

But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD.
Isaiah 11: 1-2



An Invitation to Joy
by John Graveline

This Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday. You will notice that Father will be wearing rose vestments today and the rose candle on the Advent wreath will be lit. The word “Gaudete” means “Rejoice” or “Be Joyful.” We call this Sunday “Gaudete” because this week’s Entrance Antiphon for Mass is, “*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.*” (Phil 4: 4-5)

Pope Francis has called us to live and proclaim the Joy of the Gospel! He laments that so many Christians walk around like “sourpusses,” as if the Gospel were not Good News. But what do we mean by living our faith joyfully?

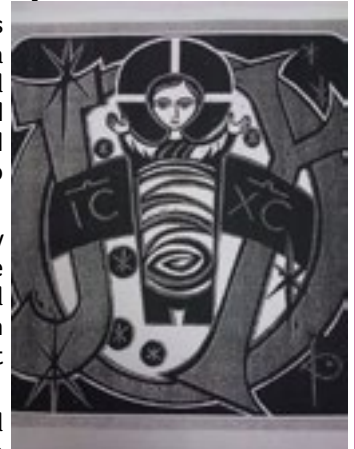
There is a level of emotional joy that we can experience when we realize that the “Lord is near.” During this season, many remember the fond memories of the Christmas Season as a child, the anticipation, the sense that people were a little more generous, a little more thoughtful at this time of year. Many times, as adults, we have exchanged this joyful anticipation for harried preparations, the financial and emotional stress of shopping, baking, parties, final exams and projects, familial and cultural expectations, etc. These things can erode our joy, sometimes to the point where we begin to dread the Christmas Season.

However, many also do not have fond memories of the Christmas Season. Because of family dysfunction, past or present, some people find this time of year emotionally fraught. Others have lost loved ones during this time of year and their grief puts a damper on the holiday joy they feel that they are expected to exude. I think that part of our Christmas charity is to be with those in their grief and sorrow, and not expect them to put on a false front of “happy, happy, joy, joy!” just because everyone is supposed to be happy at Christmas!

Thank goodness the Christian joy we celebrate today is so much deeper than emotional cheerfulness. Real, deep, Christian joy comes from finding and fulfilling the purpose for which God has created each one of us. The first step to that joy is realizing our limits. So many of us, especially those inclined toward perfectionism, beat ourselves up for our limitations, mistakes, and sins. However, one of the gifts of Advent is the opportunity to listen to prophets like Isaiah and John the Baptist, who remind us of our limitations and call us to use them to realize that we are not complete in ourselves and in need of a Savior. This week, a parishioner tweeted a quote from St. Augustine, “this is the very perfection of man, to find out his own imperfections.” This realization that we are not completely self-sufficient is the first step toward finding our ultimate purpose in life. We need God and others, and we are called to be of service to God and others as well. ([Continued on page 3](#)).



ST. LUKE UNIVERSITY PARISH
GVSU CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY
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Readings for the week of December 11 - 18

Sunday Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10;
Mt 11:2-11

Monday Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Tuesday Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 & 23;
Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor

Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Ps 85:9ab & 10,11-12, 13-14;
Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday

Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a & 13b;
Lk 7:24-30

Friday

Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Jn 5:33-36

Saturday

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24



Parish Center Office

10144 42nd Avenue
South of Campus
616-895-2247

Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
lukespot.com

Campus Office

Cook-DeWitt Center Rm 120
GVSU
616-313-3131

Monday - Thursday 1:30-4 p.m.
GVSUCatholic.org

Mailing Address

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[GVSUCatholic](https://www.facebook.com/GVSUCatholic)

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Happening this Week in Our Parish

Sunday (12/11) 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m.	Mass	For Our People	Cook-DeWitt
9:30	Children's Choir Rehearsal		Cook-DeWitt
10:30	Mass	Patricia McWilliams	Cook-DeWitt
5:30 p.m.	Mass	GVSU Graduates	Cook-DeWitt

Monday (12/12)

9:30 a.m.	Pastor Conversations		Bigby Allendale
12:10 p.m.	Mass	Safety of Immigrants	Parish Trailer
12:30	Reconciliation		Parish Trailer
7:00	Reconciliation		Cook-DeWitt Rm 120
7:00	Exposition and Adoration		Cook-DeWitt Greenroom
7:00	Reconciliation		Parish Trailer
7:00	Finance Council Meeting		Parish Trailer

Tuesday (12/13)

7:00 p.m.	Reconciliation		Parish Trailer
7:30	K of C Officer's Meeting		

Wednesday (12/14)

5:00 p.m.	Mass	Deceased Paulist Fathers	Parish Trailer
5:30	Reconciliation		Parish Trailer
6:00	Youth Group (6-12)		Kirkhof Thornapple Rm
7:00	Reconciliation		Parish Trailer
7:30	Choir Practice		Cook-DeWitt

Thursday (12/15)

7:00 p.m.	Reconciliation		Parish Trailer
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Friday (12/16)

5:00 p.m.	Mass	Vocations	Parish Trailer
5:30	Reconciliation		Parish Trailer

Sunday (12/18) 4th Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m.	Mass		Cook-DeWitt
9:30	Children's Choir Rehearsal		Cook-DeWitt
10:30	Mass		Cook-DeWitt
5:30 p.m.	Mass		Cook-DeWitt

Ministries for Dec. 18

Lectors

8:00 a.m.	Yvonne Boon (1st), Jaymie Perry (2nd)
10:30	Joel Dykstra (1st), Kali Steck (2nd)

Altar Servers

8:00 a.m.	Isaac Perry, Kalib Perry
10:30	Levon Gaiser, Destiny Gaiser

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

8:00 a.m.	Jessica Oostindie, Alan Supran, Pat Warren
10:30	Gene Smith, Jeanne Staub, Pam & Larry Van Wyk, Amy Wolf

Ushers

8:00 a.m.	David Boon (lead), Ron Gorlewski
10:30	Dan Gaiser (lead), Jason Staub, Jeff Staub

Children's Christmas Choir Rehearsal

Rehearsals for this year's Children's Christmas Choir take place Sundays at Cook-DeWitt between the morning Masses.

