





MASS INTENTIONS	
Sat, Dec 13.....	+Junius & +Sylvia Creel
Sun, Dec 14.....	For the people
Tue, Dec 16.....	+Katie Lynn Pizzetta
Wed, Dec 17.....	+Tommy Hand
Thu, Dec 18.....	Special Intention
Fri, Dec 19.....	+Nick & +Olga Alambar

**IN OUR PARISH**

**OCIA** Dec 16 at 7pm: This week’s theme is “God *commands*: The Ten Commandments, the Precepts of the Church.

**CHRISTMAS PLAY :** Dec 21 at Blessed Seelos—3pm and Dec 22 at St. Michael—6pm. You are invited to enjoy a beautiful retelling of the birth of our Lord.

**ENVELOPES:** 2026 Collection envelopes will be in the vestibule. Please find your name on the list and the coordinating box from your previous year and initial that you have picked them up. If you want to get a box for the first time, please print neatly on the blank line of t he list next to the box number you grab. Any that are not claimed will be up available for redistribution the first week of January.



**CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES** can be picked up from the back. Please print your loved ones’ names clearly in the space provided. Return your envelope in the collection basket or to the church office. We appreciate your contribution toward the flowers for our church at Christmas.

**2026 YEARLY CALENDARS** are available in the vestibule. Your support is always accepted.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2026:** Juniors and Seniors requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Spring and a parent/guardian will meet Sun, Jan 4, at 6:40 pm at Nativity BVM Cathedral’s Sacred Heart Center in the Youth Ministry room. Please contact Mrs. Kristy Arguelles, (228)324-9934 with questions or concerns.

**SVDP:** The pantry will be closed on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve and will reopen the following Wednesday, January 7.

PREVIOUS WEEK’S COLLECTION BASKETS	
Dec 6 & 7.....	\$5451.00
UPCOMING 2ND COLLECTIONS	
Dec 13 & 14.....	Retired Religious

MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
<b>Mon Dec 15</b>	Gn 3:9-15, 20, Eph 1:3-6, 11-12, Lk 1:26-38
<b>Tue Dec 16</b>	Is 40:1-11, Mt 18:12-14
<b>Wed Dec 17</b>	Is 40:25-31, Mt 11:28-30
<b>Thu Dec 18</b>	Is 41:13-20, Mt 11:11-15
<b>Fri Dec 19</b>	Zec 2:14-17, Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

**MINISTRIES:** God is calling YOU. Can you answer the call? We are in need of Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers, Greeters! Prayerfully consider God’s calling to serve your St. Michael Family. Call 228.435.5578 or email stmichaelccbiloxi@gmail.com

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY** The SVDP provides a food pantry each Wednesday from 10—11 am. We value your time and your donations! Your continued support helps to ensure SVdP is able to provide support for those in need. There is a basket in the vestibule for non parish-able donations.




**CARD MINISTRY** Sends out inspirational cards monthly to homebound parishioners and friends. Stamps are al- ways needed. Drop off in the church office or contact Cynthia Powell.

**STELLA MARIS EXPLORERS** homeschool ministry serving catholic children grades PK3-12th with a Thurs- day morning program in the FLC. If you're interested in dropping in for a club meeting or to get more infor- mation, please visit our website (StellaMarisExplorers.com).


**OCIA** The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults is an invitation for adults to explore their interests, or to en- hance their knowledge in the Roman Catholic Church. The O.C.I.A. lays out a process in which men and women are guided and cared for as they awaken in faith and are gradually introduced to the Catholic way of life. We will begin OCIA classes again in the Fall. Participants will meet weekly for nine months in the Family Life Center. Questions, contact Deacon Wescovich at 228-860-1575.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Dec 22—Christmas Play 6pm**
- Dec 24—Christmas Eve**  
**Masses at 4pm and 6pm**
- Dec 25—Christmas Day**  
**Mass at 10am**



- Jan 1— The Solemnity of Mary**  
**Mother of God—Mass at 9am**



**Third Sunday of Advent, Year A**

**First Reading**  
Isaiah 35:1-6,10  
In the day of the Lord, all sorrow and mourning will cease.

**Responsorial Psalm**  
Psalm 146:6-7,8-9,9-10  
The Lord will save his people.

**Second Reading**  
James 5:7-10  
Be patient, and be ready; the coming of the Lord is near.

**Gospel Reading**  
*Matthew 11:2-11*  
*Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the king- dom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.*

**Background on the Gospel Reading**  
The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word mean- ing “rejoice.” This Sunday is so named because “Rejoice” is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.” Some peo- ple mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent re- flection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter 14:3-12. In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the be- ginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world to- day, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

[Sunday Connection](#) | [Loyola Press](#)



**THIRD Sunday OF ADVENT**

'REJOICE AND BE GLAD FOR JESUS WILL SOON BE BORN.'

This candle has also been referred to as the “Shepherds’ Candle” or the candle of JOY as we collectively imagine what incredible joy these humble peasants must have felt when they were heralded by the angels with “Gloria in Excelsius Deo!”

**Iberian Peninsula Pilgrimage**

*11 Days: April 13 - 24, 2026*

**Visiting Spain, France and Portugal**

Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes and Fatima  
Barcelona with Flamenco Show and Dinner  
Benedictine Abby of Montserrat Monastery  
Basilica of the Sagrada Familia  
Torrelavega, Oviedo, Porto  
Santiago de Compostela “Way of St. James Tour”  
Santarem/Most Holy Eucharistic Miracle  
Lisbon, and much more

HOSTED BY  
*Father Dominic Pham and Mrs. Paula Spears*  
\$5,820 based on 2 per room

Includes Round trip air from New Orleans, LA  
Land, Hotels, all Breakfasts, and most Dinners

Email: [Iberianpeninsulatour@gmail.com](mailto:Iberianpeninsulatour@gmail.com)



**THE FLOWER INTENTIONS ARE IN HONOR OF OUR BELOVED ST. MICHAEL PARISHIONERS**