THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 14, 2025

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Margaret (Peggy) Haywood. May she rest in peace, Amen!

COFFEE HOUR

Please join us and share your baking talents at our next coffee hour on December 21st St. John's, after the 11:15 am Mass. All are welcome; we look forward to seeing you there.

FAITH FORMATION

The faith formation program will present a short Christmas pageant on Sunday, Dec 14th after the 11:15 Mass at St John's. All are invited to attend. Coffee and cookies will be served.

ROSARY CORNER

The Fifth Joyful Mystery is the Finding of Jesus in the Temple. *Duty* - And Jesus said to them "How is it that you sought me; did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

ST. PETER'S DECORATIONS

If you are interested in helping to decorate the church (either with moving/placing decorations or with artistic talent) please contact Katherine at the parish office.

MONEY MATTERS

The general collection amounts for December 6th and 7th - Holy Family $316.00, St. John's 2,708.00, St. Peter's $1,705.00. *Parish utilities* – Holy Family $271.00, St. John's $525.00, St. Peter's $525.00. Thank you for your support.

PRAY FOR THESE SOULS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR PASSING

Dec 14 - William Session, John J. Kelly, Ken Carron
Dec 17 – Timothy Crowley
Dec 19- Bernard Gagen
Dec 20 - Diana Mathison

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

St. John's – Dec 15 at 7:00 pm, communal
Dec 16 at 7:00 pm, individual

PLEASE JOIN US

AS WE SOLEMNLY CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AT CHRISTMAS MASS

THE CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL
4:00 PM AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
6:00 PM AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH
There will be no morning Masses on December 23rd or 24th

CHRISTMAS MORNING
9:30 AM AT ST. PETER'S
11:15 AM AT ST. JOHN'S

And for the feast of the

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MASS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, DEC 31ST, 6:00 PM AT ST. PETER'S
THURSDAY, JAN 1ST, 9:30 AM AT ST. JOHN'S
THURSDAY, JAN 1ST, 12:00 NOON AT HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

THIS WEEK'S DAILY SCRIPTURES

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3: 1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Gn 49:2,8-10; Mt 1:1-17
Thursday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Saturday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

GAUDETE SUNDAY

The day takes its common name from the Latin word *Gaudete* ("Rejoice"), the first work of the introit of this day's Mass: *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.*
The season of Advent originated as a fast of 40 days in preparation for Christmas, commencing on the day after the feast of Saint Martin (November 11), when it was often called *Saint Martin's Lent*, a name by which it was known as early as the fifth century. In the ninth century, the duration of Advent was reduced to four weeks (a period starting four Sundays before Christmas), and Advent preserved most of the characteristics of a penitential season, which made it a kind of counterpart to Lent. Gaudete Sunday is a counterpart to Laetare Sunday, and provides a similar break about midway through a season which is otherwise of a penitential character, and signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming.
The spirit of the liturgy throughout Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the feast of Christmas as well as for the second coming of Christ, and the penitential exercises suitable to that spirit are thus on Gaudete Sunday suspended, as it were, for a while, in order to symbolize that joy and gladness in the promised Redemption.
While the theme of Advent is a focus on the coming of Jesus in three ways: his first, his present, and his final Advent, the readings for Gaudete Sunday deal with rejoicing in the Lord – Christian joy – as well as the mission of John the Baptist and his connection with Advent. In his 2014 Gaudete Sunday homily, Pope Francis said that Gaudete Sunday is known as the "Sunday of joy", and that instead of fretting about "all they still haven't" done to prepare for Christmas, people should "think of all the good things life has given you."
On Gaudete Sunday rose-colored vestments may be worn. Gaudete Sunday was also known as "Rose Sunday". In churches that have an Advent wreath, the rose-colored candle is lit in addition to two of the violet- or blue-colored candles, which represent the first two Sundays of Advent. Despite the otherwise somber readings of the season of Advent, which has as a secondary theme the need for penitence, the readings on the third Sunday emphasize the joyous anticipation of the Lord's coming.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

O Mother of Christ, to the Messiah-Priest you gave a body of flesh through the anointing of the Holy Spirit for the salvation of the poor and the contrite of heart; guard priests in your heart and in the Church, O Mother of the Savior". *Pope St. John Paul II*

Dec 14 – Rev. Winston Bath &
Rev. Richard Carlino
Dec 15 – Rev. David Berberian &
Our Holy Father
Dec 16 – Rev. David Mickiewicz &
Rev. Martin DeRose
Dec 17 – Rev. Pascal Iannotti &
Rev. Matthew Frisoni
Dec 18 – Rev. Kenneth Swain &
Rev Paul McDonald
Dec 19 – Rev. Frank Sabatte, CSP
Rev. Michael Melanson
Dec 20 - Rev. Dojin Na
Rev. Anthony Barrett

We thank you Father, for those who have responded to Your call to priestly ministry. Fill Your priests with the knowledge of Your love.

PARISH SICK LIST

Dale Hart, Barbara Cocks, John Meinke, Mia Morris, Brian Conway, Jeff Fritz, Derek, Linda Barr, Kristen Alderman, Jim Romaglia, Peter Michael Sehen, Pauline Ralston, Ritchie Sackett, Ken Pyle, Jerry Hanley, Kathy Smith, Tony Contello, Chris Tarbell, Robert Strain, Marty Dewey, Steve Bower, Father Joe Manerowski, Roberta Lacey, Michael Curran, Moirah & unborn child, Zion, Liz Bowie, Patrick Damone, Kelly, Caleb, Barbara (Tomao) Robison, Jeanne Pennington, Judy Mills

ST. PETER'S CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Please join us at St. Peter's on Sunday Dec. 21 after the 9:30 am Mass, to sing Christmas Carols with some of the faith formation families, followed by cookies and cocoa in the rectory.

BOOK CLUB MOVED

The Book Club meeting for December is rescheduled to December 16th at 12:00pm. Please bring a small dish to pass to celebrate Christmas.

USCCB WORD OF LIFE

"O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free." USCCB, "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita"