Third Sunday of Advent December 16. 2018

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear.

— Zephaniah 3:15b



REJOICE!

Today has traditionally been called "Gaudete Sunday." The Latin tag is derived from Paul's appeal in the second reading to "rejoice always in the Lord," and the Latin Mass text based on that reading. The irony and paradox of this Christian joy is underlined by the fact that Paul wrote those words in prison. But from there he could see the progress of God's work.

Is it obvious to us? We feel that this is not the time for joy when there is so much suffering and moral evil. It is interesting, then, that the first reading is from the prophet Zephaniah, who is almost exclusively concerned with gloomy visions of Judgment Day. Today the Church selects the only optimistic text in Zephaniah, in which the prophet has been touched by the spirit of joy.

This, we are assured on all sides, is "the season of joy." Let us recapture that feeling of joy in our lives and reflect it to those who are joyless. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Your God will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

Psalm — Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12:6). **Second Reading** — Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! (Philippians 4:4-7). Gospel — Whoever who has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. Whoever who has food should do likewise (Luke 3:10-18).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	December 17
8:00 am	
7:00 pm	† Lauren Maclaughton
<u>Tuesday</u>	December 18
8:00 am	
7:00 pm	† Josephine Nieri
Wednesday	December 19
8:00 am	Communal Service
7:00 pm	†Marianna & †Giuseppe
	Caraffi
	† Amelia Fernandez
Thursday	December 20
8:00 am	
7:00 pm	Novena
<u>Friday</u>	December 21
8:00 am	
7:00 pm	Novena
<u>Saturday</u>	December 22
8:00 am	
4:30 pm	†Joseph Spiteri
	† Tessy Spiteri Lencioni
7:00 pm	Novena
<u>Sunday</u>	December 23
7:30 am	People of the Parish
	† Leonardo Lazo
9:30 am	Italian Catholic Federation
11:30 am	† Leo Viscarra
7:00 pm	Novena

†Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Sunday Collection December 9, 2018

Weekly Need: \$ 5,000.00 **Sunday Collection \$ 3,317.00** Over/Under \$ 1,683.00 Retirement for Religious \$ 1,272.00

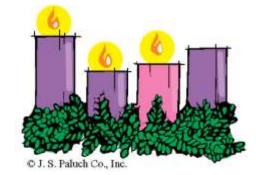
If you make your offertory donation by check, without using parishioner envelopes, it would be most helpful if you placed your parishioner/envelope # in the "memo" section of the check. This helps us input your donation to the offertory data system. We will not be responsible for donations not credited due to missing envelope numbers (or not having a Sunday collection envelope.)



As we prepare for the solemnity of Christmas, we look forward to the joy of the birth of Christ. We hope to express our joy by filling the church with a bountiful display of poinsettias. The Liturgy committee is asking parishioners to donate poinsettia plants to the Church. We will need a great number of them to beautify the sanctuary. Please bring them to the rectory by December 20th or directly to the Church on December 23rd. Please note that the rectory is closed on Fridays.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal

Our goal is \$50,615.00. To date our generous parishioners have pledged \$35,801.00 leaving a balance of \$14,814.00. Please help us reach our goal by the end of the year. Any deficit will have to be paid for by the parish as well as any overage will be returned to the parish. The cut-off date for the Archdiocese finance office to physically be in receipt of 2018 donations is January 9, 2019. Any donations received after that date will be posted in the 2019 AAA.



7:00pm Novena Masses before Christmas December 15th -23rd

Main Theme:

"Prepare your heart to receive the Savior"

Sub-themes:

Dec. 15	"Rejoice: The Lord is near"
Dec. 16	"In Christ all shall be blessed"
Dec. 17	"Jesus who delivers justice"
Dec. 18	"Nothing is impossible for God"
Dec. 19	"Mary: one who found favor with
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God"

Dec. 20 "The winter is past and the new life

is upon us."

"Hope brings joy" Dec. 21

Dec. 22 "Blessed are those who believe"

"Promise fulfilled in Jesus" Dec. 23

2018 Christmas Schedule

Saturday, December 22

Confession: 3:30pm to 4:15pm

Vigil Mass: 4:30pm mass 7:00 pm Novena Mass **Sunday December 23**

Sunday Masses

7:30. 9:30 & 11:30am

7:00pm last night of the Novena Mass

Raffle Drawing & Reception Monday, December 24

8:00am regular Mass 4:30pm Family Mass

11:30pm Christmas Carols 12:00 Midnight Mass (Bilingual)

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas day

7:30, 9:30 & 11:30am **Saturday December 29**

Confession: 3:30pm-4:15pm

Vigil Mass: 4:30pm **Sunday December 30**

Sunday Masses:

"The Holy Family of Jesus and Joseph"

7:30, 9:30 & 11:30am **Monday December 31** 8:00 am regular Mass

6:00 pm Eve of the Holy Day Vigil

Tuesday, January 1

Octave Day of Christmas (Holy Day of Obligation)

8:00am Mass: Solemnity of Mary:

"The Holy Mother of God"

6:00 pm Mass