

**December 13 2015**  
**Third Sunday of Advent: (year C)**

**From The Desk of Msgr. Corrigan:**

On December 8, 2015 we began the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis says “*It is a time to heal wounds, a time to offer everyone forgiveness and reconciliation*”. He encourages us to follow the:

**Corporal Works of Mercy:**

- ❖ To feed the Hungry
- ❖ To Give Drink to the Thirsty
- ❖ To Cloth the Naked
- ❖ To Shelter the Homeless
- ❖ To Care for the Sick
- ❖ To Visit the Imprisoned
- ❖ To Bury the Dead

**Spiritual Works of Mercy:**

- ❖ To Concert Sinners
- ❖ To Instruct the Ignorant
- ❖ To Advise the Doubtful
- ❖ To Comfort the Sorrowful
- ❖ To Bear Wrongs Patiently
- ❖ To Forgive Injuries
- ❖ To Pray for the Living and the Dead.

Our stained glass window for today is St. Catherine of Alexandria. On our diagram she is 2A on the south side. She is immediately recognizable by the wheel in the background. Her Feast day is November 25<sup>th</sup>. Here is how her life is summarized in the Ordo: Catherine was a learned woman of the early fourth century who, according to legend, following her conversion at age eighteen, preached the gospel throughout Alexandria in Egypt. While imprisoned by the emperor Magnus Maximus (335-388), she converted both the empress and the leader of the armed forces and for this she was martyred. Legend has that upon her death, after a wheel of torture (known as “Catherine’s wheel”) broke her body, her body was carried by angels to Mt. Sinai. St Joan of Arc was thought to have heard her voice. Venerated in the east since the ninth century, she is a patron saint of philosophers, preachers and unmarried woman.

The words “according to legend” usually mean that it is unlikely that this part of the story actually happened.



**COLLECTION:**

The collection for last Sunday, December 6, 2015 was \$3,573.00

The second collection this Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> will be for the Fund for Retired Religious. Your gift provides vital support for senior Catholic Sisters, Brothers and Religious order Priests.

**Food Collection:** thank you for your generosity in last weekend’s food collection we were able to fill 19 bags for the needy in our community.



**Christmas Flowers:**

We are taking names for the memorial which will be placed on a Christmas plaque in the rear of the church. Your donations, in memory of loved one, or for a special intention, will be placed on this plaque to be remembered by the faithful during the Holy Season. Arrangements can be made by placing your intentions and donation in the flower envelope in your December set of envelopes.

The flower offering helps to defray the cost of decorating our altars for Christmas.

Large Poinsettia Plants	\$50.00
Medium Poinsettia Plant	\$25.00
Small Poinsettia Plant	\$20.00

**Third Sunday of Advent:**

Rejoice! Today is traditionally called *Gaudete* or Rejoice Sunday, from the first words of the entrance antiphon, “*Rejoice in the Lord always*”, taken from today’s reading from Saint Paul to the Philippians. Why should we rejoice? Because the Lord is near. More than halfway through our Advent preparations now, let us be sensitive to the nearness of the Lord.

**In the first reading, Zechariah 3:14-18a:** a prophet has good news for a weary people. God’s love will fill their lives with song.

**Responsorial Psalm, Isaiah 12:2-3**

**“Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel!”**

**In the second reading, Philippians 4:4-7:** Paul tells the people to rejoice in the Lord as they look forward to his coming. Such joy can lead them to be kind, peaceful, and prayerful.

**In the Gospel, Luke 3:10-18:** John the Baptist instructs the crowds how they should concretely prepare for the coming of the Messiah.



**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>** –Rejoice, God is with Us – *Zephaniah 3:16-17* –Our joy begins because we know God is near.

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup>** –Teach Us Your Ways! *Psalm 25:4-7*–Use God’s word daily to discover God’s ways.

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>** –God is Close to the Brokenhearted-*Psalm 34:19*–How can I help those suffering today?

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>** –Turn to God and Be Safe-*Isaiah 45:22-23*–Let us ask God to keep us from danger and harm.

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>** –God Brings Justice-*Psalm 72:3-4*–Do something today to help someone in need.

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup>** –Choose Jesus-*Matthew 1:18-25*–Like Joseph, decide to focus your life on Jesus.

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>** –God is Our Hope-*Psalm 71:5-6*–When God comes to us, our lives will change.