

DECEMBER 12, 2021



Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co. Inc. • Photos: © Inc / Shutterstock, © gomolach / AdobeStock  
Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD.

**THIRD**

**ST BRIDGET CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Sunday**  
OF

*Advent*

Whoever has two cloaks should share  
with the person who has none.  
And whoever has food should do likewise.

Luke 3:11

My Dear People of God,

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent. This Sunday is also called **Gaudete Sunday**. Gaudete is a Latin word that means “rejoice” and as such, this is ‘**Rejoice Sunday**.’ This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for THIS Sunday's Mass - “**Rejoice in the Lord always...**” The theme of Joy and Rejoicing is also echoed in today's readings. This Sunday we get to light the pink candle on the Advent wreath and we use rose colored vestments. All this is an external reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is at hand.



The first reading today captures the festive mood as the day of the Lord approaches and so calls us to **shout for joy!** The reason is simple! Our Lord is coming with lots of good packages like: justice, liberation, and peace. Above all, He is ready to visit us personally if we dispose ourselves well. In the Responsorial Psalm, the psalmist equally taps on the same theme: “*Sing and shout for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy one of Israel.*” Yes, the one we are waiting for, never promises and fails. It is a time be cheerful and a time to celebrate joyfully. In the second reading, St Paul understood this very well and so insists: “*I want you to rejoice always in the Lord. I repeat, what I want is your happiness.*” It is very important to note carefully that what Paul says is: “**BE ALWAYS HAPPY IN THE LORD.**”

So, the joy that St Paul speaks about is not that which comes from mere fantasy or from the material wealth of this world. Rather, it is a very profound sentiment that proceeds from a very strong faith and assurance in the Lord. It is a true joy that sprouts from God’s promises. It is that joy that comes with peace and strengthens the soul. It is the joy of our salvation (Ps 51:12), and a gift from God.

The Gospel reading today continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. Last Sunday, we heard that John the Baptist went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Quoting from the Prophet Isaiah, John called on the people to prepare the way for the Lord: “*..make straight His paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth.*” In today’s reading the crowds ask him for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: the people should share their food and clothing; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. In essence, John is calling on them to practice the **love of neighbor**.

Then the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist himself might be the Messiah, John clarifies his baptism and makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans.

My dear brothers and sisters, as we prepare for Christmas, in order that our joy may be complete we must heed the words of John the Baptist: to be charitable, to be forgiving, to be just, and to be modest in our actions. Furthermore, we must seek reconciliation and live in peace with one another. Above all, we must shun all acts that are capable of making life difficult for others. Finally, we need patience and constancy in prayer. These are very important spiritual virtues. These will lead us to sanctity and the fullness of joy. As we wait joyfully for the fulfillment of God's promises to us this season, may He fill our hearts with charity and peace of mind. Amen!

Rejoice in the Lord today and always.

Thanks and God bless,

*Fr Simon Peter*

## God Is Good—All The Time

### BE HAPPY IN THE LORD

There is an idea prevalent now that religion hinders one's freedom, that religion cramps one's lifestyle, that it is an oppressive force. Some people are ashamed to talk about religion to each other or their friends. Some believe their reputation would suffer a big blow if it were known that they had strong faith so they hide it. Some people say they would rather laugh with the sinners than cry with the saints.

In fact, far from hindering us or cramping us in any way, living with a strong faith in God brings us the true happiness we cannot find elsewhere. Therefore Paul wrote in the second reading, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!" or as another translation has it, "I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness." (Phil 4:4) Notice where he says we will find our happiness, "in the Lord." We will find our happiness by living the Christian life.

