

The Third Sunday of Advent December 12, 2021

Date	Intentions	Requested by
12/12 11:00	Open	
12/15	Open	
12/16	Open	
12/19	Open	



Our Lady of the Mountains

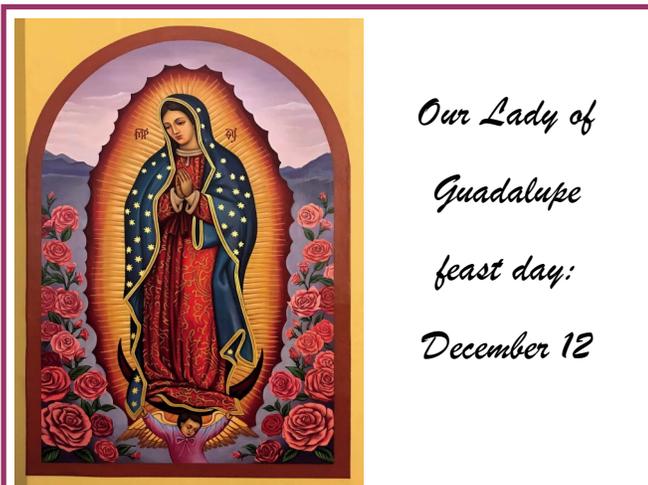
Weekend of December 5, 2021

Offertory-\$3604.00 Online giving-\$675.60

Attendance- 105

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

But then John the Baptist cries out on Jordan's bank: Repent! Prepare for a Messiah whose baptism "with the Holy Spirit and fire," unlike John's water baptism, will utterly transform its recipients. His winnowing fan will clear away the dead wood, bundling wheat and burning chaff in unquenchable fire. If this is going to be "good news" for us, then well might we, like the crowds, tax collectors, and soldiers who first heard John, ask "What should we do?" When John responds to the people then, and to us today, the answer, while supremely challenging, is almost surprisingly simple. Nobody is ordered to abandon the place in which their personal life's journey or the realities of a history beyond their control have put them. God saves us not despite or apart from our real-life circumstances but in them and through them. Our call now is to practical, generous charity: we are to share clothing and food; practice justice and professional and personal integrity; and be honest toward others and with ourselves. Such is the teaching of the Messiah that John heralded.



*Our Lady of
Guadalupe
feast day:
December 12*

Christmas Mass Schedule 2021

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

OLM 1:00 pm St. Jude's 3:00 pm

Christmas Day

St. Jude's only 10:00 am

Defending Conscience Rights Against Vaccine Mandates

This Christmas many Catholic employees and families are threatened with the loss of employment, income, and livelihood due to employer vaccine mandates which go against their conscience and pro-life beliefs. To support Catholic workers and families and their conscience rights, the Carolina Family Coalition (CFC) is organizing a special *Defend Your Conscience Rights* event on Monday December 20 at 7pm at St. Thomas Aquinas parish – Aquinas Hall (1400 Suther Road, Charlotte). The event will feature talks by an attorney, impacted workers, and a reflection by a priest on how to suffer for Christ and His teachings. The event is free. CFC is an organization founded in 2018 by Catholic pro-life leaders in Charlotte to defend the family against the secular culture. For questions contact: info@carolinafamilycoalition.org

Father's Column

Excerpts from the Catholic Encyclopedia on Gaudete Sunday

The third Sunday of Advent, so called from the first word of the Introit at Mass (Gaudete, i.e. Rejoice). The season of Advent originated as a fast of forty days in preparation for Christmas, commencing on the day after the feast of St. Martin (12 November), whence it was often called "St. Martin's Lent"-- a name by which it was known as early as the fifth century. In the ninth century, the duration of Advent was reduced to four weeks. St. Gregory the Great was the first to draw up an Office for the Advent season, and the Gregorian Sacramentary is the earliest to provide Masses for the Sundays of Advent.

Advent still preserved most of the characteristics of a penitential season which made it a kind of counterpart to Lent, the middle (or third) Sunday corresponding with Laetare or Mid-Lent Sunday. On it, as on Laetare Sunday, the organ and flowers, forbidden during the rest of the season, were permitted to be used; rose-coloured vestments were allowed instead of purple (or black, as formerly). All these distinguishing marks have continued in use, and are the present discipline of the Latin Church.

Gaudete Sunday, therefore, makes a break like Laetare Sunday, about midway through a season which is otherwise of a penitential character, and signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming. In both Office and Mass throughout Advent continual reference is made to our Lord's second coming, and this is emphasized on the third Sunday by the additional signs of gladness permitted on that day. The joy of expectation is emphasized by the constant Alleluias, which occur in both Office and Mass throughout the entire season.

In the Mass, the Introit "Gaudete in Domino semper" strikes the same note, and gives its name to the day. The spirit of the Office and Liturgy all through Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the Christmas feast as well as for the second coming of Christ, and the penitential exercises suitable to that spirit are thus on Gaudete Sunday suspended, as were, for a while in order to symbolize that joy and gladness in the Promised Redemption which should never be absent from the heart of the faithful.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE 2021

We are continuing to collect gifts for the children in our community.

If you would like to help, please take an ornament and return the item unwrapped to the office no later than this Tuesday. The parish office will be open Monday and Tuesday to receive gifts.

Please pray for our parishioners and their relatives and friends:

Joan Hatch, Belinda Rudzik

**Also for those in our book of prayer intentions, and those for whom there is no one to pray.
Please pray for all the men and women serving the United States in the military.**

Please pray for the souls of our beloved deceased.

Adele Hopkins, Thelma Petrone, Fred Wooldridge, Dorice Pulte, James Urbanski, Pat Pittari, Clara Lewicki, Fr. Ubald Rugirangoga, Scott Peek, Sr., Stewart Austin, Ron Simmons, Harry Vaughn, and Lucille Devane