

December 03, 2023

# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901

# HOPE



St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Eucharistic faith community committed to living and sharing the Gospel life.

## **Staff**

Rev. Timothy Taugher, Pastor  
Deacon Stephen Blabac  
Delores A. Farwell  
Parish Administrative Assistant  
Maria Kirk  
Director of Faith Formation  
Joseph Carpenter  
Parish Business Administrator  
Suzanne Ekstrom  
Parish Media Manager  
Edmund Savo  
Organist  
Fred Hazlett  
Maintenance/Groundskeeper  
Tina Silvestri  
Housekeeper  
Brendan Kliment  
Sarah & Mary Bush  
Sacristans

## **Office Hours:**

Monday — Thursday:  
7:30 am to 4:30 pm  
Friday: Closed

## **Confession:**

2nd & 4th Saturday of every  
month at 3:00 pm in the Church

**Parish Office Phone:** 722-4388

**Faith Formation Office Phone:**  
722-4177

## **E-mail:**

[stfrancisbing@syrdio.org](mailto:stfrancisbing@syrdio.org)

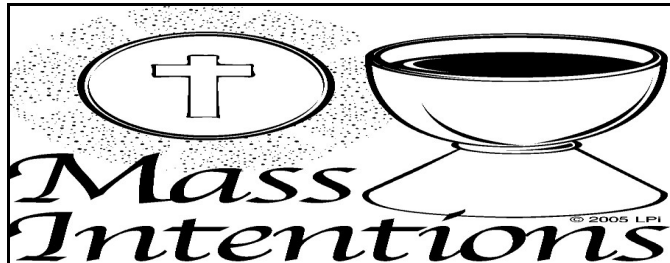
## **Website:**

[www.stfrancisbing.org](http://www.stfrancisbing.org)

Please go online to  
**[stfrancisbing.org](http://stfrancisbing.org)** to view  
our latest Children's Liturgy.  
We will be posting new  
videos by 4:00PM on  
Saturdays.

Also find the videos on our  
Facebook (search  
"@stfrancisbing")  
Twitter (search  
"@stfrancisbing")  
YouTube (St. Francis of Assisi  
Binghamton)

**Follow us on FB & Twitter:**  
**[@stfrancisbing](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisbing)**  
**for more information**

**Saturday, December 2, Vigil of Sunday**

4:00 p.m. Deceased members of the Totman & Truchan Families by Family

**Sunday, December 3, First Sunday of Advent**

10:30 a.m. Ukrainian National Fraternity by St. Francis' Fraternity

**Monday, December 4**

12:00 p.m. Kerri Hamilton by John & Brenda Artman

**Tuesday, December 5**

8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People

**Wednesday, December 6**

12:00 p.m. Richard Kapinus by Family

**Thursday, December 7**

8:00 a.m. Lorenzo Altadonna by Family

**Thursday, December 7, Vigil of The Immaculate Conception (Liturgy in Church)**

5:30 p.m. Michael Pratt by John & Peg Munson

**Friday, December 8, The Immaculate Conception (Liturgy in Church)**

8:00 a.m. Robert Fitzgerald by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

**Saturday, December 9, Vigil of Sunday**

4:00 p.m. Michael Fontana Sr. by Wife & Family

**Sunday, December 10, Second Sunday of Advent**

10:30 a.m. Vita Mannino by Family

**Catherine's Cupboard**

CATHERINE'S CUPBOARD has been serving our community for the past 20+ years, it's **open the 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month from 5 till 7 (or until all are served)**. We serve anyone who comes, asking only for ID, if they have any. As members of SOUTHERN TIER FOOD BANK, we purchase at wholesale (or less), providing **basic dry or canned goods, fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy, and frozen meats**. We try to provide **5 days of meals** and include **personal care items** also. We operate on **100% donations or grants**. Our location at the parish center means we have most overhead costs covered. However, we serve over 1200 people, requiring a budget of close to \$50,000 a year. PLEASE tell anyone you know who is feeling food insecure to stop in. **If you would like to donate food items, they can be left at parish center or food barrel in church foyer. Monetary donations can be mailed to our parish office or via the online giving tab at [stfrancisbing.org](http://stfrancisbing.org)**

**Weekend's Offering (11-26-23)**

Regular Envelopes.....	\$4,200.00
Loose Collection.....	\$250.00
Electronic Collection.....	\$1,800.00
Total Collection.....	\$6,250.00

**FAITH FORMATION**

**Faith Formation for Grades K-9 meets Sunday from 9AM--10:15 AM.**

**Confirmation 2024 meets today 11:30 AM--2 PM**

**Looking Ahead:**

†Confirmation 2024 Rite of Acceptance December 10th at 10:30AM Mass.

†Our Annual Christmas Program will be Sunday December 17th during Faith Formation. Rehearsal will be Saturday, December 16th at 10AM.

†First Reconciliation will be celebrated on Sunday, December 17th at our Parish Advent Penance Service at 4PM

**RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG**

Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing!

**FROM THE STORE**

- ✓ Produce bags
- ✓ Store bags
- ✓ Ice bags

**FROM YOUR PANTRY**

- ✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags
- ✓ Cereal box liners
- ✓ Case overwrap
- ✓ Bread bags

**FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR**

- ✓ Newspaper sleeves
- ✓ Dry cleaning bags
- ✓ Bubble wrap
- ✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue

**Confirmation Service Project**

The 2024 confirmation class is asking for your help with our service project. Our service project is to collect 1000 pounds of clean recyclable light weight plastics. (Not plastic jugs, bottles or cups) Upon completion of this goal the NexTrex decking company will donate a bench to the confirmation class. If you would like to donate to the project we will have collection bins for the plastics at the church entrance, as

well as at the Parish Center. Please refer to the list of acceptable materials in the bulletin or attached to the bags on the usher's tables. Please do not put the paper collection bags in the bins, use them to collect additional plastics. Thank you, for supporting us and our efforts.

**\*ATTENTION: Lectors, EMs & Altar Servers\***

It is time again to make the schedule for January, February, and March 2024. If there are weekends when you are **not** available to Lector, Eucharistic Minister, or Altar Serve, let us know. Call Ed and Cindy White at 607-648-2784 or by cell 607-206-3469 **BEFORE DECEMBER 18TH!**

**Prayers . . .**

Please remember all of our parishioners who are in hospitals and nursing homes and our home-bound. Also, please pray for our deceased parishioners and loved ones.



**1st Sunday of Advent: Justice Challenge**

The Sunday Gospel draws us into the Season of Advent, challenging us to prepare ourselves and our world for Christ's coming. The Advent readings focus on many images of the messiah in the Old Testament. The prophets particularly describe the messiah as one who will bring peace to our troubled world. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, is the fulfillment of their prophecies. Your challenge this week is to follow in Jesus' footsteps by being a peace-maker yourself. How can you create peace within your own heart, within your family, in the community, and even in the world? Spend time in prayer, letting the peace of Christ penetrate your being. Then bring together people you know who are fighting, inviting them to see the goodness in each other. And finally, pray for peace in the most troubled spots in the world. Where is conflict most volatile and hateful? Pray for the people who live there and for their leaders to have the courage to be peace-makers rather than peace-breakers.

**Oplatki (Christmas Wafers)**

Oplatki (Christmas Wafers) are available at St. Francis' Parish Center. If you are interested, please call Delores at 722-4388 to reserve a package or stop by and pick some up during regular business hours. No offering taken.

**1st Sunday of Advent: Creation Care Tip**

*"And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake!"* – Mark 13:37.

How easy it is to forget or disregard our impact on the environment! This week, "stay awake" and reflect on specific ways to decrease your negative effects on the environment. Could you bike or walk somewhere instead of driving? Could you bring a re-usable water bottle so you don't have to buy one? As uncomfortable as it may be, stay awake to the choices you make which hurt our common home.


**Blood Drive Thanks: Santa Croce Family**

The Santa Croce family would like to thank Father Tim and everyone who came out to donate at the November 11th Blood Drive in memory of Megan Santa Croce. It was quite a success with 44 units donated, including 4 first-timers, which equals approximately 132 lives impacted! It was great to see so many from St. Francis participate. Thanks for your support in remembering Megan in November!