The *joy and happiness in the Lord* that we celebrate today is symbolized by lighting a rose candle on the Advent wreath today instead of a purple one and also symbolized by wearing rose vestments today instead of purple ones. I would like to recall a number of times when we see Jesus being happy and joyful. Did Jesus feel cramped and hindered? Not according to what we read in the Gospels. In John 15:11 we read Jesus saying, "I have told you this so that *my own joy* may be in you and *your joy* be complete." Jesus was joyful and wanted his disciples to share his joy, "I have told you this so that *my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.*" Jesus attended many dinners: the one given him by Matthew/Levi after he called him (Matt 9:9-10; see Mark 2:13-15; Luke 5:27-29); at Zacchaeus' house (implied in Luke 19:7); and Pharisees invited Jesus to dinner (Luke 7:36; 11:37; 14:1); and there was dinner at Lazarus' house (John 12:2). At Cana (John 2) Jesus changed between 120 and 180 gallons of water into wine so that the wedding guests could continue to enjoy themselves, and it was wine of the best vintage. That was a lot of wine, but we must remember that at that time the wedding celebration lasted a week which explains why so much wine was needed.

The first step to become happy in the Lord is to give up sin so that we can live a life of grace with the Lord. In the Gospel today (Luke 3:10-18) three times people asked John the Baptist, "what should we do?" Each time he told them to give up something or not to be greedy. Our journey of conversion is a journey from wanting and being greedy and possessive to becoming unselfish. That was the journey John the Baptist asked his hearers to make and the journey we are challenged to make this Advent so that we will have true joy and happiness to celebrate at Christmas rather than just Santa Claus coming to town.

When we turn our backs on sin and follow the Lord it does not mean that we will never again have trouble. Of course we will. We will have troubles and problems as long as we live but we will have an inner peace in the Lord and find our happiness in the Lord. I find the following two examples of being happy in the Lord in spite of severe difficulties very challenging and I doubt that I could be equally happy in such difficult situations but they are examples to us of being happy in the Lord.

- Fr. Maximilian Kolbe was in one of the Nazi concentration camps during World War II and volunteered for the death chamber in the place of one of his fellow prisoners. The jailers reported that whereas the death chambers were usually places of despair and cursing, in this case the condemned men were singing hymns. Archbishop Romero was asked by a newspaper reporter if he was aware that people wanted to kill him and he replied, "You can tell them they are wasting their time. They can kill a bishop but they cannot kill the people of God, the Church. If I am killed I will rise again in the people of El Salvador."

I am sure you will agree that they are very challenging examples of being happy in the Lord. They remind us, as Paul reminds us today, that God wants us to be happy. The Lord wills us to be happy. Since the day we were baptized we are sons and daughters of God. We could say that the words of our first reading (Zeph 3:14-18) were fulfilled in the lives of each of us the day we were baptized,

"Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has removed the judgment against you, he has turned away your enemies; The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear... He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, He will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.

Can you imagine God rejoicing over you the day you were baptized, renewing you by his love? As we heard in the Gospel John the Baptist told his listeners that he baptized with water but Jesus was coming after him and he would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire (Luke 3:16). When you were baptized you were touched by God. God put his seal on you when you were baptized. Why be unhappy? God wants you to be happy?

There is an idea prevalent now that religion hinders one's freedom, that religion cramps our lifestyle, that it is oppressive force. But properly understood, our faith in God is a liberating force, liberating us from unhappiness and helping us to find our joy in the Lord. We remember again the words of Paul, "I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness." "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!"

# TWO NIGHT ADVENT MISSION

Monday – Tuesday, December 13-14, 2021

Time: 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Theme: Prepare for the Lord

Mission Speaker: Hart Littell

Hart lives in Lafayette with his wife Erika and three kids; Bernard, Grace, and Lucille. Hart has been involved in ministry for over 20 years. In 2017, he felt the Lord calling him to work with Family Missions Company, an international missions company whose goal is to serve and evangelize the poorest of the poor in the far reaches of the earth. Prior to, along with Deacon Ed Boustany, Hart started a ministry called CAST in which men came to Grand Isle for a weekend of guided fishing and were ultimately challenged to a committed relationship with our Lord. In June of 2021, Hart accepted a position as Division Director of Disaster Response for Catholic Charities of Acadiana and spends time weekly in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux helping with Hurricane Ida recovery.

## An Advent Prayer

May the God of peace make us  
completely holy.

May God keep us blameless in spirit,  
soul and body for the coming of  
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Forever faithful is the One who calls us—  
God our Father!

