

**December 11, 2022**

**My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,**

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent as we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a Latin word translated in English to mean *Rejoice*. And so today, we boldly embrace our joyfulness as we await the good news of Jesus' birth in two weeks' time, on Christmas Day. On Gaudete Sunday we light a pink candle and place it within our Advent wreath, and we notice the color of our celebrant's vestments in a rosy hue, both to highlight the joy that is about to enter all our lives. There is nothing on earth that can compete with the arrival of Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Yes, we can experience happiness on earth, but our true joy resides in our Savior. Author Samuel Dickey Gordon makes an important distinction between earthly happiness and joy, of which he says joy "is distinctly a Christian word and a Christian thing. It is the reverse of happiness. Happiness is the result of what happens of an agreeable sort. Joy has its springs deep down inside. And that spring never runs dry, no matter what happens. Only Jesus gives that joy. He had joy, singing its music within, even under the shadow of the cross." And our joy is manifested today in the Lord's incarnation and his return at the end of time.

In our Gospel today, we also reflect upon prophet John the Baptist, who remains an important figure in the Advent story. Dressed in sack cloth, he literally and symbolically cries out in the wilderness that the Messiah is at hand. Yet, when John is imprisoned by Herod, he asks his followers to pose to Jesus this question: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" There are differing opinions as to why a true believer John the Baptist would be the one to ask such a question. Was it because he was experiencing doubt as he suffered in prison, or was he artfully reinforcing Jesus' role as the Messiah, to those who might later question his authenticity? However one interprets it, John's direct question has great relevance for us today, as we measure the strength of our own faith against troubled times, personal struggles, or complete suffering without relief in sight. It's difficult to reconcile our thoughts, our faith, with a loving Father, amid all the suffering we see in this world. God asks us to trust Him, believe in Him, love Him, and realize it's all in His loving hands.

Saint John Bosco perhaps said it best: "God will provide."

Yours in Christ,  
Father Rudy

You can **read the Sunday bulletin** at: [www.saint-leo.org/Publications/StLeoSundayBulletin](http://www.saint-leo.org/Publications/StLeoSundayBulletin)

You can **read Fr. Rudy's letter** at:

[www.saint-leo.org/Publications/FromthePastor'sDesk](http://www.saint-leo.org/Publications/FromthePastor'sDesk)

Special Collection this weekend- **Help Aging Religious-** Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others-educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to today's second collection.

**Upcoming Dates to Mark on your Calendar:**

**December 18<sup>th</sup>** - Festival of Lights – FAMILY NIGHT, please see Judie on how to sign up or use this link  
<https://forms.gle/28xtZfcu1shwwxE8A>

**ITEMS NEEDED: The food Pantry has an urgent need for larger diapers size 5 and 6. Don't forget the Food Pantry is in dire need of items** we hope you can help! You can see our latest request on our [Amazon Wish List Link:https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1Y6S276N39W08?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1Y6S276N39W08?ref_=wl_share). **Please call the office at 513-921-1044 if you have questions or would like to donate these items.**



**Volunteers Needed-** St. Leo's Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to help serve our Community. The Food Pantry is open M-W-F from 1: 00 p.m. -3:30 p.m. and we ask volunteers to arrive around noon to help set-up. If you are interested in volunteering please call 513.921.1044.

**JOIN US FOR A PILGRIMAGE TO FOUR RELIGIOUS SITES IN EUROPE-** June 6-16, 2023 travel from the Benedictine Monastery of Montserrat and the cave at Manresa, to the grotto at Lourdes where St. Bernadette met "the Immaculate Conception," to Lisieux to celebrate the centennial anniversary of St. Therese's beatification, to Tours, home of St. Martin. Please call and schedule an information meeting to answer your questions, contact Greg Niehaus at 513.541.5560.

Congratulations to the Week 15 4 Grand Winners:  
28 - Martha D Rauen; 214 - Constance Widmer; 284 - Sue Hartman

**The Ultimate Guide to Advent is HERE!!-** Love. Peace. Good tidings. Comfort and joy. This is the dream of Christmas and the promise of an Advent spent preparing for the coming of Jesus. We love to look back at past Christmas and remember the special moments and the loved ones we shared those moments with. If you want to have a truly unforgettable Christmas you have to prepare for it. The Ultimate Guide to Advent is free, beautiful and filled with stories that will inspire you and fill you with wonder. A new issue of the Guide is emailed right to your inbox each Sunday during advent. Sign up at the [catholictelegraph.com/advent2022](http://catholictelegraph.com/advent2022).

"God conceals himself in the most ordinary situations of our lives. He does not come in extraordinary events, but in everyday things : our daily work, a chance encounter, someone in need ... That's where the Lord is, who calls to us and inspires our actions."  
#AdventSeason ~~ Pope Francis