



Gaudete Sunday - Rejoice!



Rejoice! It's Gaudete Sunday!

This weekend is the third Sunday of Advent – a Sunday dedicated to the joy of our faith.

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.

The third candle is the shepherd's candle and recalls the shepherds and their joy. According to Scripture, it was the shepherds who were first told about Christ's birth (Luke 2:8-14).

Recognize and celebrate Christ within you since baptism, and find Him in others at home, your community, and the world. Further focus and don't take for granted the fact that as we receive Him in the 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.

Make time this week to reflect on how we are living the faith joyfully, and how we show the joy of our faith to others.

In our readings today the Prophet Isaiah describes the wonders God will accomplish. In the psalm we sing that our souls rejoice in our God. Paul closes his letter to the Thessalonians by reminding them to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in everything – thank God.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist's caution to those wanting baptized. He says to them, "Today I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize... whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

Many of our parishes will play *On Jordan's Bank* – a traditional hymn in to emphasize today's Gospel:

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward:
without thy grace, we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick, stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom, with the Father, we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS



ST. DOMINIC OF SILOS

On December 20th remember **St. Dominic of Silos**. Born in 1000 AD, he was shepherd boy from Spain, who grew up to be a priest and performed many miracles of healing of illnesses. He served as the Abbot of the Monastery of St. Sebastian at Silos. It was practically in ruin, but Dominic rebuilt it – structure and monastic reforms with the rules of St. Benedict, emphasizing traditional monastic life; sacred music, art, architecture, devotion to Mary, caring for the poor, and focused on the celebration of the Mass as a liturgy in Heaven. The monastery was eventually named after him. After his death it is said that Blessed Juana de Aza was praying in the monastery of St. Dominic of Silos, calling upon him to interceded for her so she would conceive a son. She reported seeing a vision of him and God said it would be so. It came to be she gave birth to a son and named him Dominic – we know him as of St Dominic de Guzman, the founder of the Dominican Order.

You may have heard his named before, because of a popular CD from 1994 titled “*Chant*” (Benedictine Monks of Santo Domingo de Silos album). If you stumble upon a copy of it, it’s worth a listen.



ST. PETER CANISIUS

The Feast Day of **St. Peter Canisius** is Dec. 21st. Saint Peter Canisius was a Dutch Jesuit priest known for promoting the Catholic faith in his writing, preaching, and teaching during the protestant reformation in Europe. He is a Doctor of the Church. Born in 1521, during his life he founded 18 colleges and wrote 37 books.

Words of his to live by: “We are to pray as though everything depended on God, but work as though everything depended on us, we do have a free will.”



ST. JOHN (JAN) OF KANTY

On December 23rd we honor **St. John (Jan) of Kanty** - a polish priest, known as humble, serious, and kind. He was advanced in his degrees and a passionate professor of theology. He said, “*Fight all false opinions, but let your weapons be patience, sweetness, and love. Roughness is bad for your own soul and spoils the best cause.*”

He didn’t just talk the talk, as they say, but he walked the walk. He made an 1,800-mile pilgrimage on foot to the Holy Land and four pilgrimages to Rome, a 900-mile walk for Him each way.

CATHEDRAL PARISH INVITES YOU TO BE UPLIFTED AND RESTORED

The Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Wheeling is making plans to gather and celebrate a Restored Parish Mission with an event which will take place at the cathedral on January 19 and 20, 2024, presented by Mr. John Edwards, an inspirational and nationally recognized speaker on the Catholic Faith. He is the Founder of Pew Ministries, Co-Founder of Virtual Catholic Conference, and the Host of the popular podcast “Just a Guy in the Pew.”

Edwards will lead those gathered through a series of inspiring talks and discussions for the whole family.

This mission is a unique opportunity to deepen your faith, connect with others in the community, and find renewed hope and strength.

This is going to be a great opportunity not only for the Cathedral parish but for people all around area. It is free and open to all Catholics as an opportunity to be uplifted and restored.

Those planning on attending are asked to register in advance for planning purposes. Register and obtain your free ticket at: WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/RESTORED-PARISH-MISSION-WITH-JOHN-EDWARDS-TICKETS-748847371647



JOIN US ON JANUARY 19TH & 20TH FOR ST. JOSEPH'S

RESTORED PARISH MISSION



JOHN EDWARDS
FOUNDER OF PEW
MINISTRIES AND HOST OF
"JUST A GUY IN THE PEW"
PODCAST

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19TH

- 7:00 PM** From Addict to Evangelist: John's Powerful Conversion Story
- 8:15 PM** Reception

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20TH

- 9:00 AM** Mass
- 9:45 AM** Restoring Your Identity: Who You Are, Whose You Are, and Why You're Here
- 11:00 AM** The Most Important Thing: A Personal Relationship with Jesus
- 12:15 PM** Men's Lunch
- 12:45 PM** Men's Ministry Training

Cathedral of St. Joseph
1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DEC. 17

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

God is the joy of the soul!

Responsorial: Luke 1 (Isaiah 61:10b)

“My soul rejoices in my God.”

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always! Pray without ceasing! In all circumstances give thanks for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus!

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

John the Baptist said, “I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize... whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.”

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/121723.CFM

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that as we prepare the way of the Lord, we also prepare others for the desire to have Christ in their lives through our actions, words, and mercy, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That world leaders work together to bring justice and peace in every nation, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That those who have lost hope and have blurred vision, finding it difficult to see the light of Christ, because of the grief, challenges, and overwhelming stresses of life – may Christ fill their hearts with love, mercy, and comfort, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That in all circumstances we remain grateful and give thanks to God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

When Christmas Eve is on a Sunday....

Some are naturally wondering, do we have to go to Mass twice on Dec. 24th, because Christmas Eve is on a Sunday?

It's a bit confusing, but yes, if you are typically a Sunday Mass goer and enjoy attending the Christmas Vigil, you will be going to Mass twice that day. Just do not make the mistake of assuming your Sunday obligation and Christmas holy day of obligation can be met with one Mass on Dec 24th.

To be clear, the Sunday obligation for the Fourth Sunday of Advent may only be fulfilled by attending either the vigil Mass on Dec. 23rd or a morning Mass on December 24th. The Holy Day of obligation for Christmas is fulfilled by attending Mass at 4pm or after on Sunday, December 24 or Mass on Christmas Day.

On the fourth and final Sunday of Advent of we reflect on the peace that Jesus Christ brings to our world. The fourth candle we light on the advent wreath, called the

“Angel Candle” represents the moment the angels announced that Jesus has come to bring peace (Luke 2:14).

Enjoy these *holy days* of opportunity to grow in the faith, hope, love, and joy of Christ.

THINK AHEAD
Christmas is on a MONDAY

2 holy days of obligation=2 Masses: Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas!

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Liturgy of the Hours

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

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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.