

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS:*December 15-16, 2018*

Our **HVAC** (heating and cooling) **System Replacement Project** is on schedule and is expected to be finished and completed before the Christmas masses. As of this writing, we hope to have the last big unit, fresh-air intake, installed at the back of the church (next to the condensers). The next couple of weeks will be spent doing the finishing touches in the basement and vent grills inside the church. I am making this last appeal for donations to our project. Please consider helping us with this very important project as you make plans for your **year-end giving**. At the end of this year, I will publish the final result of our appeal for this project. Thanks to all who have already supported this appeal.

Last weekend's Bulletin, I informed y'all of my hope to get a **NEW set of small chalice (communion cups) for the distribution of the Precious Blood during Holy Communion**, to replace the goblets that we have been using. The total cost of the new set of **8 communion cups is \$2800.00** (or \$350.00 each) and I'm just **\$2,000 short** to make the order. Anyone would like to donate this amount in memory/honor of love ones, please let me know. Thanks!

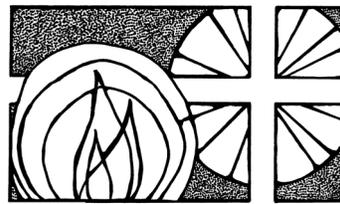
Some people had commented to me how much they like our "new" advent wreath; well not really new but decorated and done differently. First is our emphasis on the "green circle wreath" that has been symbolic of our traditional waiting practice, accentuated by the use of purple and Rosé colors. Secondly, is involving people who offered the gifts to "light the candles" representing each one of YOU are part of our advent waiting. Third, are decorative reminders of the advent season, viz. royal purple cloths everywhere and greeneries that differentiates this season from the somber Lent. All these things were done to remind each one of us that *"unto us, a child is given; unto to us the Son of God is born."*

Our 3rd Sunday of Advent is traditionally called "**Gaudate**" (or Rejoice) Weekend" marked by the lighting of the 3rd candle with Rosé band. Priests are usually garbed in the same Rosé-colored vestment on this Sunday, however, we don't have one in our Sacristy for us to wear (whew, we dodged this one!). On the 3rd Sunday of Advent, the Church truly rejoices for the Coming of the Son is near. While most of our attention and celebrations are focused on the birth of Jesus, Advent's theological focus is on the "Parousia" (return) of the Lord to us. Jesus will come again!

Our readings today have a tone of excitement and anticipation in their message. The Prophet Zephaniah's exuberant invitation for us to "shout for joy, to be glad and exult, fear not and do not be discouraged, rejoice and sing," because the Lord is coming NOT to judge us but to live among us to renew and fill us with His mercy and love. St. Paul's letter to the Philippians emphatically said, "Rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS," because indeed, the Lord is near! The inspiring words of St. John the Baptist in the gospel of Luke makes you want to be there when he finally meets the Lord! The readings for this weekend give us all a REASON to rejoice!

Many times in our lives have REASONS to rejoice and celebrate life. Be it our birthdays, life-achievements, weddings, births, surprises, etc., these moments gave us the opportunity to be thankful for the blessings (no matter how small or insignificant they were) we had in life. Perhaps in the past, we have had many of these moments one after another, and constantly; and sometimes not and far in between. Nevertheless, we always have had a "reason to rejoice." These reasons to rejoice not only remind us of God, they connect us with God and with one another. We cannot truly enjoy our blessings and rejoice in our giftedness without thinking of God. We cannot appreciate our "good moments" without sharing them with others.

This is precisely why weekend the Church, through the Sacred Scriptures, invites us to look at these precious, blessed moments that stirs the "good feelings" within us to inspire, excite, motivate, move and make us want to SING songs and SHOUT for joy AGAIN! No matter what we have been through and have in our lives, we STILL have a reason to rejoice. Whatever our reason/s are, it is ENOUGH for God to want to come again. And for me, dear friends, this is a good reason to celebrate.

Father Vic+**Third Sunday of Advent****December 16, 2018**

The King of Israel, the LORD,

is in your midst,

you have no further misfortune to fear.

— *Zephaniah 3:15b*

Wedding Banns

Maria Prejean & Tanner Williams (3)
Bethany Falgoust & James LeBlanc (1&2)
Jessica St. Pierre & Blake Coleman (1)
Jamie Schutte & Scott Thistlewaite (1)

December 1st /2nd, 2018		Weekly Offering  <small>© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.</small>
Weekly Collection	\$ 9,683.50	
Weekly Loose	2,163.74	
ACH Weekly	335.00	
\$ 12,202.24		

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Thank you for your generosity !



St. Joseph's Jag Swag
 Saturday, February 9, 2019

Thibodaux Regional Wellness Center
 8:00 PM—12:00 AM

Silent/Live Auction

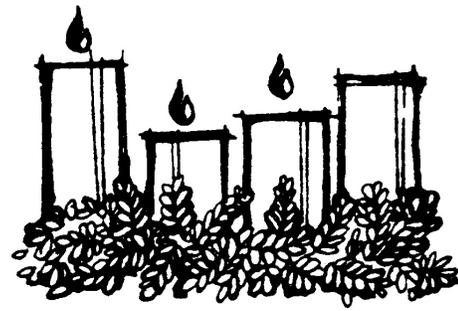
A variety of items to bid on Classroom items, sport items, artwork and much more...

Tickets \$75.00 each or 2 for \$100.00
 (checks should be made to St. Joseph Elementary)

Donated items for the Silent Auction may be dropped off at the school office.

Want to be a corporate sponsor? - - - Questions?
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 lcarri1@hotmail.com or 504-220-6958

All forms can be found on Plus Portals



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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Light is ON  for You.
Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday, December 19th
 6:00 PM –7:00PM

“An Evening of Lessons and Carols,”
Thursday, December 20th at 6:30 PM
7:30 PM
 presented by Thibodaux *Schola cantorum*,
 Mr. James Rodrigue, Founder/ Artistic Director.

FREE to the public

The following were Baptized into the family of Christ recently:

Cecile Margaret
 child of Adrien & Rebecca



The Co-Cathedral Choir will sing **REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS**
 at the 6:00 PM Mass on
 Christmas Eve. The choir will
 begin singing at 5:30 PM.



Missalettes
 December 16th-22nd
 Donated In Memory of

O'Neil Naquin

By: Barry & Connie Ledet

