

**December 15, 2019**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This Sunday there is a profound note of joy to the liturgy. You will notice that there are some flowers at the statue of our Lady which have been absent since the beginning of Advent (as the liturgy indicates).

Also, we have been singing without the organ at all of the Masses at St. Michael, also as the liturgy indicates. The use of musical instruments in addition to the human voice adds a lot to the worship that we offer to God in hymns. So, today we will have the organ return to help us mark what the Church calls "Gaudate Sunday" which means "Rejoice!"

The entrance antiphon gives this Sunday its unusual name:

*"Rejoice in the Lord always;  
 Again I say, rejoice.  
 Indeed the Lord is near!"*

Just as Lent has a Sunday (called Laudate) when the rigors of Lent are subtly relieved, so too in Advent we ease our rigor this Sunday and anticipate the joy of Christmas with some liturgical embellishments.

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Again this year we will gather on New Year's Eve early in the evening (6pm) for *Lessons and Carols* and to celebrate the birthday of St. Narcisse Martin who was founder of the mission of St. Michael (eventually it became a parish) and who offered Mass at St. Dominic while he was pastor of St. Peter in Waldorf. At 7pm we will have the vigil Mass for the Holy Day of Obligation, Mary Mother of God which begins each year for us. That Mass and the Mass on the feast day January 1<sup>st</sup> will be at St Michael's.

Come join with us to sing of the Lord's Incarnation and Birth and listen to passages from the Old and New Testament Scriptures. *Lessons and Carols* provide a wonderful way to ponder the eternal plan of God for our redemption and to rejoice in hymns that awaken the deepest sentiments of our hearts. I hope you will come to join your heart and voice to our praise and worship of the God.

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I would like to thank all of you who so generously contributed to our Thanksgiving fund for the repair of our parish and mission facilities. Our quiet request for help during Thanksgiving and Advent has brought in over \$11,000 so far from both parishioners and others who heard of our need.

Thanks is due also to those who have administered our food pantry and clothing closet. Many of our neighbors have benefitted from these charitable works.

*Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, save souls!  
 Fr. Martin Flum*

**Humility and St. John the Baptist**

"Do you need proof that the voice passes away but the divine Word remains? Where is John's baptism today? It served its purpose, and it went away. Now it is Christ's baptism that we celebrate. It is in Christ that we all believe; we hope for salvation in him. This is the message the voice cried out.

Because it is hard to distinguish word from voice, even John himself was thought to be the Christ. The voice was thought to be the word. But the voice acknowledged what it was, anxious not to give offence to the word. I am not the Christ, he said, nor Elijah, nor the prophet.

And the question came: Who are you, then? He replied: I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord. The voice of one crying in the wilderness is the voice of one breaking the silence. Prepare the way for the Lord, he says, as though he were saying: "I speak out in order to lead him into your hearts, but he does not choose to come where I lead him unless you prepare the way for him."

What does prepare the way mean, if not "pray well"? What does prepare the way mean, if not "be humble in your thoughts"? We should take our lesson from John the Baptist. He is thought to be the Christ; he declares he is not what they think. He does not take advantage of their mistake to further his own glory.

If he had said, "I am the Christ", you can imagine how readily he would have been believed, since they believed he was the Christ even before he spoke. But he did not say it; he acknowledged what he was. He pointed out clearly who he was; he humbled himself.

He saw where his salvation lay. He understood that he was a lamp, and his fear was that it might be blown out by the wind of pride."

(from St. Augustine, Sermon 293)

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 15, 2019**

Monday: Nm 24:2-7.1517a/Ps 25/ Mt 21: 23-27  
 Tuesday: Gn 49: 2. 8-10/ Ps 72/ Mt 1: 1-17  
 Wednesday: Jer 23: 5-8 /Ps 72/ Mt 1: 18-25  
 Thursday: Jgs 13: 2-7.24-25a/Ps 71/Lk 1: 5-25  
 Friday: Is 7: 10-14/ Ps 24/Lk 1: 26-38  
 Saturday: Sg 2: 8-14 or Zep 3: 14-18a / Ps 33/Lk 1: 39-45  
 Next Sunday: Is 7: 10-14 /Ps 24/ Rom 1: 1-7 /Mt 1: 18-24

**OUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS**

**St. Michael's**  
 Offertory Collection for Dec 8th \$ 4,039  
**St. Dominic's**  
 Offertory Collection for Dec 8th \$ 885  
**Thanksgiving Fund** \$11,000+

**ST. MICHAEL'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK**

**Saturday 12/21/19 5pm**  
**Rosary Leader:** Alice Williams **Lector:** Irene Goldsmith  
**Server:** April Luzano **EMHC:** TBD  
**Sunday 12/22/19 8am**  
**Rosary Leader:** Betty Lindsay **Lector:** James Holly  
**Server:** Julissa Holly **EMHC:** TBD  
**Sunday 12/22/19 11:30am**  
**Rosary Leader:** TBD **Lector:** Chris Patterson  
**Server:** Kayla Aure **EMHC:** TBD

