



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

Mass: 9:00 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

The **First Reading** is from *Zephaniah 3:14-18*. It is probable that neither Zephaniah nor his hearers saw the full meaning of the consoling words he uttered and that matters not. But we see their full meaning now in their fulfillment and we have every reason to do what the prophet said: "to shout for joy." God has come to dwell amongst us. He, Christ, is head of the new Israel, the Church. We are its members. "I am the vine, you are the branches" he said; while we remain united with him in grace and love we are producing fruit for eternal life, we are progressing daily towards our perfection.

The **Second Reading** is from *Philippians 4:4-7*. St. Francis of Assisi tried in his daily life to follow Christ as closely as possible. He was one of the happiest and most joyful of men for this very reason. He was often ill, often hungry, often cold and often fatigued but he was but he was never known to have been sad. He had taken this exhortation of St. Paul to his heart. Whenever he saw one of his early followers gloomy and sad—there were some evidently who were as yet only following from afar—he told him go to confession as he must be in mortal sin. There seemed no other true explanation for sadness in a true Christian's life. Is there? We are really pilgrims, exiles on this earth, but every day we live is a day nearer to our true and lasting home which is heaven. Would an exile on his home-journey complain of the few hardships and discomforts he may meet with on his journey? Not if his heart is really set on coming home.

Today's **Gospel** is from *Philippians 4:4-7*. St. Francis of Assisi tried in his daily life to follow Christ as closely as possible. He was one of the happiest and most joyful of men for this very reason. He was often ill, often hungry, often cold and often fatigued but he was but he was never known to have been sad. He had taken this exhortation of St. Paul to his heart. Whenever he saw one of his early followers gloomy and sad—there were some evidently who were as yet only following from afar—he told him go to confession as he must be in mortal sin. There seemed no other true explanation for sadness in a true Christian's life. Is there? We are really pilgrims, exiles on this earth, but every day we live is a day nearer to our true and lasting home which is heaven. Would an exile on his home-journey complain of the few hardships and discomforts he may meet with on his journey? Not if his heart is really set on coming home.

If the employers, through desire for excessive profit, or the employee through not earning his pay, cause prices to rise then the third party, the consumer, is treated unjustly. Our world today is full of such injustices and sad to say, the Christian countries whose citizens profess to be followers of Christ not only do nothing to prevent this state of affairs but instead are even worse offenders than those who have not yet heard of Christ. I may shrug my shoulders and say what can I do about the injustice that abounds can I do about the injustice that abounds on all sides? But stop and think, there are things I can do. I can put my own conscience in order, I can put myself right with God and neighbor by acting justly, "giving every man his due" from this day forward. I can thus become an example to lead others to do likewise.

—Excerpt from *The Sunday Readings, Cycle C* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

"Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Savior means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated *Veni* ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament.

The Third Sunday of Advent is known as *Gaudete* Sunday. The term *Gaudete* refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice." Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

If you have a notice for the bulletin, you can email louisecampbel@gmail.com

If you would like to donate to the parish, but do not have an envelope you can e-transfer to sacredheartjohnstown@gmail.com. A receipt will be provided.

Collection: December 8, 2024

Envelopes	\$145.00
Loose	\$20.00
Missals	\$10.00
Cemetery	\$300.00
	\$475.00

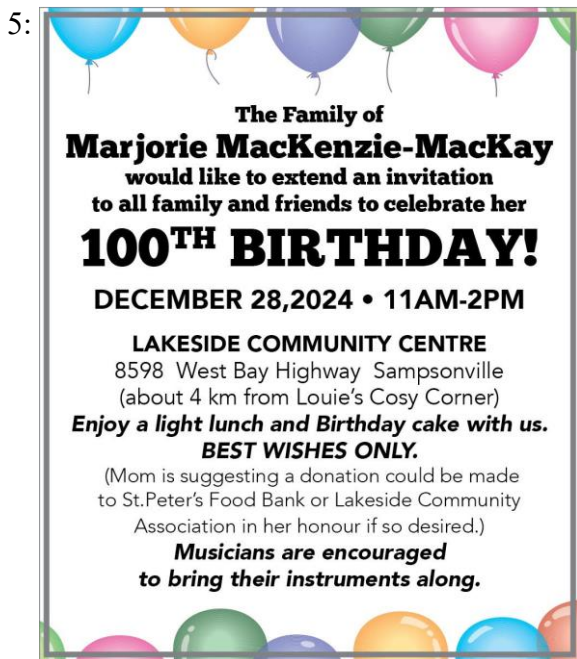
Notices:

1: Church Decorating: We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday December 22nd, at 2:00 pm. all are welcome to come and help.

2: Classical Christmas Concert will be held Dec. 15, 2024 at St. Mary's Church, East Bay at 3:00 p.m. The concert will feature Katheryn Gordon on piano and Barbel Albert on violin and special guest Geoffrey Lee-Dadswell on cello. Admission donation at the door for St Mary's Parish and Loaves and Fishes.

3: JUBILEE YEAR 2025 The Jubilee Year 2025 will commence on Sunday, December 29, 2024. The theme is Spes Non Confundit (Pilgrims of Hope). Pope Francis decreed that diocesan bishops celebrate Mass in their Cathedrals. It may happen that there will be Holy Doors in St. Ninian's and throughout several churches in the diocese. A jubilee Prayer will be made available and, scripture workshops, youth ministry and other activities are encouraged.

4: Tea and Tunes SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 Bonnie Brae Club 2-4 Wayne Bona, Tyrone David and Mannie Bourgeois. Admission 5 dollars Half and Half Tickets sold. Light lunch will be served.



6: Christmas/New Year's Schedule of Masses

This year the celebration of the solemn feasts: Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) and Mary, Holy Mother of God (New Year's Day) will simply be according to the regular weekend schedule

**Christmas Eve, The Nativity of the Lord
Holy Day of Obligation
Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024**
St. John the Baptist, River Bourgeois – 4:00pm
St. Peter the Apostle, St. Peter's - 5:30pm

**Christmas Day, The Nativity of the Lord
Holy Day of Obligation
Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2024**
Sacred Heart, Johnstown – 9:00 am
Holy Guardian Angels, L'Ardoise – 11:00am

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024
St. John the Baptist, River Bourgeois – 4:00pm
St. Peter the Apostle, St. Peter's - 5:30pm

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024**
Sacred Heart, Johnstown – 9:00 am
Holy Guardian Angels, L'Ardoise – 11:00am

**The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation
Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024**
St. John the Baptist, River Bourgeois – 4:00pm
St. Peter the Apostle, St. Peter's - 5:30pm

**The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation
World Day of Peace Wednesday, January 1, 2024**
Sacred Heart, Johnstown – 9:00 am
Holy Guardian Angels, L'Ardoise – 11:00am