

GAUDETE SUNDAY

Third Sunday of Advent is also known as *Gaudete Sunday*, from the first words of the Entrance Antiphon for the Mass: *Gaudete in Domino semper*, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.... Indeed, the Lord is near." Like the Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday), it is a day for rejoicing in the midst of a penitential liturgical time. Flowers again grace the altar and the liturgical color may shift from violet to rose. Why do we rejoice? Because, as Saint Paul says, "the Lord is near." Even as we continue to await the Lord's coming, we know that he is already with us: in his word and in his sacraments and in the Church, which is his body. In a special way, he is with us in his beloved poor.

A new Gaudete Sunday custom has developed in Rome in recent years. Each year on the Third Sunday of Advent, the children of Rome bring the *Bambinello* (the figure of the Christ Child) from their home manger scenes to Saint Peter's Square for a special blessing by the Holy Father. In just a few years, this has become a well-loved tradition, so much so that some Romans call the Third Sunday of Advent *Bambinelli Sunday*!

Bring a candle or an electric candle and/or your Baby Jesus from your nativity scene to be blessed during Masses on December 14th, 15th, and on 21st, 22nd.



STEWARDSHIP

Dec. 08, 2019 \$4,330.03 Online \$1,427.00
 SHEP (Current Total \$100,872.72)
 Religious Retirement \$3,457.76
 Immaculate Conception \$1,002.00

Daily Mass Readings

Monday December 16
 Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a Ps 25:4-9 Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday December 17
 Gn 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17 Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday December 18
 Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 Mt 1:18-25
Thursday December 19
 Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-6, 16-17 Lk 1:5-25
Friday December 20
 Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Lk 1:26-38

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday December 14
 5:00pm For Fr. Joseph's Intention
Sunday December 15
 9:00am Blessings for Michael & Mary Jo Pezzini
 11:30am For the People of the Parishes
Monday December 16
 9:00am
Tuesday December 17
 9:00am + Florina Gittlein
Wednesday December 18
 9:00am + Geraldine Estabrook
Thursday December 19
 9:00am + Carol Akerson
Friday December 20
 9:00am



FAITH FORMATION

Classes will resume for spring semester on January 12th. Families with children preparing for sacraments must attend one year of Faith Formation classes one year prior.

PARENTS

The missalettes provided in the pews must last the whole year. Please mind that your small children handle them with care.

MEMORIAL FLOWER ENVELOPES

Envelopes for Christmas poinsettias are available at each table entrance in the atrium. Please print clearly the name of your loved ones on the envelopes for our memorial page. The deadline is 12/22.

ADORATION

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is between the 9am and 11:30am Mass in the Day Chapel through the 4th Sunday of Advent. Please maintain silence during adoration.

COMING EVENTS

December

- 15 K of C breakfast after 9am & 11:30am Masses
- Spanish Mass 2:30pm Day Chapel
- Simbang Gabi 7pm St. Michael, Palmer
- 16 Centering Prayer 6:30pm Social Hall
- Simbang Gabi 7pm St. Michael, Palmer
- 17 Hannah Loftus Requiem Mass 11am
- Simbang Gabi 7pm St. Michael, Palmer
- 18 Moms, Pops & Tots 10am-12pm All Saints
- Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30pm All Saints
- Simbang Gabi 7pm St. Michael, Palmer
- 19 Simbang Gabi 7pm Sacred Heart
- 20 Simbang Gabi 7pm Sacred Heart
- 21/22 Baby Jesus/Candle Blessing during Mass
- 22 Simbang Gabi 7pm Sacred Heart
- 23 Simbang Gabi 7pm Sacred Heart
- 24 Office Closed

HEART GALLERY OF ALASKA

A photo gallery in the Social Hall features children waiting in foster care for their adoption. Each child has chosen to be featured and is legally available for adoption. For more information view online at: <http://heartgalleryak.com>.

FOOD BANK

Canned fruits, vegetables, and soups, pasta, bread, boxed cereal, peanut butter, jelly. Please write checks to **Mat-Su Food Bank** 357-3769

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas Cards will be sold in Social Hall after Masses December 8th and December 15th.

HOLY FAMILY HIKE/SKI/BIKE

Join us Dec. 27th for 9am Mass at Sacred Heart Parish to celebrate the feast of the Holy Family! We will depart for Government Peak Chalet right after Mass. Bring a sandwich or enjoy a hot bowl of chili. There will be prizes for artistic Christmas sweater, craziest hat, rowdiest family spirit and most helpful child.



CHRISTMAS MINISTRY LISTS

Sign up sheets for Christmas and New Year Masses are posted in the hallway.

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Website: olvwasilla.com



GIFT BOX PROJECT THANK YOU

Through your generous donations we were able to collect 280 gift bags.

SPANISH MASS

Celebraremos la santa misa en español el tercer domingo de cada mes a las 2:30 p.m. en la capilla de Sacred Heart. La próxima misa será el 19 de enero.

We'll celebrate the holy Mass in Spanish at 2:30 P.M. on the third Sunday of every month in the Sacred Heart's day chapel. The next Mass will be on January 19.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Thank you for supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious in last week's collection! This year, our parish raised \$3,457.76. Please continue to pray for those who have given their lives in service to the Church, and know of their prayers for you.

RETRouvaille

Retrouvaille offers a welcoming and loving space to couples who have been living with a difficult marriage. Retrouvaille offers hope that their marriage can be healed and restored. For confidential information or to register for the Retrouvaille of Alaska program beginning with a weekend retreat on Feb. 28 to Mar. 1, 2020. Call 907-863-8000 or email: anchorage@helpourmarriage.org or visit the website at www.HelpOurMarriage.org

WINTER OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Closed; Tues—Fri 8:30am—4pm

EXPANDED BULLETIN

Please see the Sacred Heart website for additional pages for the bulletin.

BL. THEODORE RHOMZA BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Byzantine mission (an outreach of St Nicholas of Myra—Anchorage) meets the **2nd & 4th Sundays** at Sacred Heart at 4pm. The Byzantine Catholic Church is in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church but uses the Byzantine liturgical rite in the Eastern Slavic style. Contact Fr. Joseph Wargacki at 907-277-6731 or www.ak-byz-cath.org.