

**December 17, 2023**

### **A Note from Fr. José Arroyo**

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

This 3rd Sunday of Advent, is also known as “Gaudete Sunday.” The word Gaudete means “Rejoice;” taken from the first word of the Introit/entrance antiphon for this Mass which in Latin is: “Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete. In English this means: “Rejoice in the Lord always: I shall say it again, rejoice” (Phil 4:4). The liturgical color is rose/pink, and the Church allows flowers in the sanctuary as a contrast to the penitential tone of the beginning of this season of Advent.

There are many reasons we should rejoice. The more aware we are of our blessings, the more grateful we become and the less excuses we have to complain of the difficulties that life presents. The very fact that Jesus comes to us in the Eucharist each day, especially in our Sunday liturgies should impel us to get out of our beds with a sense of joy because we come before the presence of the One who has created us, redeemed us, and sanctifies us despite our imperfections.

This Sunday, the Church presents St. John the Baptist as the one who witnesses the Messiah who is to come. St. John humbly acknowledges that Jesus is the One who is far mightier than him. St. John teaches in the desert that there would be One who will ultimately proclaim freedom and deliverance from sin and death. As Catholic Christians we believe that this Messiah is Jesus Christ who came once in swaddling clothes but will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end.

As we continue our Advent journey, may we join with the Blessed Virgin Mary in singing the praises of God. We praise the Lord by encountering Him at prayer, especially at Mass and Eucharistic Adoration, but also in reading and studying Sacred Scripture and going to help the poor, the sick, and the outcasted. We are called to praise the Lord by being faithful to our daily responsibilities and tasks in the midst of the world as Catholic Christians who believe and acknowledge Jesus as the Lord of our lives within the Church building and at home. Sometimes we are devout among fellow believers. However, when we are with our closest relatives and friends, we tend to forget the need to be coherent in our convictions as faith-filled Christians.

Next week we will celebrate the last week of Advent which will technically end before the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. It is the shortest Advent possible since it ends on December 24th. As a reminder, please make sure that you observe the special schedule for the different Masses that lead to Christmas. We do have the opportunity and the responsibility to attend Mass twice, one for the 4th Sunday and the other for Christmas. Let us live these last weeks of Advent as a time of joyful expectation and not as a time that we have to get through in order to get to Christmas. Let us remember that the most valuable things in life usually require much preparation, including the gift of life which biologically takes time to develop from the womb to the tomb. A blessed rest of Advent to all and remember: “Rejoice in the Lord always: I shall say it again, rejoice.”

## Collections for December 10, 2023

Adult Offering Envelopes	\$ 1,645.00
Loose	\$ 1,514.00
Candles	\$ 27.00
Repair	\$ 47.00
Retirement fund	\$ 210.00
Flowers	\$ 242.00
CCD	\$ 10.00
Total in pews:	<b>\$ 3,095.00</b>

### Online Collections

Reg. Envelopes	\$ 2,942.00
Repair Fund	\$ 135.00
Second Collection	\$ 116.00
Other	\$ 30.00
Total Online	<b>\$ 3,223.00</b>

## **Third Sunday of Advent**

### **Mass Intentions**

#### December 16th Advent Weekday (Sat.)

9:00 a.m. † Joyce Pawlak

5:00 p.m. † Andy Lowe

#### Dec. 17th Third Sunday of Advent (Sun.)

8:00 a.m. † Ed Peters

10:30 a.m. † Steve Koski

2:00 p.m. Parroquianos

(Eucharistic Adoration one hour before each Mass) (Holy Rosary 30 minutes before each Mass)

#### December 18th Advent Weekday (Mon.)

8:00 a.m. † Albert Andreas

#### December 19th Advent Weekday (Tues.)

8:00 a.m. † Jim Schmitt

#### December 20th Advent Weekday (Wed.)

5:00 p.m. † Keith & Roedean Dowell

#### December 21st Advent Weekday (Thurs.)

8:00 a.m. † Helen Nix

#### December 22nd Advent Weekday (Fri.)

8:00 a.m. † Dorothy Alles

#### December 23rd Advent Weekday (Sat.)

9:00 a.m. Parishioners

5:00 p.m. † Jerry Zorger

7:00 p.m. † Maria Genoveva Gelabert  
(Spanish)

#### Dec. 24th Fourth Sunday of Advent (Sun.)

9:00 a.m. † For all the souls in purgatory

5:00 p.m. † Genevieve Kasper

12:00 a.m. Parishioners

### **St. Vincent DePaul Corner**

Clients served on December 11, 2023

Families **43** People **127** New **5**

**NEEDS:** There are pink envelopes in the narthex for financial contributions for SVDP. Specific pantry needs: Toilet paper and peanut butter.

