



GAUDETE SUNDAY: A CELEBRATION OF JOY AND HOPE

As we journey through the season of Advent, we arrive at Gaudete Sunday, a day of unbridled joy and celebration. This third Sunday of Advent is a moment to pause and reflect on the joy that lies at the heart of our faith.

The rose-colored candle on our Advent wreath symbolizes the joy that is to come, its soft glow illuminating the path that leads us to the manger. As we light this candle, we are reminded that our waiting is not in vain. The prophet Isaiah's words echo in our hearts: "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy" (Ps 126:3).

This joy is not superficial happiness, but a deep-seated conviction that we are not alone, that we are part of a larger story still unfolding. It is the joy that arises from our expectation of the coming of Christ. As we await the birth of our Savior, we are filled with a sense of anticipation and hope.

At its core, Gaudete Sunday is a celebration of Christian joy. This type of joy is not based on external circumstances, but on the internal conviction that we are loved and cherished by God. As St. Paul reminds us, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice" (Phil 4:4). This joy is not something that we can manufacture or conjure up on our own, but rather it is a gift that comes from God. This joy is a gift from God, a fruit of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us. It is the spark that ignites our hearts, the flame that fuels our passions, and the light that guides us through life's darkness.

As we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, we are reminded that joy is not just a personal experience, but a communal one. We rejoice as a community of faith, united in our love for God and for one another. This day celebrates the Church itself, reminding us that we are part of a larger community that transcends time and space.

In a world that often seems dark and foreboding, Gaudete Sunday offers a beacon of hope. It reminds us that our faith is not just a set of abstract principles, but a living, breathing relationship with a God who loves us deeply. On this Gaudete Sunday, our hearts are filled with the joy that comes from God. Our spirits are lifted by the knowledge that we are loved and cherished. Our lives are transformed by the power of joy that lies at the heart of our faith.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION: Join us on Thursday, December 19th for our Advent confession and Holy Mass. The confession will begin at 6:00pm with a penitential prayer service, followed by individual confessions from 6:15pm to 7:00pm. **The Holy Mass will then be celebrated at 7:00pm**. All are welcome to participate in this special opportunity for spiritual renewal and forgiveness.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2024

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Masses: 5:00pm & 8:00pm

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day Mass: 10:30am

FIRST RECONCILIATION This weekend, 12 children celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Congratulations to:

Violeta Bascao Pepe, Lukas Brunner, Gia Candiotti, Eldana Hamdo, Ara Kidane, Matthew Lowe, Samantha Jrylle Maghari, Evan Alonzo Santos, Lauren Alba Santos, Isabella Spagnuolo, Leonardo Spagnuoloi, and Lizelle Pria Tamayo.



SAM ROBERTS TICKETS: - SILENT AUCTION Sam Roberts, a fellow parishioner and his band are supporting St. Monica's and have donated tickets for the church to auction off as part of its fundraising. These tickets are good in most of the band's performances in 2025. Your tickets will come with band merchandise (Autograph CD, water bottle & t-shirt) and also meet & greet the band on show day. Some upcoming shows include Niagara Falls on February 22, Manchester and Great Britain on February 27, & February 27, Manchester and Great Britain will be in London, address: 02 Academy Islington Street. *Kindly note-Transportation is not provided.*

HOW TO BID: - We are offering two (2) pairs of tickets – **Package A, and Package B** both packages consist of two Sam Roberts tickets valid through 2025, and includes **Memorabilia and VIP treatment meeting the band.** Bids are open **now until Tuesday, December 17 at 4:30pm.** Minimum starting bid is \$200 per package. You may bid on either one package only, or for all (4) four tickets, you will need to indicate that you are bidding individually on each package.

Bidding is easy! **Send your name, address, contact details, including phone number, and your bid to:** savestmonicandg@gmail.com

We will publish on the Save Saint Monica's Facebook page on a regular basis, the bids received for each package. If you decide to overbid the highest bidder, please send an email with a higher bid to savestmonicandg@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting Saint Monica's church!

MASS INTENTIONS – December 14 - 20, 2024

Saturday, 4:00pm – December 14, 2024: 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For All Parishioners Intentions

Sunday, 9:00am – December 15, 2024: 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Deceased Members Paoli & Turini Families

Michael Giangaspero

Leonardo Ricciardi

Alessandro Paoli & Pietrina Turini

Wife, Michelina

Giovanni, Luciano & Tony Ricciardi

Sunday, 11:00am – December 15, 2024: 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Cullen Family

Anselo D'Amico

Giacomo Fiori

Ignazio Mattei

Jane Cullen

Caterina D'Amico & Family

Wife, Berardina & Family

Domenica Mattei & Family

Tuesday, 8:30am – December 17, 2024: Weekday

Living -Personal Intention of Raymond & Hilary Jace

Danielle Laliberté

Living - Lucy Family

Family

Elcira Leon

Stella & Gil Lee

Wednesday, 8:30am – December 18, 2024: Weekday

Norma Andrigo

Niece

Thursday – 8:30am – December 19, 2024: Weekday

Irma Baudi

Rico & Gina Baudi

Thursday – 7:00pm – December 19, 2024: Weekday

Soul of Robert Liautaud

George Higden

Elizabeth & Family

Mary Ellen Holland

Friday, 8:30am – December 20, 2024: Weekday

Living – Personal Intention Raymond & Hilary Jack

Family