

St. Mary's Catholic Church

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019

Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate **Gaudete** Sunday or "**Rejoice**" Sunday. We **rejoice** heartily as we remember that day long ago in Bethlehem



when our Savior Jesus Christ came into our world and became like each one of us. We **rejoice** with great **joy** as we presently encounter Jesus' Real Presence in His Word and in the Most Holy Eucharist. We **rejoice** in great hope anticipating Jesus' glorious return when He will come and bring us back home to the eternal Kingdom of God at the moment of our death or at the world's end. As people of faith and hope we should **not** allow any foreboding to creep into our lives. Instead we should always be people of lasting authentic Christian **joy**. However, many of us at this time of year are becoming stressed, impatient, angry, depressed, tired and frustrated. We lose our patience and get angry as we wait on the long lines at the department stores. We become agitated and frustrated over traffic congestion. We get stressed and depressed trying to figure out what kind of a gift are we supposed to give to someone who seems to have everything. We get tired and weary from decorating our homes, writing Christmas cards, baking Christmas goodies and attending numerous holiday parties. Instead of being **joyful** and **rejoicing** we complain, pout, get stressed out and scream: "I can't wait until Christmas is finally over!"

Joy is a gift that Jesus gives to each one of us. Whenever we encounter Jesus at any moment He gives us His divine gift of **joy** that is present within Him: "My **joy** will be in you and your **joy** will be complete." Only Jesus can awaken within us a **joy** that gives us life and hope. Jesus' **joy** reminds us that He came to bring life to the dead places in our heart, He helps us to recover the spiritual vitality within our souls, and He removes the desert of sin in our lives. That is Good News. As we continue our Advent journey let us open our hearts, minds and souls so that we can receive Jesus' divine gift of **joy**. Let us take some time out of our busy schedules and prepare ourselves spiritually to receive Jesus once again as we approach Christmas day. Instead of pouting, complaining and getting frustrated and stressed out let us **rejoice** with great **joy** knowing that: (1) our God came to save us, (2) God continues to dwell among us and (3) someday God will bring us back home to be with Him forever.

Love & prayers,
Fr. John

Weekend Masses

Sat Dec 14 4:00 p.m. In Thanksgiving, Angela & Richard Knott

Sun Dec 15 10:00 a.m. Mary Zaleskie

Sat Dec 21 4:00 p.m. Leonard & Sally Rieman, Ann Wiechart

Sun Dec 22 10:00 a.m. Dennis Warren

Communion Service

Fri Dec 20 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,080.00	Loose \$840.00
Children	\$22.45	Total \$3,942.45

76 envelopes returned = 36%



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Assignments for December 21 & 22, 2019

Money Counters: Angie Wenger and Barb Galvan

4:00 p.m. – please sign the sheet in the main entrance

Greeters: Jeanne Parinello

Cantor: Dave Roby

Ushers: John Parinello and Chuck Niese

Lector: Laura Jones

E.M.: Amy Marcum,

Servers: Eli Jones, Elizabeth Honse

10:00 a.m.

Greeters: Deb Buck

Cantor: Kevin Vance

Ushers:

Lectors: Lisa Welch and Shannon Wannamacher

E.M.: Michelle Risner, Betty Gerten, John Schulte, Linda Kinn, Jenna Kimmel

Servers: Kendal Giesige, Jordan and Makayla Schweingruber

Readings for December 22, 2019

4th Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10 – 14

2nd Reading: Romans 1:1 – 7

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18 – 24

