



## Rejoice in the Lord always: I say again, rejoice. For the Lord is NEAR!

### LITURGY & PRAYER

#### Sunday Liturgy:

Saturday 5 PM

Sunday 8 & 11 AM

#### Daily Liturgy:

Tuesday-Friday 8 AM

\*The Rosary is prayed at 7:30 AM  
prior to Daily Mass

\*\*First Friday Devotion  
following Mass on first Fridays

#### Eucharistic Adoration:

Wednesday 8:30-7:30 PM

#### Reconciliation:

Wednesday 5:30-6:30 PM

Saturday 3:30-4:30 PM

### CONNECT

OLBH.ORG

OLBH@OLBH.ORG

@Our Lady of the Black Hills

on Facebook and Instagram

605-787-5168

Office Hours: M-F 8:30-3 PM

### CLERGY

Pastor Andrzej Wyrstek

#### Permanent Deacons:

Deacon Walt Wilson, Retired

Deacon John Osnes

Deacon Greg Sass

Deacon Phillip Thompson

### STAFF

Lorraine Rieth-Ptacek –

Director of Liturgy & Music

Lorinda Collins – Bookkeeper

Mary Marich – Coordinator of

Faith Formation PreK-6

Angela Hart – Coordinator of

Evangelization & Grade 7-

Adult Faith Formation

Todd Phillipe – Maintenance

Chloe Allen – Housekeeping

Katie Harwood – Admin Assist  
& SEC

Traditionally, these words were sung or chanted at the beginning of Mass, on the 3rd Sunday of Advent which is known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is Latin for Rejoice and we are joyful today because we are just over a week away from Christmas. We find ourselves busily or frantically making our final preparations to celebrate the arrival of the Christ child into our midst. The church joins in this eager anticipation by counting down these days in a special way through the recitation of the “O” Antiphons. These antiphons also known as the Great Antiphons are used with the Magnificat during the evening prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours from December 17–23. The antiphons are based on Isaiah’s prophecies and reveal the different titles given to the Messiah.

O Sapientia (O Wisdom) Isaiah 11:2–3; 28:29

O Adonai (O Lord) Isaiah 11:4–5; 33:22

O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse) Isaiah 1:1; 11:10

O Clavis David (O Key of David) Isaiah 9:6; 22:22

O Oriens (O Rising Sun) Isaiah 9:1

O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations) Isaiah 9:5; 2:4

O Emmanuel (God with us) Isaiah 7:14

Since each antiphon is short, it can be helpful to take some time to read, ponder, and pray with them each day as a way to prepare the heart, mind, and soul for Christmas.

**December 17 - O Sapientia:** O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

**December 18 - O Adonai:** O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

**December 19 - O Radix Jesse:** O Root of Jesse’s stem, sign of God’s love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

**December 20 - O Clavis David:** O Key of David, opening the gates of God’s eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

**December 21 - O Oriens:** O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**December 22 - O Rex Gentium:** O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

**December 23 - O Emmanuel:** O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

If one starts with the last title and takes the first letter of each Latin word - Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia - the Latin words Ero Cras are formed, meaning, Tomorrow, I will come. Therefore, the Lord Jesus, whose coming we have prepared for in Advent and whom we have addressed in these seven Messianic titles, now speaks to us, Tomorrow, I will come. So, the O Antiphons not only bring intensity to our Advent preparation, but bring it to a joyful conclusion. – Dcn. Phillip

(For fun look at the lyrics for ‘O Come ,O Come Emmanuel’)

Knights of Columbus

# Christmas

brisket or pork loin

\$130/brisket or \$50/pork loin

Make checks to Knights of Columbus at pickup

## PICK UP 12/20 at OLBH



### MONTHLY OLBH EVENTS

THIS WEEKEND  
16-17

**St. Vincent de Paul Bake Sale**  
Following all Masses  
Please deliver bake sale items by noon.

SUNDAY  
12/17

**Children's Christmas Program**  
12:15 PM  
In the Church.

TUESDAY  
12/19

**St. Vincent de Paul Meeting**  
6 PM  
In the library.

THURSDAY  
12/21

**Christmas Concert w/ Fr. Andrzej**  
6 PM  
IAAt Terra Sancta, Holy Cross Chapel.

**4th Sunday of Advent**  
5 PM Mass on 12/23  
8 & 11 AM Mass on 12/24

**Christmas**  
4 & 8 PM Mass on 12/24  
9 AM Mass on 12/25

MONDAY  
1/1

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**  
Mass at 9 AM.

