

**FOCUS:**

***Our Lord sustains us in joyful hope.***

The past two Sundays, our church was adorned in violet for Advent. Today, it is in rose for *Gaudete* Sunday. *Gaudete* means "rejoice," and rose is a bright and beautiful color of rejoicing for this third Sunday of Advent, since we are more than halfway through our journey to Christmas.

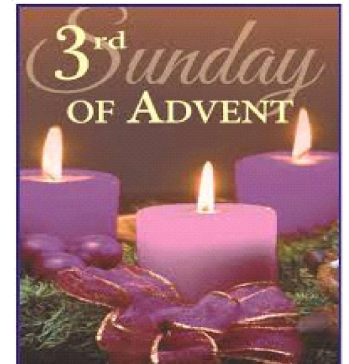
But, did we not get the memo? Because it seems Christmas has already come. Outside of church there is no violet and rose, but red and green. There is Christmas music on the radio and Christmas specials on the screen. Our homes and communities are decorated. Stores have been decked out for Christmas for weeks. The rejoicing has begun. So, why *Gaudete* Sunday now?

First, *Gaudete* Sunday affirms the *value* of rejoicing. Isaiah, in the first reading, rejoices heartily in the Lord, who is the joy of his soul. In the responsorial, we acclaim together with Mary: *My soul rejoices in my God*. In the second reading, Paul encourages the Thessalonians to *rejoice always and do not quench the Spirit*. The rejoicing we are experiencing and sharing with others is a good and holy thing. We can enjoy these times, and give thanks for the gift of family and friends.

Second, *Gaudete* Sunday gives us *reasons* for rejoicing. Isaiah rejoices as he brings glad tidings of God's vindication for his people. Mary rejoices in the fulfillment of God's promise to send a Messiah. John the Baptist cries out in the desert because the Lord is on his way. Paul rejoices as God prepares his people for the return of the risen Lord. Through Isaiah, Mary, John, and Paul, God gives hope to his people waiting for redemption. Given this hope, they can wait with rejoicing. We are God's people today, waiting with rejoicing in what God has already accomplished and will yet accomplish through Christ. The hope God gives prepares our hearts and makes straight the way for Christ.

Finally, *Gaudete* Sunday means that Advent waiting is joyful, hopeful waiting, for Christmas and more. Often, the day after Christmas, the music on the radio stops, the decorations in the streets and stores come down, and the trees get thrown to the curb. Post-holiday clean-up and blues begin. But for the Church, the rejoicing goes on. Our Advent rejoicing becomes Christmas rejoicing up to the celebration of Jesus' baptism, well into January. Rejoicing carries us into a new year, and new celebrations of God's redeeming work.

No matter what the colors of the season – violet, rose, red, or green – every time we gather to hear God's word and celebrate the Eucharist, we do so with rejoicing. Through the grace of Word and sacrament, our Lord sustains us in joyful hope, not only for Advent and Christmas, but for every season of the year as we await the coming of his Kingdom.



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**MASS ATTENDANCE** – It is vital that we stay within the guidelines of the state regarding places of worship. \*\*You must wear a mask. \*\*Remain 6 feet apart (social distancing). \*\*No physical contact outside your household. \*\* The 10:30am Mass will be live-streamed on our website and FB page.

**PRIEST RETIREMENT FUND COLLECTION** – The annual Priest Retirement Fund collection will be this weekend, December 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. Please consider the needs of our retired pastors and priests; those who have served so well for so long. Donations can be placed in the marked envelopeS.

**WEEKLY GOAL TO MEET ANNUAL NEEDS:**  
**\$6,500.00**

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT – DECEMBER 6, 2020**  
Collection – \$5,216.00 Maintenance - \$738.00  
Bayou Catholic \$50.00 Human Development - \$60.00  
All Saints - \$30.00

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

- Sat, 12/12** – 4:00pm – Harold Cade
- Sun, 12/13** – 8:00am – Myra Blanchard, Harvey Perque
- Sun, 12/13** – 10:30am – Donald Burnett, Lori Vedros Phipps, Richard J. Vedros, Herbert & Bernie Louviere, William & Leontine Louviere
- Mon, 12/14** – 6:30am – Liturgy of the Word
- Tue, 12/15** – 6:30am – Dennis "Spice" Vegas (DA)
- Wed, 12/16** – 6:30am – Gillis "Pee Wee" Olivier, Jr. (DA)
- Thu, 12/17** – 6:30am – Ernest (BeBe) Breaux, Jr. (DA)
- Fri, 12/18** – 6:30am – Dale Lirette, June Fischer
- Sat, 12/19** – 4:00pm – Paul Fournier, Wayne Riche', June Fischer (DA)
- Sun, 12/20** – 8:00am – June Fischer, Fernando, Sr., Lilia & Grandparents
- Sun, 12/20** – 10:30am – Harold Cade, Lori Vedros Phipps, Richard J. Vedros, Herbert & Bernie Louviere, William & Leontine Louviere



