



## Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023

This Week at Our Lady of  
Perpetual Help

### Liturgies & Prayer

#### Tuesday December 19

2:00 pm @ St Roch  
Eucharistic Revival

#### Wednesday, December 20

8:45 Bible Study @ St Francis  
9:30 Confessions @ St Francis  
10:00 am Mass @ St Francis

#### Thursday, December 21

9:30 Confession @ St Roch  
10:00 am Mass @ St Roch  
Mass offered for deceased  
Members of Pomponi & Discenna  
Family

#### Saturday December 23

3:30 Confessions @ St Roch  
4:00 pm Mass @ St Roch

#### Sunday, December 24

8:30 am Mass @ St Roch  
Mass is offered for  
RoseMarie McElreath  
10:30 am Mass @ St Francis

#### Sunday, Christmas Eve

**Vigil of the Nativity  
of the Lord**

8:00 pm @ St Roch

#### Monday, December 25

**Nativity of the Lord:  
Christmas**

9:00 am @ St Francis

*Weekly Message from Fr. George.*

### **Come, Lord Jesus, The Light Is Dying, The Night Keeps Crying, Come Lord Jesus!**

More than ever before, our world needs Jesus. The reality that confronts us today paints a bleak future for humankind. We are not only losing our humanness, but we have some in authority, pressure groups, and political class who have chosen to recreate humanity devoid of a creator God in disregard of nature. Some feel strongly that the end of the world is imminent. This feeling is accentuated by the fact that people who hitherto call themselves Christians, and perhaps still do, are the architects and executors of the agenda to recreate humanity in this manner. Evidence to this abound, but for want of space, we can only point to the fact that there are conscious efforts to obliterate God and our lord Jesus Christ from the public space. Christians are being punished for practicing their beliefs. Christians are being killed and persecuted with no defensive response from the Christian world. And above all, sin and evil multiply.

Therefore, as a people of faith and hope, it is apt for us to call for a revival of the world by inviting Jesus to visit us again. As Isaiah says of God, **“Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down” (Isaiah 63:19)**. This Advent affords us another opportunity to invite Jesus to manifest his presence in our world prayerfully. It is a time to invite Jesus into our hearts to embolden us to actively practice our faith, eventually leading to repentance and conversion of the world.

Advent, as a liturgical season, is a time of hope and expectation. It combines the expectation of Christ at Christmas with a contemplation of his second coming at the end of time. We are reminded of the immensity of God’s love for us and the world by becoming human in the person of Jesus Christ. Specifically, it is a time to prepare to receive Christ into our hearts. As St. Paul says, **“The night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off works of darkness [and] put on the armor of light” (Rom 13:12)**. Preparation, therefore, would entail self-examination that would cut across all our relationships - with God, with His Church, with our fellow Christian brothers and sisters, with our family members (both nuclei and extended), and so on. It aims to make us happy, peaceful, and free from malice, discord, animosity, rancor, and other acts that are inimical to our receiving Jesus Christ into our hearts. However, there is every reason to be joyful because of the hope of our deliverance and salvation in Jesus Christ. Hence, I pray that you never give up in the face of present challenges.

#### **UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** This week, the last formal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the Advent season with individual confessions will take place at the following places and days:

**St. Roch** – 30 minutes before Mass on Thursday and Saturday.

**St. Francis** – 30 minutes before Mass on Wednesday.

**Eucharistic Revival – the last** Reflection and discussion session on the Mass will be on **Tuesday at 2:00 pm** at the Parish Center at Caseville. It will feature a video presentation on the Mass by Bishop Baron, followed by discussions and sharing. Coffee and tea will be served. This is an opportunity to prepare us for Christmas when we celebrate the Incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, our savior.

bhaynes@olph.diosag.org

Bookkeeper: Beth Connors Ext 5  
bconnors@olph.diosag.org  
Maintenance: John Connor

**Parish Office Hours**

Closed Mondays  
Tuesday – Friday 8:00 AM to Noon

**Sacraments**

In order to celebrate the following Sacraments in our Parish, it is vital to be an active member of our Faith Community by participating regularly in our Worship and being a registered parishioner.

**Registration:**

If you wish to become a member of our parish family, please stop by the Parish Office to register.

**Baptism:**

We ask that you please make an appointment, prior to birth, if possible, with the Pastor.

**Marriage:**

An appointment with the Pastor must be made at least 6 months before the wedding celebration.

**Reconciliation:**

First Friday @ St Roch & First Saturday  
@ St Francis Borgia 9:30 to 10:30 AM,  
or by appointment.

**Pastoral Care:**

If you or someone you know wishes a visit and/or Holy Communion during an illness or hospital stay, please contact the Parish Office.

**Commissioned Lay Ministers**

Doug Grates  
Linda Oeschger

**Pastoral Council**

Chairperson—Lisa DiCamillo

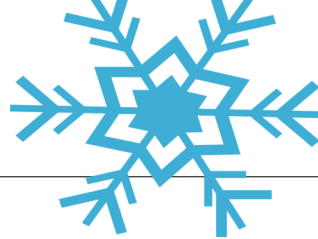
**Finance Committee Chairperson**

Mary Buda

**Christian Services**

Lisa DiCamillo

**Faith Formation Religious Education**



**Winter weather advisory**

For weekend Mass times please listen to WLEW for Mass cancellation. If there is doubt of road conditions please use caution and stay safe!

**A REMINDER TO ALL PARISHIONERS**

**IF OUR LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS CANCELED SCHOOL BECAUSE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, ALL WEEK DAY MASSES & EVENTS ARE ALSO CANCELED**

**Christ Mission Appeal 2023-2024**

If you have already made your pledge or donation, thank you!  
If you have not, please consider a gift of some amount.  
Our parish assessment is \$66,058.00  
As of December 4, our parish has received \$35,575.00  
Outstanding pledges are \$3,850.00  
May God bless you for your generosity!

