

ST. JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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NEW PARISHIONERS & VISITORS, WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

BY: MONSIGNOR JOHN S. MBINDA

"Rejoice in the Lord always". This Sunday we light the third candle of the Advent Wreath. Its desert rose color signifies joy, which is one of the Advent season themes. For that reason, today is called *Gaudete* Sunday which means, "Rejoice!"

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah says: I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul. Paul in the Second Reading exhorts us to "Rejoice always." The joy in question is not necessarily feeling good when things are going well. It is possible to feel a certain kind of joy even when things are going badly, and that is what we call joy in the Lord who strengthens us in our hope of salvation. In the opening prayer for this Sunday, we ask God that, as we look forward to the birth of Christ, we may experience the joy of salvation. The prophet Isaiah in the first reading tells us that he is sent by God to announce the joyful news of salvation to the people of Israel. He proclaims a message of salvation to a people in bondage. The familiar passage of Isaiah 61 is a clear reference to the Messiah, who is already present. "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord". In the Responsorial Psalm, we use the beautiful words of Mary in the *Magnificat* to express our joy as we, like Mary wait for the birth of our Saviour. "My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour".

In the second reading, Paul urges us to "Rejoice always" because we have already discovered God's saving action in Christ. Thus, Paul invites us to rejoice at all times and to pray constantly, and for all things to give thanks to God. It might be difficult to find the realization of this message of hope and joy in our broken world of today, where there is so much suffering. Like Isaiah, John the Baptist in the gospel prophesies change for the better, because the one who is to come after him, Christ, is already here bringing good news to the poor. The message of this Sunday message is found in the prophecy of Isaiah who foretells the coming of the Messiah who is sent to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favour from the Lord. That is why we need to rejoice because the Messiah is already in our midst accomplishing precisely what Isaiah foretold. As we go home after Mass today, we go transformed by the good news of joy. Let us share that joy with those we meet throughout this week.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday (Mon - Sat): 8:00 AM

Sunday: (Sat. Vigil) 5 PM,
(Sun) 7 AM, 9 AM, 11 AM, 6 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM
(or by appointment)

MISSION / VISION STATEMENT

We are a Catholic Christian Community, called to develop a deeper relationship with Christ. Such a relationship is fostered through active participation in: *Word, Sacrament, Renewal Programs, Ministry/Service,* and other ***Spirit-led*** activities. We dedicate our time, talent and treasure to install, in our parish community, the basic building blocks of Christian living, ***to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ to all through our words, deeds, and lives.***

Parish Rectory Hours**Monday:** 12:00 PM-4:30 PM**Tues. - Fri.:** 8:00 AM-4:30 PM**Saturday/Sunday:** Closed**Outreach Office Hours****Mon. - Wed.:** 9 AM to 2 PM**Thurs. - Friday:** 9 AM to 11 AM**Saturday/Sunday:** Closed**FOOD PANTRY Hours****Mon. - Wed.:** 9 AM to 12 PM**Thurs. - Friday:** 9 AM to 11 AM**Religious Ed Office Hours****Monday:** Closed**Tues. - Thurs.:** 12 pm - 8:00 pm**Fri.:** 10:00 am - 6:00 pm**Saturday:** 2:00—5:00 pm**Sun:** 7:00 am - 1:00pm**PARISH CLERGY & STAFF****Pastor** (ext. 111)*Msgr. John Mbinda**jmbinda@rcchawaii.org***Parochial Vicar** (x 104)*Fr. Joseph Ayinpuusa**jayinpuusa@rcchawaii.org***Deacon** Modesto Cordero*mcordero@rcchawaii.org***Deacon** Romeo Ganibe*rganibe@rcchawaii.org***Parish Office Administrator** (x 103)*Jolly Guerrero-Tano**jollygt@rcchawaii.org***Parish Secretary** (x 100)*Dominique Kekiwi**dkekiwi@rcchawaii.org***Director of Liturgy***Nicholas Calzada**ncalzada@rcchawaii.org***Grounds & Maintenance***Robert Garnsey**rgarnsey@rcchawaii.org***Outreach Department** (x 203)*Pearl Bates**pebates@rcchawaii.org***RCIA Coordinators***Dcn. Modesto Cordero**Dcn. Romeo Ganibe***Religious Ed. Director** (x 206)*Julie Quiroz-Zamora**jquiroz@rcchawaii.org***Religious Ed. Secretary** (x 204)*Dominique Kekiwi**dkekiwi@rcchawaii.org***Preschool Director** (744-9538)*Catherine Awong**cawong@rcchawaii.org*

