

## 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*



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### 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.

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### 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).

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## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 17</b>
8:00 am	
7:00 pm	† Lauren Maclaughton
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 18</b>
8:00 am	
7:00 pm	† Josephine Nieri
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 19</b>
8:00 am	Communal Service
7:00 pm	† Marianna & † Giuseppe Caraffi
	† Amelia Fernandez
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 20</b>
8:00 am	
7:00 pm	Novena
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 21</b>
8:00 am	
7:00 pm	Novena
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 22</b>
8:00 am	
4:30 pm	† Joseph Spiteri
	† Tessa Spiteri Lencioni
7:00 pm	Novena
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 23</b>
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

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

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 20<sup>th</sup> or directly to the Church on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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.**



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## 7:00pm Novena Masses before Christmas December 15<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>

### 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 God”
Dec. 20	“The winter is past and the new life is upon us.”
Dec. 21	“Hope brings joy”
Dec. 22	“Blessed are those who believe”
Dec. 23	“Promise fulfilled in Jesus”

### 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