



# Blessed Trinity

Catholic Church

December 15th, 2019

WEEKEND MAGAZINE

3rd Sunday of Advent



## How to foster true Christian joy on Gaudete Sunday

*Pope Benedict XVI distinguishes between worldly joy and the joy that endures.*

By: Philip Kosloski

The Fourth Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday, referring to the opening Antiphon often sung at Mass, Gaudete in Domino semper (Rejoice in the Lord always). It is a day that signals the upcoming conclusion to the Advent season.

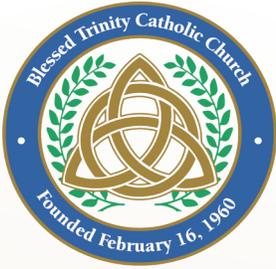
For this reason, the Church urges the faithful to “rejoice,” as the time of penance and fasting is drawing to an end, making way for Christmas, a season of joy and feasting.

However, what does the Church mean by joy?

Pope Benedict XVI in an Angelus message in 2011, explained the difference between two types of joy.

*The liturgy of this Sunday, known as “Gaudete” Sunday, is a special invitation to us to joyfulness, to a vigilance that is not sad but happy. “Gaudete in Domino semper,” St. Paul wrote: “Rejoice in the Lord always” (Phil 4:4). True joy is not a fruit of “divertirsi” [having a good time] understood in the etymological sense of the word di-vertere (di-version), that is, shirking the commitments of life and one’s responsibilities.*

Article cont’d inside

**PASTOR**

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

**DEACONS**Deacon Bill Lovelace  
Deacon John Schaefer**PASTOR EMERITUS**Msgr. Anton Dechering  
Retired**CLERGY ASSISTANCE**Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM  
Fr. Tom Kirchhoefer,  
VA Chaplain  
Fr. Victor Bartolotta**MASS SCHEDULE**Saturday: 4:00 PM Vigil  
Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 am**HOLY DAYS**8, 9:30 am & 7 pm  
Weekdays: 8:00 am  
Saturday: 8:00 am**RECONCILIATION**Saturdays  
3:00 -3:45 pm  
or by Appointment1600 54TH AVE S.  
ST. PETERSBURG, FL  
33712PHONE  
(727) 867-3663FAX  
(727) 864-2679**WEB SITE**  
<http://btsp.org>

*True joy is linked to something deeper. Of course, in the all too often frenetic pace of daily life it is important to find time for rest and relaxation, but true joy is linked to our relationship with God. Those who have encountered Christ in their own lives feel a serenity and joy in their hearts that no one and no situation can take from them. St. Augustine understood this very well; in his quest for truth, peace and joy, after seeking them in vain in many things he concluded with his famous words: “and our heart is restless until it rests in God” (cf. Confessions, I, 1, 1).*

Benedict expands on this definition of joy, explaining how “True joy is not merely a passing state of mind or something that can be achieved with the person’s own effort; rather it is a gift, born from the encounter with the living Person of Jesus and, making room within ourselves, from welcoming the Holy Spirit who guides our lives. It is the invitation of the Apostle Paul who says: ‘May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ’ (1 Thessalonians 5:23).”

This means that Christian joy is not something we can grasp at or invent, but something we receive from a personal relationship with God. It is something we receive “from the encounter with the living Person of Jesus.”

If we want to foster Christian joy during this Advent season, we must deepen our own relationship with God. Then, and only then, will we possess a joy that the world can’t take away.

No matter what happens in our lives, if we stay rooted in Jesus Christ, we will be able to emanate a joy that far surpasses any momentary joy we may feel on earth. It is a joy that endures and brings us life everlasting.

**Blessed Trinity’s Christmas Schedule****Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve**4:00 p.m. - Children’s Christmas Vigil Mass  
9:00 pm. - Christmas of the Night & Solemn Opening Mass of  
The 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Year of Faith**Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day**

Masses at regular Sunday Mass times of 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m.,

**Job Opportunity**

**Do You Have a Heart for Helping Women facing the Difficulties of Pregnancy?** Foundations of Life is seeking a full-time Pregnancy Center Manager. The Manager is responsible for support and provision of direct and indirect client services and program administration. Services include: pregnancy tests, options counseling, limited ultrasound, pregnancy & parenting education, mentoring, adoption information & referrals, and post abortion support. We will train you! Qualifications: Excellent oral, written, and interpersonal skills, able to make effective presentations, and be familiar provision and marketing of social programs. Previous experience in client services, case management, volunteer support, business and/or social services and fundraising a plus. Some weekends and nights required. Bi-Lingual, Spanish/English a plus. For Job Description, Job Posting, or to apply contact: Rose Llauget, [rllauget@ccdosp.org](mailto:rllauget@ccdosp.org), 727-599-9122.

