



SAINT DOMINIC PARISH

December 17, 2023

905-827-2373 | saintdominic.ca

Issue 51 | Volume 04

Third Sunday of Advent

Rejoice in the Lord, Always

Fr. Ranjan D'Sa OCD

The Third Sunday in Advent is celebrated as Gaudete Sunday by Catholics and many main-line churches. Gaudete means 'to rejoice'. This name comes from the opening antiphon (introit) used in the liturgy – "Gaudete in Domino semper" (Rejoice in the Lord, always). The church is inviting all of its faithful to rejoice, for she sees her bride is coming to her. Her waiting is almost over and now is the time to rejoice because her 'Lord is close at hand'.

In the early church, Advent was celebrated just like Lent with fasting and abstinence. In some traditions, Advent was celebrated for 40 days. During these practices, Gaudete Sunday was celebrated to take a breather from fasting. By the tenth century, a four-week Advent was formalized. Though, today, we retain the penitential outlook of Advent, the church does not encourage fasting as a part of preparation for Christmas. The coming of Christ to the world, bringing us our salvation is the source of our joy.

In the First Reading, the prophet Isaiah is proclaiming the total salvation of God's people. He uses the language of the 'Jubilee Year' described by Moses (Lev. 25: 8-22). Here, instead of people keeping the 'Jubilee Year', God Himself is causing it through His promised Messiah. For Christians, every day is part of the 'Jubilee

Year'. In the Lukan Gospel, when Jesus went to the synagogue of Nazareth, he read the same scripture from Isaiah and made a profound statement saying; "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." (Lk 4:21)

In the Second Reading, Saint Paul, addresses the church in Thessalonica and especially the disgruntled members of the Church. He motivates them to "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." (1 Thess 5: 16) Many lost their patience in waiting for the second coming of Christ – they thought they would witness it in their lifetime. So, Paul asks these people to actively prepare for the coming of Christ by fully and actively participating in the life of the church.

Paul and our church are inviting us to become the dispensers of the 'Jubilee Year' proclaimed first by Isaiah and then by Jesus. Today's Scripture reading uses John the Baptist as an example of that joy in action. All four Gospels mention John as a precursor to Jesus, who has come to "prepare the way of the Lord". Despite many challenges and persecutions, he joyfully proclaimed the coming of the Lord.

Pure joy is internal, and it comes from a deeper relationship with our God. Joy is an expression of God's presence in us and a confidence of our salvation in Christ.



PARISH LITURGIES

—THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT—
(Bambinelli Sunday – Gaudete Sunday)

December 17 – December 23

Tuesday, December 19 – St. Nemesius

8:30 am + Darryl Ward

Wednesday, December 20 – St. Dominic of Silos

8:30 am + Sharron McCormick

Thursday, December 21 – St. Peter Canisius

8:30 am + Carmen Reeves

Friday, December 22 – St. Flavian

8:30 pm + Guido Bardaro

—FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT—

Saturday, December 23 – St. John of Kanty

4:00 – 4:30 pm **Reconciliation**

5:00 pm **For:**

+ Rita Merrick, + Judith McFarlane, + Cletus & Mary Touesnard, + David Wiley, + Michael Evans, Int. Fiona Shiels, + John McCann

Sunday, December 24

9:00 am For our

11:00 am Parish

Christmas Octave: December 25–Jan 01



BAMBINELLI SUNDAY PRAYER

God our Father, you loved us so much that you sent your only Son, Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, to save us and lead us back to you. We pray that, with your blessing, these images of Jesus might be a sign of your presence and love in our homes. Good Father, give your blessing to all who gather with us this Christmas: family and friends. Open our hearts, that we might receive Jesus in joy, always do what he asks of us, and see him in those who need our love. Amen.

SAINT DOMINIC PARISH 2ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY MASS & PAGEANT



Children in Grade 4 and up are invited to participate in our parish Christmas Family Mass as actors and readers! The dates of the practices are as follows:

Monday December 25 – 10:00 am

sharp. We meet at church in the meeting room to get prepared for the 11:00 am Christmas Day Mass. If you would like to participate in our Christmas Pageant, please contact:

Mrs. Colleen Gamble at:
 colleengamble123@gmail.com
 (905)-330-9537 or
 Michael Aguiar:
 Michael@saintdominic.ca
 (905) 827-2373.



