

**December 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>  
Third Sunday of Advent**

**Rejoice in the Lord, again I say rejoice!**

This third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called *Gaudete* Sunday – a rejoicing reflected in rose vestments and the choice of Scriptures. We are more than halfway through our season of vigilant preparation and persevering prayer, as we ready ourselves to both celebrate the coming of Christ in history and look forward to his return in glory. For Christians, this theme of rejoicing lies at the heart of our faith. Even if we are struggling with life’s great issues, we are still called to be people of joy and to be ready to share that joy with others.

So what does this spiritual or holy joy look like? Clearly, it is not the same as pleasure or human satisfaction – these are emotions that are short-lived and derived from the external, they are what we perceive and experience. Spiritual joy arises from our interior life – our relationship with the divine. Like a well bubbling up from the depths of the earth, spiritual joy wells up even in the midst of life’s struggles and becomes the hallmark of the true Christian.

Zephaniah is exultant in his description of God’s faithfulness and promise. Saint Paul, too, wants his community in Philippi to be joyful, not with a superficial rejoicing but with a joy that flows from the Lord as they await his imminent return in glory. To maintain this joy, Paul reminds them to stay prayerful at all times.

Yet in the midst of all this rejoicing, we hear another voice –the Baptist calling us to repentance and justice But it is the question put to John that catches our attention – *what should we do?* It’s a practical question, and John has practical answers. They are not to retreat from life, but be converted to a just way of living. They are not simply to put on sack-cloth and ashes or retreat to the Temple, but be sensitive to the needs of justice – to be sharers rather than takers. Tax-collectors are not to resign but be just, soldiers are not told to desert but to use their power fairly. This is a Gospel of people power, where the message can change the very face of the world.

*And what must we do?* How can we bring about change in our world? As spouses and family members, we can strive to love with a God-like love. As parents and guardians, we can teach our children that their true value lies not in material things or the latest gadget or brand, but in how they treat others and serve the less fortunate. As civic-minded people, by using our freedom to serve our community. As employers and employees, by paying a just wage and working hard. And as Christians, by being faithful to the Gospel and rejoicing in God’s presence and promise! The list is endless – and it is only when we are faithful to Christ that we will know real joy and understand the challenging hope of Advent.

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**The “O Antiphons”**

The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the *Magnificat* canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

December 17<sup>th</sup> O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18<sup>th</sup> O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19<sup>th</sup> O Root of Jesse’s stem, sign of God’s love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

December 20<sup>th</sup> O Key of David, opening the gates of God’s eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21<sup>th</sup> O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 22<sup>th</sup> O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: , whom you formed from the dust!

December 23<sup>th</sup> O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!  
—From *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*

**Hymnal:** We would be asking every household to please purchase one or more copies, at the price of \$20.00 each, as a gift, or in remembrance of a loved one as a memorial. It will help to defray the cost. 400 copies are needed for our parish family.

Checks can be written to Holy Angels Parish, just write “Hymnal” on the memo and be sure you include a note that says if this is a gift or in memory of a loved one or in honor of a loved one for each hymnal. Some suggested dedications are listed on the special envelopes in the back of the church. Please take an envelope and print your acknowledgements on the front. Thank you

**Please remember in your prayers**



**From Holy Family: Elizabeth B. Hoffmann Hamburg** who entered eternal life on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Elizabeth is survived by her children Dr. David and Dr. Ann Hoffmann, Barbara and Lawrence Flowers, Margery Hoffmann. Grandchildren Lauren (Craig) Kreutzer and Christopher Flowers.

**Holy Angels Parish  
This Week**

**\*Confessions are a half hour before every Mass\***

- Mon 12/17 **Holy Family** 7:00 pm Recovery Meeting
- Tue 12/18 **St. Boniface** 9:00 am Mass-LaVerne Mueller
- Wed 12/19 **Holy Family Religious Education Family Pot Luck Supper** 6:15 pm  
**Holy Family & St. Patrick** 6:45 pm Religious Education  
**Holy Family Religious Education Program** 6:45 pm  
**Holy Family 7:45 pm** Mass-Charlotte Raese
- Thur 12/20 **St. Patrick** 9:00 am Mass-Kathryn Lund  
**Sauk County Health Care Center** 10:15 am Mass-Raymond Muhlbauer  
**Renew** following Mass
- Fri 12/21 **Holy Family** 9:00 am Mass-Nora Durst
- Sat 12/22 **Holy Family** 4:00 pm Mass-For the Members of Holy Angels Parish Family  
**St. Boniface** 7:30 pm Mass-Alois & Tom Gruber
- Sun 12/23 **St. Patrick** 8:00 am Mass-Deceased Members of the John & Rosa Howard Family  
**Holy Family** 10:15 am Mass-Lieve Rott

**Holy Angels Parish Christmas Schedule**

**Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve (Vigil)**

- 4:00 pm Holy Family, La Valle
- 7:30 pm St. Boniface, Lime Ridge



**Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day**

- 8:00 am St. Patrick, Loreto
- 10:15 am Holy Family, La Valle

**Bless Our Priests Collection** This collection is used to directly support all retired priests welfare including the rising cost of healthcare, long-term care and medical costs. Please return your gift in the envelopes available at all Masses this weekend. Your generosity supports retired priests from all 11 counties of our Diocese! Please consider what you can give and use the envelope included in this bulletin. Thank you.

**Religious Education News:**

**Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick Religious Education** Youth Ministry Basket Project and Treat night. Classes will resume Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>



**Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> Holy Family Religious Education**

Christmas Program Religious Ed families, please Remember that December 19<sup>th</sup> is a pot luck dinner and program and Mass beginning at 6:15 pm. The children worked hard on their program so all are welcome! Have a blessed Christmas and New Years ! Classes will resume on January 9, 2019.

**Parish Support  
Holy Angels 12/8 & 9**

Envelopes	2413.00
Offertory	182.37
Building Maint.	320.00
Flowers	140.00
Intrnat. Comb	150.00
Immaculate Conc.	98.00
Bless Our Priests	238.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3541.37</b>

**Thank you!**

**Please make checks payable to Holy Angels Parish.**

<b>Hymnals</b>	<b>\$630.00</b>
<b>St. Boniface Wood Work Project</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>



**Third Sunday Advent Prayer**

O God, who sees how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord’s Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**



**Don’t forget to honor your loved ones with Christmas Flowers.** You may still make donations. Your loved ones will be listed in a future bulletin. Thank you.

**St. Boniface Sanctuary and woodwork project:**

If you would like to donate to the St. Boniface woodwork project for the stands for our statues of Mary and Joseph; St. Boniface and St. John Vianney the estimated cost is at \$6500.00 for stripping, finishing, and painting, we would appreciate your donations. Please make your checks out to: Holy Angels Parish and in the memo space write St. Boniface Wood work project.

**Preparing for Advent and Christmas:**

There are still some booklets in the back of each church with daily reflections for Advent and Christmas titled “Waiting in Joyful Hope 2018-2019.” This booklet offers brief, down-to-earth reflections that bring prayer and Scripture into everyday life in a thought-provoking and lasting way. Please take one.

**Daily Inspiration:**  
**“At this Christmas when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart?”**  
**~Mother Teresa**

**Pope Francis on Twitter:**  
“Every human person, created in God’s image and likeness, is a value unto themselves and is subject to inalienable rights.”

**Rejoice,  
the Lord is near!**