Third Sunday of Advent
RCIA Rite of Welcoming
December 12, 2021 – 9am Mass Only

9am: Celebrant
Fr. Jim

Lectors
Charles Crawford
Michele Chesley
(J. McMahon, Alt.)

Advent Wreath
Norman & Cathy Gooding

Musician - Cantor/Choir
S. Logan J. Sheeran

Sacristan:
Deborah Lamb

Worship:
Oretha

Altar Servers
Mariah Cannon
Amy Gooding

Ushers:
V. Ward, M. Pines, Pam Malry

Health Min.
Dr. Davis

E.M.
J. Reid
C. Williams
B. Brewer/Choir

Tech-Audio
K. Lovely
Tech-Video
Kara Dixon

9am: Only Reserve Front Row/Left for RCIA Candidate/Family/Sponsor

ORDER OF THE LITURGY
NO ANNOUNCEMENTS and/or COMMENTARY

BASILICA PROCLAMATION
ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING:
Antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

ENTRANCE PROCESSION:

GREETING
Fr: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. A: Amen.
Fr: The Lord be with you. A: And with your spirit

My brothers and sisters, this truly a day of joy! As we do each Sunday, today we gather in the presence of the Holy Spirit, as we give thanks and praise to God for the gift of Jesus Christ, the anointed one, to whom we offer our love, our honor, our thanks, our entire lives.
Today, we will welcome a baptized candidate who seeks to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church.
You are very important in this rite, for it is the entire Church – those in this community as well as the entire Body of Christ that is beyond the walls of this place – that surrounds her with special care and support as she prepares to be sealed with the gift of the Spirit in confirmation, and take her place with us at the banquet of Christ’s sacrifice. Please be seated as we introduce her.

Fr: Who seeks to complete their Christian initiation?
A member of the RCIA team introduces the candidate as the candidate stands in the midst of the assembly. Be sure to note her baptism, and the circumstances which brought her here.
Tatiane Sistrunk was baptized at Evangelical Church Pentecostal Renewal in Franco da Rocho, São Paulo, Brazil, on June 14, 2015 when was 25. She is married to Scott Ryan Sistrunk, who is a baptized Catholic. They are parents to Miguel Souza, 8 years and Benjamin Sistrunk, 13 months old. They will both be baptized at the Easter Vigil in 2022.

OPENING DIALOGUE AND CANDIDATE’S DECLARATION OF INTENT
As the candidate is introduced, her sponsor comes from the assembly, joins the candidate, and leads the candidate to the priest. The priest asks:
Fr: What do you ask of God’s Church?
   Can: To be accepted for reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church
(Opt) Fr.: Please declare before this community the reasons why you desire to enter more fully in the life of the Church.
   Can: The Candidate responds with a brief personal witness.

AFFIRMATION BY THE SPONSOR AND THE ASSEMBLY
Fr: Sponsor, you now present this candidate to us; are you, ready to help this candidate prepare for reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church?
Sponsor: We are.
Fr: Members of this assembly, this sponsor has spoken in your name, but I ask you as well, for it is your responsibility to journey with this candidate. Are you ready to help them in their preparation?
Assembly: We are.

With hands joined, the priest prays . . .
Fr.: Father of mercy we thank you for these your servants.
You have sought and summoned them in many ways and they have turned to seek you. You have called them today and they have answered in our presence: we praise you, Lord, and we bless you.
All: We praise you, Lord, and we bless you.

SIGNING OF THE CANDIDATES WITH THE CROSS
Fr.: Catechumen and Candidates for reception into full communion, receive the sign of your life in Christ.
   Using the thumb, the sponsors trace a cross on the forehead of the candidate.

~ Receive the cross on your forehead as a reminder of your baptism into Christ’s saving death and resurrection.

Sponsor traces the cross on candidate

choral or cantor and congregation response after each signing.
Response: “Just let me be a follower of Christ”

~ Receive the cross on your ears that you may hear the voice of the Lord. R.
~ Receive the cross on your eyes that you may see the glory of God. R.
~ Receive the cross on your lips that you may respond to the word of God. R.
~ Receive the cross over your heart that Christ may dwell there by faith. R.
~ Receive the cross on your shoulders that you may bear the gentle yoke of Christ. R.
~ Receive the cross on your hands that Christ may be known in the work which you do. R.

~ Receive the cross on your feet that you may walk in the way of Christ. R.

Fr.: I sign you with the sign of eternal life in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Candidates: Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Fr.: Let us pray. . .
Almighty God, by the cross and resurrection of your Son you have given life to your people.
Your servants have received the sign of the cross: make them living proof of its saving power and help them to persevere in the footsteps of Christ.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Fr. Jim: Dear candidate and sponsor, please be seated in the church to share with us at the table of God’s word.

1st READING: Zep 3:14-18a
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!
Sing joyfully, O Israel!
Be glad and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The LORD has removed the judgment against you
he has turned away your enemies;
the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst,
you have no further misfortune to fear.

