



## REJOICE! IT'S GAUDETE SUNDAY!

This weekend is the third Sunday of Advent - a Sunday to rejoice.

It is the day we light the Advent wreath's traditional pink candle, which shifts our focus from repenting and penance to joy, knowing Christ is near.

Pope Francis tells us to take time this weekend to reflect on how we are living the faith "joyfully, and whether (we) convey the joy of being a Christian to other."

Not only recognize Christ in yourself and others in your home, your community, and the world, but also focus on the fact that as we receive Him in Eucharist, we are to fully embrace being united with Christ. Put Him in at the center of everything and we will see with eyes of faith - through rose-colored glasses so to speak.

As we rejoice and celebrate the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, be mindful to let others see Christ's presence in us - be a witness to Christ in our world.

Soon we will celebrate the birth of Christ, who comes to us as a precious and delicate infant - a sign of great love and joy.



### *BAMBINELLI BLESSING*



Take Baby Jesus to Church! Pope Saint Paul VI began the tradition in 1969 of bringing your family's baby Jesus figure from the nativity scene to St. Peter's Square for a special papal blessing - the Bambinelli Blessing.

Bambinelli is the term used in Rome for the Baby Jesus figurine. The blessing takes place after the Angelus in St. Peter's Square. It's the children, who proudly hold up the statue for the pope to bless. The family then takes the Bambinelli home eagerly waiting for Christmas Eve when the Baby Jesus can be placed in the manger to mark the midnight birth to the most pure Virgin Mary and St. Joseph her chaste spouse and guardian of the Redeemer.

Ask your priest to honor this papal tradition and bless the Baby Jesus from your nativity. Let it be a sign of great joy in knowing that God made Himself present among us. His love is everlasting.

# BE CONFIDENT IN FAITH, WORRY NOT OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

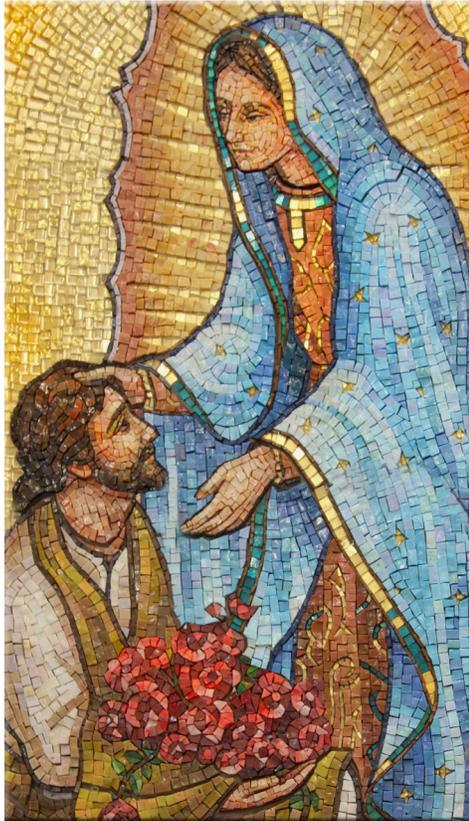
As we celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12, let us take to heart the advice our Blessed Mother gave to Saint Juan Diego, a humble member of his Aztec community – be confident in faith, worry not.

“Let not your heart be disturbed... Am I not here, who is your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health?

Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything.” (Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego)

We are all faced with anxiety, stress, struggles, and challenges, but Our Lady of Guadalupe reminds us through the story of St. Juan Diego that she is always with the faithful.

In 1531, when Our Blessed Mother appeared to Saint Juan she was adamant that a church be built in her honor on the Tepeyac Hill near Mexico City. The bishop of Mexico, Juan de Zumarraga, didn't believe St. Juan, when he told him about Mary's apparition and request. So Mary had him gather roses in his cloak to give to the bishop. These specific roses were impossible to have grown in that region, let alone that season without a miracle. Saint Juan did as Mary instructed and when he went to the bishop and opened his cloak, the roses fell to the ground and to their surprise the cloak had now taken the beautiful image of Our Lady of Guadalupe appearing on it. The chapel was built, and the bishop made accommodations for St. Juan to live in a small



home near the chapel, where the cloak was displaced for veneration. Saint Juan lived the rest of his life taking care of the church, remaining in prayer and boundless love of God and neighbor. He died in 1548 and was declared a saint in 2002.

The cloak is preserved in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, shows a woman with native features and dress. She is supported by an angel whose wings are reminiscent of one of the major gods of the traditional religion of that area. The moon is beneath her feet and her blue mantle is covered with gold stars. The black girdle about her waist signifies that she is pregnant. Thus, the image graphically depicts the fact that Christ is to be “born” again among the peoples of the New World, and is a message as relevant to the “New World” today as it was during the lifetime of Juan Diego, according to Vatican reports.

Pope Saint Pius X wrote this prayer of intercession in 1908:

Our Lady of Guadalupe,  
Mystical Rose,  
make intercession for the holy Church,  
protect the Sovereign Pontiff,  
help all those who invoke thee in their necessities,  
and since thou art the ever-Virgin Mary  
and Mother of the true God,  
obtain for us from thy most holy Son  
the grace of keeping our faith,  
sweet hope in the midst of the bitterness of life,  
burning charity  
and the precious gift of final perseverance.  
Amen.

