



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Years ago, the trick question on religion quizzes would be to name all the liturgical colors, or the colors of the vestments worn at Mass. Rose is a color seldom seen, used at most two days a year. Today, "Gaudete Sunday," is one of those days. The name of the day is drawn from an opening verse in the old Latin Mass texts: *Gaudete* is Latin for "Rejoice!" This year's Gospel certainly reflects that mood as Elizabeth feels her infant within her leaping for joy at the presence of Mary. Mary's visit to her aged cousin is an act of compassion between women, as two kinswomen who are bearing children into the world share their joy.

Some churches retain the custom of having the priest wear rose vestments today, and many will use a rose candle in the Advent wreath. Violet is the official color for Advent and Lent, but many parishes employ different hues for each season, trying to keep them distinct. In medieval times, dye was costly, and poor parishes used unornamented plain cloth for vestments. Dyes were expensive and some colors, particularly purple, difficult to achieve. In England, purple dye was made from mollusks, yielding at best a deep indigo or blue and not the desired violet. Thus, the color of Advent in the British Isles has long been a deep blue, reminding many people of Mary's presence at the heart of the Advent mystery. That theology is largely unplanned: it's all because of the clams!

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FAMILY PERSPECTIVE Parenting is difficult because we know that we don't have all the answers. Unlike a Christmas toy, children don't come with easy instructions or a warranty. Because our children are the Lord's gift to us we should turn to God and ask the question in today's gospel, "What should we do?" We don't have to parent alone.



ADVENT PENANCE CELEBRATIONS

Confession of sins is good for the soul. Prepare for Christ's coming in your life – your heart – your home this Advent Season. Experience the forgiveness of our God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation; you will be glad you did. Advent is a time of new beginnings, so take time out of your busy schedule to attend one of the following Penance Celebrations:

- Monday, December 15th – St. Jude
 - Tuesday, December 16th – Our Lady of Peace
 - Thursday, December 18th – Blessed Sacrament
- All celebrations will be held at 7:00PM
The last opportunity for Reconciliation will be
Saturday, December 20, from 4-5PM

GIVING TREE UPDATE All gifts must be returned by Noon today. The gifts are being sorted today and getting ready for delivery this week. If you forgot your gift, please drop it off under the tree later today or at the very latest by 9:00AM Monday morning at the Parish Office.

LAKE SHORE VISITOR If you would like to subscribe to the Lake Shore Visitor or renew your current subscription, please use your blue envelope that was in your Dec/Jan packet. The price is still only \$20. Please return the envelope in the collection basket or to the Parish Office.

2004 CALENDARS There are still some calendars left. Stop by the Parish Office or pick one up after Mass in the lobby of Church.

PARISH COOKBOOKS Are you looking for a last minute gift? Cookbooks are available in the Parish Office. The price is \$10

DO YOU LIKE TO DECORATE? We are looking for some people to help decorate the church for Christmas and to do some pre-decorating work. There are many jobs that need to be done ahead of time to make the actual "decoration day" go smoothly. If you are interested in helping, please call the Parish Office.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 24th – Christmas Eve
5:15pm, 7:30pm and Midnight
Thursday, December 25th – Christmas Day
8:00am and 10:00am

There will be NO Children's Liturgy of the Word at Christmas Day or New Year's Day Mass. They will meet as usual at the 9:00am Mass on Sundays.

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR? We hope so!! The Lord's Choir (TLC – student choir) will sing a prelude before the 5:15PM Christmas Eve Mass and lead us into the Christmas Posada (meaning inn/lodging.) The Celebration Choir (11AM Choir) will sing a Christmas Prelude at 11:30PM and lead us into Midnight Mass. Please consider attending one of these Masses to hear and enjoy the songs of the season!!



CHRISTMAS MUSICAL Please join us for a holiday presentation by our 4 year old Preschool, Kindergarten and Grade 1 students on Thursday, December 17th at 7PM in the Gym. It is guaranteed to put you in the Holiday Spirit!

LECTOR AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTER training will begin in January. Eucharistic Ministers will train on Monday, January 5th & 12th, Lectors will train on Thursday, January 15th & 22nd. Both training sessions will be held at 7PM in the Church. If you are interested in either Ministry, please call the Parish Office to sign up.

NEW YEAR'S EVE EXPOSITION There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on New Year's Eve in the chapel at the priest's residence from 7:30-10:00PM. Please enter the chapel through the doors on Greengarden. On the eve of a New Year we have much to be thankful for – so take some time and spend it before the Lord in prayer. Pray also for peace in our world.

USHER'S ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY will be held in Geiger Hall from 9PM to 2AM. Music by Dynamic Sounds & Digital Thunder Mobile DJs. Tickets are \$25 per person / \$40 per couple or something new this year a \$109 package – includes room for two at Bel-Aire Hotel & hot breakfast, shuttle service from Bel-Aire to party and back and two tickets. Beer, mixers, party hats and noise makers included. For reservations call 455-7537.

A PRAYER FOR OUR PERSONNEL IN THE ARMED FORCES

Lord Jesus, Savior of the World and King of Peace,
Watch over our sons and daughters in the service of their country.
Be with them when they are in danger,
Strengthen them when they face hardships,
Help them and us to live the Commandments.
Lord Jesus, help them to serve their country with honor and dignity.
Above all Lord, grant that when their service is finished,
They may return to us sound in mind, body and soul.
AMEN

ATTENTION TLC MEMBERS AND POSADA PARTICIPANTS On Sunday, December 21st at Noon there will be a rehearsal for the Christmas Eve Posada. If you are wearing a costume, please bring it for the dress rehearsal. After practice we will have pizza & cookies to celebrate the coming of Jesus. Any questions call Maggi at 454-0171 ext 222.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE There will be no Religious Education classes held on Sunday, December 21st, classes will resume on Sunday, January 4th. Have a wonderfully blessed holiday.
Cherish family ~ the best gift of all.

