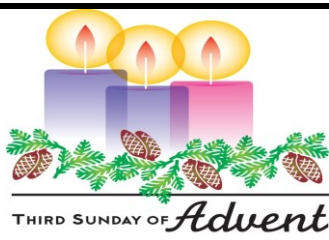


## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



### **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.*

*In order 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)*

### **JOIN US!!!**

The Prayer Group invites you to join them for  
Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction  
on Wednesday, December 17, 2024

Praise and worship begin at 7:30pm followed by Exposition /  
Benediction.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

### **Ring Christmas Bells!!!!**

The Children's Liturgy Team is preparing the children to sing Christmas Carols on Sunday, December 22 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 22 will be the last Children's Liturgy session for 2024. We will resume Children's Liturgy on Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.



### **Advent Confessions-Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

**Christmas Eve-Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm and 12:00 midnight

**Christmas Day-Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

10:00am and 12:00 noon

**Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

Morning Mass at 9:00 am

**Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**

Morning Mass at 8:30 am

**New Year's Eve-Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**

6:00pm

**New Year's Day-Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**

10:00am 12:00 noon

**Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Morning Mass at 8:30 am



### **BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL & PARISH OFFICE** **CHRISTMAS HOURS**

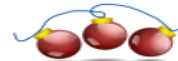
Please note the Parish Office will be opened on  
December 24 and 31<sup>st</sup> until 12 noon.

Closed on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>  
and January 1<sup>st</sup>.

\*\*\*There will be no 8:00 am mass on  
December 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> \*\*\*

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

From December 23<sup>rd</sup> through to January 3<sup>rd</sup> the church, office  
will be closed at 4pm. There are no evening hours for Church,  
Chapel and Office. Regular hours will resume on January 6<sup>th</sup>,



### **Tax Receipts**

To be eligible for tax receipts for donations made in the 2024  
year the deadline is Sunday, December 29, 2024.



Thank you to everyone who generously donated to  
Last week's offering. Weekly Total: \$6,444.90

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024



Felix Pires, Annie Hurley, Miyanna Figueroa, Mariana Weglinski, Aissa Aro, Julius Rodrigues, and Jorge Vasques  
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 16

**Special Intentions for Thanksgiving for Blessings;**

*Requested by the Sequeira Family*

**For the repose of the soul of Michelina Zammit;**

*Requested by St. Martin's Secondary School Community*

**For the repose of the soul of Anthony Fernandes;**

*Requested by Carlton Bowen and Family*

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

**Special Intentions and 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday Blessings for Plementine**

**Reginord;**

*Requested by the Family*

**Thanksgiving and Special Intentions;**

*Requested by Flavie Maala*

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

**For the repose of the souls of Benita & Emelia Ayson;**

*Requested by Nida Ayson*

**For the repose of the soul of Eduardo Reyes Estacio;**

*Requested by Marci*

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

**For the repose of the soul of Carolina Vicente;**

*Requested by the Family*

**For the repose of the soul of Rosie Valenzuela;**

*Requested by Jessie & Derrick*

**8:30 am** Friday, December 20

**For the repose of the soul of Jose Fernando Serrao;**

*Requested by the Family*

**Special Intentions and Healing for John Marco;**

*Requested by the Family*

**Special Intentions for Dari Paul;**

*Requested by the Family*

**9:00 am** Saturday, December 21

**For the repose of the soul of Siluvai Pitchai;**

*Requested by Thomas and Family*

**For the repose of the soul of Virginia Hipolito;**

*Requested by the Family*

**Special Intentions and Birthday Blessings for Joseph Weber;**

*Requested by Mom and Family*

**5:00 pm**

**For the repose of the soul of Siegmund, George and Henry Grasso;**

*Requested by Marthese and Kimberly*

**For the repose of the soul of Bismarck Lobo;**

*Requested by the Lobo Family*

**For the repose of the soul of Antony Mendez;**

*Requested by Carmen Mendez*

**8:00 am**

**Sunday, December 22**

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

*Requested by the Yap Family*

**For the repose of the soul of Anna Mariana D'Sa;**

*Requested by the Family*

**For the repose of the soul of Lawson Sylianco;**

*Requested by the Notario Family*

**10:00 am**

**For the Intentions of the Parishioners.**

**12:00 pm - Multiple Intentions**

+ **Ruperto Halili & Celia Anzures-Riddle**

+ **Shanta De Abreu**

+ **Isagani Hortillo**

+ **Kazimierz Kokosza**

+ **Selliah Daniel**

+ **Ivan D'Souza**

## PARISH ACTIVITIES

**THIS WEEK**

**Monday, December 16**

7:00 pm Knights of Columbus Christmas – Carmel Hall  
Beginners Line Dancing Cancelled

**Tuesday, December 17**

10:00 am St. John XXIII School Advent Mass – School  
7:00 pm RCIA – Assisi Room  
7:00 pm Rise Young Adult Choir – Assisi Room  
7:30 pm Adoration and Benediction - Church

**Wednesday, December 18**

9:30 am Decorating Church – Altar Guild  
7:00 pm Parish Advent Confessions – Church and Carmel Hall

**Thursday, December 19**

7:30 pm Choir Practice – Church

**Friday, December 20**

6:00 pm Children's Choir Practice - Church  
6:00 pm God's Family Choir Practice – Assisi Room  
7:00 pm Advanced Line Dancing – Carmel Hall

**Saturday, December 21**

No Activities

**Sunday, December 22**

10:00 am Children's Liturgy Singing after Communion  
10:30 am RCIA – Padua Room  
12:00 pm Children's Liturgy Singing after Communion