

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends:

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent. In the tradition of the Liturgical calendar, the Third Sunday in Advent is often called "Rose Sunday," because it represents a lightening of the dark violet of the rest of the penitential season of Advent. As we are approaching closer to Christmas, our joy gets more and more intense as we advance in our journey of faith. This is why the vestments for today's Mass are "rose-colored," and we light the "rose candle" in the Advent wreath. They remind us of the color of the sky at the very brink of morning, when the sun is just beginning to come up. The horizon takes on a pale rose color that gradually gets redder and brighter as the sun rises. For faithful Christians, life is like a "long sunrise," and death is the entrance into the bright, "everlasting day" of eternal life.

This Third Sunday of Advent is also called "Gaudete" Sunday or "Rejoice" Sunday. "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice!" It comes from the first word of today's Second Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians, which picks up the theme of rejoicing begun in the First: "Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice!" In the reading, St. Paul reminds the Corinthian community at Philippi in Greece that God is near, and urges them to be joyful and generous in their relationships with one another, to pray confidently to God, and not to be anxious about their lives, as someone has said - 'Anxiety is like a rocking chair; it gives you something to do but gets you nowhere'. In the Gospel reading of today according to St. Luke, once again, as happens so frequently during Advent, St. John the Baptist takes center stage. John preached the baptism of repentance, and although he was preaching in the wilderness, news of his teaching spread far and wide and many people sought him out. They asked him the question as to what they must do in order to change and enter into the divine stream. We have the answer from John and Jesus that we ought to change our lives. Our holy father Pope Francis invites us to profess our Faith in the presence of God and become new evangelizers in the world. John announced in his days to prepare the way of the Lord and await the long promised messiah. The image of the Old Testament of cleansing and purifying is given to us even today. Let us pray God to grant us the grace to change ourselves and listen to his message that we may be his instruments in the proclamation of the Word.

God Bless You!

Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCD: Catholic Christian Discipleship

Children have been creating their own versions of the Advent Wreath as a way of preparing themselves during this time of waiting for the birth of Jesus. In today's Gospel, we hear how we are to prepare. John the Baptist tells all to give of your food to the hungry, your clothing to those who have none and to be honest in our dealings with others. The students are creating cards to give to the sick children in the hospital and to the area nursing homes to share the joy of Jesus' birth. This is one of the ways they can share as they wait in these days before Christmas.

+ Thank you to the teachers for their planning and assistance with today's Christmas Program, and to the children and young people for their participation.

+ Classes **will be held December 19.**

After Christmas Break, classes will resume on January 2nd.

Blessings and Peace ~ Sr. Marianna



OUR WEEKLY GIVING

		Ss. Peter & Paul	
Adult Envelopes		\$	1,775.00
Loose			84.00
Total			1,859.00
Total from December 10, 2017			1,363.00
Building Fund			70.00
Christmas Flowers			85.00
Christmas			20.00
Immaculate Conception			155.00
		St. Stanislaus	
Adult Envelopes		\$	483.00
Loose			133.00
Total			616.00
Total from December 10, 2017			444.00
Building Fund			100.00
Christmas Flowers			180.00
Immaculate Conception			132.00
		St. John	
Adult Envelopes		\$	957.00
Loose			101.00
Total			1,058.00
Total from December 10, 2017			749.46
Building Fund			200.00
Christmas Flowers			60.00
Immaculate Conception			25.00
		St. Michael	
Adult Envelopes		\$	720.00
Loose			65.00
Total			785.00
Total from December 10, 2017			289.00
Christmas Flowers			80.00
Building Fund			67.00
<i>(Totals include only the basic collection)</i>			

Called to Become Saints

Catholic Services Appeal 2018-2019

Our annual Catholic Services Appeal has begun throughout the Diocese. The "fair share" responsibility for the coming year is listed below. As of December 1st, we have collected:

2018/2019 Catholic Services Appeal

	Assessment	Received	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,393.00	\$5,650.00	\$5,743.00
St. John	\$ 9,158.00	\$3,880.00	\$5,278.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,234.00	\$2,695.00	\$2,539.00
St. Michael	\$ 2,789.00	\$1,345.00	\$1,444.00

OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

TOYCEN
of Ladysmith

Highway 27 North
Just North of the
4-way stop in
Ladysmith

CHEVROLET WILL BE THERE BUICK (715) 532-3333