TUESDAY  
1/3

**Coffee & Desserts**  
Following 8 AM Mass  
In St. Joseph's Hall.

## Deck a yard!

★ OLBH Youth Fundraiser

**How it works**  
The Deck a yard Fundraiser for Advent and Christmas will decorate yards in Black Hawk, Piedmont, and Summerset. This is a fun way to surprise neighbors, friends, grandparents, or the homebound of our parish to show them they are loved! Call the church office at (605)787-5168 or email [angela.hart@olbh.org](mailto:angela.hart@olbh.org) for more information.



19 students from OLBH will attend the Steubenville of the Rockies conference this June. Help support their journey to encounter the Eucharist.

Our Lady of the Black Hills - Piedmont

# Christmas Mass Schedule

The Nativity of the Lord Vigil Mass  
24 December at 4 PM

The Nativity of the Lord Mass  
24 December at 8 PM  
(Christmas Night)

The Nativity of the Lord Mass  
25 December at 9 AM



Mass of the 4th Sunday of Advent will be celebrated on 23 December at 5 PM & 24 December at 8 & 11 AM. This will fulfill your Sunday obligation. Attending a Christmas Mass will fulfill your obligation to attend Mass on Christmas, a holy day of obligation. Please plan to attend Mass twice this weekend to fulfill your obligation as a good Catholic.

## Join Us!

**THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 21 | 6-8:30 PM  
HOLY CROSS CHAPEL  
[TERRA SANCTA]**

6 PM CANDLELIGHT READING OF JESUS BIRTH

6:30 PM CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
FEATURING MICHELLE SKOOG  
WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
FR. ANDRZEJ WYROSTEK

COOKIE & COFFEE RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



## Children's Christmas Program

**Sunday, December 17  
12:30 PM**

**Our Lady of the Black Hills**

All are welcome!





## CURSILLO

Men's Group

Saturdays at 7 AM

Our Lady of the Black Hills - Piedmont

\*Begins January 6th

The Cursillo Movement is a movement of the Catholic Church, where the lay faithful working together with our priests and bishops, use the Cursillo method to find, form, sustain and link Lay Leaders for Christ and His church.

Call Justin Carlin at 605-484-2151.



WEEKLY SCHEDULE Pss III

\*The Rosary is prayed at 7:30 AM prior to daily Mass.

**Monday, December 18**

7:30 AM Early Bird Bible Study  
6:30 PM RCIA in St. Joseph's Hall

**Tuesday, December 19**

8 AM Mass for the repose of T.C. Waits  
6 PM St. Vincent de Paul Meeting

**Wednesday, December 20**

8 AM Mass for the wellbeing of Starette Nash  
8:30-7:30 PM Adoration  
NO Faith Formation  
5:30-6:30 PM Confessions

**Thursday, December 21**

Saint Peter Canisius, Priest  
8 AM Mass for the wellbeing of George Matthews  
9 AM 'Just Men' Bible Study  
9 AM Gospel of John Study  
6 PM Christmas Caroling with Michelle Skoog and special guest Fr. Andrzej at Terra Sancta in Holy Cross Chapel

**Friday, December 22**

8 AM Mass for the wellbeing of Halina Hladysz

**Saturday, December 23**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT VIGIL  
3:30-4:30 PM Confessions  
5 PM Mass for the communities of Our Lady of the Black Hills and our sister parishes of Bullhead, Kenel, and McLaughlin

**Sunday, December 24**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
8 AM Mass for the repose of Helen and Gabe Valades  
11 AM Mass for the wellbeing of Luke VonBank and family

CHRISTMAS, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

4 PM Christmas Vigil Mass for the repose of Judy Berry  
8 PM Christmas in the Night Mass for the repose of Devyn Siemieniak

**Monday, December 25**

CHRISTMAS - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD  
9 AM Christmas in the Day Mass for the repose of Alan Kinney

***\*Mass of the 4th Sunday of Advent will be celebrated December 23 at 5 PM and December 24 at 8 and 11 AM. This will fulfill your Sunday obligation.***  
***\*\*Attending Christmas Mass, December 24 at 4 & 8 PM or December 25 at 9 AM, will fulfill your obligation to attend Mass on Christmas, a holy day of obligation.***

