



## Guardian Angels Parish

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Pastor: Rev. John Alex Pinto, OCD

### **(Weekend of December 12/13, 2020: Third Sunday of Advent/Gaudete Sunday)**

December 11, 2020

**Dear Parishioners,**

It is Gaudete Sunday meaning rejoicing Sunday. I know, it is difficult to bring out our joy due to present situation especially those who are eager to join church services and family. As it happened at lent so it is now, during this most joyful time of the year. But we need to lift our hearts and not let the pandemic dampen our spirits.

Today's readings proclaim and invite all of us to fill our hearts with joy and hope. Israel shines like a joyful bride ready to meet her bridegroom adorned with "jewels", "clothed with garments of salvation."

St. Paul's writing to Thessalonians invites us to "rejoice always." This joy comes from two things: a) "praying without ceasing" and b) "giving thanks in all circumstances." God's spirit is in our hearts therefore, St. Paul urges us in this reading "not to quench the spirit!" He also reminds us "to hold fast to what is good." This according to St. Paul will sanctify believers and will give peace.

St. John the Baptist inspires us to be who we are. He was a voice and he knew exactly who he was. Like St. John the Baptist, prophets as we are, let's continue to herald the Lord's coming. Let us show that within us there is burning charcoal and non-consuming of light, illuminating people who are in the shadow of darkness and gloom. Our advent mission is the project of Jesus – good news to the poor. Only when we have inner peace and joy we can be harbinger of good news.

On Dec. 14th, we celebrate the feast of St. John of the Cross. In spite of being in dark chamber and dark night, he was able to write spiritual canticles and his heart was with Living Flame. As our hearts beam with lights from heaven, may we glorify God with spiritual canticles.

Though we can not have masses for public, church never stops. I am available to hear confession Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 9 am and Saturday 3 pm to 4 pm. You can just walk in.

The Archbishop has instructed us to give Holy communion after the live streaming of Sunday and other masses. I will bring Communion to underground parking lot at noon (12 pm) and at 12:15 pm in the church for those walking in. You need to follow instructions of the ushers.

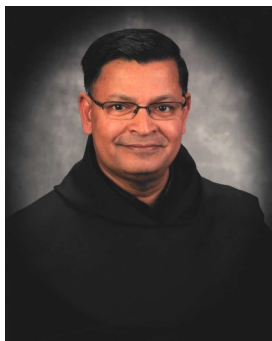
You can also obtain copy of Sunday Missal from our volunteers for \$3.50/copy. 2021 Sunday offertory envelopes are now available.

Wishing you a joyful Season of Advent.

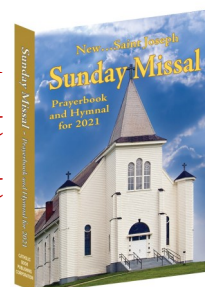
Prayers and blessings,

**Fr. John Alex Pinto OCD**

Pastor



**SUNDAY MISSAL FOR YEAR B, Liturgical Year 2020 - 2021, is now available for sale at \$3.50 per copy. Please come to the office to get your copy/copies.**



The Parish Grotto needs some tender loving care from assiduous and generous VOLUNTEER. Would you love to be the one? Please call the parish office or talk to Fr. John for details.