

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS



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Third Sunday of Advent December 16, 2018

The King of Israel, the LORD,
is in your midst, you have
no further misfortune to fear.
— Zephaniah 3:15b

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.

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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!

--Rev. James Field, © J. S. Paluch Co.

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, 11-21; 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

Pope Francis Quote

*Comfort, comfort my people (Is 40,1).
"How does the Lord give comfort?
With tenderness."*

Finance Corner:

Your generosity is greatly
needed and appreciated!

Weekly Offering



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For the month of **December** offerings:

12/8: Immaculate Conception: \$235.

12/9: 1st Collection: \$2590. 2nd collection [Sr. Marjorie]: \$623. 12/16:
No 2nd collection. 12/23: No 2nd collection.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council: Fri., 1/25/19, at 10AM in Hall

Finance Council: TBA

Liturgy Committee: Fri., 2/22/19, at 9:30AM in Hall

St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044

St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Susan, 829-1189

Every Friday, Centering Prayer: 9:30AM at St Philip

Coffee & Goodies: Following 8AM Sunday Mass and
Wednesday/Friday after 9AM Mass, at St Philip Hall

Mondays & Wednesdays-Seniors Lunch at 12noon:

All seniors welcome! (No lunch Monday before 2nd Tuesday of month)



✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

Sat., Dec. 15, 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith

Sun., Dec. 16, 8am Mass for the People

Sun., Dec. 16, 9:30am Mass Jackie & Dante Corsetti

Sun., Dec. 16, 11:15am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer

Mon., Dec. 17, 9am Prayer Service

Tues., Dec. 18, 9am Mass ✠ Sylvia Hefley

Wed., Dec. 19, 9am Mass ✠ Tina Bartolo

Thurs., Dec. 20, 9am Mass Mary O'Donnell

Fri., Dec. 21, 9am Mass Conor Maguire

Sat., Dec. 22, 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith

Sun., Dec.23, 8am Mass ✠ Marie Tran

Sun., Dec. 23, 9:30am Mass for the People

Sun., Dec. 23, 11:15am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent; *Las Posadas* begins

Tuesday: International Migrants Day

Friday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins

Prayer Requests: Call 874-3812 to add/remove names.

Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Jamie Silva, Lorri McCamen, Sarah, Clifford J., Terri Andrews, Marilyn Vitali, Fred Pisani, Theresa Spiteri, Sara, Mary Anne Parque, Sr. Marjorie Krusky, Barbara, Kathy Higgins, Fr. Logan, Dave Creeth, Jim P., William, Parson Pfsorich, Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally Tillsbury, Mary Karp, Columbina Albini, Michael Dan, Richard Macche, Kathleen, Lisa, Rosa Santos, Papke family, Susan Bonomine, Zeidan family

Advent/Christmas preparation:

Copies of *The Little Blue Book* are available at the entrance table of each church. (A voluntary donation is appreciated.)

New mailing address for Fr. Loren Allen:

P. O. Box 640592
San Francisco, CA 94164

Remember Lord, those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. These beautiful words at Mass recall our beloved dead. A Mass intention is a way to remember a beloved friend or family member, whether in death, for healing, in celebration of a special day, or simply for prayer and guidance. Come by the office (or call 707-874-3812) to arrange the Mass. A customary donation of \$10 is appreciated.

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for DECEMBER 2018

On December 11, we welcomed 112 families representing 155 adults, 72 children and 37 seniors for a total of 264 people receiving nutritional support. This program is funded through the Rural Food Collection on the last Sunday of each month as well as through private donations and the generous support of our volunteers.

During this season of Christmas, all of us who volunteer each month to offer nutritious groceries and produce to our clients give special thanks for the incredible generosity of our parish and other donors. We also give thanks for the many examples of faith, hope and love expressed in the lives of those we serve each month. Together we witness God's love in action.

Please continue to collect paper grocery bags, especially with handles, and egg cartons. We are looking into biodegradable produce bags and recyclable grocery bags for our clients.

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, January 5, from 9-10:00am repackaging -- Parish Hall
 Monday, January 7, from 12:30 – 2:30pm to set up the Parish Hall
 Tuesday, January 8, from 8:30 – 11:00am to distribute the food and assist clients. We need more volunteers on Monday and Tuesday to help with set up and help our clients and their loaded grocery carts to their vehicles. Thank YOU!

CELEBRATE 2019
SUNDAY - JANUARY 27, 2019
 4-8PM AT THE UNION HOTEL

>Each ticket is \$45. Tickets are on sale after Sat/Sun Mass and at the office weekday mornings.

>We're making some changes to CELEBRATE 2019:

~~You won't need to stand in line to check in or to check out.

~~Every item will be available to purchase or win using pre-purchased raffle tickets.

>One thing that won't change is the fabulous Italian Dinner with all the trimmings which will be served by the Gonnella Family and their wonderful staff at the Union Hotel.

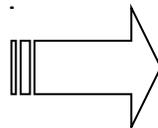
> We welcome your donation of items for raffle at the event. Please contact Cathy McCool (after Mass or call 861-9302) if you have an item you'd like to donate.

Exclusive Limited Print of Ansel Adam's original picture of St. Teresa Church from 1953: All proceeds support needed restoration of St. Teresa of Avila Mission. A limited number of prints have been printed from Ansel's original negative. Each reprint is individually numbered. Prints are available for a donation of \$175. Please contact a restoration committee member for your own limited print: Peg 707-867-6073 or Bob 707-875-9148.

Thomas Stuart to be Ordained Deacon in June 2019

Thomas Stuart from our parish will be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate along with John Plass on Friday, 21 June 2019, at 6:00 p.m., at the Cathedral of Saint Eugene in Santa Rosa. Please mark your calendars and plan to support Thomas and John by attending their ordination Mass.

Featured Parish Bulletin Advertiser:



A-1 Computer Service

Chuck Stuart 707-874-3937

chuck@a-1computerservice.com

Rural Food Program Alert!!! The devastating wildfires have displaced many people and it is evident that the rebuilding process will take many months. Family and friends of our Rural Food clients and individuals relocating to temporary housing in our service area will need support. In view of this, we are suspending the residency requirement for our service area (this includes communities from Occidental to Monte Rio, Cazadero, Jenner, Bodega Bay, Bodega, and Freestone.). Catholic Charities Rural Food and the Redwood Empire Foodbank will be informed so that they can refer people to our program. I encourage our parishioners and volunteers to refer individuals and families that may be in need of food. Of course, this will place additional need for volunteers in anticipation of more requests for assistance. November, December and January have always been our busiest months so please help us with set-up and/or distribution. Please be in communication with me (roddemar@comcast.net) and/or leave messages at the parish office (874-3812) if you have any questions or suggestions. Thank you, Rod DeMartini, Program Coordinator

IMPRESSIONABLE

A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every passerby leaves a mark.

—Ancient Chinese proverb



Monday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Masses

3:30pm Children's Mass at St. Philip

5pm Christmas Eve Mass at St. Teresa

10pm Christmas Vigil Mass at St. Philip [carols at 9:30pm]

Tuesday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day Masses

8am at St. Philip

9:30am at St. Teresa

"Many, many thanks to our generous parishioners for providing wrapped gifts and financial donations for the 108 children in our St. Philip & St. Teresa Parish Star Child Program! With your help, we are able to extraordinarily brighten Christmas for these children of families in our Rural Food Program. In appreciation, Peg Duffy, Marilyn Collins & Diane Schwab"