

**Christ Child Catholic Church**  
*Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the  
Challenges of Loving Service*

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**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**December 11, 2016**

*Today's readings invite us to rejoice at the rebirth of JESUS in our lives as we are preparing for annual Christmas celebration. Today is called Gaudete Sunday because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon: "Gaudete in Domino semper," "Rejoice in the Lord always." Son, to express our joy in the coming of JESUS as our Savior into our hearts and lives, we light the rose candle in the Advent wreath and the priest may wear rose vestments.*

**Scripture lessons:** The prophet Isaiah, in the first reading, encourages the exiled Jews in Babylon to rejoice because their God is going to liberate them from slavery and lead them safely to their homeland. In the second reading, James the Apostle encourages the early Christians to rejoice and wait, with patience for the imminent second coming of Jesus. Finally, in the first part of today's Gospel reading, Jesus encourages John the Baptist in prison to rejoice by casting away his wrong expectations about the Messiah and simply accepting Jesus' healing and preaching ministry as the

fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah. In the second part of today's Gospel, Matthew presents Jesus, the true Messiah, paying the highest compliments to John the Baptist as his herald and the last of the prophets, and giving special credit to the courage of John's prophetic convictions, asking his listeners to rejoice in the greatness of his herald.

**Life messages:**

We need to learn how to survive a Faith crisis: If John the Baptist, even after having had a direct encounter with Jesus, the Messiah, had his doubts about Jesus and his teachings, we, too, can have our crises of Faith. On those occasions, let us remember the truth that all our Christian dogmas are based on our trusting Faith in the Divinity of Jesus who taught them, and on his Divine authority which he gave to his Church to teach what he taught. Hence, it is up to us to learn our Faith in depth and so to remove our doubts.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

By request or appointment

**BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS**

Call the office for an appointment

**Anointing of the Sick**

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually call for an appointment

**For Pregnancy Support**

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

**Prayer Group in the Parish**

Every Tuesday at 8:15 a.m. all Women and All Men

**PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**TODAY SUNDAY after the 10 a.m. Mass!!**  
*May the glory of the first Christmas remain in your heart throughout the New Year 2017. You and your loved ones will be remembered in the celebration of the Mass on Christmas Day.*

**MASS INTENTIONS December 10 - 16**

**Saturday 5:00 p.m. Schaner Family**  
**Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Cecily Olsen**  
+ Leah Shaw  
**Monday 7:00 p.m. Emigrants**  
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Leah Shaw  
Wednesday 8:00 a.m. McGrath Family  
Thursday 8:00 a.m. + Martina Durham  
Friday 8:00 a.m. + Judith Ann  
Hammond

**All flowers in the church this year in honor of you and especially for the children and young people in the Parish!!!**

**Report Sunday December 3 & 4, 2016**

<b>Total Plate</b>	<b>\$ 1,574.00</b>
<b>EFT</b>	<b>\$ 460.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,034.00</b>

**God bless your generosity...!**

Will the **CHILDREN** who want to be in the **Christmas Eve Pageant**

**Please stay after Mass next Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> for rehearsal and to pick up their costumes. Thank you.**

**The Christmas Season**

After the annual celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the Church has no more ancient custom than celebrating the memorial of the Nativity of the Lord and of his first manifestations, and this takes place at Christmas Time.

The Christmas season extends from Evening Prayer of Christmas through the Baptism of the Lord, Monday, 9 January 2017.

**"May the Peace and Joy of Christ be with you this Christmas and throughout the New Year."**

**The Christmas Season**  
**December 24 -Saturday**  
**VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS Mass**  
**at 5:00 p.m.**

**December 25 - Sunday**  
**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**  
**Mass at 10:00 a.m.**

**In the Light of the Word**

The Bible is full of families, births, love stories, and family crises. This is true from its very first page, with the appearance of Adam and Eve's family with all its burden of violence but also its enduring strength (cf. Gen 4), to its very last page, where we behold the wedding feast of the Bride and the Lamb (Rev 21:2, 9). Jesus' description of the two houses, one built on rock and the other on sand (cf. Mt 7:24-27), symbolizes any number of family situations shaped by the exercise of their members' freedom, for, as the poet says, "every home is a lampstand," (Jorge Luis Borges). Let us now enter one of those houses, led by the Psalmist with a song that even today resounds in both Jewish and Christian wedding liturgies:

**"Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways!**

**You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.**

**Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots round your table. Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.**

**The Lord bless you from Zion!**

**May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life!**

**May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel!"**

(Psalm 128: 1-6)

From Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father Francis

**The Joy of Love  
Amoris Laetitia**