PASTOR'S CORNER

Candles on the Advent Wreath



Next Sunday is the fourth and final Sunday of Advent. The time has gone that fast. Before the season is over I wanted us to go back to the Advent Wreath because it is a teaching symbol. I would like us to reflect on the candles on the wreath and their symbolism. One of the basic underlying theme of Advent is light and obviously the candles on the wreath precisely symbolize light. But there is a deeper meaning of that symbolism.

Advent also reminds us that we are called to be light to the world as we reflect the light of God's grace to others (Isa 42:6). The progression in the lighting of the candles symbolizes the various aspects of our waiting experience. This experience is based on the physical increasing of the light of the sun from day to day. The lighting of the candles over the four-week period symbolizes the diminishing darkness of fear and hopelessness; it also signifies the receding of the shadows of sin and falling away of darkness as more and more light is shed into the world. The flame of each new candle reminds the worshipers that something is happening, and that more is yet to come. Finally, the light that has come into the world is plainly visible as the Christ candle is lighted at Christmas, and worshipers rejoice over the fact that the hope and promise of long ago have been realized.

Halfway through Advent, on the Third Sunday of Advent, today's Sunday, there is a noticeable shift in liturgical colors from purple vestments to desert rose. We also light the third candle which is rose color. This Sunday is called in Latin Gaudete Sunday, which means rejoice Sunday in anticipation of the joy of the coming of our Savior. The reading of this Sunday underlines the atmosphere of joy which is a very basic theme in the Church's life. We cannot be light to others if we look sad and gloomy. Let us therefore live that joy of the Gospel even as we wait its fullness at Christmas.

May your Advent journey be filled with God's blessings,

Msgr. John S. Mbinda

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Be generous and you will be prosperous; help others and you will be helped. (Good News Translation) - Prov 11:25

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16

In this passage, David's concern to build a house for the Lord reflects the need for a center of worship if the people are to remain united as God's people. God through the prophet Nathan rejects this thought. Instead, it is God himself who will be with David and his dynasty. God's true temple is not made of stones and mortar, but made out of the people themselves with whom God dwells.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

This psalm speaks of God's promises to David to be fulfilled in Christ. Response: "Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord."

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

The "mystery" to which Paul refers in this passage is the inclusion of the Gentiles in God's salvation. That promise, formerly reserved only to the Jews is now revealed to include the Gentiles. This is the secret or mystery of the world to come; the mystery of God's plan of salvation for all peoples, which is now made known through the prophets to all the nations.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The story of the annunciation in this passage is Luke's way of preparing us for what we are about to celebrate, the mystery of Incarnation. The event of the annunciation is indeed the revelation of the mystery of the Incarnation, as it were, kept secret for ages now being made known through Mary. The promises made to David that the Lord would establish a house for him, are to be fulfilled in the child to be born of Mary, "the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob for ever."

Luke highlights the virginity of Mary as a sign of revealing God's power. In the Jewish Scriptures, virginity is a sign of rejection. Mary, in taking on freely this status of unfruitfulness, through her spousal relationship with God, becomes fruitful beyond measure in giving life to the Messiah, and through him, new life to the entire humanity. Mary's unconditional obedience expressed at the end of the passage has always been read as being in sharp contrast to the disobedience of Eve, and thus Mary becomes a model of faith and obedience. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

Follow Msgr. John's Homilies! Blog
(text): www.sundayhomily.com

Podcast (audio): <https://soundcloud.com/john-mbinda>

iTunes (audio): [Streaming Homilies](#)

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 18, 2017 (8 am)

†Fr. Cletus Mooya

†Roselin Ferreira

Two Hearts & Our Lady of Fatima
Prayer Group

(Thanksgiving/Guidance & Protection)

Tuesday, December 19, 2017 (8 am)

†Santiago Aquino

†Dionicia Agbayani

Imelda Kawahara (Birthday Blessings)

