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# Mass Intentions for the Week

**The Third Sunday of Advent**  
December 16, 2012

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15**

*Vigil of the Third Sunday of Advent*  
4:00 PM Theresa M. Lolio—Memorial

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16**

*The Third Sunday of Advent*  
7:30 AM Pat & Marie Raimondo—Memorial  
9:00 AM Albert Edward Hyde—Memorial  
10:30 AM Jeannine Light—2nd Anniversary

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 17**

*Late Advent Weekday*  
7:30 AM Michael & Katherine Banas—Memorial

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18**

*Late Advent Weekday*  
7:30 AM Ellen Allwell—Memorial

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19**

*Late Advent Weekday*  
7:30 AM Paul E. Moscatelli—9th Anniversary  
& Elizabeth Moscatelli—18th Anniversary

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20**

*Late Advent Weekday*  
7:30 AM Joe Zaino—Memorial

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21**

*Late Advent Weekday/St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church*  
7:30 AM John Gardner—Memorial

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22**

*Late Advent Weekday*  
8:30 AM Janet Foyle—4th Anniversary  
*Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
4:00 PM Antoinette Mulcahy—Memorial

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23**

*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
7:30 AM The Deceased Members of the Tripodi  
& Fogg Families—Memorial  
9:00 AM Anthony Calitri—Memorial  
10:30AM The Deceased Members of the Miller  
& Loeffler Families—Memorial



Dear Parishioners:

*"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice."* So goes the Entrance Antiphon for the Third Sunday of Advent. The Third Sunday of Advent is commonly called *Gaudete* Sunday and sometimes Rose Sunday, this Sunday when we light the rose candle on the Advent wreath.

It is called *Gaudete* from the Latin to rejoice. It is a command ordering us to rejoice! In these days of repentance and preparation leading up to the feast of our Savior's birth, it reminds us of the joy that is to come, and serves, amid this season of Advent as a kind of 'break' when we recall the hope we have because of the coming of Jesus.

So how might we rejoice? We can come to the celebration of Advent Lessons and Carols Sunday night in Church at 5:00 pm. There we can with prayer and praise prepare the way rejoicing at the Lord's coming. It is a wonderful celebration of the season that calls us to prepare with prayer and patience but also with joyful anticipation. I hope you join us for this great event for our parish. We will take up a free-will collection for the Diocesan Keep the Heat Fund so those who are less fortunate than us might also rejoice.

If you cannot make it on Sunday to rejoice than perhaps you can come on Tuesday night for the OLM School Pageant. Father Shemek and I are excited about experiencing our first pageant at OLM as we've been

told it is a great celebration of the season by our schools kids. So if you can, please join us on Tuesday at 7:00 pm, it should be a great time! You might also come to the OLM School Band Concert on Thursday at 7:00 pm. Try to stop by and rejoice a little in the season.

Of course, if you really need some rejoicing in the season I invite you to consider going to Confession. This week our OLM School children as well as our RE Classes Grades 7-9 have the opportunity to rejoice in the mercy and forgiveness of God as we will be joined by several visiting priests to celebrate the Sacrament of Confession.

Going to Confession is truly a Sacrament of joy as it offers to us the chance to experience God's unconditional love and mercy. When is the last time you made a good Confession? When is the last time you rejoiced that God not only loves you but also forgives your sins?

Confession is available every Saturday at OLM at 3:00 pm. If you cannot make it on a Saturday afternoon before Christmas, don't worry. Father Shemek and I will be in our confessionals on Christmas Eve Day (December 24th) from 10:00 am until Noon.

So why not give yourself the best Christmas gift you'll ever receive, God's loving mercy and forgiveness. Why not make a little room for the Lord before Christmas? Stop by and visit Him in the Confessional before

Christmas comes, He's waiting to meet you and forgive you!

Advent is truly the time to prepare for His coming into our own lives and reflect upon our own poverty, the poverty of spirit. No one wants to admit to being needy. It is, after all, allowing someone else to have strength and power to deliver what we are desperate for.

