

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021



My dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord,

Grace and peace be with you in this moment of anticipation that should be joyful. So much is happening politically, socially, personally that following the Church prescribed Liturgical calendar may be difficult. Still, we find ourselves on this Third Sunday of Advent cycle (c) being called by the season to be jubilant and focused. This day is also called “Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means rejoice. We are continuing to follow our theme; “Waiting for the change.” How do we rejoice in all the things that are occurring, but we are?

Last Tuesday twenty-five people gathered for the vigil Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This was the first post the start of the pandemic vigil for a holy day of obligation. It was small but mighty in impression that we are slowly coming through the sin against God’s love called, COVID-19 and the many continuous variants. Also, the date was December 7, 2021, the 80th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. A devastating loss of life, war machines, and innocence. It would be interesting to know how they celebrated the Advent season in 1941? America entered the World War as a response to the attack. Xenophobic hatred for the Japanese became almost policy from our government. Internment of Americans of Japanese descent into concentration camps, would later become law of the land. We came together last Thursday and were reminded that the feast day maybe a time of turmoil, but God is still calling us to and giving us a reason to be joyful although, we may be (justifiably) feeling anything but joyful. When Mary was conceived, Anne and Joachim, her parents were devout Jews which lived in a time of turmoil and strife. They were waiting for the Messiah like everyone else in that time period. Little did they know that Anne conceived a baby that would be most important to our salvation. Mary’s conception was immaculate, because she had to have a child born with “prevenient grace.” Wikipedia defines “prevenient grace or enabling grace. It is a Christian theological concept rooted Armenian theology, though it appeared earlier in Catholic theologies. It is divine grace that precedes human decision. In other words, God will start showing love to that individual at. Certain point in his lifetime.” This specialized grace for Mary would mean that she would be born without sin. Why? Because God knows that she will say yes to His will and way. Also, God knows that in the human condition, you cannot pour new wine into old wine skins. In regard to Mary, you cannot put perfection into imperfection. For God’s will to be done and His Promise kept, He must make Mary’s womb able to receive perfection (our salvation). All this is happening in a time, when the people of the time would “sleep” all this.

Good prophets (ones who speak for God) tried to prepare the people and called the Israelites to witness what was going on all around them. People were so busy being broke, busted, & disgusted, so they missed it. As we deal with all the issues that make us broke, busted, and disgusted, we do not have the luxury of missing our opportunity to properly prepare ourselves to experience, and celebrate Christ’s birth and be ready when He returns. This two part character of the season would get lost and we miss the graces that come from due diligence in our journey by observance in this moment would be tragic. It would add to the issues we are forced to handle that cause our distraction. Gaudete Sunday, gives us the opportunity to celebrate even if it is on credit. We must look at our journey as we relive the Sacred Scriptures recalling the early New Testament when our salvation came into the world answering the Hope and needs of the people of the time and all creation. If we take real advantage of this time then we will be “waiting for the Change.” And praise God, we won’t sleep it, so that we will be ready to celebrate His birth and simultaneously be ready when He comes again!

Happy Advent,
Fr. Bozeman, Pastor

Weekly Offering for December 5, 2021

\$8,781.00 Tithe and Offering

EXPENSES	November -2021	October-2021
Salaries and benefits	13,539	14,409
Insurance	11,364	11,365
Maintenance	184	2,264
Utility	3,100	12,460
Other operating	13,401	12,766
TOTAL expenses	41,588	53,564

Stewardship

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." (PHILIPPIANS 4:6)

St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God – He is the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember, that we are created in God's image and likeness. We, too, are made to be generous with all of our gifts as well. Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to gratefully and generously share ourselves and our goods with others.

Did you know?

Fire safety: Close before you doze

If there is a fire in your home, there is a 900-degree difference between a closed door and an open one. Firefighters recommend that you always close doors before you and your children go to sleep. Remembering the simple phrase "Close before you doze" can help prevent toxic gasses and flames from getting in your room, giving firefighters more time to rescue you. Closing your children's doors before bed is a quick, easy step to keep them safe — and provides an extra layer of security when coupled with working smoke alarms and a family safety plan.

For more information, visit <https://momsoncall.com/knowledge-center/close-before-you-doze/>.

Pray for the Sick

LaVerne Agnew, Brian Argusta, Helen Argusta, Gloria Bazemore, Vivian Burgess, Brownie Cain, Kathleen Charles, Christopher Chestnut, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Cynthia Cyrus, Juanita Davis, Carolyn Didney, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Bobby Eason, Mark Eason, Cynthia Fortier, Sherie Frierson-Chenier, Brenda Garibaldi, Avis Gibbs, Barbara Harris, Jennifer Hallman, Barbara J. Jones, Marjorie Jones, Briana Katz, Barbara Lagarde, Irwin Lagarde, Mercedes LeBlanc, Victor Levi, Vyldred Manor, Dorothy Okoye, Tyrone Pitts, Sally Price, Wiley Pugh, Frank Rhodes, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Mike Simon, Joan Spencer, Annie Starks, Alfred Sterling, Jr., Kay Sterling, Leila Thomas, Iris Turner, Mabel Walton, William Warrior, Alice Williams, Jacqueline Williams, Peggy Wilson and Mechele Yerima.

Daily Scripture Readings

Sunday	Zep 3:14-18a, Is 12:2-6, Lk 3:10-18
Monday	Nm 24:2-17a, Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday	Zep 3:1-13, Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday	Is 45:6c-25, Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday	Is 54:1-10, Lk 7:24-30
Friday	Gn 49:2-10, Mt 1:1-17
Saturday	Jer 23:5-8, Mt 1:18-25
Sunday	Mi 5:1-4a, Ps 80:2-19, Lk 1:39-45

Advent Penance Service at Transfiguration

Wednesday, December 22nd ~ 5:30 PM

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24, 2021

11:30 PM Christmas Carols followed by Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25, 2021

9:00 AM Mass ONLY

New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1, 2022

(Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God)

9:00 AM Mass ONLY

Transfiguration Tabernacle Gospel Choir CHRISTMAS CONCERT CANCELLED

Considering how much work the choir had devoted preparing for Fr. Bozeman's Installation and due to the short time to prepare a music program, the decision was made to cancel this year.

Take Note...

Recently, it has been brought to my attention that individuals are distributing various flyers and selling items on the grounds of Transfiguration Church and School property. This is unacceptable and no one is allowed to distribute **ANYTHING** on our property without the permission of the pastor. All requests must come through the rectory and approved **ONLY** by Fr. Bozeman.

Thank you

The beautiful **flowers** on the altar were donated by Ms Refugio Godinez in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe and in memory of her brother **EUSEBIO GODINEZ**. If you would like to donate flowers, please call the rectory for more details.