

Good News!

Douglaston/Little Neck, New York

^{saint}
AnastasiA
church

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024



The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages."

Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people. — Luke 3:10-18



Saint John the Baptist Preaching (1665), by Mattia Preti
Legion of Honor Museum, San Francisco, California

45-14 245th St. (Rev. John J. Gribbon Way)
Douglaston, NY 11362-1135

StA.NYC
St. Anastasia Church

Phone: (718) 631-4454
Fax: (718) 631-1774

Website: www.sta.nyc
Email: info@sta.nyc

A^{saint} AnastasiA church

Established 1915

Rectory Office Hours

Monday — Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

(718) 631-4454

Parish Directory

Rev. David J. Dettmer

PASTOR

Deacon Joseph Chu

ASSOCIATE STAFF MEMBER

Rev. Msgr. George J. Ryan

PASTOR EMERITUS

Rev. Anthony Rucando

IN RESIDENCE

Mrs. Eula Buckley

SECRETARY

Mrs. Mary Burns

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DIRECTOR

Music Ministry

Mrs. Stephanie Larkin

DIRECTOR

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WEB SITE: www.dwcaonline.org

EMAIL: dwisdom@dwcaonline.org

Mrs. Miriam Bonici

PRINCIPAL

Flocknote



Receive text messages to stay connected to our parish. Go to stanyc.flocknote.com

to register, or text **stanyc** to 84576.

- This is a free service but your carrier's text and data rates may apply.

- Text STOP to 84576 to stop texts.

Parish Mission Statement

To Proclaim the good news of Christ's love through our active involvement, as a Parish community, in works of Charity, Faith, Worship and Justice.

All are welcome!

NO MATTER what your present status is in the Catholic Church;

NO MATTER your family situation;

NO MATTER where you are in the practice of faith;

NO MATTER what your personal history, age, background;

NO MATTER what your self-image may be;

YOU are invited, welcomed, respected & loved at St. Anastasia

Parish Membership

All new families are welcome to the Parish and every family should be properly registered. Registration forms are available at the Rectory.

Use of the electronic giving (Faith Direct) or envelope system is required if statement of contribution is sought for tax purposes. All parishioners should use either one of the donation forms. If you move or change your address, please notify the Rectory by mail.

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on the third Saturday of the month (except on holidays) at 1:00 p.m.. No more than four families will be scheduled for a Baptism at one time. Please call the Rectory at 718-631-4454 or the Faith Formation Office at 718-225-5191. After the initial intake, you will be asked to go to the Rectory to pick up a checklist and handbook. You will also have to schedule a private class and will need a copy of your child's birth certificate.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Time available: Saturday 11 AM—3 PM and Sunday 2:30 PM—3 PM.

Couples must make arrangements six months prior to the selected date of their marriage and fully participate in the Pre-Cana program.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

It is the process for adults wishing to become Catholic, complete their sacramental initiation, or attain full membership in the Church. For further information, please contact Mrs. Rose Ruesing.

Liturgies

Weekend Masses

- 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturday
- Sunday: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and 12 noon

Weekday Masses

- Monday thru Saturday at 8:30 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

- Saturdays from 4:00 - 4:30 PM in the Church

Holy Days and Special Liturgies

- Mass schedules for holy days are printed on Sundays before the feasts and solemnities occur. For advance information, please call the Rectory Office

Devotions

- Miraculous Medal Novena: Mondays after the 8:30 AM Daily Mass
- Rosary: Before the Daily Mass Monday - Saturday.

2024 Christmas Schedule

Sacrament of Penance

Reconciliation Monday

Monday, December 16, 2024
Reconciliation Preparation for Christmas
2:00 – 4:00 PM
7:00 – 9:00 PM

Confession

Saturday, December 21, 2024
4:00-4:30 PM

Christmas Eve Mass

Tuesday, December 24, 2024
4:00 PM
10:00 PM

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25, 2024
8:00 AM
10:00 AM
12:00 Noon

New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 1, 2025
8:00 AM
10:00 AM
12:00 Noon
(No Vigil)



*May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace.*
Romans 15:13



Advent Blessing & Prayers



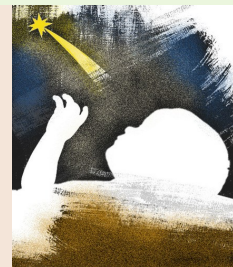
Advent Wreath Blessing And Prayers

The weekly prayers are to be used on each advent Sunday as a new candle is lit to signify the coming of the Lord. Half way through the season we light the rose candle on the Third Sunday of Advent: Gaudete Sunday.



