for all time. ■

Rincón pastoral

por el P. Juan

El tercer domingo de Adviento se conoce tradicionalmente como domingo de Gaudete. La palabra "*gaudete*" es latín para "alegría" y nuestras lecturas de este domingo expresan e irradian esta alegría. La verdadera alegría es la profunda satisfacción que experimenta cada vez que entramos en posesión de algo bueno. Tal gozo no se puede comprar ni se encuentra en nada aparte de Dios.

Desde el principio, Dios puso en nuestros corazones un anhelo de un gozo que nunca desaparecerá. Este gozo está arraigado en nuestro deseo de ser conocido y amado completamente, incondicional y eternamente, por otro. La alegría es el resultado de saber que Dios siempre está con nosotros, nos conoce a fondo y nos ama infinitamente. Mantener esa conciencia fresca en nuestra mente y en nuestro corazón mantiene nuestra alegría fuerte, incluso cuando las pruebas de la vida parecen ser abrumadoras.

Como discípulos de Jesucristo, siempre debemos dar un testimonio gozoso. En la segunda lectura, San Pablo nos enseña cómo evitar que viva esta alegría: "Alegraos siempre. Oren sin cesar. En todas las circunstancias dar gracias." Cada mañana, debemos despertar con un corazón agradecido y si esta es nuestra práctica, difundiremos gozo a los demás. Según el Papa Francisco, San Pablo "indica las condiciones para ser 'misioneros de la alegría': orar constantemente, dar siempre gracias a Dios, dar paso a su Espíritu, buscar el bien y evitar el mal." Si esto se convierte en nuestro estilo de vida, entonces la Buena Nueva será capaz de entrar en tantos hogares y ayudar a

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las personas y familias a redescubrir que en Jesús yace la salvación. En Él es posible encontrar la paz interior y la fuerza para afrontar diferentes situaciones de vida cada día, incluso las más pesadas y difíciles. Nadie ha oído hablar de un santo triste con un rostro triste. ¡Esto es inaudito! Sería una contradicción. El corazón del cristiano está lleno de paz porque sabe poner su alegría en el Señor incluso cuando pasa por los momentos difíciles de la vida. Tener fe no significa nunca tener momentos difíciles, sino tener la fuerza para afrontar esos momentos sabiendo que no estamos solos. Y esta es la paz que Dios da a sus hijos.

Lo que celebramos este domingo es la alegría que proviene de la *cercanía de Dios, desu presencia* en nuestra vida. Desde el momento en que Jesús entró en la historia, con su nacimiento en Belén, Jesús ha venido a llevar alegría a todas las personas para siempre. ■

Decorating for Christmas

Would you like to help us make our church beautiful for Christmas? Please consider donating an 8-foot Christmas tree and/or red poinsettias. For more information about how to donate, please call the parish office.



CHRISTMAS MASS UPDATE

As you probably already know, we were recently allowed to increase our capacity to 100 people in the church and 50 people each in the Saalfeld Room and the Cafeteria. This will allow us to accommodate up to 200 at a time at all our Masses.

As of the printing of this bulletin, most of our six Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses still have plenty of room for you and your family to attend. If you have not yet reserved your spots, visit sjbmilwaukie.flocknote.com to sign up.

The **4 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve**, which has always been our most popular, is already full. If you are signed up for this Mass, please be aware that this is our **Christmas Family Mass**, so preferential seating inside the church will be given to families with young children, regardless of prior Mass attendance at St. John the Baptist. Persons with mobility issues will also be seated in the church. Everyone else will be immediately directed to the Saalfeld Room or the Cafeteria.

If you are signed up for the 4pm Mass on Christmas Eve but you do not want to be directed immediately to the Saalfeld Room or the Cafeteria, we invite you to attend one of the other Masses, at which the church will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. You can change your Flocknote reservation using the link in your confirmation email. Please call the office if you need assistance.



Year End Giving

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone for your 2020 support of St. John the Baptist Church and School. As you look to the year ahead, we ask that you prayerfully consider a year-end gift to St. John the Baptist. The Covid-19 crisis had forced us to rethink our budget and cut down on expenses. To sustain our ministries as we move forward, we need your support. With your prayers and financial support, we are confident we will come out stronger than ever before. Thank you for your support this past year.

God Bless and Reward you!



What's Happening?

◆ Sun. Dec 13:

- **3rd Sunday of Advent**
- 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Adoration, Church
- 5:00 p.m. – Boys Scouts/Girls Troop

◆ Thur. Dec 17:

- 6:00 p.m. – Legion of Mary, Jordan Rm

◆ Fri. Dec 18:

- 9:00 a.m. – **School Mass, 6th Grade**
- **School on Christmas Vacation after today.**

◆ Sat. Dec 19:

- 9:00 a.m. – St. Vincent de Paul
Packing Christmas Boxes, Cafeteria

◆ Sun, Dec 20:

- 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Adoration, Church
- 5:00 p.m. – Boys Scouts/Girls Troop

◆ Thur. Dec 24: **Christmas Eve**

- **Office Closes at 12 Noon**
- 4:00 p.m – Family Mass
- 8:00 p.m. – En español
- 10:00 p.m. - Mass

◆ Fri. Dec. 25: **Christmas Day**

- 7:30 a.m. – Mass
- 9:30 a.m - Mass
- 12:00 p.m. – Mass



◆ Sun. Dec 27:

- 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Adoration, Church
- 5:00 p.m. – Boys Scouts/Girls Troop

◆ Mon. Dec 28 – Wed Dec 30: **Parish Office Closed**

Thank you for all your continued support with the bottles and cans that are placed in the blue recycling bags in the back of the church. So far this year from January 1st to December 1st we have raised over **\$4500.00** Please continue to bring in those full blue bags.



