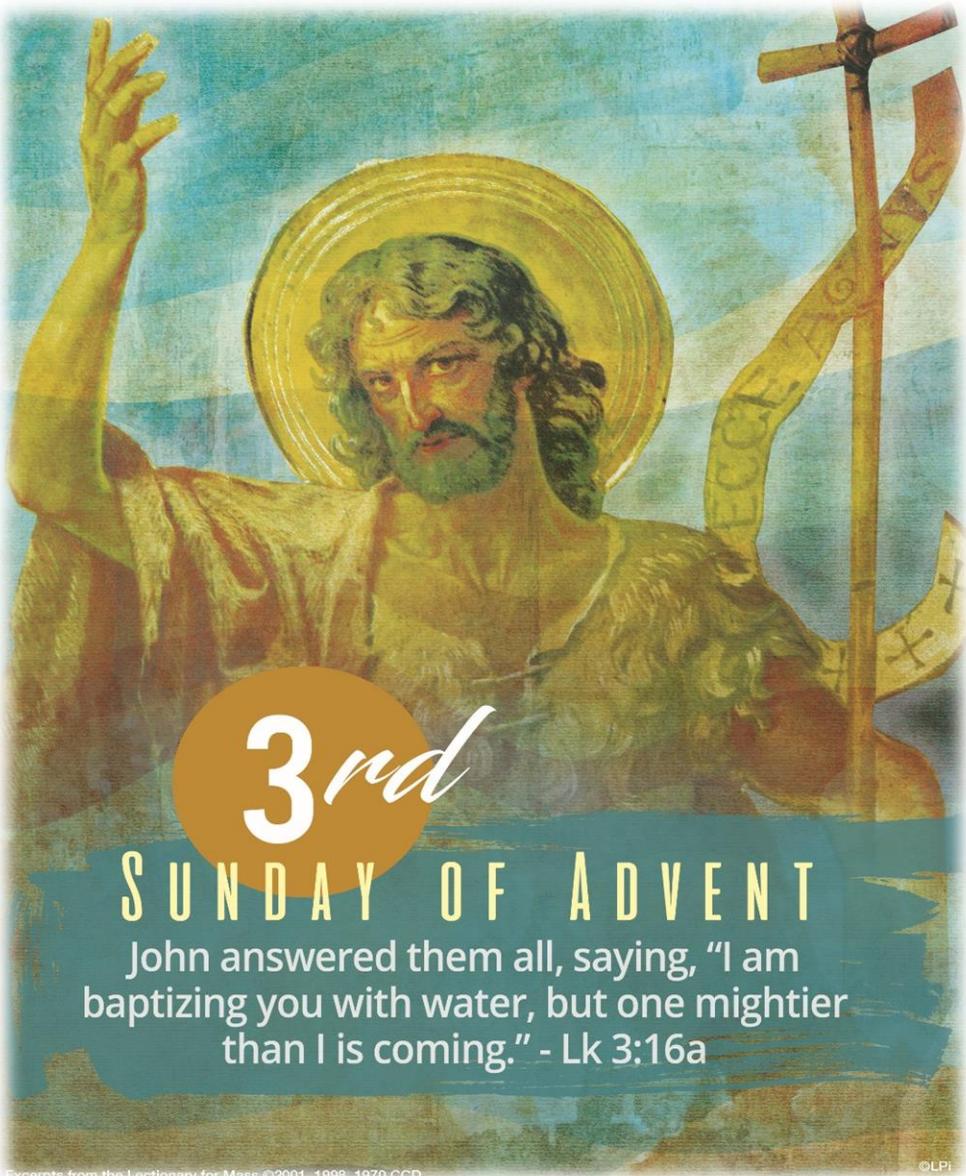


Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



3rd

SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming." - Lk 3:16a

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**3411 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20032**

www.info@assumptiondc.org



Rev. Gregory Shaffer, Pastor

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:30 pm
Sunday Mass: 10:00 am
Daily Mass: Monday thru Saturday 12:10 pm
Eucharistic Adoration: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 - 12:00 noon
Confessions: Saturday 3:30 - 4:15 pm
or anytime by appointment

Address: 3401 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20032

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tuesday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

