

ST. ELIZABETH CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Mass intentions
for Dec. 12, 2021
3rd Sunday of Advent**

Saturday, 5 p.m. —

† Nanci Vasilko
By: David & Gwenda Cumbow

Sunday, 9 a.m. —

† Roxanne Haskill
By: Fran & Rodney Robey

Wednesday, noon —

† Sybil & Carl Luoma
By: Catherine Hiles

*Among you is
the Holy One of Israel*



3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-18a — Sing joyfully, O Israel! The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love.

Isaiah 12:2-6 — Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Philippians 4:4-7 — Rejoice in the Lord always. Your kindness should be known to all. Have no anxiety at all, but by prayer and with thanksgiving, make your request known to God. Then the peace of God will guard your hearts and minds.

Luke 3:10-18 — John the Baptist preached the good news to the people, adding: "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Dec. 12, 2021

3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18



REJOICE ALWAYS

Today's readings are a reminder that true religion should be joyful. In the New American Bible the single word "joy" appears 219 times; while the words "sad," "sadden," "saddens," "sadly" and "sadness" occur only a total of 24 times. The Catholic Church celebrates two "Joy" Sundays: the third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete, Latin for "Rejoice" and the fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare, another Latin word for "Rejoice.") We are supposed to be somewhat sad during Advent, but we cannot help but be filled with joy because we know how the story ends, with the Nativity.

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Weekly readings

Monday

St. Lucy
Numbers 24:2-7,
15-17a
Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday

St. John of the Cross
Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13
Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday

Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18,
21b-25
Luke 7:18b-23

Thursday

Isaiah 54:1-10
Luke 7:24-30

Friday

Genesis 49:2, 8-10
Matthew 1:1-17

Saturday

Jeremiah 23:5-8
Matthew 1:18-25

**4th Sunday
of Advent**

Micah 5:1-4a
Psalm 80:2-3,
15-16, 18-19
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

**Thanks
for your support
and generosity**

In-person Offertory
Dec. 5, 2021

Regular, \$2,397
Needy, \$394
Catholic Schools, \$300
Backpack Buddies, \$113
Catholic Charities
Immigration, \$25

Third Week of Advent

Light two purple candles and the pink candle:

•Candle of hope or "Prophecy Candle" (purple) reminds us that the prophets, especially Isaiah, foretold the birth of Christ.

•Candle of love or "Bethlehem Candle" (purple) represents the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus.

•Candle of joy or "Shepherd's Candle" (pink) reminds us that the world experienced great joy at the birth of Jesus.

Advent wreath prayer

Blessed are you, Lord God, ruler of the universe and giver of true peace! We rejoice in your constant patience and love as we prepare for your Son, our Savior. Help us to share with each other and go out beyond ourselves to the poor, the sick, the elderly. With your power we can reverse human failure and bring about peace. Your gift is the constant faithfulness to your promises. Light up our lives. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



Meal prayer

Blessed are you, O Father, source of all healing. We long to remember the birth of your Son, Jesus, for he gives us hope. Help us to free each other by loving and working for peace. Take away all sadness and division among us. Send your Spirit of Peace upon us. Amen.

Thoughts for Advent

Enter deeper into the scripture readings. Far too many activities are fighting for our attention during this time of year. We can forget that we are still waiting for the spiritual fruits of both Advent and Christmas.

Consider meditating on the Scripture readings for the Sundays in Advent, asking God to use his Word in order to deepen our understanding.

Saintly Wisdom

"Let anyone who comes to you go away feeling better and happier. Everyone should see goodness in your face, in your eyes, in your smile. Joy shows from the eyes. It appears when we speak and walk. It cannot be kept closed inside us. It reacts outside. Joy is very infectious."
— St. Teresa of Calcutta —

Parish Life

Christmas Flowers — Next Sunday is the deadline for turning in Christmas flower envelopes for those people who would like to remember a loved one with Christmas flowers at church. Please be sure to note if a name is a memorial or an "in honor of" request. Thank you.



Christmas Eve Children's Mass Practice — Children who plan to be in the play at the Christmas Eve children's Mass are to meet after Mass next Sunday for a short practice. For more information, contact Coleen Schneider at 423-202-6387 or coleenschneider@gmail.com

Christmas Mass Schedule — St. Elizabeth's Christmas Masses will be at these times:

- 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24 (children's Mass)
- 10:30 p.m. Dec. 24 (music starts at 10 p.m.)
- 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 25

The Sunday vigil Mass will be canceled on Saturday, Dec. 25, because it is Christmas day.

Advent Food Drive — The Knights of Columbus' annual Advent Food Drive continues through Christmas. The Knights are collecting nonperishable food (no glass, please) as well as money that will be given to ARM (Assistance and Resources Ministry) in Elizabethton.

