



Our Lady of Sorrows Church

December 17, 2017

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear People:

The prophet Zephaniah tells us of the real spirit of Christmas. His theme at the time was freedom from the slavery of Babylon, and our theme is the freedom from the burden of sin. So, using his words, we say REJOICE, REJOICE, REJOICE!

In today's second reading, St. Paul to the Thessalonians, we find the same great message, but with so much more emphasis, because the promised Savior has come.

"Rejoice always...In all circumstances give thanks."

Today is REJOICE Sunday. It is like a little Christmas, sort of in advance. The response for the Responsorial Psalm is:

"My soul rejoices in my God."

Paul to the Philippians:

"Rejoice in the Lord, always, I say
It again, rejoice."

There are those who say, "It is a sad Christmas", because:

1. A close relative died;
2. The doctors claim I have a malignancy;
3. My good friend went crazy and shot someone;
4. I lost most of my investments this year;
5. Etc.

St. Paul knows he is writing to Christians who face death because of their faith, and he is still telling them in different letters:

"REJOICE IN GOD, ALWAYS REJOICE."

St. Paul knows persecution. He was a persecutor, himself, until the Lord appeared

to him. It is called genocide, the complete killing of a certain group of people. It is happening at this moment in Iraq and Syria. Paul writes as one who, himself, was threatened with being stoned, beaten, imprisoned and, ultimately, death. He keeps teaching us that we are living for eternity, not this life. This life has its joys and sorrows, but when one is asked to give up one's faith in Jesus or die, we probably have more martyrs in the 21st Century than in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd centuries.

We are half way through Advent, and we are reminded to rejoice in anticipation of the coming of the Savior. Even one repented venial sin would keep us from heaven if we did not have God, Himself, coming to save us. No wonder the Angels said to the shepherds:

"I bring you news of GREAT JOY,
A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU."

If the Savior is important to us, how will we spend the last half of Advent?

There is a celebrated mission at OLS starting Monday at 6:30 p.m. It will continue on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. On Wednesday we will begin at 7 p.m. with our communal penance service, and we will have eight priests hearing confessions. Reconciliation (confession)! What a way to prepare for the Feast of Jesus' birth!

My second suggestion is to put the emphasis on loving others for the love of Jesus. We start with reaching out to our immediate family, then others. Listen to others, sense their needs, share, be the giver more than the taker. Encourage others. Love means giving more than one expects to receive. This is why God is the great LOVER.

Holy means LOVING. When we sing the Sanctus, *Holy, Holy, Holy*, think loving, loving, loving, God of the Angels, Hosanna (Savior) in the highest, etc.

Look forward to that enormously great feast, when at every Mass we sing:

“JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD HAS COME, LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING.”

With prayers and blessings,
Father Muller

Handicap Parking

Please be respectful of the handicap parking signs! These spaces are for those who truly need them. Thank you.

CHAPEL OF OUR SAVIOR

The Chapel needs permanent Committed Adorers for:

Friday at 10:00 PM (With Partner)

Saturday at 3:00 PM (With Partner)

Our goal is to have at least 2 people on each hour. These are the hours needed, but do select an hour that best fits your schedule.

Please call Mary Claire Brouillette at 871-2909 or Trudy Carpri at 643-0248.



Vivian Bonamy, Vita D'Amico,
Mary Ann Huie, Melanie
Gilchrist, Charlie Kai
Wadsworth

Advent Mission

Fr. Daniel Gagnon will be at OLS on Monday, December 18 through Wednesday, December 20. Fr. Gagnon is a missionary priest with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He is in great demand around the world and has given retreats in 50 countries, bringing the love of Christ wherever he goes. Fr. Gagnon will lead us in reflections on how increasing our love for Mary can lead us closer to her son to

better share Him with the world. What a great way to prepare our hearts for Christmas! The Advent Mission will begin on Monday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m. and conclude on Wednesday, December 20, with the **Penance Service** at 7 p.m. We will have eight priests hearing confessions. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.



Mass Intentions

Please Note: Mass Intentions are assigned to the priests, not the Mass times. If you have reserved a certain date, you will need to call the Church Office the Friday before to find out the Mass time.

Monday, Dec. 18	Special Intention Catherine Forsythe Sp. Int. Ike Capdevielle
Tuesday, Dec. 19	Special Intention John Milan Jackie Pickard
Wednesday, Dec. 20	Special Intention Anthony Smeraglia Conrad Morel
Thursday, Dec. 21	Special Intention Joe Naro Gerald Seiler
Friday, Dec. 22	Special Intention Josephine Romano Sp. Int. Family of Austin Brown
Saturday, Dec. 23	Brian Criswell Kathleen Milan Joseph Milan
Sunday, Dec. 24	Huber & Susan O'Donnell Albert Gordon Kenny Joe Naro & Elizabeth Saia

Adult Education will resume classes on Sunday, January 7! We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

PLEASE contact the Church Office if you change addresses. We will be mailing contribution statements in January and need everyone's updated information. Thank you.



The Chrismon Tree, with its hand-crafted ornaments, is on display in the Church during the Season of Advent. The word “Chrismon” is derived from two words: Christ and Monogram. The Chrismons that adorn our tree represent the different aspects of the life of Jesus. Take a moment to view the Chrismon Tree up close, and read in the book next to the tree about the meaning of each of the beautiful Chrismon ornaments.

What’s Going on in Youth Ministry?

Thanks for a great semester! We will see you for kick-off on January 7th! Have a Blessed Advent and Christmas!

Camp Hidden Lake: Reserve a spot for your teen for June 18-23, 2018. Cost is now \$225. Open to rising 6th-9th graders. Email: msyouthminister@ourladyofsorrows.com for more information.

Find our full schedule on www.olsyouth.com!

The Annual Respect Life Mass and March, led by Bishop Baker, will be on Saturday, January 13, 2018 St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Chapel at 9 a.m. The Birmingham Rally and **March for Life** will begin at 10:45 a.m. at Brother Bryan Park. For more information go to www.BirminghamMarchforLife.com or call 205-447-8796.

John Carroll Preview Days

We are proud to invite prospective parents and students into our school to understand what makes John Carroll the most special high school in Birmingham! Preview Days will allow you to get a feel for John Carroll on a typical school day. Preview Days are from 10 a.m. – noon on January 23, February 13, March 13, and April 10, 2018. Visit www.jcchs.org to register!

Watch special EWTN Advent and Christmas Programming. EWTN is proud to bring you LIVE Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses from Rome and the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, D.C., as well as inspiring musical performances, specials for children and teens, and new holiday presentations the whole family will enjoy. Watch EWTN on your local channel or online! For more information, go to ewtn.com.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Because Christmas falls on a Monday this year, we will have our regular Sunday morning Masses at 7, 8:30, 10 and 11:30 a.m. These and the Saturday Vigil Mass at 5 p.m. will fulfill the Sunday obligation. Christmas Eve Masses will begin at 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 24th.

Christmas Eve (Sunday)

4 p.m. (Church, Parish Hall, Assembly Hall) – Nursery Provided

6 p.m. (Church)

9 p.m. (Church)

12 Midnight (Church)

Christmas Day (Monday)

10:00 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

6:00 p.m.

This year, New Year’s Day is not a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Sunday Mass schedule will remain the same: 5 p.m. Vigil, 7, 8:30, 10, 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

New Year’s Day (Monday)

10:00 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

6:00 p.m.