

Third Sunday of Advent – December 16, 2018

Rejoice!

Today's 1st tells us how we should react to the coming of this utterly unique Savior. "Shout for joy... Be glad and exult with all your heart... The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior..." God's salvation in Christ, which is a free gift, not something that we have to earn, is the source of lasting joy, Christian joy. Do we think of God as being full of Joy? He is! This is why the Third Sunday of Advent is known as "Gaudete [gow-DAY-tay] Sunday"; "Gaudete" being the Latin for "rejoice! Today, as the celebration of our Savior's arrival draws closer and the season of preparation grows shorter, the Church invites us to tap into that joy.

But how? The deeper and more mature our personal relationship with the Savior, the more fully we will experience lasting joy. This explains why many Catholics, although they know about Jesus Christ and his plan of salvation, do not reflect true Christian joy in their lives. Their personal friendship with Christ, the source of that joy, has gone cold. How can we make sure that our friendship with Christ is always alive and growing, so that we can experience Christian joy more fully and constantly? The path to a deeper friendship with the Lord involves three things: knowing, loving, and imitating Jesus Christ. We know him through prayer and study. We love him by obeying his commands. We imitate him by using our time, talents, and treasure to build up those around us, loving one another as he has loved us. Advent still has two weeks left. Let's make this our goal: that we will know, love, and imitate Christ a little bit better by Christmas than we do right now. If that happens, then we will have succeeded not only in deepening our own experience of Christian joy, but also in bringing more of that joy to the world.

Father Blake Evans, Pastor



Rest in Peace

Mrs. Marcela Baliwa Gonzalo, 98, mother of Rev. Andrew Gonzalo, Pastor at Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Benedict the Moor Parishes in Washington, DC. Mrs. Gonzalo died on December 10 in the Philippines.

"Eternal rest Grant Unto Her Oh Lord!"

Worldwide the Novena of Christmas begins Dec. 16th ending on Christmas Eve the 24th. Like the Apostles praying 9 days for the Holy Spirit to come after the Ascension, Christians everywhere can enter deeply into expectation and confident faith and joy that the Christ Child is coming, and we can ask him to be born anew in us and certainly for special intentions. Many South American countries devotedly celebrate this Novena with visit to parishes, Shrines, and partially installed Manger Scenes without the Baby Jesus present. Oh, Come Emmanuel! Novena prayers will be offered this year at Daily Masses here. Info at: www.ewtn.com/devotionals/novena/christmas.htm



Christmas Terms and Facts to Know:

The Virginal Conception - the Mystery of how God the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary for her to be both Virgin and Mother. No man nor man's seed is involved. Mary remains a Virgin even after the birth of her Son to this day. **The Incarnation** - long before Christmas, at **The Annunciation** St. Gabriel announced, and Mary's cooperation begins, this mystery the Word Becomes Flesh in Her and grows for 9 months in her womb. **The Nativity** - the birth, in particular of Christ our Savior born Dec. 25; the Church also celebrates the Nativity (birth days) of St. John the Baptizer and the BVM annually. **The Immaculate Conception** - Mary is totally human, not divine, but unknown to her until the Annunciation ("you are full of grace") she was given a singular unique grace by God preserving her from Adam's sin. Mary is the new Eve. Mary's conception in the natural sense was in a normal, unitive marital act of husband and wife by her parents St. Joachim and St. Anne. **The 12 Days of Christmas** begin Dec 26 through the traditional Feast of Three Kings Day or Epiphany, January 6th. (which in most countries is moved to a Sunday).