A Blessing

Father in you belong the seasons and the ages for you are the beginning and the end of all things. As our world enters the darkness of winter we kindle the fire to remind us that your Son Is our light. Bless us, we pray, with the light and warmth of this holy season. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



First Sunday



Father, the day of our salvation draws near; your light grows steadily around us to pierce the darkness of our minds and open us to the promise of life. Your Son, Jesus Christ, comes in our midst in Spirit where once he came in flesh. Open our eyes that we may see his presence and our ears that we may hear his call in all the events that fill our lives today. Give us the courage to respond to him; to carry on the work of service which he has sent us to accomplish. Give birth to your Son in our lives that through us he may give life to the world. Amen.

Second Sunday



Father, do not turn from us, and do not avoid us now that we are looking for words to pray to you. if we call you God, and speak your name, it is because you first pierced the silence and called us sons and daughters. You have given us your word that you would not be far from us whenever we turn to you. And so we cast aside our doubts and our fears and place our trust in your promise to us. Father, make us receptive and open as you speak to us; may we receive the blessing of your peace as we prepare for the coming of your Son. Amen.

Third Sunday



Father, we celebrate with joy the coming of your Son, for he has come in our past. We celebrate with hope the coming of your Son, for he will come again. We celebrate with peace the coming of your Son, for he is now in our midst. Help us to uncover and recognize his presence to men and women who touch our lives. Hatred and selfishness blind our eyes and keep us from bringing him forth. Free us now from all that stands in his way, that with a love for each other made genuine and real we might quicken his coming in our midst. Amen.

Fourth Sunday



Father, we are struck with wonder at the trust you have put in us. The work which your Son began by his coming in now put into our hands to complete. He longs to come again, but his time is not ripe, we must bring him forth into the world that is pleasing to him. Until that time, known only to you, when the heavens will open and we see him once more, we raise our eyes to you and ask your blessing while we set our hands to the task you have given us. Amen.



Come, Long-Expected Jesus

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of Your Father and ours. Receive my prayer as part of my service of the Lord who enlists me in God's own work for justice.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father's joy. I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, singing and love.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me the joy and love and peace it is right to bring to the manger of my Lord. Raise in me, too, sober reverence for the God who acted there, hearty gratitude for the life begun there, and spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son.

I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose advent I hail. Amen.



Order of Christian Initiation



Interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith?

Want to enter the Church or complete your sacraments?

LET US WALK THIS JOURNEY WITH YOU!

OCIA

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

Call or email the Faith Formation Office
718-225-5191 dff@stanastasia.info



PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR CHRISTMAS

RECONCILIATION Monday

Monday,
December 16,
2024

2 PM - 4 PM
7 PM - 9 PM

*Times and availability may vary by parish.
You can visit your parish website or contact your parish office for more details.



Visit any Catholic church in the Archdiocese of New York, the Diocese of Brooklyn, or the Diocese of Rockville Centre, where priests will be available to hear confessions.

Experience the light of His forgiveness through the sacrament of penance this Advent.

www.archny.org
www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org
www.drvc.org



Visit UnitedbyChristmas.org



Join our Christmas Handbell Choir!

A fabulous way to celebrate Christmas
NO experience necessary

All ages welcome - children/families/seniors - ringing handbells is fun and easy!

Rehearsals will be in the choir loft
after the 10am Mass on

December 15 and December 22

**We will play at the 4pm Mass on
Christmas Eve ~ December 24**



Pray the Rosary

Before the 8:30 a.m. Daily Mass
at 7:45 a.m.

Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Church

Tuesday Rosary Themes

December 3rd
Immaculate Conception

December 10th
Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 17th
St. Anastasia

December 24 - No Holy Hour

December 31st
The Holy Innocents





Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

Zep 3:14-18a | Phil 4:4-7 | Lk 3:10-18

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

"I want to be a sanctuary lamp," Samantha, my childhood friend, once remarked. "To be the little flame that reminds everyone, 'God is here.'" In those short phrases, Samantha summarized not only her personal vocation, but also the all-important mission of St. John the Baptist. Like the candle burning before the tabernacle, St. John was not the long-awaited Messiah; his God-given task was to point others to Jesus. We hear this theme of St. John's message expressed repeatedly in today's readings: "The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst"; "Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!"; "one mightier than I is coming." God himself would soon be among them - indeed, he was already there. Although 2,000 years separate us from St. John the Baptist's ministry, the little flame still burns in the sanctuary to remind us that God has not only come, but he remains *in our midst*. This is cause for rejoicing: the same Jesus to whom John pointed is present among us in the Blessed Sacrament.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Becoming more attuned and attentive to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist - that is, to God in our midst - entails embracing another part of St. John the Baptist's message. In today's Gospel, St. John counsels people from all walks of life to prepare for the coming Messiah by changing their lives. Only by turning away from sin and committing themselves to God will they be able to recognize and follow Christ when he comes. If we desire deeper faith in the Eucharist, our preparation must be similar: we ask God to show us the dusty corners of our souls which we have concealed from his merciful love. Then, confident in his willingness to forgive, we approach him in the sacrament of confession. This is his ardent desire: that, having come among us, he might forgive and heal us. Such is the meaning behind the consoling words of the Prophet Zephaniah in today's first reading: "He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love."

SING

*O Christ, whom nations sigh for
Whom priest and prophet long foretold
Come break the captive fetters
Redeem the long-lost fold*



Reflections



When Was Jesus Born?

We don't have a birth certificate for Jesus. In fact, the gospels are silent as to the date of Christ's birth. The two gospels that do speak about the year contradict each other. Matthew 2:1 states that Jesus was born "in the days of King Herod," who died in March or April of the year that we would call 4 BC. Luke 2:2 states that Jesus was born when Quirinius was governor of Syria, that is, not until the year that we would call 6 AD. So we don't know scientifically the year of the Savior's birth.

What about the date—December 25? It's possible that this is Jesus' birthday. We know that some churches kept December 25 as the solemn feast of the nativity very early on. Maybe they knew something that we don't. Some think that there are other reasons why December 25 has been kept as Jesus' birthday at least since the year 336.

Some scholars think that Christians began celebrating the birth of Christ on December 25 because it was the pagan feast of the Unconquered Sun, proclaimed by the Roman emperor in the year 274. According to the calendar at the time, December 25 would have been the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, when hours of sunlight stop "shrinking." (December 21 is the solstice on modern calendars.) Since Christians knew that Jesus was truly the Unconquered Sun of Justice, what better day to feast his birth in the flesh?

Another group of scholars think that the early Christians thought: "The gospels say nothing of Christ's birthday, but John the Baptist, as usual, points to the truth. He says 'Christ must increase, but I must decrease.' (John 3:30) Now we can figure out Jesus' birthday!" John the Baptist was hinting that his birthday was the summer solstice—the longest and brightest day of the year—June 25 on the old calendar. (In fact, we still celebrate the birth of the Baptist on June 24!) After all, John is the brightest and strongest of the prophets to foretell Christ's coming. So this means that John would have been conceived on September 25. Being a holy saint, he would have been in Elizabeth's womb for exactly nine months. Luke 1:26 tells us that John was conceived six months prior to Jesus. So Jesus was conceived on March 25. Being the Son of God, Christ is the perfect human being, so of course he was in Mary's womb exactly nine months, and thus born on December 25.

Sadly, there are still those today who won't believe that Jesus even existed until they see some kind of birth certificate. But we who are baptized are open to other ways of knowing truths bigger than official documents and laboratory evidence can tell. We learn in our liturgy to sense divine action in human history. We know that we can trust our church calendar, waiting in Advent, rejoicing at Christmas, joyfully celebrating God in the flesh—our flesh—born into our world, redeeming even our calendars, giving us holidays to cherish. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!



As we approach Christmas and the start of the Jubilee Year, you may be inspired by many of the uplifting seasonal programs EWTN will be offering.

Throughout Advent and the Christmas season, viewers can enjoy beautiful concerts, outstanding docudramas, children's shows as well as coverage of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Solemn Mass of Christmas Eve with Pope Francis live from the Vatican.

Also on Christmas Eve, EWTN will broadcast live the opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica to mark the start of Jubilee 2025. In December, visit EWTN.com for special programming and resources for you to celebrate the Jubilee year.