Pro-Life Defending the Unborn

Place:

Planned Parenthood in Milwaukee:
14411 SE McLoughlin Blvd, Oregon City

Time:

Each Wednesday - 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Several of us are going to this event after our 8:30 a.m. Mass each Wednesday. If you are not able to attend and pray with us at this time, please contact John Johnson and he will schedule an additional time for you.

"If my people humble themselves and pray, and seek my face and turn from their evil ways, I will hear them from heaven and pardon their sins and heal their land." 2

Chron 7:14

For more information please contact:

John Johnson, 503 312-6143

Johnson1324@comcast.net



St. Vincent de Paul Giving Tree

Christmas is fast approaching, and with it the annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas Food Box event. We've had to pare the event down quite a bit this year due to the ongoing pandemic, but we are still looking forward to delivering food boxes, or bags in this case, to 60 selected families on Saturday, December 19, 2020.

If you would like to participate in this event by helping us make the deliveries, please call Gary Myers, 503-866-4791, for additional information and to be put on the schedule.

Our Giving Tree is now up in the church lobby. We are asking for *monetary donations* only this year, to be pooled together for the purchase of Fred Meyer gift certificates for each of the 60 families receiving the Christmas food bags. If you would like to contribute to the Giving Tree gift certificate fund, please drop off your contribution at the parish office, or you can mail them as well. Each contributor will have an angel hung on the Giving Tree with their name on it. Please indicate on your check that it's for the Giving Tree fund.

Thank you for all for your ongoing generous support. Vincentian volunteers are committed to the ministry of serving the poor and needy in our community, but we can't do it without YOU!

And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." Mat. 25:40

Merry Christmas and God bless you!

Colleen Watson

Conf. President

Ph: 503-473-1349

Email: colleengrace@comcast.net



Advent Confession Schedule 2020

South Portland Vicariate

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Milwaukie

Tuesdays and Thursdays of Advent:
6:00PM - 6:45PM (English & Español)

Saturdays: 2:30PM - 3:30PM
(English and Español)

Christ the King Catholic Church Milwaukie

Tuesdays: 5:00PM - 5:45PM

Saturdays: 3:30PM - 5:00PM

First Saturdays: After the 8:30AM
(Mass until finished)

St. John the Apostle Oregon City

Every Wednesday in Advent
6:00PM - 7:00PM (or until
finished)

Saturdays: 3:30PM - 4:30PM
(English only)

En Español: December 19th
5:00PM (or until finished)

St. Philip Benizi Redland

Tuesdays: 7:00PM - 8:00PM

Saturdays: 4:00PM - 5:00PM



*Kathy Saylor ♥ Mike Braun ♥
Harold Eckman ♥ Tam An Tran*

*Please contact the office if you, or
someone you know needs our
prayers!
parishoffice@sjbatholicchurch.org*

SANCTUARY CANDLE OFFERINGS

December 13th – December 20th

*In memory of
Linda Robertson,
Jane Mehrens & Tristan
From The Haugen Family*

Sat. / Sab. Dec 12:	8:30 a.m. – For all YLI Members - YLI
	4:00 p.m. – Jain Mary Simethy – Maureen Rodrigues
	7:00 p.m. – All babies that have been taken through abortion – John & Caroline Johnson
Sun. / Dom. Dec 13:	7:30 a.m. – † Jim Murphy – Michele & Dennis Murphy
	9:30 a.m. – † Lou & Beulah Casale – Casale Farm
	12:00 noon - People of St. John the Baptist
Mon. / Lun. Dec 14:	NO MASS
Tues. / Mar. Dec 15:	8:30 a.m. – Maxine Rodrigues - Maureen Rodrigues
	7:00 p.m. – † Sara Mae Puffer – Erine & Marie Spada
Wed. / Mie. Dec 16:	8:30 a.m. – Sick & Dying – The Brauns
Thur. / Jueves Dec 17:	8:30 a.m. – † John White – Marie Clark – Bassett
	7:00 p.m. – † Hong V. Nguyen
Fri. / Vie. Dec 18:	8:30 a.m. – † John White – Marie Clark – Bassett
Sat. / Sab. Dec 19:	8:30 a.m. – † Lou & Beulah Casale – Casale Farm
	4:00 p.m. – † Udo Cunitz – Lee Nolet
Sun. / Dom. Dec 20:	7:30 a.m. – Theodore Issac Murphy – Michele & Dennis Murphy's grandson that he continues to thrive. Born 13 weeks prematurely
	9:30 a.m. – † Lou & Beulah Casale – Casale Farm
	12:00 noon - People of St. John the Baptist



Our Staff

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Rudy Lopez, Music Ministry Coordinator
rudyl@ocp.org



Mass Schedule
Tue-Sat: 8:30 a.m. English
Tues. & Thurs.
7:00 p.m. En español
Sat: 4:00 p.m. Vigil
Sunday: 7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.
12:00 p.m. En español

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday - 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Sabado - 2:30-3:30 p.m.

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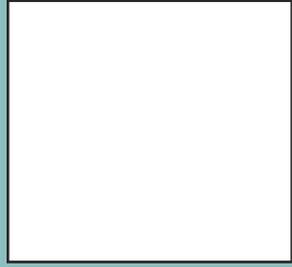
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