



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

December 17, 2023 ▪ The Third Sunday of Advent

Why “Gaudete Sunday” is important to revive our sense of joy



Pope Benedict XVI explained that joy is still possible in a world with so much suffering.

The third Sunday of Advent is known as “Gaudete Sunday,” from the Latin word for “rejoice.” It is called this, from the first words of the second reading, because Christmas is near and the Church lifts the penitential atmosphere of Advent to turn our hearts to the joy that is to come.

Pope Benedict XVI reflected on this theme during a Sunday Angelus in 2007, and mentioned a frequently asked question in light of the great suffering that still exists in the world. He

said, “Some people ask: **but is this joy still possible today?**”

This is a crucial question to answer, as it is difficult to see how we can rejoice when so many of us suffer.

Benedict XVI pointed to the saints for the key to unlock Christian joy.

*Men and women of every age and social condition, happy to dedicate their existence to others, give us the answer with their lives! **Was not [St.] Mother Teresa of Calcutta an unforgettable witness of true Gospel joy in our time?** She lived in touch daily with wretchedness, human degradation and death. Her soul knew the trials of the dark night of faith, yet she gave everyone God’s smile. In one of her writings, we read: “**We wait impatiently for paradise, where God is, but it is in our power to be in paradise even here on earth and from this moment. Being happy with God means loving like him, helping like him, giving like him, serving like him**” (The Joy of Giving to Others, 1987, p. 143). Yes, joy enters the hearts of those who put themselves at the service of the lowly and poor. **God abides in those who love like this and their souls rejoice.***

The key to joy is in serving others. This is something we don’t always understand, as we often try to “make” happiness.

*If, instead, people make an idol of happiness, they lose their way and it is truly hard for them to find the joy of which Jesus speaks. Unfortunately, this is what is proposed by cultures that **replace God by individual happiness, mindsets that find their emblematic effect in seeking pleasure at all costs, in spreading drug use as an escape, a refuge in artificial paradises that later prove to be entirely deceptive.***

Above all, we need to remember that lasting joy cannot be found in our own pursuits, but only in God. He alone can give us the joy we seek.

*Dear brothers and sisters, one can lose the way even at Christmas, one can exchange the true celebration for one that does not open the heart to Christ’s joy. May the Virgin Mary help all Christians and people in search of God to reach Bethlehem, to **encounter the Child who was born for us, for salvation and for the happiness of all humanity.*** Reprinted with permission aleteia.org



PASTOR

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

DEACONS

Deacon Bill Lovelace
Deacon Lionel Roberts,
Deacon Emeritus

CLERGY ASSISTANCE

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM
Fr. Randall Roberts, OFM
Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM
Fr. Victor Bartolotta

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Follow the Sunday Mass on our
website, btsp.org.

Confessions will be held
Saturdays 2:45-3:45

PARISH OFFICE

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm
1600 54TH AVE S.
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33712

PHONE

(727) 867-3663

FAX

(727) 864-2679

WEB SITE

<http://btsp.org>

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Blessed Trinity Scripture Classes

Blessed Trinity Scripture Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 9 from 10:00 am—11:30 am. They will continue with the series from Q Place, "Foundations for Faith."

Classes are held in Courtyard Hall and the books will be \$12. There are nine sessions. Bring a Bible. For further information and to confirm attendance, please call Barbara Townsend (727) 867-3605.



Prayer for Priests & Future Priests

Eternal Father, We lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

12/17 • Rev. Charles Nkafu
12/18 • Rev. Richard Rosin
12/19 • Rev. Higinio Rosolen
12/20 • For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life
12/21 • Thuan Tran, Seminarian
12/22 • Rev. Phillip Scott
12/23 • Rev. Louis G. Turcotte

These are the names of the active priests and seminarians in our Diocese. Remember our Bishop has designated Wednesdays as Diocesan Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please continue to pray that more young people will hear and answer God's call to the Priesthood and Religious Life.



Cookie Exchange

Join the Blessed Trinity Social Group for a Christmas Cookie Exchange

Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 12:30 pm in Courtyard Hall.

Bake three dozen of your favorite holiday cookies to share. Please no store bought cookies.



