

3rd Sunday of Advent 2017

If you came this morning expecting to hear the wonderful St Francis Xavier choir, we're sorry to disappoint you. The choir has been working around the clock like Santa's elves (or in this case John Uehlein's) to prepare for tonight's Lessons and Carols. One of Xavier's most beloved traditions.

But thanks be God, we have the beautiful voice of our cantor, leading us in song. So hopefully with his/her voice and yours we can make the music that heals and helps our spirits soar on this Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday.

If you came this morning expecting to hear a good homily that would inspire and rouse you, I'm sorry to disappoint you. I've been preaching all weekend. My "homily" has been and will be this afternoon on the stage of the Sheen Center in Christmas Revelations. So I don't expect anyone to say "good homily, father" as you leave the church today.

But thanks be to God, if my words are uninspired, the words of the prophet Isaiah, the responsorial psalm and the Apostle Paul are overflowing with joy, encouragement, hope (quote)

I rejoice heartily in the LORD,
in my God is the joy of my soul;

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, My spirit rejoices in God my savior.

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks,

If you came this morning to see something beautiful, well look at this? Look at this jar of clay from the first week of Advent, now containing a beautiful bouquet of Pink roses. From the prophet Isaiah

As the earth brings forth its plants,
and a garden makes its growth spring up,

so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise
spring up before all the nations.

And can you see yourself reflected in this beauty? Can each of us,
formed and shaped by God as a potter creates a jar of clay, see our
unique beauty blossoming like this bouquet of pink roses?

If you came this morning expecting to share the Good News with
friends and other people of faith, you won't be disappointed. Because
each of you not only "has good news" but is good news because of who
you are.

BTW Who are you? That's the question we hear posed a few times to
John the Baptist. Who are you?

I'm sure what you didn't expect this morning was filling out a pink
card with zip code and age. Well the color is pink for Gaudete to
match these robes. (No it's not a pink slip). What's that about
anyway? We asked you to fill out those cards and put them in the 2nd
collection basket because we want to know "who you are". We know
you come from many different places and we want to help connect
and extend God's hospitality to you.

So who are you? I'd like to invite you this morning on
Gaudete/Rejoice Sunday to turn to someone near you, perhaps
someone you don't know and share with the person the answer to the
question?

What is it that brings me joy?