**RCIA CLASSES** will meet at 9:00am in the Parish Hall on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

**WEEKLY READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Sat, 12/12** – Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47
- Sun, 12/13** – Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
- Mon, 12/14** – Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27
- Tue, 12/15** – Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32
- Wed, 12/16** – Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23
- Thu, 12/17** – Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17
- Fri, 12/18** – Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25
- Sat, 12/19** – Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25
- Sun, 12/20** – 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38



**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** – Please return your request for Christmas Flower Memorials as soon as possible so that we will have time to have them listed in the bulletin. **Deadline for returning requests will be Friday, Dec 18<sup>th</sup> at Noon.**



**FORMS FOR 2021 MASS INTENTIONS AND SANCTUARY CANDLES FOR 2021**

– are available on the table in the back of Church. Please **PRINT YOUR INFORMATION** and be sure to **INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER** in case we need to contact you. Please get them turned in as soon as possible.

**CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE** – The KC Annual Food Drive is now ongoing. Non-perishable items can be placed in the boxes in the Church; financial contributions can be made out to the KCs and left in the Offertory baskets or given to a KC member. Baskets will be distributed a few days before Christmas. If you know of a family that can use a basket this year, please call the office at 985-872-0922; we will gladly relay the information to the KC Council. **All food needs to be delivered to Church by Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.**



**SANCTUARY CANDLE burn this week  
IN LOVING MEMORY of**

♥ *Clarence & Rose Leonard, Anita Caskey, J. P. Pellegrin, Henry & Evelyn Hebert, Ellen, Norris & Devin Babin* by Barry & Linda Babin ♥  
*Meryl & L. J. Portier, Portier & Arceneaux Families* by Family ♥ *Gerald & Vauncille Armand* by Matthew & Jennifer Armand & Family ♥ *BeBe Breaux, Stanley, Sr., Eva, S.P., Jr., Betty Hebert & Sons, Breaux, Trahan, Giroir, Blanchard & Hebert Families* by Virldie and Bubba Breaux ♥  
*Begue & Hebert Families, Ellen Monterio, Cody Antill & Dale Bergeron* by Ann & Gary Hebert ♥ *Pamela & Bernard Daigle, Donna D. Trotter, Tony Fanguy, W. Bernard, Daigle & Acosta Family* by Joan Daigle and family ♥  
*Bonnie, Rene & Marguerite Guidry, Ernest, Ertell & Emil Joller* by Ulysse & Miriam Guidry ♥ *Davis, Jr. & Michael Arceneaux, Iris Gaston Talbot, Vicki & Christopher Steib & Rena Hebert* by Shelia Arceneaux ♥ *Ed & Dolly Richard, Lucy Porche, Louis & Lois Authement, June Fischer, Sylvia & Reed Folsie, Dot & Junel Marcel* by Ed & Elaine Richard ♥  
*John, Della, Warren, Eula, Will, Ronald and Emmett Rodrigue, Arthur and Marie Hebert* by Rodrigue Family ♥ *Logan Naquin, Trey Marmande, Gerald & Judith Duplantis* by the Chafin Family ♥ *M/M Joseph Dufour, M/M George Darsey, M/M Harold Favret, Sr., Harold Favret, Jr., Charles Favret & Marie Hyland* by Linda D. Favret ♥ *Neal, Linda, Theresa & Reynold Hebert; Giroir, Faucheaux & Hebert Family* by Janis Hebert & Hebert Family ♥ *Pierre LeBlanc, Ann Gill, Terri Lambert, Nell Kay & Curtis Marcello, Sr., Tenny Moore, Bubba McNeal, Aull & LeBlanc Families* by Kaye LeBlanc ♥ *Ryan & Marc Pitre, Viella & Nolan Rogers* by Carol Antill ♥ *Ted & Violet DeYeide Borowski, John Ford Sr., Betty Lockwood, Carin Lapeyrouse Schreiber, Borowski, DeYeide, Dison and Ford family* by James & Stefanie Ford ♥ *Victor & Beau Tedesco & Tedesco and Boudreaux Families* by Madelyn Tedesco ♥

