Dear Family in the Lord,

This third Sunday of Advent, recognized as when we “lighten up” from purple to rose colored vesture and wreath candle, is traditionally known as “Gaudete Sunday,” or the Sunday of Rejoicing! In all aspects of the Liturgy, the joy of Advent, the expectation, the illumination of hope and the underlying reason for His coming in our lives are underscored. The joy comes not simply from the nearness of the day when we celebrate the feast of His historical coming among us in the birth of Bethlehem, but is fueled by renewed awareness, I hope, through the scripture, liturgy, and our prayer in these Advent days, of the great and many ways He comes to us in mystery. This includes the ordinary, the everyday, and the powerful and grace-full ways of encounters with Him as Emmanuel (God with us!) in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the great gift of every Eucharist – His very body and blood!

Joy is basic to being a Christian! It’s one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit! Our vocation is to radiate that joy! One of the greatest converts ever known, Augustine of Hippo, who laid out his sinful ways, fears, and struggles with great humility and honesty in his work known as “The Confessions of St. Augustine,” wrote of his conversion through the prayer, inspiring example of faith, and teaching of Ambrose, a bishop of his time, known to us now as a great saint and doctor of the Church. But, for all the eloquence found in the prayers Ambrose wrote, for all the great wisdom in his teaching and writings, many of which have come down to us, it was not any of this that led Augustine initially to step beyond his fears and hesitations. His stance was: “Lord, make me holy... but not yet.” It was the joy Augustine experienced in his first encounters with Ambrose that would lead Augustine to be free from pagan ways, from unchastity, and to be converted, baptized, and become one of the greatest teachers of the faith, and himself a doctor of the Church.

The key element in inviting others to consider Christ and His Church, whether discovering it for the first time or rediscovering it after a time apart, is the obvious joy in our lives as disciples. There is no substitute for it! Sometimes it seems that if we have been redeemed, and heard the Good News, we have forgotten to tell our faces! In a meditation posted on St. Ambrose’s feast day recently, Seminarian Joe summed it up well: “We too, fellow Christians, are sent.. Who are we being asked to be a St. Ambrose to? Who are the Augustines God has placed in our lives? Who are we being sent to rescue as Ambrose rescued Augustine by imitating our Lord? If Ambrose had not acted with such love and solicitude, what would have happened to Augustine?”

So, it’s not just for today, but today is a reminder of the “job description” for every Christian every day – Rejoice in hope! Look Redeemed! Realize the reason for Joy – and be a contagious Christian! Disciples make disciples! Be on the watch, step out and rejoice in the opportunities that come your way!

With you on the Journey,

The Pastor’s Advent Musings

The Week at a Glance

**Monday, December 18**
SPA School Mass – 9:15 AM (C)

**Tuesday, December 19**
Televised Parish Mass – 7 PM, Channel 98
Advent Evening Mass – 7:00 PM (C)

**Wednesday, December 20**
Prayer Cenacle – 2:00 PM (C)

**Thursday, December 21**
Exposition/Adoration – 8:30AM-6:50PM (C)
Contemporary Group Practice – 7PM (CLL)
Televised Parish Mass – 7 PM, Channel 98
Advent Rorate Evening Mass – 7:00 PM (C)

**Friday, December 22**
Italian Class – 7:00 PM (SO)

**Saturday, December 23**
Rosary – 3:30 PM (C)

**Sunday, December 24**
Televised Parish Mass – 10 AM, Channel 98
**NO Spanish Mass Today**

**Christmas Eve Masses**

- **December 24**
  - 4:00 PM (C)
  - 6:00 PM (C)
  - Midnight (C)

**Monday, December 25**
Christmas Day Masses
- **9:30 AM (C)**
- **2:00 PM (C)**

**KEY:**
At 98 Summer Street:
C = Church
CLL = Lower Level of Church
VH = Vianney House (rectory next to Church)
At 845 Woodbury Ave:
PC = Parish Center (lower level of former church)
PO = Parish Office (former rectory)
YC = Youth Center (lower level of office)
On Austin Street:
SPA = St. Patrick Academy
SO = SHARE Office (lower level Vianney House)

Sanctuary Lamp & Votives

The sanctuary lamp will burn this week in memory of Mary Gogan, as requested by her family.