Wednesday, December 20, 2017 (8 am)

Margie Romasanta (Birthday Blessings)

Tiani Scott (Birthday Blessings)

Two Hearts & Our Lady of Fatima
Prayer Group

(Thanksgiving/Guidance/Protection)

Thursday, December 21, 2017 (8 am)

Paulina Wong & Family

(Thanksgiving/ Blessings)

Two Hearts & Our Lady of Fatima
Prayer Group

(Thanksgiving/Guidance/Protection)

Jerry & Paz Fonacier (Blessings)

Friday, December 22, 2017 (8 am)

†Demetria Manandic

†Carol Cashen (Death Anniversary)

Two Hearts & Our Lady of Fatima
Prayer Group

(Thanksgiving/Guidance/Protection)

Saturday, December 23, 2017

8 am †Marietta & Peter Kao

Chloe Fonacier (Blessings)

Two Hearts & Our Lady of Fatima
Prayer Group

(Thanksgiving/Guidance & Protection)

5 pm †Gus Pacheco

Sunday, December 24, 2017

7am †Richard & Maria T. Amaral
(Thanksgiving/Blessings)

9 am For the People

11 am †The Sauget Family
(Safe Travels)

6 pm Two Hearts & Our Lady of
Fatima Prayer Group
(Thanksgiving/Guidance & Protection)

† Rest in Peace †

HEALING / BLESSINGS: Ben & Helen Guerrero, Santiago Tumpap, Bella Rillamas, Norma & Ethan Belamide, Jane Alukonis, Rosalie Tadda, Rowena, Eric, & Ryan Asuncion, Warren Chalmers, Carrie Becky, Deacon Modesto Cordero, Cheryl Solomon, Clyde Sauget, Felisa Rapisura, Linda Osdieck, David Hall, Evelyn Quinata, Shirley Del Rosario, Carol Towne, Darling & Ron Bunda, baby Mairenui Tauotaha-Amo, David Torres, Jack & Ellen Cleghorn and all names in Prayer Intentions Book.

DECEASED: Mina Lee, Masashi Kamiya, Violet Y. Chun, Antonia Peralta Galicinao, Florentino Tamondong, Sr., Kang Moreno, Lucy Lanas, Wendell Serrao, Marina Guerrero, Palamene Pselio, Alan Pearson, "Bestray" Sarsona, Jovita Daclan, Orly B. Ceon, James M. Hunkele, Larry Butcher, Teresita Aquino, Rosalina V. Bayona, Agreda Acebo and Maureen Hart.

✠ FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

Teresita Aquino (RIP)

Tuesday, December 19, 2017 ~ Mililani Mauka Chapel

Wake Service: 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 20, 2017 ~ SJAE

Visitation: 9:30 am

Mass: 10:00 am

Burial: 1 pm ~ Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery

Rosalina V. Bayona (RIP)

Wednesday, December 27, 2017 ~ Mililani Mauka Chapel

Visitation: 6:00 pm

Wake Service: 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 28, 2017 ~ SJAE

Visitation: 9:00 am

Mass: 11:00 am

Burial: 1:00 pm ~ Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery

Agreda R. Acebo (RIP)

Wednesday, January 10, 2018 ~ Mililani Mauka Chapel

Wake Service: 6:30 pm

Thursday, January 11, 2018 - SJAE

Visitation: 9:30 am

Mass: 11:00 am

Burial: 12:30 pm ~ Mililani Memorial Park

Maureen T. Hart (RIP)

Sunday, January 28, 2018 ~ Mililani Mauka Chapel

Wake Service: 6:30 pm

Monday, January 29, 2018 - SJAE

Visitation: 9:30 am

Mass: 10:30 am

Burial: 1:00 pm ~ Schofield Cemetery

The next 24-hr Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

will be held on *Friday, January 5*, immediately after the
8 am Mass, ending at 7:30 am on *Saturday, January 6*.