***\*\*\*Please plan to attend Mass twice this weekend to fulfill your obligation as a good Catholic.\*\*\****

WEEKLY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

12/23 5 PM 4th Sunday of Advent Mass with Fr. Andrzej  
Altar Servers: Westin E. (lead), Emmett and Talia Edwards  
Lectors: Teresa Thompson (1st), DeWayne Yantes (2nd)  
Hospitality: Ken and Pam Freeman  
Sacristan: Cindy Creager  
Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Phillip Thompson

12/24 8 AM 4th Sunday of Advent Mass with Fr. Andrzej  
Altar Servers: Fred W. (lead) Reese Sazama  
Lectors: Lynelle Sazama (1st), Joyce Williamson (2nd)  
Hospitality: Mike and Barb Coyle  
Sacristan: Barb and Gary Erickson  
Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Phillip Thompson

12/24 11 AM 4th Sunday of Advent Mass with Fr. Andrzej  
Altar Servers: Dan Pribil (lead) Esperanza and Yazmin E.  
Lectors: NOT FILLED (1st), NOT FILLED (2nd)  
Hospitality: LuElla and Jim Grieve  
Sacristan: Stacy Tate  
Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Phillip Thompson

12/24 4 PM Christmas Vigil Mass with Fr. Andrzej  
Altar Servers: Fred W. (lead) Dominic, Issac, and Luke H.  
Lectors: Joni Osnes (1st), Lori Caouette (2nd)  
Hospitality: Tracy and Kimberly Cook, Richard and Cathy Long  
Sacristan: Cindy Creager  
Eucharistic Minister: Deacon John Osnes, NOT FILLED

12/24 8 PM Christmas at Night Mass with Fr. Andrzej  
Altar Servers: Andrew D. (lead) Matthew D. and Emerson H.  
Lectors: Joyce Williamson (1st), Bernie Usera (2nd)  
Hospitality: Alan and Marie Rundell  
Sacristan: Emma and Bruce Lehman  
Eucharistic Minister: Deacon John Osnes (Blood), John Usera (Blood), Larry Williamson (Body)

12/25 9 AM Christmas in the Day Mass with Fr. Andrzej  
Altar Servers: Kaleb Arellano (lead) NOT FILLED  
Lectors: Dave Allardyce (1st), Brenda Flottmeyer (2nd)  
Hospitality: Gary, Sandy, Eric, and Marie Langfeldt  
Sacristan: Jan Evans  
Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Phillip Thompson

STEWARDSHIP

"All good giving and every perfect gift is from above" (Jas 1:17)			
December 9-10, 2023			
	Automatic	Basket	Total
Adopt a Seminarian	54	45	99
Sunday Collection	3,263	8,333	11,596
Building Fund	44	10	54
PV Food Pantry	-	-	150
Priest Retirement	2		12
Immaculate Conception			833
Christmas Flowers			220
Total Contribution	3,364	8,388	12,964.44

Did you know that OLBH is a Stewardship Parish? We ask that you give us your time, talents, and treasure to support our wonderful parish. In return we will utilize your gifts and talents to provide the resources, facilities, and events to aid you in your journey of faith. Please prayerfully consider automatic contributions via electronic withdrawal at [www.olbh.org/donate](http://www.olbh.org/donate).

# PRAYER MINISTRIES

**PRAYER CHAIN** To add an intention to the OLBH prayer chain text Shanesa Rhodes at 605-786-4240 or email [shanesarhodes@gmail.com](mailto:shanesarhodes@gmail.com).

**MASS INTENTIONS** To request a Mass Intention please fill out the envelope on the back counter of the Narthex or call the office at 605-787-5168.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** To obtain a prayer blanket, contact the office at 605-787-5168.

**COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND** If you or a family member are sick and would like Communion from a priest or lay extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, please call the office at 605-787-5168.

**ANointing OF THE SICK** If you or a family member has been diagnosed with an illness, are preparing for surgery, or in the case of serious illness, call the office to request the sacrament at 605-787-5168.

