

St. Philomena Chapel

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Rev. Fr. Christopher Spray | Rev. Fr. Matías Chimentón

Gaudete Sunday

- Monday, December 15 | **Octave Day of the Immaculate Conception (dm)**
9:00am – St. Philomena
9:00am – St. Peter Claver
Griss Family - Anonymous
- Tuesday, December 16 | **St. Eusebius (sd)**
7:30am – St. Philomena
Personal Intention
- Wednesday, December 17 | **Ember Wednesday – FAST AND PARTIAL ABSTINENCE**
7:30am – St. Philomena
Private Intention
- Thursday, December 18 | **Feria**
7:30am – St. Philomena
Private Intention
- Friday, December 19 | **Ember Friday – FAST AND ABSTINENCE**
7:30am – St. Philomena
Private Intention
- Saturday, December 20 | **Ember Saturday – FAST AND PARTIAL ABSTINENCE**
7:30am – St. Philomena
Eric Griss - Anonymous
- Sunday, December 21 | **4th Sunday of Advent (sd)**
9:00am – St. Philomena & St. Peter Claver
Pro Populo

Announcements

Collection

St. Philomena – 12/7 - \$720

St. Peter Claver – 12/7 - \$785

The December Ember Days are this week. Wednesday and Saturday are Fast and Partial Abstinence, and Friday is Fast and Full Abstinence.

Reflection for the 3rd Sunday of Advent

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday because the Church turns our attention to Christian joy. This joy is not sentiment or excitement, but a calm and stable confidence rooted in the nearness of Christ. Advent remains a penitential season, yet the Church pauses briefly to remind us that our preparation is not endless waiting but directed toward a real and approaching fulfillment.

St. John the Baptist still dominates the Gospel. His message has not softened. He continues to call for repentance, conversion, and moral seriousness. What changes is not the demand but the context: the Lord is already near. Joy arises not because judgment disappears, but because salvation is at hand. Grace is already at work in those who are willing to receive it.

Gaudete Sunday teaches that discipline and joy belong together. The rose vestments do not announce celebration but hope. The Church loosens her austerity only enough to strengthen perseverance. The waiting continues, but it is no longer marked by distance. The Lord is close, and preparation must therefore be exact, sincere, and faithful.