

**The Third Sunday of Advent Year C**

Sunday, December 16, 2012

Readings: 1) Zephaniah 3:14-18a      2) Philippians 4:4-7      3) Luke 3:10-18

**The focus for today's Mass:** Let us rejoice in *Gaudete* Sunday, half way to Christmas. Its color rose is a sign of hope.

The first reading from Zephaniah exhorts the Israelites to rejoice and be glad. The second reading from Philippians reminds us that we are to rejoice in the Lord always. In the Gospel, John the Baptist teaches that one mightier than he was coming who would baptize people with the Holy Spirit and fire.

**GENERAL INTERCESSIONS**

**PRIEST:**

Filled with hope and anticipation for the birth of our Savior, let us join our voices in asking God to hear our prayers.

**For our Holy Father, our bishops, and all who exercise authority in the Church, that they may be alert to the signs of the times and continue to inspire us to walk in the ways of the Lord,**  
We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For those who serve in leadership positions, that they may point us to signs of joy and success rather than to failure or darkness,**  
We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For those suffering from illness; may they find hope through our prayers,**  
We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For our beloved dead, that they may rest in peace in heaven,**  
We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For all of us gathered here, that we may recognize the peace of Christ that is within us and share that peace with all we meet,**  
We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For our own personal intentions, ..... (long pause).**  
We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**PRIEST:**

God our Father, as we prepare to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity, help us to radiate joy to all as we ask you to answer our prayers through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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