

Dear Padre,

I recently moved to a parish that includes a large Mexican community that's known for their annual *posadas* event. What is that?

Las *posadas*, a nine-day novena preparation for the celebration of Christmas, begins December 16 and ends Christmas Eve.

Posada is Spanish for "inn." The ceremony remembers Mary and Joseph's trip to Bethlehem and their difficulty finding a place to stay. *Posadas* are celebrated in many ways, but the traditional celebration involves a group of people, the "pilgrims," going to several houses, knocking on the door, and asking for *posada*. The pilgrims sing the part of Joseph as he explains their situation and asks for a place to stay. The people inside sing back that they have no room and that the pilgrims should just move on.

On the last night, the people in the last house recognize that Mary is the Queen of Heaven and that the child she carries is the Savior of the World. They invite the pilgrims inside and hold a prayer service that may include a Scripture reading or the rosary. The celebration ends with food and singing.

This tradition is more than a folksy reenactment of Joseph and Mary's search for lodging—it's a solemn dramatization by women and men who believe God searches with them, a touching ceremony that can help Christians today see the real needs of those who live without the security of a home, health insurance, or a steady job.

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.



CNF PHOTO / NANCY WIEHEC

A WORD FROM Pope Francis

Many Christians have that face...from a funeral wake, a face of sadness. But Christ is risen! Christ loves you! And you have no joy? Let us think a bit about this and let us ask: "Do I have joy because the Lord is close to me, because the Lord loves me, because the Lord has redeemed me?"

GAUDETE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020



Calendar

Monday
DECEMBER 13
St. Lucy,
Virgin and Martyr
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a
Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday
DECEMBER 14
St. John of the Cross,
Priest and Doctor
of the Church
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13
Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday
DECEMBER 15
Advent Weekday
Is 45:6b-8, 18,
21c-25
Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday
DECEMBER 16
Advent Weekday
Is 54:1-10
Lk 7:24-30

Friday
DECEMBER 17
Advent Weekday
Gn 49:2, 8-10
Mt 1:1-17

Saturday
DECEMBER 18
Advent Weekday
Jer 23:5-8
Mt 1:18-25

Sunday
DECEMBER 19
Fourth Sunday
of Advent
Mi 5:1-4a
Heb 10:5-10
Lk 1:39-45

Helping Catholics apply gospel messages today!

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10 ISSUES PER YEAR.
ONE PER HOUSEHOLD, PLEASE.



Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 12, 2021
Third Sunday of Advent (C)
Zep 3:14-18a
Phil 4:4-7
Lk 3:10-18

Joy to the World!

This is the Sunday of joy, *Gaudete Sunday*. In the first reading, the people are told to "Shout for joy" because "the LORD is in your midst" (Zephaniah 3:14-15). The psalm response tells us to "cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and holy one of Israel" (see Isaiah 12). The second reading directs us to "rejoice in the Lord always" because "the Lord is near" (Philippians 4:4-5). In the Gospel, we see that "the people were filled with [messianic] expectation," even wondering "whether John might be the Messiah" (Luke 3:15). All John could say was that "one mightier than I is coming" (3:16).

So today, what are we waiting for this Sunday and how is God present? We know that God is already present with us in many ways: in the Church and sacraments; in the lives of good people we know; in

the depths of our hearts. And so, we rejoice. We also know that the story of salvation is unfinished. There are still so many evils from which we must be saved. When you think of them, what's at the top of your list?