## Intentions of the Holy Father for December

Pope's Intention: For persons with disabilities. We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

## NECROLOGY

To remember in prayer for the repose of their souls those whose death are recorded in the parish; and the bishops, priests, and deacons that served in the Diocese of Rapid City. We pray for:

- December 18 Rev. Albert Grueter, S.J. (1967)  
Leona Maria Jensen (2012)
- December 19 Rev. Francis P. Besendorfer(1946)  
Mary Arlene Ricard (2005)
- December 20 Rev. Joachim Huwylet, O.S.B. (1899)  
Rev. Louis Gall, S.J. (1959)  
Rev. Richard A. Plante (2001)
- December 22 Mrs. Joe Ricard (1942)  
Marc L. Farabee (1987)
- December 23 Rev. Florentien Dignam, S.J. (1931)  
Shirley A. Foight (2001)  
Mary Kay Young (2012)  
Darwyn F. Stebbins (2017)
- December 24 Msgr. James P. Walsh (1968)  
Rev. William M. Philbin (2000)  
Deacon Eugene Heckathorne (2014)  
Lloyd Francis Foight (2003)

## SAFE ENVIRONMENT

The Catholic Diocese of Rapid City is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for our young people. To report allegations of sexual abuse by church personnel, contact the Victim Assistance coordinator, **Barbara Scherr**. To ensure confidentiality in her outreach to victims, she can be contacted privately by phone at **1-605-209-3418**. All calls will be treated confidentially. Alleged victims are advised of their right to report alleged abuse to civil authorities. *In accordance with diocesan policy, all allegations of sexual misconduct involving children or young people by priests, deacons, lay employees, or volunteers in the Diocese of Rapid City will be investigated.*

**PRAYER REQUESTS FOR OUR ILL & HOMEBOUND** Call 605-787-5168 to add a name to the prayer list. These individuals are in special need of your prayers.

We pray for Edwin and Omel Weaver (parents of Bob), Blanche Rieth, Jean Schacher, Bernard Wiehl, Mary Ann Pulaski, Cap & Arlene Holzer, Linda Schacher, Tony Corbine, Joe George, Tim Curns, Dean & Mary Antonsen, Carol Michaelson (mother of Linda Schacher), Joyce de Paulo, Charlene Mizenko, John Mizenko, The Nally Family, Jean Scheope, Tim Keller (son in law of the Holzers), Joe Vetch, Crescencia Yanez, Iris Overholt, Lenny Tellefson, Mary-Elizabeth Crane (sister of Sheila), Sheila Keeler, Deb Bickford, Karen & Dennis Lau, Kathleen Leutenegger, Ted Schurman, Ruthann Koch, Lyn Gerving, Fr. Andrzej Wyrstek, Elizabeth Ravellette, Rayola Anderson, Patty Creek, Irene Katzenstein, Bishop Peter Muhich, Scotty Hudson, Gary Sexton, Bryan Champagne, Nancy Gamage, Brett Whealy, Thomas Koska, Alan Anderson, Julyla Carollio, Steve Harwood

**FOR THE DEPLOYED MILITARY** We pray for Andrew Lucchesi

**FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED** We pray for the repose of the soul of Sid Pulaski

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

The weekly readings are on the USCCB.org website.  
Monday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25  
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25  
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38  
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 Lk 1:39-45  
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd Lk 1:46-56  
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 Lk 1:57-66  
Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38



DAKOTA CHORAL UNION  
presents

# CHRISTMAS at the CATHEDRAL

3:00 pm, December 17

Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 520 Cathedral Drive, Rapid City, SD

Featuring special guest artists Bill Evans, Anthony Nesland, and C  ra Fried

Artistic Director & Conductor | Ellen Shirley  
Assistant Director | Lindsey Torgerson  
Collaborative Pianist | Andrew Belsaas

Admission is free with a donation of non-perishable food items for Church Response.

[dakotachoralunion.org](http://dakotachoralunion.org)

## Coats for Kids Bowling Tournament

Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, Knights of Columbus Council 8025, St. Therese Church, will host a bowling tournament at Meadowood Lanes, Rapid City. Proceeds will be used to purchase new coats for children at the Black Hills Children's Home Society. Registration opens at 1 p.m., bowling begins at 1:30 p.m. Fee \$20 each or \$80 for a four-person team. Questions can go to John Schlim 605-390-1584 or email [jschlim1@gmail.com](mailto:jschlim1@gmail.com).

