



1st Reading: IS 61:1-2A, 10-11
Responsorial Psalm: LK 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54
Second Reading: 1 THES 5:16-24
Gospel: JN 1:6-8, 19-28

OFFICE OF CATECHESIS
syracusedioocese.org/offices/catechesis

The Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday

Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and hear from the Gospel of John. In the Gospel, John gives us testimony to the "light." He makes it clear that his is not the light, only a "voice in the desert" preparing the people for Jesus' coming so that they... or we... will recognize Him and believe. With more light shining forth from our Advent wreaths, take time to prepare your heart for Jesus. Sit quietly near the lit Advent wreath and welcome the light of God. Take notice of your breathing. With each new breath, pray, "Come, Lord Jesus."

Lighting the Third Candle of Advent: JOY!

On the Third Sunday of Advent, the rose or pink candle is lit. As we are "Waiting in Joyful Hope", this week gives us the joy knowing we are closer to our celebration of the Nativity of our Lord. This third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete" Sunday based on the first word of the Latin Entrance Antiphon for this day, meaning "Rejoice", taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "*Gaudete in Domino semper*" ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). During this time, reflect on times you have been in a place of "waiting in joyful hope," or perhaps you are currently waiting in joyful hope." What is your prayer at this time?

December 17 - 24 O Antiphons! A Sweet Activity

The "O" Antiphons are the verses for the ancient hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel. The first letter of the Messianic titles: Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia—spell out Latin words **ERO CRAS**, meaning, "*Tomorrow, I will come.*"

A Sweet Family Activity - Decorate gold foiled chocolate coins with the icons for each O Antiphon. Have a place card prepared with the O Antiphon prayers. Each night beginning on December 17, say the prayer and enjoy a sweet treat!

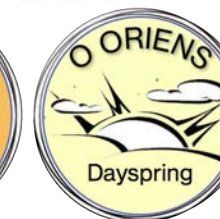
[Family Prayer Sheet PDF](#)

[Coin Template PDF](#)

Year of Vocation - Family Vocations

Missionary Families foster a spirit of generosity. A vocation grows from a generous heart. Teach your children what it means to willingly go that extra mile for a family member, friend or neighbour in need. Volunteer for a parish outreach and involve your children in it when possible. Give generously to a charity in both money and time. A donation to the Hope Appeal at this time of the year can be very helpful to Catholic Charities in their efforts to provide housing and food to those in need and all the ministries in the diocese. Stretch yourself beyond your own comfort zone.

DIocese of SYRACUSE
 Year of Vocations
 ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE
 YEAR OF VOCATIONS
 St. Joseph pray for us
 November 14, 2020 - November 21, 2021
 When God calls and you say "no," may God open your ears and change your heart.
 When God calls and you say "maybe," may God nudge you closer to your true self.
 When God calls and you say "yes," may you listen and embark on the journey in faith and joy.
 Inspired by Marie Theresa Coombs and Francis Kelly Nemeck,
Called by God: A Theology of Vocation and Lifelong Commitment



Links for More Ideas, Activities & Resources FYI

CatholicCuisine.blogspot.com - O Antiphons recipes and activities for each day! (Family Faith Builder)

Youtube.com - Waiting in Joyful Hope with Fr. Seibt (Family Faith Builder)

saintsresource.com - St. John of the Cross: December 14th (All ages Faith Builder)

catholicdotbible.files.wordpress.com - Lectio Divina: Third Week of Advent, Catholic.Bible (Adults Faith Builder)

Youtube.com - Gospel Reading and Reflection for Kids: Third Week of Advent (Children's Faith Builder)

Our website RCfaithquest.syrdio.org has many ideas during this Advent Season!