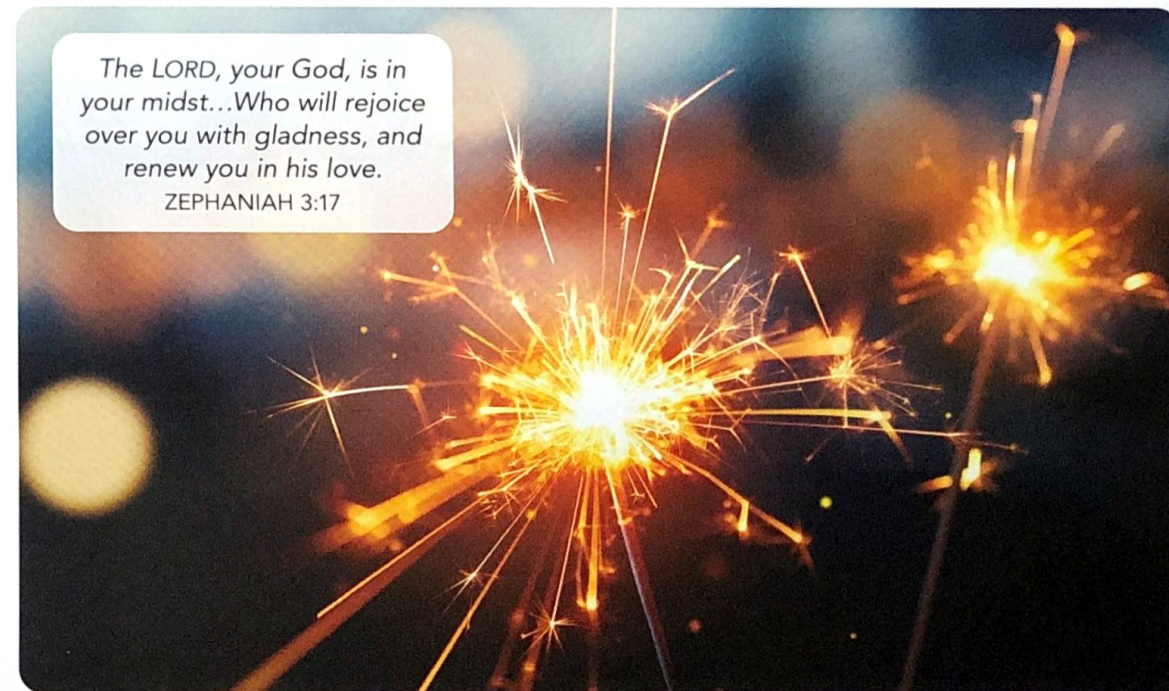
We are eager for God to come into our lives anew to comfort us and strengthen us. We know we cannot do it alone. Even as we wait for the day of salvation to dawn, we rejoice for we know that it came before and will come again. That's why we sing "Joy to the World."

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- * Think of a few ways you have experienced God's goodness in your life. Rejoice and give thanks for these blessings.
- * What are your hopes for the day of salvation?

The LORD, your God, is in your midst...Who will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love.
ZEPHANIAH 3:17





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 Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
 Email: saintanthonylakin@gmail.com
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Lisa Gannett, DRE	355-6611
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Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek & Nanette Rice	355-1696 355-7676

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 11, 4:00 p.m.

Servers: Lucy Gannett, Nathan Gannett,
Jonathan Gannett

Readers: Tom Bachman

Sunday, December 12, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Cade Berning, Joce Berning, Joleigh
Lohman -Fuller

Reader: Fred Jones

Saturday, December 18, 4:00 p.m.

Servers: Volunteers

Reader: Debbie Frederick

Sunday, December 19, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Volunteers

Reader: K of C

Christmas Eve Mass, December 24, 4:00 p.m.

Servers: Volunteers

Reader: Volunteer

Monday, Dec. 13	8:00 a.m.	Charles & Eileen Hoff
Tuesday, Dec. 14	8:00 a.m.	Yvonne Randolph
Thursday, Dec. 16	8:00 a.m.	Special Intention (Powers Family)
Friday, Dec. 17	8:00 a.m.	Harold Smith
Saturday, Dec. 18	4:00p.m.	Peter Sack
Sunday, Dec. 19	9:00 a.m.	Leona Randolph

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. every Friday from 4:15—4:50 p.m. or by appointment.

Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

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3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT— DECEMBER 12, 2021



The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. (Isaiah 61:1)

My friends, as we journey these last 12 days of Advent, as we reflect on our own spiritual journey. This Third Sunday of Advent- Sunday of joy. Joy comes from the inside, comes from what’s going on in our hearts and minds and souls. And for the Christian, joy starts with the realization of what our God has done for us in the person of Jesus, starts with the realization of how near our God is to us, and how much he loves us, and how he was (and is) willing to do anything for us. Joy comes with not simply knowing “about” Jesus, but with actually knowing him, being in relationship with him, accepting him as Lord.

That’s what John was trying to accomplish in the desert. They came to see him --- but he quickly diverted their attention elsewhere, tried to get them to be ready to encounter the one who would baptize them “with the Holy Spirit and fire”.

