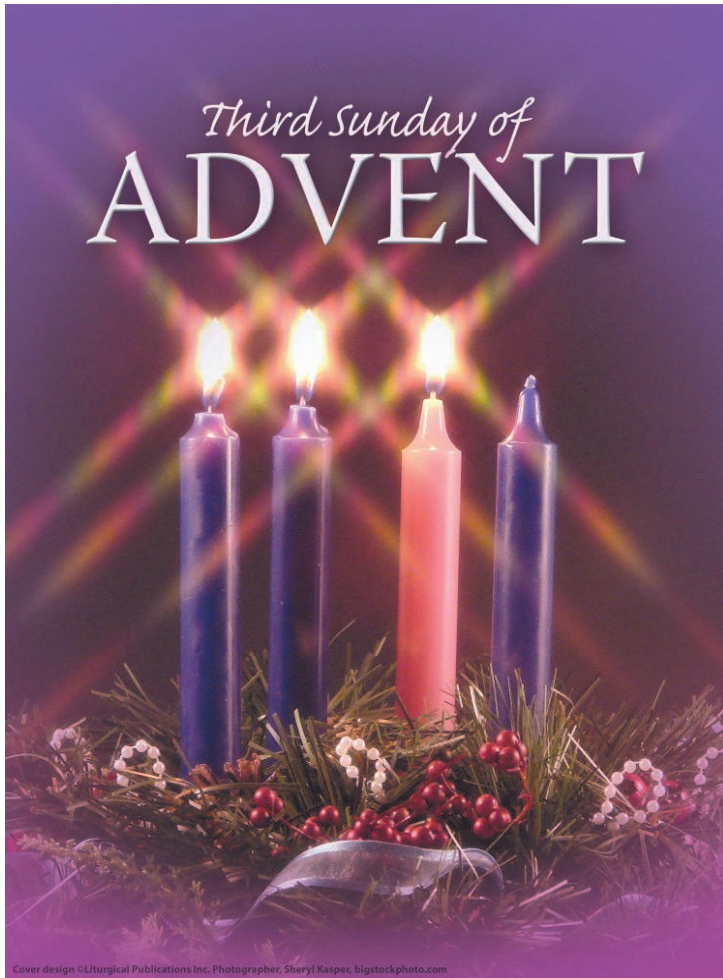




Church of St. Matthew

A Catholic community that is a visible expression of God's love



December 17, 2017 **Third Sunday of Advent**

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All emails are

@st-matts.org

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frbobbkellyop

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srannebecker

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jillkilzer

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Website: st-matts.org

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Sacraments

Please contact the Parish Office regarding Baptism, Marriage, First Communion and Confirmation information.

Bulletin

Announcements are due on Monday by 10:00 a.m. for the next Sunday's bulletin. *Items received after 10:00 a.m. will appear in the following week's bulletin.*

Liturgy Schedule

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:00 a.m.

Saturday - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 10:00 a.m.

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.

and by appointment

Prayer Line

Hope 651.457.0228 Cathy 651.455.5473

Readings for the Week of December 17, 2017

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

PREGNANT WITH JOY!



In the Western Church, the Third Sunday of Advent is sometimes called by its Latin name, *Gaudete* Sunday. *Gaudete* means “to be joyful” and “to rejoice.” On *Gaudete* Sunday, our rejoicing is most often symbolized by lighting a rose-colored candle on the Advent wreath. The color rose is made when the color white is added to purple. Rose symbolizes that Christ, the Light of the World, is getting closer and dispersing the darkness with light but is not yet here. Because we still await the coming of our Savior, our joy is like a seed that is content to remain unobtrusive as it delicately develops deep within us. Our rejoicing is very much like a child developing within a woman’s womb. A woman knows when she is pregnant and she patiently waits in contemplation not knowing what to expect but quietly telling others that great things are happening for her. The importance of knowing that we are pregnant with joy as we await the coming of Christ on Christmas is what today’s scripture passages attempt to describe.

In the first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, the spirit of the prophet is overjoyed with the realization that he is the one God has chosen to bring the good news that God’s light will shine on Israel and justice and peace will flourish. He foresees the coming of the Messiah ushering in a new era. “As the earth brings forth its plants, and garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord God make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.”

In the Gospel of John, the rejoicing spirit developing deep within John the Baptist is expressed in his testimony, “I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord.” This witnessing is not a grief-stricken cry. It is a direct statement of jubilation springing up from within John to proclaim the coming of Christ.

We may be surprised by our insight that we too are chosen, like the prophets Isaiah and John the Baptist, to receive the seed of joy that God plants in us. At our baptism, we unknowingly say “Yes” and the life of God begins its course of gestation. We become the ground out of which the incarnate God flowers in the world. Divinity is awaiting entry into human history at the threshold of our own heart’s door.

