

A Word From Fr. Tom Niehaus

December 15, 2019

Rejoice Sunday

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudette Sunday. The Latin word Gaudette comes from the antiphon of the opening scriptural reference of the Mass or introit, "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice, the Lord is near (Philippians 4:4-5)." This scripture sets the tone of joyful expectation for the Lord's birth and Second Coming. The Church offers a message of joy and invites the wearing of rose colored vestments, lighting the rose colored candle and the openness of hearts to joyfully prepare for receiving the Lord! We are encouraged by the Church in the Advent season to slow down and take time out for the Lord. As we hear in the letter from St. James, "Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain...(James 5:7-9)." Patient waiting is the posture for the Christian. Advent is a training ground for our souls in joyful hope. The increase of joyful hope is offered to the one who practices patient waiting. When we settle our souls in quiet prayer and stillness with the Lord, we open ourselves to an increase in patience. During this season we do all things to prepare for Christmas with parties, decorating, gift buying, card writing and event planning, even more so should we participate in special events for our souls in going to Confession, spending time in Eucharistic Adoration, spending more time in quiet prayer and reflection, reading the scriptures or devotional books and serving the poor. As we are drawn deeper into the mystery of waiting for the coming of Christ, together let us take time



this week to be with the Lord and allow Him to form us in patient waiting and joyful hope!

Scams Are Evil

Recently it has come to my attention that someone has hacked the names of priests along with our saved email addresses and phone numbers. The scam is connected to buying gift cards and sharing the serial numbers on them and the card's security code. **DO NOT ANSWER THE TEXT OR EMAIL** if it says it is from Fr. Tom or Fr. Tom Niehaus or Fr. Thomas Niehaus **WHEN ASKING FOR MONEY**. If I need money for the poor or sick I will ask you in person or as a community or through a regular letter. **AS A RULE I DO NOT ASK FOR MONEY USING AN EMAIL OR TEXT MESSAGE**. I am sorry that this violation of trust is taking place in our area.

Communal Penance will be offered on Sunday December 15th at Most Holy Redeemer in Montgomery, MN at 3 pm. Priests from other parishes will be present for Confession that day. Come to this special time of confession and receive the healing power of Jesus!

With joyful hope!

Fr. Tom Niehaus