



Third Sunday Of Advent ~Year B

Diocesan Theme: **The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World**

"Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience
...above all, clothe yourselves with love!" (*Colossians 3.12, 14*)

Parish Mission Statement: "LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, MAKE DISCIPLES"

Mass  for the
Intentions *for the Week*

Saturday, December 16th

4:30pm~ For the repose of the soul of Harriette Nahri by Nellie Nahri

Sunday, December 17th~Third Sunday Of Advent

9:00 am~ For the intentions of the parishioners by the pastor

10:45am~For the repose of the soul of Jack Tyo by Pauline and family

Tuesday, December 19th

7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 20th

8:20 am~at STA

9:30am~at OLMM

Thursday, December 21st ~St. Peter Canisius

9:00 am~For the intentions of Josephine and Gary Barnes by the James family

Friday, December 22nd

9:00 am

Saturday, December 23rd

4:30 pm~For the repose of the souls of Mary, Harry and George Chyzyj by Myra Chyzyj

Sunday, December 24th~Fourth Sunday Of Advent

9:00 am ~ For the repose of the souls of all the departed souls on the flower donation list.

10:45 am~ For the intentions of the parishioners by the pastor

4:30pm~at STA~For the intentions of the Salvatorian fathers

7:00pm~at OLMM~For the repose of the souls of George Hendley, family members and friends

9:00pm~at OLMM~For the intentions of the Mulholland family by Richard James Jr.

December 10th, 2017~\$4,028.75

Thank you for your generosity and support

INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR DECEMBER: That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

~IN OUR PRAYERS~

For the sick among our families and friends especially:

Melanie Joannette
Noreen Plant and Joan Cook.

Gospel Summary

Today's Gospel reading is taken from the first chapter of John. The passage has many parallels to last week's Gospel. It begins by telling us that John the Baptist "was not the light, but came to testify to the light." John the Baptist himself makes it clear that he is not the Christ. He again explains that he is "*the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the LORD.*"

Reflection For Parents

Tony's mom. Maria's dad. Michael's wife. Angela's husband. How many times and in how many ways do we define ourselves by who we are? And, like John the Baptist, are there times and ways we define ourselves by who we are not? John made it clear that he was not the Christ, not Elijah, and not the Prophet. What he was is what we are called to be—ones who testify to the light, ones who prepare the way of the Lord, and ones who proclaim his message of truth to all. Today, pray to be who you are as a disciple of Christ. Proclaim the Good News through your words and actions, and point the way to Jesus, the One who is to come.

Bringing The Gospel Into Your Family

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, often called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* is a word that means "rejoice." Light two purple and one rose (pink) color on your Advent wreath and invite family members to recall things that brought them joy in the past week. Decide as a family on one thing you will do to share joy with a family member, friend, or neighbor in the coming week. Then turn out all the lights and sit together in the light of the Advent wreath candles for a few moments of quiet prayer.

Discussion Starters

If someone were to ask me who I am, I would say ...
If someone were to ask me who I am not, I would say ..
If I could be the light of Christ to one person today, it would be ...because ...

Blessings,
Have a great week!

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE at www.olmm.ca
Email: admin@olmm.ca

December 17th, 2017

Are you new to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish?

WELCOME! If you have not yet registered, please complete a registration form found in the foyer or in the office.

You may bring the completed form to the office or drop it in the collection basket.

VISITS TO THE SICK: Please let us know when a member is ill or elderly, or in the hospital or facing surgery. If possible please do not wait until it becomes an emergency, when a visit and prayer and perhaps the administration of the Sacrament of the Sick may be appropriate and helpful, so that we can do our best to attend to the people in need.

PILGRIMAGE STATUE OF OUR LADY OF THE

MIRACULOUS MEDAL is available to go home with a family this week. If you wish to take home Our Lady for one week, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the foyer.

During the flu season, it is acceptable to omit the handshake at the "Sign of Peace". Please note that there are hand sanitizers available at both entrances to the Church.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION TO OUR ADVERTISERS

The publication of our parish bulletin is made possible by the financial support of our advertisers. We sincerely thank you all for your generosity in the past year. All parishioners are encouraged to continue to patronize our advertisers.

Please Note: The office will be closed from December 22nd, 2017 to January 9th, 2018.

Are you looking for a way to get more out of the season of Advent? Do you want to prepare yourself for receiving the true joy of Christmas? Then consider joining us for an evening of Advent Lessons and Carols on Monday, December 18th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the church. Through stories and songs you will be invited to reflect on the prophecies and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. What better Advent activity than to spend time contemplating the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history? Everyone is invited to attend this special event.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

Sunday, Dec. 24th ~4:30pm (STA)
~7:00pm (OLMM)
~9:00pm (OLMM)

Christmas Day

Monday, Dec. 25th ~10:00am (OLMM)

New Year's Day

Monday, January 1st ~10:00am (OLMM)

Turning Pink With Joy On Gaudete Sunday

Why is one candle not like all the others?

Advent and its counterpart, Lent, are seasons of penitence. On the Advent wreath, the three purple candles mark the preparation Christians undergo while awaiting the arrival of Christ on Earth.

But, unlike Lent, Advent is usually a happy season, full of food, parties, shopping, music and lights. In the retail world, Christmas begins right after Halloween and then kicks into overdrive on the day after Thanksgiving. Many people mirror this, barely putting away the leftover turkey before putting up every Christmas decoration they own.

While this calendar is fine for secular society, it has nothing to do with the Child at the heart of the season. He won't be here until Christmas Eve, and all the earlybird sales in the world won't speed that up.

That's why it's traditional to refrain from putting the Christ Child into a Catholic church's Nativity scene manger until the appointed moment. So, why do we need a reminder to rejoice on the Third Sunday of Advent, called Gaudete Sunday (Latin for "rejoice")— by lighting a rose-colored candle on our wreaths and having priests wear rose-colored vestments at Mass? Because the happiness that comes from fun and friends and a full belly is not the same thing as Christian joy.

Pope Francis once talked about the difference between happiness and joy: *"To be happy is good, yet joy is something more. It's another thing, something, which does not depend on external motivations, or on passing, issues: it is more profound. It is a gift. To be happy at all moments, at all cost, can at the end turn into superficiality and shallowness. This leaves us without Christian wisdom, which makes us dumb and naïve, right? All is joy ... no. Joy is something else; it is a gift from the Lord."*

If joy is a gift from the Lord, then the Lord Himself is our first and greatest gift, and the only one that will never tarnish or break or fade. Gaudete Sunday reminds us that the gift has not yet arrived, but it's very near. It takes its name from the first word of the Introit, *"Gaudete in Domino Semper,"* which is Latin for the introduction of Philippians 4:4, *"Rejoice in the Lord always."* To continue with Philippians, *"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."* So even though you may be having happy times during Advent, Gaudete Sunday is a moment to stop and reflect on the source of *true* joy. And if the Advent season has brought causes for stress and sorrow into your life, then lighting the rose candle is an opportunity to take heart and refocus on what the Mass of Christ is all about.