

Third Sunday of Advent – December 15, 2019

We just heard the word "joy", in one form another, 6 times. Do you think God is trying to tell us something? We have put away our dark vestments today; we have traded our purple and midnight blue vestments for rose vestments.

Do you think the Church is trying to tell us something? The dark night in which the world waited helplessly, or its Savior is coming to an end; Christmas is drawing closer; Christ will soon be born. Christ himself is the sun that lights up the dark night sky, and he is drawing near; the horizon is beginning to glow with a pale, rose-colored light. The rose vestments are a visual echo of the words of the First Reading, which called us to rejoice. Today is "Gaudete" [g-ow-DEH-tay] Sunday, the Sunday of Rejoicing.

But isn't this a naïve, childish thing to do in today's world? After all, the world is still flooded with sin. Every day the news reports about death in Iraq, violence in the Middle East, genocide in Africa, natural disasters in Asia and South America. Everyday thousands of babies are killed by abortion, innocent women and children are sold into slavery on the black market, people who seem to have everything plunge into despair and commit suicide. Isn't it selfish and foolish to rejoice in the middle of such a suffering world?

Not at all. We do not rejoice because we believe Jesus came to bring heaven down to earth. Rather, we rejoice because we know that Jesus came to open a path from earth into heaven. The joy of the Christian is the joy of a hope guaranteed by God himself. This is true joy, the joy of hope, and Christ is its source.

To transform the world, God chose a humble young girl from a village in Galilee, Mary of Nazareth, and challenged her with this greeting: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you." In these words, lies the secret of an authentic Christmas. God repeats them to the Church, to each one of us: Rejoice, the Lord is close! With Mary's help, let us offer ourselves with humility and courage so that the world may accept Christ, who is the source of true joy.

Pope Emeritus Benedict the 16th



Our Lady of Bethesda priest and volunteers for a wonderful Youth Day for Nativity kids. Everyone left with toys after enjoying a full day of games and prayer. Thanks to Nativity Staff, Ortaciana Allen, Cristina Gonzalez and Olivier Diogo for their time and efforts to make this day a joyful one.

Senior Advocacy. For their kind donation of \$113 as they closed their ministry. Remember that you are always in our prayers.

Worldwide the Novena of Christmas begins Dec. 16th ending on Christmas Eve the 24th. Like the Apostles praying 9 days for the Holy Spirit to come after the Ascension, Christians everywhere can enter deeply into expectation and confident faith and joy that the Christ Child is coming, and we can ask him to be born anew in us and certainly for special intentions. Many South American countries devotedly celebrate this Novena with visit to parishes, Shrines, and partially installed Manger Scenes without the Baby Jesus present. Oh, Come Emmanuel! Novena prayers will be offered this year at Daily Masses here. Info at: www.ewtn.com/devotionals/novena/christmas.htm



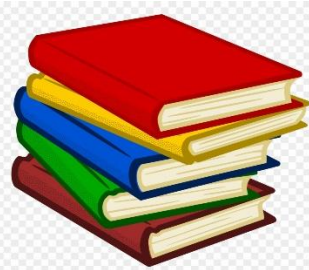
Would you like to make a family in need happy and fulfilled this Christmas? If you answered yes, please participate in the Giving Tree! Beginning December 8, 2019, there will be ornaments hung on the Christmas tree with suggested categories of needed items. If you are able, please feel free to take an ornament, buy the item, and place it under tree. Be sure that the item is in an open gift bag. **No gift wraps please!! No used items!! Only new items please!!** On December 22, 2019 will be the day of distribution of the gifts. Gifts will be distributed after the 10 am and 1pm masses Thank you so much for your contributions!

Mass Intentions

December 14- 21, 2019

Sat. 12/14	8:00 am	Maria Myers
	4:30 pm	Sick & homebound parishioners
Sun. 12/15	8:00am	People of the Parish
	10:00am	+Catherine & Henri Dieng
	1:00pm	Morales family (thanksgiving)
Mon. 12/16	12:00	Christmas Novena's intentions
Tue. 12/17	12:00	Christmas Novena's intentions
Wed. 12/18	12:00	+Deacon Marion Evans
Thu. 12/19	12:00...	No mass
Fri. 12/20	12:00	Christmas Novena's intentions
Sat. 12/21	8:00 am	Christmas Novena's intentions
	4:30 pm	Christmas Novena's intentions

Please pray for the sick and home-bound of our Parish:



December is National Literacy Month. The Pastor recommends *The National Catholic Register - daily and weekly news*; *The God of Jesus Christ by Cardinal Kasper (advanced)*; *Your Life is Worth Living* by Bishop Fulton Sheen (High School

level); *The weight of a Mass A tale of Faith* by Josephine Nobisso (for children)

Campus Matters:

Heating in the Church Thank you to M&G company who came so promptly to fix the heating system last week on Dec 7th. The repairs cost \$2450.00

Offices: Catholic Mutual Insurance & Serve Pro are working with the parish to fix damages due to flooding in the offices in November. Damages to the 2nd and 3rd floor are being addressed. Repairs will be covered by insurance, but the parish will pay \$1250 in fees.

Property Repairs: Our insurance company and the ADW are requiring repairs to the front walkway of the Church and to the Shelter. We have received \$2,000 for repairs from a family in Dallas. Estimates for the Shelter are \$15,000. Estimates for the Church walkway and steps are underway.

Catholic Daughters. Our Lady of the Americas, Court 2344, will meet on Sunday, December 15. All Catholic Daughters are encouraged to arrive promptly at 7:30 am. After Litany and Mass, the CDA Court will meet in the Lounge for regular meeting.

Christmas Donations. All donations and offerings received on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day or marked as such are "donations" not collections and are exempt from all Archdiocesan taxes and assessments. Thank you for your generosity to your beloved parish home of Nativity.



Music! Sunday, **December 15** 730pm - Advent Lessons & Carols, the Cathedral of St. Matthew continues its annual tradition of choral music, Gregorian chants, hymns & carols interwoven with proclamations of the Word of God. This year, the *Schola Cantorum* and the St.

Matthew's Festival Singers join 7 of our finest Cathedral lector/voices in joyful anticipation of the coming Messiah. After the music all are invited to the Great Hall for Christmas caroling, Christmas sweets, eggnog and wassail. **The evening is free and open to the public.** For those who are able, a suggested donation of \$20 is requested. (please note this not the Sunday Mass.) **METRO:** Farragut North or Dupont Circle South. A gem of the Archdiocese & our Cathedral Home, the Cathedral is also considered a "National Treasure" of great music, art and architecture. St. Matthew is the seat of the Archbishop and where the funeral Mass of President John F. Kennedy was held; Pope Francis addressed the US Bishops at St. Matthews during his Apostolic Visit to the USA. His first in his life. For more on St. Matthews visit <https://www.stmatthewscathedral.org/>



Christmas Masses at Nativity

Christmas Eve - Tuesday, 24 December

*5:00pm Children's Mass

*Midnight Mass

Christmas Day - Wednesday, 25 December

*10:00 AM