



Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.

- ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

### THIS WEEK

#### SATURDAY DECEMBER 11

8:00 am.....Daily Mass 3:00-3:45 pm ....Confessions 4:00 pm ....Vigil Mass

#### SUNDAY DECEMBER 12

7:00 am.....Mass 7:30 am ....Holy Name Society Mtg-St. Joseph 9:00 am.....Mass 10:30 am.....Mass 12:00 pm.....Mass 6:00 pm.....Mass

#### MONDAY DECEMBER 13

8:00 am ....Daily Mass
12:00 pm ....Daily Mass
6:30 pm ....RCIA-St. Ann
6:30 pm ....KC Officer Meeting -SVDP Room
7:00 pm ....St. Vincent de Paul-St. Jerome

#### **TUESDAY DECEMBER 14**

8:30 am ....Rosary Makers-Coffee Shop 12:00 pm .....Daily Mass 6:00 pm ....Daily Mass 7:00 pm ....Charismatic Prayer-St. Gabriel

#### WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 15

8:00 am .... Daily Mass 11:30 am .... Courageous Women *-JPII House* 12:00 pm .... Daily Mass 6:00 pm .... The Light Is On For You

#### THURSDAY DECEMBER 16

8:00 am .... Daily Mass 12:00 pm .... Daily Mass 6:30 pm .... High School Bible Study

#### FRIDAY DECEMBER 17

8:00 am ....Daily Mass 9:00 am ....Moms & Tots -Guardian Angels Nursery 12:00 pm ....Daily Mass

### Prayer LINE

For Prayer Line requests, contact: Ms. Genie Ogden: (225) 293-2367 or Ms. Carroll Benedetto at <u>wlb14@aol.com</u>

## Family Reflection for the ADVENT SEASON

- Pray together
- Manage media time
- Eat supper together
- Put your marriage first (mom & dad need time together)
- Give children chores and responsibilities (so they see the family working together)

### On The COVER

Wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ.

### Second COLLECTION

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

### Gaudete Sunday

On Sunday, December 12, we invite you to bring the bambinello, the baby Jesus, from your family's Nativity scene to



Mass for a special blessing. May we, like so many generations of the faithful before us, experience the true joy of salvation in our homes this season.

### **Campus Safety**

Please do not leave your purse or any valuables visible on the seats or floor of your car. Place all of your valuables in the trunk of your vehicle in order to avoid anyone who might be tempted to do something the Lord would not want them to do. It is recommended that you do not give cash to anyone soliciting money. This only encourages repeat behavior and is somewhat fearful to those in the Adoration Chapel and the elderly. If you want to support the needy, then give to the St. Vincent de Paul Society where your generosity will surely help the poor and hungry.

## **BAMBINELLI SUNDAY**

Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete! Modestia vestra nota sit ómnibus hominibus: Domine enim prope est. (Phil. 4:4-5)

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice! Indeed, the Lord is at hand. (Phil. 4:4-5)

The entirety of the Advent season is filled with a growing sense of rejoicing, yet of the four Sundays of Advent, the third Sunday, commonly known as Gaudete Sunday, most prominently captures the joy of the season. The name for Gaudete Sunday comes from the Latin word gaudete (rejoice), the first word of the Entrance Antiphon of this day's Mass. The rose-colored "joy" candle of the Advent wreath is lit, and Father sets aside his purple vestments to don rose-colored ones for the occasion.



Gaudete Sunday is also known as Bambinelli Sunday. Bambinelli is the plural form of the Italian word bambinello, which means little baby boy. Pope St. John Paul II began the tradition of Bambinelli Sunday early in his papacy by inviting all the children in Rome to bring the baby Jesus figurines from their family's Nativity scenes to St. Peter's Square on the Third Sunday of Advent. Following the noon Angelus, the Holy Father gave a special blessing to the bambinelli statues. The children then brought them home, where their parents gift wrapped them and put them gently under the Christmas tree. On Christmas morning, families unwrapped the infant Jesus figurine first and, with great joy, laid him gently in the manger of their waiting Nativity scenes. Both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis continued the tradition, and over the last 40 years, the tradition has grown beyond the Vatican and is now a treasured Advent tradition in parishes worldwide.

