



## Saint Augustine Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

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### THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*GAUDETE SUNDAY*

DECEMBER 13, 2009

**G**AUDETE means "rejoice." Anticipated joy over our Saviour's coming breaks through all our **serious Advent preparations**. Although it cannot be entirely repressed, our joy is yet restrained for two reasons: 1. Like John the Baptist, even the most fervent person feels a great unworthiness either to be a friend of Christ or to be His apostle. 2. Very often our joy is dulled by unnecessary anxiety—an over-extension of self because of the demands of the secular world in this season of faith. We let our peace of soul depend too much upon persons and events and circumstances, and too little upon God's infallible and tender care.

PRELUDE *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* J. S. Bach  
ASPERGES ME *(a weekly reminder of our Baptism)* plainsong

*(We KNEEL as the priest quietly begins the Prayers at the Foot of the Altar, pg. 8)*  
INTROIT (*KNEEL*) *Gaudete in Domino* Philip.4:4-6; Ps. 84:2

KYRIE *Messa Melodica in onore di S. Margherita V.M.* Pietro A. Yon  
COLLECTS (*STAND*)

THE EPISTLE (*SIT*) Philippians 4:4-7

*Everyone else may disappoint us, but God never will. His answer to every prayer is the best possible answer, even though sometimes long delayed. Therefore we may be at peace and happy in His will and His indwelling presence.*

GRADUAL (*SIT*) Ps. 79:2,3,2  
ALLELUIA (*SIT*) *Excita, Domine*  
THE HOLY GOSPEL (*STAND*) John 1:19-28  
*The Saviour comes with special graces in each Mass, but His coming is also as near as your next act of kindness. Make that act—and He is yours to love with a new love.*  
SERMON (*SIT*) Subdeacon Benjamin Andersen  
NICENE CREED (*STAND*) Yon  
OFFERTORY VERSE (*STAND*) Ps. 84:2, 3  
ANTHEM (*SIT*) *Zion, at thy shining gates* George Guest  
SECRET COLLECTS  
SURSUM CORDA (pg. 22) & PREFACE OF ADVENT (*STAND*)  
SANCTUS (*KNEEL*) Yon  
THE CANON OF THE MASS (*KNEEL*) Missal pg. 35  
THE LORD'S PRAYER (*STAND*) plainsong  
AGNUS DEI (*KNEEL*) Yon  
PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION Missal pg. 50a  
COMMUNION VERSE Isaiah 35:4  
MOTET *Tantum Ergo* Maurice Duruflé  
POSTCOMMUNION COLLECT (*STAND*)  
DISMISSAL AND BLESSING (*KNEEL*)  
LAST GOSPEL (*STAND*) John 1:1-14  
HYMN *Greenland* Hymnal No. 4  
POSTLUDE *Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes Sohn* J. S. Bach



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**W**ELCOME to all our visitors to Mass this morning. There are Service books in the pews for your use. While Holy Communion may **only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians**, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to forward at Communion for a blessing and the *pain benit*—blessed bread. Please fill out one of the "visitor cards" found in the pew racks and take a moment to sign our guest book in the Narthex! Please join us for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall (*downstairs*).

Orthodox Christians **must be prepared** for Holy Communion through Sacramental Confession, fasting, prayer, and being at peace with others. A prepared person must have been to Confession recently (*frequency established by his Pastor*), have abstained from food and drink from Midnight and have attended Mass regularly. Please seek and give forgiveness before receiving Communion.

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS burn this week in thanksgiving for and in memory of our fathers: Glen Swanson who left this life on December 12, 1995; and Larry Thompson whose earthly life ended on November 30, 2006. A gift from Erik and Beth Swanson.

#### CHOIR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Throughout the Antiochian Archdiocese, today is set aside as "Choir Appreciation Sunday". We thank our dedicated choirmaster, Frank Slechta and our choristers for their service to the Church. Not only do we need the priest, for each and every service that is celebrated in the Church, but we also need a group of people, our dedicated chanters and choir members, to chant and sing the responses and special hymns. They are a **vital part** of every service that is prayed. As Metropolitan ANTONY, of thrice-blessed memory, once said, "A church without a choir is like a body without a soul." THANK YOU!

## CHURCH CLENDARS 2010 AVAILABLE IN THE BOOKSTORE

Get your new 2010AD calendar today! \$12.00 each!

## ADVENT EDUCATION SERIES

Dr. Mark Flory's Adult Education Series continues on the topic: the Mother of God: a life of holiness and a model for us in the Scriptures and Fathers. This is a timely topic for the season. It will take place during Coffee Hour. Please stay and participate.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING

The envelopes for Christmas flowers and decorations are on the table in the Narthex. Please indicate if you would like the flowers as a memorial or gift. Thank you for your generosity.