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE DEC 9/10

Sunday Collection	\$ 13,710.80
Children's Collection	\$ 4.00
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 1,947.50
Building, Equipment, and Maintenance (BEM)	\$ 931.11
One Community Center	
Capital Campaign (Non Assessed)	\$ 12,903.05
Candle Sales	\$ 467.00
Donation— Baptism	\$ 300.00
Donation - Social Ministry	\$ 59.00
Donation - Charity	\$ 8.00
Donation— Christmas Collection	\$ 60.00
Donation— Christmas Flowers	\$ 164.00
Donation— Retirement Fund: Religious	\$1,160.00
Donation— Immaculate Conception	\$ 3,398.60
Donation— Catholic Campaign for Human Dev.	\$ 5.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 360.00

Weekend Total: \$ 35,478.06

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with fruits of all your produce."- Proverbs 3:9

Advent & Christmas Schedule



Misa de Gallo— December 16-24 (5:00 am)

Dec. 16— Msgr. John Mbinda

Dec. 17— Fr. Pat McCormick

Dec. 18— Fr. Edmund Barut

Dec. 19— Fr. Philip Chircop

Dec. 20— Bishop Larry Silva

Dec. 21— Fr. Norlito Concepcion

Dec. 22— Fr. Rheo Ofalsa

Dec. 23— Fr. Joseph Ayinpuusa

Dec. 24— Msgr. John Mbinda

Church Offices will be closed December 22 & 25 in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas.

To fulfill your Sunday Obligation (4th Sunday of Advent), please plan on attending one of the following Masses:

Saturday, December 23— 5pm Mass

Sunday, December 24 - 5 am (Misa de Gallo),
7am, 9am, 11am

To fulfill your Christmas Obligation, please plan on attending one of the following masses:

Christmas Eve Masses— December 24- 6pm & 12 Midnight

Christmas Day Masses— December 25- 7am, 9am, & 11am

No 6:00 PM Mass

RE Announcements Dec 16 — Dec 22, 2017

"B" Classes the weekend of Dec 16 & Dec 17.

No classes on Dec 23 & Dec 24 & Dec 30 & Dec 31.

Classes resume for "A" schedule on Jan 6 & Jan 7, 2018

Confirmation Sponsor Declaration forms deadline:

Forms must be turned in by January 31st. Students attending RE in grades 2--12 should have their sponsor selected and paperwork submitted by this date. Any questions, please contact RE office, 623-3332 ext. 204 or 206.

CYM - Edge & Life Teen

Class attendance on Super Sundays are vital for students preparing for Confirmation and should not be missed. Please check with your student's Catechists or the RE Office if you have any questions about attendance/absences.

Central Oahu Vicariate

Penance Service

Tuesday, December 19, 2017—7 pm
Our Lady of Sorrows, Wahiawa

Wednesday, December 20, 2017—7 pm
St. Michael, Waialua

Friday, December 22, 2017—7 pm
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pearl City



PARISH EVENTS & WEEKLY CALENDAR

Don't Forget to Turn in Your Commitment Card

We're still in the midst of our annual Stewardship Renewal. If you haven't returned your Commitment Card, you can still mail it to the parish or drop it in the offertory collection basket. Returning your card is an important part of being an active member of **St. John Apostle & Evangelist**. Please take this opportunity to express your support for our parish with your time, talent, and treasure!

The Parish Office will be closed on **Friday, December 22** in observance of **Christmas Eve** and **Monday, December 25** in observance of **Christmas**.

The Fil-Am Catholic Group invites everyone to attend **Misa de Gallo** at **5 am, Dec 16th—24th**.

Christmas Flower Offering Envelopes are available in the back of the church, or you may also make a donation online by visiting our parish website, clicking "**Online Giving**".

St. John Catholic Preschool (SJCP) Christmas Program will be held on **December 22nd at 10 :30 am in the Church**. Come and enjoy the musical stylings of the SJCP students. Everyone is welcome!

Save the Date! 3rd Annual Charismatic Winter Conference "Come, HOLY SPIRIT Come! **January 12—14 at Catholic Charities Hawaii (Keeaumoku)**. Sponsored by Hawaii Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services. For more information, please visit hccrs.net, call 781- 9254 or email: chariscenter.hccrs@gmail.com

The next Catholic Book Club meeting will be on **Thursday, January 18th, 7-9 pm in classroom 6**. The title of the discussion book is "**God or Nothing: A Conversation on Faith**" by Cardinal Robert Sarah. Bring a snack to share. For more information, contact **Melissa Crisostomo** at (808) 626-2469 or alohamc@gmail.com.

