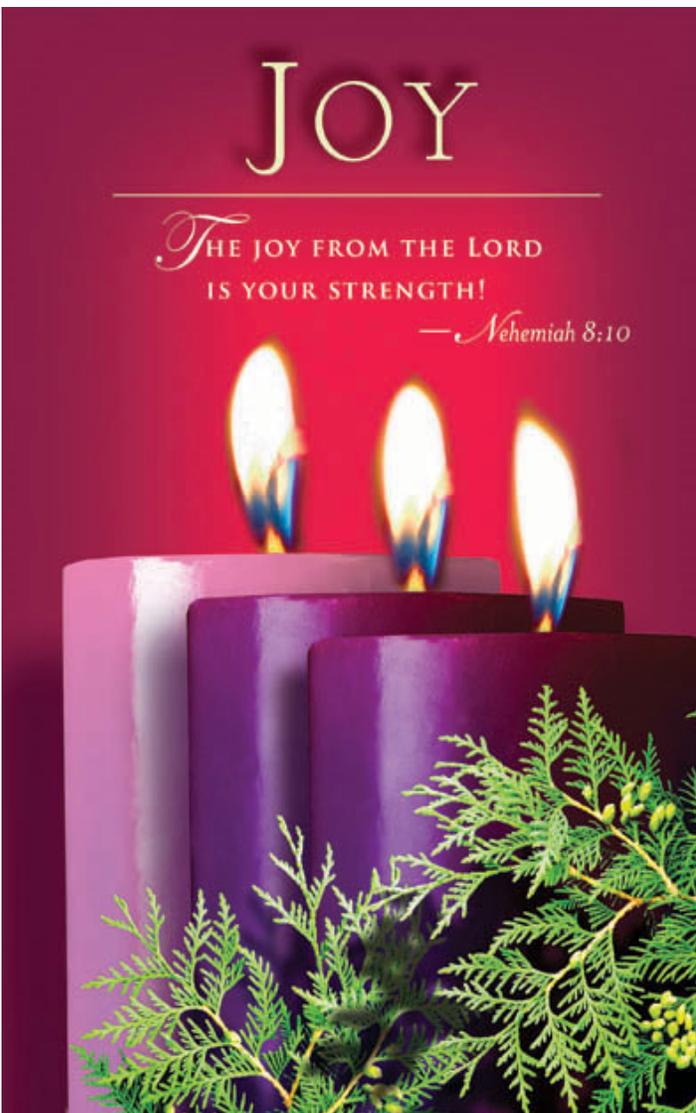


3rd Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2016



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The barren deserts will rejoice and flower. Tired bodies will receive strength. Aching hearts will be made glad (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10).

Psalm — Lord, come and save us (Psalm 146).

Second Reading — Be patient, for the coming of the Lord is as sure as the rain (James 5:7-10).

Gospel — Tell of what you hear and see: The blind regain their vision, the crippled their movement, the deaf their hearing (Matthew 11:2-11).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved

ST. MARY OF MERCY

202 STANWIX STREET
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222-1381

Rev. Nicholas Vaskov, Administrator
Deacon Samuel Toney

Contact Information

Parish Office Phone:412-261-0110
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Website:www.stmaryofmercy.org
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Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil:4:00 p.m.
Sunday:9:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday:6:30 a.m., 7:30 a.m. & 12 p.m.
Saturday:12 p.m.

Reconciliation

Monday-Friday11:00 a.m. -11:45 a.m.

Adoration & Reconciliation

Thursday5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Miraculous Medal Novena

Monday after noon Mass

Parish Staff:

Music Ministry
Maura GoodwinWeekdays
Jacob Temple.....Weekdays
A.R. VallettaWeekends

Carole CliffordOffice Manager
Nathalie Berry, Heidi Potter & Tom Tharp...Red Door
Co-Coordinator
Shari HillSecretary

Clergy in Residence

Rev. Ronald P. Lengwin
Rev. Theo Mbaegbu

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 pm.

Red Door Ministry:

Monday-Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4)



With these words Saint Paul encourages us to be people who allow joy to touch our hearts and who spread joy through our lives of faith and goodness. Earlier this year Pope Francis said, “joy is the true mark of a Christian.” This joy is being filled with peace as we are certain that Jesus accompanies us. Knowing that the Lord is with us we have nothing to be worried and anxious about and the joy of God can shine in our hearts.

This Sunday the Church calls us to rejoice because the Lord is near. In the midst of our Advent waiting, we celebrate this Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete, a Latin word that means “rejoice,” is a reminder that we need not worry because the Lord does not abandon us. Instead, our hearts should be filled with joy as we wait for the Lord because he has come into the world as a man, he continues to come into our hearts to strengthen us, and he will come again so that all may be one with him.

How, then, do we share our joy in knowing the Lord? How do we allow our joy to be contagious and bring others to know the Lord is near? While a wide smile and a hearty laugh are a good start, joy is must also be expressed through an attitude of hope in our lives. In the midst of suffering and anxiety our joy is offered through encouragement and a hopeful word that God will provide for the needs of all. In the midst of fear and despair our joy is offered through our comforting presence and the hope that God always brings peace and comfort. In the midst of tears and sorrow our joy is offered through a listening ear and the hope that God will change our mourning into dancing by his care.

God calls us to be people of joy so that the peace, hope, and goodness that he has poured into our hearts can be shared so that those we encounter can know that God dwells with us and that he desires to dwell with them, too. May we rejoice in the Lord always and repeat the call to rejoice as we preach God’s word with our lives.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass – Those looking for a joyful and festive celebration are invited to participate in the Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 7:00pm at Saint Paul Cathedral on Monday, December 12. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Americas and devotion to her is very strong among the people of Central and South America. Mass will be celebrated in Spanish by Bishop Zubik and will include traditional mariachi music. All are welcome to attend!

