

Shepherd's Thoughts (December 15, 2024)
Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)
God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good!

With gracious anticipation of Christ's birth, we are experiencing each day with excitement for Jesus is to be born for us; this is a kind of joy that this Sunday brings. Thus, in the first reading it portrays to us the coming of Jesus, our Emmanuel, our Savior Who embodies that God is always with us. If you are with someone you love, you can always find ways to be happy and if you love God, there is always a reason to rejoice. As it is written, "The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; He will rejoice over you with gladness and renew you in His love" (Zep 3:14-18a). It is the joy of knowing that we are never left alone, that after we have sinned, we are forgiven, and we are loved again and again.

We hear the same cry of exultation in the responsorial Psalm today, "Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel" (Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6). "With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation." God, indeed, is our savior, our strength and our courage. Therefore, trust in our loving God Whose intentions are pure love for us, always seeking our salvation. Placing our confidence in Him, we are called upon to make His love known to others as well and to give Him praise and thanksgiving.

Moreover, our second reading shares the same theme with that of the first and our responsorial Psalm for today. "Rejoice in the Lord always!" (Phil 4:4-7) and do away with all our useless anxieties for God is near us, He is with us and will listen to us if we remain in Him in prayers and goodness. Prepare, therefore, ourselves and be an abode of holiness where He can deeply dwell in our hearts.

Now, as we reflect upon the words of John in the Gospel, he is giving us an image of Jesus bringing the good news and comforting His people. At the same time, he gives us directions on how to prepare the way for Jesus' coming which we can express by generously sharing to the least of our brothers and sisters as it is written, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise" (Lk 3:10-18).

Furthermore, we are urged to act humbly before God like John the Baptist who in His greatness became least for the sake of Christ as he speaks to us, "but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of His sandals."

May this Gaudete Sunday bring smiles to your faces and echo the joy in your hearts as we welcome Jesus Who is from on high. Let His divine presence continue to manifest in our midst especially as we receive Him in the Eucharist and lovingly behold Him with utmost respect and humility in the Blessed Sacrament where He is present and waits for us every day.

Fr. Antonio Rex M. Palaya
Administrator

December 15, 2024
3rd Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions

† **Deceased**

Saturday, 4:00 PM Rosiere, Dec 14th, Mass
† Eli Buhr, † Evelyn Massart
Saturday, 5:30 PM, Brussels, Dec 14th, Mass
Sunday, 8:30 AM, Brussels, Dec 15th, Mass
Sunday, 10:15 AM, Lincoln, Dec 15th, Mass
† Cody Cochart, † Dennis Buhr
Sunday, 6:30 PM, Rosiere, Dec 15th, Novena
Monday, 6:30 PM, Rosiere, Dec 16th, Novena
Tuesday, 6:30 PM, Rosiere, Dec 17th, Novena
Wedn. 6:30 PM, Rosiere, Dec 18th, Novena
Thursday, 6:30 PM Rosiere Dec 19th, Novena
† For the People
Friday, 6:30 PM, Rosiere, Dec 20th, Novena
† For the People
Saturday, 4:00 PM Rosiere, Dec 21st, Mass
† Sharon Thayse
Saturday, 5:30 PM, Brussels, Dec 21st, Mass
Sunday, 8:30 AM, Brussels, Dec 22nd, Mass
Sunday, 10:15 AM, Lincoln, Dec 22nd, Mass
† Deceased members Jorgensen & Malcore families
Sunday, 6:30 PM, Rosiere, Dec 22nd, Novena
Monday, 6:30 PM, Rosiere, Dec 23rd, Novena
Tuesday, 4:00 PM, Rosiere, Dec 24th, Mass
† For the People
Wednesday, 10:15 AM, Lincoln, Dec 25th, Mass
† Kevin LeFevre

Sanctuary Light

Dec 8-14: In mem. Arlen Wery
Dec 15-21: In mem. Larry Kirchman



Sacrificial Offerings

Nov 21-Dec 2, 2024: \$3234.90



St. Peter & St. Hubert Scrip

Dec 2-8 Sales: \$2780.00
Gross profit: \$138.48
FYTD profit: \$2603.44

Scrip: We are looking for a few more people to help sell scrip. During December it would be helpful to have two people selling scrip, so you could work with someone during these weeks. If you are interested, please give Sue a call 920-493-2789.

