



*Mass Intentions for the Week*

- 12-18 Mon 9:00 AM For those who died of cancer  
By Charles & Jean McKilligan
- 12-19 Tues 9:00 AM Michael Gregory, Jr.  
By the family
- 12-20 Wed 9:00 AM All deceased parishioners
- 12-21 Thurs 9:00 AM Alicia Conseulo  
By Barbara
- 12-22 Fri 9:00 AM Communion Service
- 12-23 Sat 4:00 PM Martha Smith  
By Gary Smith
- 12-24 Sun 10:30 AM Madeline DeFalco Franzo  
By Joseph L. Franzo

**Communal Advent Reconciliation Service**



The celebration of the Communal Advent Reconciliation Service will take place tomorrow/today Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM in the church. There will be individual confessions at this service. Also, individual confessions are always available by calling the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

**2024 Envelopes**

Please pick up your envelopes in the vestibule this weekend. There is a list next to the boxes to assist you in finding your envelopes. There have been changes to assigned numbers so be sure to double check the list to ensure you are taking the correct box of envelopes. A contribution of \$4.00 in the initial offering envelope will help defray the cost of the envelopes.

**Correction!**

Please note that the publication put out by "4 Towns Forward" incorrectly listed our Mass times. The correct times for our Christmas Masses are Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM and Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM. An announcement notifying the public of this correction is being made on WCDO.

**Third Sunday of Advent-Gaudete Sunday  
Rejoice in the Lord**

I remember my seminary years in Ghana how many of us seminarians used to get excited when we reached the last week of each semester. We got excited because we knew that soon after our examinations we will head home to enjoy the company of our families, friends, and loved ones. Our feelings were right on point. We needed a break to rest our minds from the stress of serious academic work and other activities related to our seminary training.

Here we are, halfway through our Advent journey. We can already sense joy in the air. The liturgy for this third Sunday of Advent, traditionally known as 'Gaudete' or Rejoice Sunday, puts us in a joyful mood. It cheers us up. Today, we light the rose-colored candle on our Advent wreath as well as the other two purple candles to signify that the joyous season of Christmas is near. Our scripture readings also focus on the theme of joy. The readings exhort us to rejoice because our salvation is close at hand.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah was full of joy that God's Spirit came upon him to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to captives and release to prisoners and to announce a year of favor upon people. The prophet Isaiah rejoiced heartily in the Lord that he clothed him in a robe of salvation and wrapped him in mantle of justice. He trusted in God's faithfulness and promises. He cheered his people who were in exile up to look forward with hope for the coming of the Messiah and for their liberation and salvation.

The responsorial psalm dwells on Mary's hymn of praise well known as the 'Magnificat'. Mary offered this beautiful prayer of praise to God when she visited her cousin, Elizabeth at her home. She exclaimed "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46).

In the second reading, St Paul's echoes Mary's sentiments. He urges us to rejoice always in the Lord, to pray constantly, and to give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for us, (1Thess 5:15-16).

In the gospel, John the Baptist bore witness to Jesus Christ as the source of light, life, and the true joy of the world. He was the voice in the wilderness that called people to prepare the way for the Lord and make straight his paths. He was such an inspiring figure and exhibited honesty, integrity, humility, simplicity and faithfulness. Many people recognized John the Baptist to be the long awaited Messiah or Elijah or a great prophet. No wonder that the priests and Levites sent a delegation to him and to ask him about his identity. John the Baptist confessed that he is not the Christ but only a herald or precursor of the Anointed One of God. He did not consider himself as worthy of praise. He helped the people of his time to look forward with hope and joy for the coming of the Messiah.

John the Baptist is a model for our Christian life. He teaches us to be true to who we truly are and to offer a joyful witness to our Christian vocation.

We all need to recognize who we are in Christ. We are called to be voices in the desert, to bring the joy of the gospel to our weary world. Our mission is to bring others to know Jesus and to walk in the light of his truth. We respond to this mission through our daily conduct, words, and example. Sometimes our simple acts of kindness expressed in our compassionate listening to others, respect and empathy do make a difference in people's lives.

Let us all be open to God's grace and the gift of his joy for us. This week, let us think of what little thing you can do to bring joy to the weary and the brokenhearted.

God bless,  
Rev. Dr. Ben

**Weekend of December 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

First Reading- 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12, 14, 16

**Saturday 4:00 PM**

- Celebrant:** Fr. Ben
- Lector:** Ginni Brandt
- Eucharistic Ministers:** Carole Ostrander
- Altar Servers** Brock & Easton Porter

Second Reading- Romans 16:25-27

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Gospel- Luke 1:26-38

**Sunday 10:30AM**

- Fr. Ben
- Paula Ciborowski
- Lorraine Keckeisen
- Anderson & Garret Callender

Offerings of December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Regular, \$1,883.15; Repairs & Improvements, \$55.00; Christmas, \$35.00; All Saints, \$25.00; Christmas Flowers, \$460.00; Campaign for Human Development, \$25.00; Evangelist, \$28.00; Solemnity of Mary, \$5.00; Initial, \$5.00; Immaculate Conception, \$ 664.00



December 17<sup>th</sup> - 9:00-10:15 AM PreK-10<sup>th</sup> grade classes  
 December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> - No Classes

The weekend of December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 the regular, All Saints, Solemnity of Mary, Immaculate Conception and Christmas collection was \$2,612.15. The budget for the regular collection is \$2,395.00. To date we have collected \$52,190.15 which is \$232.15 above budget.



**Diocesan Appeal 2023-2024**

As of December 11, 2023 \$6,756.00 in pledges and donations has been collected for Sacred Heart. We are \$7,820.00 away from meeting our assessment of \$14,576.00. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the Diocesan Appeal and help Sacred Heart to reach our assessment once again!