When we are well fed and hydrated, healed, clothed and safe in our homes, it is difficult to be considered "needy". Yet most of us are ultimately bereft and spiritually impoverished, needing God even when we won't admit it, or even reject Him. Despite the wealth with which we surround ourselves every day, our need is still great; we stand empty and ready to be filled—abundantly.

Only God can fill that emptiness, only God can truly nourish us, and only God can truly save us. We sing *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"* but Emmanuel means God-with-us. So we prepare in Advent for God to come to fill the voids in our lives, to nourish us with His eternal presence and to save us from the snares of this world, sin and selfishness. But we also rejoice that we that we have a Savior who is with us today!

It's Advent so stop and be silent, prepare and pray! But also as Philippians reminds us: *"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!"* Have a great week. God Bless.

*Father Healey*

## The Catechism Corner

"...and I detest all of my sins because of Thy just punishment but most of all because I have offended Thee my God who art all good and deserving of all my love." Now we get to the heart of the matter and the heart of every Confession we've ever made. It's time to be honest with ourselves: Are we there in the confessional out of fear or in love?? Do we confess our sins just to have a "clean slate"?? OR, is it so that we will feel better about ourselves?? OR, God forbid, we should die that night, is it out of fear of punishment for those sins?? OR, is it because of love, purely and simply?? Think of it in these terms, you have offended your mother by something you have done--not done directly to her but something that has hurt her deeply nonetheless. Why do you apologize and ask her forgiveness?? Isn't it out of love, purely and simply?? Chances are, when we go to Confession and pray these words of the Act of Contrition, we are motivated or have been motivated by all of the above reasons at different times in our lives. God though wants us most of all to avoid sin out of love--love for Him, ourselves, and our neighbor. We recognize in these words of the Act of Contrition that we have failed to love God as He deserves--He is, after all, "deserving of all my love." I have sinned because I don't love enough. And when we are in love with the Lord, that does not mean that that punishment disappears. The punishment is there, of course, because in God's justice, it has to be. But the punishment no longer becomes a motivating force for our Confession. We are sorry not because of what might happen to us in the future but rather sorry for what has already happened to us in the past by choosing to sin--that is why as we grow IN love, we grow OUT of fear. We more clearly see the role of the penance which the priest gives us in Confession. It is not a punishment but rather an act of love that we embrace in order to make things right again. "Absolution takes away sin, but it does not remedy all the disorders sin has caused. Raised up from sin, the sinner must still recover his full spiritual health by doing something more to make amends for the sin: he must 'make satisfaction for' or 'expiate' his sins. This satisfaction is also called 'penance.'" The penance we receive in Confession, whether it is to pray a *Memorare*, to give alms to the poor, or to help someone in need that day, is the first act of love for our new self. We leave the confessional eager to begin anew on that road to the Lord. We realize that fear can only move us to do certain things but Love will move us to do ALL things!! And one of those things is **checking it out** in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1459



YEAR OF FAITH 2012  
2013

## Weekly Collection

### WEEK OF DECEMBER 9, 2012

Weekly.....\$12,436.43  
Retired Religious Fund.....\$5,505.00  
Annual Collection (to date).....\$50,572.00

*If you have been away on vacation or visiting another parish, we kindly ask you to please make up your missed budget envelopes. We depend solely upon your weekly support to meet our weekly parish expenses.*

***Thank you for your generosity!***

***Please remember Our Lady of Mercy  
Church in your will or estate.***

## THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH

Monday — 11:30 am — Mass at St. Elizabeth Home  
Tuesday — 4:00 pm — Legion of Mary (Church)  
Tuesday — 7:00 pm — OLM School Pageant (Church)  
Wednesday — 6:30 pm — OLM School PTG Meeting (School)  
Thursday — 4:00 pm — Bereavement Group (Mercy House)  
Thursday — 7:00 pm — OLM Band Concert (OLM Cafeteria)

## Christmas Mass Schedule

*"O Come Let Us Adore Him"*



**Monday, December 24th**

**Christmas Eve**

**Confessions 10:00am—12:00pm**

**Vigil Mass—4:00pm**

**Tuesday, December 25th**

**Christmas Day**

**Midnight Mass—12:00am**

**Christmas Day Masses**

**7:30am, 9:00am & 10:30am**

**The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God**

**Monday, December 31st**

**New Year's Eve**

**Vigil Mass—4:00pm**

**Tuesday, January 1st—New Year's Day**

**Masses 7:30am, 9:00am & 10:30am**

## 3rd Sunday of Advent



**T**he traditional name for the Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday. The name comes from *Gaudete in Domino semper*, Latin for “Rejoice in the Lord always,” opening words of today’s entrance antiphon (brief scriptural text that is usually replaced by an opening hymn).

