



CELEBRATE THE LORD'S DAY MASSES:

LITURGY SCHEDULE
December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 14 at St. John's
 9:30a.m...Mary Patton

Tuesday, December 15
 0:00a.m...No Mass

Wednesday, December 16, at St. John's
 12:00noon...Charlie Montgomery

Thursday, December 17, at St. Mary's
 5:30p.m...Cheryle Meyer

Friday, December 18, at Holy Family
 9:00a.m...Michael Atkinson & Connie Atkinson

Saturday, December 19, at St. Mary's
 5:00p.m...Phillip Crouch

Sunday, December 20
 9:00a.m...Parishioners of St. Mary's, St. John's and Holy Family at St. John's
 11:00a.m...Mark Matney at Holy Family

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.” This is the opening antiphon for our Masses this weekend. We light our rose candle, and I will be wearing a rose vestment as we move from simply waiting for the Lord's coming to rejoicing that the Lord is near. That is why we call this Sunday Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word to rejoice, and while there might seem to be little to rejoice about of late, I hope that with the coming of the Christmas season we can start to look forward to the new possibilities that this coming year can bring to our parish families. That part of our work as Christians in this world is to announce the Gospel of the Lord, and that Gospel includes great hope and joy.

As one the great Church Fathers, St. Leo the Great once preached, “There is no proper place for sadness, when we keep the birthday of the Life, which destroys the fear of mortality and brings to us the joy of promised eternity. No one is kept from sharing in this happiness.” That no matter what the world may throw at us this year or last, nothing can stop us from receiving the great joy of our Savior's birth from reaching our hearts other than ourselves. I hope and pray that even as the days grow shorter, we can rejoice that the light of Christ does not diminish but grows brighter as we approach the manger of our newborn king. Let us prepare our hearts for His coming and share the joy of His birth with all that we meet in this new year.

In Christ, Fr. Hurley

SAINTS OF THE SEASON

How can we imitate a saint during Advent? Each week there will be a question(s) for us to consider as we strive to grow in faith like the saints.

- What can I do to make sure children are safe?**
- What can I do to make sure elderly are safe?**
- How can I spend more time in prayer and learn more about God during Advent? About Mary?**

NEW MISSALETTES FOR NEW CHURCH YEAR

Our new missalettes are here for St. John's and St. Mary's. You are welcome to take a missalette home with you, but keep it as we are still not able to distribute these at church. There is a box at each church entrance.

ADVENT PRAYER:

Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

HOLYDAY & HOLIDAY MASSES:

Christmas Mass Schedule is as follows:

- Christmas Eve 5pm at St. Mary's
- Christmas Eve 8pm at St. John's
- Christmas Day 9am at Holy Family

Solemnity of Mary, January 1, is a holyday of obligation with Mass schedules as follows:

- Vigil, Thursday, Dec. 31, 5pm at St. Mary's
- 7pm at St. John's

Holyday, Friday, Jan. 1, 10am at Holy Family

Join us as we give thanks and praise and celebrate each of these special days.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

- Dec. 14: [St. John of the Cross, priest & doctor of the Church] Nm 24: 2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21: 23-27*
- Dec. 15: Zep 3: 1-2, 9-13; Mt 21: 28-32*
- Dec. 16: Is 45: 6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Lk 7: 18b-23*
- Dec. 17: Gn 49: 2, 8-10; Mt 1: 1-17*
- Dec. 18: Jer 23: 5-8; Mt 1: 18-25*
- Dec. 19: Jgs 13: 2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1: 5-25*
- Dec. 20: [Fourth Sunday of Advent] 2 Sm 7:: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16: 25-27; Lk 1: 26-38*

PRAYER CHAIN: To have someone prayed for or be one of those doing the praying, please contact Janice Jackson at 348-1521 or the office at 348-3889 or 674-2605.

Please pray for all those parishioners and their families dealing with illness.

WEEKLY CALENDAR:

- Wednesday, Dec. 16:* Reconciliation 6-7pm at St. John's
- Thursday, Dec. 17:* Adoration & Reconciliation 5-5:25pm at St. Mary's
- Sunday, Dec. 20:* Fourth Sunday of Advent RCIA 10-10:50am at Holy Family

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS:

IS 61:1-2A, 10-11; LK 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 THES 5:16-24; JN 1:6-8, 19-28

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. “Gaudete” is a Latin word, meaning “rejoice.” The Christian steward should be characterized by a spirit of rejoicing.

Our First Reading, from Isaiah, expresses a fitting motto for us. “I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul.” It



is God Who is the source of our joy and contentment—not things or achievements or comfort, but our relationship with God.

This is why stewards can share so freely of their time, talents and material possessions — because ultimately, we are not attached to these things. We recognize them as good gifts from our loving Father, but we are attached to the Giver of the gifts, not the gifts themselves. This allows for great freedom in life and the capacity for great joy in the Lord.

We can become like John the Baptist, in today's Gospel passage from the Book of John. We read this description of the prophet: “He came for testimony, to testify to the light... He was not the light but came to testify to the light.” This is our calling too — to testify to the Light, our wonderful Savior — by the way we make use of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to our care.