In January, EWTN brings special pro-life coverage, including the most complete live coverage of the National March For Life from Washington DC, as well as other notable pro-life walks, rallies, and Holy Masses from around the United States.

For additional information and to learn about other edifying programs for the faithful, please see EWTN television schedule.

EWTN website directory of Christmas specials:

<https://www.ewtn.com/tv/specials/christmas>

EWTN Program Highlights:

www.ewtnmissionaries.com/resources/Winter%20Highlightsrev9.17.24.pdf



What's Happening

Mark your calendars!

Thomas Berry Place is excited to share the 2024-25 Retreat Calendar with you!

We will be adding more events as the new year continues! We hope you will plan to join us for these upcoming events at TBP!

Follow our social media pages for registration and information!

Christmas Market - December 20-22

Self-Guided Silent Retreat - January 3-5

Matt Talbot Retreat - January 3-5

Day of Prayer - Wednesday, January 8

Evening for Prayer - Wednesday, January 15

Dinner with Passion - Wednesday, January 29

Women's Retreat - January 31-February 2

Day of Prayer - Wednesday, February 5

Evening for Prayer - Wednesday, February 12

Men's Retreat - February 28 - March 2

Day of Prayer - Ash Wednesday, March 5

Evening for Prayer - Wednesday, March 12

Dinner with Passion - Wednesday, March 26

Day of Prayer - Wednesday, April 2

Evening for Prayer - Wednesday, April 9

Holy Week Retreat - April 17-20

Day of Prayer - Wednesday, May 7

Evening for Prayer - Wednesday, May 14

Dinner with Passion - Wednesday, May 28

Day of Prayer - Wednesday, June 4

Evening for Prayer - Wednesday, June 11

Thomas Berry Place

86-45 Edgerton Blvd., Jamaica Estates

929-357-6700

www.ThomasBerryPlace.org



Many thanks to all the parishioners who donated gifts, clothing, and gift cards for this year's Advent Giving Tree. We collected so many gifts for Our Children and gift cards for St. Martin de Porres in Brooklyn.

Also, special thanks goes out to some of our eight grade confirmation candidates who assisted in putting together the tags and sorting the gifts.

St. Anastasia Circle of Friends

SENIOR SOCIAL GROUP

EVERY TUESDAY
11AM TO 1PM
PARISH CENTER

Socialize with friends, play board or card games and enjoy time with others.

Coffee, tea, and water will be there.
Bring snacks to share!

