

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2017

*Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.*

— 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

### REJOICE

Isaiah proclaims truly good news to us! God's coming brings not sadness, guilt, fear, wrath, or condemnation. No, God's coming is a source of comfort and joy. Saying it once is not enough, for today's readings are full of joy. Mary's Magnificat substitutes for our psalm today, and our second reading encourages us to rejoice, to give thanks and praise. This is the root meaning of the Greek word for eucharist. We are urged to rejoice and give thanks, because the coming of the Lord brings joy, healing, liberty, release, vindication. It makes the very earth spring up with new life! Good tidings!

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### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

**Psalm** — My soul rejoices in my God  
(Luke 1:46-50, 53-54).

**Second Reading** — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

**Gospel** — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

### OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
<b>Last Week's Collection</b>	\$2,827.00	\$2,036.00
Number of Families contributing	108	76
Total Pledge for 2017	\$175,815.00	\$188,514.00
Pledged to Date (49 Weeks)	\$166,820.00	\$176,650.00
Received to Date	\$166,670.56	\$141,752.20
Envelopes Outstanding	\$149.44	\$34,897.80

### LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2017
\$305.00	\$14,532.00

Thirty-nine ladies made a contribution last week.

### BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL WEEKLY REPORT

2017 Parish Goal	\$25,705.00
Amount Received to Date	\$14,738.61
Amount Outstanding	\$10,966.39

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

### HALL RENOVATION FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2017
\$670.00	\$11,461.00

Five people made a Hall Fund contribution last week.

**PARKING LOT** totaled \$8.00.

24 **CHILDREN** contributed \$107.00.

**POOR BOX** totaled \$41.00

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS** totaled \$133.00.

The **ATTENDANCE** for last Saturday 4:00 P.M. Mass was 250, 7:00 P.M. Mass was 110 and Sunday 10:00 A.M. Mass was 120.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

A man writes: When I was growing up, Mom quite often made me do chores that I hate, tiresome tasks like cooking dinner and doing laundry. I even had to learn how to iron shirts since elementary school. I didn't have a lot of free time because of all the chores. So while other kids were outside playing sports or video games, I was stuck inside helping Mom out. I can vividly remember resenting her for every minute of it.

Things didn't change much as I got older; she made me get a part-time job while I attended high school. So I spent half the day cleaning grills and serving fries at a fast food restaurant.

When I entered college, I came to a startling realization. Barely anyone my age was able to take care of themselves! They were lazy and had no idea how to manage things, and they were terrible at budgeting their money. All of a sudden, I realized the importance of everything that Mom taught me growing up.

Years later, after graduating college and settling into my career, I ending up marrying my college sweetheart. We have two boys, aged 7 and 5. The boys spend their evenings after school helping to prepare dinner, doing the laundry, and cleaning up around the house. At least once a week, we invite Mom over for supper with us. The greatest feeling in the world is seeing pride in her eyes as she watched my sons doing tasks I used to do.

*If your parents were tough on you growing up, remember that it was for a good reason. They were just trying to prepare you for the real world by teaching you how to take care of yourself. Take time to thank them for these gifts. Be sure to tell them you love them and how much you appreciate them for preparing you for the wild rollercoaster of life.*

### FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Jude, Valerie, Tommy Touch and John Damon in thanks for Middleton on her 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday;
2. a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite;
3. the Wife and Family of Pete Buddy Sherlock on the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death;
4. and another Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES** to Fr. Cherian on the 41<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood. Best wishes from St. Edward Parish Family.

### CHRISTMAS PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> — 6:30 P.M.

### CHRISTMAS 2017 MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> — 5:00 P.M. — Children's Mass

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> — Midnight Mass

Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> — 10:00 A.M. — Christmas Day Mass

**THANK YOU** to two members for their donations in thanks to St. Expedite.

### SOME CHURCH SIGNS

- *A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.*
- *Don't put a question mark where God put a period.*
- *God gives what's right, not what's left.*
- *Give Satan an inch and he'll be a ruler.*
- *God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.*

**POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS** It is asked that everyone donate \$10 for poinsettias. Please give your donation to Mary Rita O'Hara, Bridget Rita, or the Church Office.

**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.

### DECISIONS & EXPERIENCE

**GOOD DECISIONS** comes from **EXPERIENCE**, but **EXPERIENCE** comes from **BAD DECISIONS**.

This is life...So don't worry for any mistake.  
Go ahead and learn from them.

### JOKE OF THE WEEK

Meeting his fiancée's parents for the first time at Christmas, John was asked by his future father-in-law, "Young man, can you support a family?"

"Well, no," said the groom-to-be, "I was just planning to support your daughter. The rest of you will have to fend for yourselves."

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:** Third Sunday of Advent  
**Thursday:** St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins  
**Saturday:** St. John of Kanty

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Monday:** *Funeral.*  
**Tuesday:** For the repose of the soul of Petie Cat Gorman on the 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death and for the repose of the soul of Susie Mulholland on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of her death.  
**Wednesday:** In honor of the Holy Souls and St. Joseph.  
**Thursday:** For the repose of the soul of Matt Michael Sherlock on the 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death.  
**Friday:** In thanks for Magnum Sherlock on his 11<sup>th</sup> 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

<b>Sat. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 P.M.</b> Cathy Lisa Butts & Karen	<b>Sat. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M.</b> Jay & Bridgette Anna
<b>Sun. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 A.M.</b> Jimmy Joseph & Theresa Maria Cat	
<b>Sat. Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00 P.M.</b> Christina & Natalie	<b>Sat. Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 P.M.</b> Jay & Mary Melissa
<b>Sun. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 A.M.</b> Theresa Maria Cat & Jimmy Joseph	
<b>Christmas Eve, 5:00 P.M.</b> Kara & Josie	<b>MIDNIGHT Mass</b> Jay & Blue
<b>Christmas Day, 10:00 A.M.</b>	Jimmy Joseph & Tommy Mack

### READERS – WEEKDAYS

<b>Monday</b>	Kara
<b>Tuesday</b>	Karen
<b>Wednesday</b>	Christina Apple
<b>Thursday</b>	Cathy Lisa Butts
<b>Friday</b>	Annette

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

<b>Saturday 4:00 P.M.</b> Front Left Cup	<b>December 16<sup>th</sup></b> Bridget Ann Winnie Ann
<b>Saturday 7:00 P.M.</b> Front Cup	<b>December 16<sup>th</sup></b> Jay Johnny Jay's Ann

### Sunday 10:00 A.M.

<b>December 17<sup>th</sup></b> Pete Man's Nora Rose Marie	<b>December 24<sup>th</sup></b> Pete Man's Nora Rose Marie
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### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

<b>Monday</b>	Mary Cat
<b>Tuesday</b>	Pete Man's Nora
<b>Wednesday</b>	Ann T.
<b>Thursday</b>	Bibbie's Catherine Ann
<b>Friday</b>	Ann Rita

### LIFE

*Life laughs at you when you are unhappy.  
Life smiles at you when you are happy.  
But, life salutes you when you make others happy.*

### PRAYER CORNER

#### WHY ME LORD?

*Lord, I am angry and confused; my sickness is beginning to overwhelm me. I humbly ask that you give me strength to accept my present illness, and if it be your will that I might regain my health. Forgive my impatience and my unbelief in your constant care for me. I pray in union with Jesus your son, who overcame suffering and death in His glorious resurrection. Amen. Alleluia!*