

Cherishing Our Franciscan Tradition



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

December 17, 2023 - The Third Sunday of Advent



The Candles of
JOY



Dec. 21 -
St. Peter Canisius;
Winter Begins



Dec. 23 -
St John of Lanty



ADVENT

The Church ushers in a new liturgical year this weekend, the **First Sunday of Advent**. Advent is about waiting...waiting for the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, and waiting also for his Second Coming at the end of time. But the waiting is not passive. We stand watch so as not to be caught asleep. We wait in hope, knowing that there is more than the darkness, that even as we wait for Jesus, we know that He is with us.

The Season of Advent brings with it a different look. Liturgically, we make room for watchful anticipation.... the lighting of the Advent candles... an empty creche... praying for God's mercy in the Confiteor... putting away the Gloria to await its return at the first Mass of Christmas....

On the **Third Sunday of Advent**, we participate in the tradition of recent Popes, bringing the baby Jesus figures from our home nativity scenes for a blessing.

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – GAUDETE SUNDAY


Each Mass has its own “entrance antiphon.” This is a sentence or two, most often from the scriptures. We can sing it at the beginning of Mass (although, in the U.S., we usually begin Mass by singing a hymn instead of the antiphon). Years ago, people gave a title to each Sunday's Mass. The title came from the first Latin word of the day's antiphon.

The entrance antiphon for the Third Sunday of Advent begins, “Rejoice in the Lord always.” These words are from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians. In Latin, “rejoice” is *gaudete*. So today is called Gaudete Sunday.

Why should we rejoice on this day in the middle of Advent? The antiphon tells us why: “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.”

- Taken from *The Companion to the Calendar* published by Liturgy Training Publications.

Act of Spiritual Communion



My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the
Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into
my soul. Since I cannot at this
moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my
heart. I embrace You as if You were
already there and unite myself wholly
to You. Never permit me to be
separated from You. Amen.

PRAYER BEFORE THE CRUCIFIX



St. Francis prayed this prayer before the crucifix in the little church of San Damiano in 1205/1206 in the early days of his conversion.

Most High, glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of
my heart and give me true
faith, certain hope, and
perfect charity, sense and
knowledge, Lord, that
I may carry out Your holy
and true command.

Weekly Readings

Readings for the week of December 17:

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/
1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Mon: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Tue: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Wed: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Thur: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Fri: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
Sat: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/
Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-3



Daily Reflections for Advent & Christmas

Waiting for Joyful Hope, with reflections for the days of the Advent and Christmas seasons, is available after all the Masses beginning on the First Sunday of Advent, December 02/03, for a \$1 donation (\$2.99 on Amazon).

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

Traditionally, on the Third Sunday of Advent, Roman families bring the figurine of Baby Jesus from their home nativity scene to be blessed by the Pope. This is an adaptation of the prayer of blessing as we place the Baby Jesus in our own mangers at home.



*God, our Father,
 you love 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,
 this image of Jesus might be
 a sign
 of your presence and love in
 our home.
 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.
 Amen.*



JOIN US FOR Advent and Christmas

- The Immaculate Conception, Solemnity** Fri, Dec 8
Holyday of Obligation -
 Mass at 12:10pm (livestreamed) and 6:30pm
- Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve** Sun, Dec 24
 Fourth Sunday Masses: 7:30am, 9:30am (livestreamed)
 Christmas Eve -
 Vigil Mass: 4:00 pm (livestreamed) + 7:00 pm
 Choir Concert-Lessons and Carols, 9:00 pm (livestreamed)
 Mass During the Night: 10:00pm (livestreamed)
- Christmas Day** Mon, Dec 25
Holyday of Obligation -
 Mass at 7:30am and 9:30pm (livestreamed)
- Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph** Sun, Dec 31
 Mass Sat. at 5:15, Sunday at 7:30 and 9:30 (streamed)
- Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**
 Mass 10:00am Mon, Jan 1
- Epiphany of the Lord, Solemnity**
 Vigil Mass 5:15 pm Sat, Jan 6
 Mass 7:30, 9:30 am (9:30am livestreamed) Sun, Jan 7
- Baptism of the Lord, Feast** Mon, Jan 8
 Mass at 12:10pm



Tis the Season for See's Candies



School volunteers will be at the doors of the church: **December 9th and 10th and December 16th and 17th at all Masses!**

DO YOU LIKE TO SING?



Come join the choir as we prepare for Advent and Christmas!

Commitment is a rehearsal on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm and rehearsal one hour before 5:15pm or 9:30am Mass.

Contact John Iosefa at johni@stfrancisparish.com for more details, and come talk to us after Mass.



VOLUNTEER SCHOOL COUNSELOR NEEDED

In 1990, a statement entitled "In Support of Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools" was released by the Catholic Bishops of the United States. This statement affirmed a strong conviction that catholic schools "are of great value to our church and nation" and "the entire ecclesial community...is called to value ever more deeply the importance of this task and mission, and continue to give it full and enthusiastic support" (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005).

