

3rd Sunday of Advent
December 17th, 2023

FAITH @ HOME

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First Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-2A, 10-11
Responsorial Psalm: Canticle - LK 1: 48-49, 50, 53-54
Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 5: 16-14
Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

[Full readings from the USCCB](#)



1. HEAR

Before reading this Sunday's Gospel, click [HERE](#) to watch a short video that will help you grow your prayer space beginning with this Third Sunday in Advent.

Grab your bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries you can find the Gospel reading by clicking [HERE](#).

As an alternative to reading the Gospel, you can watch a short video with the proclamation for adults by clicking [HERE](#).

(YouTube, The Divine Detectives, 1:53 min)

Share with us how you are living out your faith at home. Use #LACatholicsBelieve and tag @OREinADLA on social media.

The children can also watch a video proclamation of the Gospel by clicking [HERE](#).

(YouTube, Holy Heroes, 1:05 min)

2. PRAY

Today is Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent and we are filled with joy as we are "Waiting for the Messiah", knowing that the time is very near for us to encounter Him on Christmas Day. In the second reading today, we heard, "May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Begin your prayer time, by closing your eyes and visualizing God's peace, love and **JOY** washing over you. Feel His Divine presence! Pray for all those in the world that may be suffering with illness, loneliness, loss of jobs, loss of hope, war, and violence. etc. Think of places in the world where suffering and pain is happening right now. Write those names and places that you identified during your prayer, and intentionally pray for peace and healing in their lives. Bring these intentions with you as you go to Mass, and during the Prayers of the Faithful present their needs to the Lord. As you receive Jesus during Communion, ask Him to heal and restore their lives. Close your prayer time by praying the canticle response: "**My soul rejoices in my God.**" (Luke 1:46-54)

3. TALK

Before you start this section, download the symbol for the Third Week in Advent we have provided [HERE](#). Then, gather as a family in one room of the home and reflect on the following

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- Do you consider yourself a JOYful person? What are the reasons for your JOY?
- How can I turn my life into a Christmas gift for others?
- Think of something you want to do to improve your relationship with others, for example, about friends or family outside your home.
- Write their names on the symbol for the Third Week in Advent we provided and save it until you receive new instructions.
- *(Note: please print the symbol for the third week before gathering to do this Faith@Home.)*

4. RITE

During this season of Advent, we invite you to do a rite each week that will include a word and a symbol. The word for the third week of Advent is **JOY** and the symbol is the **POINSETTIA**.

- Sing one or two verses of the following Advent hymn: [O come, O Come, Emmanuel](#).
(Click the link to access the video.)
- One adult says the Prayer of Blessing of the Advent-Christmas wreath:

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.

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May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- The grandmother or mother of the home lights the third rose candle and proclaims: My Soul Glorifies the Lord!
- Invite each person to share out loud the names they wrote on their symbol (Poinsettia) and then place it on their Advent prayer space. When each person reads, all proclaim: My Soul Glorifies the Lord!
- All recite the closing prayer:
Lord, may our hearts be filled with joy at your coming, may we be ready to bring joy to the lives of others, and may we spread your Good News to all who live in our home. Amen

5. CHALLENGE

- Keep in mind the intention written on the symbol for this Third Week in Advent (Poinsettia) and open the eyes of your heart so that you can see Jesus in every person who crosses your path.
- As a family or individually, pray a decade of the rosary every day for these intentions: **Monday**, for all the mothers and women in the family. **Tuesday**, for all the fathers and men in the family. **Wednesday**, for family members who feel lonely. **Thursday**, for family members who are going through tribulation. **Friday**, for the babies who are yet to be born.



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