If you would like to help with St. Vincent DePaul, please contact the office and leave a message for Barb Bockelman or Sara St. Clair.

Thank you so very much for your ongoing support! Please keep in mind that St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry is open EVERY Monday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. If Monday falls directly on a holiday, the pantry will not be open. Evening hours are the third Monday of the month from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

### **Giving Tree Present Returns**

The purchased gifts for the giving tree need to be wrapped, with the ornament tag attached and visible. Please have all wrapped gifts back to the church by December 18<sup>th</sup>. For questions, please contact Sue Jansen, 812-746-7346, [sjansen53@yahoo.com](mailto:sjansen53@yahoo.com) Thanks for your generosity!

# Friday Adoration

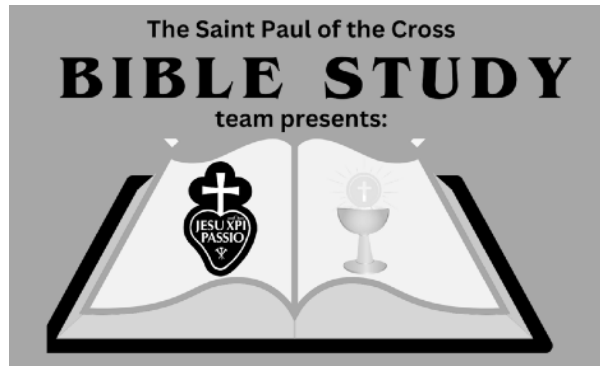
There will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, December 22nd or Friday, December 29th.

There is a new sign up in the Narthex for Friday Adoration beginning in January 12th. A wonderful New Year's Resolution would be to spend more time sitting with Jesus in Adoration. Please prayerfully consider taking an hour. It will most definitely be time well spent.

## Gaudete Sunday

Why is rose used during Advent in the Advent wreath and vestments?

Advent is a time of penance, and so the ordinary liturgical color for Advent is violet. On the third Sunday of Advent, which is also called *Gaudete* (Latin: "Rejoice") Sunday, we recognize the joyful anticipation of the season that will culminate in the birth of Christ on Christmas by changing the liturgical color to rose. Rose is a "brightening" of the ordinary violet and thus symbolizes joy.



**BIBLE STUDY WILL RETURN** the week of January 8th. If you were part of a Bible Study Small Group in the Fall you can pick up your **NEW BOOKS:** "*A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*" in the Narthex. **NO NEED TO SIGN UP!** You will meet with the same group at the same time and in the same place as in the Fall!!!

If you missed our first session of "***A PASSION FOR THE EUCHARIST***"

we would LOVE to have you join one of our **NEW GROUPS** in January. Sign up for the time and date that works best with your schedule and take a book: "***The Eucharist A Bible Study Guide for Catholics***"

We are so excited to continue studying scripture with our fellow parishioners!

If you have any questions please contact Jessica:  
[pastoralassociate@saintpaulcc.org](mailto:pastoralassociate@saintpaulcc.org)

## Q: DO I HAVE TO GO TO MASS ON SUNDAY AND CHRISTMAS?

**A: YES!** Catholics are obligated to attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day (including Christmas). This year, even though the Sunday and Christmas obligations fall back-to-back, each has their own, distinct obligation. Catholics must attend a different Mass for each obligation - two Masses total.

### 4th Sunday of Advent Masses

**Sat., December 23rd 5:00pm**  
**7:00pm (Spanish)**

**Sun., December 24th 9:00am**

### Christmas Masses

**Sun., December 24th 5:00pm**  
**Midnight**

**Mon., December 25th 9:00am**  
**Noon (Spanish)**