**CHRISTMAS 2020 CHARITIES COLLECTION – As**

is our custom, the annual Christmas Collection will be dedicated to the ministry of Catholic Charities. In addition to the good works that our parishes do individually, Catholic Charities is able to reach out to and address the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people living in our local see. Through Catholic Charities we as a diocese are better able to fulfill the Gospel mandate of Christ; namely, that we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and welcome the stranger in our midst. It is the poorest among us who are most exposed to and unprotected from financial and unforeseen distress. This was vividly manifested recently in the manner they responded to those who were affected by the pandemic through food distributions and to the vulnerable this past hurricane season. In and through our funding the ministry of Catholic Charities through the Christmas Collection, we breathe new life into the words Jesus spoke at the synagogue in Nazareth, bringing good news to the poor and announcing a year of favor from the Lord. Catholic Charities of Houma-Thibodaux (CCHT) fulfills this very important mission through its many programs: St. Lucy Day Care Center, Parish Social Ministry, the Assisi Bridge House, the Literacy Program, and the food banks within the diocese. Our quota this year is \$6,465.00. Please be generous and help us reach our quota!

**JESSE GIVING TREE** – The tree is now up! Please consider taking a pill bottle from the tree to make a contribution to assist the St. Vincent de Paul Tri-Parish Pharmacy in providing medication to those needing assistance in our diocese. With the financial hardships experienced by so many this year, the access to critically needed medicine is ongoing! Checks can be made out to St. Vincent; cash and coins are also appreciated. You can even make a “refill” during the month of December! Filled bottles can be returned to Ms. Verdie in the vestibule of church. Please return all bottles at the Christmas Masses.



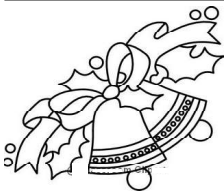
**RIGHT TO LIFE CALENDARS** – A short presentation will be given at all Masses the weekend on December 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Right to Life calendars will be available after Mass. Please be generous. Bring your checkbook and write a large check to Right to Life.



Thank you,  
David Smith

**LADIES ALTAR SOCIETY DUES** – Ms. Virldie will be in the back of church to collect 2021 dues for the Ladies Altar Society beginning this week. You may also turn in Mass Request and Sanctuary Candle request to her. Thank you!

**DECORATING THE CHURCH** – We will need volunteers to help decorate the church on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. Please consider coming out to help for a few hours. We want the church beautiful to celebrate the birth of our Lord.



**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

- **Wednesday, 12/16 6:00pm** – **THE LIGHT IS ON** – Reconciliation Service; Confessions will be heard
- **Sunday, 12/20 1:00pm** – Decorating of the Church for the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Please come out and help with this.
- **Thursday, 12/24 4:00pm** – Vigil Mass – Mass will be livestreamed!
- **Friday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm** – Vigil Mass
- **7:30am** – Mass
- **9:00am** – Mass



Due to Covid Restrictions, we will offer a 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas Mass.

The Parish Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

- Sat, 12/12 4:00pm** – Vigil Mass
- Sun, 12/13 8:00am** – Mass
- 10:30am** – Mass
- 6:30pm** – Youth Formation 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> graders – In Person
- Mon, 12/14 6:30am** – Liturgy of the Word
- 5:30pm** – Youth Formation K, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders – In Person
- 6:30pm** – 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> graders – At Home
- Tue, 12/15 6:30am** – Mass
- 9:00am** – Bible Study
- Wed, 12/16 6:30am** – Mass
- 6:00pm** – **THE LIGHT IS ON** – Reconciliation Service – Confessions will be heard
- Thr, 12/1 6:30am** – Mass
- Fri, 12/18 6:30am** – Mass
- Sat, 12/19 4:00pm** – Vigil Mass
- Sun, 12/20 8:00am** – Mass
- 9:00am** – RCIA in the Parish Hall
- 10:30am** – Mass
- 1:00pm** – Decorating the Church – *Volunteers needed*



**All Catholic/Private School students in SECOND GRADE** need to register during the month of December. This will give us the information needed so that we can set them up for classes beginning in January, so that they can make their First Communion.

**YOUTH FAITH FORMATION CLASS SCHEDULE**

- Sunday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> – 6:30pm – 8:00pm** – 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> graders (In Person)
- Mon, Dec 14<sup>th</sup> – 5:30pm** – K – 3<sup>rd</sup> graders (In Person)
- Mon, Dec 14<sup>th</sup> – 6:30pm** – 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grades (Home)



Youth Faith Formation Classes will NOT be held from December 20, 2020 – January 10, 2021