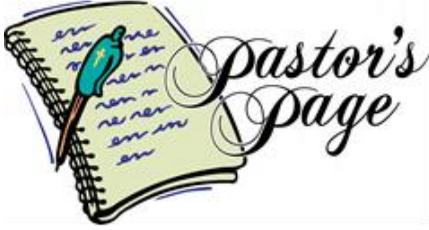
Pastor: Father Greg Shaffer
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**Pope Francis
Outreach Center :** Food Pantry and Clothing Room
Director: Ms. Mildred Brown
Assistant Director Ms. Brenda Hare
Hours of Operation: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Phone: 202-561-5941 Fax 202-561-4024
Email outreach@assumptiondc.org



Third Sunday of Advent December 16, 2018

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!” (Phil 4:4). Every third Sunday of Advent, the Church rejoices. This is known as “Gaudete Sunday”, which uses the Latin word for “rejoicing”. But, we’re still in the season of Advent, a penitential season. We are still in preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this way, the Lord is not here. Why are we rejoicing? Because “the Lord is near”. My brother and his family are rejoicing because my nephew Ryan, their oldest child, is returning home for Christmas break soon after spending almost the entire semester at college. They are so happy that his return home is near. So many people will have the exciting experience of picking someone up from the airport for the holidays that they haven’t seen for so long. One of the best examples, though, of rejoicing at the nearness of someone’s arrival is a new baby. Of course, that is what we do at Christmas: welcome the baby Jesus. Waiting for a new baby might be the preeminent experience of being excited for someone’s near arrival. To use a phrase from today’s Gospel (Luke 3), we are “*filled with expectation*” throughout the Advent season for the arrival of our Lord.

This is what the Church is doing for us today by giving us “Rejoicing Sunday”. She reminds us the reason for the season which is the coming of the Lord. “*The Lord is near!*” While we will still endure the remaining days of Advent, we are uplifted by the announcement that the Lord is close. As we pass the halfway point and head for the home stretch, the Church gives us encouragement. “*The Lord is near!*”

For some, hearing that Advent is halfway over may be more of an alarm than a sound for rejoicing. They might be asking what the crowds asked John the Baptist, “*what should we do?*” If you feel that you haven’t been tuned into Advent yet and want to finish strongly, the first thing I would say is what St. Paul wrote, “*have no anxiety at all*”. This in general is easier said than done, I know. But, be at peace. The Lord has

given us much practical advice through the sacred authors in today's readings for the remaining part of our Advent journey:

1. PRAY EVERY DAY: *“make your requests known to God by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving”*
2. DONATE TO THE OUTREACH CENTER *“whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise”*
3. GO TO CONFESSION: *“Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus”.*

Regarding the third suggestion, it seems to me that more people here are going which is awesome. We had a beautiful and inspiring turnout on Wednesday night for the Penance Service. Overall, more parishioners here are responding to the words of St. John the Baptist to prepare the way of the Lord through repentance and forgiveness of sins. And, as I've been saying to you for three years now, an increase in frequency in the Sacrament of Confession is an increase in freedom. This means that Confession helps us to be free from sin and more fully enjoy a clean house in preparation of the Lord's Coming, but also it means to be free to be the people we truly want to be.

Gaudete Sunday is special for me here every year because I rejoice in being your pastor. I echo the Lord's sentiments of you through the prophet Zephaniah: *“The Lord, your God ...will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals”*. I sing joyfully because of you throughout the year but especially upon Advent reflection and universal rejoicing today. *“I shall say it again: rejoice!”*

