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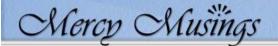
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 17, 2023

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

SATURDAT,	DECEIVIDER 10
The Mass of	Anticipation for 3rd Sunday of Advent
4:00PM	Kate Bedard—14th Anniversary
SUNDAY, DE	CEMBER 17
Third Sunday	v of Advent
7:30 AM	Michael & Ellen Brady—22nd Anniversary
9:00AM	Dr. Edwin Madden—Memorial
10:30AM	Janet Fayle—15th Anniversary
5:00PM	The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
MONDAY, D	DECEMBER 18
Late Advent	Weekday
7:30AM	George C. Jamieson—Birthday Remembrance
TUESDAY, D	ECEMBER 19
Late Advent	Weekday
7:30AM	Edward & Antoinette Plunkett—Memorial
WEDNESDAY	Y, DECEMBER 20
Late Advent	Weekday
7:30AM	Roberta A. Galleshaw—Memorial
THURSDAY,	DECEMBER 21
Late Advent	Weekday; St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church
7:30AM	Jeannine Light—13th Anniversary
FRIDAY, DEC	EMBER 22
Late Advent	Weekday
7:30AM	Michael Monteleone—Birthday Remembrance
SATURDAY,	DECEMBER 23
Late Advent	Weekday; St. John of Kanty, Priest
8:30AM	Charlie Haigh—1st Anniversary
The Mass of	Anticipation for 4th Sunday of Advent
4:00PM	Michael Romano—Memorial
SUNDAY, DE	CEMBER 24
Fourth Suna	lay of Advent
7:30AM	Jeanne Toole—Birthday Remembrance
9:00AM	Pat Franzone—21st Anniversary
10:30AM	Dr. John H. Duffy—7th Anniversary
The Nativity	of the Lord
4:00PM	The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish



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Dear Parishioners:

It's Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent., The word "gaudete" is derived from the Latin words "gaudium," joy, and "gaudeo," to rejoice. The nearness of the feast of Christmas is the reason for this great joy. The Latin word "Gaudete" is taken from the Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." It is often called Rose Sunday because of the color of the vestments.

Advent is the season of preparing for the arrival of the Lord Jesus, his first and second coming. On *Gaudete* Sunday, we rejoice that "*the Lord is near*." This year, Advent is particularly shorter because Christmas falls on a Monday.

Pope Francis, preaching on *Gaudete* Sunday, said: "To have this joy in preparation for Christmas, first, pray. Second, give thanks to the Lord. Third, think of how we can go to others to bring unity, peace, and joy. This is the joy of the Christian."

We live in a world preoccupied with happiness, not joy. Every decision—even the stupid and sinful—is typically driven by the idea that whatever we do leads us to happiness. There is a good reason: God wants us to be happy in this life and the next. Yet, there is a difference between happiness and joy.

The Lord doesn't speak about happiness. Jesus speaks only about joy and not simply in passing. In the Gospel of John, we hear the words of Jesus: "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may *be full.*" Jesus offers these final words to his apostles at the Last Supper before his Passion and Crucifixion.

A difference between joy and happiness is that joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Happiness is not. In many ways, happiness depends on us. But joy, on the other hand, is entirely different. Joy doesn't come from us. Joy isn't a mere feeling, a fleeting pleasure, or а momentary emotional response, as is happiness.

Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit is active in our lives, we experience joy as well as peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, self-control, and all the other fruits of the Holy Spirit. These are not mere feelings of pleasure or delight.

Happiness is but а consequence, not a way of being. Everyone desires to be happy and hopes that happiness might be the final goal in life. But being happy does not lead us there. After all, we can't practice happiness; either we have it or we don't. On the other hand, we can practice joy in our lives thanks to the Holy Spirit. St. Pope John Paul II said: "God made us for joy!"

Let us celebrate the coming Feast of Christmas with joy! It will soon be here, as Christmas Day is just a week from this Monday! When Christmas falls on a Monday, we joyfully attend Mass twice the same weekend, once for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and then again for Christmas.

Thus, the Masses next Saturday at 4:00 pm and Sunday at 7:30 am, 9:00 am, and 10:30 am fulfill the Sunday obligation for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. While the obligation to attend Mass on Christmas begins on Sunday, Christmas Eve, with the 4:00 pm Vigil Mass, preceded by a concert by our OLM School Children's Choir.

The Christmas Mass at night is at Midnight and is preceded by a concert by our OLM Choir and the guest orchestra. It is always a solemn and beautiful Mass, so please join us on Christmas Eve at 11:30 pm for the concert, followed by Midnight Mass. Christmas Day Masses are at 7:30am, 9:00am, and 10:30am. Keep the Mass in Christmas!

These Late Advent Days are the perfect opportunity to good Confession. make а Prepare yourself and your soul to welcome Messiah the at Christmas. Welcome Him with a clear conscience and clean heart. Pope Saint John Paul II said: "Confession is an act of honesty and courage - an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God."

This Monday evening, we have four priests, including three Dominican Friars, hearing Confessions from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm. And next Saturday, two priests are hearing Confessions from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm. The forgiveness of our sins by the Merciful Messiah makes our Christmas more meaningful and joyful.