Because one of Advent’s tasks is to prepare us for Christ’s return at the end of time, this season once had a penitential quality similar to that of Lent. Gaudete Sunday with its rose vestments and relaxation of austerities softened the period and gave a glimpse of its fulfillment just as its counterpart, Laetare Sunday, did at the midpoint of Lent.

Viewed now as a season of devout and joyful expectation, Advent retains very little of its old penitential focus, but we still have the option of using the liturgical color of rose today as we rejoice that Christmas is near, and Christ’s second coming is nearer than it was yesterday.



*This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.*



***Congratulations to Our Newly Baptized!***

**Alessandra Hope Lombardi,  
and her parents, Anthony and Tina.**

**Logan Anthony Sayegh,  
and his parents, Richard and Andrea.**



We offer our prayers and condolences to the family of **James M. Sheridan** who died last week. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Our Lady of Mercy on December 5, 2012.

***May he rest in peace.***



**Join us on Tuesday, December 18 for the Annual OLM School Christmas Pageant at 7:00pm at OLM Church.** The entire student body along with the OLM bands, will perform classic Christmas Carols in the church, culminating in a re-enactment of the Nativity. Plan on joining us on **Thursday, December 20, in OLM Church for the Annual OLM Band Concert** beginning at 7:00 p.m. Students in the Junior Band, Senior Band and Jazz Band will play Christmas selections under the direction of band coordinators Bill DiLibero, Jack Rametta and Greg Takemoto.



RE Students in Grades 7, 8, & 9 will all meet on Monday, December 17th for a Penance Service. No Class on Tuesday night for Grades 7 & 8. Grades 1-6 meet as usual this week.

No RE Classes on December 24, 25 or 26 due the Christmas Vacation. We wish all our RE students and teachers a Happy Christmas and Blessed New Year! RE Classes for Grades 1-6 resume on Wednesday, January 2, 2013. RE Classes Grades 7, 8, & 9 resume on Monday, January 7 & Tuesday, January 8, 2013.

### THE PAMPHLET RACK

Our pamphlet rack is an excellent resource for your Advent reading material. Stop by and see what's available!



**Sunday, December 16th at 5:00PM**  
**Our Lady of Mercy Church**

The Our Lady of Mercy Choir, Choristers and Handbell Choir are to perform seasonal music under the direction of Brother Roger Chingas, FSC. Please join us on *Gaudete* Sunday as we rejoice together with prayer and joyful song. **A free-will offering will be taken up for the Diocese of Providence's Keep the Heat Fund for those who need heating assistance in these winter months.**



### **THE ADVENT SHARING TREE.**

The Advent Sharing Tree located in the front foyer of the church is available to those wishing to contribute to this year's Christmas Outreach Program. The regular Advent Sharing Tree envelopes are available to anyone wishing to make any monetary donation that will be applied to the food baskets as well as shopping gift cards. These envelopes can be returned to the rectory or simply dropped in the weekly collection basket at mass. **New this year** - There are colored envelopes on the tree which can be taken for anyone who wishes to purchase a particular gift item requested by individuals at the Jeanne Jugan Residence. **These items should be wrapped and returned by Wednesday Dec. 19 to Mercy House. The information tag found in the envelope should be secured to the outside of the gift.** Thank you for your gift of a "Sharing SPIRIT"



**Youth Group Meeting THIS Sunday, December 16th following Lessons & Carols at 6:00pm in the OLM School Cafeteria.** We will gather to assemble the McAuley House gift bags and celebrate a Yankee Swap. Please bring a Yankee Swap gift item (\$10 value). Refreshments to be served!



I-John McLaughlin & Holly LaChance