

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Years ago, the trick question on religion quizzes would be to name all the liturgical colors, or the colors of the vestments worn at Mass. Rose is a color seldom seen, used at most two days a year. Today, "Gaudete Sunday," is one of those days. The name of the day is drawn from an opening verse in the old Latin Mass texts: *Gaudete* is Latin for "Rejoice!" This year's Gospel certainly reflects that mood as Elizabeth feels her infant within her leaping for joy at the presence of Mary. Mary's visit to her aged cousin is an act of compassion between women, as two kinswomen who are bearing children into the world share their joy.

Some churches retain the custom of having the priest wear rose vestments today, and many will use a rose candle in the Advent wreath. Violet is the official color for Advent and Lent, but many parishes employ different hues for each season, trying to keep them distinct. In medieval times, dye was costly, and poor parishes used unornamented plain cloth for vestments. Dyes were expensive and some colors, particularly purple, difficult to achieve. In England, purple dye was made from mollusks, yielding at best a deep indigo or blue and not the desired violet. Thus, the color of Advent in the British Isles has long been a deep blue, reminding many people of Mary's presence at the heart of the Advent mystery. That theology is largely unplanned: it's all because of the clams!

The 2019 collection envelopes are in the back of church for this weekend. These are in alphabetical order from left to right as you enter Church. If you do not use envelopes, but would like to begin contributing with an envelopes, please call the office.

Breakfast with Santa is this Sunday. It is being sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, beginning at 8:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Kids of all ages (and those of you who are young at heart) are invited to visit with Santa and have a delicious breakfast. There is no charge for this event.

**Please join us in celebrating
the Christmas Season with**

**St. John's Parish School of Religion Christmas Program
Wednesday, December 19, 2018, 6:30 p.m.**

Jonathan Hall

**Refreshments following
Family, friends, and parishioners welcome.**

REVELATION: THE KINGDOM YET TO COME

BY JEFF CAVINS AND THOMAS SMITH

Back by popular demand in case you missed it, Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come is an intriguing study that shows how the kingdom established by Christ in his Church is intimately connected with the kingdom of heaven. Here you will discover what the mysterious figures and images of Revelation mean. You will see how Revelation is more than an apocalyptic vision of the "end times." It is a revelation of God as our Divine Bridegroom and the Church as his spotless Bride, forever united in a heavenly, holy, and mystical marriage that we enter into every time we celebrate the Mass. (11, 50-minute videos plus discussion)

WHEN Starting Monday, January 14th
for 11 weekly sessions at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Jonathan Hall, Library

Participant Book, **\$27.00**, includes session overviews, engaging study questions, responses to the questions, and talk notes. If you have any questions, please call George Hemelt at 504-391-6512.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve – Monday, Dec. 24

Vigil of Christmas, 4:30 p.m. in Jonathan Hall
9:00 p.m. in Church

Christmas Day – Tuesday, Dec. 25

Nativity of the Lord
9:00 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Holy Day Of Obligation

Tuesday, Jan. 1st, - 9:00 a.m.

Monday, Dec. 31st, 4:30 p.m. - Vigil Mass

**Fr. Peter Hammett will celebrate the Holy Day
Mass schedule.**

**Fr. Vincent will be away from Mon., Dec. 31st through Wed,
Dec. 2nd. Deacon Jay will have Communion services for the
8:00 a.m. Masses on those days.**

**The office will close on Thurs., Dec. 20th
through Tues., Dec. 25th. We will reopen on
Wed., Dec. 26th.**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETINGS ARE THE SECOND THURSDAY OF
MONTH AT 7:30 P.M. IN ODILO HALL

FIRST SATURDAY MASS AT 8:00 A.M. EVERY MONTH

CATCH FIRE YOUTH GROUP MEETS THE FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAY OF
EVERY MONTH FROM 6 – 7:30 P.M. IN ODILO HALL.

MARY, ADULT BIBLE STUDY, THURS. OR FRI. IN LIBRARY AT 9 A.M. PSR
CLASSES, K-8 GRADE, 6:15 – 7:30 P.M.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES EVERY SUNDAY, NOON UNTIL 1:15 IN
LIBRARY

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Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2018

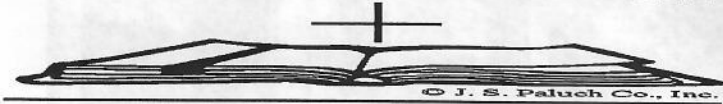
The King of Israel, the LORD,
 is in your midst,
 you have no further misfortune to fear.
 — *Zephaniah 3:15b*

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REJOICE!

