

WELCOME TO IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – ST. MARY’S

Parish Office hours: Tuesday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Visit us on the web at www.stmaryflorence.org

Live the Gospel! Whatever it Takes...

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 166, Florence, WI 54121
 Street Address: 308 Florence Ave., Florence, WI
 Parish Office Telephone: (715) 528-3310
 Parish Secretaries: Jean Fornetti & Heather Roberts
 Parish e-mail: stmary@borderlandnet.net
 St Vincent DePaul: (715) 528-2030

St. Mary’s Pastor: Fr. Soja Joseph
 E-mail: frsojan@gmail.com
 Fr. Soja’s Phone: 920-445-4560
 Religious Education Facilitator: Carolyn Lemanski
 Carolyn’s Phone: (715) 528-3008
 Email: lemanski_mom@hotmail.com

Weekday Masses and Intentions

Tuesday 12/17 5:30pm For the People

 Thursday 12/19 4:30pm Eucharistic Adoration

 Friday 12/20 8:30am +Janet Kelley
Offered by Bob, Mary & Tommy Podnar

Weekend Masses and Intentions

Sat. 12/21 6:00pm +Mary Jo Bomberg
Offered by Ed. Kelley

 Sun. 12/22 8:30am +Jeanine Weber-Brouillette
Offered by Dennis & Karen Podnar

 + Deceased, Tg Thanksgiving
 Confession available 30 minutes before all Masses

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, December 21st
 Sacristan - Dan Throm
 Eucharistic Ministers - Dan Throm
 Lector - Heather Roberts
 Lead Usher - Skip Bilsky

Sunday, December 22nd
 Sacristan - Kathy Fabry
 Eucharistic Ministers - Bill DeGroot
 Lector - Bill DeGroot
 Lead Usher—Jay Glime
 Money Counters—Jay & Lori Glime

12/07 Sat. Coll.	Loose.....\$32.00	Envelope.....\$310.00	Total..\$342.00
12/08 Sun. Coll.	Loose.....\$189.00	Envelope....\$560.00	Total..\$749.00
Christmas Flowers: \$220.00	Electronic...\$85.00	Misc.....\$820.00	Total..\$1,125.00
		Total Collection:	\$2,216.00
Budget:	\$2,028.00	2023: \$1,543.00	



The Third Week of Advent is about JOY!

- ◆ According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Gaudete Sunday is a reminder to rejoice in the Lord and await his coming with joy, not fear.
- ◆ The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "rejoice."
- ◆ Gaudete Sunday is about finding joy in the midst of darkness.
- ◆ It's a reminder that God is in charge and that we should rejoice in his coming, not fear it.
- ◆ The liturgical color for Gaudete Sunday is rose instead of purple.
- ◆ We light the rose-colored candle on the Advent Wreath, and the priest celebrant typically wears rose-colored vestments.



Vincentian Meditation:
 “Sr. Rosalie said: “One night I dreamed that I stood at the judgment seat of God. He received me with great severity and was about to pronounce my sentence to perdition, when suddenly I was surrounded by an immense throng of persons carrying old shoes, hats, and clothing which they showed to God and said, ‘She gave us all these things!’ Then God looked at me and said, ‘Because you gave all these old clothes in My Name, I open heaven to you. Enter, for all eternity!’” (*White Wings and Barricades*, p.161) *For more about the reflection visit:* <https://svdp-rva.org/vincentian-spirituality>
Gospel Reading: Luke 3:10-18

ST MARY’S WELCOMES YOU TO THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Thank you!

- ◆ Thank you to Sue Mills for cleaning the church during the month of December!
- ◆ **Thank you** to all who donated to and prayed for **the Giving Tree** this year! Your participation to help someone in need this Christmas is a beautiful reminder that we are Christ’s hands and feet in the world.
- ◆ **We are in need of volunteers for snow shoveling this winter!** Please contact the parish office if you’re available and/or willing. Sign up in the entryway!
- ◆ **We are in need of Sacristans** for the following masses:
 *8:30am Christmas Day Mass, Wednesday 12/25
 *6:00 pm Mass, Saturday 12/28

Notes & Reminders

- ◆ **Advent Candle Lighting** We are still in need of families to help during Saturday evening and Sunday morning masses. Sign up is in the entryway.
- ◆ **33 Days to Eucharistic Glory** books are in the entryway!
- ◆ Please see our lost and found basket in the back of church, under the table for any missing items!
- ◆ **This weekend we will be having a second collection for the Retirement Collection for the Religious** at our masses. Please prayerfully consider donating. Thank you!
- ◆ **Don’t forget! Caroling on Sunday 12/15 from 2-3:30pm!** Meet @ St. Mary’s Parish Hall parking lot ready to *sing!* Holiday Christmas attire is *encouraged; dress warm.* Meet for 3:30pm @ Parish Hall for hot chocolate/snacks!

Looking Ahead...

- ◆ Wreath Laying Ceremony, **Long Lake Cemetery**, Sat. 12/14, 11:00am
- ◆ Here We Come A-Caroling **Florence**, Sun. 12/15, 2:00-3:30pm

Christmas Mass Schedules:

- ◆ Christmas Eve Mass @ **Goodman**, Tues 12/24, 4:00pm
- ◆ Christmas Eve Mass @ **Florence**, Tues. 12/24, 6:00pm
- ◆ Christmas Day Mass @ **Florence**, Wed. 12/25, 8:30am
- ◆ Christmas Day Mass @ **Armstrong Creek**, Wed. 12/25,



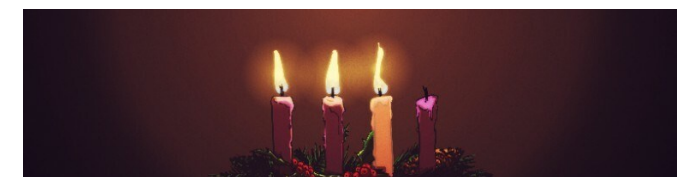
Friends, the theme for the third Sunday of Advent is joy. The readings for this week encourage us to rejoice because our salvation is near. The first reading foreshadows the coming of the Messiah, the anointed one. The presence of God in our midst is the cause of true joy and because of His presence the enemies are turned away. The psalm is from Isaiah “Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.” The second reading encourages us to rejoice, pray, and give thanks. God invites the frightened Israel to live joyfully, for God is their king and warrior, mighty and victorious is in their midst.

The invitation to live joyfully is extended to all of us who are saved by the blood of Christ. Advent is a time to begin again or to start a new journey of life choosing the path that leads to joy, the path of the Gospel and a journey mindful of God’s abiding presence in our midst. To begin again involves repentance and purification. John the Baptist was asked, “what should we do? And he instructed those who came to him saying, do not gather wealth unjustly and not to accuse anyone falsely. It is in a spirit of prayer that we examine our ways and straighten out ways to enter a joyful conversation with the Lord. Let us accept the invitation of God to be joyful in rediscovering the presence of Jesus in our life. Let us also share this joy of finding Jesus with the community, the society, and the world around us.

John’s message and activity lead many to wonder if John might be the Christ. His role as a witness to the light, highlights the importance of testifying to Jesus as the true Light who brings divine truth and life. John’s clear denial of being the Christ, reflects his understanding of his own identity and mission. This theme illustrates the importance of knowing one’s role in God’s plan and staying true to it. John’s role in preparing the way for Jesus underscores the idea of making oneself ready for the Messiah’s coming. It calls for spiritual readiness and openness to receive Christ.

~ Fr. Soja

Happy Gaudete Sunday!



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To register, simply go to stmaryflorence.formed.org and choose **Immaculate Conception, Florence** to open your account.

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Knights of Columbus

Local Council #2847 meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Parish Hall in Niagara. For more information contact: Larry Neuens at 715-589-3379

Lead with faith ~ Protect your family ~ Serve others ~ Defend your values

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