

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

“Gaudete in Domino semper - Rejoice in the Lord always (Phil 4: 4). Holy Mass of the Third Sunday of Advent opens with these words of St Paul and is therefore called “gaudete” Sunday. The Apostle urges Christians to rejoice because the Lord’s coming, that is, his glorious return, is certain and will not be delayed. The Church makes this invitation her own while she prepares to celebrate Christmas and her gaze is focused ever more intently on Bethlehem. Indeed, we wait with hope, certain of Christ’s second coming because we have experienced his first. The mystery of Bethlehem reveals to us God-with-us, the God close to us and not merely in the spatial and temporal sense; he is close to us because he has, as it were, “espoused” our humanity; he has taken our condition upon himself, choosing to be like us in all things save sin in order to make us become like him. Christian joy thus springs from this certainty: God is close, he is with me, he is with us, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, as a friend and faithful spouse. And this joy endures, even in trials, in suffering itself. It does not remain only on the surface; it dwells in the depths of the person who entrusts himself to God and trusts in him.

Some people ask: but is this joy still possible today? Men and women of every age and social condition, happy to dedicate their existence to others, give us the answer with their lives! Was not Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta an unforgettable witness of true Gospel joy in our time? She lived in touch daily with wretchedness, human degradation and death. Her soul knew the trials of the dark night of faith, yet she gave everyone God’s smile. In one of her writings, we read: “We wait impatiently for paradise, where God is, but it is in our power to be in paradise even here on earth and from this moment. Being happy with God means loving like him, helping like him, giving like him, serving like him”. Yes, joy enters the hearts of those who put themselves at the service of the lowly and poor. God abides in those who love like this and their souls rejoice. If, instead, people make an idol of happiness, they lose their way and it is truly hard for them to find the joy of which Jesus speaks. Unfortunately, this is what is proposed by cultures that replace God by individual happiness, mindsets that find their emblematic effect in seeking pleasure at all costs, in spreading drug use as an escape, a refuge in artificial paradises that later prove to be entirely deceptive.

Dear brothers and sisters, one can lose the way even at Christmas, one can exchange the true celebration for one that does not open the heart to Christ’s joy. May the Virgin Mary help all Christians and people in search of God to reach Bethlehem, to encounter the Child who was born for us, for salvation and for the happiness of all humanity.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

Thank you to all have donated to the Christmas Food Baskets this year.

We are still in need of jelly, canned fruit, gravy, soup, vegetables, stuffing, cereal, pasta and sauce, etc. We do not need any peanut butter.



We will be collecting hams and turkeys on Monday, December 19th from 4-5:30pm
Thank You!



Liturgical Ministers for December 21st/22nd, 2019

Mass	Lector	Ministers of Holy Communion	Altar Servers
4:00pm	T. WEBB	H. ECKES	N. and A. WEBB
8:30am	M. LATINI	T. CALVARIO, J. TAYLOR	T. LAMOREAUX, A. and E. TRUJILLO
11:30am	H. MARINARO	B. DENNINGTON	J. ENNIS, K. and A. EPPS

The 2nd collection this weekend is for the Retired Religious.

Reconciliation Monday is tomorrow, December 16th. Confessions will be heard throughout the Archdiocese from 4pm-8pm.



We will be decorating the Church for Christmas on Sunday, December 22nd after the 11:30 Mass. Many hands make light work.



**Sounds of the Season -
Annual Christmas Caroling**

Join us Tuesday, December 17th, and help share the joy of the season with all. We will meet at 4:15 p.m. in the lobby at Bon Secours hospital.

We now have Eucharistic Adoration cards available. For a donation, you can gift a card for Christmas, birthdays, get well, etc. and spend time with our Lord. They are available in the parish office.



Thank You!

We are very grateful for your participation in our parish campaign, A Coffee a Day for Our Parish. While we might be a little less caffeinated, your sacrifices for our community are much appreciated. Your increased contribution is allowing our parish to better minister to all who call it home or will in the future.

Announced Masses

- Monday, December 16**
9:00am Joseph Kucher, by the Prague family
- Tuesday, December 17**
9:00am Anne Morey, by Dr. Jane Brooks
Helen Odrechowski, by Stephanie Gaide
- Wednesday, December 18**
9:00am William Gore and deceased children, by Dolores Gore and family
- Thursday, December 19**
9:00am Gladys Kesterson, by Dr. Jane Brooks
- Saturday, December 21**
4:00pm The parishioners of St. Mary's
- Sunday, December 22**
8:30am Matthew Avella, by Jack and Doreen Reilly
11:30am Arthur and Helen Murphy, by Helen Marinaro



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn brightly this week in the Church, in memory of the Ricciardi, Ryback, and Connelly family, by Catherine Westfall and family.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Donald Wolff, Carol Gomillion, David Lisker, Nancy Parsons, Debi Cotugno, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Jeannine Lincoln, James Lincoln, Charles Hildebrandt, Maureen Hildebrandt, Walter Szpakowicz, Carmella Balsamello, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, James Roach, Catherine Simons, Brendan Carmody, Joe Formisano, Nico Nicolette, Jaryd Viserta, Steven Gaesser, Kacey Warner, Sandra Ramsey, Lorraine Mannarino, Antonino Mazzara, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Mary Lynn Beam, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Mercedes Rodriguez, Jose Brito, Michael Medaglia, Barbara Straub, Tress Loughrey, Sal Careri, Cody Bain, Robert Witherow, Susan Upton, Theresa Fuller, Allen Lynch, Enid Decker, Jackie Mundy, Chris Marion, III, Carmella Balsamello, Barbara Lindsay, Robert Ackerman, Wayne DeMarco, Ryan O'Connor, Elizabeth Brennan, Jerri Kavanaugh, Allan Garcia, Christine Haberzettl, Eric Hildebrandt, Rose Gotthardt, Georgia Gotthardt, and John Olenick.

The collection for December 7/8 was \$7,203.
Thank you for your continued generosity.