



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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HUMBLE EVERYDAY JOY

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 15, 2024

On this third Sunday of Advent, the liturgy invites us to joy. Listen carefully: to joy. The prophet Zephaniah addresses these words to a small group of the people of Israel: "Sing aloud, O Daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!" (3:14) Shout with joy, rejoice, exult: this is this Sunday's invitation. The inhabitants of the Holy City are called to rejoice because the Lord has taken away his judgments against them (cf v. 15). God has forgiven, he did not wish to punish! As a result the people no longer have any reason for sadness. There is no longer reason for desolation, but rather, everything leads to joyful gratitude toward God who always wishes to deliver and save those he loves. And the Lord's love for his people is endless, tantamount to the tenderness of a father for his children, of a groom for his bride, as Zephaniah again says: "he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing" (v. 17). This is — so it is called — the Sunday of joy: the third Sunday of Advent, before Christmas.

This appeal by the prophet is particularly appropriate during the Season in which we are preparing ourselves for Christmas, because it can be applied to Jesus, the Emmanuel, the God-with-us: his presence is the wellspring of joy. Indeed, Zephaniah proclaims: "The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst", and a little later he repeats: "The Lord your God is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory" (vv. 15, 17). This message finds its full meaning in the moment of the Annunciation to Mary, narrated by the evangelist Luke. The words addressed to the Virgin by the Angel Gabriel are like an echo of those of the prophet. What does the Archangel Gabriel say? "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you! (Lk 1:28). He tells Our Lady to "Rejoice". In an isolated hamlet of Galilee, in the heart of a young woman unknown to the world, God kindles the spark of happiness for the entire world. And today, the same announcement is addressed to the Church, called to receive the Gospel so that it may become flesh, concrete life. He says to the Church, to all of us: "Rejoice, little Christian community, poor and humble but beautiful in my eyes because you ardently desire my Kingdom, you hunger and thirst for justice, you patiently weave the fabric of peace, you do not pursue the powerful of the moment but remain faithfully beside the poor. And thus you fear nothing but your heart is in joy". If we live like this, in the presence of the Lord, our heart will always be in joy — when there is 'high-level', full joy, and the humble everyday joy, which is peace. Peace is the smallest joy, but it is joy.

Saint Paul, too, exhorts us today to have no anxiety, to have no despair about anything, but rather, in every circumstance, to make our requests, our needs, our worries known to God "by prayer and supplication" (Phil 4:6). The awareness that we can always turn to the Lord in our difficulties, and that he never rejects our invocations, is a great reason for joy. No worry, no fear will ever be able to take away this serenity which comes not from human things, from human comforts, no: the serenity that comes from God, from knowing that God lovingly guides our lives, and he always does so. Even in the midst of problems and suffering, this certainty fosters hope and courage.

However, in order to receive the Lord's invitation to joy, it is necessary to be people willing to call ourselves into question. What does this mean? Just like those who, after listening to the preaching of John the Baptist, ask him: You preach this, but we, "What then shall we do" (Lk 3:10). What should I do? This question is the first step for the conversion that we are called to carry out during this Season of Advent. Let each of us ask ourself: what should I do? A very small thing, but "what should I do?". And may the Virgin Mary, who is our mother, help us to open our heart to the God-who-comes, so that he may shower our whole life with joy.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES: There will be time for confessions:

Tuesday, December 17, 6-8PM
Priests speak both English & Spanish

CONFESIONES DE ADVIENTO AQUÍ EN NUESTRA PARROQUIA

Martes, 17 de diciembre de 6-8PM
Los sacerdotes hablan español e inglés

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

Third Sunday of Advent

<u>Saturday, December 14</u>	5:00 PM
+Alexander Ropchan +Janet Silver	
<u>Sunday, December 15</u>	9:00 AM
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	
<u>Tuesday, December 17</u>	11:00 AM
+Janet Silver +Konrad Braun	
<u>Wednesday, December 18</u>	11:00 AM
+Manny & Mary Sorbara	
<u>Thursday, December 19</u>	11:00 AM
Intentions of Bill Barrett	
<u>Friday, December 20</u>	11:00 AM
+Peter and Mario Perilli	