The tradition of the Nativity scene, however, is far older than the papacy of Pope St. John Paul II. In fact, the very first Christmas crèche was created in 1223 by St. Francis of Assisi. Desiring to promote devotion to the birth of Christ, St. Francis prepared a manger, complete with hay, oxen, and a donkey, in a cave in the small Italian town of Greccio. On Christmas Day, Francis cradled a carved doll representing the infant Jesus in his arms, intending to lay him gently in the manger. Much to the crowd's surprise, however, the bambinello" seemed to be awakened from sleep when the blessed Father Francis embraced Him in both arms" and cried tears of joy. The miracle moved the people of Greccio, and now, nearly 800 years later, we find ourselves similarly moved by the tender scene recreated in our own churches and homes.

At the site of the original Nativity scene in Greccio on December 1, 2019, Pope Francis explained the importance of this devotion: "Standing before the Christmas crèche, we are reminded of the time when we were children, eagerly waiting to set it up. These memories make us all the more conscious of the precious gift received from those who passed on the faith to us. At the same time, they remind us of our duty to share this same experience with our children and our grandchildren....[T]he Christmas creche speaks to us of the love of God, the God who became a child in order to make us know how close he is to every man, woman and child, regardless of their condition."

On Sunday, December 12, we invite you to bring the bambinello, the baby Jesus, from your family's Nativity scene to Mass for a special blessing. May we, like so many generations of the faithful before us, experience the true joy of salvation in our homes this season.

### **PARISH LIFE**

### THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU! SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION



"Prepare the way for the Lord," cried John the Baptist from the desert to the people of his time. As Catholics, we are given the opportunity to heed St. John's call by readying ourselves for the Lord's coming during this Advent Season through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

When was the last time you received the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Have you been putting off going to Confession?

#### This prayer is for you:

Lord, help me genuinely accept that You have taken all my past - all sin I have committed or accusation against me.

Since You do not condemn me, help me renew my thinking & not condemn myself. Rather, I want to live in the Joy, Peace, & Freedom You have purchased for me by Your death and resurrection in Jesus' name.

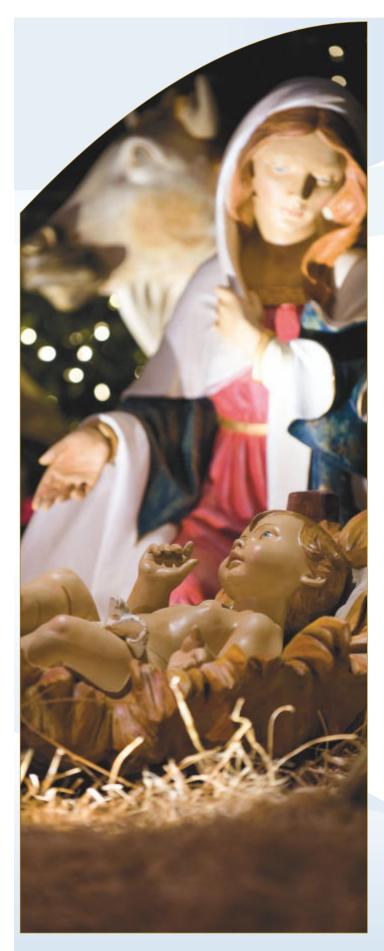
Amen

Additional opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at Our Lady of Mercy:

### 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

4 OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH



# CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

Friday, December 24th

4:00 pm 6:00 pm 8:00 pm 12:00 Midnight

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

Saturday, December 25th

7:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 Noon

### **NEW YEARS EVE**

Friday, December 31st

4:00 pm

### **NEW YEARS DAY**

Saturday, January 1st

8:00 am 4:00 pm (Vigil for Epiphany Sunday)

### Called to Prayer

### GARDEN OF PEACE COLUMBARIUM

### FINAL RESTING PLACE IN SACREDNESS, DIGNITY, AND RESPECT



The Mercy Columbarium Garden of Peace is open to all parishioners and non-parishioners, Catholic and non-Catholic.

