

**“I am baptizing
you with water,
but one mightier
than I is coming.”**

Mass Intentions for the Week

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 12, 2021

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

The Mass of Anticipation for Third Sunday of Advent
4:00PM Leonard A. Morgese—Memorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

The Third Sunday of Advent
7:30 AM Cathy Stiglic—Memorial
9:00AM George Cooper—Memorial
10:30AM Jim & Lee Maloney—Memorial
5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr
7:30AM Special Intention

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church
7:30AM Beatrice Alfano—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

Advent Weekday
7:30AM Special Intention

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

Advent Weekday:
7:30AM Kate Bedard—12th Anniversary

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

Late Advent Weekday
7:30AM George C. Jamieson—Birthday Remembrance

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

Late Advent Weekday
8:30AM Albert Edward Hyde—11th Anniversary
Mass of Anticipation for Fourth Sunday of Advent
4:00PM Michael Alix—Birthday Remembrance

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
7:30 AM Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial
9:00AM John Furtado, Sr. & Susan Furtado—Memorial
10:30AM Janet M. Fayle—13th Anniversary
5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy



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Dear Parishioners:

On this third Sunday of Advent, the penitential purple of the season changes to rose, and we celebrate "Gaudete" or "Rejoice!" Sunday. Zephaniah exclaims: "Shout for joy, daughter of Sion," And St. Paul teaches us to: "Rejoice in the Lord always." St. John the Baptist preaches in the Gospel: "His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire!"

Why is this stark message of St. John the Baptist appearing on "Rejoice Sunday"? His stern call to repentance does not seem to fit the joy we are anticipating in Christ. However, St. John the Baptist is the patron saint of spiritual joy. After all, he leaped for joy in his mother's womb at the presence of Jesus and Mary. And scripture says that John rejoices to hear the Bridegroom's voice!

St. John the Baptist was joyful because he was humble. In fact, he shows us the true nature of this virtue. Humility is not beating up on yourself, denying that you have any gifts, talents, or importance. John knew he had an important role that he lived out with authority and confidence. Humility does not mean that we sheepishly look down on ourselves. John does not look at himself at all. He looks away from himself to the Lord.

Pride is sinful because it leads us to be preoccupied with ourselves and causes us to forget God and our neighbor. St. Augustine teaches: "There never can have been, and never can be, and there never shall be any sin

without pride."

The proud have to perpetually exalt themselves over others in the hope that this provides a sense of worth and inner peace. But, of course, it doesn't. Human history has proven this time and time again. Pride always comes before the fall, as it did in the Garden of Eden. Again Saint Augustine reminds us: "It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels."

Humility brings freedom from this egotistical and selfish bondage. Freed from the blinding compulsion to exalt ourselves, we can truly recognize the presence of God. We begin to feel a sense of satisfaction when we realize that God is God and honor him as such. We can even freely recognize godliness in someone else and rejoice when others notice and honor them.

But what about John's stark call to repentance? How is this Good News? Because repentance is all about humility, and humility is all about freedom. And freedom leads to inner peace and joy, joy in the presence of the Bridegroom. How can we find this freedom? Where is to be obtained?

We find it when we humbly repent of our sins in the Sacrament of Confession. Trusting in God's mercy, we can humbly kneel in contrition and admit our sins. There are ample opportunities for Confession at OLM before Christmas. Every Monday night at 6:00PM and every Saturday afternoon at 3:00PM.

This Monday night, we welcome two Dominican Friars

from Providence College for Confession. On Monday, December 20th, there are two hours of Confession from 6:00PM until 8:00PM, with four priests available both hours. Two great opportunities at OLM to make a good Confessions before Christmas.

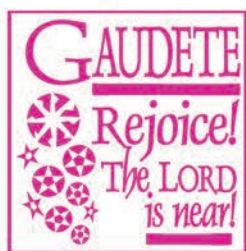
If we truly wish to rejoice in the Lord, it begins with a good Confession. St. John the Baptist is calling each of us to humbly repent and believe the Good News that Christ loves and saves us! In these two weeks left before Christmas, make the time to humbly come to the Confessional.

Pope Francis has urged Catholics to return to the Sacrament of Confession with frequency. He states: "Everyone should ask: 'When was the last time I went to confession?' And if it has been a long time, don't lose another day! Go, the priest will be good. And Jesus, will be there, Jesus receives you. He will receive you with so much love! Be courageous, and go to confession."

So be courageous and prepare the way for Christ. It is easily done with more time in prayer, greater charity to the poor and needy, faithfully attending Mass every week, and making a good Confession frequently! Keep the Friars busy at Monday Night Confessions as we prepare the way of the Lord!

Be well. Stay safe. Do good. God Bless. Go Pats!!!!

3rd Sunday of Advent



The traditional name for the Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday. The name comes from *Gaudete in Domino semper*, Latin for “Rejoice in the Lord always,” opening words of today’s entrance antiphon (brief scriptural text that is usually replaced by an opening hymn).

Because one of Advent’s tasks is to prepare us for Christ’s return at the end of time, this season once had a penitential quality similar to that of Lent. Gaudete Sunday with its rose vestments and relaxation of austerities softened the period and gave a glimpse of its fulfillment just as its counterpart, Laetare Sunday, did at the midpoint of Lent.

