

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – GAUDETE SUNDAY

December 17, 2017

## Mass Intentions

<i>Mon.</i>	6:30 A.M.	Laurence Bishop
<i>Tue.</i>	6:30 A.M.	Paul Molnoskey, Willie & Mary Pavelka
	10 A.M.	Evelyn Sokol
<i>Wed.</i>	6:30 A.M.	Mitchel & Valerie Harbus, Jr.
<i>Thurs.</i>	6:30 A.M.	Ed & Bessie Heidaker
<i>Fri.</i>	6:30 A.M.	Alphonse Tesar
	10 A.M.	Henry Zabransky
<i>Sat.</i>	5 P.M.	Tony & Eva Perez
<i>Sun.</i>	7 A.M.	Dennis Baros
	9 A.M.	Phillip Smirak & Bradyn Jacobs
	11 A.M.	Noe Barrera

## Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week in memory of the John Heidaker family.

## Prayer List

Contact Theresa Bordovsky at 293-3124 or  
Ann Marie Bludau at 798-2959.

## This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Th 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

## Your Gift to God: December 10<sup>th</sup>

St. Joseph Parish Support	\$4776
Online Giving	\$1,578
Building Fund	\$29
Immaculate Conception	\$544
Special Collection ( <i>Retired Religious</i> )	\$678.50
St. Ann Parish Support	\$419
Building Fund	\$560
Immaculate Conception	\$50
Special Collection ( <i>Retired Religious</i> )	\$58

*May God reward your generosity!*

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday: 5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Saturday: 4:00 – 4:40 P.M.

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring glad tidings to the poor.”*

## Liturgical Assignments

### Lectors

<i>Sat.</i>	5 P.M.	Charles Kvinta
<i>Sun.</i>	7 A.M.	Kendra Wenske
	9 A.M.	Diana Darilek
	11 A.M.	Carolina Caballero

### Offertory Gifts

<i>Sat.</i>	5 P.M.	Tony Perez Family
<i>Sun.</i>	9 A.M.	Jacobs Family

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

<i>Sat.</i>	5 P.M.	Amy Hull, Wanda Zabransky, Dorothy Zabransky
<i>Sun.</i>	9 A.M.	Glenn & Darlene Renken, Anita Schulte
	11 A.M.	Nina Arriaga, Pam Garza Graciela Rivas

### Ushers/Hospitality

<i>Sat.</i>	5 P.M.	Debbie Caka, Bobby Fikac, Rhonda Hansel, JoJo Machalec
<i>Sun.</i>	7 A.M.	Bruce Chilek, Tom Chilek
	9 A.M.	Randy & Debbie Randazzo, Dennis & Dolores Sestak
	11 A.M.	Arturo & Maria Gutierrez, Elsa Resendiz, Gerardo Rivas

### Altar Servers

<i>Sat.</i>	5 P.M.	Chase Heller, Ben & Sophie Jahn
<i>Sun.</i>	7 A.M.	Hunter Mischer, Clayton Zabransky
<i>Sun.</i>	9 A.M.	Tyler & Addison Ferry, Abigail Long
	11 A.M.	Alex Gutierrez, Cecilia Rivas, Samantha Arredondo

## Feast of Mary, Mother of God

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, January 1<sup>st</sup>, is not a holy day of obligation in the United States in 2018 since the feast falls on a Monday. There will be Masses for the feast day as follows:

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – 5:00 P.M. (*Vigil Mass*)**  
**Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> – 8:00 A.M.**

## Feast of Christmas Mass Schedule

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** – 5:00 P.M. *Children's Mass*  
10:00 P.M. – St. Ann

**December 25<sup>th</sup>** – 12:01 A.M. *Midnight Mass*  
9:00 A.M.

All Christmas Masses will be in English

## Christmas Children's Mass

As a way of incorporating charity into our Christmas children's Mass at 5:00 P.M. on December 24<sup>th</sup>, the children are invited to bring gifts for boys and girls to place before the Holy Family. These gifts will be used in the Blue Santa Program.

## FYI: Parish Office Schedule

The Parish Office will close at 12-noon on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> and re-open at 8:00 A.M. Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Deadline for the December 24<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> bulletins is noon Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.**

## Christmas Flowers

Extra envelopes for the Christmas Flower donations may be found in the Church entrances. Donors and their listed memorials will be in the bulletin after Christmas. This applies to St. Joseph and St. Ann Parish.

## Altar Server Training for New and Existing Servers

All servers are asked to attend a training on **December 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.** at St. Joseph Church. Boys and girls from 4<sup>th</sup> grade and older are also invited to attend if they would like to begin serving.

## Formación de Monaguillos nuevos y existentes

A todos los servidores se les pide que asistir a una formación el **30 de diciembre a las 1:00 p.m.** en la iglesia de San José. Niños y niñas de 4<sup>o</sup> grado y mayores también están invitados a asistir si les gustaría empezar a servir.