Fourth Sunday of Advent

<u>Saturday, December 21</u>	5:00 PM
+Janet Silver +Stella Dombroskie	
<u>Sunday, December 22</u>	9:00 AM
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S
ENGLISH MASSES SCHEDULE**

<u>Tuesday, December 24</u>	5:00 PM
<i>The Nativity of the Lord—Christmas Eve</i>	
<u>Wednesday, December 25</u>	9:00 AM
<i>The Nativity of the Lord—Christmas Day</i>	
<u>Thursday, December 26</u>	11:00 AM
<i>Saint Stephen</i>	
<u>Friday, December 27</u>	11:00 AM
<i>Saint John the Evangelist</i>	

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

<u>Saturday, December 28</u>	5:00 PM
<u>Sunday, December 29</u>	9:00 AM

***Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
the Mother of God***

<u>Tuesday, December 31</u>	5:00 PM
<u>Wednesday, January 1, 2025</u>	9:00 AM

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

III Domingo de Adviento

<u>Sabado 14 de diciembre</u>	7:00 PM
<u>Domingo 15 de diciembre</u>	11:00 AM
<u>Domingo 15 de diciembre</u>	1:00 PM
Por la Comunidad Parroquial	

<u>Martes 17 de diciembre</u>	12:00 PM
<u>Miércoles 18 de diciembre</u>	12:00 PM
<u>Jueves 19 de diciembre</u>	12:00 PM
<u>Viernes 20 de diciembre</u>	12:00 PM

IV Domingo de Adviento

<u>Sabado 21 de diciembre</u>	7:00 PM
<u>Domingo 22 de diciembre</u>	11:00 AM
<u>Domingo 22 de diciembre</u>	1:00 PM
Por la Comunidad Parroquial	

**HORARIO DE MISAS EN ESPAÑOL
NAVIDAD Y FIN DE AÑO**

<u>Martes 24 de Diciembre</u>	7:00 PM
<i>Natividad del Señor Misa de la Noche</i>	
<u>Miércoles 25 de Diciembre</u>	11:00 AM & 1:00PM
<i>Natividad del Señor Misa del Día</i>	
<u>Jueves 26 de Diciembre</u>	12:00 PM
<i>San Esteban</i>	
<u>Viernes 27 de Diciembre</u>	12:00 PM
<i>San Juan, Evangelista</i>	

La Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María & José

<u>Sábado 28 de Diciembre</u>	7:00 PM
<u>Domingo 29 de Diciembre</u>	11:00 AM & 1:00PM

***Solemnidad de María Santísima,
Madre de Dios***

<u>Martes 31 de Diciembre</u>	7:00 PM
<u>Miércoles 1 de Enero, 2025</u>	11:00 AM & 1:00PM

Bambinelli Sunday

Blessing for Nativity scene figurine of Jesus:

God our Father, you loved us so much you sent us
your only Son, Jesus,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
To save us and lead us back to you.
We pray that, with your blessing,
These images of Jesus might be
A sign of your presence and love in our homes.
Good Father, give your blessing
To all who gather with us this Christmas,
Family and friends.
Open our hearts,
That we might receive Jesus in joy,
Always do what he asks of us,
And see him in those who need our love.

Pope Benedict XVI (2008)

Bendición de la imagen del Niño Jesús

Dios, Padre nuestro: tu amor por nosotros es tan grande
que nos enviaste a tu Hijo Jesús.
El nació de la Virgen María
para salvarnos y conducirnos hacia ti.
Te rogamos que, con tu bendición,
estas imágenes de Jesús sean un signo de tu presencia
y de tu amor en nuestros hogares.
Padre Bueno: Bendice a nuestros familiares y amigos esta Navidad.
Abre nuestros corazones para que recibamos al Niño Jesús
con alegría, que vivamos conforme a lo que El nos enseña
y que siempre podamos encontrarlo
en aquellos que necesitan de nuestro amor.

Papa Benedicto XVI (2008)