## SOME UP-COMING EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

- **WINTER EMBER DAYS (week of December 14)** Wednesday, Dec. 16, Friday, Dec. 18 and Saturday, Dec. 19 are **days of fast and abstinence** and special prayer as we prepare for the Fest of the Nativity. This is the ideal time to schedule your annual **Christmas Confession**.
- **CHRISTMAS EVE, Thursday, Dec. 24** We will celebrate the Lord's Birth with special **music for the Eve of Christmas**, beginning at **11:30 pm. Midnight Mass** will follow at **12:00 midnight**.
- **DECORATING for Christmas** Next Sunday after Coffee Hour. **CHRISTMAS DAY, Friday, Dec. 25** A Low Mass will be celebrated at 10:00am.
- **NEW YEAR'S DAY, Friday, Jan. 1** Low Mass for the Feast of the Circumcision at 10:00am.

## THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Please keep Bishop ANTOUN, Lily Calderon, Bob Neuwoehner, Gabriel and Marcy Valdez, Margie Palucha, Resa Elison, Fr. Michael Lewis, Tyrone Lee, Phyllis Roberts, Ben Voogt, Fr. Peter Gilquist, David Wiechmann, Shirley & Stan Sharkey, Michael Lovins, Miranda, Walter Kunkel, Rev. John Cress (Jennifer's father), Kathy Walling-Waite, David Delier, Jennifer Gorell, Erin Osburn, Dianna Dole, Sheila Bennett, Olga Kelly, Barry Bilger, Merry Braun, Tony Zubricky, Jeremy Hines, Regina Widhalm, Donnie Allison, The Huffakers, Paige and Cheryl, the Ken Dole Family, Marilyn Simpson, Patty Rendoff, and Raury Stewart, in your prayers.

## CHRISTMAS HANDOUT READY!

Please help publicize and spread the "good word!" We have flyers ready for our annual Christmas Midnight Mass. YOU can help **spread the word** by taking some with you and putting them up in prominent places or giving them to your friends as an invitation! There is NOTHING in the world like a Christmas Midnight Mass at St. Augustine's! **Don't let it remain the worlds best kept secret...**

## CHRISTMAS ORCHESTRA SPONSORSHIP

Our AMBROSIAN CHORISTERS will present the *ST. NICHOLAS MASS* of F. J. Haydn for the Midnight Mass of Christmas this year. As is our custom, the choir is accompanied by a professional orchestra. Can you be a sponsor this year? **Offering:** any amount; **Gift:** \$50.00; **Sponsor:** \$100.00; **Benefactor:** \$200.00; **Archangel:** sponsor of the entire event (see the pastor). May you be richly blessed for you contribution. What a wonderful gift to your parish and to all who will attend Mass on Christmas Eve.

## THE BISHOP BASIL "MISSIONS ENDOWMENT FUND."

Each year during this season, every congregation in the Diocese is requested to solicit contributions from all of its individual parishioners and parochial organizations for this worthy endeavor, which provides assistance to mission priests throughout our Diocese. All checks must be made payable to St. Augustine's Church, and then, at the close of the campaign, one check from our parish will be sent to our Diocesan treasurer for the total amount collected in our community. Saint Augustine's has been one of the beneficiaries of this wonderful program for the last three years. Let us contribute as well!

## FINANCIALLY CHALLENGING TIME OF THE YEAR

November, December and January are traditionally **difficult months financially** for our parish. We run on a very tight budget. Please keep this in mind as you make your contributions to the Church. If you have been away or are behind, please try and help us out. Your Treasurer will be most happy as he shoulders a great responsibility on our behalf!

FROM THE CHURCH FATHERS--Rise from love of the world and love of pleasure. Put care aside, strip your mind, refuse your body. Prayer, after all, is a turning away from the world—visible and invisible. What have we in heaven? Nothing, except simply to cling always to God in undistracted prayer. Wealth pleases some, glory others, possessions others, but what I want is to cling to God and to put the hopes of my dispassion in Him (cf. Psalm 72:25,28) —**St. John Climacus**



## THIS WEEK AT SAINT AUGUSTINE'S

|                    |   |                   |
|--------------------|---|-------------------|
| Monday, Dec. 14    | Advent Feria  |                   |
| Tuesday, Dec. 15   | Octave of the Conception  |                   |
| Wednesday, Dec. 16 | <b>Ember Wednesday</b>  | Mass 10:00am      |
|                    | <b>Intention:</b> <i>The Benefactors of St. Augustine's Parish</i>  |                   |
|                    | <b>fast and abstinence</b>  |                   |
| Thursday, Dec. 17  | <i>Raising of Lazarus from the dead.</i>  |                   |
| Friday, Dec. 18    | <b>Ember Friday</b>   | Mass 10:00am      |
|                    | <b>fast and abstinence</b>  |                   |
| Saturday, Dec. 19  | <b>Ember Saturday</b>   | Mass 10:00am      |
|                    | <b>Intention:</b> <i>Basil Carlton Thomas</i>   |                   |
|                    | <b>fast and abstinence</b>  |                   |
|                    |   | Vespers 5:30pm    |
| Sunday, Dec. 20    | FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT   | High Mass 10:00am |
|                    | <b>CONFESSIONS:</b> <i>The Sacrament of Confession is available following, Vespers on Saturday evening, after all weekday Services, and anytime by appointment.</i> |                   |



## SAINT AUGUSTINE'S:

- *the historic Church*
- *living the historic Faith*
- *in historic Baker Neighborhood!*

*"...and the disciples were called Christian first at Antioch." Acts 11:26*