Fr. Nick

Hymns

3rd Sunday of Advent- December 11, 2016

Entrance: On Jordan’s Bank- 22M

Offertory: God Beyond All Names- 420

Communion: Blest Are They- 627

Closing: Lift Up Your Heads- 52M

ON MISSION FOR THE CHURCH ALIVE! - Thank you! More than 27,000 people attended 329 parish consultation sessions in October and November. Your initial feedback will help to guide our work ahead. Next steps include: 1. Parish-based opportunities for prayer and conversation; 2. Continued formation experiences to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ; 3. Additional information shared and new opportunities to provide feedback. Stay involved and sign up for e-mail updates at OnMissionChurchAlive.org.

Christmas Cards -- The Little Sisters of the Poor are once again offering Christmas Cards sketched by Sister Martha, lsp. This year’s card is white with a red sketch of Mary holding baby Jesus. The previous year’s cards are also available. The cards are: 7 for \$10 (plus \$2.00 shipping), 12 for \$15 (plus \$3.00 shipping) or 30 for \$25 (plus \$6.00 shipping). Cards can be ordered online at www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org or by calling 412-307-1100, or sending a check made payable to Little Sisters of the Poor at 1028 Benton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212 or stopping at the Main Entrance of the Home. All proceeds from the sale of the cards help to support the elderly poor Residents in the Little Sisters care.

The Light is On for You! --This year in every parish across the Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available on **Wednesday, December 14** from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Consider making a commitment this Advent to experience the healing grace of God’s forgiveness and love.

RETROUVAILLE - SAVE OUR MARRIAGE- This program has helped countless couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deep misery. The next Weekend begins January 13, 2017. Please call for confidential information at 412-277-3434 or visit:

<http://www.retrouvailleofpittsburghinc.org/>

AWAKEN --St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin Parish in Whitehall is hosting AWAKEN on Friday January 20th from 7PM until 9 PM. The evening includes musical worship, an inspiring message, adoration and a gospel reading and meditation led by Father Joe Freedy. For more information visit: <http://www.kerygmapittsburgh.com> or contact Jim Zern at 412-818-3226.



WHAT DID THE ANIMALS KNOW?
by Carole Clifford

Mary shifted her position and tried to get comfortable on the donkey. The animal was used to carrying much heavier loads, usually Joseph's tools and any materials needed to complete a job. Although Mary tried she could not find a truly comfortable position on his back and yet she was trying hard not to upset the beast of burden.

So far the journey had been difficult yet uneventful. The nights were brutally cold and last night Joseph had sacrificed his outer cloak to help keep Mary a little warmer.

Yesterday afternoon and again this morning the rain had been unrelenting. Perhaps tonight they would be fortunate enough to find a Jewish home where they could spend the night.

A sudden loud roar emanated from the forest, stopping them in their tracks. These forests were home to many wild animals, including lions and bears.

What could they do? Joseph quickly tried to form a plan of escape should one of the creatures appear and rush them.

It was hopeless. They were literally surrounded by woods on both sides.

Then there was the sound of not one but several animals. Emerging from the forest on either side of them a number of lions, bears and wild boar.

The animals stopped just at the edge of the path. Each animal sat or fell to its knees and stared at the journeying couple. They made not a sound, nor did they move a muscle as Joseph slowly resumed leading the donkey with its precious burden.

(To be continued)



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
- Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32
- Wednesday: Is 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23
- Thursday: Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Lk 7:24-30
- Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Jn 5:33-36
- Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
- Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24



Weekday 11/28-12/3.....\$1,122.84
Weekend 12/3-12/4.....\$3,022.30
Energy & Maintenance.....\$681.50

MASS INTENTIONS

Priests' Private Intentions († Denotes Deceased)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016, Second Saturday of Advent

- 12:00pm.....Betrose & Petriga Families†
- 4:00pm.....Margaret Schultz†
(Mason-Schultz Families)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016, Third Sunday of Advent

- 9:00am.....Deceased Members of Kowallis & Bush Families† (Jack & Ginny Bush)
- 12:00pm.....For the People

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016, Our Lady of Guadalupe

- 6:30am.....Victoria L. Rex† (Carol & Ron Rex)
- 7:30am.....Charles T. Yochum†
- 12:00pm.....Susan Byer† (Larry O'Reilly's Co-Workers)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016, St. Lucy

- 6:30am.....Deceased of DePhillips Family†
(Marguerite Dougherty)
- 7:30am.....John & Mildred Burke†
(Bud & Karen Burke)
- 12:00pm.....Marguerite Dougherty† (Penny & Gigi)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016, St. John of the Cross

- 6:30am.....Charles T. Yochum†
- 7:30am.....Deceased of DePhillips Family†
(Marguerite Dougherty)
- 12:00pm.....Jim & Mary Margaret Posney†
(Kim Gintner, Daughter)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016, Third Thursday of Advent

- 6:30am.....Deceased of DePhillips Family†
(Marguerite Dougherty)
- 7:30am.....Charles T. Yochum†
- 12:00pm.....Eileen Brosnan† (Mary Mulroy)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016, Third Friday of Advent

- 6:30am.....Charles T. Yochum†
- 7:30am.....Danny Morgan† (Bud & Karen Burke)
- 12:00pm.....Rose Gottschalk†
(Tony & Doris McCafferty)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2016, Third Saturday of Advent

- 12:00pm.....Frank Putz† (Ron & Fran Rombach)
- 4:00pm.....For the People

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016, Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 9:00am.....Deceased Members of Kowallis & Bush Families† (Jack & Ginny Bush)
- 12:00pm.....William Diggin† (Mark Holan)

DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE HOTLINE
1-888-808-1235