 <h1 style="text-align: center;">ADVENT CALENDAR 2024</h1>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>The First Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Begin your Advent journey by blessing your Advent wreath. Light the first violet candle and sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."</p>	<p>What can you do this Advent to prepare your heart and life for the coming of Christ?</p>	<p>In those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; this is what they shall call her: "The LORD our justice." Jeremiah 33:16</p>	<p>"By his perennial presence in the life of the pilgrim Church, the Holy Spirit illumines all believers with the light of hope. He keeps that light burning, like an ever-burning lamp, to sustain and invigorate our lives." Pope Francis, <i>Jubilee Bull of Indiction</i>, no. 3</p>	<p>Make plans to receive the gift of God's mercy in the Sacrament of Penance during this Advent season.</p>	<p>In honor of Saint Nicholas, known for his generosity to those in need, in this season of giving, make a gift of your time or treasure to an agency that works with those who lack the necessities of life.</p>	<p>Consider joining the Walk with One Initiative (Walk With One Eucharistic Revival Initiative for the Year of Mission) to invite someone into a deeper relationship with Christ and to accompany them on their spiritual journey.</p>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>The Second Sunday of Advent</p> <p>On this Second Sunday of Advent, light two violet candles on your Advent wreath and ask God for the strength to be like John the Baptist, preparing the way of the Lord.</p>	<p>This year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is observed today. Attend Mass and pray the Rosary, if possible.</p>	<p>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6</p>	<p>In the bustle of the holiday season, spend some time this week in silence and prayer, possibly before the Blessed Sacrament, to prepare your heart to receive the Lord at Christmas.</p>	<p>Today is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our Lady of Guadalupe reminds us that God's unfailing love encompasses all of us, regardless of immigration status, race, nationality, and all other differences. Learn more at Our Lady of Guadalupe - Justice for Immigrants.</p>	<p>On this Memorial of Saint Lucy, patron saint of persons who are blind, consider ways that your parish, community, and other groups can become more welcoming to persons with disabilities.</p>	<p>"We need to recognize the immense goodness present in our world, lest we be tempted to think ourselves overwhelmed by evil and violence. The signs of the times, which include the yearning of human hearts in need of God's saving presence, ought to become signs of hope." Pope Francis, <i>Jubilee Bull of Indiction</i>, no. 7</p>
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p>The Third Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. At this halfway point in the season of Advent, light two violet candles and the rose candle on your Advent wreath and Rejoice! For the Lord is near!</p>	<p>According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up before Christmas and remains in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. Share this blessing with your family and friends.</p>	<p>Today marks the beginning of the "O Antiphons." This tradition, which comes from Evening Prayer, has been around since at least the eighth century.</p>	<p>The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love. Zephaniah 3:17</p>	<p>"All of us, however, need to recover the joy of living, since men and women, created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gen 1:26), cannot rest content with getting along one day at a time, settling for the here and now and seeking fulfillment in material realities alone." Pope Francis, <i>Jubilee Bull of Indiction</i>, no. 9</p>	<p>Use this blessing to bless the nativity scene in your home: Blessing of a Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene USCCB</p>	<p>As winter begins in the Northern hemisphere, consider how you can share the light and warmth of Christ with others, especially those on the margins, in the new year.</p>
22	23	24	25			
<p>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</p> <p>On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, light all three violet candles and the rose candle on your Advent wreath and pray that the light of Christ will enter your heart so that you may share the warmth of God's love with those you meet.</p>	<p>Spend a family evening eating cookies and drinking hot chocolate while you read the Christmas cards you have received. Before bed, pray an Our Father and a Hail Mary for all your beloved family and friends.</p>	<p>"Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it. May the way we live our lives say to them in so many words: "Hope in the Lord! Hold firm, take heart and hope in the Lord!" (Ps 27:14). May the power of hope fill our days, as we await with confidence the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and glory, now and forever." Pope Francis, <i>Jubilee Bull of Indiction</i>, no. 25</p>	<p>Before opening presents, gather at your Nativity Scene and read the Christmas story (Luke 2:1-20) from your family Bible.</p>			



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Advent is a meaningful time to reflect on your generosity. One special way to give is eGiving. It can simplify your stewardship and provide steady, consistent support to the parish – so we can be ready with programs, services, and ministries for church families and those in our community. Your recurring gifts will sustain our parish, even if you need to miss a Sunday service.

It's easy to get started. Here are the ways to sign up:

- Visit faith.direct/NY28
- Call Faith Direct Customer Service at 866-507-8757
- Scan the QR code
- Text "Enroll" to 917-540-0141

Thank you and may God bless your generosity.



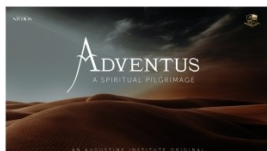
THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of December 15, 2024



30 Minutes BC

30 Minutes BC creatively explores the profound emotions and intimate struggles of Mary and Joseph during the final 30 minutes before the birth of Jesus. As the clock ticks down, the couple navigates a whirlwind of hope, joy, and uncertainty, turning to God amidst it all.



Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.



Christmas (Part 2) | What Catholics Believe

Join Dr. Michael Barber as he answers some of the Internet's most popular questions about Christmas. What are the 12 days of Christmas? Was Santa Claus a real person? What is Advent?

Use "st. anastasia ny" to signup at formed.org



Love and Serve



Third Sunday of Advent

Joy is an often-elusive emotion that transcends mere happiness. It is a sense of fulfillment and contentment firmly formed below the surface, even amid challenging times and difficult circumstances. It is deeper than happiness, which is tied to external factors and experiences. Joy emerges from within, spawned from our perspectives, beliefs, and principles. A good movie, show, or book can bring us happiness. Spending quality time with loved ones or having internal peace brings us joy.

The liturgical calendar designates the third Sunday of Advent as Gaudete Sunday. "Gaudete" is derived from the Latin word "rejoice," taken from today's New Testament Reading from St. Paul, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!" —Philippians 4:4. Gaudete Sunday serves as a midpoint in the season of Advent, providing a time of joy. Violet is the predominant color used during Advent at the altar, Advent candles, and vestments worn by presiding priests. The color signifies penance and preparation. For Gaudete Sunday, the color shifts to rose, transitioning our outlook from somber anticipation to the joyful expectation of Christ's coming. The themes for Gaudete Sunday Readings are joy, hope, and the nearness of the Lord. Zephaniah, the Old Testament prophet, calls the people to rejoice because the Lord is in their midst, while St. Paul, in the Second Reading, emphasizes rejoicing in the Lord and letting go of anxieties by praying. He promises the peace of God that surpasses all understanding.

