
3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2023



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

Second: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

FOCUS *Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.*

Isaiah, Paul and John the Baptist rejoice in today's readings because they have Good News. God is with them and working through them. They are anointed, blessed and sent to do God's will. On this Gaudete Sunday, we, too, find reason to rejoice. Let us rejoice in sharing the Good News of Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

In the first reading, Isaiah is anointed by the Lord and sent to announce a day of vindication by our God. In the second reading, Paul encourages the Thessalonians to always rejoice, pray and give thanks. In the Gospel, John the Baptist testifies to the light and says he is the voice of one crying out in the desert, "make straight the way of the Lord."



MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: The Macri Family, Nancy Wood and Thomas Richard Minter

10 a.m.: Frances Hernandez, Nancy Wood, Mary Walton and Rosa Larreina

LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

Feast of the Immaculate Conception - 47

Saturday - 65

Sunday - 170

CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of longtime parishioner Sonia Del Pilar, who passed away in Florida last week.

We also extend our deepest sympathies to Chris Worthington and Deb Harrison upon the recent death of his father, Richard Worthington.

And we also extend our deepest sympathies to Andrea and Tom Cardinal, upon the recent death of her mother, Mary Teresa Hotetz.

Please keep these families in your prayers.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

Anne Savastano could use a hand **decorating the church** at 11:00 a.m. this Thursday, **December 21**, and after the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, **December 24**.

If you know you're available, email her at anya1321@gmail.com. If you're not certain of your schedule yet, feel free to just show up.

ADVENT EVENTS

- **December 17:** Assemble Christmas baskets; Pageant, Youth Choir rehearsals
- **December 18:** Reconciliation Monday, OLMC; Distribute holiday baskets
- **December 21:** Decorate the church, 11 a.m.
- **December 23:** Confession 3:30-4:30 p.m., here Saturday Vigil Mass, 5 p.m.
- **December 24:** Sunday Mass at 10 a.m. Christmas Eve Mass with Pageant at 5 p.m. (There will be no 8 p.m. Mass this year.)
- **December 25:** Christmas Day Mass at 10 a.m.

RECONCILIATION MONDAY

Reconciliation Monday is this Monday, **December 18**. There will be priests available at **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church** in Middletown from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. on that day. Confessions will be heard here at 3:30 p.m. next Saturday, December 23.

CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOUR CHURCH

In order to balance our budget every year, we rely heavily on the generous gifts that come to us through the Christmas collection. We also rely heavily on the 52 weekly offertory gifts that are made each year. Both help us manage our operating budget through winter when heating bills are high and unexpected costs arise for snow and ice removal.

For this reason, we ask you to be as generous as possible with your Christmas gift. If possible, please use both your weekly envelope and your Christmas envelope or make a special Christmas donation on WeShare. We need your support.

Thank you for your generosity throughout the year and at Christmas!

BRINGING UP THE GIFTS

Whether you made the request or if it is your deceased loved one for whom Mass is being said, let either one of the deacons or the ushers know if you'd like to bring up the gifts.



JUMP AHEAD TO JANUARY

Men's Faith-Sharing Group continues

Join us from 6:45-8 p.m. Mondays in January as the men's faith-sharing group journeys beyond Advent, and continues to encounter Christ through prayer, Scripture and reflection.

To register, please email Deacon Carl at carlloc@yahoo.com or call the office at 845-361-3107.

Listen – and hear God speak

Do you desire a closer relationship with God?
Would you like to experience more deeply God's unconditional love?

A **Faith-Sharing Group** is coming together for just that purpose, based on the book, "Love: A Guide for Prayer" by Bergan and Schwan, which is available on Amazon for \$14.99. The sessions will run from 9-10:30 a.m. for six consecutive Saturdays, beginning **January 6**.

The book sets forth daily scriptural passages with commentary, followed by a suggested prayer method. Participants will pray at home and then come together weekly to share – NOT discuss – using guidelines for listening. It is through listening that one becomes open to God as God continues to reveal God's self in the church community represented in the small group. The underlying message is God's unfailing love for us.

Enrollment is limited. For further information, contact Pat Davies, who will be leading the group, at patdavies2@gmail.com or call the office at 845-361-3107 to register.

Come Uno, come all to Game Night!

Roll the dice. Move ahead enough calendar spaces to land on Friday, **January 12**. Circle the date.

Here's the deal: Rebecca Suchy has proposed, and offered to run, a fun monthly **Game Night** for anyone drawn to some friendly competition. Bring yourself, a favorite game and a snack – and be prepared for the domino effect in the form of a chain reaction of laughter and levity from 7-9 p.m.

Are you game?

Book of Hebrews to be discussed

The **Scripture Discussion Group** will reconvene its Zoom meetings beginning 10-11:15 a.m. **Monday, January 22**. Everyone is welcome to this session, the Book of Hebrews. The study guide is available through Gail Van Tassel. Call her at 845-457-3432.



DID YOU KNOW...

The familiar Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is an 1861 translation of a Latin hymn by John Mason Neale with powerful lyrics seeking wisdom, salvation, victory and safety.

The lyrics and the melody emerged independently. The Latin text is first documented in Germany in 1710, whereas the melody most familiar to us has its origins in 15th-century France.

In the Old Testament, the name Immanuel, which means "God with us," first appears in Isaiah 7:14. Although it says "thou shalt call his name Immanuel," Mary and Joseph didn't give their son that name. Instead, they followed the directions given specifically to them in Matthew 1:21 (Joseph in a dream) and Luke 1:31 (Mary by the angel Gabriel) to name Him Jesus, which means "God saves."

Their son was given the name of Jesus, but he was also Emmanuel, God in the flesh (Matthew 1:23).

Immanuel is generally found in the Old Testament, which was recorded in Hebrew. Emmanuel, with an "E" reflects the recording in Greek of the New Testament.

*"It is the beautiful task of Advent
to awaken in all of us
memories of goodness and thus
to open doors of hope."*

- Pope Benedict XVI

TREASURER'S REPORT

Regular Sunday Collection

December 3-10: \$ 8,676.44

**(Last week's report was incorrectly labeled.
It should have been November 26-December 3)**

Envelopes: \$ 3,117.00 – Online: \$ 5,559.44

THANK YOU!

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