## Please Note

Beginning this Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, the time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be from **5:00 P.M.– 6:00 P.M.** instead of 6:30 P.M.– 7:30 P.M.

## Muchísimas Gracias

Muchísimas gracias a todos que han compartido su tiempo, talento y tesoro con nuestra celebración parroquial de La Virgen de Guadalupe. Que la Virgen les bendigan todos con su intercesión.

## Pictorial Directory

Just to update...the directory went to the printer this Friday. Last step to finally getting them...stay tuned!

## Clase de Preparacion Bautismal

La clase de preparación bautismal será el primer Sabado, **6 enero, del mes a las 9 am** en el Salon Parroquial. Hable con Susanna Trujillo para mas información.

## Baptismal Preparation Class

The next Baptismal Preparation Class will be held Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M. in the Family Center Meeting Room.

## Diocese of Victoria 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Catholic Conference

**Saturday, January 27, 2018**  
**Holy Family Church, Wharton**

The seven principles of **Catholic Social Teaching** will be presented by 22 speakers in 32 workshops. The titles, descriptions and presenter vitae can be seen on the diocesan website.

Also see the newly revised flyer and registration form, mailed in mid-October, for titles and names of speakers. If you did not receive one, call us at (361) 573-0828 ext. 2224, 2225, or 2227.

**On line registration is now open. Go to the Diocesan website [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org) to register.**

*“Prepare a way for the Lord!”*

## A Note from Principal Mooney

Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Christmas Break

Classes resume Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>

### "Cub Care"

Available every day after school until 6:00 P.M. for SJS students. Contact the office for more details.

Please call or stop by the school office and speak to Mr. Mooney if you are interested in enrolling your child(ren) in St. Joseph's.

## Support Catholic Education

Catholic Life Insurance is sponsoring Catholic School Sweepstakes and all proceeds from the sale of tickets benefit St. Joseph School.

### Grand Prize Choice of:

2018 Ford F-150 Truck or  
2018 Ford Fusion Sedan or  
\$20,000 Prepaid Visa Credit Card

### Participating School Prize:

Each participating school will have a \$1,000 prepaid Visa credit card individual winner drawn from tickets sold by their school.

Tickets are \$5.00 and may be purchased at the school or parish office. For more information contact the school office at 293-9000.

Deadline for purchasing tickets is January 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Religious Goods

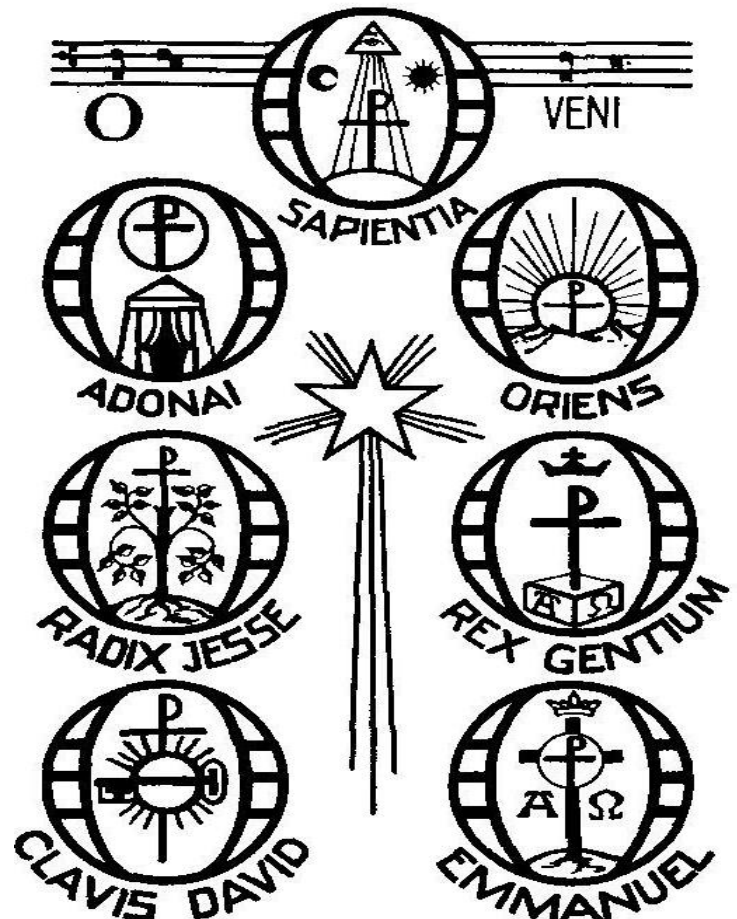
The Pastoral Center has various types of religious goods available for sale in the lobby. There are religious cards, crucifixes, rosaries, Bibles, prayer books (English and Spanish), Advent wreaths, religious Christmas ornaments, statues, cemetery candleholders, etc....just the beginning of the list. All are available during office hours. Stop by for those last minute stocking stuffers and Christmas gifts!