So is that the answer? Do we experience joy only when we are thinking about Jesus, only when we are contemplating what he has done for us, only when we acknowledge him as Lord and Savior? Does joy end there? Or is there more? Of course there’s more. Accepting Jesus is just the starting point of a life of true joy, just the beginnings of what it means to be a joyful person. But that joy grows only when we love. True joy is more of a way of life than a feeling. It’s a way of being that is independent of whatever difficulties and challenges may come our way. It’s not what happens to us. It’s what happens in us.

And so, as we close out these last couple of weeks before Christmas, as we eagerly await the joy that comes with these holiest of days, comes with our perfect gift --- Jesus --- let’s make sure that our joy lasts longer than a moment or a day or a week, that it doesn’t simply fade away as do our countless pursuits of happiness.

And the only way to do that is to pay the gift forward, strive to live lives of kindness and compassion and mercy and generosity and love --- sharing Jesus with a world in desperate need of him. Who knows what change that might bring about in each of us? Rejoice!

COLLECTION for December 6, 2021: Envelopes: \$1970; Loose: \$277; Online Giving: \$1492.55 Total \$3739.55; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under +1978.38.

Thank you so much to your faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE If you would like to donate flowers in memory of A LOVED ONE FOR CHRISTMAS, please put your donation in envelope marked to whom you want them to go to, plus your name and put in with the regular collection or send it to our office.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH DECORATION We plan to decorate the church on December 17 at noon. Your help would be appreciated.

BUDGET SHOP We will be working at the Budget Shop on Saturday, December 18 and Tuesday, December 21. Please keep these dates on your busy calendars and try to save a few hours to help us. We are open on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Any help will be greatly appreciated. And "Thank You" ahead of time.

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES Your Offering Envelopes for the coming year are available at the Church's Vestibule. Please pick up yours and thank you so very much for your generous and faithful contributions for supporting our Parish.

2022 CALENDARS are available at the church vestibule for you to pick it up.

LOOKING AHEAD

Parish Altar Society Meeting—Sunday, 12 at 5:00p.m.

Parish Christmas Party—Wednesday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to bring a covered dish.

Christmas Church Decoration—Friday, December 17 at noon.

Christmas Eve Mass in Lakin—Friday, December 24 at 4: 00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Mass in Syracuse—Friday, December 24 at 5:30 p.m. (MT)

Christmas Day Mass in Deerfield —December 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Day Mass in Vietnamese in Garden City– December 12:30 p.m.

PLEASE KNOW THAT We will not have Saturday Evening Mass (12/25)at 4:00 & 6:00 p.m. in Lakin & Deerfield.

VOCATION VIEW Do you rejoice in the Lord? Is He asking you to consider a vocation as a priest or deacon?

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (Alternative Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent) Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your Church: the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope that his presence will bestow, for he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (Luke 3: 10-18)

Getting ready In Luke's Gospel possessions represent a person's spiritual state. Those who truly welcome Jesus would give up everything in order to follow him. Verses 10-14 of this passage, found only in this Gospel, highlight the proper use of possessions. In order to prepare for whatever is about to happen, people must show with their material possessions that they are spiritually ready. Even if someone has only two shirts or two loaves of bread, that's a shirt and a loaf they could give to someone else.

Tax collectors and soldiers Tax collectors could force people to pay more than they owed. The tax agents then pocketed the extra earnings. Tax collectors could also call upon soldiers to force people to pay. The soldiers would have been paid for their help.

Messiah Messiah is a Hebrew word that means anointed one. Christ is the Greek word for the same thing. In the ancient world people were anointed as a sign that God had chosen them for a special purpose.

Expectations Given the Roman occupation of their land, many Jews were looking for a messiah to liberate them. As John urged people to turn away from their old lives and embrace God's coming, people hoped that he was God's chosen one. In response, John distinguishes himself from the one who is coming. • John immerses people into water; the one who comes will fill people with God's Spirit • John's baptism is only a sign of change; the one who comes will bring about real and decisive change • It was a slave's job to remove his master's shoes. John isn't even worthy to act as a slave for the one who is coming

With fire John evokes Malachi 3:19 when he warns that God's judgment includes a fiery purging. John describes a farmer tossing wheat into the air to separate it from the chaff, the inedible part. It's not clear if the chaff refers to people or to whatever is in people that must be purged before they enter God's kingdom.