Liturgical Ministers:

December 14th, 4:00 pm Rosiere

Lector: Char Everard

Communion Distributors: Wendy Vlies, Volunteer

Servers: Dylan & Gretchen Barta

December 15th, 10:15 am Lincoln

Lector: Mary Fameree

Comm Distributors: Jason Jandrin, Sandy Maccoux

Servers: Lainey Barta & Natalie Brunette

December 21st, 4:00 pm Rosiere

Lector: Mark Bader

Communion Distributors: Matt Thayse, Volunteer

Servers: Dylan & Gretchen Barta

December 22nd, 10:15 am Lincoln

Lector: Sue Havel

Comm Distributors: Julie Pinchart, Jessica Pinchart

Servers: Vivian & Dominic Barta

Parish News

Adult Book Study: on **Monday, Dec. 16** at 1:30 pm and also 5:30 pm led by Dale Massey at Rosiere's rectory. Beautiful Eucharist by Matthew Kelly will be discussed; please read Chapters 9-11. Join one or all sessions!

Second Collection: Today, through the Retirement Collection, we are able to Share in the Care of our retired sisters, brothers, and religious order priests through the National Retirement Fund for Religious, as well as the senior priests of our own diocese. Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service – praying, teaching, and caring for those in need – usually for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious and our senior diocesan priests. Your gift helps us Share in the Care and thank them for their service.

Envelopes are available at the church entrances to make your contribution. Please be generous in helping those who have given so much over the years.

One By One Campaign: Your One-by-One donations have gone toward Lincoln entrance LVP flooring, Rosiere entrance pitched roof, interior plastering and painting, Lincoln entrance ramp and extended parking near the garage, and Rosiere's portable microphone for Father. The total for all these projects was \$39,375.76.

RE Classes: K-11: Wednesday, Dec 18 at 6:30pm in Rosiere – attend Novena Mass with your families.

Confirmation: Confirmation is **Sunday, Jan 19**, 4:00 pm at St Mary Church, Luxemburg.

Simbang Gabi 2024: We will be having Nine-day Novena Masses Dec 15-23. The Masses are a spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ on Christmas. (There will **not** be 8:00am masses on December 17-20.)

Brussels Novena Masses: Brussels' Nine-day Novena Masses will be Dec 16-21 at 6:00 am, Sunday, Dec 22 at 8:30 am, and Dec 23 & 24 at 6:00 am.

BINGO, BINGO, BINGO!!!!: Future Bingo dates are: Jan. 5 & 26, Feb. 16, March 2 and April 13. Hope to see you there!

Area News

Home for the Holidays: December 14 at 7pm, Southern Door Auditorium in Brussels, celebrating the season, this show will feature some of our community's most talented musicians, including Father Rex, as they dazzle us with their vocal and instrumental talents. Purchase tickets online by visiting sdauditorium.org or call 920-676-1920.

Belgian Heritage Center Holiday Shopping: December 14 & 21, 9-noon, BHC will be open on these dates for shopping and order pick up. There is a selection of books, flags, apparel, ornaments, Belgian lace, chocolate, custom art glass and more for your favorite Belgians!

15th Annual Greater Green Bay Homeless Persons' Interfaith Memorial Service: Thursday, **December 19, 7-9 pm,** hosted by St. John The Evangelist Catholic Parish, 413 St. John Street, Green Bay, join us for a memorial service to commemorate Greater Green Bay community members who have died while unstably housed in 2024, free and open to the public. Preceded by a peace walk at 6:30 pm at St. John's Park led by Open Heart Mindfulness Community.

Parish Contacts

Office Manager: Julie Engebose 837-2852

Finance Council Chair: Char Everard 536-0033

Pastoral Council Chair: Vicki Schmelzer 680-5210

Trustee Secretary: Mark Bader 680-2936

Trustee Treasurer: Kelly Pinchart

Gospel Readings for Week of December 15, 2024

Monday, Dec 16: Matthew 21: 23-27

Tuesday, Dec 17: Matthew 1: 1-17

Wednesday, Dec 18: Matthew 1: 18-25

Thursday, Dec 19: Luke 1: 5-25

Friday, Dec 20: Luke 1: 26-38

Saturday, Dec 21: Luke 1: 39-45