



The Lord is near

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Third Sunday of Advent December 16, 2012

The King of Israel, the LORD,
is in your midst,
you have no further misfortune to fear.
— Zephaniah 3:15b

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

7:30 AM Benjamin Becker Sr.
9:30 AM People of the Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:00 AM Anna Kapuschinsky
2:30 PM Peter Gentile (Berwick Retirement Village)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:00 AM Holy Souls in Purgatory

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:00 AM William "Bill" Gray

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

9:00 AM Walter Kertes

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

9:00 AM William "Bill" Decker

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

4:30 PM Edward Shalata

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:30 AM John Mattive
9:30 AM People of the Parish

SANCTUARY CANDLE THIS WEEK: In memory of Joseph Kondrcek requested by wife Ann.

PEACE CANDLE: In memory of Mark Kinney requested by Joselle, Crystal & Mugzi.

RESURRECTION CANDLE: In memory of Mitzi Ursi

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE: In memory of Joseph Kondrcek requested by Rose Chiki.

THE ALTAR BREADS AND ALTAR WINE that will be consecrated at all our Masses this week are in memory of Dorothy Valunas given by Connie & Gene Stephens.



REJOICE!

Today has traditionally been called "Gaudete Sunday." The Latin tag is derived from Paul's

appeal in the second reading to "rejoice always in the Lord," and the Latin Mass text based on that reading. The irony and paradox of this Christian joy is underlined by the fact that Paul wrote those words in prison. But from there he could see the progress of God's work.

Is it obvious to us? We feel that this is not the time for joy when there is so much suffering and moral evil. It is interesting, then, that the first reading is from the prophet Zephaniah, who is almost exclusively concerned with gloomy visions of Judgment Day. Today the Church selects the only optimistic text in Zephaniah, in which the prophet has been touched by the spirit of joy.

This, we are assured on all sides, is "the season of joy." Let us recapture that feeling of joy in our lives and reflect it to those who are joyless.

PARISH SUPPORT

December 9 offering	
Adults:	\$5193.00
Youth:	29.00
Loose	<u>575.00</u>
Total	\$5797.00

Retired Religious: \$1452.00

Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH DATEBOOK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

THE MONTHLY MASS at the Berwick Retirement Village will be celebrated at 2:30 PM. Visitors are asked to report at 2:00 PM to assist the guests to BRV II for Mass.

NO BIBLE STUDY/SHARING.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSAL: 3:45 PM
(Christmas Party)

DECORATE CHURCH: 6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL: 7:00 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

BLUE ARMY HOLY HOUR: 8:00 AM.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

NO CCD.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD

Next Sunday, December 23

Saturday, 4:30 PM

Eucharistic Ministers: Panzak, Marston, Eroh
Lector: Wark
Altar Servers: 2
Greeters: Panzak & Rinehimer

Sunday, 7:30 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: Curry, Kilcullen, Koser
Lector: Belford
Altar Servers: 3
Greeters: M & B Samsel

Sunday, 9:30 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: Dante, Wharton, Samsel
Lector: Kalie
Altar Servers: 1
Greeters: Carter & Dent

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH
CHRISTMAS DECORATING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH
AT 6:30 PM.**

Many hands are needed to help make our church looks beautiful & festive for the holydays. Please come and help even if it's for ½ hour. The more people, the faster it goes! You are always welcome & needed!

December 16, 2012 [3rd Sunday of Advent]



The maternity of Mary in the order of grace began with the consent which she gave in faith at the Annunciation and which she sustained without wavering beneath the cross, and lasts until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect. Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this salvific duty, but by her constant

intercession continued to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation. By her maternal charity, she cares for the brethren of her Son, who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and cultic, until they are led into the happiness of their true home.

Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked by the Church under the titles of Advocate, Auxiliatrix, Adjutrix, and Mediatrix. This, however, is to be so understood that it neither takes away from nor adds anything to the dignity and efficaciousness of Christ the one Mediator. For no creature could ever be counted as equal with the Incarnate Word and Redeemer. Just as the priesthood of Christ is shared in various ways both by the ministers and by the faithful, and as the one goodness of God is really communicated in different ways to His creatures, so also the unique mediation of the Redeemer does not exclude but rather gives rise to a manifold cooperation which is but a sharing in this one source.

The Church does not hesitate to profess this subordinate role of Mary. It knows it through unflinching experience of it and commends it to the hearts of the faithful, so that encouraged by this maternal help they may the more intimately adhere to the Mediator and Redeemer.

Lumen Gentium, 62

VOCATION AWARENESS

“All were questioning in their hearts” Are you considering a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Call Father Raymond LaVoie (717) 657-4804 ext. 282 or e-mail: vocations@hbgdiocese.org.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent;
Las Posadas begins

Tuesday: International Migrants Day

Friday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Years ago, the trick question on religion quizzes would be to name all the liturgical colors, or the colors of the vestments worn at Mass. Rose is a color seldom seen, used at most two days a year. Today, “Gaudete Sunday,” is one of those days. The name of the day is drawn from an opening verse in the old Latin Mass texts: *Gaudete* is Latin for “Rejoice!” This year’s Gospel certainly reflects that mood as Elizabeth feels her infant within her leaping for joy at the presence of Mary. Mary’s visit to her aged cousin is an act of compassion between women, as two kinswomen who are bearing children into the world share their joy.

Some churches retain the custom of having the priest wear rose vestments today, and many will use a rose candle in the Advent wreath. Violet is the official color for Advent and Lent, but many parishes employ different hues for each season, trying to keep them distinct. In medieval times, dye was costly, and poor parishes used unornamented plain cloth for vestments. Dyes were expensive and some colors, particularly purple, difficult to achieve. In England, purple dye was made from mollusks, yielding at best a deep indigo or blue and not the desired violet. Thus, the color of Advent in the British Isles has long been a deep blue, reminding many people of Mary’s presence at the heart of the Advent mystery. That theology is largely unplanned: it’s all because of the clams!



2012

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday, December 22.....2:00 – 4:00 PM

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve – Monday, December 24

Children’s Mass.....5:00 PM

Festival of Carols and

Blessing of the Crèche.....10:30 PM

Vigil Mass11:00 PM

Christmas Day – Tuesday, December 25.....9:30 AM

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Monday, December 31..... 5:00 PM

Tuesday, January 1..... 9:00 AM