



*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.*

( Luke 4:18)

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Gaudete! "Rejoice in the Lord! Again I say it: Rejoice!" This Third Sunday of Advent, traditionally called "Gaudete Sunday," invites us to rejoice today because the feast of the of Lord's birth is so near. Today we set aside the somber violet vestments for the festive rose colored vestments which are used only twice a year. St. Paul tells us in the second reading today to "rejoice always, and to pray without ceasing. Let us take his advice to heart as we near the celebration of the Lord's birth in a little more than a week.

**Please! Do not leave Mass early unless it is an emergency. We should be willing to give the Lord at least one hour a week. The Mass ends after the recessional hymn. Especially at the Saturday evening Mass, a mass exodus right after Holy Communion has been taking place. This is not a reverent way to give thanks to God right after receiving his Body and Blood, and then walking out the door. You might recall that Judas Iscariot was the first person to leave Mass early! Please! Let us break this unacceptable custom that has been growing in the past year!**

A reminder also that we are required to attend an Advent Mass next weekend, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and then a Christmas Mass. Going once to Mass for Christmas does not fulfill the Sunday obligation. Put your priorities in perspective! Put God first!

By now you will have received my annual Christmas appeal giving you a summary of our present financial situation. We are facing a few hurdles at this time of the year and I ask that you be as generous as possible to help us in our present financial challenges. Donations should be submitted by December 31st for tax purposes.

The Pastoral Council will meet this Sunday, December 17th. Chairmen should have a brief report for their various committees.

As we observe this holy season of Advent, I wish you many graces and blessings from the Lord. May the Lord, with his grace, also change our hearts, that we may be ever more dedicated to him and to our faith!

May God's grace always grow in your hearts!  
Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Aguina M. Nichols*

Pastor

**ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL:** \$74,133.25 has been paid on our 2017 assessment of \$132,297. We still owe **\$57,905.08.**

**ELEVATOR FUND**

Current Donations.....\$ 668,403.90  
Goal.....\$ 800,000.00

**Prayers Please:** Please keep me in your prayers. Over the next month or so I will be receiving radiation treatment in Rochester, MN for prostate cancer. —Deacon Luke



**FREE TO A GOOD HOME:** As you may know, our St. Benedict Mission recently closed. We have 3 freezers and 2 combination freezer/refrigerators for give away to Basilica of Saint John parishioners. Please call the Basilica and ask for Charles Stastny at (515) 244-3101, ext. 205 to set a time to come and take a look. We only ask that you arrange for moving and pickup. First come, first served. Thank you.

**LITURGICAL SCHEDULE**

**DECEMBER 16 TO DECEMBER 25**

**TIMES FOR EUCHARIST AND INTENTIONS**

<b>SAT 16</b>	4:00PM	+Deceased Relatives of Father Aquinas
	6:00PM	Spanish Mass
<b>SUN 17</b>	8:30AM	+Kathryn Mauro
	10:30AM	Parish & Benefactors
<b>MON 18</b>	12:00PM	+Elizabeth Brien
<b>TUE 19</b>	12:00PM	+Darrell Gass
<b>WED 20</b>	12:00PM	+Beverly Nichols
<b>THU 21</b>	12:00PM	+Carl & Florence Reelitz
<b>FRI 22</b>	12:00PM	+Ron Weindel, Zach Walz, David Rachuy, Andrew & Dorothy Wieberg
<b>SAT 23</b>	9:00AM	+Darlene Miller
		(Vigil Mass)
	4:00PM	Intentions of Dan & Marilyn Bradley
<b>SUN 24</b>	8:30AM	Intentions of Maria Lan Nguyen
	10:30AM	Parish & Benefactors
<b>Christmas:</b>		
	4:00PM	<b>Children's Christmas Mass:</b> Ron Wells
	11:00PM	<b>Choir Concert</b>
	12:00AM	<b>Midnight Mass:</b> Parish & Benefactors
<b>MON 25</b>	10:30AM	+Donna Blaskovich



**THE BASILICA OF ST. JOHN STREAMING ONLINE:**

[www.YouTube.com/BasilicaStJohn](http://www.YouTube.com/BasilicaStJohn)

<http://basilica.churchcastonline.com> (live from your computer)

**PRAYER CHAIN:** Do you know someone who is in need of prayer? The Basilica Prayer Chain can help. To request prayers email Deacon Luke Tieskoetter at [tieskoetterluke3@gmail.com](mailto:tieskoetterluke3@gmail.com) or Terri at 321-2743 or [sinc2@aol.com](mailto:sinc2@aol.com).

