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Third SUNDAY OF ADVENT

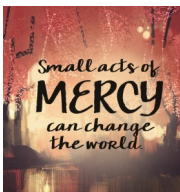
"The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised." Jesus has quite a résumé. When asked whether or not he is the long awaited Messiah, Jesus replies with this list of his credentials as proof of his position. These signs and wonders speak volumes, to be sure. But perhaps the most interesting line on the list is his concluding one, "the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." Why does he count this among his litany of miracles? What is so remarkable about sharing good news?



Perhaps Jesus included this element of his work—the preaching of good news—to remind his followers that the physical healings were not the ultimate goal of his mission. Rather, the spiritual healing that comes from hearing the good news of salvation is

what Jesus was really about. The "poor"—which in a sense means all of us sinners, trapped by the poverty of the sins that enslave us—are freed by Jesus' message of a loving God who wants to bring us into his kingdom. Our poverty is erased by his richness. His mercy "undoes" our sin and we are invited to become the children of God who share in the glories of his heavenly abode.

Sometimes it's tempting to just want the visible miracles. But the invisible ones—the conversions that take place in the silence of the human heart—are truly the more important works of God. Such interior transformation is what leads us to eternal life; even a physical cure won't last for eternity—death still comes at some point. But the really good news is that this miracle of conversion is available to all of us. And this season of Advent is the perfect time to let God work his miracles in our hearts.



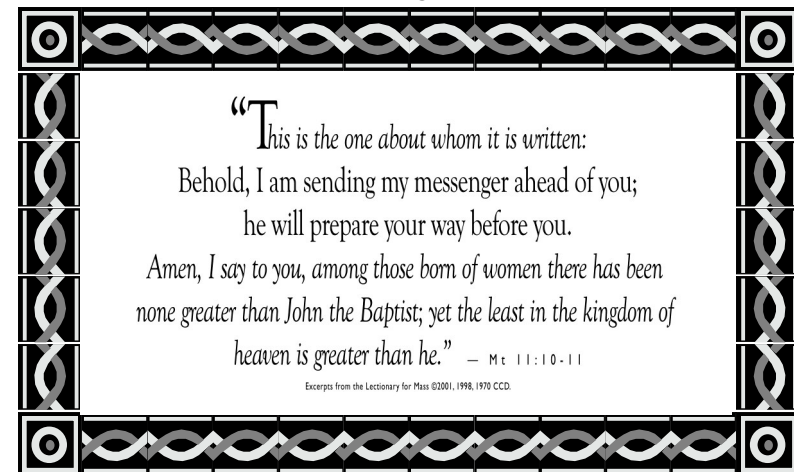
Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent in the liturgical calendar. The day takes its common name from the Latin word Gaudete ("Rejoice"), the first word of the introit of this day's Mass. On Gaudete Sunday rose-coloured vestments may be worn instead of violet which is otherwise prescribed for every day in the season of Advent. In churches which have an Advent wreath, the rose coloured candle is lit in addition to two of the violet (or blue) coloured candles, which represent the first two Sundays of Advent. Despite the otherwise somber readings of the season of Advent, which has as a secondary theme the need for penitence, the readings on the third Sunday emphasize the joyous anticipation of the Lord's coming.

Campaign Life Coalition: On the weekend of Dec. 17-18 a volunteer from Campaign Life Coalition will be selling Christmas cakes following all weekend Masses.

The Legion of Mary: Do you want to grow closer to Jesus and His Beloved Mother? Are you being called to help the Church through prayer and works? The Legion of Mary is seeking active and praying members in our parish. **Some of the works done by members include praying the Rosary with residents of retirement homes and visiting the homebound and the sick in the hospital.** Come and join this wonderful organization. **Next meeting, Wednesday, December 14th 11:30am.**

Please note that an extra two hours of Confessions have been added on **Wednesday, December 21st from 7-9pm** to provide an additional opportunity for those who wish to receive this important Sacrament before Christmas.

Sunday, December 11th, 2016 Third Sunday of Advent



Sat. Dec 10	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
Sun. Dec 11	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
	9:30am	✠ Betty & Les Szabo (Lana & Jan)
	11:00am	✠ Nicola Colangelo (Family)
Mon. Dec 12	9:30am	✠ In Memory of Mrs. Dodd (Thelma Poolsaar)
	7:00pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. Dec 13	9:30am	✠ David Green (Voogt & Green Families)
Wed. Dec 14	9:30am	✠ St. Ann School Advent Mass
	9:30am	✠ All Souls in Purgatory (Maria Baptista)
Thurs. Dec 15	9:30am	✠ Dorothy Racz (Racz Family)
Fri. Dec 16	9:30am	✠ Armand Mei (Patti & Cyril Simek)
Sat. Dec 17	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Dec 18	9:30am	✠ Ugo & Antonietta Scurci (Scurci, Devine & Gregoris Fam.)
	11:00am	✠ Renato Rolando Ferrara (Ferrara Family)

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.

