



# HOLY TRINITY PARISH

Hudson and Germantown, New York  
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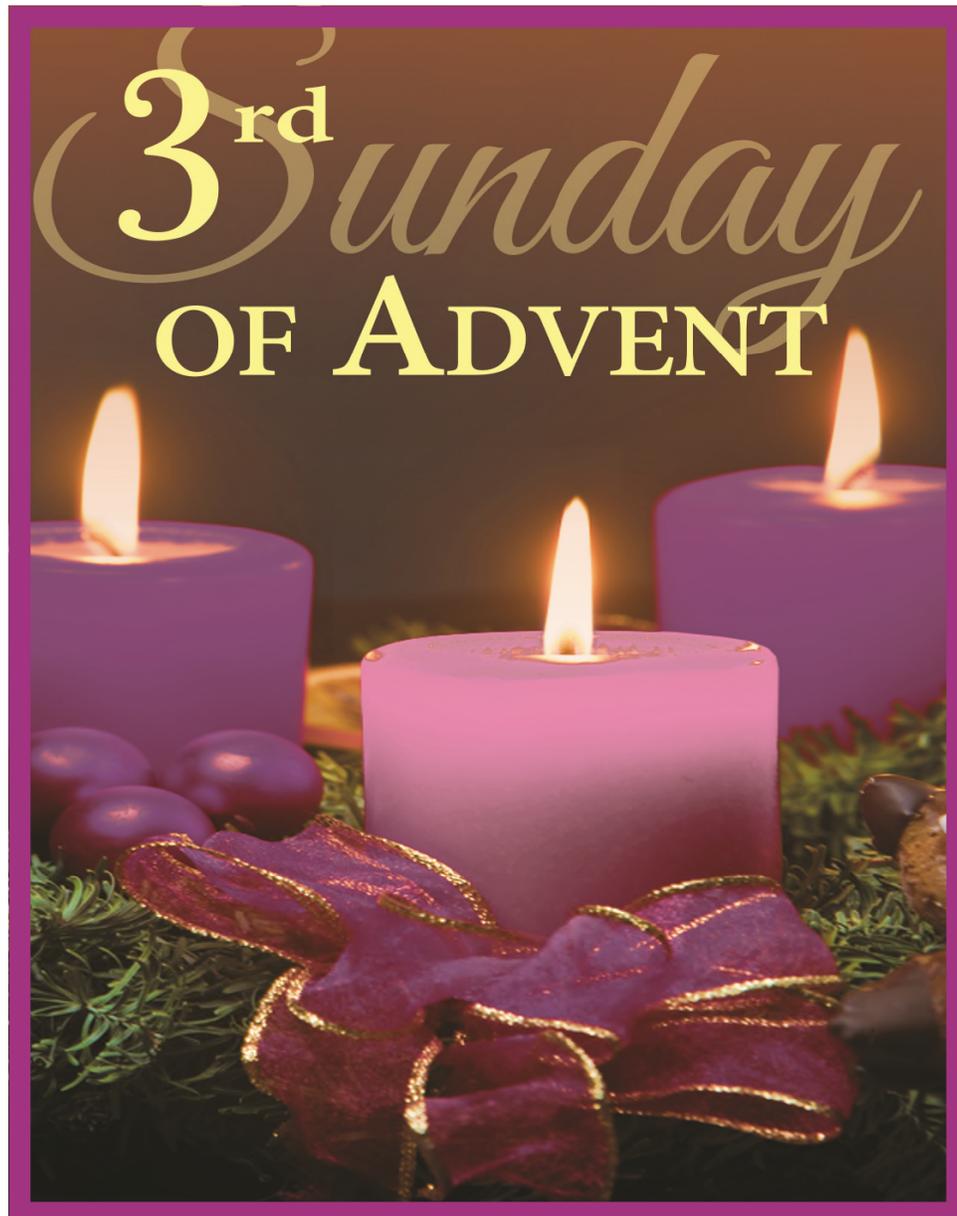
**December 17, 2017**

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**REV. ANTHONY BARRATT**  
*Pastor*

**DEACON RICHARD WASHBURN**  
*Deacon*

**REV. WINSTON BATH**  
*Pastor Emeritus*



## THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Our continuing journey of Advent can seem so brief and it is hard to imagine that in just over a week, we will be celebrating the great feast of Christmas together. (Yes, this year Christmas Eve is a Sunday and we have Christmas Day on the Monday: it is going to be a busy weekend! Do check the schedule to make sure that we celebrate both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and then also the great feast of Christmas.)