# THOUGHTS WORTH SHARING

By Rev. Wayne C. Genereux, Pastor

## 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Year of Faith Tickets Still Available

Tickets are still available at \$30.00 per person for The 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Year of Faith Charity Event. January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 4:00 p.m. Mass of Thanksgiving followed by dinner in the Parish Center. Bishop Gregory L. Parkes will join us for Mass and dinner.

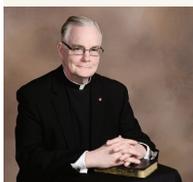
Tickets may be purchased at the parish office or the gift shop. Credit card payments can be processed at the parish office Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**There will be no tickets available at the door.**



*You're Invited*

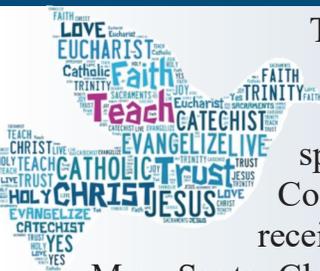
*You're invited to the Solemn Opening Mass of  
Blessed Trinity's 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Year of Faith  
Christmas Eve Mass of the night, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
at 9:00 p.m.*



"Thoughts Worth Sharing" is written by:  
Fr. Wayne C. Genereux, Pastor  
727-867-3663  
pastor@btsp.org



## Family Faith Catechesis



This past Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated our Santa pancake breakfast sponsored by our Knights of Columbus. Our children received a present from Mr. And Mrs. Santa Claus. Just a reminder, our family faith formation will not meet until next year in January. We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



# ARE YOU NEW?

## What to Expect at Blessed Trinity

### Welcoming

Our parishioners love meeting new people and sharing their lives with others. You'll also be greeted by some of the **most welcoming people you've ever met at a Church** - and we're not just talking about the Hospitality team.

### Family Focused

If you have children, they are ALWAYS welcome to celebrate Mass with the community! Our **Family Faith Formation** program invites the whole family to participate in learning about the faith.

### Dynamic Worship

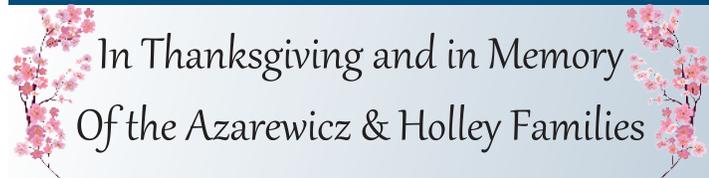
Throughout the Mass, you'll be encouraged and invigorated by the community's full, conscious, and active participation in the Liturgy. **Our Community loves to SING!** From traditional hymns to contemporary worship music, the word of God is proclaimed in a dynamic fashion. The homilies are geared towards challenging our parishioners to become better Christians.

### A Church Unlike Any Other

There's so much more to talk about! Our Parish is a wonderful, dynamic community and we welcome you to celebrate liturgy with us this weekend!

It doesn't matter if this is your first time, 50<sup>th</sup> time, or first time in 50 years - know that you always have a place to worship, and a community to belong to at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church.

To learn more, visit  
**WWW.BTSP.ORG**

**This Weekend's Flowers****40 Days for Life Update**

New updates and figures keep pouring in from the 40 Days headquarters in Bryan, Texas. The most recent Great News is now it is confirmed that 738 babies have been saved! **This now puts the total number of lives saved during 40 Days Campaigns at over 16,000!**

How great it is to also see 5 more abortion workers quit the ugly abortion business, following the lead of Abby Johnson of "Unplanned" fame.

It is hoped that Blessed Trinity Parishioners will continue the practice of coming out to pray to end abortion in front of the abortion clinic at 4131 Central Avenue, especially during our "911", praying every Saturday morning in front of the abortion mill between the hours of 9 to 11. God bless you all and we hope to see you there!