I believe that the challenge for us today is to realize that when one is pregnant, one is always pregnant. We wake up in the morning, move through the day, work, play, eat, love and sleep pregnant. We cannot put it aside, take a vacation from it, and come back to it later. The fact that we are pregnant pursues us and comes to affect everything we do. This means that while the joy developing within us is expressed in what we say and what we do, ultimately joy is who we are. It is this joy that has us sending Christmas cards, purchasing and making Christmas gifts, decorating our homes, baking cookies, singing in or along with the Christmas choir and so on and so on during the holiday season. During the rest of the year, our joy prompts us to overlook the irritations of life and to create the joys of life for ourselves and for others.

St. Dominic, the founder of the Order of Preacher, is described in the documents for his canonization as a joyful friar who taught his followers to praise, to bless, to preach. Proclaiming and preaching the Word following prayer and study was a value he imparted by his example. He taught his friars the art of reaching the hearts of others by animating them with a love for humankind. Once, after delivering a stirring sermon, he was asked in what book he had studied it. “In none,” he answered, “but that of love.” If we are pregnant with the joy of God, we are the place of Advent watching; we are the place of Advent waiting. We are the womb through whose pulsing life God is born.

Because the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God on January 1, falls on Monday following the Feast of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph on Sunday, December 31, it is not a holy day of obligation this year. Mass will not be celebrated at the Church of St. Matthew. I encourage all of us to participate in the World Day of Prayer for Peace by spending our time in peace with family and friends.

News and Events

THE BELLS AT ST. MATTHEW

On December 21st the Bells will ring to celebrate Sandra Saucedo's birthday. On December 23rd the Bells will ring in memory of Mae Gonsowski.

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

After the New Year, St. Matthew would like to offer the Liturgy of the Word for Children to children ages 3 to 7 during the 10:00 am Sunday Mass. Children would go with a teacher to the chapel where age appropriate learning activities focused on the Sunday Gospel take place. Adults are needed to teach and older students (grades 6 and up) are needed as helpers. We hope to offer this from January to May. If there are enough volunteers and families with children who prefer the Saturday 4:00 pm Mass, the faith formation program can be offered at that time as well. If you would like to volunteer or want more information, contact Janelle Rohr by email (Janelle@st-matts.org) or by phone [651-457-3522](tel:651-457-3522).

PERKINS FUND RAISER - ENDS SOON

The Perkins Pie Fund Raiser ends on Thursday, December 22nd. If you are going to be the guest for dinner at family or friend's for Christmas, be kind to the hostess and bring along a delicious Perkins pie. You can't go wrong with a fabulous Homestyle Apple Pie, or comforting Pumpkin Pie and who doesn't love Chocolate French Silk? Staying home for Christmas? Be nice to yourself and order your Christmas dinner pies today. Orders are being take at the Scrip table after Mass today. Or you can bring your order form to the parish center by noon on December 22nd.



WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS 12-10-17

Parish			
Envelopes/Cash	\$3,511	School	\$80.37
Electronic Giving	\$1,096		
Vigil Lights	\$28.50		
Holyday	\$317		
Mass Intentions	\$84		
Rent	\$5,200		
Religious Retirement	\$581		
Insurance Title	\$350		
Goodin Refund	\$147.29		
Christmas Environment	\$135		
Total	\$11,449.79		\$80.37

Thank You!

PLEASE REMEMBER

The Church of St. Matthew in a charitable will, trust, or gift annuity.

Cover art ©Liturgical Publications

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 16

4:00 pm David Andrews†

Sunday, December 17

10:00 am Our Parish

Mark Bidon†

Monday, December 18

8:00 am Pam, Robert J. Sr, &

Lucille Stickler†

Wednesday, December 20

8:00 am George Gubash†

Friday, December 22

8:00 am Arthur Geis†

Saturday, December 23

4:00 pm Joseph Karas, Sr.†

Joseph Karas, Jr.†

Sunday, December 24

10:00 am Our Parish

Katie Rosas†

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, December 16 Food Collection

2:30 pm Altar Server Training

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 17 Food Collection

9:00 am Choir Practice

10:00 am Mass

11:00 am Coffee Sunday SH

Monday Dec 18- Friday - Dec. 22

5:00-6:00 pm Loaves & Fishes SH

Monday, December 18

12:00 - 5:00 pm St. Mary's Clinic

Tuesday, December 19

1:00 pm St. Mary's Clinic Mediation

Wednesday, December 20

8:00 am - 5:30 pm St. Mary's Clinic PC

Thursday, December 21

Friday, December 22

Saturday, December 23

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve

9:00 am Choir Practice

10:00 am Mass

4:00 pm Mass

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day

10:00 am Mass

Children's Corner



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