May you know the peace of Christ,

Fr Greg

Healing Prayers for: Kathleen Holly, Edward Briscoe, Dolores Abrams, Barbara Williams, Juanita Watkins, Brenda Ross, Mary James, Dorothy Barlow, Corrina Murray, George Thomas, Yvonne Lesesne, Burdell Thomas, Frederick McNeil, James Anthony Murphy, Earnest Ingram.Jr., John Howard, Iris Best, Dorothy Hollis, Calvin Best Gisele Best, Lezeal Rorie, Lillian Taylor, Veronica Brown, Deacon McBurnett Smith, Marsha Carlson-Meyers, Dr. Dee Jones Adams, Barry Robella, Father Dan Vitz, Eleonora Best, Jane Rhyne, Faye Lyon, Abby Fargo, Mildred Selmar, Heather Wooten-Rollins, Brenda Newman, Courtney Barlow, , Benjamin Davis, Ronald Horton, Veronica Harris, Teresa Wilkinson, Pauline Haggins, Dorothy Sylvester, Darlene Jones, Paul Higgins, Audrey Saunders, Pauline Johnson, June Murphy **Our Homebound Parishioners:** Corinne Bachiller, Sybil Depeazer, Louvenia Gray, Fr. Charles Green, Pauline Johnson, Barbara Thompson, Yvonne Samuel, Audrey Saunders, Joan Shields, Viola Walker

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK- December 16, 2018

his Gaudete Sunday calls us to rejoice because the Lord is near. Does your heart rejoice and sing, or are the pressures and burdens of life weighing you down? We can easily become overwhelmed. The weaknesses and sins of life, indeed our own weakness and sin, eat away at the joy and hope God wants us to know. Those who are grounded in their faith and possess deep spiritual lives know that God is near. Realizing this puts life into perspective. We really want to be free from our burdens but do not always know how to achieve this. We keep stumbling and falling. Advent is a time when we can learn to "do life differently," just like John the Baptist instructed the crowds. Joy and hope are the gifts God offers, not anxiety and despair.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10 Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Lk 1:5-25

Thursday: Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38

Friday: Sg 2:8-14 Lk 1:39-45

Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56

Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 17, 2018

Norbert Sulecki +

+ = Deceased AD = Anniversary of Death BD = Birthday OMM = One Month Memorial



Announcements

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Andre' Williams	3rd
Jason W. Smith	5 th
Mary Barnes	9 th
Edith Jones	10 th
Lisa Harris	13 th
William Workcuff	17 th
Joseph Hughey	18 th
Teresa Brown	19 th
Todd Davis	19 th
Delores Abrams	20 th
Constance Boulware	21 st
Veronica Brown	25 th
Mildred Selmar	26 th
Darnice Bryan	26 th
Chese Lewis	27 th
Pauline Johnson	29 th

"To err is human; to forgive, divine"
 Alexander Pope ...Here are the
 Birthdays for December

Community Sunday's Schedule for 2019

January -Bereavement	July – Ushers
February – Choir	August – Young Senior's
March – Knights of St. Jerome	September – Fr. John
April – Lectors	October – Men's Group
May – No Community Sunday	November – Young Adults
June – Sodality	December - Eucharistic Ministers



The Annual Christmas Concert

Our youth will participate in the Annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 16, 2018 at 3:00 pm at St. Thomas More Catholic Church. Featured choirs are: Incarnation's Men Choir, Mt. Calvary UMC Mass Choir, St. Joseph Gospel Choir, Recording Artist - Rev. G. Wright...and much more. Tickets are \$ 15.00 and may be purchase at the door. Come out and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship and praise.

Concert Address:

St Thomas More Catholic Church
4275 Fourth Street, SE
Washington, DC 20032

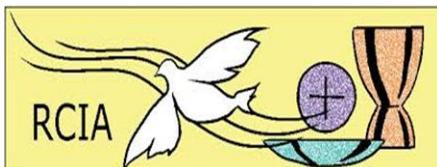


National Shrine's Christmas Dinner for Those In Need

The Basilica of the National Shrine will sponsor dinner for those who are alone or in need on Christmas Day, December 25. Volunteers are needed to assist in preparing, serving, and delivering meals as well as assisting with other logistics. Those interested in volunteering may sign-up online at www.nationalshrine.org/christmasdinner or call the Basilica at 202-526-8300.

15TH ANNUAL DAY OF RECOLLECTION

The Importance of Personal Experience in Vocational Discernment. The day includes Reflection by Fr. Mark Ivany, Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Confessions, Celebration of Mass, and lunch. During lunch, Sandra McMurtrie, founder of "The Mother Teresa Project," will be the keynote speaker. Saturday, January 19, 2019, 9:30 am.-2:00 pm *Lunch will be provided.* Although there is no charge, a reservation is necessary. Please RSVP to moriartym@adw.org.