**BOOK CLUB DECEMBER 5TH!**

Our **Advent Book Club** will continue on **Tuesday, December 5th at 2 PM and 7 PM in the Parish Hall.**

We will read and discuss *"An Unlikely Advent"* by Rachel Billups. Book Club will meet on December 12th and 19th.



THE BINGHAMTON  
DOWNTOWN SINGERS and Orchestra  
*present*

*Handel's*  
**MESSIAH**

**ROBERT MANNERS** *Interim Artistic Director*

*featuring*


**MARTHA GUTH** *Soprano*   **DAWN PIERCE** *Mezzo*   **VALE RIDEOUT** *Tenor*   **STEVEN STULL** *Baritone*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023 at 7:30PM**

**SARAH JANE JOHNSON MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
308 Main Street, Johnson City, NY

**Tickets: \$20**

**ONLINE:** [www.downtownsingers.org/tickets](http://www.downtownsingers.org/tickets), or scan QR code  
**EMAIL:** [tickets@downtownsingers.org](mailto:tickets@downtownsingers.org)  
**CALL:** (607) 205-8741



[www.downtownsingers.org](http://www.downtownsingers.org)

# The Madrigal Choir of Binghamton

Presents

## Festival of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 3, 2023

4:00PM

Church of the Holy Trinity  
346 Prospect St., Binghamton, NY

Bruce Borton, Artistic Director  
with Theresa Lee-Whiting Guest Conductor  
Guest Artists - Simple Gifts,  
Paul Sweeny and Barbara Kaufman

Tickets - \$20.00

Online at [www.madrigalchoir.com](http://www.madrigalchoir.com)  
or at the door.

Students with ID are free

## Catherine's Cupboard Distribution Volunteer Schedule

**December 5th:** K. & T. Barnhart and M. & P. Peters

## Catherine's Cupboard Pantry Update

The number of family's who require our food pantry's assistance each week is getting higher. Now, we have over 70 families who are stopping in to help stretch their funds. As one person recently said to me "I sleep so much better now knowing I have food on my shelves." Your ongoing support is making a difference, so, THANK YOU. We would like to also say THANKS to Apple Hill's, Big Lots, C21 North East/Intergra (formerly Sbarra), Odgen Methodist & Church of Nazarene who continue to drop off great extras that the visitors enjoy.



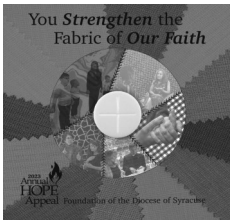
## Knights of Columbus Christmas Breakfast

When: Sunday, December 10th from  
8AM—Noon

Where: St. Patrick's Church Hall  
(9 Leroy St, Binghamton)

Featuring world-famous waffles, french toast,  
sausage, eggs, fruit cup, coffee, tea, milk, and OJ  
50/50 raffle

\$12 Adult/Children under 10 only \$5  
Bring a new toy to donate and receive \$2.00 off!  
Proceeds benefit homeless children through St.  
Patrick's homeless outreach



## 2023 Annual HOPE Appeal

The HOPE Appeal is our Diocesan Appeal campaign to support programs and services throughout our diocese which touches countless lives in every city, town, and rural area in our diocese. When the goal of the HOPE Appeal is achieved we ensure that these programs will

receive the funding that is needed. **Our parish goal for the 2023 HOPE Appeal is \$42,826.**

The overall theme this year is, "You Strengthen the Fabric of our Faith". This year's HOPE Appeal video can be viewed online in one of two ways. You can go to our parish website [stfrancisbing.org](http://stfrancisbing.org) or find it on [syracusediocese.org/hopeappeal/](http://syracusediocese.org/hopeappeal/) You can donate to the HOPE Appeal by going to our parish website and choosing "online giving".

## For Potential Godparents and Sponsors for Baptisms or Confirmation

Anyone looking to be a Godparent or Sponsor to a Confirmation Candidate **MUST** be a registered member of St. Francis of Assisi to be able to get a letter of certification. This is the only way that the Church can verify you are a practicing Catholic. Please call Delores at the Parish Center (722-4388) for questions.