“Always stay close to this Heavenly Mother, because she is the sea to be crossed to reach the shores of Eternal Splendour,” said St. Padre Pio, who adored Mary and the Marian apparitions. “Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother.”

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

The prophet Isaiah emphasizes the beauty in life when we look at everything with the eyes of faith.

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### Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 146

“Lord, come and save us.”

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### Second Reading: James 5:7-10

A lesson in patience: Prepare yourself, be mindful not to complain, and do not judge for the true Judge – the Lord – is coming.

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### Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Matthew tells the story of John in prison. John hears of the great saving powers of Jesus and wants confirmation that He is indeed the One we have been waiting. This story focuses on the healing and empowering works of Christ. It is Jesus who shares in the end of this reading that even the ordinary believers will be celebrated in Heaven for having eyes of faith and works of mercy.

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[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT  
BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/121122.CFM](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/121122.CFM)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we prepare ourselves and others for the coming of the Lord through our words of love, mercy, and hope; and actions of the same, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the leaders of the world, that they humble themselves and lead with faith in God, trusting Him to lead all people, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all the faithful that as we pray our own intentions, we also emphasize prayers for all who struggle, especially those whom we have no idea of their burdens - whose crosses are heavier than ours, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all the prayers held dear in the hearts and minds of the faithful in West Virginia that we heed the words of Isaiah and John – find the beauty in all things with the eyes of Christ, while journeying through life with patience and confidence that He comes to save us, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

## Special Collection Dec. 10-11

### Retirement Fund for Religious



**Please give to those who have given a lifetime.**

## REJOICING WITH JOE



*Catholic Charities West Virginia and community partners helped to replace a flood-damaged utility room in a client's home in this 'before and after' view*

On this third Sunday of Advent, as we rejoice that the coming of the Lord draws near, we at Catholic Charities also rejoice with the people we serve and our community partners across the Mountain State. Guided by God's love, we – Catholic Charities staff & volunteers, neighbors in need and community-based organizations - work together to overcome obstacles and realize lasting and meaning change.

In May 2022, "Joe's" home near Cabell County filled with three feet of flood water, causing significant amounts of damage throughout. Flood waters destroyed Joe's vehicle as well as his utility building and left his yard covered with debris. Joe did not have flood insurance, and no federal or state aid was available for repairs. Joe contacted Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) for assistance.

Catholic Charities West Virginia's Disaster Services Specialist connected Joe to a variety of resources and helped him develop a plan for long-term recovery. American Baptist Disaster Relief mucked out and cleaned his home. They also removed flood-damaged floors and walls. Family and friends provided support for the clean-up as well.

Through the generosity of Catholic Charities USA, CCWVa purchased and installed a new furnace and assisted with the purchase of kitchen cabinets.

The Knights of Columbus donated gift cards that Joe could use for immediate needs. The Disaster Representative for the Knights of Columbus in West Virginia delivered the cards to Joe's home. Joe was once a member of the Knights, and he shared that he was overjoyed at the visit and the generous donation. Joe anticipates his home will be fully restored by early 2023

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit [www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org).

### BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

|                                |    |       |
|--------------------------------|----|-------|
| Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD | FM | 96.3  |
| Berkeley Springs               | FM | 107.9 |
| Clarksburg-Bridgeport          | FM | 97.5  |
| Dunbar - Charleston            | AM | 1450  |
| Eastern Panhandle              | AM | 740   |
| Eastern Panhandle              | FM | 106.5 |
| Grafton - Clarksburg           | AM | 1190  |
| Montgomery - Beckley           | FM | 89.7  |
| Purgitsville                   | FM | 98.7  |
| St. Marys - Parkersburg        | FM | 105.3 |
| Star City -Morgantown          | FM | 89.7  |
| Summersville                   | FM | 91.3  |
| Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH   | FM | 90.7  |
| Weirton - Steubenville         | FM | 97.7  |

~Also Streaming in WV at [www.rdo.to/WLOL](http://www.rdo.to/WLOL)~

### ENROLL TODAY

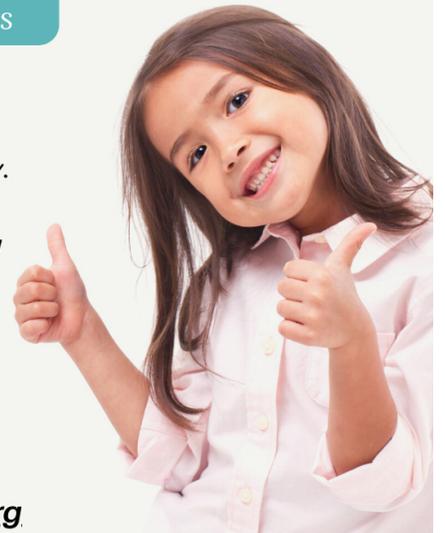
WV Catholic Schools

Empowered  
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Register today

[wvcatholicschools.org](http://wvcatholicschools.org)



## Liturgy of the Hours

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

[EBREVIARY.COM](http://EBREVIARY.COM) LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view a PDF version of the Liturgy of the Hours.



### MASS ONLINE

Saturday 6pm Masses will continue to be livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and will be available on our website each Sunday at [DWC.ORG](http://DWC.ORG).