

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

Third Sunday in Advent - Gaudete Sunday

All: The Lamb descends from heaven above.
To pardon sin with freest love;
For such indulgent mercy shown,
With tearful joy our thanks we own.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Priest: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Let your modesty be known to all men; for the Lord is nigh. Be nothing solicitous; but in everything by prayer let your requests be made known to God.

Priest: Thou O Lord, that sittest upon the Cherubim, stir up Thy might, and come.

People: Give ear, O Thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

Rejoice!

Priest: Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

People: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Priest: LET US PRAY: Grant us, we beseech Thee, O lord, that the coming solemnity of our redemption may both bring us help for our present life, and bestow on us the rewards of everlasting blessedness. Through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen. (Priest lights third candle)

1. There will be Catechism class after the 10:00 Mass this morning.
2. **CHRISTMAS MASSES IN THE ABBEY CHURCH WILL BE AT MIDNIGHT ON CHRISTMAS EVE (THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN ABOUT 11:30 PM) AND AT 10:00 AM CHRISTMAS MORNING. THERE WILL BE NO 6:00 AM MASS IN THE ABBEY CHURCH ON CHRISTMAS MORNING.**
3. **Mass at St. Pius V Chapel in Birmingham on CHRISTMAS DAY will be at 9:00 AM.**
4. At the Christmas Midnight Mass this year, Miss Adrienne Suzanne Liburdi will carry the Baby Jesus and place Him in the crib.
5. Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday of this week are the Advent Ember Days. They are days of fast and abstinence, with meat being allowed once (at the main meal) on Wednesday and Saturday.
6. DO NOT NEGLECT THE ADVENT READINGS EACH DAY, WITH THE WHOLE FAMILY PRESENT, AND WITH THE FATHER OF THE FAMILY DOING THE READING.
7. **THE NEW DATE FOR ORDINATION TO THE SUBDEACONATE IS SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2004.**
8. **THE NEW DATE FOR CONFIRMATION IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2004, AT THE 10:00 AM MASS.**
9. Christmas Day this year falls on Thursday. Therefore, the same rule applies to Friday, December 26, 2003, as applied to the Friday which followed Thanksgiving Day, namely: Friday, December 26, 2003, is not a day of abstinence. MEAT MAY BE EATEN ON THAT DAY.

In every normal interpretation, Christmas Eve is a day of COMPLETE FAST AND ABSTINENCE. At the same time, Christmas Eve has to be understood to be a festive day of penance. Festivity simply cannot be suppressed on such a day – the eve of the greatest day in the history of Mankind. Therefore, on the occasion presenting itself in the home of GOOD-WILLED people, a bit of “shortcutting” in the law of fast and abstinence on that day is certainly not out of order.

In this matter, as in all similar matters of moral obligation, prudence under the influence of a good and informed conscience, should dictate. Too much to the right is just as bad as too much to the left. The Latin quotation stressed in the training of priests is: “*In medio stat virtus*” (“In the middle is virtue”). Our service to God depends on our FREEDOM OF ACTION, inspired by LOVE - it must not be pushed by FORCE. At the same time, our freedom must never become a matter of license. The customary observations of other cultures should always be given the respect they rightly deserve.

10. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels, especially remembering Manny Gomez and Peggy Bonometti. LET US ALSO PRAY FOR EVERYONE. Let us pray for ALL the priests and religious men and women of the world. NO MAN, WOMAN, OR CHILD SHOULD BE LEFT OUT OF OUR PRAYER. God made all men to be with Him in heaven for all eternity, and this includes every human being on earth, regardless of station or condition or place. Weak human nature and erroneous persuasions will prevent some from achieving the purpose intended for them by God, but that matter remains entirely between all such and God. We must make no judgments concerning such matters. If there is any sifting to be done, it is to be done by God, Himself alone. We are NOT the ones to do the sifting.

11. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)

SUNDAY:	For the People of our Chapels	THURSDAY:	Special intention Ann Biwer
MONDAY:	Special intention Marian Ploeckelman	FRIDAY:	Special intention Alexander Salillas
TUESDAY:	For the Poor Souls in Purgatory	SATURDAY:	Deceased Isaac Soileau
WEDNESDAY:	Special intention Kay Ackerman		