Our Giving Tree will be up **Saturday, November 25th until Sunday, December 10th with over 150 tags.** Please pick a tag and purchase the requested item, then return back to the tree area no later than December 10th. **Please**

**place gifts in gift bags, but not wrapped.**

Gifts will be going to **The Children's Home, Elizabeth Church Manor Nursing home, Jail Ministry, and Birthright of Binghamton.**

This has been a long tradition for our parish and enjoyed by those who give and those who receive. Thanks to our Confirmation students who took this on as a service project. Also, THANK YOU for your generosity!

## Please Support our Fruit Fundraiser

FRESH FROM THE GROVE TO YOU!



SCAN CODE WITH  
YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA  
TO ORDER NOW

Organization: Chenango Valley High School Athletics

Organization ID: 1017215

Sale Dates: 11/13/2023–12/10/2023

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

CV Athletic Club email [cvathleticclub@gmail.com](mailto:cvathleticclub@gmail.com)

**We Appreciate Your Support!**



## St. John's 5K SANTA RUN



SPONSORED  
BY



TOYOTA



SCAN ME

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10**  
**11 AM IN FRONT OF BOSCOV'S**

## FUN RUN FOR A GOOD CLAUS!

Proceeds to benefit St. John's School  
[binghamtonsantarun.com](http://binghamtonsantarun.com)

**St. Francis of Assisi Lectors,  
Eucharistic Ministers & Altar Servers**

**December 9th & 10th, 2023**

4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Calliope Brennan
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Thalia Brennan
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	TBD
4:00 Mass	Lector	Kathleen Tait
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Marge Mangan
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Beatrice Grace
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Robert Grace
4:00 Mass	EM Cup	Peggy Munson
4:00 Mass	EM Cup	Nancy Oliver
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Abraham Watkins
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	Alexander Watkins
10:30 Mass	Altar Server	TBD
10:30 Mass	Lector	Confirmation Candidates
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Virginia Thompson
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Donna Igler
10:30 Mass	EM Host	Scott Igler
10:30 Mass	EM Cup	Catherine Shafer
10:30 Mass	EM Cup	David Hanzes

**Children's Liturgy of the Word Schedule**

**December 03: Sarah and Ede Blabac**

**December 10: Patti Klepfer & Toni Robinson**

**\*ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED!\***

Do you have a child or grandchild who has already received their First Eucharist? If so, they can be altar servers! **We are in desperate need of more altar servers** as we barely have enough to cover the masses alone week to week.

**Why altar serve?**

- 1.) It is a good way to get actively involved in the mechanics of mass. Some kids who find it hard to sit still may benefit from the activity that it provides.
- 2.) It allows for kids to be a closer part of the church community and make connections.

3.) Direct religious education learning opportunity

4.) Gives kids a sense of purpose and pride Church

**Call the parish center (607)722-4388 or fill out a liturgical sign-up form (on table in the back of the church) and drop it in a collection basket.**

**Question of the Week**

**Question for Children:** What special things do you do to get ready for a visitor at your house? What things can you do like that to get ready for Jesus?

**Question for Youth:** What is one thing that you can do this week to help you remember that Jesus is coming?

**Question for Adults:** When you're getting ready to receive a guest, what are some things you do? How do you apply this to receiving Christ?

# END OF BULLETIN

CHURCH NAME: St. Francis of Assisi  
CITY, STATE: Binghamton, NY  
FILE NAME: 06-168  
PHONE: **607-722-4388**  
Contact: Delores A. Farwell or Sue Ekstrom

Comments:  
Bulletin copy for **December 03, 2023**

**Deliver 300 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.**



# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2023

**St. Francis of Assisi Church**  
Rev. Timothy J. Taugher, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Edmund Campion

Born to a Catholic family in 16th century England, St. Edmund left a brilliant academic career at Oxford to become a Jesuit missionary – a death sentence, since Catholics were being heavily persecuted under Queen Elizabeth I. He traveled around, secretly ministering the Sacraments to English Catholics, until he was betrayed by an informer and arrested. Despite efforts to persuade or threaten him, St. Edmund remained true to his faith. He was martyred with two companions at Tyburn.