Columbarium niches are available in two sizes - each cremain niche holds a space for two persons. They are \$5000 for a small niche and \$7500 for larger niches.

There is no greater gift one can give to family than planning final arrangements that fulfill one's specific wishes and take the burden off of others.

Call the Church Office to make your appointment - (225) 926-1883

### Sanctuary Light Memorials

The sanctuary light in the church burns this week in loving memory of

### Martin S. Rinaudo, Jr.

The sanctuary light in the Adoration Chapel burns this week in loving memory of

### Al Arceneaux

### In Sympathy to the Families of:

- Ojars Silarais
- Donald Wayne Diel
- Jane LeBlanc
- Sunny Bourgeois
- Wallace Dillon
- Tweetie Atkins Guidry

### MERCY PRAYS

Layne Arceneaux Patricia Bonnette Ruth Boudreaux Ronnie Bourgeois, Sr. Marie Capone Francisco Castellanos Paul Catalanatto Darryl Cazes Sonya Bueche Chauvin Marjorie Collins Janie Constantino Joseph & Rita Corsentino Gordon Craig Pete Crifasi Jack Crittenden Donald Dawson Nicholas Foster

Julie Hannie Warren Knecht Wade Labat Sid Lawton John Paul Lorio Jason Martin Kevin Minor Luke Mumfrey Tom Nolan Colleen Peak **Bessie Pizzalato Pauline Rushing** Jim Thompson Bart Tullier Dana Vidrine Kim Whitehead Karen & Wayne Watson

### Called to Prayer

### IN REMEMBRANCE

### Mass Intentions

#### DECEMBER 18, SATURDAY

8:00 am..... Robert Humble 4:00 pm .... Martin S. Rinaudo, Jr. / Plauche & Dufour Families / Vincent, Rosalie & Serrita Cangelosi / Kevin & Gary Keyser / April Morris / Vivian Carey / Jeffrey Morris / Paula LeBaron, Joe & Jenny Serio, Jackie & John Kenaley / Ellie Sances / Bradley Smith / Tommy Simmons / Jill Barfield Hamilton / Carl & Dorothy Crossland / Peggy Schoemann / James Guglielmo / Conner Cronin / Sidney Longwell / Jean Blum & Dennis Blum / Ginger White / Hy Van Nguyen / Jeffery Michael McAlpine / Bill Auten / Rose Graphia / Wilma Strueh, Edwin Graves, Viola Lutz & Vernita Carroll / Mike Sparks / Louis McHardy/ Ruby Seneca/ For the Poor Souls in Purgatory / Master Trooper Adam Gaubert / SPECIAL **INTENTIONS:** For All Priests & Those Discerning to be a Priest / Shannon Cormier & Family

#### **DECEMBER 19, SUNDAY**

7:00 am..... Andrew Acuff / Kyle Cassano / Sherry and Dwayne Gautreaux 9:00 am..... Linda Albaral LeJeune / Percival LeBlanc / Luke & Wanda Catalanatto / Joseph Musacchia / Patrick Musacchia / Aimee Planchard & Mary Rose Planchard / Byron Smith / **SPECIAL INTENTION**: Irene Bourque

10:30 am.. Philip Kimball, Blanche Kimball, Herbert Kimball, Newton Kimball / Anthony Saia / James Smith / Brenda Fremin / Bobby McCall / Francis & Verline Pellegrin / Alice Mae Meraux, Isabell Ott, Adam Ruth & Archie Wachenheim / Liera Porche / Ronald Bovard

12:00 pm.. James "Jim" Fernandez / Edward & Vivian Cedotal & Family / Charles & Eugene Nolan / Ryan Young / Deacon & Mrs. Gene Bradley 6:00 pm .... Charles Bourgeois / Bourgeois, Gautreau, Politz & Territa Families / Ruby Senaca / Bitsy & Sonny Adams

#### DECEMBER 20, MONDAY

8:00 am..... Leon Rosales 12:00 pm.. Sanford Lemoine, Sr.

