



Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church

*Friar Timothy Dore, OFM Cov.
Pastor*

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Pastoral Associate*

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Lyceum

2100 E. Madison St.....410-675-3320

*St. Wenceslaus is "twinned" with St. Ann Church,
at Greenmount Ave. and E. 22nd St.
410-235-8169*

*Masses at St. Ann: Sunday – 9:45 a.m.
Thursday - 7:00 p.m.*

MASSES

SUNDAY
WEEKDAYS
HOLYDAYS

8:00 and 11:45 am
8:00 am
As announced in the bulletin

CONFESSIONS:

Please contact the parish office to schedule an appointment for confessions

DEVOTIONS:

Infant of Prague Novena - Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena - Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.

First Friday Holy Hour for Vocations - 8:30 a.m.

BAPTISMS:

Adult candidates and parents of infants are invited to contact the pastor so that we can begin preparations for baptism.

MARRIAGE:

We extend a warm welcome to couples desiring to be married in the church. Please contact us early (six months or more) so that we can work with you to prepare for your wedding.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK:

Please notify the pastor when a member is unable to come to church. We will be happy to provide pastoral care at home or in the hospital.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Sunday School classes for children and youth meet every Sunday in the Lyceum from 9:30 to 11:30A.M. To register call the church office or Ms. Edith Pumphrey, Director, at 410-488-7069.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP:

We urge you to register as a member of the parish, so that we can keep you informed of church activities. We will be happy to provide you with church envelopes to assist you in the support of the church. You may register in person at the church office weekdays between 9:00 to 2:00 or by completing the following form.

Name _____

Street _____

Phone _____ Zip _____

Check:

New Registration Moving out of Parish

Change of Address Want Envelopes

Catholic Review Yes No

Please cut out and drop in the collection box or mail to the rectory.

SAINT WENCESLAUS CHURCH
Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2016

From the Pastor . . .

My Sisters and Brothers:

The first words of the traditional “*entrance antiphon*” proclaimed at Mass on the Third Sunday of Advent are from St. Paul’s Letter to the Philippians. He wrote: “*Rejoice in the Lord always, I say it again, rejoice*” (see *Philippians 4:4*). In Latin, this translates to “*gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete*,” and so, based on these words, this Sunday has always been known as “*Gaudete Sunday*.” On this day, the traditional liturgical color is rose, hence the unique hue of the Advent wreath’s third candle, as well as the vestments used by the ministers. The words of St. Paul in the antiphon, and the color rose, are meant to emphasize our heightened sense of **JOY** during these ebbing days of Advent, and as we come closer to the celebration of Christmas. This is completely based on the experience of knowing the presence of the Lord is at hand, and this reality causes us to rejoice! “*I say it again, rejoice!*”

In today’s first reading, the Prophet Isaiah described the day of the Lord’s coming; he spoke of this same joy when he wrote “*in those days the desert and the parched land will exult, the steppe will rejoice and bloom, they will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song*” (see *Isaiah 35:1-2a*). And on that day of rejoicing, he also prophesied that “*the eyes of the blind would be opened, and the ears of the deaf would be cleared . . . then the lame would leap like stags, and the tongues of mutes would sing*” (see *verses 5-6a*). These joyful words form a kind of prologue to those of Jesus found in today’s passage from the Gospel of St. Matthew. In it, the emissaries of John the Baptist questioned Jesus about whom he truly was. And then echoing the words of Isaiah, Jesus told them: “*Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them*” (see *Matthew 11:4-5*). We can only imagine how overjoyed they must have been upon learning the anticipated day had come, and that Jesus truly was the long awaited Messiah.

Yet because we know “*the rest of the story*,” surely our joy is even greater than what was experienced by the followers of John the Baptist. We already know what the Lord has done for us in this life, and what he promised as we now anticipate our own future glory. We know Jesus worked wonders upon the earth, and we know he came to serve humanity and to raise the lowly to high places! We know he sacrificed himself completely for us when he died on the cross; we know he rose from the dead; we know he saved us, and we know he promised us joy forever with the Father in heaven. We also know we share in the mission of Jesus Christ as ambassadors of God’s love on this earth. Therefore, on this Third Sunday of Advent, and with all of these things in mind, we rejoice again with even more enthusiasm than those disciples of John. But even more specifically, we rejoice today because we anticipate the second coming of Jesus, and we believe the hour of his return is close at hand!

My friends, as we joyfully light the rose-colored candle of our wreath, let’s celebrate with enthusiasm the promised return of Jesus the Lord! And so today, as we anticipate the finale of Advent, and the coming of Christmas, let’s once more recall St. Paul’s words: “*Rejoice in the Lord always!*” Yes, Jesus is coming, so let’s say it again: “**REJOICE!**”

Praise God! *Friar Timothy*

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to pray for our sick and homebound, especially Arnold Anderson, Donald Benedict, Beatrice Hradsky, Irene Gist, Sheila Lambert, Albert J. Novak, II, Mary Schwartz, Charles Supik, Lillian Tyler and Joan Pittman.

THE GIVING TREE

Please remember to take a tag or two from the Giving Tree and bring back a new, unwrapped gift for the clients of the Franciscan Center. **Gifts can be left in the baskets under the tree until December 18.** Thank you for all your support and may God continue to bless you.

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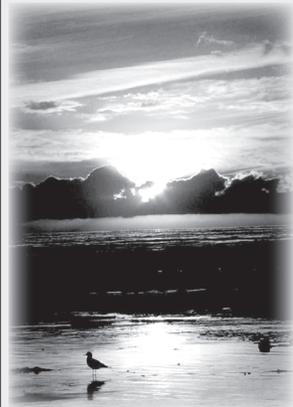
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