## Eucharistic Congress Prices best before Jan. 1, 2024

Bishop Peter Muhich invites you to join him for this historic event! Open registration is ready for people who would like to attend the 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis July 17-21, 2024. Get ready for a packed roster of great national speakers. A \$250 deposit is needed to secure registration. A deposit of \$500 is required by Jan. 1, 2024, for best prices. The balance is due April 17, 2024. Prices vary from \$649 up to \$1,249 depending on family, double occupancy, or single person hotel room. Prices include deluxe motorcoach, hotel, Congress pass, specified meals, and daily transportation from hotel to Lucas Oil Stadium. Go to <https://www.rapidcitydiocese.org/congress24/>.

JANUARY 26-27, 2024

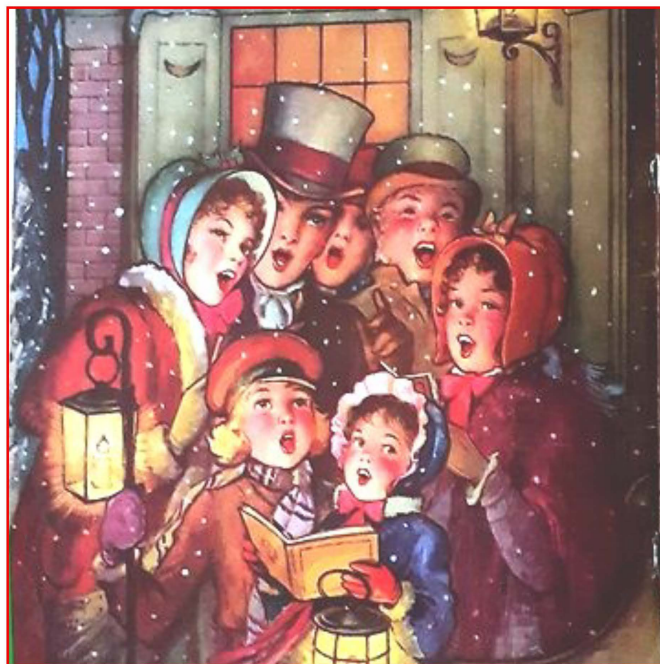
# REFUEL

conference for religious educators

APOLOGETICS FOR AN AGE OF UNBELIEF

MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:  
[RAPIDCITYDIOCESE.ORG/REFUEL](http://RAPIDCITYDIOCESE.ORG/REFUEL)

The "KW Players" Catholic Youth Theatre Troupe  
presents  
**A Yuletide Musical Revue**  
featuring Songs of the Season, Showtunes, and more  
performed by the families of the KW Players!



**Sunday, December 17, 2023 @ 4:00pm**

at the Blessed Sacrament Church Theatre Room  
(4500 Jackson Blvd/Rapid City)

—Admission is FREE/seating is limited—  
This performance is appropriate for ages 8 yrs. and up.  
A nursery will be provided in the upstairs area.

The KW Players Theatre Troupe was formed to carry on the spiritual, cultural, and artistic legacy of the Rhapsodic Theatre, a Polish underground theatre company co-founded by Karol Wojty  a (Pope Saint John Paul II) in the 1940s in opposition to Nazi oppression.

## South Dakota March for Life

Join youth and young adults for a pilgrimage to South Dakota's State Capitol Rotunda in Pierre to on Saturday, **January 28, 2024**. South Dakota will likely be voting on the issue of abortion in the Fall of 2024... the battle for the sanctity of life is at our doorstep, and we are called to action! The March for Life will feature guest speaker Governor Kristi Noem, keynote speaker Bishop DeGrood, student pro-life essay winners from across the state, and music by The Bruse Family. Following the program, we will join Ft. Pierre for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Mass, dinner, and fellowship before returning to Rapid City that evening.

### Pierre, SD March for Life

January 28, 2024 - 7:00am Departure (MT), Return Time around 9:00pm (MT)

Open to all high school and college-age students.  
Cost: \$35 for round trip bus ride from Rapid City - limited seating.

Register at: [rapidcitydiocese.org/marchforlife24](http://rapidcitydiocese.org/marchforlife24)