Rosary Making Ministry- The next gathering is on **Saturday, January 20 at 10 am on the preschool breezeway**. Everyone is welcome!

Respect Life: "He is *always* with us. Jesus promised this when he gave the disciples the same mission he gave to each of us: Go.... Walk with each other. Do not be afraid to embrace God's gift of life. Whatever storms or trials we face, we are not alone. He is with us."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

2017-18 Respect Life Reflections, www.bit.ly/2x31e1X

THIS WEEK: December 18— December 24

Monday - 5 am— Misa de Gallo
 7:30 am - Rosary, *Daily Mass 8 AM*
 8:45 am- Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
 9:30 am— Preschool Christmas Program Rehearsal (CH)
 4 pm - Girl Scouts (Troop 611) (Rm 6)
 6 pm— Cub Scouts (Rms 4-5)
 6:30 am- Marriage & Family Life (Rm 6)
 7 pm - Boy Scouts (Rm 5)
 7 pm - Charismatic PG (CH)

Tuesday - 5 am— Misa de Gallo
 7:30 am— Rosary, *Daily Mass 8 AM*
 8:45 am— Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
 9 am - Women's Bible Study (Rm 6)
 9 am— Church Cleaning— Environment (CH)
 3 pm - Cenacle Prayer Group (CH)
 4:30 pm— Children's Choir Practice (CCH)
 7 pm— RCIA- Adult Confirmation Rehearsal (CH)
 7 pm— Combined Choir Practice (CH)
 7:30 pm - AA Meeting (Rm 6)

Wednesday - 5 am— Misa de Gallo
 7:30 am— Rosary- *Daily Mass 8 AM*
 8:45 am— Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
 9:30 am— Preschool Christmas Program Rehearsal (CH)
 6 pm - OLPH Prayer Group (CH)
 7 pm— RCIA (Rm 4)
 7:30 pm - NA Meeting (Rm 6)

Thursday - 5 am— Misa de Gallo
 7:30 am— Rosary, *Daily Mass 8 AM*
 8:45 am— Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
 9 am— Church Cleaning— Group 2 (CH)

Friday - Parish Office Closed
 5 am— Misa de Gallo
 7:30 am— Rosary, *Daily Mass 8 AM*
 8: 45 am— Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
 9 am— Church Cleaning (Environment)
 10:30 am- Preschool Christmas Program (CH)
 4 pm— 2 Hearts (CH)
 6 pm— Girl Scouts (Troop 104) (Rm 5)

Saturday- 5 am— Misa de Gallo
 7:30am— Rosary, *Daily Mass 8 AM*
 8:45 am— Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
 3 pm— NO RE Classes (Rms 1/3)
 3:30 pm - Confession
 5 pm- Mass (Saturday Vigil)
 6 pm— Family Rosary Prayer Group— CH
 7 pm— Family Rosary Prayer Group Fellowship (Rm 4)

Sunday - 5 am— Misa de Gallo
 Masses: 7 am, 9 am, & 11 am

See page 4 for the schedule of Christmas Mass.

Planting Seeds for the Future:

When your attorney prepares your estate planning documents, you can include your church as the final beneficiary to receive remaining benefits after other beneficiaries are remembered.

Please remember **St. John Apostle & Evangelist Church** in planning your will.

FOR YOUR SECURITY PLEASE...

... AND SECURE YOUR VEHICLE!

PARK SMART!

Take ALL your belongings with you.



Car thieves love to window shop!

PREPARE *the way*

Reflections on the Third
Sunday of Advent



Photo: iStock.com

Testimony to the Light

John 1:6-8, 19-28

At the center of today's Gospel is the question of who John the Baptist is in relation to the Messiah. He admitted he is not the Messiah. The Hebrew term "Messiah," which also appears as "Christ" in Greek, means "anointed one." It was a term used in the Old Testament for several agents of God, anointed for the service of protecting Israel. Kings were anointed, as were priests and some prophets. The belief was that as the oil used in anointing penetrated into the skin of the one anointed, so did

God's Spirit. For the Gospel writers, Jesus was understood to have been completely permeated by God's Spirit.

Jesus says: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (Jn 8:12). John the Baptist was "not the light, but came to testify to the light." Testimony to the light includes doing good works and growing in our relationship with Christ and one another. Like John the Baptist, we are called to be content as witnesses and heralds of

Jesus the Messiah.