**CATECHISM CORNER:**

Last week's question:

*Why is the church called the temple of the Holy Spirit?*

**ANSWER:** She is so called because the Holy Spirit resides in the body which is the Church, in her Head and in her members. He also builds up the Church in charity by the Word of God, the sacraments, the virtues, and charisms.



*The Basilica of St. John*  
*Third Sunday of Advent*  
*December 17, 2017*

Respect  
Life



**YOUR PARISH THIS WEEK**  
**DECEMBER 18 THRU DECEMBER 24**

MON 18	9:00AM Adoration@ 7:00PM RCIA** Can start delivering Poinsettias for Christmas!
TUE 19	8:00AM Organ Practice 4:30PM NO Columbus Academy Class** 6:00PM Hispanic Room in use** 7:00PM Bible Study** 7:00PM Safety Meeting+
WED 20	9:00AM Adoration Begins@ 9:30AM Bible Study+ 6:15PM NO Religious Ed. **
THU 21	8:00AM Organ Practice+++ 5:45PM Choir room in use+++ 7:00PM Choir Practice+
FRI 22	9:00AM Adoration Begins@ 9:00AM NO Columbus Academy Class**
SAT 23	8:30AM Chaplet of Divine Mercy## 9:45AM Church Decorating Begins
SUN 24	8:00AM Vietnamese Prayer Group+

SIGN INDICATORS

+++ = Choir Loft; \*\* = School; @ = Chapel; \* = Rectory  
 + = Church Hall; ## = Church; % = Conference Room;

**Daily Scripture Readings for the week of December 11, 2017:**

**Monday:** Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25  
**Tuesday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25  
**Wednesday:** Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38  
**Thursday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45  
**Friday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56  
**Saturday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66  
**Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38  
**Christmas:**  
**Vigil:** Is 62:1-5, Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
**Midnight:** Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14  
**Day:** Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

**LIFELINES:** "Human Life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life." (Catechism of the Catholic Church). "Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but having the right to do what we ought." (Blessed John Paul II) ([pro-lifearticles.org](http://pro-lifearticles.org))



**CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATING:** We will begin decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 23 after the 9:00am Mass. *We need lots of volunteers* to help carry up the boxes of Christmas trees, poinsettias and decorations and also to help decorate! Please consider helping with this! All are welcome!



**POINSETTIAS:** If you would like to donate a poinsettia to help decorate the church, you can start having them delivered the week of December 18. If possible, please have them in gold foil. You may attach a card with a loved one's name to the poinsettia, in their memory. An insert will be placed in the bulletin after Christmas acknowledging the memory of your loved one.



**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR:** Our recent Altar & Rosary Bazaar took in approximately \$3500 before expenses. Many, many thanks to all the volunteers, crafters, donors and customers! Our next meeting is January 13, hosted by Jeanne Kelley's band #1.



**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL:** Christmas break is December 14 thru January 2. School will resume on Wednesday, January 3.



The **Required Confirmation Retreat** for second year Confirmation Students will be the weekend of February 23-25, 2018. Students will be responsible for raising the funds. All second year students must participate. If you have questions call Maria Walters at 515-953-9188.



**CALENDARS:** The 2018 Calendars are available in the parish hall, outside of the parish office. Please take one!

**LOST & FOUND:** A cell phone and a handicap sign for a car was recently found and turned into the parish office. If you think one of these might be yours please call the parish office with a description (515-244-3101, ext. 0)

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**Counseling Services:** Struggling with how to handle personal challenges? Contact our receptionist, Cheryl Maes at 515-237-5045 for more information or to set up a professional counseling appointment. Most major insurance is accepted, and a sliding fee scale is available for those without insurance.

**"Beginning Experience" Open Houses:** 7 to 8:30 pm Friday, December 22nd, 29th and January 5th at St Augustin Church Hall 42nd St and Grand Ave in Des Moines. What if the worst thing you think could happen does, and you are widowed, separated or divorced? What if life changes in the blink of an eye? How do you cope? How do you deal with the grief, loss and pain? Beginning Experience can help. You don't have to suffer alone. We have walked through the same grief, loss and pain that you are facing in your life. We are willing to walk with you on this journey to discover new hope and meaning in your life. The Open Houses give you the beginning steps of healing, and are also an invitation to attend our weekend retreat January 19 - 21, 2018. If you wish to know more about the healing process, contact Dana Reed at 515-975-3745, Mike Losee at 515-360-8268, or Fr. Bob Schoemann at 515-418-1938.