Your 40 Days for Life contact:  
Rich & Linda Maloney  
727-258-7406  
Rmaloney67@gmail.com

**What is the Second Collection For?**

This week's second collection is for APA. Thank you for your continued support!

**Join Us for Mass in Italiano!**

Join us Sunday, December 29th 2019 at 4:00 PM for Messa in Italiano in Mary's Chapel, Cathedral of St. Jude. 5815 - 5th Avenue N., St. Petersburg, FL, Fr. Arthur Proulx, Rector. Please come to pray and sing in ITALIANO (Italian) Celebrant: Fr. Anthony M. Fortunato, O. de M. (Mercedarian Friar) Questions? Call by phone: 727 - 347 - 9702

**Jubilee Gala Tickets Still Available!**

There are still \$30 tickets available for The 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Year of Faith Gala! Tickets will be for sale through January 15<sup>th</sup>. Tickets can be purchased in the parish office by cash, check, or credit card.

**MASS****Third Sunday of Advent**

**Sat., Dec. 14** - Mem. of St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor

8:00 a.m. Leonard Fron (dec)

4:00 p.m. James Lawler (dec)

**Sun., Dec. 15** - Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Frank Zaweski (dec)

9:30 a.m. Blessed Trinity Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Helga Jasper (dec)  
& Jay Holser (dec)

**Mon., Dec. 16**

8:00 a.m. Yvonne Lewis (liv)

& Francesco Sclafani (liv)

**Tues., Dec. 17**

8:00 a.m. Lucy Beddoe (dec)

**Wed., Dec. 18**

8:00 a.m. Vocations

**Thurs., Dec. 19**

8:00 a.m. Msgr. Anton Dechering (liv)

**Fri., Dec. 20**

8:00 a.m. A. Frederick Susi (dec)

**Sat., Dec. 21**

8:00 a.m. Marina Vasquez (dec)

4:00 p.m. Merlene & Lionel Roberts (liv)  
& Clea Fernandes (dec)

**Sun., Dec. 22** - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Richard Marer (dec)

9:30 a.m. Blessed Trinity Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Clea Fernandes (dec)  
& Jay Holser (dec)

**SACRAMENTS****Are You Looking to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?****Matrimony**

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

**Baptism**

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the Baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the Pre-Baptism Class before scheduling a Baptism.

**Office Hours**

Mon. - Fri. 9 am - 4 pm  
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm

## Reflecting on the Gospel

John the Baptist's presence features prominently in the gospel today. Though we are in the midst of Jesus' ministry and John is in prison, he has a question for the would-be Christ: "Are you the one who is to come / or should we look for another?" Though it might be surprising to us, it seems as though Jesus did not fit the expectations of John the Baptist! Two thousand years later, we see these figures through the eyes of faith and so it can be difficult to place ourselves in the context of their day.

John the Baptist had been preaching fiery judgment, imminent wrath. Last week's gospel itself states this message quite plainly. In John's mind, the one to come would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The winnowing fan is in his hand. The chaff will be burned in an unquenchable fire. But then John is arrested and imprisoned, and Jesus begins preaching and doing mighty deeds. There is not the judgment that John expected. Thus, he sends his own disciples from his imprisonment with an astonishing question for Jesus. Had John gotten it wrong? Is Jesus the one? Or is there another?

For his part, Jesus does not respond with a simple "yes" or "no" answer. He responds by sending John's disciples back to him with a report of what they have seen and heard. Jesus reviews some of his deeds in alluding to the prophet Isaiah. He then concludes with an ominous beatitude that seems to be addressed to John directly: "Blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

In the Gospel of Matthew we do not have a story of John and Jesus as cousins, as Luke would have it. Instead, Matthew tells us something that might be closer to the historical picture. Perhaps John misunderstood Jesus and his mission. Perhaps John even took offense at what Jesus was preaching and what he was doing. Jesus' words and actions were not what John had expected.