We are all called to an active faith — not only choosing good and avoiding evil but also feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and advocating for the poor and the marginal. Practicing good works includes attentively listening to those who are hurting and visiting those who may have been forgotten. This type of witness and proclamation is the work of Advent and our whole Christian lives. We shine the light of Christ through service to others.

POINTS TO PONDER

Are you witnessing to others how important your faith is by the way you live?

What are some of the ways in which you can bring the light of Christ to your family, coworkers, and friends this Advent?

How will you continue to prepare for the continued and constant arrival of God in your life?

"The liturgy of Advent ... helps us to understand the fullness of the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, we must understand that our whole life should be an 'advent,' in vigilant expectation of Christ's final coming."

— POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

SIGNS OF THE SEASON

What Is Gaudete Sunday?

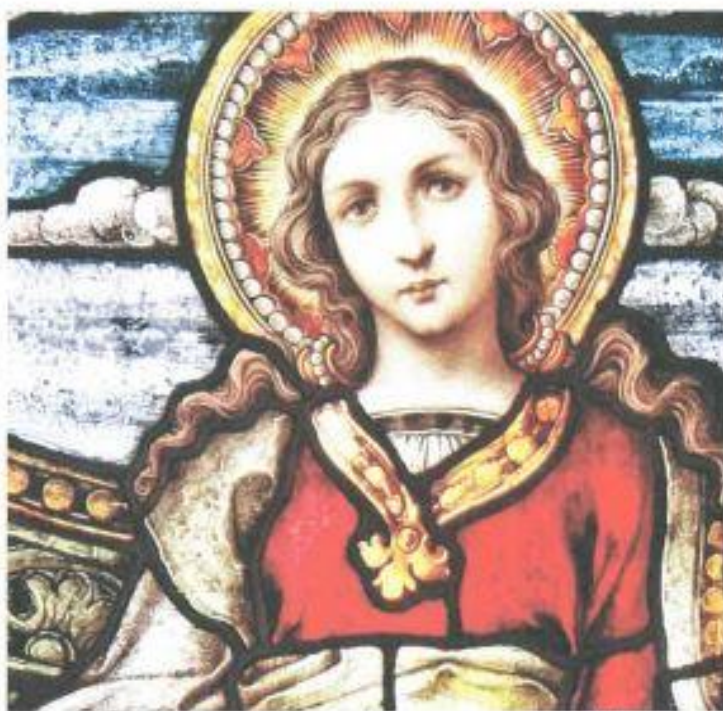
Deep purple is the liturgical color for Advent — except for the third Sunday, which is Gaudete Sunday. This week the liturgical vestments and the candle in the Advent wreath are a rosy pink to highlight the joy that the Lord's coming is almost here. The name derives from the Latin words of the Introit to the Mass: "*Gaudete in Domino semper; iterum dico, gaudete*": "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!"

ADVENT PRAYER

Be with me, Lord, as I continue in this waiting season of Advent.

With anticipation, preparation, and hope, I look forward to the arrival of your son, Jesus, the Light of the World.

Amen.



The Crucifix

Model of Faith: Saint Lucy

Feast Day: December 13

Saint Lucy is one of only eight women saints mentioned by name in the Mass. Her name, Lucia, comes from the Latin word for light. Before the reform of the Gregorian calendar in the Middle Ages, her feast fell on the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, and heralded the return of longer, lighter days. Even now, she is associated with light and fire. In the Scandinavian countries, especially Norway and Sweden, on Saint Lucy's feast day the youngest daughter of the family wears a crown of lighted candles (now often battery powered) and serves special rolls and cookies to her family at dawn. In parts of Italy, her feast is commemorated with homemade pasta and a dessert called *cuccia*, made of wheat berries in hot chocolate. *St. Lucy, pray for us!*

CatechismCONNECTION

At the announcement that she would give birth to 'the Son of the Most High' without knowing man, by the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary responded with the obedience of faith, certain that 'with God nothing will be impossible': 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be [done] to me according to your word.' Thus, giving her consent to God's word, Mary becomes the mother of Jesus." — *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 494



Parasol/Artwork/Thomson