#### **DECEMBER 21, TUESDAY**

12:00 pm.. Julio C. Patolilic 6:00 pm .... Michael Fakouri / Thomas Barfield / Ruthie Ann Bullock / George Mervin Simon, Rosa Simon & Danny Simon, Selden Tibbetts & Grace Tibbetts / Ordell Chambers Laws / For the Poor Souls in Purgatory / Byron Curtis Smith / Irma Denoux / Bitsy & Sonny Adams / Master Trooper Adam Gaubert/ Alvin Pellegrin, Jr. / Vernon Patin

### DECEMBER 22, WEDNESDAY

8:00 am..... Hueý Dufrene 12:00 pm.. Jack Casey

#### **DECEMBER 23, THURSDAY**

8:00 am..... Anna Mae Cascio LaPorte 12:00 pm.. Edith Foy

#### **DECEMBER 24, FRIDAY**

4:00 pm .... Manuel F. Gan / Louis Yonich / RitaAnne Babin, Madelynne, Joseph Kevin Babin, Babin Babies, Babin & Knight Families / Bruce & Eva Soileau / Virgil & Eunice D'Armond / Sugar & Cookie Kane / Sheila Ann Murphy / Victoria & Anthony Danna, Sr. / Robert Wiemer, Sr. / James Guglielmo / Conner Cronin / Chenevert, Knutsen, Salles & Manguno Families / Dorothy Bueche Stevens / Wayne Hirshey / John Milton Fruge' & Todd Fruge' / Special Intention: Shannon Cormier & Family 6:00 pm .... Adam Barksdale / Kenneth Pellegrin / Irene Beary / Charles "Snow" Foster / Diana Gauthier / Joe & Antoinette Maranto 8:00 pm .... Vincent & Grace Marino / Bill Carmena 12:00 am .. Will Steele / Gallon Family / Ballard, Chambers & McCay Families / SPECIAL INTENTION: Page Steele

## **A LETTER FROM THE DIOCESE**

12 December, 2021 The Third Sunday of Advent

**Dear Brothers and Sisters:** 

Recently, Pope Francis called for the entire Church to engage in a synodal process officially entitled *Toward a Synod Church: Communion, Participation, Mission.* While many dioceses began this consultation process in October, our Diocese was still recovering from Hurricane Ida. Now, though, is an opportune time for us to heed the Holy Father's call.



To understand "synodality," it is important to understand the concept of a "synod," Simply stated, a synod is a meeting or assembly of church leaders. Such gatherings are rooted in Scripture (Acts of the Apostles 15) and can take place locally, on a regional level, nationally, or internationally. Such opportunities for gathering and dialogue have often been used to raise important issues and seek consensus in the Church's history. "Synodality" refers to the way in which decisions are made that involves listening to a broad range of the faithful and discussing issues that impact the Church and the world, constantly open to the Holy Spirit's call for direction and action. Conversations are meant to be had with *parrhesia*, a Greek word that appears in the New Testament that can be translated as "frankness" or "boldness." After such discussions, documents are drafted, and these documents assist Church leaders in decision making.

Pope Francis believes that the Church should best practice synodality, first beginning on a local level. To assist in our diocesan process, I have appointed one of my Vicars, Fr. Jamin David, and two members of the faithful, to lead this process in Baton Rouge. Over the next few months, synodal sessions will be held in every deanery in the Diocese of Baton Rouge as orchestrated by our Deans. After these dialogues, reports from every diocese in the United States will be submitted to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) for to assist with a "continental phase" of dialogue in late 2022/ early 2023. A final phase of dialogue will conclude on a universal level at the Holy See in October 2023. The reasonable expectation of these sessions will likely be an apostolic exhortation from the Holy Father with ideas and decisions to grow in ecclesial life.