## "From Thy Bounty"

Copies of our parish cookbook are still available and make great Christmas gifts! They are available in the Pastoral Center for \$20.

## Stayed Tuned for Continuous Christmas Music – 91.5 FM

Listen to continuous Christmas music beginning December 21<sup>st</sup> thru December 25<sup>th</sup> by tuning in to KHCB 91.5 FM radio.



## The Emmaus Center:

*Counseling in the Catholic Tradition*

Sponsored by the Diocese of Victoria

1508 E. Airline  
Victoria, Texas 77901

For an appointment, go to  
[www.emmauscounselingcenter.com](http://www.emmauscounselingcenter.com)  
or call 361-212-0830

*Extending a Listening Heart to Those in Need*

# Joyful sadness: More than a day, Christmas is a state of mind

Larry Peterson

**If you are mourning someone this year, don't feel bad if your spirituality can't quite catch up to your humanity.**

I never viewed Christmas as just a *day*. Thanksgiving is a *day*. My birthday is a *day*.

You get what I mean.

But Christmas is much more than simply a day. It is a state of mind, an uplifting, spiritually charged season that changes many people into joy-filled, happy adult-children.

Unfortunately, not everyone feels the joy. Rather, they experience a muddled, confusing sort of emotional and psychic hybrid. Joy rendered incomplete by sadness; sadness tinged with a deep, spirit-settling joy.

It's a joyful sadness.

Life moves forward; it cannot be stopped. And change happens. The people we love die, and leave a void that hangs before us in this season of carols and lessons, and we try to reabsorb the familiar readings in a way that speaks to our new state of aloneness.

Well-meaning people say, "Oh, she is in a better place, now." I have no doubt she is. But I am not. I am filled with joyful sadness. There is unbearable sadness sharing the same space as my joy. Joyful sadness: an interior and individual space and time where two opposite worlds collide in the solitude of the human heart.

If you are mourning someone this year, don't feel bad if your spirituality can't quite catch up to your humanity.

As the emotional upheaval within continues, a convoluted mix of emotions leaves behind a trail of combined smiles and tears. For some, their death wound opens and festers during the Christmas season. Their grief is renewed. Others move forward with a heavy scar tissue protecting them from renewed grief. But none forget.

Every Sunday, I visit a number of elderly shut-ins. For the most part I am the only person they get to see and talk to each week, and they truly look forward to my arrival. I may only be with them for 10 to 15 minutes but they receive their church bulletin and tell me about this physical ailment or that negligent family member. They mostly are not bitter; they just need someone to hear them, and validate their personal suffering. Then they receive Holy Communion.

This is their weekly highlight, and my great privilege to witness.

Yet they all decorate for Christmas. One lady has a tree that is under a foot tall. On Thanksgiving Day, she puts lights on it and some tiny decorations, places it on a piece of cotton and puts the baby Jesus under it. Mary and Joseph are there too. It is a beautiful thing, her Christmas state of mind, in all of its sadness-speckled joy.

Many of these folks are in their early 90s. They are not in nursing homes, but an assisted living facility. On Christmas Day, most of them will be picked up by a family member, to spend the day together. But there is one who will not. His name is John, and he is a retired Army officer. He is 91. He is all alone except for his beloved wife, Mary, whose cremated remains are in an urn in his bedroom. She passed away in 2011 and theirs was a beautiful love story. Their wedding picture sits on his makeshift desk where a jumble of random papers are strewn about.

Next to Mary's picture is a small Christmas tree.

John is almost totally deaf and it is hard to talk to him, but he "talks" to Mary every day and she "talks" to him. Anticipating the inevitable, he has made arrangements with the local funeral director for when he passes: He and Mary will be picked up together and taken to the local VA Hospital, where there is a cemetery. The two of them will be laid to rest together.

He reaches over and gently grabs hold of the picture frame. While looking at it he tells me, "This would have been our 65th Christmas." He shakes his head, and a powerful sigh comes from somewhere deep within him. A tear runs down his face. Another runs down my face. I miss my wife, too.

Maybe we might just say a little prayer for all those who will be experiencing this joyful sadness during this Christmas season. At some point, we will all experience it: the light of Christmas, taken deeply, to pierce our lonesome shadows.

## Prayer For Renewed Strength

O Lord, my God,  
Please give me the grace to maintain my hope in you through all of life's changes and to taste and see your goodness.  
I praise you for the gifts you have showered on me for so many years.  
Help me find joy in a renewed strength of spirit.  
Please bless me with good health, and inspire me to be a good example to others.  
For you are Lord, forever and ever. Amen.