December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

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

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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.*



Are You Hoping 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

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm

Journeying Through Grief

“Grief is not a sign of weakness. It is a tribute to the loved one who died, and a healthy response to our heart ache.”

If you would like to be part of a Grief-Support “group” or you would prefer “one on one” support, please call Rachel between 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the parish office, 727-867-3663

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 16, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Eileen Schloss (dec)

Saturday, December 16, Vigil for The Third Sunday in Advent

4:00 p.m. Bill Hueston (dec)

Sunday, December 17, The Third Sunday in Advent

8:00 a.m. Aline and Norman Gosselin (dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Marlene Romani (dec)

Monday, December 18, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Salvator Coraci (dec)

Tuesday, December 19, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Carole Bayly (dec)

Wednesday, December 20, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, December 21, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Lloyd Forteau (dec)

Friday, December 22, Advent Weekday

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

Saturday, December 23, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Sean Maloney Family (liv)

Saturday, December 23, Vigil for The Fourth Sunday in Advent

4:00 p.m. Gary Romani (dec)

Sunday, December 24, The Fourth Sunday in Advent

8:00 a.m. Dutilly Family (liv & dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Jordan Hunkin (dec)

Sunday, December 24, The Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

4:00 p.m. Romani & Daniel Families (dec)

9:00 p.m. John Cardinal Foley (dec)



*The beautiful Altar Flowers
are In Thanksgiving and
In Remembrance of
the Holley and
Azarewicz Families.*

The Marriage Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving will take place at the Cathedral of St. Jude on Sunday, February 11 at 3:00 pm. This event honors couples throughout the diocese who will celebrate their 25th anniversary as well as those celebrating 50 or more years of marriage during the 2024 calendar year. To RSVP, please call our parish office by Tuesday January 16.



Merry Christmas!

The Gathering of Women, Inc. invites
you to attend a

Free Senior Christmas Luncheon

At Blessed Trinity Catholic Church
1600 54th Ave. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Sunday, December 17, 2023
From 2:30-5 p.m.

A delicious dinner of turkey, ham, rice, sweet potatoes, potato salad, macaroni & cheese, green beans, collard greens, salad, rolls, and an array of delicious pies and peach cobbler will be served.

Santa will be coming to bring gifts for all our Seniors.

RSVP at 727-490-8914



CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS

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

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

The names of the donors will be listed in the bulletin and also placed on the Altar. **Deadline for inclusion of your name in the Christmas bulletin is December 21.**

Please Check One:

☐ In Honor of

☐ In Memory of

Donor's Name: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____

Weekly Offering

We were unable to report on "Weekly Giving" for a couple weeks due to staff vacation and tightened holiday deadlines for the Weekend Magazine. The report below reflects giving for the weeks of 11/19, 11/26 and 12/3 and includes some annual gifts.

Amounts for St. Vincent de Paul and Catholic Ministry Appeal do not include direct donations to those charities. We thank you all for your generosity!

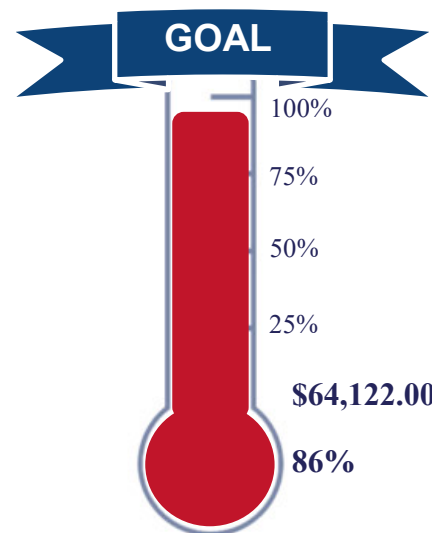
Offertory	39,507.90
Other donations	18,620.49
National Collections	695.00
St Vincent de Paul	465.00
Catholic Ministry Appeal	513.00