Saint Luke University Parish

December 11, 2016

Third Sunday of Advent

Volume 11, Number 3

Ministry of the Paulist Fathers

Things Liturgical

The Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Season of Advent – many find celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation an appropriate way to help prepare to celebrate the Birth of Jesus of Nazareth. This week, one of the priests will be available for confession from 7-9 p.m. on

- Dec. 12 at Cook-DeWitt (Fr. Chuck) **and** the office trailer (Fr. Brad)
- Dec. 13 (Fr. Brad) and following at the office trailer
- Dec. 14 (Fr. Brad)
- Dec. 15 (Fr. Chuck)
- Dec. 16 5:30-6:30 p.m. (Fr. Chuck)

You are also welcome to make an appointment.

Christmas Season Schedule

All Masses at Cook-DeWitt

Saturday, Dec. 24

- 4 p.m. – Singing of Carols
- 4:30 p.m.** – First Mass of Christmas



- 9:30 p.m. – Singing of Carols
- 10 p.m.** – Christmas Mass During the Night

Sunday, Dec. 25

- 9:30 a.m. – Singing of Carols
- 10 a.m.** – Mass on Christmas Day

NO daily Masses Dec. 26 – Dec. 30

Saturday, Dec. 31

- 4:30 p.m.** – Vigil Mass for the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God

Sunday, Jan. 1

- 10 a.m.** – Mass for the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God

Mass on Wednesday, Jan. 4 and Friday, Jan. 6 at 5 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 8

- Masses at 8 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; and 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Flowers

Due to our being in a transition worship space, our Christmas holiday decorating will be limited this year (not our space, lack of access during the week, etc.). However, we do wish to offer you the opportunity to honor/remember family and friends (living and deceased) with a donation to our Christmas Flower Fund. As in years past, we are suggesting a donation of \$15 per name to honor/remember someone, with the understanding that this donation is not for specific poinsettias but in support of our overall flower fund. Names are due by Dec. 18 for inclusion in the Christmas bulletin.

An Invitation to Joy...(Continued from cover)

Ultimately, we find the joy that comes from finding our purpose in our relationship with Jesus Christ, God-with-us. Vatican II taught that it is only in the light of the mystery of the Word made Flesh that we can understand mystery of the human person. Jesus came to save us, ultimately through his cross and resurrection; but all along the way he showed us what it means to be human, how to live the love, obedience, compassion, and self-giving that will bring us deep joy, even in the midst of deep suffering. He even helps us to transcend our human limitations through the gift of his grace, his very life within us nourished through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Within this general call to find our purpose in Christ Jesus, we each have our unique vocation to bring the Light and Love of Christ to the world using our own unique gifts and talents. When we find our unique purpose, and use it to give birth to Christ again in our unique daily circumstances, we find our deepest joy. A joy that is not dependent solely on emotional states, but rooted in finding our place in the Love that created and sustains the Universe.

I pray that each one of you is gifted this Christmas Season with a renewal in your relationship with Jesus, which is at the same time a renewal of joy and peace.

SCRIP

Will your kids be saying “I’m bored” over the holiday break? How about treating them to a movie at Celebration Cinema? The scrip store has \$10 gift cards ready to purchase. Need last minute gift ideas? Stop by after Mass and browse our gift card selection. The scrip store will be closed on Sunday, Dec. 25. Will re-open on Jan. 1st.

Love INC. Christmas Project

A HUGE Thank you to all who took tags and brought gifts for our Christmas project. We provided gifts for two of LOVES families, plus many children in foster care. I delivered four boxes of gifts-from infants to teens to be distributed. This is a wonderful blessing for those children that are removed from their families, and placed in a new home. A simple gift can bring them comfort. Thank You!

-Barb G. & Love INC.

Hiking in the City

Holy Redeemer Parish has a group that goes to the Heartside neighborhood to distribute socks, scarfs, mittens, hats, snacks, and hot chocolate, for those that live in shelters or on the street. This is done on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We will join them on Dec. 18, 1-3 p.m. Meet at Holy Redeemer in Jenison at 12:45 p.m. to leave at 1.

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to count the Sunday collection. It will be counted on Monday morning and would involve a time commitment of 2 hours or less every couple of weeks. If interested or you have questions, please contact Sue Sandberg at 616-895-2247 or s.sandberg@lukespot.com.

Financial Update

November	Envelope	Online	Combined	Budgeted	Over/Behind
Total for Month	\$ 15,299	\$ 5,620	\$ 20,919	\$ 23,440	\$ (2,521)
Weekly Average for Nov.	\$ 3,825	\$ 1,405	\$ 5,230	\$ 5,860	\$ (630)
Dec. total to date	\$ 3,950	\$ 1,970	\$ 5,920	\$ 5,860	\$ 60