

DECEMBER 13, 2020 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

It's the Third Sunday of Advent. Another name of this Sunday is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means 'rejoice'.

St. Paul says to us three things. Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks. Joy, Prayer, and Thanks are what we need as we wait for Jesus' birth and his Second Coming.

Joy – We need to stop to feel emotions. If we stop, we can see many things and have feelings. Then, we can feel joy. Therefore we need a pause whatever we do.

Prayer – Prayer is a conversation with God. We know that we don't always need words for conversation. A few days ago, I went to emergency room of the hospital for Anointing of the sick. Since only one person was allowed to see the patient, the family asked me to be the one. As requested by the family, I went to the room and gave the patient the last rites. He was in a coma condition. I prayed for him. Before I was about to leave the patient, I asked the family through the phone if there was anything I could do for them. The family wanted me to use face time on the phone. I showed the face of the patient to his wife and children. Each one said, 'I love you.' However, there was a long silence. I felt that this silence was a deep and real conversation among the family members. To have feeling is a prayer. To rejoice is a prayer.

Thanks –The best prayer is to give thanks to God.

Waiting for Jesus, we have to rejoice as St. Paul said. To rejoice is a prayer. Let us rejoice with ceasing. These will be a constant prayer. And finally this prayer will lead us to thank God.

Fr. James