Jesus reminds the one who baptized him that among other things, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news preached to them. This is the mission of the Christ sent by God. Though John is greater than any person, the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he. Nowhere does it say how John responded to this beatitude addressed specifically to him. That silence speaks volumes. Jesus' mission is proclaiming this kingdom and creating it. Let us not take offense at his priorities, even if they are not our own. Instead, let us align ourselves with the Christ sent by God, assisting in proclaiming and creating the kingdom in our own day and time.

Expectations can be lofty things and it is disappointing when we see someone fall short or when we ourselves fall short. Then again, how often are we held to expectations beyond our ability or opposed to our own priorities? If and when we fail to meet the expectations of others, especially when we've had no say in those expectations, the fallout may be significant. Not many of us like to be told what we need to do or how we need to do it. So it is incumbent upon us not to lay unrealistic or uninformed expectations on others either. Today we learn about John's expectations for Jesus, the one he baptized. John was likely offended at Jesus' behavior and preaching because it was not what he had foretold. The disconnect was so great that John wondered if there was someone else who was to come. This is a good reminder for us to temper our expectations of others. We are ultimately responsible for ourselves, not anyone else. We can let God raise up in others the special gifts, talents, and abilities given to them. We would do well to let die any desire to control others through the expectations we might place on them.

### Offertory 11-24

Offertory Collection	\$5,727.30
Christmas Flowers	\$1,156
Campaign for Human Dev.	\$1,837
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$8,720.30</b>
St. Vincent de Paul	\$524

**November Online Giving** \$3,880

### Offertory 12-01

Offertory Collection	\$7,443
Building Fund	\$460
Employee Appreciation Bonus	\$1,841
Thanksgiving	\$1,364
Mailed-in Offertory	\$4,279
Rental	\$3,000
Special Donation	\$2,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$20,387</b>

### Offertory 12-08

Offertory Collection	\$5,883.30
Immaculate Conception	\$1,134
Christmas Flowers	\$30
Employee Appreciation Bonus	\$45
Religious Retirement Fund	\$575
Advent Mission	\$25
Gift Shop	\$119
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$7,811.30</b>
St. Vincent de Paul	\$505



## This Week at Blessed Trinity

Sun. 12/15	2:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Senior Luncheon	Parish Center
Mon. 12/16	7:00 p.m.	Prayer Meeting	FFR
Wed. 12/18	6:30 p.m.	Choir	Choir Room
Thurs. 12/19	5:00 p.m.	SVDP Meeting	Room 4
Sat. 12/21	7:00 p.m.	Women's AA	Room 4
Ongoing Saturdays	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Prayer to End Abortion All Women's Health Care	4131 Central Ave, St. Petersburg, 33713

## Healing for Our Suffering Church



Please join us for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Every first Friday of the month for the near future, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass we will have Eucharistic exposition, homily, meditation, and benediction at 10:00 a.m. You might want to pray for healing and for the victims of the scandal. Invest one hour with God, one on one.

**Our next Adoration will be on Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

## Warm Clothing Desperately Needed for Pinellas Hope

Pinellas Hope offers a safe, loving, and supportive living environment for homeless individuals through our unique model of tents and Hope Cottages. As the weather has recently turned colder, especially at night, Pinellas Hope is in desperate need of warm clothing to help our clients stay healthy so they can pursue their goals of achieving self-sufficiency and securing permanent and stable housing. Pinellas Hope serves over 200 people daily in the shelter and our supply of jackets, sweaters, gloves, hats, etc. has been depleted and we are concerned about the welfare of our clients over the next several months. Please help us help them by donating new or gently used adult jackets, sweaters, gloves, scarves, hats, etc. We specifically need warm clothing items for men of all sizes. Bicycles can be dropped off anytime at Pinellas Hope, 5726 126th Av. North, Clearwater, FL 33760 or for pick-up or more information contact Danielle Husband at email [dhusband@ccdosp.org](mailto:dhusband@ccdosp.org) or 813-650-5516. Donate a jacket today - help our clients stay healthy and warm so they can reach their goals!

## Free Senior Christmas Luncheon Today!

Join us today, Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. in Blessed Trinity's Parish Center for a free senior Christmas luncheon! This free event is sponsored by The Gathering of Women, Inc. All are welcome! Please invite senior friends, family members and seniors. Santa will be coming with gifts for all our seniors.