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

For those who suffer from chronic illness, especially Joe Aviles, Madison Brady, Ann Canter, Charlene Cardwell, Tom Cardwell, Joyce Chambers, Thomas Chambers, Jackie Chapman, Brianna Daniels, Dorothy Dunston, Kathy Fisher, Mabel Hamilton, Florence Henderson, Crystal Johnson, Bernice Kirby, Marie Knobel, Wanda Langley, Betty Lindsay, Kenny Lindsay, Adam Lumpkins, Rachel Makle, Michael Mohun, Ralph and Regina Nasatka, Fannie Newman, Joyce Pickeral, Rev. Robert Pittman, Ann Proctor, Betty Proctor, Dawn Russo, Lucille Shanks, Dee Smith, Geraldine Stewart, Willie Stewart, George Thomas, Terry Wilson and Belinda Windsor, may their crosses be joined to the Cross of Jesus.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday	12/14/19	5pm	Miguel Angel Cabrera +
Sunday	12/15/19	8am	Joan Kosack & family
Sunday	12/15/19	10am	Pat Copsey & family
Sunday	12/15/19	11:30am	Parishioners & their families
Monday	12/16/19	8am	Rev. Julio Alvarez-Garcia +
Tuesday	12/17/19	8am	Parishioners of St Michael & St Dominic * Bear Hugs
Wednesday	12/18/19	8am	Fr. Stanley Ulman
Thursday	12/19/19	8am	Mariela Garzon
Friday	12/20/19	8am	Thelma Rose Weinelt +
Saturday	12/21/19	5pm	Parishioners & their families

**Live the Gospel - Challenge of the Week**

Come to the Light is On for you this Wednesday, anytime from 5-7 PM. Let us all prepare the way for the Lord before Christmas! Also, there is Eucharistic adoration the whole time, so you can spend time with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament as well. Ask Him to prepare your heart for His coming.

**Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation!**

You are invited to join us to celebrate the FIRST CONFESSION of:  
***Bobby Farmer and Nicolas Williams***

On Wednesday evening at 6pm  
 December 18, 2019

This is a joyous opportunity to celebrate with our CCD children this occasion of their growth in Faith and to bring your family for their Advent Confession.  
**Every Wednesday of Advent, 5-7pm, the Lord will be waiting for YOU in the confessional.**

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!!!**

On December 28th, we will be hosting another Family Movie Night for all parishioners of St. Michael's and St. Dominic's. Feel free to invite family and friends! The Parish Hall doors open at 6 PM, and showtime will be at 6:30 PM. Please bring a dish/snack/dessert to share! The movie will be "**A Christmas Carol**" based on the beloved Charles Dickens classic. Which version is yet to be determined... and you can help decide! Please vote on which version YOU prefer at the table by the main entrance. Remember- only one vote per person! :)

**THANK YOU!!**

A heartfelt **thank you** to everyone who participated in the "Bear Hugs" program this year. St. Michael's and St. Dominic's parishioners have helped to collect 60 bears which will be added to the overall donations to be distributed to area hospitals. Thank you once again for giving a "Bear Hug" to a child in need this holiday season! A Mass in thanksgiving for your generosity will be said for the intentions of St. Michael's and St. Dominic's parishioners on Tues., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 8am Mass. God Bless you!



**ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Each year, Catholic Charities hosts a sit-down Christmas Dinner at the Hickey Center for people experiencing homelessness. Help transform meeting rooms into holiday dining rooms so our unhoused neighbors can have a festive, dignified celebration. **When:** Wednesday, December 18th, from 9:30AM –11:30AM; **Location:** Hickey Center, 924 G St NW, Washington, DC. **Sign up at** [www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/volunteercalendar](http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/volunteercalendar).



**Our Christmas Schedule**

Tues	12/24	8am	Daily Mass
			NO CCD Classes – Christmas Break
		5pm	Christmas Eve Mass – St. Michael
		7pm	Christmas Eve Mass – St. Dominic
Wed.	12/25	12am	Midnight Mass – St. Michael's
		8am	Christmas Day Mass – St Michael's
		10am	Christmas Day Mass – St. Michael's
Thurs-Friday		8am	Daily Mass
Saturday	12/28		Confessions & Regular Mass Schedule
Saturday	12/28	6pm	Movie Night – "Christmas Carol"
Sunday	12/29		Regular Mass Schedule
Tuesday	12/31	8am	Morning Mass
		6pm	Lessons & Carols – St. Michael's
		7pm	Vigil Mass – St. Michael's
Wed.	1/01	9am	Mass Solemnity of Mary -St. Michael's