(www.oursundayreadings)

UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING (Zephaniah 3:14-18a)

From terrifying punishment... Zephaniah prophesied in the late seventh century BC. Much of what he said was terrifying: God's punishment for people's persistent idolatry would be severe and would encompass the entire earth.

...to a glorious new day Zephaniah then prophesied that after God purges the earth of evil, God will bring about a new era. The time of punishment and fear will be over. God will again dwell among his people, restoring them and protecting them from further harm. Zion is the name of the hill on which Jerusalem was built. The terms Zion, Israel, and Jerusalem are all ways of referring to God's chosen people. The people will sing during festivals, worship services honoring the LORD, their king. As the people sing, so will God himself. God will again show his love for his people, a love that is like a father's love for his daughter. (www.oursundayreadings)

What's the purpose of a wake service?

Officially known as the Vigil for the Deceased, the wake service is part of a sequence of funeral rites conducted according to local custom and clergy accessibility—and nowadays, with Covid protocols in place. In the revised Rites of the Catholic Church, these rites all share a dual purpose: to commend the dead to God and to support Christian hope among the living.

The stations of the funeral rite in their fullest expression recognize significant times and places surrounding the death of a loved one. They include a vigil in the home at the time of death, the laying out of the body, the gathering of relatives and friends for a consoling Liturgy of the Word, the life-affirming sharing of the Eucharist at the church, and the final commendation and burial at the cemetery. These rites presume that spiritual preparation of the sick and dying, and their families, was pastorally administered. In this way, the deceased and the mourners are accompanied through the process of loss and consolation comprehensively.

These three stations of the funeral rite—in the home, in church, and at the cemetery—aren't always geographically possible or culturally appropriate. A second option with two stations is therefore recommended: at the chapel and the gravesite. A third plan has one station: at the home of the deceased. In the United States, the wake service is typically held at a funeral home rather than an individual's home, followed by a funeral Mass and cemetery committal service.

The rites are uncommonly delicate in their recommendations, especially regarding the wake. Family traditions, local customs, and "anything that is good may be used freely" ("Funerals," 2). Some families may want to pray the rosary together or sit in silence; others may include singing and telling stories. Only that which is "alien to the gospel" is discouraged. The central concern is that those gathered have sufficient opportunity to pray and profess their faith.

Whether the vigil takes place in the home or at church, the body of the deceased may be available for viewing or in a closed casket. Cremains may also be placed in a position of respect. Typically a greeting, psalm, Scripture reading, brief homily, general intercessions, and the Lord's Prayer comprise the formal parts of a wake. While a priest or deacon may lead the service, it's also permissible that a lay person do this—and the other funeral rites, too, save the Eucharist itself, when no priest is available. (Alice L. Camille)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Queen of Mercy, watch over us

Often, we seek guidance, wondering like those around John the Baptist: *What should we do?* The answer's a simple one: show mercy. Our adversaries, family members, and we ourselves may be in need of such compassion. When La Virgen Morena (the Brown Virgin) appeared to Juan Diego in Mexico and left her image on his cactus-fiber cloak, her promise of mercy to all who appealed to her was sealed on the Americas. Our Lady of Guadalupe, now patroness of Mexico and empress of the Americas, extends her reign across two continents and around the globe. Respond with mercy today. (Prepare the Word)

TERCER DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

Reina de la Misericordia, vela por nosotros

A menudo, buscamos orientación, preguntándonos como los que rodeaban a Juan el Bautista: *¿Qué debemos hacer?* La respuesta es sencilla: demostrar misericordia. Nuestros adversarios, los miembros de nuestra familia y nosotros mismos podemos necesitar esa compasión. Cuando la Virgen Morena se apareció a Juan Diego en México y dejó su imagen en su manto de fibra de cactus, su promesa de misericordia para todos los que recurrieran a ella quedó sellada en las Américas. La Virgen de Guadalupe, ahora patrona de México y emperatriz de las Américas, extiende su reinado por dos continentes y por todo el mundo. Responde con misericordia hoy.