Mass Intentions for the Week

December 15 – 22, 2018

Sat. 12/15	8:00 am	Legion of Mary members
	4:30pm	+Cher & Rohan Perera
Sun. 12/16	8:00am	People of the Parish
	10:00am	Jess & Mark Nolan (living) and Deceased children (+)
	1:00 pm	Castillo Family
Mon. 12/17	12:00	Christmas Novena's intentions
Tue 12/18	12:00	Christmas Novena's intentions
Wed. 12/19	12:00	Christmas Novena's intentions
Thu. 12/20	12:00	Christmas Novena's intentions
Fri. 12/21	12:00	Christmas Novena's intentions
Sat. 12/22	8:00 am	Christmas Novena's intentions
	4:30pm	People of the Parish

Please pray for the sick of our Parish:

*Alice R. Allen, *Amina Anderson-Pringle, *Ann Butler, *William Cammack, *Lukas Pastier, *Carmen Dolores Campos, *Carla Andrea Catacora, *Shawn Coleman, *William Corbel, *Maria Cruz, *Maurice & Flora Detiege *Kevin Fagan, *Isel Fitzgerald, *Dion A. Fortune, *Linda Foster, *Charlie Gick, *John Green, Sr., *Janet Henery, *Blanca Hernandez, *Lawrence C. Hill, *Lee Hobbs, * Sydney Horge, *Francis Howard, *Elaine Hunt, *Helen Hurd, *Larry Ivy, *Irene Jimenez, *Geraldine Jones, *Charles Johnson, *Odile Kalla, *Michael Kelly, *Busara Keneddy, *Claude Kolthoff, *Betty Lawton, *Yavonna Lewis, *Sandra Lucas, *Eric Malcolm, *Edwin & Regina Mbanude, * Theresa McNair, *Edith Mebane, *Maria Magdalena Medrano, *Agnes Moore, *Clarence Morris, *Gina Myers, *Iris Newman, *Sheryl Newman, *Amelie Ongbehalal, *D. Cynhia Peters, *James Pope, *Dorothy Richburg, *Auristela Roman, *Rosa Maria Santos, *Andre Sims, *Bonafacio Selayo *Delores Sloan, *Adrian Smith, *Bernadette Smith, *Theresa Smith, *Louise Sweatt, *Suzie Thompson, *Emily Towles, *Dominic Valentine, *Dorothy Waring, *Paul Williams, *Florentina Zoretta

Saint John Paul II. National Shrine

3900 Harewood Rd NE, Washington, DC 20017

Every Thursday – Behold! Adoration and Confession

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. — Adoration with prayerful music, silence, and Confession. This event is hosted in collaboration with parishes in the Archdiocese of Washington.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

12/9/18

Attendance: 450 souls

Offerings & Tithes: \$7,605

Spanish Mass: \$187

Utility fund: \$142

Christmas Donations. All donations and offerings received on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day or marked as such are "donations" not collections and are exempt from all Archdiocesan taxes and assessments. Thank you for your generosity to your beloved parish home of Nativity.

**Saint Matthew's Cathedral
1725 Rhode Island Ave., NW**

A feast of Lessons and Carols

Presented by the Schola Cantorum and Saint Matthew's Festival Singers and the Cathedral Lectors.

Sunday, December 16 at 7:30 pm

<http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org/events/2018/12/16/festival-lessons-and-carols?e=0>

Thank you!

To the Knights of Columbus Keane Council #353 and to all who helped prepare food or to serve the holiday meal for the Nativity Women's Shelter. Serving those most in need is one of the best ways to live out our faith in the community and to answer the Holy Father's call to be present to those on the margins of society.

Nativity Sodality would like to thank all who participated in making our bake sale a huge success. We look forward to interacting with all again soon.

Nativity Christmas cards are back! You can buy them before or after the vigil masses or contact the Rectory. \$15.00 a box, checks payable to Nativity.

Catholic Daughters. Our Lady of the Americas, Court 2344, will meet on Sunday, December 16th All Catholic Daughters are encouraged to arrive promptly at 7:30 am. After Litany and Mass, the CDA Court will meet in the Lounge for regular meeting.

Mass in Latin - Dec. 30th during the Octave of Christmas the 10am Mass will be sung Solemn Mass in Latin, the *Novus Ordo* mass of Pope St. Paul VI. Hymns and readings in English. All are welcome. Thanks to Denise Lindekugel who will help us by singing the Mass chants. Come rejoice in the Lord in the ancient official language of our Church.