Do good. Be well. God Bless. "Again, I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near!"

Father He

946 Our Lady of Mercy—3

3rd Sunday of Advent



he 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.



December 10, 2023

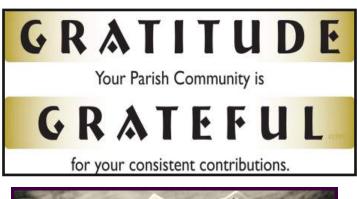
Weekly	\$9,045.00
EFT	
	Total=\$14,817.00
Outreach	\$3,505.00
Retired Religious	\$3,804.00
Immaculate Conception	\$2,694.00
Annual Collection (To Date)	\$111,359.00

December 11, 2022

Weekly	.\$27 <i>,</i> 647.0)0
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Thank You for Your Generous Support!

Leave a Legacy of Faith for the next Generation! Remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.





In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed especially **Els Cardi** whose Mass of Christian Burial was last week.

Rest In Peace



First Communion Class Schedule Sunday, January 7

2024 Confirmation Class Schedule

Sunday, December 17 Sunday, January 21

For questions and more information please contact Mr. Jeremy Long, Director of Faith Formation at 884-4968 or email at faithformation@olmparish.org



•<u>OLM Food Pantry</u> is always in need of food items and paper goods for the members of our local community. Please place all donated items in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House. <u>All food items should be unexpired and non-</u> <u>perishable</u>. We also are in need of paper goods (paper towels, napkins). Thank you for your support.

• <u>Christmas Support</u>: Any gift cards to Walmart, Stop & Shop and Target are appreciated. Financial donations t help the needy at Christmas are most welcome.

• <u>OLM Bereavement Group</u>: Our next meeting is on <u>Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 4:00pm</u> in Mercy House. All those adults experiencing sorrow, grief or loneliness are most welcome to attend for prayer and discussion.

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



Weekly Calendar

 Tuesday, December 19: Weekly School Mass at 8:15am; Grades 3-5 Field Trip to the Nutcracker

•<u>Friday, December 22</u>: Half-Day with dismissal at 11:30am; No After-School Extended Day; Middles School Breakfast; Advent Prayer Service •<u>December 25—January 2</u>: Christmas Vacation

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Striving to Be Saints & Scholars!



Giovanna Natalia Lupien, and her parents, Paul and Marissa.

Beau Alexander Palumbo, and his parents, Ryan and Lexi.

"Dear brothers and sisters: these children have been reborn through Baptism, and are now called children of God, for so indeed they are. Through Confirmation they will receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit and, approaching the altar of the Lord, they will share at the table of Sacrifice, and will call upon God as Father in the midst of the Church." — The Rite of Baptism





Our Lady of Mercy Church East Greenwich, Rhode Island CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

LATE A DVENT WEEKDAY MONDAY, DECEMBER 18 Advent Confessions 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Four Priests Available

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23 Advent Confessions 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM Two Priests Available Mass of Anticipation at 4:00 PM

> SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 Sunday Masses at 7:30 AM 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

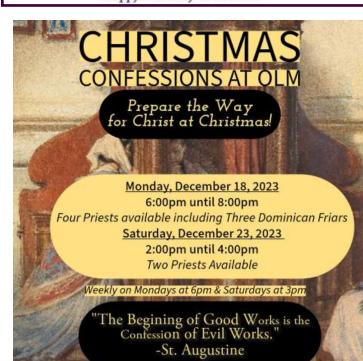
THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 Children's Choir Concert 3:30 PM Vigil Mass of Christmas at 4:00 PM CHRISTMAS NIGHT MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 Christmas Concert with OLM Choir & Orchestra at 11:30 PM Mass of Christmas Night at 12:00 AM

CHRISTMAS DAY MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 Christmas Day Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30 Confessions at 3:00 PM Mass of Anticipation at 4:00 PM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 Sunday Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD* MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024 Mass at 8:30 AM *not a holy day of obligation

Happy and Holy Christmas!



🗱 Christmas Confession

MANY CATHOLICS go to confession as part of their preparation for Christmas. A lot of people who shop, bake, mail, and party throughout December know there is a deeper reason for all this activity. They want to do more than decorate the house and set the table. They want to prepare their hearts so that the King of Kings will find in there a home.

Your parish probably sets aside extra time for confessions in December. Priests usually hear individual confessions on Saturday afternoon. But they gather people for a communal penance service on some other evening of the week this time of year. During the week or ten days before Christmas, you should be able to find confessions scheduled at your parish or in another one nearby.

As an alternative, you may ask a priest for a special appointment to hear your confession. Some people do this if they are not free when the parish confessions are scheduled, or if they would like to spend a little more time to confess their sins and discuss their spiritual life with a priest. Priests are busy, especially during the week before Christmas, but they will want to help you if they can.

If Christmas comes, and you still haven't gone to confession, it is never too late. The good news is you can always go. If your experience of Christmas this year touches your heart; if you are moved by the spirit of gift-giving by family, friends, and strangers; if you realize more deeply that God loved you enough to send you Jesus—then open your heart. See God's glory. Acknowledge your weakness. Confess your sins. And rejoice in the grace of forgiveness.

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946 Our Lady of Mercy, East Greenwich, RI (I)



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