Today has traditionally been called "Gaudete Sunday." The Latin tag is derived from Paul's appeal in the second reading to "rejoice always in the Lord," and the Latin Mass text based on that reading. The irony and paradox of this Christian joy is underlined by the fact that Paul wrote those words in prison. But from there he could see the progress of God's work.

Is it obvious to us? We feel that this is not the time for joy when there is so much suffering and moral evil. It is interesting, then, that the first reading is from the prophet Zephaniah, who is almost exclusively concerned with gloomy visions of Judgment Day. Today the Church selects the only optimistic text in Zephaniah, in which the prophet has been touched by the spirit of joy. This, we are assured on all sides, is "the season of joy." Let us recapture that feeling of joy in our lives and reflect it to those who are joyless.

Mass Intentions



Sat., Dec. 15, 4:30 p.m. Henry McNamara, Dennis McCloskey, Sidney Huval and Family, Thomas Pitre, Karge Family (L), Nick Sita, Ruth Olson (L), Ricky Sterner, Ballard Family (L), Bob Kerry, Gene Vizzini (L), Linda Chandler (L), Bob Chandler (L)

Sun., Dec. 16, 7:30 a.m. Carol Pieri

Sun., Dec. 16, 9:15 a.m. Dolores Reiser, Gregory Santos, Mary Theresa Knapper (L), Mary Jane Mehaffey, Joseph LeBlanc, Jean F. Segura, Ashton Neubig, Bill Zimmermann (L), Ruth Christie (L)

Sun., Dec. 16, 11:00 a.m. Parishioners

Mon., Dec. 17, 8:00 a.m. Margaret Mary Mule'

Tues., Dec. 18 NO MASS

Wed., Dec. 19, 8:00 a.m. Dolores Reiser

Thurs., Dec. 20, 8:00 a.m. Nick Sita

Fri., Dec. 21, 8:00 a.m. Ivy Doucet

Sat., Dec. 22, 4:30 p.m. Henry McNamara, Dennis McCloskey, Sidney Huval and Family, Thomas Pitre, Karge Family (L), Ruth Olson (L), Ricky Sterner, Linda Chandler (L), Dee Nash (L), Chris Kyle, Bob Kerry

Sun., Dec. 23, 7:30 a.m. Parishioners

Sun., Dec. 23, 9:15 a.m. Carol Pieri

Sun., Dec. 23, 11:00 a.m. Lullabelle Doucet, Brown Family (L), Joseph Chan, Raymond Cucciu Jr., Louella Smith, Joseph Legnon, Nassar Family, Rick Sterner, Bob Kerry, Ruth Christie (L)

PRAYER LIST

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Helen Lafleur | Rosalind Baham |
| Ashlie Cox | Louise Cashmere |
| Max Jones | Ethel Istre |
| Rudy Huval | Rhonda Taylor |
| Sophie LeBlanc | Rolland Golden |
| Joseph LeBlanc | Ruthi Olson |
| Freddie Addotto | Pam Addotto |
| Carolyn Pierre | Ruth Christie |

Weekly Collections
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| Envelopes | \$ 2,867.00 |
| Loose | \$2,055.00 |
| Building and Preservation Fund | \$354.00 |
| Coll. for Immaculate Conception | \$ 989.00 |
| 2 nd Coll. for Retirement Fund for Rel. | \$ 1,662.12 |

THE CANDLES BURN IN HONOR OF:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Sanctuary:</i> | Steve Berger |
| <i>Blessed Mother</i> | Leonard Wilfert |
| <i>St. Joseph</i> | Carol Pieri |
| <i>St. Ann</i> | Shane Berger |

If you would like to honor your intention by burning a 7 day candle please call 796-3806.

SANCTUARY FLORALS

The flowers at the Altar
 in memory of

Joyce Arcement

Bob Kerry who entered peacefully into eternal rest. **Whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.** [John 11:26]



Question of the week!

Knowing that God is in our midst, how can I answer the question from the Gospel: What should I do?

We are making a plea to parishioners for help with insulation issues that have plagued the underneath of our Church. Critters have torn and eaten threw the plastic mesh and pulled the insulation down. We are in need of volunteers that can crawl under the Church or recommendations for someone in the area that can help with this. We cannot get treated for termites until this issue is taken care of. If you can help, please call the office at 796-3806.

Beginning in January, the Parish School of Religion is in need of a 6th grade teacher. If you would like to volunteer please call Theresa Wilfert at 778-548.