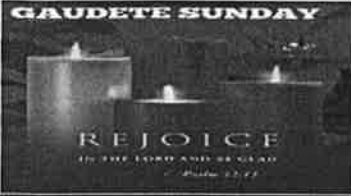


16th December 2018 - Third Sunday of Advent



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 15

9:00am *Lisa Genoves (safe trip)*
4:30pm † *Amado S. Pinlac, Jr.*

Sunday, December 16

7:30am † *Jesus Vargas Hernandez*
9:30am *St. John's Parishioners*
11:00am † *Menie De Pedro*
12:30pm † *Pedro Lepe*

Monday, December 17

9:00am † *Jose Lazaro Zamora*

Tuesday, December 18

9:00am † *Nancy Kearney*

Wednesday, December 19

9:00am *Lisa Genoves (bday)*

Thursday, December 20

9:00am *Living & Deceased YMI bros*

Friday, December 21

9:00am † *Perfecto Hierro Sr.*

Saturday, December 22

9:00am † *Apolonar & Teodora Tabilog & family*
4:30pm † *Graciela Salinas*

From the Desk of the Pastor

On the 'Third Sunday of Advent', formerly known as Gaudete (Latin for "rejoice") Sunday, the entire liturgy is transfused with a spirit of joy and rejoicing in anticipation of the coming of the Day of the Lord.

How many of us can remember, the people we have loved and admired, but who at the same time failed to live up to what we expected from them all?

Could it be that we expected too much from them? Expecting too much from others can lead to heartaches and disappointments. Upon reflection, I guess at times we realize that it was not entirely their fault, but ours for expecting and wanting too much from them, perhaps for having set them up with unrealistic standards.

The Gospel story today recounts how the crowds had high expectations, even wondering if John was the most awaited Christ. John the Baptist was great. Yet, he knew deep down in his soul, that he could not possibly live up to the expectations of the crowds: not only what they wanted, but also what they so desperately needed. And so what does he do?

John does not disappoint the people. He tells them that they are not really expecting enough! John knows that he is nothing compared to the one who is coming.

This Sunday is also a day of clarity in thoughts, mind and souls. John the Baptist knows exactly who he is: a witness who finds himself unworthy even to do a servant's work, unfastening a sandal strap of his Master. The Lamb of God, the Anointed Son of God who is 'God with us': That one will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. It is He and He alone who will fill our hearts' desires. Such humility and conviction of knowing oneself is a quality of Advent we are asked to reflect and imitate.

Today we are tempted to be an extravagant Santa, or the perfect hostess or the wise guru, we feel frazzled and torn, our energies dissipate, being pulled in different directions, a hundred ways. Only God is the one "who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine. Hope in Him never disappoints.

Rejoice in the Lord always. The Savior is near.

SECOND COLLECTION

Today's second collection is for the **2018 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal**

Parish Assessment	\$ 40,397.00
YTD we paid	\$ 35,097.00
Pledge Unpaid Bal.	\$ 1,720.00
Balance we owe	\$ 3,580.00

Kindly consider helping meet our goal.
Thank you for your generous support



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

Dec 4th - Dec 9th, 2018

Tuesday's Spec coll.	\$ 127.00
Tues. On-line giving	\$ 5.00
Immaculate Conception..	\$ 821.00
Immaculate On-line giving..	\$ 20.00
Weekend Offering	\$ 2,854.00
Weekend On-line giving..	\$ 320.00
Religious Retirement.....	\$ 1,296.00
Relig. Rtmn On-line giving..	\$ 50.00

November 2018 Collection Data

November 4	\$ 2,855.00
November 11.....	\$ 3,664.00
November 18.....	\$ 3,184.00
November 25.....	\$ 3,168.00

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

SIMBANG GABI NOVENA MASS

The Filipino Pastoral Council (FPC) welcomes you to the Simbang Gabi, a devotional nine-day series of Masses to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary and with her help, prepare more intensely for the celebration of Christmas. The masses will be held daily from December 16th - 24th.

The FPC invites you to consider sponsoring any of the Simbang Gabi novena days. The nine day Simbang Gabi novena Mass Schedule is given below:

Sunday Dec. 16th at 7:30 am Mass
Monday Dec. 17th - Saturday, Dec. 22nd at 9:00 am Mass
Sunday Dec. 23rd at 7:30 am Mass
Monday Dec. 24th at 9:00 am Mass

After the novena, there will be a fellowship gathering for delicious pancit, lumpia and other delicacies.

Christmas Flower Donations

We welcome donations for the poinsettias that will be purchased for the Church for the Christmas season. We suggest a \$10.00 donation. These donations may be made in memory of a loved one or as a petition for a special prayer request. The names and petitions will be included on a scroll and placed at the foot of the altar throughout the Christmas Season. Envelopes for flower donations are available in your envelope packet or on the tables located in the back of the church.

QUASQUICENTENNIAL MEMORIALS

We have a limited supply of St. John the Evangelist Parish 125th Anniversary souvenir items for sale. You may want to purchase one or more of these items for yourself or as Christmas gifts. The items included in this sale are Coffee mugs and wine glasses for \$ 5.00 each; Totes for \$ 8.00 and T-Shirts for \$ 12.00.

These may be purchased during the fellowship gatherings following the Simbang Gabi Masses (Sundays 7:30am Mass and weekdays 9am Mass) in the Parish hall from December 16th to the 24th or from Alma from the Parish office.

All the sales proceeds will go into the "Fixing God's House" Account.

Kindly consider making a pledge for "Fixing God's House" Let us keep the centennial celebration going!

Not Ready? No Problem!...While Advent is a beautiful time to prepare for the coming of the Lord, we often get so caught up in all the things we do to prepare for Christmas that we forget Advent all together. The readings remind us that in spite of the stress we may feel thinking about how close Christmas is, we are called to rejoice for the Lord is near.