Third Sunday of Advent

OUR PARISH FAMILY

Please pray for all of the sick and shut-in of our Parish Family.

Congratulations to the following Blessed Sacrament Students who earned first honors and were treated to lunch with Mrs.

Kurczewski and Monsignor Magraw at the Golden Corral:
5th Grade – Michael Bednarowicz, Julia Gromacki and Kayley
Jones 7th Grade – Ryan Johannesmeyer

**YOUR PARISH FAMILY IS PROUD OF
YOUR HARD WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

CAN YOU HELP? The school is in need of CD/Cassette players for the classrooms. Currently, several classes share one player and at times it is difficult to locate an available player. Any donations are greatly appreciated.

To the Anonymous Donor:

Thanks so much for your generous gift to the children of the Mission of Friendship in Mexico. Your gift will truly be a light for these children this Christmas. Again, muchas gracias – many thanks – and may your Christmas be filled with many blessings. Sister Ann Hoffman, OSB

CAFETERIA VOLUNTEERS

Monday 12/15 – Marge Wiertel, Rose & John Chulick, Carey Young, Shirley & Jack Kenehan

Tuesday 12/16 – Marie Elsesser, Elaine Snyder, Bill & Rose Schriefer, Mary Juchno, Pam Zbrzezny

Wednesday 12/17 – Joni Medvec, Marion Inman, Ann Chido, Vince & Joan Jaskiewicz, Mary Lou Schroeck, Bev Edwards

Thursday 12/18 – Frank & Marilyn Sowieralski, Marianne Zimmerman, Maggie Cacchione, Lorrie Schumcaher, Cindy Orlando

Friday 12/19 – Sandra Luthringer, Lori Howland, Nancy Makowski, Jack Peterson

31 CLUB VOCATIONS – MASS REMINDERS

Monday 12/15 – Bob Snyderwine

Tuesday 12/16 – Bob & Carolyn Brabender, Ken Akins

Wednesday 12/17 – Virginia Torelli

Thursday 12/18 – Bernie Presutti, John Peterson

Friday 12/19 – Lew Sciamanda

Saturday 12/20 – Joan Braeger

Sunday 12/21 – Pat Ungvarsky, Gerry Fagan

What would I give you, if it were within my power?

I would pray a blessing for you on each of the twelve days of Christmas:

ONE faithful friend to help carry your load.

TWO cups of Christmas cheer – one to savor, one to share.

THREE special gifts for you to give away – one to show love, one to make peace, and one to bring joy.

FOUR hours of quiet solitude in which to dream your fondest dreams for the coming year.

FIVE glorious sunsets unmarred by clouds or crowds.

SIX happy songs to sing of Christmas warmth and gladness.

SEVEN golden threads to run through your life: faith, virtue, knowledge, patience, godliness, kindness and love.

EIGHT precious memories of long ago to keep you forever young.

NINE words of hope to calm your troubled heart. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

TEN minutes of creativity at its height.

ELEVEN smiles from strangers to renew your faith in people.

TWELVE tranquil months of peace and love.

May the Giver of all good gifts bless you with these today and always.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week before the Blessed Sacrament in honor of Dr. Fred Bove from his family.



Monday, December 15 – Advent Weekday

7:00 +Anthony Pizzi / Family

8:00 +Michael Terella / Wife [Wedding Anniversary]

Tuesday, December 16 – Advent Weekday

7:00 +Mary Sciamanda / Joseph Rodrigues

8:00 +Louis Filippo / Mr. & Mrs. Tom Loupe [Birthday]

Wednesday, December 17 – Advent Weekday

7:00 +Edith Magraw / Family [Birthday]

8:00 +Shirley Quinlan / Family

Thursday, December 18 – Advent Weekday

7:00 +Rose Marie Hayes / Carolyn & Bob Brabender [Birth]

8:00 +Hailey Grace Orlando / Greg & Nancy Orlando Family

Friday, December 19 – Advent Weekday

7:00 +Paul A. Ginkel / Family [Anniversary]

8:45 +Edward Wiertel / Family [Anniversary]

Saturday, December 20 – Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:15 +Stephen Radack, Sr. / Family

Sunday, December 21 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 +Donald Geisler / Wife

9:00 +Peter Scalise / Family

11:00 +Winifrid Niebauer / Son – Ted [Birthday]

7:30 *People of the Parish

SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT – DECEMBER 7, 2003

Weekly Need:	\$ 9,798.15	
Adult Offering:	\$ 9,699.00	562 envelopes
Loose Collection:	\$ 682.97	
Youth Offering:	\$ 23.45	58 envelopes
Total:	\$ 10,405.42	

CAPITAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Pledged To Date	\$515,473.06
Paid To Date	\$312,540.65
# of Pledges	699

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Thursday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

Saturday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45



GOD REWARDS THOSE WHO TRUST HIM

If you are anxious about what is going on in your life right now, remind yourself that God rewards faith and trust. While it would be nice to know ahead of time how it will all turn out, it isn't really necessary is it? We know how God acted in the past, and we know that good things happen to people who trust him...

PRACTICAL REASONS NOT TO WORRY

Old Testament writer Sirach cautions, "worry brings on premature old age" (Sirach 30:24). In fact, worry drains energy, reduces confidence, heightens fear, and interferes with positive thought and actions. Avoid worry by living one day at a time. "Do not worry about tomorrow, tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil." (Matthew 6:34).

