





## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gaudete Sunday derives its name from the opening prayer of the Mass for this day, where we pray, "Gaudete in Domino semper" (Rejoice in the Lord always). So in the midst of Advent devotions, we rejoice because the time we have been preparing for is almost at hand. You may see rose-colored vestments and the pink candle will be lit due to this special Sunday.

A day like this is always good to remind us not to take ourselves too seriously. The life of a Christian is not always easy, but it is one of joy. If we keep our heads bowed too long, no one will be able to see the smiles on our faces.

May the joy of the Lord be yours on this Gaudete Sunday! The Lord is coming, soon and very soon!

## ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUPS

The Archdiocese of Chicago provides divorce support groups at various parishes. The purpose of these groups is to provide pastoral care to Catholics and non-Catholics who have been affected by divorce with the hope to overcome the grieving process in a healthy way.

The approach of pastoral care may vary by parish. Each group adapts the format that best meets the needs of its participants. Some programs frequently used at parishes are:

Divorce and Beyond  
Divorce Care  
Catholic Divorce Survival Guide  
Twelve Steps Recovery

The meetings may vary from once a week for a period of time until continuous monthly meetings. For more information please contact the contact person from the participating parishes. The complete announcement and list of parishes can be found on our website [www.holyfamilychicago.org](http://www.holyfamilychicago.org)

## WE ARE ALL HOLY FAMILIES

On the last Sunday in December, Catholics around the world will celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. It is an important post Christmas commemoration celebrating Jesus, Mary and Joseph as a family unit. Families come in many different shapes and sizes, whether it is a married couple, a single mom or dad, partners, friends, neighbors and relatives.

To continue our 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as Holy Family Parish, we are asking everyone to submit a photo of your family. Then describe your family as holy— in just three words,

ie. kindness, love, laughter  
love, fight, care  
we always love

You can submit your own photo and three words—either by email ( [info@holyfamilychicago.org](mailto:info@holyfamilychicago.org)) or by bringing it to church OR:

Today, Dec. 17, we will have a "photo booth" in the back of church, and will be taking pictures of our parish families.

These pictures will be displayed in the church on Holy Family Sunday.

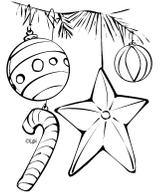
## RELIGIOUS GIVE THANKS

A religious sister writes, "When we see the generous response of so many thousands of persons in order to help us, religious men and women, we are left speechless." Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests across the country send heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donation to last week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

## ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO SUMMER MISSION PROGRAM FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Totus Tuus is accepting applications for its summer mission program. For more information [totustuus@archchicago.org](mailto:totustuus@archchicago.org) or see the complete flyer on our website at [www.holyfamilychicago.org](http://www.holyfamilychicago.org)

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY



The Children's Christmas Party will be held on Thursday, Dec. 21 at 5:00 pm.



## HOLY FAMILY PARISH CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### Our Doors Are Open Wide

**Sunday, December 24th**  
**Christmas Eve**  
5:00 p.m.

*Vigil Mass of the Nativity of the Lord*  
*Featuring the Historic Rice-Frobenius*  
*Organ and Brass*  
9:30 p.m. Christmas Carols  
10:00 p.m. Mass of the  
Nativity of the Lord

**Monday, December 25th**  
**Christmas Day**

9:45 a.m. Christmas Mass  
**Sunday, December 31st**  
9:45 a.m.

*Mass of the Feast of*  
*the Holy Family*  
*The Church will be open all day*  
*Blessings and Veneration of the Relics*  
*of the Holy Family*  
5:00 p.m. Mass,  
*Blessings and Veneration of the*  
*Relics of the Holy Family*

**Monday, January 1st, 2018** **New**  
**Year's Day -**  
**Feast of Mary, Mother of God**  
9:45 a.m. Mass for the New Year

**Sunday, January 7th -**  
**The Feast of the Epiphany**  
9:45 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Mass