The votives at the Mary altar will burn for Jill Armitage, requested by her husband Phil.

At the St. Joseph altar, the votives will burn in memory of Gregory Guerra, requested by his family.
**Intentions For Holy Mass**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Person/Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>DEC 18  Late Advent Feria</td>
<td>Peter Scontras, by his Family</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Barbara Iafolla, by St. Patrick Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>DEC 19  Late Advent Feria</td>
<td>Kathie King, by her mother Alice</td>
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<td>Michael Barrett, by our Parish Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>DEC 20  Late Advent Feria</td>
<td>Julia Parnell, by Maryann Parnell</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>DEC 21  Late Advent Feria</td>
<td>Joseph &amp; Anne Parmentola, by the Family</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Michael Barrett, by Kathleen Nelson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>DEC 22  Late Advent Feria</td>
<td>Mary C. Gogan, by her daughter, Marilyn Chavez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>DEC 23  Late Advent Feria</td>
<td>Simone Lajoie, by Bernard Lajoie &amp; Family</td>
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<td>Assunta Sacramone, by Arthur Sacramone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>DEC 24  4th Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>Peter Scontras, by the Chavez Family</td>
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<td>Pro Populo (For our Parish Family)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NO Spanish Mass today</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pro Populo (For our Parish Family)</td>
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<td>Celebrant’s Intention</td>
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<td>Midnight</td>
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<td>Memorial Flower Fund</td>
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To schedule Mass intentions or for sacramental records, please see Marilyn Chavez at the parish office, 845 Woodbury Avenue, or call 436-4555.

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**Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**

We will celebrate the Solemnity of Christmas, a holy day of obligation, with two vigil Masses on Christmas Eve, the Solemn Mass at Midnight, and two Masses on Christmas Day. The Liturgy of the Fourth Sunday of Advent is a separate observance next weekend and is not combined with Christmas. The Masses for the Sunday obligation will be at 4:00 PM on Saturday, December 23rd, and at 8:30 and 10:30 AM on Sunday, December 24th.

- **Christmas Eve Vigil Masses at 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM**
- **Solemn Mass of Midnight at 12:00 AM with procession to the Manger** (Preceded at 11:40 PM with Carols and Anthems)
- **Christmas Day Mass at 9:30 AM**
- **Christmas Day Mass in Spanish at 2:00 PM**

Please note: Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00 PM is usually overcrowded. Due to fire regulations and limits, it may be better to choose one of the other Masses if possible to avoid overcrowding.

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**CHRISTMAS EXTRA EFFORT**

Your generosity week by week is outstanding! Over the years it has been a wonderful gift to see the response to this annual special appeal for “extra effort” at Christmas. Our parish budget plans on this annual appeal to fund a major part of our operating expenses. Some parishes do “Grand Annual Appeals” with mailings, etc. We have simply counted on your prayerful consideration and response to this occasion to see your offering as your Christmas Gift to your parish! Thank you in advance for whatever you can do. (If you give electronically, you can designate this gift online. If you use envelopes, you will notice a special envelope for this purpose in your box right after the ordinary weekly envelope for next Sunday, December 24th. You could also use your own envelope and simply mark it “Christmas Offering.”) We are happy to include this offering, individually or as a business if you are a business owner, in our statement to you for tax purposes. Thanks in advance for all you do and all you can do in this annual “Extra Effort”!

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**Our reflection of God’s generosity to us!**

**Weekend of December 9/10, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Envelopes/EFT</td>
<td>$12,063.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loose</td>
<td>$2,076.75</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,139.75</strong></td>
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Last weekend 213 envelope/38 Online Giving users contributed 85% of our income.

**Poor Box Donations** | $686.00
**Immaculate Conception** | $3,263.00

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**20/20 WINNERS**

$25 Winners ~ Week 16

# 227 Tammie Carney
# 188 Pat Deshaies
Parish News

**NEW! Flower Fund Memorials**

Thank you to all who have contributed to help us adorn our church for the upcoming solemnities! All names submitted “in memory” will be listed for prayerful remembrance in the upcoming bulletin, and all souls will be included in the Mass intentions offered in the Christmas Season. If you’ve yet to and wish to contribute/enroll a deceased loved one, please bring it to the office no later than tomorrow (Monday) night in order to have them included in remembrance.

**NEW! Christmas Wafers**

This beautiful Christmas Dinner tradition is explained on the green sheets at the church entry, with prayers to be used in sharing the wafer at the table on the reverse. The wafers are available from the Knights of Columbus in back of church after all Masses today, or, during the week in the sacristry after Masses. Consider this beautiful family prayer!

**NEW! Blessing of Couples**

It has been our custom for the last few years, as we contemplate Mary as an Expectant Mother, to invite couples expecting the birth of a child, or hoping to conceive, to come forward for blessing. That blessing will be imparted today at the 8:30 and 10:30 AM Masses.

**NEW! Seminarians in Finals**

We keep our seminarians in prayer during this, finals week, and look forward to welcoming them home later this week. If you wish to send Christmas greetings to Joe, Mike, Dan, simply address and mail it to them here at Vianney House, 98 Summer Street, rather than sending them to the Seminary. They’ll be gone before it arrives there. It’s been a good semester and it will be good to have them home!

(Hershey checks Joe’s room daily, waiting for him like kids wait for Santa!)

**NEW! Recently Baptized**

We warmly welcome Canaan Callahan, who was given new life through water and the Holy Spirit in our parish community! To her parents and godparents we extend our congratulations and prayerful support as they live out the commitment they made to be “the first teachers of these children in the ways of faith.” In the words of the rite, “may they be the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith in what they say and do.”

**NEW! Wedding Bells!**

Last week, Cassy Saltus & Harry Revels pledged life and love in the sacrament of Marriage in our parish. We extend our congratulations and prayerful best wishes to them! May He who brought you together bless you in abundance in the years ahead as you live out this wonderful vocation.

**NEW! Called Home to the Lord**

We remember in prayer the repose of the souls of Barbara O’Hara and Terry Glynn, whose Funeral Masses were recently celebrated in our parish. To their families we extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayerful support as well.

**NEW! Traveling Vocation Icon**

This week, Denis & Ann Hebert will receive the Icon of Jesus Knocking at the Door into their home and intercede in a special way for Joe, Mike, Dan, and all in formation, for those discerning, and for many vocations to rise up from our community.

**NEW! Community Prayer for Peace**

Temple Israel on State Street will be hosting an interfaith prayer service for peace during the lighting of the candles on the final night of Chanukah this Tuesday, December 19th, at 6:00 PM. All are welcome! If you usually join us for Holy Mass at 7:00PM, you would be able to attend this as well if you wish, as the service will not be lengthy. It will take place in the outside courtyard of the Temple.

**Spanish Mass**

Please note that there will not be a 2:00 PM Mass in Spanish on Sunday, December 24. There will be a 2:00 PM Christmas Mass in Spanish on Monday, December 25.
New Year's Weekend

Monday, January 1st, is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, the eighth day of the Christmas Octave. Mass will be celebrated on Monday at 10:00 AM.

New Year’s Eve Holy Hour

Our New Year’s Eve Holy Hour will begin at 11:30 PM, with Benediction imparted at midnight. Join us in spending the last 30 minutes of the old year and first 30 of the new year before our Lord!