### Mary's "Yes"

When the angel appeared to Mary and told her what God was asking of her, she didn't have to agree. God gave all of us free will to allow us to make our own choices. Mary said "yes" to God out of love. Her reward (and ours, too) is eternity with her Son.

*"And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him"*  
(Luke 2:40).



## A "Christ-centered" Christmas is a joyful one

For Catholics, the weeks leading up to Christmas are a sacred time to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. For a joy-filled Christmas, try these ideas:

**Encourage joyful anticipation.** As disciples of Jesus, it is our role to help others to believe and hope in the power of God to change the world as He transforms hearts and minds. *"But as for me, I will look to the Lord, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me"* (Micah 7:7). Look for opportunities to share your confidence in His love.

**Focus on prayer.** Become an Advent prayer intercessor praying for every

soul to come home to God, especially at this time of peace. Ask that He gives everyone the grace to live a new life reflecting glory on the Messiah.

**Serve.** Pope Francis said during Advent, "We are so busy with all the preparations, with gifts and things that pass, but let's ask ourselves what we should do for Jesus and for others! What should we do?" The pope said we should continuously ask God what we should do to contribute to the good of the Church and society. We can do "something concrete, even if it is small" to help others. He suggested visiting the lonely, the elderly, the sick or someone in need.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed that Mary, by a special grace, was preserved from original and personal sin from her own conception in her mother's womb, in view of her role as the

## Why do Catholics celebrate the "Immaculate Conception?"



Mother of God. This grace bore immeasurable fruit for all of us in Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. On December 8 – a Holy Day of Obligation – we ask Mary to pray for us, so we, too, receive Jesus into our hearts with a faithful love like hers.

## Have a peaceful, Merry Christmas!

Do you aim for an idyllic Christmas celebration complete with a warm fire, joyful music, and tinsel-covered tree? For many of us, Christmas comes at the end of weeks spent shopping, wrapping, and spending, and is wrought with family tensions, obligations, and exhaustion. Try these steps to keep your sanity and your Savior in your Christmas celebration:

**Be realistic.** It isn't the goal of the season to make everyone happy. If you don't overspend and over extend before Christmas, you'll be in a better frame of mind when it arrives.



**Soothe the beast.** Beautiful music can set a soothing tone for your celebration. Pick your favorite holy hymns to put yourself in the Christmas frame of mind.

**Reach out.** Want to make your own problems seem small? Take on someone else's. Do at least one good Christmas deed for someone needy.

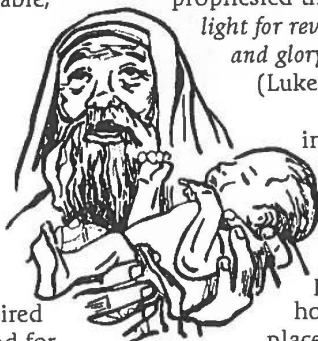
**Seek the eternal.** Jesus gives us peace, purpose, and perspective. Spend time with Jesus each day of Advent and Christmas to remind yourself of what is most important about Christmas.

### from Scripture

#### Luke 2:22-40, Encountering God in the ordinary

To the uninformed observer, Jesus' birth was unremarkable, and His family was quite ordinary. In fact, when it was time to present Jesus in the temple, His parents couldn't afford the customary offering of a lamb, and instead made the offering of the poor – two pigeons. As faithful Jews, they did all that was required by their faith to thank God for the gift of their child.

Yet, when Joseph and Mary presented their new baby in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized Him as the Messiah.



Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he prophesied that Jesus would be *"a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel"* (Luke 2:32).

Simeon was not alone in recognizing the Lord in the temple. Anna was also filled with the Holy Spirit. Her faith in God's promises gave her hope. The hope God places in our hearts gives us a desire for the kingdom of Heaven. The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Lord to those who want to know Him, receive Him, and to be happy with Him forever.

