



**12 December 2021
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



INTRODUCTION:

This Third Sunday of Advent is also called "**Gaudete**" Sunday or "Rejoice" Sunday. Today, the Church calls us to rejoice, to have joy in Christ. And this we do by entering into a loving relationship with Christ and advance in our journey of faith by loving others. As people who are preparing for '*the parousia*,' the Second Coming of Christ - we are given a glimpse of what that may be like. Yes, we will greet a victorious and glorious Lord - but one who comes among us and dances with us and joins in the songs of joy at our own salvation.

READINGS:

First Reading: Zeph 3:14-18a
Responsorial Psalm: Isa 12:2-3, 4abcde, 5-6
Second Reading: Phil 4:4-7
Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:

Celebrant: Mighty God, as we contemplate the teaching of John the Baptist on our Advent journey, give us courage to be faithful and to "bear fruits worthy of repentance" until your promises are fulfilled.

Response: Lord, give us a new heart

For Pope Francis, Bishops the world over and all clergy: that they may continue to inspire us to prepare well for the Lord's coming.....We pray to the Lord.

That elected leaders may have wisdom, courage, and sincere concern for those they represent, we pray to the Lord...

That those who are burdened by anxiety may experience God's own peace, and the joy of His presence, we pray to the Lord...

That the blessing of the anti-covid vaccines reach more and more of the world's poor, and for the blessing of the God of hope and healing upon every effort to contain the virus's variants, we pray to the Lord...

That the sick and dying may be comforted by the love of God and the Christian community, we pray to the Lord...

Celebrant: Merciful God, who sent John the Baptist to proclaim the Good News, help us as we go from this church to be true heralds of the coming of Christ and to proclaim the Gospel through all we do and say. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONA VIRUS:

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Corona Virus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for an efficacious control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We thank You for blessing the efforts of our research scientists working on the development of a vaccine. We pray that these vaccines will be effective in combating the virus and its mutants, and in controlling the spread of the pandemic. We pray that the vaccine be available for all our people even the poor and those in rural areas.

We pray for doctors, nurses and health workers who are in the frontline of this battle, that they be kept safe and have the strength and courage to continue their heroic efforts.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.