More information to come



The Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday, the 'pink candle' Sunday, the Sunday we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath. Gaudete is the imperative plural form of the Latin verb gaudere (to rejoice). It is a command ordering us to rejoice!

In these days of penance 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 penance, as a kind of 'break' when we recall the hope we have because of the coming of Jesus.

In Advent, we not only celebrate the first coming of our Lord, but eagerly prepare for His Second Coming as well, when the restoration of all things takes place. Too often many of us shudder at the thought of our Lord's coming in glory, as if it were a frightening event--and certainly it will be for those who knowingly rejected Jesus. But for Christians who persevere it will be our great deliverance from the troubles and trials of this world. All the world will bend the knee--some in terror--but as for God's friends, they will bend the knee in joyful adoration as Jesus takes His place as King. The earliest Christians cried 'Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!' expecting Jesus to come at any moment. So should we--we should long for His return with our lamps trimmed and our souls ready. It is indeed something to celebrate--and prepare for. Advent turns our hearts and minds to this reality.

Should commercialism or the evils of the world get us down we need to look at the Advent wreath with its candles burning down patiently, a new one each week in the spiral they create, going down as we light the pink one this week which fills us with joy that we are getting closer and closer to the coming of the Lord. We can place ourselves on the hillsides with the shepherds in the silent chill with patient anticipation of they-knew-not-what until the angel told them. We can imagine the three wise men silhouetted in the brightness of the Christmas star. And then we can meditate on being in that stable with the smell of straw, animals, and a beautiful Newborn Who is our hope. We can let our burdens drop away at the foot of the manger when He smiles at us. We can receive Him into our arms and hearts as Mary holds Him out to us as the gentle Joseph looks on. This Child is our victory.

REJOICE!



Christmas Mass Schedule 2018

Christmas Eve Mass

Monday, December 24, 2018

Vigil Mass

4:30 PM

Christmas Day Mass

Tuesday, December 25, 2018

10:00 AM

New Year's Day Mass

Monday, December 31, 2018

Vigil Mass

4:30 PM

New Year's Day Mass

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

10:00 AM



Read the Gospel and Color



FIND THE *perfect* GIFT



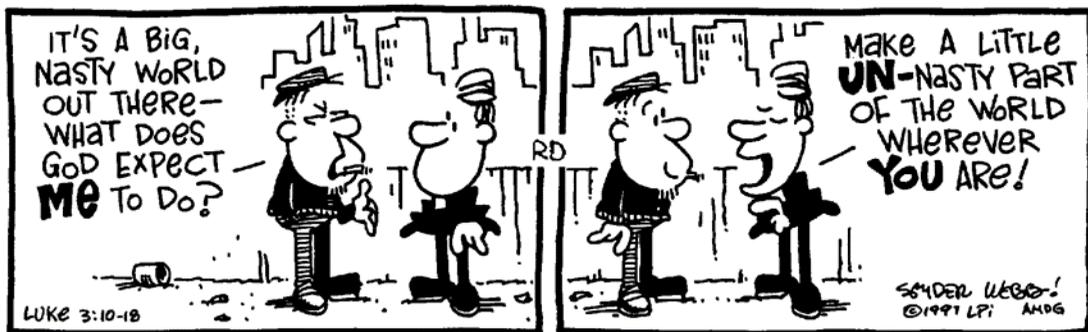
Third Sunday of Advent – December 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent – December 16, 2018 Happy Gaudete (or Rejoice) Sunday! As we receive the perfect gift of Jesus at Mass, we are filled with a joy that demands to be shared. This Advent challenge yourself to share the Perfect Gift of Jesus with someone in our life who may be searching for meaning or friendship. Invite your family and friends to our parish Advent and Christmas community celebrations, so that together we may grow closer to the source of all joy: Jesus Christ. Visit FindthePerfectGift.org to find Christmas resources and Christmas Mass times across the Archdiocese of Washington

Third Sunday of Advent Prayer – December 16, 2018

Through our words, actions and joyful spirit we may inspire in others a desire to follow Jesus Christ, and so find the perfect gift of salvation. Amen.

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



December 16, 2018