Expectant, let us live in joyful hope  
for the revelation of the glory of  
our God and Savior, Christ Jesus!

To him be glory forever!

Come, Lord Jesus! Your grace be with us all.

—From Come, Lord Jesus by Lucien Deiss, CSSp, copyright 1976, 1981, Lucien Deiss. Published by World Library Publications. p. 127

## Advent Mass Schedule

### WEEKDAY MASSES

MONDAY—FRIDAY 8:00 AM & 6:00 PM

### WEEKEND MASSES

SATURDAY | 4:00 PM

SUNDAY | 8:00 AM  
10:30 AM

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

EVE | 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM, Midnight  
DAY | 9:00 AM

### CONFESSIONS

MONDAY—FRIDAY | 7:30 AM—7:55 AM  
5:30 PM—5:55 PM

SATURDAY | 3 PM — 3:50 PM

SUNDAY | 7:00 AM — 7:50 AM  
10:00 AM — 10:20 AM

PHONE | 985-446-6801

LOCATION | 2076 W MAIN ST SCHRIEVER, LA 70395

EMAIL | STBRIDGETCHURCH@HTDIOCESE.ORG

MEDIA | FACEBOOK.COM/STBRIDGET

WEBSITE | [HTTPS://STBRIDGET-HTDIOCESE.ORG](https://stbridget-htdiocese.org)

## TODAY'S READINGS

**FIRST READING** | (Zephaniah 3:14-18a)

**PSALM** | (Isaiah 12)

**SECOND READING** | (Philippians 4:4-7)

**GOSPEL** | (Luke 3:10-18)

## REJOICE

The prophetic writings we hear in today's scriptures call us to rejoice and celebrate the goodness of God. Zephaniah, Isaiah, Saint Paul, and John the Baptist in Luke's Gospel all follow the rich tradition of the Biblical prophets, a tradition that reaches full expression in Jesus. The prophets warn that human failings have truly disastrous consequences. All are summoned to repent, and to change their lives. Today we hear the Good News that God's gracious love exceeds and overcomes all human corruption. God has not given up on us. Indeed, God keeps pursuing us, and eagerly seeks to reconcile with us. God's initiative to set the world aright culminates with Jesus, whose coming John the Baptist announces. John's prophetic message summons us to join in God's reconciling work, by living generously and justly in our daily lives. As we rejoice in God's grace, we then extend the fruits of this grace to all.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Third Sunday of Advent

O God, who see how your people  
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,  
enable us, we pray,  
to attain the joys of so great a salvation  
and to celebrate them always  
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

## REFLECTION QUESTION

How am I faithfully awaiting the  
Lord's Nativity?

Collect text from the English translation of The Roman Missal, © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.  
Copyright © J. S. Paluch Company, Inc.

## SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

December 12th: Third Sunday of Advent

December 13th: St. Lucy

December 14th: St. John of the Cross

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

**MONDAY** | Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

**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 85:9-14; Lk 7:18b-23

**THURSDAY** | Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Lk 7:24-30

**FRIDAY** | Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

**SATURDAY** | Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

**SUNDAY** | Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

## THE SANCTUARY LIGHT | IN MEMORY OF

December 12th—18th

Donnie Sonier by Donna Waguespack and Family

### MASS INTENTIONS

December 11th	4:00 PM	Catherine Brown by Phyllis Ables and Family Kirk Dubois by Phyllis Ables and Family
December 12th	8:00 AM	Jimmy Coupel by Diana Bailly and Family Bessie Bailly by Darren and Teri Metrejean and Hayes and Diana Bailly Alfred LeBouef (DA) by Emily LeBouef
	10:30 AM	Ronnie Thomas by Steven and Brenda Arceneaux James Landry (DA) by Margaret and Burnelle Landry
December 18th	4:00 PM	Eric, Wendy and Rudy Thibodaux by Family Kirvey Gagneaux (BD) by Faye Seal and Vanessa Knight and Families Anne Carol and Lane Pennison by Phyllis Ables and Family Janice and A.J. Martin by Phyllis Ables and Family Joe Carp Jr. By Elaine Ables and Family
December 19th	8:00 AM	Marion Knight by Godfrey Knight Donnie Sonier (DA) by Donna Waguespack and Family Daniel Samanie (BD) by Family Richard Gibbens by Brenda
	10:30 AM	Richard Gibbens by Brenda Ronnie Thomas by Michael and Sylvia Langlinais Howard "Buck" Oubre Sr. by Therese Oubre