*St. Vincent de Paul*

## HOME VISIT TRAINING

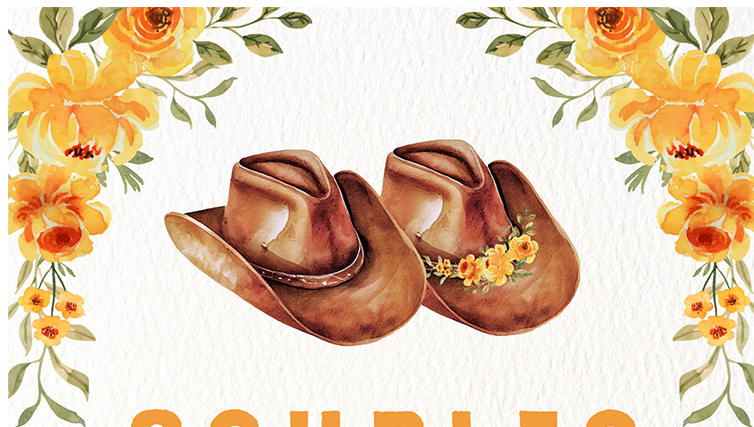
CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT'S  
INVOLVED IN A HOME VISIT?

*Join us for training!*

BLESSED SACRAMENT  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
PARISH HALL

JANUARY 13, 2024 | 9:00AM TO 12:00 NOON

ALL ARE WELCOME,  
THERE WILL BE FOOD!  
PLEASE RSVP TO RITA  
AT (605) 381-4988



## COUPLES BEGINNER COUNTRY SWING

January 12, 19, 26, & February 2

7-8:30 PM | BSC Parish Hall | \$55/person

SIGN UP ON OUR WEBSITE OR SCAN THE QR CODE



## RULES *for* the discernment of SPIRITS

A Weekly Workshop  
Series presented by  
Susan Safford

Not every thought you have comes from you. Thoughts may come from God, they may come from you, or they may come from the enemy. We are in a spiritual battle, and the Lord is seeking to draw us nearer to himself, while the enemy is trying to keep us from him.

Inspired by God and attentive to the movements of the heart, Ignatius developed rules for the discernment of spirits, as part of his Spiritual Exercises, that we may be better able to distinguish between those movements that are of God, that we may receive them, and those that are not, that we may reject them. In this 6-week course, we'll discuss the first set of rules for discernment and seek to apply them to practical experience.

**Tuesdays**  
**January 23**  
*through*  
**February 27**  
**7:00-8:30pm**

[terrasancta.org/discern](https://terrasancta.org/discern)



## Duc in Altum Diocese of Rapid City

BECOME A MISSIONARY IN SUMMER 2024

Are you a college student looking for a summer of evangelization, service, prayer, discernment and fun all while traveling the Black Hills and Prairie of South Dakota? Consider applying to be a missionary for the Diocese of Rapid City's Duc in Altum Program and teach our youth grades 1-12 about getting to know Jesus through the Creed of our faith and the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary.



Applications for Duc in Altum Summer 2024 are now open!

APPLICATIONS ONLINE AT [GODS-CALL.COM](https://GODS-CALL.COM)  
Contact our Vocations Office: [tcooper@diorc.org](mailto:tcooper@diorc.org), 605-343-3541



*Our Lady of the Black Hills exists  
to proclaim the joy of the Gospel  
to all creation and to transform  
lives with the Father's mercy.*





December 17, 2023

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Third Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2A, 10-11 | 1 Thes 5:16-24 | Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

### **GROW** AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.” Such simple words from today’s second reading. And yet it is not always easy to put them into practice. It is difficult to rejoice if we or people we love are hurting. It can be hard to pray when life is pulling us in a thousand different directions. But on this Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of rejoicing, we are asked to focus on a truth that can make both rejoicing and praying easier: Jesus entered humanity in flesh and blood to save us from our sins. This truth means that even if we don’t feel like there is much gladness or joy in our lives today, we can rejoice in the knowledge that we all have the chance to spend eternity in a place where pain, disappointment and suffering will be no more. With our eyes focused on that prize, praying can become a natural part of our days.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Sometimes, I can make everything so complicated. I want to create charts and checklists to ensure that I am doing everything just right. But St. Paul’s words today make me realize that living well is really not that complicated. He writes: “Retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.” That’s it! Of course, while this is not complicated, it does require us to make prayerful, faithful efforts toward this end – and it is an end for which God has given us his grace, the help of the Church, and the prayers of our brothers and sisters in Christ. This includes St. Paul, who prays for us, “May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” This is what is good in these dark days of Advent: the light of Christ is coming into our world. The Gospel says that John the Baptist testified to this truth – to the light. We can too! Let us continue to pray, to rejoice and to give thanks for God’s gifts, especially the gift of his Son.

**SING** *Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the star, is on the way.*

Please let these advertisers know you saw their ad in the OLBH bulletin!



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