On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a mighty savior;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
and renew you in his love,
he will sing joyfully because of you,
as one sings at festivals.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Is. 12

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

God indeed is my savior;
I am confident and unafraid.
My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.
With joy you will draw water
at the fountain of salvation.

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name;
among the nations make known his deeds,
proclaim how exalted is his name.

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

On this day, let this be known throughout all the earth.
Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,
for great in your midst
is the Holy One of Israel!

2nd READING: Phil 4:4-7
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:
Rejoice in the Lord always.
I shall say it again: rejoice!
Your kindness should be known to all.
The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with

thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord

The Word of the Lord
**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Alleluia

*Verse: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.*

**GOSPEL:** Luke 3:10-18

+A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke+

The crowds asked John the Baptist, “What should we do?” He said to them in reply, “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He answered them, “Stop collecting more than what is prescribed.” Soldiers also asked him, “And what is it that we should do?” He told them, “Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages.” Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, “I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**HOMILY – Fr. Jim**

Fr.: Would our RCIA Candidate please come forward?

The candidate comes forward, accompanied by her sponsor and faces the assembly. The sponsor carries a new New American Bible to present to the candidate. The priest joins the assembly, and addresses the candidate. As he says the first line, the sponsors present the bible in a way that is clearly seen by the assembly.

Fr: Tatiane, you have asked to be accepted as a candidate for formation in the Roman Catholic way of following Christ. That way includes a particular relationship with the scriptures, which your baptism committed you to develop. Receive now the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

*Profession of Faith is recited.*

**APOSTLE’S CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.
**INTERCESSIONS**

**Fr. Jim:** As we look forward with joy to the birth of the Christ Child, let us open our hearts in prayer to Him and with confidence, seek His generous assistance.

**Our Response is:** “Come, Lord Jesus”

**For the Church:** that like John the Baptist, we may bear faithful witness to the truth of the Gospel – **We pray to the Lord**

**For in authority, in the Church and in society:** that they intimidate others and be ready to share what they have with the poor and needy - **We pray to the Lord**

**May the rise in Covid infections and new strain around the world** not lead us into despair but keep us focused on good practices and the value of the vaccine for all – **We pray to the Lord**

**That the peace of God that surpasses all understanding** will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus - **We pray to the Lord**

**On this Guadete Sunday:** we rejoice that we have been blessed as children of God and thank Him for the many gifts he has bestowed on us, our family and community- **We pray to the Lord**

**For our Candidate Tatiane Sistrunk:** that she may find comfort, challenge and nourishment as she reflects on today’s Scriptures - **We pray to the Lord**

**For all who are ill:** that they may know that the Lord is near with his peace and mercy especially **Matthew Cherry, Anita Pearson, Myles A. Pocta** and **Deacon Charles Williams** – **We pray to the Lord**

**For repose of the soul of Gregory Greahawick** for whom this Mass is being offered - **We pray to the Lord**

**For those who have died:** that they may share in the gift and promise of eternal life, including **John Robert Ward, Shelia Davis, Derek Morgan, James Scott, and Gladys White** - **We pray to the Lord**

**Fr. Jim:** Lord God, draw near to us this Advent season. Help us to see that you are close to us and to live with the peace only you can bring. We make this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE CANDIDATE**

**Fr.:**

Almighty God, source of all creation, you have made us in your image. Receive with love those who come before you. Lead our candidate to a deeper share in the paschal mystery, so that, living a fruitful life in the company of your faithful, she may receive the eternal reward that you promise. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.
PRAYER OVER GIFTS

Music is ended

PREFACE

Fr. Jim: “Blessed are you Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness, we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.”

People: Blessed be God for ever.

Fr. Jim: “Blessed are you Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness, we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become for us our spiritual drink.”

People: Blessed be God for ever.

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full, full of your glory!

Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!

ACCLAMATION (sung)

Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free

Or We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

GREAT AMEN (sung)

LORD’S PRAYER (recited)

GESTURE OF PEACE

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Communion Rite

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

MEDITATION

PRAYER

Please Be Seated Moment

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic (Pfizer, 1st, 2nd and booster for ages 5 & up on Sun., Dec. 12 from 1-4pm here at the Basilica in the Hall

Dec. 18th – Annual Christmas Ball, 6-9pm in the hall, $7/person, $30/table

Basilica Coins available for $15 in the Hall after all Masses

Christmas Schedule: Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve, 7pm Mass and Midnight Mass (concert prior to)

Christmas Day – 10am Mass

Sun., Dec. 26th – one Mass at 10am

Jan. 1st – 5pm Vigil Mass for the Epiphany (Fr. Tim)

Jan. 2nd – 9am & 12 Noon Epiphany

John Robert Ward’s Funeral will be held on Thurs., Dec. 16th @ 11am

Shelia Davis’ Funeral will be held on Fri., Dec. 17th at 11am

RECESSIONAL