### Q & A How can I make Christmas joy last?

The Church's real Christmas season starts on Christmas Day and lasts until the Baptism of Our Lord. By celebrating the whole season, you can make your Christmas joy last long after you've taken down the tree. Here are some highlights of the season:

**Feast of the Holy Family, December 31.** Gather for a meal with loved ones, or contact out-of-town friends or family.

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, January 1.** Dedicate a Rosary to the Blessed Mother, asking her to help you grow in love and trust.

**Epiphany, January 7.** The example of the Magi honoring Jesus has become a symbol of sharing Him with the world. This is our chance to think about the way we live so that we can better reveal Christ to our world.

**The Baptism of Our Lord, January 8.** Baptism is our entry into the Kingdom. Take time this day to renew your Baptismal vows and decide what you can change in your life to help you live as Christ did.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**December 3 – First Sunday in Advent.** We anticipate Christ's birth and His coming on the last day. Catholics everywhere light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

**December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531).** The Blessed Mother appeared as a Native American maiden to St. Juan Diego. She asked St. Juan to carry roses to the bishop as proof. When the roses were emptied from his *tilma*, it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

**December 15 – St. Maria di Rosa (1855).** Born into a wealthy family in Brescia, Italy, Paula was renowned for holiness, generosity, and concern for the sick. She founded the Handmaids of Charity in 1840. She took the name Sr. Maria Crucifixa di Rosa.

**December 27 – St. John the Beloved (1st Century).** As an apostle and friend of Jesus, St. John was known for his fiery temper. Scholars believe he is the "beloved disciple" who sat by Jesus at the Last Supper in John's Gospel.



#### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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# 2023 Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3 December</b> Light the first violet candle in your Advent wreath and pray with today's Gospel, <i>Mark 13:33-37</i> .	<b>4</b> Choose a way you can grow closer to Christ in Advent: more mental prayer, penance, almsgiving, Sacraments.	<b>5</b> Display the stable for the Nativity Scene. Add figures gradually throughout Advent.	<b>6 St. Nicholas of Myra</b> Perform a simple act of kindness for someone today in honor of this generous saint.	<b>7</b> On the Memorial of Saint Ambrose, bishop and teacher, pray for all clergy in the Church.	<b>8 The Immaculate Conception of Mary</b> Celebrate by attending Mass and praying a Rosary for our country.	<b>9</b> Prepare heart and soul to welcome Christ. Make an examination of conscience and attend Confession.
<b>10</b> Light the second violet candle and meditate on <i>Mark 1:1-8</i> .	<b>11</b> Offer a small sacrifice out of love for Jesus, who offered Himself up for love of you.	<b>12</b> Today is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Pray for all pregnant women and thank God for the gift of new life.	<b>13</b> Advent is a busy time for parishes. Call or email your parish office and ask how you can serve.	<b>14</b> In prayer, forgive someone who has hurt you. Ask for the grace to let go and move on.	<b>15</b> Call Catholic Relief Services (877-HELP-CRS or <a href="http://www.catholicrelief.org">www.catholicrelief.org</a> ) to see how you can contribute.	<b>16</b> Las Posadas begins today honoring Mary's and Joseph's search for shelter. Gather friends and go caroling.
<b>17 Gaudete Sunday</b> Light two violet candles and the rose one for joy. Pray with <i>John 1:6-9, 19-28</i> .	<b>18</b> Put a lamp or candle in a window to welcome the Christ Child. Light it every night until Christmas.	<b>19</b> Feed the hungry. Look for someone who is physically hungry or hungry for human kindness.	<b>20</b> Review your "Advent resolutions" and renew your commitment to them.	<b>21</b> Spend time before the Blessed Sacrament today to ready your heart for the arrival of the King.	<b>22</b> Reflect on how your relationship with Christ grew this Advent. Thank Him for the graces you received.	<b>23</b> Make an effort to see everyone with loving eyes today.
<b>24</b> The fourth week of Advent lasts only one day. Meditate on the great news the angel brought (see <i>Luke 1:26-38</i> ).	<b>25 Rejoice!</b> Place the Christ Child in the manger. Go to Mass today and rejoice!	<i>"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn"</i> <i>(Luke 2:1-7).</i>				