

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

This Third Sunday of Advent in the Church's liturgical year is traditionally known as "**Gaudete Sunday**" or "**Rejoice Sunday**." For the past two weeks the themes of preparing, watching, and waiting were emphasized in our Scripture readings. Today's readings emphasize that we should **rejoice** for our time of preparation, watching, and waiting will soon be ending. We can and should **rejoice** because Jesus the **Light**, who came to dispel the deeds of darkness, is near. Now is the time for us to experience great **joy** and **peace** for Jesus is coming soon.



Light is a key image in today's Scripture readings. In our first reading the prophet Isaiah connects the image of **light** with the impact of God's spirit. In today's passage Isaiah breaks out into song as he experiences God as the **Light**. In his earlier oracles, Isaiah addressed the darkness of human pride that blocked the **light** of God's plan for humanity. But now things have changed for the better. Proclaiming God's word to the Israelites who were returning from their exile, Isaiah tells them that they should **rejoice** because it is a new day. Isaiah has experienced the power of God's spirit and now is aware of his mission to preach glad tidings to his fellow Israelites. Isaiah reminds them that God grant them justice and freedom as He delivers them from captivity. God will also help them to rebuild their lives and their homeland. Then using marital imagery, Isaiah reassures his people that God will restore His special covenantal relationship with them.

In today's second reading St. Paul reminds disgruntled Christians that they should be joyful because they already live in the **Christ's Light**. They should celebrate because they are **children of the Light**. Paul knew that the Lord was near. He believed that Jesus would return soon and so it was imperative for Christians to **rejoice**. He reminded those early Christians that God, the **Light**, would soon again be manifest.

Today's Gospel passage combines two verses from the Prologue (1:6-8) with the introduction proper to St. John's Gospel (1:19-28). The opening verses of the Prologue clarify the identity of John the Baptist in relation to the **Light** that is to come into the world. John the Baptist is merely a witness to speak for the **Light** and he clearly knows and acknowledges that he is **not** the **Light**. The second section of today's Gospel contains John the Baptists' own testimony regarding his relationship with Jesus, the One who is to come after him. John rejects the titles of Messiah, Elijah, and Prophet and states that he is simply someone preparing the way for the Lord. John must make way for Jesus and he creates a space for the **Light** to shine through

Continued...

Weekend Masses

Sat Dec 12	4:00 p.m.	Jim Alt
Sun Dec 13	8:00 a.m.	Urban Selhorst
Sun Dec 13	10:00 a.m.	Teresa Rieman
Sat Dec 19	4:00 p.m.	For our Parish
Sun Dec 20	8:00 a.m.	Wanda Kiene
Sun Dec 20	10:00 a.m.	In thanksgiving

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,235.00	Loose \$236.50
	Total	\$3,471.50

57 envelopes returned = 27%



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

Assignments for December 19 & 20, 2020

Money Counters: Angie Wenger, Nick Recker
4:00 p.m.

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink
Ushers: John Parinello and Bob Minto
Lector: Jim Kinn
E.M.: Jennifer Tschuor
Servers: Elizabeth Honse

8:00 a.m.

Cantors: Karen Phillips
Ushers: *Volunteer*
Lector: *Volunteer*
E.M.: *Volunteer*
Server: *Volunteer*

10:00 a.m.

Cantor: Karen Phillips
Ushers: Greg and Gabe Denecker
Lectors: Chris Denecker
E.M.: Cathy Hermiller
Servers: Conner Gerten

Readings for December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8 - 12, 14, 16
2nd Reading: Romans 16:25 - 27
Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26 - 38