*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
 he has sent me to bring good news to the poor.”*



SANCTUARY LAMP

*Our Sanctuary lamp will be lit this week
 in Memory of Patrick Doyle*



Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24, 2023

- **5:00 pm** (Carols begin at 4:30 pm)
- **7:15 pm** (Carols begin at 7:00 pm)
- **11:30 pm** (Carols begin at 11:15 pm)

Christmas Day – Monday, December 25, 2023

- **9:00 am**
- **11:00 am** (Christmas Pageant)

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – Holy Day of Obligation

- Sunday, December 31, 2023 – **5:00 pm**
- Monday, January 01, 2024 – **10:00 am**

Note: the evening Masses on Dec. 24th & 31st do not fulfil the Sunday Obligation. These are separate obligations. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, January 1st, is also a Holy Day of Obligation.

CHRISTMAS BONANZA

Celebrate the joy of the season with St. Dominic’s Youth Ministry! Our Christmas Bonanza will take place on Wednesday, December 20th from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Join us for an evening filled with festive fun for the whole family, including various stations of crafts, games, food and more all led by our high school leaders! Please RSVP to our Youth Minister, Michael by contacting the parish office. All parents who are available to support in the organization of this event are encouraged to please contact the parish office.

ADVENT RESOURCE FOR TEENS

The Office of the Youth Ministry is pleased to announce the release of the 2023 Advent Resource, "Shine Your Light." This resource has been developed for youth aged 13-16 in mind. The resource is an interactive journal, inspiring prayerful reflection on the Sunday Gospels, in addition to suggestions for living out the Advent Season. Special links and videos are included to help teens meditate on the weekly themes. You are invited to share this resource with the teens of your school communities. The resource is located here: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3h2ejs>

SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENTS

The first Social Committee event of 2024 will be a live concert by Fiddlestix – a local community 5-piece band on Saturday, February 03. More details to follow.

On Tuesday February 13, we will be having our Traditional Pancake Supper. If you would like to pitch in and help, to plan and host this event, you are invited to join the pancake supper volunteer committee at their scheduled meeting on Wednesday November 29th at 7:00 pm in the parish centre. We appreciate the support that our wonderful Saint Dominic parishioners give to all social committee initiatives and we look forward to a FUN and event-filled 2024.

VOCATIONS MASS AND YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT JANUARY 5TH – HAMILTON

The Serra Club of Hamilton invites all parishioners to attend a Mass for vocations at 6:00pm. Following the Mass, Fr. Mark Morley invites young adults to attend a night of Adoration, fellowship and praise music in celebration of the Christmas Season. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm - 7:30pm), Social with food (7:30pm-8:30pm), praise night and vocations talk (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on Friday, January 5th at Annunciation of Our Lord (280 Limeridge Rd. W., Hamilton, ON L9C 2V2). Co-sponsored by the Serra Club of Hamilton and the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton. For more information, please contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

HAMILTON DIOCESE PRAYER CALENDAR	
Monday, December 18	Rev. Msgr. Theodore Slaman
Tuesday, December 19	Single Catholics
Wednesday, December 20	Voluntas Dei Institute (i.v.Dei.)
Thursday, December 21	Rev. Gabriel Morais Catarino
Friday, December 22	Rev. Ronald Hodara
Saturday, December 23	Rev. Donald Wilhelm

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

There was a man named John, sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. It is possible God could be calling your name to witness to the Light of Christ in our Day? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious, or deacon, call Fr. Mark Morley, Directory of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988. Email: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 50/50 DRAW

Help support Marian Council #3881 Knights of Columbus charities by participating in our 50/50 draw with councils across Ontario. The jackpot is currently over \$12,000 and climbing! The grand prize draw will be drawn on December 31st! Get your tickets at <https://ontariokofcraffle.5050central.com/?olc=3881>

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions are a great treasure of the Church and have a spiritual weight that is incalculable. As Pope Paul VI said, "The Mass is the perfect form of prayer!" One single Mass has more value than all the good works of men, because the Eucharistic Celebration is the work of God himself. If you would like to purchase a Mass intention for someone (living or deceased) please contact the parish office. The cost is \$10.00 per intention.

SAINT DOMINIC PARISH

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Pastoral Associate/Youth Minister: Michael Aguiar
michael@saintdominic.ca

Deacon: Reverend Mr. Terry Murphy
Parish Accountant: Brian Thornton
Secretary: Mary Evans
Sacristan: Judi Kingry
Custodian: Peter Coffey

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
(Closed from noon to 1:00 pm).

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