

Bulletin Letter December 13, 2020 3rd Advent Cycle B

From the Pastor:

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday because today's opening antiphon begins with that word. What does Gaudete mean? It means – REJOICE! We rejoice today for the coming of the Lord, it is so near now that we cannot help but think about it. As we journey through Advent, the joyful sense of Gaudete Sunday urges us on. The days may grow shorter and darker, we are all stressed in various ways, but this joy reminds us to refocus - the Lord is near!

It has been a joyful whirlwind these past couple of weeks. There are so many talented and faith-filled people across our three communities and I'm so grateful as I get to know new names and faces. Thank you all for receiving me with such hospitality and grace, and for the people of Immaculate Conception who have welcomed Fr. Joe O'Brien. This all makes me feel very optimistic as we carry on. As we move ahead I ask for your prayers, I assure you of mine, and may we all remember to be patient during these days.

In addition to being welcomed so kindly at St Joseph's and Our Lady of Grace, I am also so impressed with how well things are being handled at mass. Covid-19 protocols are being followed and there are many gifted ministry volunteers, which is similar to what we do at Immaculate. Thank you one and all for all that you do for our parishes and for God's people.

The American Red Cross is having a **blood drive** in Immaculate Conception Parish Hall this coming Saturday, December 19 from 8 am until 1 pm. We have received a number of missives asking us to let folks know that there is a dire need for donations at this time. I encourage all who can, to come from far and near, to donate. The gift of life that you give will be a wonderful blessing for someone. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED-CROSS (800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: IMMACULATECONCEPTION. A second blood drive will be held at Immaculate Conception in January, giving you another opportunity to save a life.

I wish you a blessed and joyful Gaudete Sunday!

Until next week, be well, do good deeds, and say your prayers.

Fr. Jerry

An additional note ... We will abstain from using incense at the 5 pm Saturday Advent Masses.