But how do we attain this joy as we wait in anticipation of the arrival of Jesus? Both Saints Paul and John the Baptist tell us in today's Readings. First, St. Paul, "Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." —Philippians 4:5-6. Then we hear from St. John. Last week's Gospel introduced us to him, and this week's picks up from there. The crowd asked John: What should we do to prepare for the coming of the Lord? John challenges the crowd with his answer, which is the same challenge given to us: be holy. John, "And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two tunics should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." —Luke 3:10-11. These Readings encourage us to prepare for the coming of the Messiah with acts of kindness and charity.

Occasions, interactions, and other factors can bring us happiness, but the emotion is fleeting. We are invited to rejoice in the nearness of God and prepare our hearts for His coming by doing acts of charity. The prophet Zephaniah encourages us to rejoice, for the Lord removed the judgment against us and is present among us, a mighty savior who transforms our despair into joy and will rejoice over us with gladness and renew us in his love. May His salvation bring you comfort and joy this season and for always.

Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord.

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Bread & Wine Memorial



Rev. John J. Gribbon
December 15 – 21, 2024

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions



December 2024
For Pilgrims of Hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthens our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Prayer Intentions



In the kindness of your prayers, remember our recently deceased parishioners and friends, especially:

Patricia O'Connor, Kathleen McDonough

Also remember the homebound, sick and those who have asked for our prayers:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Geraldine Armenio | Jo Ann Ferrari |
| Eva Bedell | Josephine Finocchiaro |
| Fred Bedell | Victoria Guerra |
| Ann Cavaseno | Claire Levens |
| Joyce Daino | Anthony Logerfo |
| John Dietzler | Alfina Manca |
| Carmela Digregorio | TJ McSherry |
| Ralph DiScala | Gregory Wiehl |



Mass Intentions



Sunday, December 15, 2024
5:00 p.m. Vigil Francesca Carbonara
Winifred Towey

8:00 a.m. People of St. Anastasia Parish

10:00 a.m. Martha & Camille Ferraro
Joseph Cina

12:00 noon Kevin Wuerz
Rafael Garcia

Monday, December 16, 2024
8:30 a.m. Umberto, Angela & Francesco Savocchi
Lorenzo & Domenica Taglienti

Tuesday, December 17, 2024
8:30 a.m. Pietro & Croce Alesci
Kelly J. Winter

Wednesday, December 18, 2024
8:30 a.m. Nicanor Sales
Marco de Rege

Thursday, December 19, 2024
8:30 a.m. Frank G. Bilz
Otto Cerruti, Jr

Friday, December 20, 2024
8:30 a.m. Elizabeth Bilz
Tammy Tam Kelly

Saturday, December 21, 2024
8:30 a.m. Maria Petruso
Madolalena Giampino

Sunday, December 22, 2024
5:00 p.m. Vigil Lucille Kramisen
Joseph & Angela Locetta

8:00 a.m. People of St. Anastasia Parish

10:00 a.m. Salvatore & Saveria Prezioso
Mary Chang

12:00 noon John Eubank
Josephine Cina

St. Anastasia Parish Registration



Thank you for attending Mass with us today.

If you have not previously registered or are considering registering with our parish, please complete a **Parish Registration Form** located in the rear of the church then return it to the rectory.

Parish Family: Why Register?

If you have not already registered, it is important to do so. If and when you are asked to be a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation, you will need a letter from the parish. Letters cannot be given to those who are not registered parishioners. Please be sure to keep your information updated with the parish, especially with changes to address and phone number.

O Lord Jesus,
I rejoice at the signs
that say you are near.



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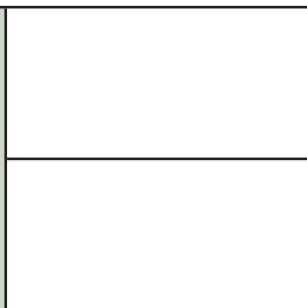
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