Viewed now as a season of devout and joyful expectation, Advent retains very little of its old penitential focus, but we still have the option of using the liturgical color of rose today as we rejoice that Christmas is near, and Christ’s second coming is nearer than it was yesterday.



This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.

Weekly Collection

December 5, 2021

Weekly.....	\$16,147.00
EFT.....	\$3,780.00
Total=	\$19,927.00

Outreach.....	\$2,791.00
Annual Collection (to date).....	\$141,085.00
Building & Grounds.....	\$2,537.00

December 6, 2020

Weekly.....	\$12,247.00
Annual 2020 Total.....	\$132,265.00

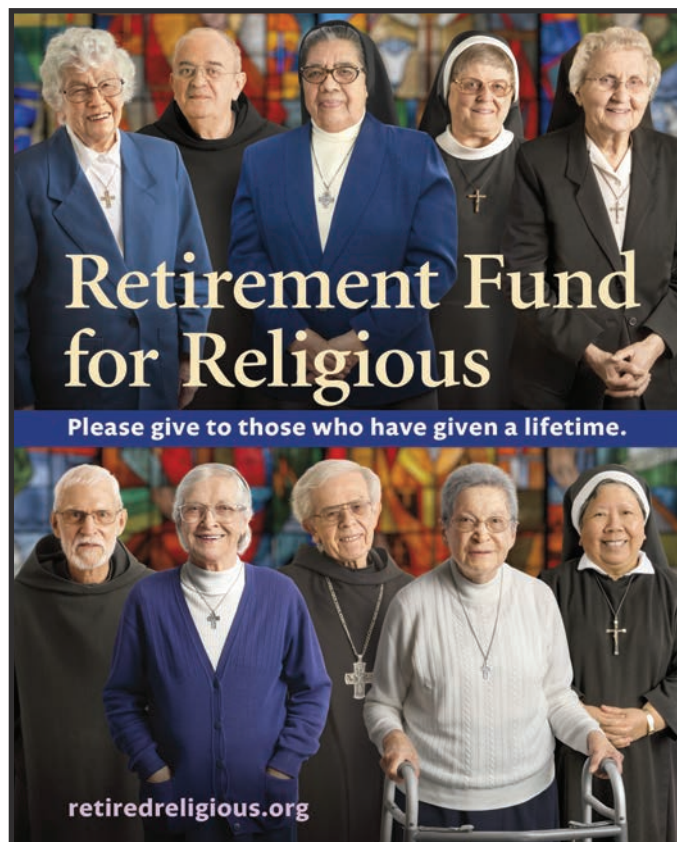
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Second Collections

This Week: Retired Religious Fund



Retirement Fund for Religious

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retiredreligious.org



Religious Education
NEWS

RE Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 12:

5:00PM Mass & Class, Confirmation 2022-Grade 8

Sunday, December 19:

5:00PM Mass & Class: First Communion and Grade 1

Both Parents & Students must attend Mass & Class.

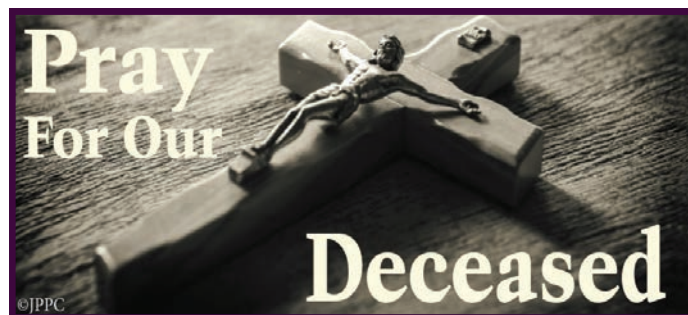


Outreach
Update

•**OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of food items and paper goods for the members of our local community. Please place all donated **NON-EXPIRED AND non-perishable food items only and paper goods** in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House. **Please do not leave medical supplies. Thank you for your support!**

•**OLM Bereavement Group:** Next Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, December 16 at 4:00PM in Mercy House.** All those who are grieving are invited to join with us.

•For information, please contact the OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 401-884-4410 or email at outreach@olmparish.org



In your charity please pray for the happy repose of the souls of the faithful departed most especially for **Daniel Sullivan** whose Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated here.

Rest in Peace



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Calendar of Events

•**Monday, December 13:** OLM School Confessions, 12:45pm-2:00PM

•**Tuesday, December 14:** OLM School Mass at 8:15am

•**Thursday, December 16:** Christmas Pageant at 6:00PM; Report Cards distributed; Beloved Middle School Group for Girls Meeting at 2:30pm

•**Friday, December 17:** Middle School Ministry Meeting at 6:30pm, All Middle schoolers welcome.

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**Monday
December 13, 2021
Confession 6:00PM-6:45PM**

"The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works." -St. Augustine

**Dominican Friars from
Providence College
will be hearing Confessions**



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CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

Confessions 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
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THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS EVE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

Vigil Mass of Christmas at 4:00 PM

CHRISTMAS NIGHT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Night Mass at Midnight (livestream)
Christmas Concert with Choir & Orchestra
begins at 11:30 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day Masses at
7:30 AM, 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM
No 4:00 PM Mass on Christmas Day

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

Masses at
7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021

Mass at 8:30 AM
**Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year*

Happy and Holy Christmas!

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