I ask all the faithful of our local Church to consider participating in a dialogue session if not in your own deanery then at another location of the Diocese. A schedule of these sessions will be forthcoming. Should parish dialogue sessions be tenable, we will schedule these as well. If you are unable to participate in person, an online form will be created for you to submit ideas directly to our diocesan offices which will aid in creation of a diocesan report.

While this process might be unusual for many, Pope Francis' aim is for the church to "walk together," and while there may be disagreement, I know the process will encourage listening with humility to the needs of our Church and the world.

Hope in the Lord, Most Reverend Michael G. Duca Bishop of Baton Rouge Called to Worship

### **MASS SCHEDULE & TIMES**

WEEKDAYS

MASS TIMES:

M, W, Th, & F: 8:00 am & 12:00 pm Tues: 12:00 pm & 6:00 pm

RECONCILIATION:

M - F: 45 minutes prior to Mass

SATURDAY

MASS TIME: 8:00 am RECONCILIATION: 3:00 - 3:45 pm VIGIL: 4:00 pm

**SUNDAY** 

MASS TIMES: 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm & 6:00 pm

NURSERY: No Nursery at this time

PRE-SCHOOL BIBLE CLASS: No Bible School at this time

### **ON CAMPUS RADIO**

87.9 FM Listen to Mercy's Daily Masses live

### CATHOLIC COMMUNITY RADIO

1380 AM - WPYR Listen daily at noon and 10:30 am on Sunday for Mercy's Mass live broadcast

Weekend of December 18th & 19th					
4:00 pm*	7:00 am*	9:00 am	10:30 am	12:00 pm	6:00 pm
Fr. Milano	Fr. Minj	Fr. Minj	Fr. Milano	Fr. Milano	Fr. Milano
Extraordinary Ministers					
L McCann C Abshire A August N Krzystowczyk M Arias	A Haywood E White A Wilson J Pastorek P Samrow	Dcn Duplantis J Schiro A Haldane A Dalmau J Harrison	Deacon Grant J Smith R Arabie Dcn Duplantis B Rigby	Deacon Grant J Frederick J Frederick C Roberts C Graves	C Steele G Bertrand P Bertrand S Harrington D Smith
Lectors					
G Lalonde K Steintrager	B Babin S Darensbourg	D Deshotels L Guttner	C Kline E Kline	L Holliday G Anderson	C Schutte E Pavlovich
Altar Servers					
K Allen J Hernandez		H Schiro H Schiro	H Arabie L Shoriak	T Dantin E Floyd	M Billeaud M Campbell
The complete Ministry Schedule is published on our website at www.olomchurch.com. Called to serve? Contact Deacon Grant to volunteer for liturgical ministry. *These liturgies are celebrated without incense.					

The live-stream of the 12:00 noon Daily Mass can be found on the church website at www.olomchurch.com and youtube.com/olombr. The Sunday 10:30 am Holy Mass can be found on WBRZ+; olomchurch.com; and youtube.com/olombr.

# THE SEASON OF GIVING



In this Holy Season of the Savior's birth, I cannot think of a more beautiful and holy place to worship our Lord Jesus Christ than here at Our Lady of Mercy. Our parish provides tremendous opportunities to celebrate the Sacraments of Holy Mass and Confession.

Our strong witness to the power of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the Adoration Chapel, and our commitment to St. Vincent de Paul and our outreach to the poor and needy, truly are a bright light in a world that can seem very dark.

Our Lady of Mercy functions not only as a vibrant and active church family but also as a shrine for the City of Baton Rouge and our Diocese.

The doors of Mercy are open to everyone. That is why one of the best charities that you can support during the Christmas Season with your end of the year financial giving, is our own parish. So many people are affected in a good and positive way when you support your church family. If you love the legacy of Mercy and want to continue the light of Christ shining so brightly, I encourage your continued faithful giving in this season of offering our generous heart to God.

God Bless Mercy's faithful families and may the Light of Christ shine more brightly through us.

Happy Advent! Fr. Cleo



