“Every yearning you have for good things is in some way a yearning for God.”

--Taken from Dynamic Catholic’s *Decision Point*

Dear Parents,                                                                                        

 This Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent.  We light the pink candle.  The third Sunday of Advent is known as “Gaudete Sunday.” In the readings, we hear about miracles associated with the Messianic age, its coming, and what we need to do to prepare.  We also learn about the doubts of John the Baptist, how he dealt with them, and the blessing that makes us even more fortunate than John was.

1) Why is the third Sunday of Advent known as Gaudete Sunday?

Its name is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.

Indeed, the Lord is near.

This is a quotation from Philippians 4:4-5, and in Latin, the first word of the antiphon is gaudete (Latin, “rejoice”; it's also pronounced with three syllables: gau-de-te)

2) What significance does this have?

Advent is the season of preparing for the arrival of the Lord Jesus (both his first coming and his second coming), and by the third Sunday of Advent, we are most of the way through the season.

Thus it is appropriate to rejoice as we see the goal of the season approaching: “The Lord is near.”

Tomorrow night we have no special events going on.  Regular class sessions are being held.

The next two PSR session are the last opportunity you will have to donate to the **Veterans Project** hosted by The Sunday Preschool, the Children’s Liturgy of the Word, Nathan Greger (an 8th grade PSR student) and Ray Grubiss (his grandfather).  Please bring new items for male and female veterans to the bins located at all entrances to the building.

A request for your child to participate in the **Christmas Eve Mass** in the Community Center (12/24 at 4:00pm) is coming home tomorrow to each student. Please look for it and respond!

**7th and 8th grade students** who have not signed up on SignUp Genius for the Confirmation Preparation sessions from January through August will be receiving a letter from the Confirmation Team tomorrow night on how to do this and why it is important.  Please ask for this letter from your son/daughter.

Next week, December 19th, is the **final PSR class in 2017**.  Classes will resume on January 9th.

What your child will learn in class:

**Kindergarten**:  God sent Jesus, our Savior

**Grade 1:** Chapter 10: God Chose Mary and Joseph to be the parents of Jesus

**Grade 2:**Chapters 11 & 12 The Savior is Born and The Holy Family: Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, is born to give us hope and bring us good news. He was born in poverty, worshipped as a king, and was entrusted to the care and protection of Mary and Joseph. • In obedience, Joseph and Mary travelled to Bethlehem where Jesus was born in poverty. • Angels announced to shepherds that the Savior was born. The shepherds adored Jesus. • The wise men were Gentiles who followed a star to find the baby Jesus and bring him gifts fit for a king. • The Holy Family fled into Egypt. • The Holy Family is a model for all Christian families. The Holy Family is a model for all Christian families. • Saint Joseph was the foster-father of Jesus and the husband of Mary. He was a holy man and the head of the Holy Family. • Mary was the mother of Jesus and the wife of Joseph. She cared for Jesus and Joseph in the home of the Holy Family. • Jesus’ Father is God. He was obedient to his Father in heaven and to Mary and Joseph, his foster-father. • The Holy Family is a model for all Christian families.

**Grade 3:** Chapter 12: 6th-10th Commandments: In the Sixth through Tenth Commandments God calls us to love our neighbors. • Our bodies are created by God and are temples of the Holy Spirit, so we must respect them. • God calls us to be faithful as he is faithful. • We should be satisfied with what God has given us. • We should always be truthful.

**Grade 4:** Advent Lesson/Review

**Grade 5:** Chapter 12: Born in the City of David: Nativity Incarnation Magi In the Incarnation, God the Son became man and was born of the Virgin Mary. God became man so that we might share in his glory. • An angel appeared to Joseph to tell him that Mary had conceived by the Holy Spirit. • Jesus was born in Bethlehem and was laid in a manger. • The Magi came to give him homage. • Jesus is both God and man. • When Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the temple, Simeon gave a prophecy.

**Grade 6:** Chapter 16: The Beatitudes: The Beatitudes tell us of the eternal blessings that come from following Jesus. • Jesus is the Son of God. • At the age of 30, Jesus began his public ministry, preaching the good news and fulfilling the Old Law. • Those whose wills correspond with God’s will are blessed. • To live as Jesus exhorts us in the Beatitudes we must follow the Ten Commandments, receive sacramental grace, and pray.

**Grade 7:** Chapter 6:  The Prophets: Prophets Elijah and Elisha Isaiah John the Baptist God sent prophets as witnesses to the truth. Prophets called men back to the ways of God. • Prophets prepared for the coming of Christ. • Two very important prophets were Elijah and Elisha. • Isaiah was one of the greatest prophets. He prophesied about the Messiah. • John the Baptist was the last and greatest of the prophets. He was the herald of the Messiah.

**Grade 8:** Chapter 10: The Communion of Saints: The Communion of Saints is composed of the members of the Church: the faithful on earth, the holy souls in purgatory, and the angels and saints in heaven. The Communion of Saints is united in Christ. • The Communion of Saints refers to the members, both living and deceased, of Christ’s Mystical Body. • The Church Militant refers to those on earth who are united to Christ and are pilgrims journeying toward heaven. • The Church Suffering refers to the holy souls who are being purified in purgatory. These souls long for union with God. • The Church Triumphant includes those united with Christ in the eternal glory of heaven. • Patron saints are models of holiness. They are entrusted with the petitions of those under their patronage.

 Saint of the Day: Our Lady of Guadalupe

God bless,

Mrs. Gulden