# Christmas Altar Flowers

For those wishing to contribute towards the Altar flowers, you may do so in two ways:

1. Use the Christmas Flower Envelope included in your envelope packet.
2. Complete this form and return it to the office with your donation.

The name/s of the donor/s will be listed in the bulletin. Deadline for inclusion of your name in the Christmas Bulletin is **Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**. The names listed for remembrance and honor will be placed on the altar.

Please Check One:

In Honor of

In Memory of

Donor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Adkins, Chantale  
Albertson, Michelle  
Antczak, Harriet  
Arnold, Barbara  
Attard, Stephanie  
Banks, Cathy  
Barry, Marian  
Beekman, Connie  
Bennett, Elizabeth  
Blondheim, Carmen  
Bogensberger, Rosemary  
Brown, Bob & Beverly  
Brown, Buck  
Brown, Dorothy  
Brown III, George  
Brown, Shaquita  
Browning, Rea  
Bruce, Phil  
Buckwald, Diane  
Carfora, Palma  
Cavaliere, Lois  
Ceci, Shirley  
Chavez, John  
Chris, David  
Christ, Kathryn  
Cline, Wayne  
Cohn, Joan  
Congiu, Rita  
Dawson, Anthony Peter

Deacon Lionel Roberts  
DeLuca, Rosemary  
Detore, Alice  
Devyn & Donna  
DeZarn, Vickie  
Doiron, Gary  
Drougelis, Nijole  
Favero, Beverly  
Fazio, Mary  
Feehan, Joe  
Feltes, Chuck & Lauren  
Ferero, Antoinette  
Fiedler, Meghan  
Forbes, Monica & Tom  
Forbes, Rahim  
Forbes, Tina May  
Fr. Jim Klima  
Fraser, Sue Chapman  
Freda, Eileen  
Garcia, Jose M.  
Gaskin, Douglas  
Genereux, Carol  
Graeme, Mary  
Griffin, Lynda Butler  
Grimberg, Carol  
Hamilton, Tom  
Hawkins, Ashlyn  
Hawkins, Barbara  
Hepp, Loren

Heylan, Edward H.  
Hildebrand, Bud  
Horne, Francesca  
Huff, Walt & Carole  
Iglesias, Olivia  
Infant Ursa  
Kantowicz, Jan  
Keithly, Claire  
Kincaid, Kevin &  
Tammie  
King, Ada  
Kleinberger, Donovan  
Kline, Irene  
Krieger, Mary  
Kwesell, Eugene  
Lanigan, John  
Lashley, Diana  
Lawrence, Sandy  
Leath, Bill  
Lee, Donald  
LeVan, George  
Lindsay, Jane  
Lucas, Laura  
Lyons, Laura  
Mack, Jackson  
Maharne, Cecile  
Mahoney, Colleen  
Maitland, Steve  
Mark, Jacqueline

Marois, Mary  
McGarry, Jean  
McManus, Elly  
Membreno, Mary & Gus  
Merchant, Geraldine  
Merchant, Rhoda  
Mesick, Phil & Nancy  
Monahan, Sheila  
Morton, Donna Abby  
Murdock, Cheryl & Evan  
Neumann, Janet  
Nichols, Robert  
Noguez, Armida  
Nuñez, Marleny  
Pezzulo, Irene  
Pope, Stoney  
Post, Michael  
Privitera, Sandy  
Ramsey, Gerald  
Ray, Terry  
Reardon, Kevin  
Reardon, Kara  
Reed, Edward, Jr.  
Rivera, Joel  
Reyes, Nila  
Robinson, Agnes  
Romani, Angelo &  
Marlene  
Rosa, Joe & Nina

Sanders, Kimberly  
Sanders, Marilyn  
Sclafani, Francesco  
Sharp, Jennett  
Shelby, Ron & Montez  
Sheridan, Samantha  
Simpson, Rose  
Smith, Anita  
St. Pierre, Rick  
Stankiewicz, Cy  
Storey, Barbara  
Thompson, Bill  
Thompson, Susan  
Thore, Isabelle  
Timm, Carol & Linda  
Vishnisky, Wayne  
Watson, Doug & Claire  
Whalen, Dorothy  
Wohlman, Fred  
Wood, Jena  
Youngman, Ruth

