

Third Sunday of Advent (December 16, 2018)

Reflection on Today's Readings

REJOICE!

Today has traditionally been called "Gaudete Sunday." The Latin tag is derived from Paul's appeal in the second reading to "rejoice always in the Lord," and the Latin Mass text based on that reading. The irony and paradox of this Christian joy is underlined by the fact that Paul wrote those words in prison. But from there he could see the progress of God's work.

Is it obvious to us? We feel that this is not the time for joy when there is so much suffering and moral evil. It is interesting, then, that the first reading is from the prophet Zephaniah, who is almost exclusively concerned with gloomy visions of Judgment Day. Today the Church selects the only optimistic text in Zephaniah, in which the prophet has been touched by the spirit of joy.

This, we are assured on all sides, is "the season of joy." Let us recapture that feeling of joy in our lives and reflect it to those who are joyless.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Thursday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS!

Sick and Homebound Ministry

If you are unable to attend Mass and have a desire to receive Holy Communion, or if you have any short-term or long-term requests for Holy Communion please contact Deacon John Martino. Deacon John can be reached at 828-430-0835

Help for Parishioners!

The Hope Fund provides assistance to parishioners in need. If you would like to make a donation to this fund, please make checks payable to St. Charles and mark HOPE FUND on the check.

Sign Language Interpreters are available. Come to office for information. **Prayer/Info Chain:** Send email address to rita.stcharles@gmail.com.

Weekly Schedule

Monday, December 17

Noon Mass-Thomas Triol (+)
6:45 PM-Cub/Boy Scouts
7:00 PM-RCIA

Tuesday, December 18

Noon Mass-Richard Jefferies (I)

Wednesday, December 19

Noon Mass-Irene Martino (+)
5:30 PM-Citizenship Classes
7:00 PM-Father Ken's Class

The Black Death

*The World's Most Devastating Plague
Did Plague Really Cause the Black Death?*

Thursday, December 20

12:00 Noon Mass-Irene Martino (+)
5:30 PM-Meditation Group
7:00 PM-Adult Choir

Friday, December 21

Noon Mass-Latin-Irene Martino (+)
6:30 PM-Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, December 22

9:00 AM Mass-Irene Martino (+)
4:00 PM-Confession
5:00 PM Mass-English

Sunday, December 23

No Faith Formation Classes

9:00 AM Mass-English-Irene Martino (+)
12 Noon Mass-Hmong
5:00 PM Mass-Spanish-*Pro Populo*

(+) Deceased (I) Intentions

Weekly Collections

2018-2019 Fiscal Year

Weekly Amt. Needed for Budget	\$ 8,461.54
Offertory Week of 12/02/2018	\$ 12,725.50
Online Giving week of 12/02/2018	\$ 970.00
Holy Day Offertory	\$
Total Offertory for week	\$ 13,695.50
Fiscal Year (Under)/Over Budget	\$(3,733.48)

2018 Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA)

Goal: \$50,138.00

Paid \$ 47,607.82 Pledge balance \$ 4,665.68
Amt. Paid Over Pledge Goal \$ 2,135.50 Donors 160
To donate on line, go to:
<http://www.charlottediocese.org/donations>

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S

Monday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

5:00 PM Mass-English

8:00 PM Mass-Spanish

Tuesday, Dec. 25 Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)

12:00 AM Midnight Mass

6:30 AM Mass

9:00 AM Mass

Monday, Dec. 31 New Year's Eve

5:00 PM Mass-English

8:00 PM Mass-Spanish

11:30 PM Mass

Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019 Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God (New Year's Day)

12 Noon Mass

ROOM AT THE INN

Room At The Inn is in need of \$25.00 gift cards from Walmart to use as Christmas gifts for the mothers in the program. Cards can be mailed to: PO Box 13936, Greensboro, NC 27415. Thank you for helping to make Christmas possible for our guests.

STRESS IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. This program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and your marriage. It is not a spiritual retreat or a social gathering. For more information about the weekend on Feb. 15, 2019, email retrouvaillenc@msn.com or visit the website at www.retrouvaille.org.

JOB OPENINGS AT THE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE CENTER

The center has an immediate need for two key *part-time* positions in the kitchen. These are perfect jobs for a retired person, a student, someone looking for a second job, or a stay at home parent looking for some additional income, or anyone who would like to join our mission in providing a beautiful space for renewal and evangelization to the thousands that visit the center each year. For more information, visit our website at: www.catholicconferencecenter.org.

Church Meetings

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, Dec. 18 in library

PRAYING HANDS & KNITTING GROUP

Sunday, Dec. 23 from 2-4 PM in library

LITURGY AND WORSHIP

Monday, Dec. 17 at 5:45 PM

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Monday, Dec. 17 at 6:30 PM

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Years ago, the trick question on religion quizzes would be to name all the liturgical colors, or the colors of the vestments worn at Mass. Rose is a color seldom seen, used at most two days a year. Today, "Gaudete Sunday," is one of those days. The name of the day is drawn from an opening verse in the old Latin Mass texts: *Gaudete* is Latin for "Rejoice!" This year's Gospel certainly reflects that mood as Elizabeth feels her infant within her leaping for joy at the presence of Mary. Mary's visit to her aged cousin is an act of compassion between women, as two kinswomen who are bearing children into the world share their joy.

Some churches retain the custom of having the priest wear rose vestments today, and many will use a rose candle in the Advent wreath. Violet is the official color for Advent and Lent, but many parishes employ different hues for each season, trying to keep them distinct. In medieval times, dye was costly, and poor parishes used unornamented plain cloth for vestments. Dyes were expensive and some colors, particularly purple, difficult to achieve. In England, purple dye was made from mollusks, yielding at best a deep indigo or blue and not the desired violet. Thus, the color of Advent in the British Isles has long been a deep blue, reminding many people of Mary's presence at the heart of the Advent mystery. That theology is largely unplanned: it's all because of the clams!

GOD PROVIDES!!

Abbreviated Directory

Faith Formation—10:30 AM Sunday

Anglo FF Coordinator: *Gail Watson* 437-3108

Spanish FF Coordinator: *Daniel Pedro* 403-0959

Office Hours: 9AM—4PM Monday-Friday

E-Mail Addresses:

Bookkeeper: scbfinance728@gmail.com

Office : scbparish728@gmail.com

Prayer/Info Chain: rita.stcharles@gmail.com

Church Website: www.saintcharlesborromeo.org

Diocese of Charlotte: www.charlottediocese.org

Welcome new members and visitors

Please come by the office to register or for information.

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