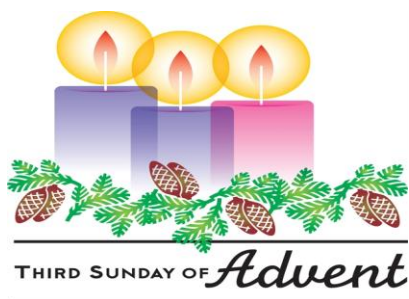


THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Rejoicing amidst the Darkness

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." These are the words proclaimed in the entrance antiphon of Mass for Gaudete Sunday this week. It urges us to constantly rejoice in the Lord, and as good stewards of Christ, we should always strive to live lives inundated with the joy that flows from the Lord.

To do this, we must understand the difference between joy and happiness, for the Lord never promised us happiness. Instead, He says, "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete" (John 15:11). Happiness is a result of our good circumstances, because we feel good, or we had something positive happen to us, etc. Joy on the other hand goes much deeper. Henri Nouwen describes it as 'the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing – sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death – can take that love away.'

So, joy is the ability to remain happy due to our awareness of being beloved sons and daughters of God even amidst the trials of our life. Henri Nouwen further describes joy as a choice we must make every day. How often in our difficult lives do we take solace and rejoice in our identities of being beloved children of God? This Gaudete Sunday let us strive to be more intentionally joyful, and to pray to Christ for strength, for He says, "Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete" (John 16:24)

Ring Christmas Bells!!!!

The Children's Liturgy Team is preparing the children to sing Christmas Carols on Sunday, December 21 during the 10am and 12 noon mass. The team is encouraging all children to participate in this event, by attending either the 10 am or 12 noon mass Children's Liturgy gathering.
Come and Sing!

Parents and Guardians please note December 21 will be the last Children's Liturgy session for 2025. We will resume Children's Liturgy on Sunday, January 11, 2026 at 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.



Advent Confessions-Wednesday, December 17th

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Christmas Eve-Wednesday, December 24th
5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm and 12:00 midnight

Christmas Day-Thursday, December 25th
10:00am and 12:00 noon

Friday, December 26th
Morning Mass at 9:00 am

New Year's Eve-Wednesday, December 31st
6:00pm

New Year's Day-Thursday, January 1st
10:00am 12:00 noon

Friday, January 2nd
First Friday - Morning Mass at 8:30 am



BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL & PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOURS

Please note the Parish Office will be opened on December 24 and 31st until 12 noon.
Closed on December 25th, 26th and January 1st.

***There will be no 8:30 am mass on December 24th & 31st ***

Blessed Sacrament Chapel will be closed from December 24th to December 26th and December 31st to January 1st inclusive.

From Monday, December 22nd to and including Friday, January 2nd the church and office will be closed at 4pm.

There will be **no evening** hours for Church, Chapel and Office. Regular hours will resume on Monday, January 5th, 2026.



Tax Receipts

To be eligible for tax receipts for donations made in the year 2025 the deadline is
Sunday, December 28, 2025.

Tax receipts will be prepared and ready for pick up at the end of February 2026. Please let the parish office know if you prefer to have your receipt mailed to you.

Please Pray For All The Sick

Lenny Naluz, Felix Pires, Annie Hurley, Miyanna Figueroa, Mariana Weglinski, and Aissa Aro.

And we pray for those whose death anniversaries occur about this time that they may live in glory forever with God and all the Saints.



Masses For The Week

8:30 am **Monday, December 15**

For the repose of the soul of Ben Batara;

Requested by the Taylo Family

For the repose of the soul of Marie De Souza;

Requested by the De Souza Family

For the repose of the souls of Twistleton and Yolanda Bertrand;

Requested by the Children

8:30 am **Tuesday, December 16**

For the repose of the soul of Lawrence Sylianco;

Requested the Family

Thanksgiving and Special Intentions;

Requested by the MacDonald Family

8:30 am **Wednesday, December 17**

For the repose of the soul of Maxima Busel;

Requested by the Family

Special Intentions and Healing for John Marco;

Requested by the Family

8:30 am **Thursday, December 18**

For the repose of the soul of Michael Romano;

Requested by the Mai Family

8:30 am **Friday, December 19**

For the repose of the soul of Rosie Valenzuela;

Requested by Jessie & Dereck

For the repose of the soul of Domenico Fatigati;

Requested by the Family

60th Wedding Anniversary Blessings and Special Intentions for Johnny & Nanette Cruz;

Requested by the Family

9:00 am **Saturday, December 20**

For the repose of the soul of Stan Noronha;

Requested by Phila Noronha

For the repose of the soul of Jose Fernando Serrao;

Requested by the Family

Special Intentions for the Fernandez Family;

Requested by the Family

5:00 pm

For the repose of the soul of Robert Lopez;

Requested by Bernadette Lopez

For the repose of the souls of Ruperto Halili and Cecilia Anzures-Riddle;

Requested by the Sychangco Family

For the repose of the souls of John & Annie D'Sa;

Requested by the Family

8:00 am **Sunday, December 21**

For the repose of the souls of Alex & Bienvenido Yap;

Requested by the Family

For the repose of the soul of Siluvai Pitchai;

Requested by Thomas & Family

For the repose of the souls of S.A. & Savariammas Moses;

Requested by Moses & Fernandez Family

10:00 am

For the Intentions of the Parishioners.

12:00 pm - Multiple Intentions

+ **Juliet Rebello**

+ **Lourenco Tavares**

+ **Carlos Amaral & Jose Francisco**

+ **Maria Manna**

+ **Kim Hoang Phan**

+ **All Souls in Purgatory**

PARISH ACTIVITIES

THIS WEEK

Monday, December 15

7:00 pm

Knights of Columbus General Meeting – Carmel Hall

Tuesday, December 16

7:00 pm

Beginners Line Dancing – Carmel Hall

7:00 pm

RCIA – Assisi Room

7:00 pm

Rise Choir Practice - Church

Wednesday, December 17

7:00 pm

Advent Reconciliation - Church

Thursday, December 18

7:30 pm

Choir Practice – Church

Friday, December 19

6:00 pm

God's Family Choir Practice – Assisi Room

7:00 pm

Line Dancing – Carmel Hall

Catholic Women's League News.....

Sale of the Christmas Angels will continue this weekend December 13 & 14 in the Church Lobby.

2026 Donation Envelope Boxes

Please stop by the parish office and pick up your donation box. They are arranged in numerical order, therefore knowing your number would be a great help to office staff.



Thank you to everyone who generously donated to:

Weekly Total: \$6,986.70