



Pastor's Letter

December 15, 2024—3rd Sunday of Advent

Dear Church Family,

When the people were wondering if John the Baptist might be the Messiah that they were waiting for, it's interesting to see that he compared the way he was baptizing people with the way that our Lord would baptize people when he came. John's baptism is a baptism of repentance. That baptism was intended to show sorrow for sin and a firm intention to turn away from doing evil. This is a necessary first step, but it's not the whole story. The best part is coming.

The baptism into Christ lifts us out of sorrow and into joy, the deepest and truest joy any human can experience, the filling up of one's life with the presence and power of God. As John says, Jesus baptizes us with the Holy Spirit and with fire. We are immersed in God and receive from him, as St. Paul says, peace that surpasses all understanding. Paul exhorts the people to be filled with joy and gratitude. When we think of all the suffering and persecution that Paul faced in carrying out his mission to share the gospel, his joyful tone is amazing. It reminds us that our joy comes from a place that is deeper than our circumstances. Even when we are facing tough times, the gift of the Holy Spirit and the fire of his power strengthen us to get through them.

Today the church celebrates Gaudete Sunday, Rejoice Sunday, and we remember that the whole point of our faith is to experience the good news of great joy that is for all people, the good news that Christ is coming to put an end to evil. It may not always look that way and we may not always feel like jumping up and down, but however things look and however we feel, the goodness of God has been poured into the hearts of his people. May that fact fill us with peace, hope, and joy.

Blessings,
Fr. Scott

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

4:30 pm - St. Edward

4:30 pm - St. Joseph

7 pm - St. Brigid

10 pm - St. Edward

Christmas Day

8 am - St. Brigid

8 am - St. Joseph

Please Remember to Pray For:

Daran Knuffman	Rosie Miller	Raleigh Bess
Zoey Obert	Joe Rice	Karen Woodworth
Julia Winfield	Linda Windoffer	Doug Woodworth
Haddlei Burnett	Monica Mast	John Blickhan
Jim Steinkamp	Bonnie Johnson	Ryan Wiemelt
Kayle Sheely	Elizabeth Leonard	Scottie Bastert
John Kroner	Ben Venvertloh	Bernice Dittmer
Marvin Meyer	Ripken Rangel	Linda Howe
Carl Schisler	Jim Wilson	Joann Walton
Rachel Cramsey	Maurie Koch	Amy Ohnemus
Ginny Brinkman	Tony Peters	Stephen Sorrells
Denny Meyer	Joy Huebotter	Kent Hilgenbrinck

Please contact us, if we need to remove your name from our prayer list.