### PRAYER LINE

**To be added to the prayer line, call Nina Richard at 446-1206** or the rectory at 446-6801. In the charity of your prayers, please pray for the sick, elderly, and homebound. Please pray for: Elaine Ables, Susan Arceneaux, Donnie Aucoin Jr, Jacob Aucoin, Jeannie Aucoin, Sara Aucoin, Elvin Babin, Tommy Badeaux, Chad Barrileaux, Ronnie Bednarz, Chuck Beebe, Gertrude Benoit, Fr. Paul Bergeron, Mitzy Bettridge, Gretchen Bilello, Preston Billiot, Alvin & Gail Blanchard, Dennis Blanchard, Ronald Blanchard, Lynn Bonneval, Aline Boudreaux, Delores Bourgeois, Emile "Jay" Bourgeois, Patricia Bourgeois, Connie Bouterie, Emma Del Broussard, Susan Caillouet, Ronnie Carrier, Gary & Sheila Cavalier, Bessie Chiasson, Randy Chiasson, Jane D. Clement Bryce Comeaux, Huey Cortez Sr., Martha Cortez, Randy Davis, Cary Davis, Jr., Dorothy Didier, Barbara & Ronni Duhon, Linda Ekiss, Avery "Brother" and Sonja Fonseca, Melissa Fontana, Robin Ford, Marie Fournier, Alisa Frederick, Dante Galliano, Toby Gambarella, Leigh Ann Gardner, Carrie Gibbens, Belinda Gil, Brandon Gil, George Gil, The Gil Family, Carrie Mae Givens, Austin Gros, Chad Gros, George Gros, Rosebella Gros, Kendra Guillot, Myles Harris, Joy Hebert, Katie Hebert, Jerrell Hebert, Sr., Cheryl Henderson, Jessie Hoffpauir, Samara Holland, Kristen Koppel, Eldine LaFleur, Jackson LaFleur, Mona Lambert, Elmay Landry, Joyce Landry, Craig Landry, Mark Landry, Barbara Nell Lapeyrouse, Allie LeBlanc, Emily LeBoeuf, Evelyn Leger, Tammy Babin Loney, Tim Long, Payton Martin, Keith Matherne, Rick Melancon, Asher Miller, Savannah Miller, Emma Mire, Bethany Moore, Meghan Naquin, Misty Naquin, Shannon Naquin, Eric Olivieri, Annie Ordoyne, Kara Pellegrin, Sherry Pennison, Lisa Pennison, Kenneth Pitre, James Pierce, Kip Pierce, Sharon Prejean, Ed Raidl, Kerri Reynolds, Bryce Richard, Ella Richard, Gladys Richard, Lorita Rodrigue, Susan Rodrigue, Cynthia Rogers, Danielle Samanie, Chester Sanchez, Karla Saunier, Kathy Savoie, Earline Simmoneaux, Penny Simmons, Brenda Sonier, Mike Stegall, Louis Stevens, Melissa Tardiff, Trish Templet, Pierre & Mary Theriot, Cammie Thibodaux, Earl Thibodaux, Lacey Thibodeaux, Thibodaux Family, Joyce Toups, Ricky Turner, Sara Day Vignes, Allison Walters, and Wanda Wawrose, Freddie Webre, Mike Wiley, Anna Wooten. **Please notify the office when names can be removed.**

Quality Funeral Services for Generations

447-9041

**LANDRY'S**  
EST. 1888 | FUNERAL HOME

**THIBODAUX REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**  
602 North Acadia Road  
(985) 447-5500  
www.thibodaux.com

**SB BYEED**  
SOUTH LOUISIANA BANK

**Smart FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORIUM**  
635 Bayou Blue Road, Houma, LA 70364  
4511 West Park Avenue, Gray, LA 70359  
**985.851.6540**  
office@smartfuneralhome.com  
www.smartfuneralhome.com

**catholicmatch® Louisiana**



CatholicMatch.com/myLA

**Ready Mix Concrete**  
Large & Small Jobs  
111 Horseshoe Road  
Schriever

**Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!**



Sign up here:  
[www.jspaluch.com/subscribe](http://www.jspaluch.com/subscribe)

Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc. 

**WHY IS IT**  
A man wakes up after sleeping under an ADVERTISED mattress and pulls off ADVERTISED pajamas bathes in an ADVERTISED shower shaves with an ADVERTISED razor brushes his teeth with ADVERTISED toothpaste washes with ADVERTISED soap puts on ADVERTISED clothes drinks a cup of ADVERTISED coffee drives to work in an ADVERTISED car and then . . . . refuses to ADVERTISE believing it doesn't pay. Later if business is poor he ADVERTISES it for sale.  
**WHY IS IT?**

**SCHRIEVER CONCRETE CO., INC.**  
447-7922

**Ready Mix Concrete**  
Large & Small Jobs  
111 Horseshoe Road  
Schriever

**CANNATA'S FAMILY MARKET**

Serving The Area Since 1939  
Morgan City • Bayou Vista  
Houma

**FINDaPARISH.com**  
Check It Out Today!

**The Most Complete Online National Directory of Catholic Parishes**

**CHARLES A. PAGE & SONS**  
Insurance Agency, Inc.  
5911 Main 872-5711  
Auto • Home • Business • Life • Health

**If You Live Alone You Need MDMedAlert!**  
24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!  
✓Ambulance ✓Police ✓Fire  
✓Friends/Family  
Solutions as Low as **\$19.<sup>95</sup>** a month  
FREE Shipping  
FREE Activation  
NO Long Term Contracts

**DANTIN CHEVROLET**  
**CHEVROLET**  
644 West Main  
448-2277

**AG& REFRIGERATION**  
1309 St. Patrick St. | 446-6256  
www.agrefrigeration.net

**ST. BRIDGET CHURCH**  
St. Bridget Catholic Church  
100 Hwy. 311  
Schriever, LA 70395-9998

**MDMedAlert**  
Safe-Guarding America's Seniors Nationwide  
24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA

**Protecting Seniors Nationwide**  
Medical Alert System  
\$29.95/Mo. billed quarterly  
• One Free Month  
• No Long-Term Contract  
• Price Guarantee  
• Easy Self Installation  
Call Today! Toll Free 1.877.801.8608

**Daigle Himel Daigle PHYSICAL THERAPY & HAND CENTER**  
985-447-3164 • 985-223-4760 • 985-876-1155

**eBlanc**  
PAINCOURTVILLE (985) 369-6014  
**rothers Ready-Mix, Inc.**

**REARY-MIX CONCRETE**  
GRAVEL MASON SAND  
FILL SAND DIRT LIMESTONE  
Since 1945

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT SCHRIEVER, LA

**24SEVEN**  
Medical Alert System

**AG& REFRIGERATION**  
1309 St. Patrick St. | 446-6256  
www.agrefrigeration.net

**REARY-MIX CONCRETE**  
GRAVEL MASON SAND  
FILL SAND DIRT LIMESTONE  
Since 1945

**SONOCO**  
Sontheimer Offshore/catering Co.  
www.sontheimeroffshore.com  
985-851-0727

**ONE PARISH**  
Download Our Free App or Visit  
[www.MY.ONEPARISH.com](http://www.MY.ONEPARISH.com)

Grow in your faith, find a Mass, and connect with your Catholic Community with OneParish!



**SONOCO**  
Sontheimer Offshore/catering Co.  
www.sontheimeroffshore.com  
985-851-0727

Download on the App Store  
GET IT ON Google play

**SONOCO**  
Sontheimer Offshore/catering Co.  
www.sontheimeroffshore.com  
985-851-0727

131550 St Bridget Church [www.jspaluch.com](http://www.jspaluch.com) For Ads: J.S. Paluch Co., Inc. 1-800-438-8931