

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.

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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).

Psalms — 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).

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week’s Collection	\$2,511.00	\$1,942.00
Number of Families contributing	83	60
Total Pledge for 2018	\$118,199.00	\$167,136.00
Pledged to Date (47 Weeks)	\$157,540.00	\$153,598.00
Received to Date	\$158,523.00	\$122,652.00
Envelopes Outstanding	(\$983.20)	\$30,946.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2018
\$180.00	\$9,120.00

Twenty-one ladies made a contribution last week.

BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL WEEKLY REPORT

2018 Parish Goal	\$25,705.00
Amount Received to Date	\$13,918.94
Amount Outstanding	\$11,786.06

Nine people made a B.A.A. contribution last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2018
\$5,470.00	\$84,200.00

Seventeen people made a P.L.C. contribution last week.

PARKING LOT totaled \$2.00.

26 **CHILDREN** contributed \$81.00.

POOR BOX totaled \$56.00

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION totaled \$389.00.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS totaled \$56.00.

The **ATTENDANCE** for last Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass was 130, 7:00 P.M. Mass was 120 and Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass was 140.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Four candles slowly burned. The ambiance was so soft, one could almost hear them talking. The first candle said:

“I am Peace! The world is full of anger and fighting. Nobody can keep me lit.”

Then the flame of Peace went out completely. The second candle said:

“I am no longer indispensable. It doesn’t make sense that I stay lit another moment.”

Just then a breeze softly blew Faith’s name. Sadly the third candle began to speak:

“I am Love. People don’t understand my importance so they simply put me aside. They even forget to love those who are nearest to them.”

And waiting no longer Love’s flame went out. Suddenly a child entered the room and saw the three unlit candles. “Why aren’t you burning? You’re supposed to stay lit till the end.” Saying this the child began to cry. Then the fourth candle answered:

“Don’t be afraid, I am Hope! While I am still burning we can re-light the other candles.”

With shining eyes the child took the candle of hope and lit the other candles.

The greatest of these is LOVE...but the flame of HOPE should never go out of your life! With HOPE each of us can live with PEACE, FAITH and LOVE.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. the Family of Pat Rat Riley in loving memory of him on the 16th Anniversary of his death;
2. the Wife and Family of Pete Buddy Sherlock on the 6th Anniversary of his death;
3. and a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

The Banns of Marriage are announced for the third time for Johnny Michael Sherlock and Danielle Mulholland.

TOUCHING SAFETY PROGRAM

St. Edward Catholic Church Religious Education will present a sexual abuse prevention program to students December 17th — December 20th during class with a makeup date of January 10, 2019. As parents you have the right to choose whether your child participates in the program. Opt-out forms were given to parents at Religious Education Registration. If you want to opt your child out and haven’t filled out a form please contact Bibbie’s Rose Marie.

CHRISTMAS PENANCE SERVICE

Friday, December 21st — 6:30 P.M.

THANK YOU

to four members for their donations in thanks to St. Expedite.

JUGDING & UNDERSTANDING

Those who **JUDGE** will never **UNDERSTAND** —
And those who **UNDERSTAND** will never **JUDGE**.

PSYCHOLOGISTS SAY

1. *If a person laughs too much, even at stupid things, he is lonely deep inside.*
2. *If a person sleeps a lot, he is sad.*
3. *If a person speaks less, but speaks fast, he keeps secrets.*
4. *If someone can't cry, he is weak.*
5. *If someone eats in an abnormal manner, he is tense.*
6. *If someone cries at little things, he is innocent and soft hearted.*
7. *If someone becomes angry over silly or petty things, it means he needs love.*

Try to understand people more.

THANK YOU TREE This year we will have a **THANK YOU TREE**. The money will be distributed to the poor and needy during Christmas time. The contributors' name will be put on the tree. Kindly give your donation to the church Office or Mary Rita O'Hara.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

A man was telling his friend: "My grandfather predicted in advance the very year in which he was going to die. What's more, he knew the exact month he was going to die, the precise day he was going to die and even the time of day he was going to die. And he was right on every count."

"That's uncanny," said the friend. "How did he know all that?"

"The judge told him."

PRAYER

A prayer can go where I cannot go.

Through prayers I can be with you without being there.

I may be miles away but my prayers will always be with you.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:** Third Sunday of Advent;
Las Posadas begins
- Tuesday:** International Migrants Day
- Friday:** St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday:** In thanks for Middleton on her 4th Birthday.
- Tuesday:** In loving memory of Petie Cat Gorman on the 9th Anniversary of his death.
- Wednesday:** In honor of the Holy Souls and St. Joseph.
- Thursday:** For the repose of the soul of Popeye's Kate on the 15th Anniversary of her death.
- Friday:** In thanks for Magnum Sherlock on his 12th Birthday.

THE ULTIMATE GIFT

***The spirit of Christmas fills the air,
It's a season like no other,
A time to celebrate with family and friends;
The festive mood brings hearts together.
Christmas trees glow with sparkling lights,
Inviting family and friends to gather 'round;
To spread cheer and joy to everyone...
A happy time when love abounds.
Pretty packages tied up with bows
Add drama to this joyful season.
But God gave His Son – the ultimate gift,
To pardon our sins – that is the reason.***

READERS

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|--|---|
| Sat. Dec. 15th, 4:00 P.M.
Christina & Natalie | Sat. Dec. 15th, 7:00 P.M.
Jay & Carolyn |
| Sun. Dec. 16th, 10:00 A.M. | Jimmy Joseph & Mary Cat |
| Sat. Dec. 22nd, 4:00 P.M.
Cathy Lisa & Karen | Sat. Dec. 22nd, 7:00 P.M.
Jay & Mary Melissa |
| Sun. Dec. 23rd, 10:00 A.M. | Theresa Maria Cat & Jimmy Joseph |
| Christmas Eve, 5:00 P.M.
Ivana & Ritz | MIDNIGHT Mass
Jay & Blue |
| Christmas Day, 10:00 A.M. | Jimmy Joseph & Tommy Mack |

READERS – WEEKDAYS

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|------------------|---|-----------------|
| Monday | - | Reed |
| Tuesday | - | Melissa Gallon |
| Wednesday | - | Skylar |
| Thursday | - | Christina Apple |
| Friday | - | Fallon |

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

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| Saturday 4:00 P.M.
Front
Left Cup | December 15th
Bridget Ann
Winnie Ann |
|--|--|

Sunday 10:00 A.M.

- | | |
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| December 16th
Pete Man's Nora
Rose Marie | December 23rd
Pete Man's Nora
Rose Marie |
|--|--|

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Monday | Mary Cat |
| Tuesday | Pete Man's Nora |
| Wednesday | Rosie Cat |
| Thursday | Betty Jo |
| Friday | Rose Marie |

VERY INNOVATIVE NOTICE BOARDS

- **Forest Dept:** *"Shoot the bird with camera not with gun..."*
- **Traffic Dept:** *"Donate blood, but not on roads..."*
- **Gas Station:** *"No smoking. Your life may be worthless but our gas is costly."*

And finally the best one!!

- **Hospital Board:** *"If you still want to continue looking at girls, even after your death, donate your eyes."*

~~~~~PRAYER CORNER~~~~~

Lord Jesus, inflame my heart with love for you and for your ways and help me to exchange the yoke of rebellion for the sweet yoke of submission to your holy and loving word. Set me free from the folly of my own sinful ignorance and rebellious pride that I may wholly desire what is good and in accord with your will. Amen.