**Note: Please leave this on the ambo, thanks.**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A**

**Introduction:**

Good morning / evening we welcome our parishioners to Mary Immaculate Quakers Hill/Schofields Parish.

The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday—Sunday of joy, Sunday of rejoicing. The entrance antiphon begins with Paul’s exhortation: “Rejoice in the Lord always!” Isaiah invites God’s people to meet the Lord with joy and gladness. And Jesus tells John the Baptist’s messengers that he is the awaited one, the Messiah who has brought good news to the poor.

The Celebrant for today’s Mass is:

Please now stand and join in our Entrance Hymn.

# \*THE ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY\*

# *The Advent Candle is brought in procession by rostered parishioners who walk in front of the Celebrant. (Note: This Candle lighting ceremony replaces the Penitential Rite during the Advent Season and Christmas Day)*

**The Third Week of Advent**

# *At the conclusion of the Entrance hymn, the candle bearer faces the congregation and holds up the candle.*

**Priest:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen

**Priest:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the holy be with you all

**All:** And With Your Spirit.

**Commentator: Behold the Third Candle - The Candle of Joy**

***The Candle Bearer holds the candle up high and then place it in the Wreath***

**Priest**: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Priest**: Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Peace. We light the Candles of Hope and Peace again as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfil all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy.

***The Senior Server lights the Candles of Hope and Peace***

**Priest**: Today we light the third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.” Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him. From hope, peace, and love grows joy.

We light the Candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth.

***The Candle Bearer lights the third Candle, the Candle of Joy***

**(P.T.O)**

**Priest:** Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

**Priest**: Let us pray:

**All: Thank you God for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other.**

**We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem.**

**Amen**

***The Candle Bearer return to floor level of Sanctuary, bow and return to seat.***

#### **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A**

#### **MASS READINGS**

#### **FIRST READING (Is 35:1-6, 10)**

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,

let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,

let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,

let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,

the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;

they shall see the glory of the Lord,

the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,

steady all trembling knees

and say to all faint hearts,

‘Courage! Do not be afraid.

‘Look, your God is coming,

vengeance is coming,

the retribution of God;

he is coming to save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

the ears of the deaf unsealed,

then the lame shall leap like a deer

and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,

for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,

everlasting joy on their faces;

joy and gladness will go with them

and sorrow and lament be ended.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4)**

***(R) Lord, come and save us.***

#### 1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,

#### who is just to those who are oppressed.

#### It is he who gives bread to the hungry,

#### the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

#### 2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,

#### who raises up those who are bowed down,

#### the Lord, who protects the stranger

#### and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)

#### 3. It is the Lord who loves the just

#### but thwarts the path of the wicked.

#### The Lord will reign for ever,

#### Zion’s God, from age to age. (R.)

#### **SECOND READING  (Jas 5:7-10)**

*A reading from the letter of St James*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord’s coming will be soon.

Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**PLEASE STAND TO WELCOME THE GOSPEL**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL (Mt 11:2-11)

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

#### John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?’ Jesus answered, ‘Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.’

#### As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet?

#### Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.’

#### The Gospel of the Lord.

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** With confidence, let us pray to the Lord to fill our hearts with joy, joy that only the Lord can give, joy that will strengthen us as we wait for his coming.

Let us pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the Holy Father Francis, bishops, priests, deacons, and consecrated men and women may find joy in the Lord and in return strengthen the weak and the weary among us,

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those who exercise authority among us may shun luxury and corruption and instead follow the example of John the Baptist who lived a life of austerity and integrity,

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those broken by sorrow, disappointment, or loneliness, especially among the young people who need our care and attention, may know the gentle healing of Christ and experience joy especially this coming season of Christmas,

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those who mourn the death of their loved ones may draw comfort from our belief that the just ones who have gone to sleep are now with God,

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That our Christmas Novena Masses commencing this week be truly an act of praise and thanksgiving to God, a witness of our filial devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and an expression of our joy and unity as a people.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For those who have died. In particular those mentioned in our parish bulletin. May God’s merciful love shine on them and their loved ones left behind.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** **Together we now pray our Parish Community prayer for Advent.**

**All:** God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the centre, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time.

**Priest:** God our Father, hear our prayers. As we await the gift of your Son, dismiss all our anxieties and fill us with joy.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**