



Gaudete! Rejoice!

Dear Friend of Annunciation Parish & School,

December 16 is the Third Sunday of Advent, and when you light your Advent Wreath Sunday, and each day next week, you will light two violet candles and the rose colored candle. Advent is a time of preparation and waiting. Violet, which expresses penance and/or waiting, is the primary liturgical color during this season. Rose, however, is the color for this third Sunday of Advent, "Gaudete Sunday". The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "rejoice". The entrance antiphon for Mass the Third Sunday of Advent begins with words from Saint Paul's Letter to the Philippians, "Rejoice in the Lord always". We rejoice that the Lord's coming is near!



Since on Gaudete Sunday, our liturgical color is rose and we are lighting three candles on our Advent wreath, including the rose colored one, why not place a lovely rose at each place at your table for Sunday dinner? Invite children to make place cards and decorate them with roses. Are there those in your neighborhood who are shut in or ill this Gaudete Sunday? Why not bake cookies or cupcakes decorated with icing roses, and along with a real rose make a visit to these neighbors sharing your Gaudete rejoicing with them!

Sincerely,

Dr. Sandi Chakeres,
Director of Faith Formation

Bambinelli Sunday!



For the past several decades, each year on Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, children (and adults) bring their Christ-child figures from the crèche at their homes to St. Peter's Square where the Pope will bless both the people and the figurines during the Angelus. There is even a [children's book](#) about this tradition.

This year we will celebrate "Bambinelli Sunday" at both our 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 16. All are invited to bring the Christ-child figure from their homes to Mass that morning to be blessed.

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Religious Education/Faith Formation News
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Special points of interest:

Perhaps one of the best known Advent hymns is "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." This hymn is based on what we call the "O Antiphons". The [O Antiphons](#) are prayed beginning December 17 through December 23. They are prayed at Vespers, and may be used as the Gospel acclamation at Mass on these days.

- Follow us on [Facebook](#) to get all our latest news and see all our latest photos!

**Icon at top left of page: Archangel Gabriel (Annunciation), 16th Century, Russian Heritage, Location: Andrei Rublev Museum in Moscow. Used with permission of St. Isaac of Syria Skete (Orthodox Byzantine Icons, Inc.); 25266 Pilgrims Way, Boscobel, WI 53805 www.skete.com

Saint John of the Cross

On December 14 the Church celebrates the feast day (an obligatory Memorial) of Saint John of the Cross. Juan de Ypes was born in a poor family at Fontiveros in Spain in 1542. His father died when he was very young, and his mother had little support. John eventually joined the Carmelite religious order. Originally, the Carmelite order had been very strict, but at the time John joined, things were much more relaxed. John, however, wanted to follow the older, stricter Carmelite rule.

John met a woman religious of the Carmelite order who also felt called to live the original, strict Carmelite rule. This woman also is a Saint, Saint Teresa of Jesus (or Teresa of Avila), whose feast day we celebrate on October 15. Teresa founded the reformed, or Discalced Carmelites. John was a strong supporter and ally of Teresa's, and was a reformer in his own right, as well.

As you might imagine, those Carmelites who lived the more relaxed lifestyle did not appreciate John's efforts at reform. John suffered greatly because of this, and was even imprisoned because of his efforts and beliefs.

John died on December 14, 1591. He is a Doctor of the Church, and is known as the "Mystical Doctor." Take some time today to listen to an audio of some of the writings of Saint John of the Cross. You can access this audio [here](#). You can also access "Maxims from St. John of the Cross" [here](#). Choose one of these maxims that speaks to you, jot it down in your journal, and make it your Advent meditation for today. You can visit The Virtual Carmelite Museum [here](#), for Carmelite art. And if you are interested in praying a Novena to St. John of the Cross, here is a [link](#).

The months of John's imprisonment were very harsh, and yet through prayer and perseverance, uniting himself to the Paschal Mystery (the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus), he endured his fate and wrote poetry. He was a mystic and a poet. In fact he is perhaps the greatest poet in Spanish history. His spiritual works are still read by millions today. He wrote "The Ascent of Mount Carmel"; "The Dark Night of the Soul"; "The Spiritual Canticle," and, "The Living Flame of Love."



Upcoming Events

- ◆ Sunday, December 16, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Mass: [Bambinelli Sunday](#) Blessing
- ◆ Thursday, December 20, 9:30-10:15 a.m.: Morning Prayer
- ◆ Thursday, December 20, 6:00 p.m.: School Concert
- ◆ Sunday, December 23, 12:00 Noon: Decorate Church for Christmas
- ◆ Monday, December 24-Friday, January 4: Parish & School Offices Closed for Christmas Break.
- ◆ Monday, December 24, 5:00 p.m. (Christmas Vigil Mass); Tuesday, December 25: 12:00 a.m. (Midnight Mass); 10:00 a.m. (Mass During the Day) [Christmas Eve/Day Masses](#)
- ◆ Tuesday, January 1st, (Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God - Holy Day of Obligation): Vigil Mass 5:00 p.m. December 31; Mass at 11:00 a.m. on January 1st.

***It's Happening at
Annunciation!***

Advent Volunteer Opportunities



All gifts have now been returned to our Annunciation Advent Giving Tree, benefiting the clients of the St. George Food Pantry. Volunteer Opportunities

are available this weekend at the Food Pantry. **Friday, December 14, 7:00-9:00 p.m.:** Help set up for the gift distribution at the Food Pantry. Wrap a few gifts and sort packages by age group, arranging them for distribution. **Saturday, December 15, 10:00 a.m.-Noon or 1:00-3:00 p.m.:** Assist with the actual gift distribution at the Food Pantry (no travel required). Lunch will be provided. If you have any questions or are able to volunteer, please contact Janet Cavanaugh at 513-325-3275/jcavanaugh@fuse.net or Brenda Beluan at 513-825-8021/bmbeluan@gmail.com.