Offertory December 3rd & 4th, 2016

87 Envelopes	\$3,016.95
Loose Collection	\$ 161.00
Total Offertory	\$3,177.95
Maintenance Collection	\$ 490.00

Month of November:

Income:	\$10,412
Expenses:	\$16,107

Christmas Mass Schedule 2016/17



Monday Dec. 19th	9:30am Regular weekday Mass 7:00pm Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tuesday, Dec 20th	9:30am Regular Weekday Mass
Wednesday, Dec 21st	9:30am Regular Weekday Mass 7-9pm Confessions
Thursday, Dec 22nd	9:30am Regular Weekday Mass
Friday, Dec 23rd	9:30am Regular Weekday Mass
Saturday, Dec 24th	9-10am Confessions 4-4:45pm Holy Hour & Reconciliation 5:00pm Christmas Eve Mass 8:00pm Christmas Eve Mass 12:00am Midnight Mass 11:00am Christmas Day Mass Mass & Holy Hour Cancelled
Sunday, Dec 25th	
Monday Dec 26th	
Tuesday, Dec 27th -	9:30am Regular Weekday Mass
Thursday Dec 29th	9:30am Mass Feast of Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Friday, Dec 30th	9-10am Confessions 4-4:45pm Holy Hour & Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God
Saturday, Dec 31st	
Sunday, Jan 1st	9:30 & 11am Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

Church Decorating for Christmas: If you can spare some time on **Friday, December 23rd, at 10am,** please help us decorate for the Christmas season. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated!



Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Families or individuals are asked to volunteer to light the candles during each of the weekend Masses of Advent. The sign up sheet is at the back of the church.

Christmas Caroling Sunday Dec. 18th. Join us as we sing songs of the season by candle light spreading the spirit of Christmas through hymns and traditional songs. We will be meeting at the church at **6:30pm.** Candles and song books will be distributed. Following a short prayer service, we will be walking and carolling in the community and then return to the parish for hot chocolate. Dress warmly!! Join us in celebration of the Christmas season!!

Christmas Trees for Youth Ministry: Once again Branches of the Word (registered charity) will be raising money for Youth Ministry initiatives in our Diocese through the sale of pre-cut, beautiful Christmas Trees. We are well aware that hiring Youth Ministers may not be affordable for many parishes and this is the reason for raising monies, so we, as part of the laity, are helping to make this possible. In addition, we have plans to bring a dynamic Youth speaker to our Diocese in the new year and this can be expensive.

Parish Calendar

December.....	
Dec 14th....	School Advent Mass 9:30am
Dec 14th....	Legion of Mary meeting 11:30am
Dec 21st.....	Last Youth Ministry Session for 2016
Dec 21st.....	Confessions 7-9pm
Dec 23rd....	Decorating for Christmas, 10am
Dec 26th -30th...	Office closed

Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide – Did You Know?

The Government of Canada passed legislation in June 2016, legalizing euthanasia/assisted suicide. Despite wording intended to protect doctors and facilities, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario is forcing health care workers to arrange for the killing of their patients. No other country does this. Provinces across Canada do not do this. Yet, Ontario refuses to protect doctors who object to ending the life of their patients. Please visit www.CanadiansforConscience.ca to learn more and write directly to your elected Member of Provincial Parliament.

CWL Membership: We would like to INVITE ALL LADIES OF OUR PARISH to join or renew as members of our Catholic Women's League. Please submit your envelope soon. **Envelopes are in your offertory boxes dated Nov. 6th or you may use a plain envelope. FEES ARE \$25.** Please ensure your FULL MAILING ADDRESS OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS is included on your envelope with your payment.

2017 Offertory Envelopes: are available in the church hall. Please note that there have been updates made to the offertory numbering system. **FOR THE YEAR 2017, PLEASE USE ONLY THE ENVELOPES ASSIGNED TO YOU FOR THAT YEAR.** This will ensure that donations are credited to the proper person. **If you do not find a box prepared for you, please phone the office.**

Church Contributions: All Church contributions/donations for 2016 must be **received on the weekend of Dec 24th/25th** to be applied to your 2016 tax receipt. All donations received the following weekend will be applied to the 2017 tax receipt. Thank you for your cooperation.

Office Closure for Christmas: The Church Office will be closed from **Monday, December 26th, 2016 to Friday, December 30th, 2016.** Messages may be left at any time and will be checked regularly. **Regular office hours will resume the week of January 2nd, 2017.**

YOUTH MINISTRY: *YM for grades 5-8, Wed. evenings will continue through Dec 21st and resume January 11th, 2017.* **Registration form is on our website <http://stannfenwick.wixsite.com/youthministry>.** If you would like to volunteer, check out our website <http://stannfenwick.wixsite.com/youthministry> or email me gbroadley@branchesoftheword.org

Pelham Cares -Throughout Advent, baskets will be left at the church entrance for donations to Pelham Cares. **The type of items needed most include gift cards, Holiday treats, food items for hampers, personal care items, cash/cheque and toys**

Pelham Cares—Gift Cards- \$10 - \$30 from Sobey's, Giant Tiger, Drug Store etc., which can be used as a gift or to purchase Food; toiletry items, etc. **Envelopes are at the back of the church.** If you would like to help Pelham Cares in this way, take an envelope and return it in the collection during Sundays in Advent. **If possible, please have the gift cards to us by the weekend of Dec 10/11.**