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Appeal

**Thank you for your
prayerful giving!**

2023 Goal \$74,446.52



Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 17	Third Sunday of Advent	
9:00 and 10:30 am	Coffee and Donuts	PH
12:30 pm	BT Social Group Cookie Exchange	CYH
2:30 pm	Gathering of Women Senior Lunch	PH
Monday, December 18		
7:00 pm	"Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group	CYH
Tuesday, December 19		
10:00 am	Scripture Class	CYH
Wednesday, December 20		
4:00 pm	Gathering of Women	
	Children's Christmas Party	PH
Thursday, December 21		
6:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	MR
Friday, December 22	~ The parish office will be closed	
Sunday, December 24	4th Sunday of Advent	
There will be no coffee and donuts		
4th Sunday of Advent Masses at 8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:30am		
Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00 pm Children's Vigil, Santa visits after the 4pm Mass		
Christmas Eve Mass at 9:00 pm		
Monday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day!		
Christmas Masses at 8:00 am, 9:30 am, and 11:30 am		
The parish office will be closed		
Tuesday, December 26		
10:00am	Scripture Class	CYH
Sunday, December 31		
9:00 and 10:30 am	Coffee and Donuts	PH
Monday, January 1, New Years Day		
Holy Mary Mother of God, Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year		
The parish office will be closed.		
Tuesday, January 2		
7:00 pm	Knights of Columbus Meeting	PH
Saturday, January 6		
5:00 pm	Knights of Columbus	
	Fish n' Chicken Fry	PH
Sunday, January 7, Epiphany of the Lord		
9:00 and 10:30am	Coffee and Donuts	PH
Monday, January 8		
7:00 pm	"Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group	CYH
Tuesday, January 9		
10:00-11:30 am	Scripture Class resumes	CYH
Sunday, January 14		
8:30-11:00 am	K.O.C. Pancake Breakfast	PH
Monday, January 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day		
Parish office will be closed.		
7:00 pm	"Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group	CYH
Tuesday, January 16		
10:00-11:30 am	Scripture Class	CYH
Monday, January 22		
7:00 pm	"Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group	CYH

PH= Parish Hall, MR=Music Room, CYH= Courtyard Hall, CH=Church



Social Group

The Blessed Trinity Social Group is meeting regularly now. Please join us at the Kahwa coffee shop @ 400 45th Ave S, St. Petersburg, FL 33705 after the 8:00 am Mass on the Last Friday of each Month. Bring your ideas!

Please note our next meeting will be Friday, January 26th.

All are welcome!

Full-Time Cook Needed

The Missionaries of Africa Retirement Home in St. Petersburg, total of 8 men, needs a full-time cook Monday-Friday from 10:30 am to 6:30 pm. Health and pension benefits apply after a 3 month probation period. If you, or someone you know is interested, please send your resume to star30@verizon.net

Questions? Please contact Denise Starkey, 813-215-9535.

Everything you wanted to know about your faith

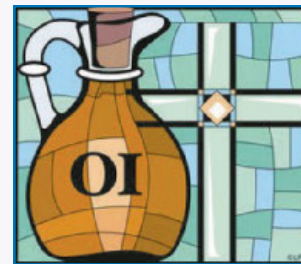
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Comeau, Teresa
Curtis, Sherlyl
Daniels, Joshua
Danielle, Carlo
DeZarn, Vickie
D'Azzo, Lina
Feltes, Chuck & Lauren
Ferrara, Antoinette
Fitzgerald, Dan
Forbes, Monica & Tom
Gawlik, Frank
Gawlik, Sofia
Genereux, Carol
Grimberg, Carol
Hawkins, Barbara
Helbig, Len
Hoffman, Bette
Huff, Walt

Irvin, John
Joyal, Christina
Kindel, Helen
Kirchgessner, Marie
Klima, Sue
Lanigan, John
Lashley, Diana
Lawler, Matthew
LeVan, George
Lewis, Cynthia
Maharne, Cecile
Manley, Jan
Manley, Paul
Matthews, Daniel
Mays, Susan
Membreno, Mary & Gus
Mesick, Phil & Nancy
Nagy, Matthew
Newcomb, Jeff
O'Connor, Mary
Oliphant, Sean
Parmigiani, Valerie
Powers, Jim
Preeper, Helen

Riley, Marie
Roberts,
Deacon Lionel
Romani, Angelo
Schulz, Ingrid
Shelby, Montez
Stankiewicz, Cy
Thompson, Susan E.
Thuline, James and Lil
Vanderbeck, Cindy
Vanderbeck, Jay
Walsh, Thomas
Youngman, Ruth



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.

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Cecile Maharne



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