When God Himself is the source of our joy, it cannot be taken away from us. There is still time, this Advent season, to clear away any “clutter” in our lives that may take our focus away from Him. Let us strive to detach from any of these things so that we can be free to truly rejoice in God on Christmas Day.

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

FOR DECEMBER:

For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

If you have not yet made a pledge to the Catholic Ministries Appeal (formerly Fruitful Harvest), we need your help! By giving to the Catholic Ministries Appeal, you are helping to support programs for our retired priests as well as new seminarians, for our youth, college Newman Centers, deacons, prison ministry, pregnancy centers, as well as ministries, administration, technology, human resources, worship, communication, and so much more here and throughout our diocese.

Holy Family is at 47% of their required goal, St. Mary's is at 39%, with St. John's only at 23% of the required goal as of the end of November.

Thank you for your stewardship of God's gifts.

The St. Mary's Altar-Rosary Christmas gathering scheduled for Dec 14 has been cancelled due to Covid 19.

PRAY THE ROSARY

As our new liturgical year begins with Advent, let us pray the rosary for spiritual healing and hope and trust in the Lord.

The rosary is prayed each Sunday at 4pm with Divine Chaplet and each Wednesday at 4pm with recitation of 15 decades at Holy Family.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

St. Mary's

Sunday Collection: \$1,092.00

Flowers: \$152.00

Needed Weekly: \$887.87

St. John's

Sunday Collection: \$2,576.00

Haiti: \$20.00

Building: \$260.00

Food Pantry: \$35.00

Flower Fund: \$161.00

Needed Weekly: \$3,225.23

Holy Family

Sunday Collection: \$1,960.00

Sharing Cupboard: \$32.00

Campaign for Human Development: \$30.00

Needed Weekly: \$2,238.00

All of the people in today's readings – the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist– seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

There will be additional reconciliation times during Advent with penance services not available this year.

Fr. Hurley will have extra reconciliation time this Wednesday evening from 6-7pm, December 16, along with the weekly regular times.

Please, especially this year, make use of this sacrament and receive Jesus' healing graces through confession, penance and forgiveness.

Weekly Reconciliation times:

Each Thursday 5-5:25pm at St. Mary's

Each Saturday 3-4pm at St. John's

Each Friday 8:30-8:55am and Sunday 12noon-1pm at Holy Family

The above listed times are tentative end times as Fr. Hurley will stay past the end time listed until all confessions are completed.

ST. JOHN'S ADVENT JESSE TREE

We ask everyone to take as many tags from the Advent Jesse tree as you like. Please return the tags with the items unwrapped and place under the tree. Everything we collect will be taken to the head nurse at the BJSHS to be distributed to all the public schools in our county. Please see the full list in the November newsletter. Thank you for making this ministry possible.

Holy Family is collecting toiletries for the Twin City Christmas We Care families. Please, choose a tag(s) off the Angel tree located in the Narthex and bring the unwrapped items back to Holy Family by Sunday, December 13. Thank you!

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:

Find information about our three parishes on the web at www.stmaryjohn.org. Mass times, adoration, and confession schedules are listed. Bulletins, newsletters, calendars are under the "About" tab. The Catholic Moment, Vatican news and Advent Reflections by Bishop Barron are also available as you scroll down on the home page.

We also now have online giving set up under "Donate". You can pick the parish and for what the donation should be applied.

(The web address will change once a pastorate name has been decided and approved by the diocese.)



Third Sunday of Advent

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Contact the parish office about preparation.

The sacrament is normally celebrated with the community during Mass. May God continue to bless you and your new little one.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are available by appointment as well as:

St. Mary, 5-5:30pm each Thursday

St. John, 3-4:00pm each Saturday

Holy Family, 12noon-1pm each Sunday; 8:30-8:55am each Friday.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage. Please contact the parish office to begin the preparation at least six months in advance.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Generally, Fr. Hurley is available after Mass for anointing, or you may contact the parish office to arrange a time.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Sessions for children and youth (grades K-12) are available on Sunday morning. Contact the parish office for details.

St. Mary, Dunkirk

St. John the Evangelist, Hartford City

Holy Family, Gas City

A Pastorate of

The Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

Pastor, Fr. Kevin Hurley

PARISH OFFICES

Office e-mail: DHolsten@dol-in.org

Fr. Hurley's email: fr.khurley@dol-in.org

St. Mary, Dunkirk

P.O. Box 286, Dunkirk, IN 47336

Parish Office: 765-348-3889

Church Basement: 765-768-1283

St. John the Evangelist, Hartford City

213 S. Spring St., Hartford City, IN 47348

Parish Office: 765-348-3889

Fax: 765-348-4399

Holy Family, Gas City

325 E North A St, Gas City, IN 46933

Parish Office: 765-674-2605

PARISH REGISTRATION

Visitors are always welcome. Residents are invited to join the community by calling the parish office.

RCIA

People interested in knowing about the Catholic faith and way of life meet each week. Contact the parish office for information