Children’s Adoration

Saturday, January 6th -- 5:30 PM
Immaculate Conception Church

Epiphany Party & Potluck to follow
St. Patrick Academy’s cafeteria
RSVP for potluck

Has your child ever experienced Adoration of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament? So often parents hesitate to bring their young ones to Adoration out of fear that they will be noisy, bored, or too active. Fear no more! All ages (babies on up!) are invited to a special short period of Exposition, guided Adoration, and Benediction specifically for children and families, led by Fr. Gary at Immaculate Conception Church, on Saturday January 6th, at 5:30 PM. Festive and fun Epiphany potluck party will follow at St. Patrick Academy’s cafeteria. Take some time to bring your little ones to Jesus, and finish the Christmas season with a meaningful and special experience together. For questions or to RSVP, contact Brittany at youthmin.ccnh@gmail.com or 603-436-4555, X122.

“Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.”
Matthew 19:14

Open House

Save The Date!

Save the date – Thursday, January 18th – and plan to drop in, pay a visit, enjoy some refreshments, and take a look around our “new digs”! We will offer three opportunities and look forward to welcoming you and showing you around our new office that day: 9:00 to 10:00 AM, 1:00 to 2:00 PM, or 6:30 to 7:30 PM. We are settled in and loving it! Thanks to all who pitched in in any way, shared their time, talent, and treasure, and made it all possible!

Did you know we offer Online Giving (OLG), a convenient way to contribute “automatically” to our parish? OLG is easy to use and requires no special knowledge other than how to access the Internet. OLG provides an easy way to donate to the Offertory with the option of using credit/debit cards, not just bank accounts.

In addition, you also have the opportunity to donate to other special funds. In December, these include Christmas, Flowers, Immaculate Conception, and Retired Religious. Even if you typically use your offering envelopes, you may wish to contribute online to a particular collection. It’s easy and convenient!

OLG helps you maintain your giving even if you can’t be here at Mass. This helps the parish streamline its cash flow, especially during bad weather or vacation times. It’s convenient for you because you can make changes at any time, see reports on your contribution history, and generate tax statements at year end. It’s easy to set up and manage, and the service is safe and secure.

We encourage you to check out OLG! Start at our parish website, www.corpuschristinh.org, scroll down to “Registration & Online Giving” and follow the instructions for “First Time User.” If you don’t use the Internet, you can still establish an account as a “managed giver” where we in the office can set donation preferences for you. If you have any questions, please contact Norm Houle at 436-4555, x116 or aa2.ccnh@gmail.com.
Check out the picks of the month for making the most of your Advent Season!

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Mary of Nazareth
Who was Mary, Mother of the Messiah?
Experience life with Christ through the eyes of his mother in this beautiful film capturing Mary’s special role in God’s plan for our redemption, her unique relationship with Jesus, and the mysterious joys and sufferings she encountered with deep love, profound humility, and unwavering faith.

Watch on formed.org

*This is a spell-binding and touching representation of the life of the Blessed Mother... Highly recommended and praise God for the gift of His mother!”
—Afredo N., Buda, TX

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

The Mystery of Christmas
By Fr. Larry Richards
Unwrap the Greatest Gift Ever Given with Fr. Larry Richards
With humor, compassion, and clarity, Fr. Larry illuminates the true joy of Christmas and inspires us to better recognize, receive and respond to God’s immense love for us.

Listen on formed.org

*Fr. Richards challenged me to enter into the Christmas story with my eyes opened ... not just by celebrating Jesus’ birth, but by participating in his life!”
—Maureen, Spencer, NY

Our subscription to Formed.org is up for renewal in mid-December. We have a handful of benefactors who have already committed more than half of the amount needed to renew it for another year. Please help us to continue to offer to all in our parish this excellent source of Catholic study programs, books, and audios. You can place your donation into an envelope marked “Formed” and place it in the collection basket. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

FORMED…what is it? Netflix for Catholics! If you have not yet joined FORMED, it’s easy:

- Go to FORMED.org
- Click on “ENTER CODE” tab
- Enter Parish Code “DCTJND” and your email address
- Enjoy documentaries, movies, digital books, audio books, bible studies, and more!