**12 Signs of a Christian in Name Only vs. One Who Lives the Faith**

Those who are Christian in name may shy away from serving others if it requires sacrifice, but a true disciple follows Jesus's example of selfless service (Mark 10:45).

To be continued next week  
 ~provided by guide2Free



**Christmas Gifts**

Are you looking for a gift for the person who has everything? Maybe a prayer shawl is the gift you are looking for. There is no charge for a shawl but donations are always appreciated. Contact the Parish Office to get a shawl for someone special.

**"Zoom" With Us Into Advent**

On Tuesday December 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to noon join us as we take an Advent journey into the New Testament to uncover the portrait(s) of John the Baptist. See the flyer on the bulletin boards for more information.



**Christmas Flowers**

In your packet of envelopes there is one for Christmas flowers and there are envelopes in the vestibule if you do not use offertory envelopes. Donations can be made in honor or memory of your loved ones by writing their name(s) on the back of the envelope. Please place your envelopes in the collection basket. A list of names that flowers are given in memory or honor of will be in next week's bulletin.

**December Bulletin Quotes**

"O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free."  
 USCCB, "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita"

**New Advent Webpage**

This new Diocesan page is designed to enrich your Advent experience with activities you can share at home with family and friends, tips on how to go deeper in your faith, and help for those who haven't been to Reconciliation in a while. Fr. Matt Duclos answers common Reconciliation questions. Find this webpage at: <https://www.rcda.org/advent>.

**Christ's Call to Paul and Us**

A free virtual webinar is being offered on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-4:40 PM. Fr. Richard Fragomeni will reflect on the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul. To register go to [https://us02web.zoom/webinar/register/WN\\_VcWxE7SRQ60i5ujpWrsrHQ](https://us02web.zoom/webinar/register/WN_VcWxE7SRQ60i5ujpWrsrHQ). See the flyer on the bulletin board in the vestibule for more information.



**Operation Merry Christmas**

Thank you once again for your overwhelming support of Operation Merry Christmas. 65 children will have a joyful Christmas because of your generosity.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter: Third Sunday of Advent: Rejoice Always!**

Isaiah 61:1: "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24: "May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it." Let the Lord transform your marriage. Give your spouse a gift. Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. You can find one by looking up WWME.org. Dates to sign up are: January 26-28, 2024 in Derby Line, VT

**Please pray for the following people, who have requested our prayers:** Gussie Shifflett, Steve Pickwick, Joe LaFave, Ginni Roe, Gabi Bakeman, Bettye Pete, George Mertz, Kimberlee Roe, Grady Charles Weigand, Kevin, Michael Bell, Barbara Bennett, Daniel Rickard, Andre' Lundstrom, Mark & Andrea, Kim Sumski, Dorothy Kashuda, Alyson Sabillon, Linda Falk, Debra Barnard, Diane, Bonnie La Voie, Doug Williams, Faith Williams, Don Butler, Debra Patterson, Ed Nicol, Dawn Maruszewski, Carey, Madlyn Sumski, Alex Roberts, Paul J. Hamilton, Sr., Ray & Mary Munetz, Jazmers Moore, Bruce Allen, Kimberly Bosket, David Rivera, Jackie Bargher, Matthew Baxter, Darline Smith, Daniel, Joseph Dermody, Alice Anderson, Sandy Kemp, George Walters, Lorraine Keckeisen, Maria LaBar, Kathryn Wickham, Patrick, John McCann, Natalie Stone, Marian Heeps, Mary Kolermous, Clare Sterchak, Terri Cristofaro, Liliana, Nancy Daugherty, Mark Morotwe, Sharon Guenther, Kira Cronk, Terry Yackel, Jack Yackel, Jim Mylotte, Alice Walters, Mariah Pierce, Rev. Steve Deckard, Terry Nicolini, Tammy Byrnes, Nick Gibson, Andy Woods, Bob Jenks, Jane, Dolores Storzinger, Alexis Spencer, Susan Chidester, Ines Warlock, Alyce Hopkins, Bob Oliver, Rose LoCasci, Eugene & Yvonne Cutler, Timothy Bell, Barb Doyle, Ruth Glaum, Tom DeMulder, Holly North, Dixy Pflug, Tony & Lila Donnolo, Stefanie Smith, Celeste Hartman, Aidan Burns, Bill, Alicen Knapp Feroletto, Assunta Siniscalchi, James Jennings, Marge Suriano, Marlana Keath, Marian Agyemang, Frank Holley, Nicholas Gaedeke, Pat Hamilton, Gary Maraia, Rachel Feyh, Mike Andersen, Marge LaFave, Denise Dinato, Joe Maggio, Olivia Ross & family, Anne Terzo, Eric Roll, Barbara Haynes, Jess Johansen, Renee Joseph, Susan Pondolfino, Charlie Washburn, Sean Granan, Marge Ramsey, Beverly Pierce, Fran Groshans, Marion Kiselica, a dear friend, Anne Powell, Father Peter, John Miller, Pat Nabinger, James Stanley, Chris Smith, Marlana, Pat Elbrecht, Dorothy Cronin, Anthony Barber, Jr., Bonnie De Salvo, Lori White, James Rattrie, Danielle Guglielmo, Ellen Reuter, Francis & Alfredine Duguay, Chelsi Byrne, Jaxson Beadle, Joan Rice, Joe Santorelli, Jaime Mathewson, Theo Williams, Joan Barber, Stephanie Soldinger, Eileen Donohue, Rowan DeCocker, Bonnie Tabone, Nancy Peck, Mike Blincoe

*Please Note: All names will remain on our list and will be prayed for unless our office is notified to remove an individual.*