**Capital Campaign**

Extra Capital Campaign (red & white) envelopes are in the back of church for your convenience.  
Pledges for our capital campaign may be returned to the parish office or in the collection basket at any of our Masses.  
Thank you for your generosity and continued support.

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Stewardship**  
**December 10, 2023**

**Income**

- ⇒ Envelopes: \$14,429.00
- ⇒ Loose Contributions: \$ 811.00
- ⇒ Religious Retirement \$ 942.00
- ⇒ Christmas Flowers \$ 257.00
- ⇒ Total: \$ 16,439.00

**Expenses**

- Wages & Benefits: \$3,878.00
- Maintenance: \$2,203.78
- Utilities: \$ 482.94

Thank you for your weekly contributions.  
Number of envelopes used: 139

Count Group #3 for Wednesday, December 27th

Please consider volunteering for your parish community! There are many ways your talents are welcomed & appreciated! If you would like to help here are some groups in need of YOU!!

- Funeral Luncheons
- Mother Mary's Helpers
- Counters
- Eucharistic Ministry

- Ushers
- Christian Services
- Shut in Ministry
- Faith Formation

Please call the office if you would like to learn more about these

### Music Ministry

We are very short handed in the winter time for musicians and cantors. If you are interested please call the office for details!

### St Francis Charity Pigeon Food Pantry Children

The Pigeon Food Pantry will be packing Christmas boxes for 33 area families on Monday December 18th beginning at 9:00 at Pigeon First UMC. Boxes will be delivered on Tuesday, December 19th beginning at 9:00 am. Volunteers are invited to assist on both days.

### Please Pray for the Sick of our Parish November— December

Bethany(Grates) Burns	Brandon Burtcz
John Champagne	Mitch Champagne
Beth Cole	David Dillinghan
Kenneth Duffield	Joseph Duffield
Sherry Ferguson	Ron Gross
Kathy Kopacz	Maura McSorley
Mary Mayra	Gary Maes Sr.
Jean McFadden	Todd Mangiapane
Natalie Morgan	Rose Motycka
Nancy Oaks	Georgina Santos
Steve Rybinski	Sonja Smith
Dominic Rybinski	John Schaefer
Joanne & Norm Samborski	Jeannie Henry
Jack Muscat	

We continue to keep those who have been sick for some time in our prayers. Your name or that of your loved one will remain on our prayer chain until you call to have them taken off. Prayer chain contact: Peggy 989-738-5452 & Norma 989-453-3026

*Jeremiah 17:4*

*Heal me, O Lord, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise.*

**Please pray for the men and women serving our country in the Armed Forces, that they may return home safely to family and friends.**

Remember particularly:

Brandon Radlick - Air Force; Rachel Radlick - Air Force;  
Jonathan Taormina – Marines (Special Forces); Justin Carter – Marines; Chad DeShane – Marines; Jeremy McGee – Marines;



### Gaudete Sunday: 11 things to know and share...

The third Sunday of Advent is known as “Gaudete Sunday.” In the readings, we hear about miracles associated with the Messianic age, its coming, and what we need to do to prepare. We also learn about the doubts of John the Baptist, how he dealt with them, and the blessing that makes us even more fortunate than John was.

Here are the 11 things to know and share...

#### **1) Why is the third Sunday of Advent known as Gaudete Sunday?**

It’s name is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near. This is a quotation from Philippians 4:4-5, and in Latin, the first word of the antiphon is Gaudete (Latin), “rejoice”.

#### **2) What significance does this have?**

Advent is the season of preparing for the arrival of the Lord Jesus (both his first coming and his second coming), and by the third Sunday of Advent, we are most of the way through the season. Thus, it is appropriate to rejoice as we see the goal of the season approaching: “The Lord is near.”

#### **3) What is the appropriate liturgical color for this day?**

In this Mass the color violet or rose is used.

#### **4) What does the first reading say?**

Isaiah 35:1-6a It opens with a prophecy that the desert region will rejoice and sing and bloom with abundant flowers. The reason is: “They will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.”

#### **5) What does this mean? Psalm 146:6-10**

This prophecy uses nature imagery to convey the sense of joy that the Jewish people would experience upon their return from exile.. And it contains elements that point forward to the ultimate consummation that will occur with his second advent, when “death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away” (Rev. 21:4)

#### **6) What does the responsorial Psalm say?**

The LORD shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, through all generations.

#### **7) What does this mean?**

That God will reign forever-giving voice to our confidence in God and his ever-present providence in our lives.

#### **8) What does the second reading say? James 5:7-10**

Be patient until the coming of the Lord, do not complain about each other, that they may not be judged. Finally, he tells them that the Judge is standing before the gates and that they should follow the prophets as an example of hardship and patience.

#### **9) What does this mean?**

Ultimately, God will reward our faith and patience, but we must be prepared to wait and to endure hardship. As we do, we must live in harmony with each other.

#### **10) What does the Gospel reading say? Matthew 11:2-11**

Jesus identifies why John is more than a prophet: he is the fulfillment of Malachi 3:1, in which it is said: “Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you: he will prepare your way before you.




**Angela Miller, Realtor**  
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WELCOME TO  
 ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS



Tuesdays & Saturdays -  
 7:00PM  
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**Food Pantry Needs**



**Help cover the cost of our Bulletin.**  
 Advertise your business or organization or simply sponsor a space with a memorial or as a gift to the parish.

**Hall Rental**

Are your family and friends getting together?  
 Do you need a bigger space for a meeting or special gathering?

**BACK TO BACK CHIROPRACTIC**

Our Lady of Perpetual Help