Our parish school is in need of a volunteer school counselor to support the spiritual, intellectual, social, and psychological development of our TK - 8th grade students.

About the Volunteer Position:

Seeking one (1) volunteer school counselor with an LMFT or LCSW professional designation. The time commitment would be any weekday(s) with no minimum or maximum time requirement.

IF INTERESTED IN SERVING OUR PARISH SCHOOL, PLEASE CONTACT: mmccrimons@stfranciselem.org or ihrga@stfranciselem.org



Parish Youth Christmas Choir



The St. Francis Parish Youth choir is looking for kids and teens in grades 2-12 who love to sing. We will begin practicing for the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass on Sunday December 10th and 17th from 8:45 – 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Center Chapel.

For more information please contact Janet Stites at janetstites@earthlink.net



St. Francis Parish Center Offices: 1066 26th Street, Sacramento, CA 95816 • Phone: 1-916.443.8084
 Fax: 1-916.443.7356 • Website: www.stfrancisparish.com • Email: info@stfrancisparish.com Open M-F 9:00am-12:00pm
St. Francis Elementary: 2500 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95816 • Phone: 1-916.442.5494 Website: www.stfranciselem.org

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Finance Council Chair	tbd	FinanceCouncil@stfrancisparish.com	

The Third Sunday of Advent



St. Francis of Assisi Parish
December 16-17, 2023



We adore you Most Holy Lord Jesus Christ, here and in all your churches in the world,
And we bless you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. Amen.

Gathering:

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus

Janèt Sullivan Whitaker

REFRAIN

Ma - ra - na - tha! Come, Lord Je - sus. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Ma - ra - na - tha! Come, Lord Je - sus. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

O Come, Wisdom from on high, who orders all things with might. Maranatha! **(Refrain)**

O Lord, and ruler of Israel, who gave to Moses the law. Maranatha! **(Refrain)**

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Confiteor: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Kyrie:

Mass of Creation

Curtis Stephan

Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. Chri - ste, e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

Music © 1984, 1985, 2010 Curtis Stephan. GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-706617. All rights reserved.

Psalm: Luke 1: "My Soul rejoices in my God."

PJ Anderson

My_ soul re - joic - es in my God. My_ soul re - joic - es in my God.

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Gospel Acclamation:

Marty Hauger

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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The Third Sunday of Advent



APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

AMEN+

Preparation of Gifts:

Creator of the Stars of Night

Carol E. Browning

Creator of the stars of night, Your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

REFRAIN

Come, O Lord, and bring your light, O ra-diant star, our hearts' de light. O
God with us Em-man - u - el, with your love, the dark dis - pel.

When this old world drew on toward night, You came; but not in splendor bright,
Not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild. **(Refrain)**

At your great Name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
All things on earth with one accord, like those in heav'n shall call you Lord. **(Refrain)**

Come in your holy might, we pray, redeem us for eternal day;
Defend us while we dwell below from all assaults of our dread foe. **(Refrain)**

To God Creator, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might and glory be from age to age eternally. **(Refrain)**

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Liturgy of the Eucharist:

Mass of Creation

Marty Haugen

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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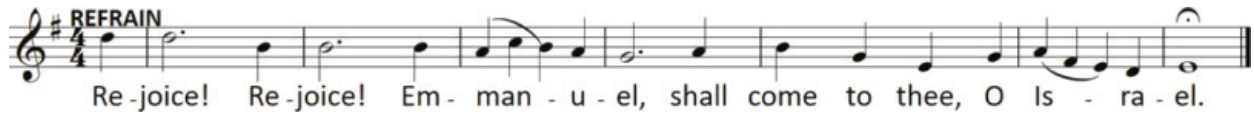
The Third Sunday of Advent

Communion:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.



2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. **(Refrain)**

3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law, In cloud and majesty and awe. **(Refrain)**

4. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse's stem, From ev'ry foe deliver them
That trust thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. **(Refrain)**

5. O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. **(Refrain)**

6. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadow put to flight. **(Refrain)**

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all humankind;
Bid thou our sad divisions cease, And be thyself our Prince of Peace. **(Refrain)**

Text: Veni, veni Emmanuel; Latin 9th C.; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

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Sending Forth:

O Come, Divine Messiah

Venez, Divin Messie

VERSES
O come, Di-vine Mes-si-ah! The world in si-lence waits the day When
O come, De-sired of na-tions, Whom priest and prop-het long fore told. Come
O come in peace and meek-ness, For low-ly will your cra-dle be: Though
hope shall sing its tri-umph, and sad-ness flee a-way.
break the cap-tive fet-ters, Re-deem the long lost fold.
clothed in hu-man weak-ness We shall your God-head see.

REFRAIN
Dear Sav-ior haste! Come, come to earth. Dis-pel the night and show your face, And bid us
hail the dawn of grace. O come, Di-vine Mes-si-ah! The world in si-lence
waits the day When hope shall sing its tri-umph, and sad-ness flee a-way.

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