

# Pastor's Letter

**December 14, 2025—3rd Sunday of Advent**

Dear Church Family,

The third Sunday of Advent, which we celebrate today, is called Gaudete Sunday. The word gaudete is Latin and means "rejoice." Our readings today reflect an atmosphere of joyful expectation as we look forward to the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord and his second coming.

In the first two weeks of Advent that air of celebration has been more muted as we have looked at our lives through the lens of the challenge of the prophets and John the Baptist to turn away from sin and turn toward God. This week the theme is more hopeful. We are reminded that everything in life that we find burdensome; the conflict, the injustice, the suffering, even illness and death, is coming to an end as the day of the Lord draws near.

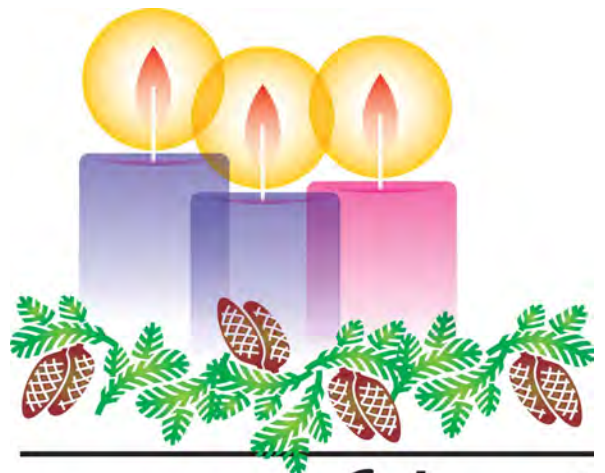
In the midst of the hardships of life we all need this encouragement. Even John the Baptist had his moments when he wondered if hard times would ever end. In our Gospel reading he is sitting in prison and sends his followers to ask Jesus if he really is the hoped-for Messiah. Jesus' response is for them to tell John what they see happening around Jesus. The blind see. The lame walk. Lepers are cleansed. Even the dead are being raised. And the poor are hearing the good news of God's long-awaited kingdom of justice and peace.

Sometimes, when we look around us, the big picture might not seem very promising. There is a lot of pain in the world. But if we look closer, we see signs of God's kingdom breaking in. We see God's people around the world and in every community working to bring healing to those who suffer physically, emotionally, or spiritually. We see Christians working to make sure that outcasts are welcomed and included. We see new life breathed into hearts where hope had died. We see the truth of the dignity of every human person being proclaimed. All in the name of God through Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. People like us are spreading the joy of the Lord and making his presence felt even in the midst of the world's brokenness.

May God help us to carry the joy of this season of hope with us wherever we go to brighten the lives of everyone we meet.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott



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THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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