As we have seen over the first two weeks of our season, with each week of Advent we are given markers or signs to guide us through this season and so to help us prepare for the coming of Jesus. So far we have had the two spiritual guides of “watching and waiting” and of “preparing a way for the Lord”. What about this last and very busy week of Advent...?

Our sign post or guide for this third week is a simple and yet potentially quite difficult message: *re-joice, for the Lord is near!* Today we celebrate what is sometimes called “Gaudete” or “rejoicing” Sunday, echoing the first words of the entrance antiphon for the Mass. We are asked to rejoice because the coming of our Lord and Saviour is near. This theme of rejoicing is marked in our readings, our prayers and in the option of having rose coloured vestments and Advent Wreath candle (rose being a mix of the purple of Advent and the white of Christmas).

The word “joy” occurs so many times in the Sacred Scriptures in both the Old and the New Testaments and yet it is not always an easy word to understand, yet alone to live. It can be hard to be joyful if we are experiencing loss, or hurt, or a crisis in our lives. We can think of all the recent acts of violence and of terrorism here in the USA and in so many other places. Joy can also seem to be something fleeting or even superficial, or frustratingly elusive. So, when as Christians, we speak of *joy* (rather like other everyday words such as “love”, or “peace”, or “freedom”) we need to recall that the word has a very particular meaning

Despite all this, in our second reading at Mass today, St. Paul tells us to be joyful (and then goes on to

tell us how we can do this as Christians). In fact, the word “joy” occurs twenty two times in the letters of St. Paul. He does not say this lightly or as a tired cliché and we can remember that St. Paul suffered much, both personally and also for preaching and living the Gospel. He asks us to rejoice in hope, in repentance, in salvation and even in suffering. So, what does he mean and what exactly is Christian joy...?

Well, the Christian understanding of joy certainly does not mean pretending all is fine, or of putting on a happy face or fixed smile when all is not good. The word used for “joy” in the New Testament is *chairete* and it is actually a word with many meaning and levels. To name a few of these, it first means a profound and real sense of God’s love for us, a great feeling of trust and confidence in God so that whatever happens, we have His love and care. Christian joy then is not something superficial, nor as Bernard Bassett remarked is it “contingent” (that is depending on things going well, or on circumstances, or on others), but rather it is a gift and an inner peace and strength that is there regardless of life and its ups and downs. We might also say then that joy is also not so much a feeling, but rather a choice or a decision: to be joyful.

Christian joy is also a spiritual way of living and seeing ourselves, others and the world so that we are tuned into God’s will. As Abbot Marmion wrote, “joy is the very echo of God’s life within us.” In this sense, joy is certainly an attitude to life and a spiritual gift. It is also eminently practical, especially when, with God’s help, we try to develop spiritual values and a way of everyday living that are what we might call joy-giving, rather than joy-killing. With God’s help, a great exercise during this third week of our Advent journey might be to strengthen all those things that, spiritually speaking, bring us joy and also root out those attitudes or values in our life that we know are joy-killers.

As we hear in the Gospel, St. John the Baptist proclaims that he is not the Christ and that one is coming after him who is so much greater than him. We can rejoice because that “greater one”, Jesus Christ, comes to us. So, as we begin what is probably a crazy and busy week ahead whether at work or school or with all those Christmas preparations at home, let us live the words prayed at Mass today and our Advent theme: “we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.”

# THE WEEK AHEAD

**SUNDAY, December 17**

- **Christmas Pageant and Cookie Reception** following the 9:00 am Mass.

**WEDNESDAY, December 20**

- **Friendly Kitchen:** Join with other parishioners who get together and help prepare a meal for the Salvation Army's Friendly Kitchen. 3:00 p.m., St. Mary's Academy Kitchen.
- **The Gathering:** 7:30 pm at St. Mary's Academy.

**THURSDAY, December 21**

- **Our Lady of Grace Prayer Group:** 6:30 pm St. Mary's Church
- **Bible Study:** 7:00 p.m. St. Mary's Academy

## *Cookie Sale*

The time for the **Twenty - Seventh Annual Christmas Cookie Sale** at St. Mary's Church is quickly approaching. Make plans to bake some of your favorite cookies for this sale to be held on the weekend of December 16 and 17. Cookies, brownies, and cookie bars will be accepted. Whether contacted or not, please get ready to bake a batch of your favorite treats.

## **2018 St. Joseph Sunday Missal Available**

This missal is designed to help you deepen your understanding and participation in the Mass, guide your life in the spirit of the liturgy, and to meditate often on the Word of God. Missals are available in the Sacristy for \$4.00 each.

## **OPLATKI**

The breaking and sharing of the "oplatki" (Christmas wafer) is a cherished Polish and eastern European Christmas tradition. Oplatki is available in the sacristy and the front vestibule after the Masses for \$1.00 per envelope.



**Christmas Pageant**  
**St. Mary's Church Hudson**  
**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**at St. Mary's Church**  
**following the 9:00 a.m. Mass.**  
**After the pageant, cookies and punch**  
**will be served.**

## **Help! Help! Help!**

After the 9:00 Mass and Christmas Pageant on **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**, we will be bringing the statues and other parts of our Christmas decorations out of storage. We would be most grateful for the help of anyone who can pitch in for awhile.

On **Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.** we will be constructing the framework for our Christmas display, and **later that evening at 5:30 p.m.** we will be hanging the greens. Because of the assistance of a great number of people in previous years, we were able to get things up in short order. Help us continue the tradition. Mike Van Allen and other members of our parish team will be giving directions to keep the components organized.

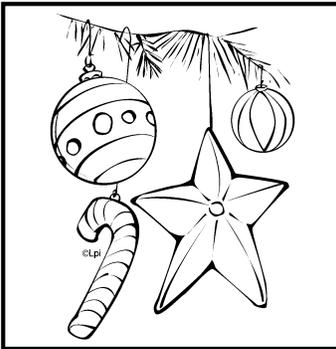
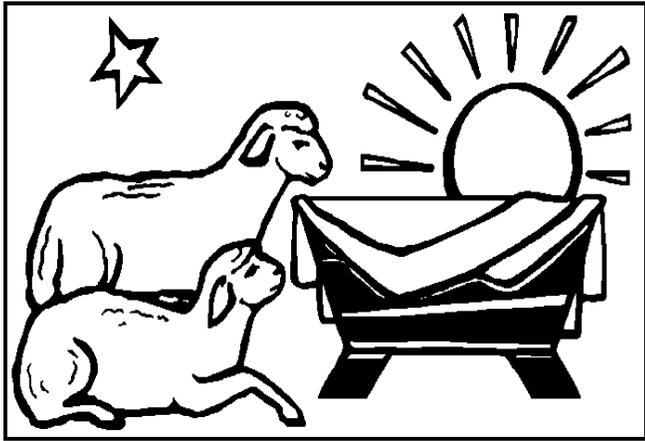
Please call Mike at 518 828-1334 to let him know if you would like to get involved.



## **Extra time for Confession**

Because there is usually an extra surge of parishioners looking for the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession before the Holidays, we are going to offer an extra opportunity:

**Extra time for Confessions**  
**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**1:30 to 4:00 p.m.**



## Family Tree Ornaments

We are looking forward once again to our families helping us with the decorations of our parish Christmas tree. Children (and adults) will be invited to come forward and put their ornaments

on the tree at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass at St. Mary's. Ornaments may also be placed on the tree before or after all the other Christmas Masses. The ornaments can be homemade or purchased. If convenient, we encourage you to put your family name on the ornament and "2017"

## Christmas Schedule this Year

**NOTE: Regular Masses for Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Saturday, Dec. 23 : 4:00 pm (HUD) and 5:30 pm (G'TWN)**  
**Sunday, Dec. 24 : 9:00am ( HUD) and 11:00 am (G'TWN)**

### CHRISTMAS EVE

**Sunday, December 24th**

4:00 P.M. - Hudson  
 (Oriented toward Families & Children)

4:00 P.M. - Germantown

6:00 P.M. - Hudson

10:00 P.M. – Hudson

### CHRISTMAS DAY

**Monday, December 25th**

10:00 A.M. – Hudson

11:00 A.M. – Germantown

**Lectors, Ministers of the Eucharist, and Altar Servers:**  
 Please check the schedules on the bulletin boards to remind yourselves of the Mass to which you are assigned.

## MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (New Year's Day)

**Monday, January 1, 2018**

9:00 A.M. - Hudson

(As this falls on a Monday, it is still a holy day, but **NOT** a holy day of obligation.)



## THANK YOU!

It was heartwarming to see so many of our parishioners enjoying each other's company at our Open House. A special thank you to the Christian Service Committee, to our high school students who welcomed everyone and, of course, to all those who so generously supplied so many delicious cookies.

## SACRIFICIAL GIVING

### *Spirituality of Stewardship*

We participate in the Kingdom of Heaven not through our accomplishments, but through our love and generosity.

#### HUDSON

Regular Offertory Last Weekend (Dec. 10).....	\$4,953.00
Heat and Fuel Collection.....	842.00
Seminarians.....	267.00
Feast of the Immaculate Conception.....	1498.00
Christmas Flowers.....	759.00

#### GERMANTOWN

Regular Offertory Last Weekend (Dec. 10).....	\$1,083.00
Seminarians.....	96.00
Feast of the Immaculate Conception .....	276.00



# SACRAMENTS

*The sacraments are wonderful gifts from God to us. Through outward, visible signs; the sacraments are channels of God's love and mercy and so they draw us in to the life of the Trinity. They therefore also continue the saving mission and ministry of Jesus Christ in and through His body, the Church. Below is some information on how to make contact regarding the celebration of the sacraments.*

**BAPTISM:** Congratulations! If you would like to arrange preparations and a date for Baptism, please contact the Parish Office.

**RCIA:** For those enquiring about the Catholic Faith or wishing to complete their sacraments: welcome! Please contact the Parish Office and we will be very glad to help you further.

**RECONCILIATION:** Celebrated on Saturdays 2.30-3.45 pm in Hudson, before and after Masses in Germantown, or at anytime by appointment. (Note: it is best to call ahead first to check on the availability of a priest)

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Priests regularly visit the hospitals, nursing homes and the homebound. Please do contact the Parish Office if you or someone you know is in need of the anointing of sick.

**MARRIAGE:** Congratulations! So that proper arrangements (paperwork, preparations etc.) can be made, please contact the Parish Office or Fr. Anthony at least six months before the desired date.

**VOCATIONS:** If you are considering a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, please contact Fr. Anthony to share thoughts and prayers further.

## READINGS AND HYMNS (HUDSON)

Reading: p. 65 Opening Hymn: # 186 Closing: # 186  
Vs. 6 & 7

## MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

### MONDAY: Weekday (Dec. 18)

7:15 AM Bubby Clow - Wife & Family  
James L. Walker (11th Anniversary) - Mom

### TUESDAY: Weekday (Dec. 19)

7:15 AM John & Helen Halloran - Daughter, Dawn  
Rita Hunkele & Harold Hunkele - Maria & Richard

Hunkele

### WEDNESDAY: Weekday (Dec. 20)

7:15 AM Theresa Reid ( Special Intention) - Elsie Turoci  
Carolyn Wagner - Mr. & Mrs. Robert Donahue

### THURSDAY: Weekday (Dec. 21)

7:15 AM Maria Carminucci - Maria & Richard Hunkele  
Davine & Bob Perry (Special Intention – 50th  
Wedding Anniversary ) - Fran & Beth Gavin

### FRIDAY: Weekday (Dec. 22)

7:15 AM Martin T. McHale - Family  
John (Jake) Halloran - Mike & Kathy Nabozny  
9:00 AM Barbara McNamee - Leaman Family  
(G'TWN)

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### SATURDAY VIGIL MASS: (Dec. 23)

4:00 PM Francis Keeler - Wife & Children  
(HUD) Ethel M., James H., James M. Edgley - Marlene Edgely  
Loretta Dolan - Marsha Osuch  
5:30 PM For the Living & Deceased of the Parish  
(GTWN)

### SUNDAY MORNING MASS: (Dec. 24)

9:00 AM Edward Hermance - Diane McCrady  
(HUD) Lewis H. Mueller- Kathy & Gerry Maturi  
Carmella Maturi - Kathy & Gerry  
Maturi

## Readings for the Week of December 17

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 [Is  
61:10b]/ 1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn  
1:6-8, 19-28  
Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-  
25  
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/  
Lk 1:5-25  
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/  
Lk 1:26-38  
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-  
12, 20-21  
[1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45  
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/  
Lk 1:46-56  
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and  
14  
[cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

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