

Father Paul's Weekly Email

December 15, 2023

The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday. The word "gaudete" is derived from the Latin words "gaudium," joy, and "gaudeo," to rejoice or be glad. Gaudete Sunday occurs eight to thirteen days before Christmas, and the nearness of the feast is reason for great joy.

The name "Gaudete." is taken from the Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near" (paraphrase, Phil 4:4-5). Advent is a time of joyful expectation and eager preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas. There is joy in looking forward to the annual celebration of Christmas, but there is also joy in recalling the birth of Jesus on the first Christmas. The joy is heightened because he was born to save us from our sins (Mt 1:21b). The joy also extends to anticipation of the Second Coming, either at the end of our physical life or the end of the world, the time when believers will be given the crown of righteousness (2 Tm 4:8) and a place in the Father's house (Jn 14:2) to dwell with God and his angels and saints for all eternity.

Advent is an invitation to confess and be absolved of our sins. We prepare our hearts, minds, souls, and lives to welcome Christ in a special way at Christ-MASS. Rose is a sign of joy and may be used as the liturgical color. Gaudete Sunday offers a brief respite to focus on the uplifting, upcoming joyful celebration of the Nativity.

The priest may wear a rose chasuble and the deacon may wear a rose dalmatic. Church decorations may include roses or other flowers, a rose-colored altar cloth, drapery on the pulpit or ambo, chalice veil, tabernacle curtain, or wall hangings. The third candle of the Advent wreath is rose. Here's an idea. ***If you own any pink or rose colored clothing, feel free to wear it with joy when you come to Mass this weekend.***

There are three important events happening this Sunday December 17 for your consideration.

1. 10:15 am Rabbi Victor Urecki will speak **CHANUKAH** and more in the Parish Hall. A great turnout will bring joy and encouragement to him and his congregation at B'nai Jacob Synagogue during these unprecedented and difficult days.
2. 3:00 pm **BLUE** Christmas Service will take place in the Church. This service is for people who find it difficult to be joyful this holiday season. Our presence is a sign of support and encouragement for our brothers and sisters in Christ.
3. 4:30 pm Blessed Sacrament **YOUTH** and others plan to meet for pizza in the Parish Hall. They will visit Hubbard Hospice House to sing carols. Please let Mary know if you want some pizza. We will depart at 5:15.

Phone: Office (304) 744-5523

Parish website

Faith in West Virginia

This Sunday's Readings

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Email: pjw424@gmail.com

<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>

<https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/>

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/121723.cfm>

CHRISTMAS DAY BRUNCH SIGN UP

Thanks to the wonderful people who brought us Thanksgiving Dinner, we will have a Christmas Morning Brunch at 11am following the 10am Christmas Mass. All parishioners are welcome to attend as well as family, friends, and neighbors. Blessed Sacrament will be providing ham, and you can bring a side dish to share if you are able. Sign-up sheets are available in the gathering space. If you would like to volunteer to help in any way, please contact Terry Mathias at 304-741-0045 or tsmathias@earthlink.net. December 17 is the last day to sign up. Please sign-up now to help in the planning.

A MYSTIC ON THE INCARNATION

We know what the Incarnation means to us, that God the Son, by becoming human, caught up our human nature into his, made each one of us one with him. He took our human nature for his own and gave us his. He experienced everything that we do, except sin, and he even took upon himself the guilt and punishment of sin. He made himself subject to our limitations: to discomfort, poverty, hunger and thirst and pain. He knew fear, temptation, and failure. He suffered loneliness, betrayal, unrequited love, utter desolation of spirit, the sense of despair and death. He suffered all these things, and all the secret, incommunicable things known to each individual, which can never be told; and he overcame them all. Christ has lived each of our lives. He has faced all our fears, suffered all our griefs, overcome all our temptations, labored in all our labors, loved in all our loves, died all our deaths. He took our humanity, just as it is, with all its wretchedness and ugliness, and gave it back to us just as his humanity is, transfigured by the beauty of his living, filled full of his joy. So that no matter what suffering we meet, we can meet it with the whole power of the love that has overcome the world. (Caryll Houselander The Risen Christ, pp. 1-3)

CARBONATED GRACE ***

So English, I fancy you all agree, is the funniest language you ever did see. English might be the most widespread language in the world but there's still no ham in hamburger, no egg in eggplant and neither pine nor apple in pineapple.

What did the man who walked into a bar say?
Ouch!

Why did the boy eat his homework?
Because the teacher told him it was a piece of cake.

Why is the number six so scared?
Because seven eight nine!

If we are the human race, then who is winning?

If vegetarians eat vegetables then what on earth do humanitarians eat?

*** Anne Lamott calls laughter *carbonated grace*

CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE

Saturday 12/23	4pm	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday 12/24	10am	Fourth Sunday of Advent (NOTE TIME CHANGE)
Sunday 12/24	4pm	Christmas Vigil Mass
	7pm	Christmas Mass
	Midnight	Christmas Mass
Monday 12/25	10am	Christmas Day Mass
Saturday 12/30	4pm	Holy Family Feast
Sunday 12/31	9am	Holy Family Feast
	11:30	Holy Family Feast
Monday 1/1	10am	New Year's Mass (NOTE TIME CHANGE)
		<i>Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>

