

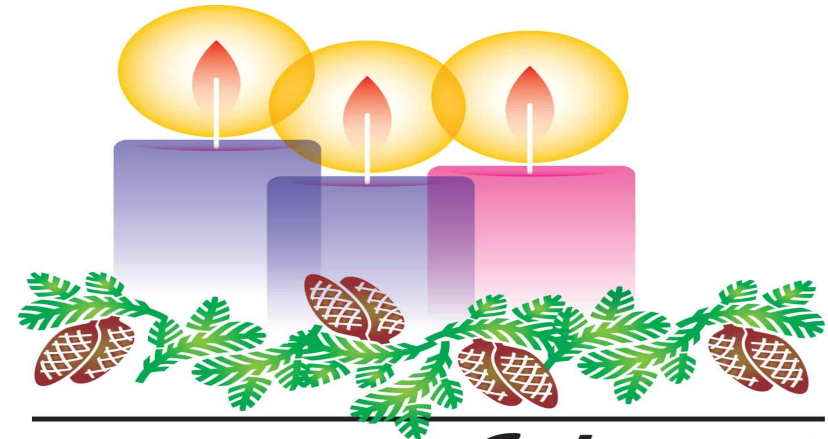
Please continue to pray for the sick of our Parish. To add someone to the prayer list, call Fr. Jim or email Bonnie Toth at: [bonnie3871@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie3871@gmail.com).

Jodi Aerts  
 Dylan Anderson  
 Robert Berry  
 Patricia Bonnewitz  
 Sandra Burke  
 Julie Byron  
 Toni Capute  
 Riordan Cavoris  
 Justin Curtis  
 Tony Donehoo  
 Carol Donato  
 Islea Duncan  
 Alan Ekberg  
 John Evans  
 Kathy Evans  
 Earl Fishback  
 Linda Gardner  
 Elizabeth Gillam  
 Lorraine Brennen Gilliam  
 Lynn Goss

Kathleen Hamilton  
 Jeanne Harper  
 Jeannine Iannaco  
 Pablo Ignacio  
 Patrick Ignacio  
 Meja Irvin  
 Leslie Jarrett  
 Margaret MacDiarmid  
 Carolyn Martin  
 Jamie Martin  
 Greg Moore  
 Kathleen Moore  
 Beverly Moyer  
 Chris Moyer  
 Ray Moyer  
 Don Notestein  
 Patsy Notestein  
 Angel Ortiz  
 George Perry  
 Wendy Pessaro

Gary Peters  
 Laurie Peters  
 Frank Powell  
 Nelson Sanchez  
 Princess Sanchez  
 John Seaquist  
 Ray Servis  
 Jane Sliwinski  
 Margaret Smith  
 Chere Tew  
 Fred Toth  
 Amy Tracy  
 Charles Watson  
 Danielle Weedon  
 Laura Williams  
 Louise Williams  
 Michael Williams  
 Travis Williams  
 Betty Jo Wolfrum

# Our Lady Of Peace Catholic Church



THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

**December 17, 2023**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

### December Birthdays

1 Mackenzie Lecco  
 2 Kathleen Hamilton  
 5 Mia Garcia  
 5 Carolyn Conner  
 8 Will McCabe  
 14 Glen Moore  
 15 Bety Joe Wolfrum  
 16 Christine Hamilton  
 16 Chere Tew  
 17 Dory Garcia  
 18 Emely Sofia Alvarado Garcia  
 22 Don Smith  
 29 Mary Metzinger  
 31 Jackie Johnson

### December Anniversaries

29 Tom & Mary Metzinger

### Our Lady Of Peace Catholic Church

2938 Oakleigh Avenue (PO Box 668)  
 Appomattox VA 24522-0668

Pastor: Father James Gallagher 434-352-0104  
 For emergencies: Fr. Jim cell number: 434-238-7030  
 or Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church 434-846-5245  
[www.olpcatholicchurch.org](http://www.olpcatholicchurch.org)

### Holy Eucharist

**Sunday 8:30 AM; Tuesday 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM  
 Thursday 12:15 PM**

Bulletin news and requests for mass cards: contact  
 Bonnie Toth at [bonnie3871@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie3871@gmail.com)

## **A PASTORAL MOMENT WITH FR. JIM**

For some Native American Indian Tribes, there was a rite of passage where a young man spends time along in the wilderness. He survives a hostile environment of weather, predatory animals and lack of food. But the biggest challenge is the inner journey. It is a spiritual journey where he will be encountered within goodness and evil. Hopefully, he will display a change in behavior when he returns to his people. He will be recognized as a mature member of the community.

I believe that the diet that John the Baptist ate spoke to a vision quest of his own. Living in the desert, his diet consisted of locusts and wild honey. Locusts are a symbol of judgement and wild honey is a symbol of blessing. John confronted his own shortcomings and blessings. I spoke of his light side "or child of the Light" and his own goodness weeks ago. He was ready to accept the Messiah to come in Spirit and in truth. Then he spoke of that vision. Later they would kill the visionary, but they could not destroy the vision.

Others who came out to listen to John said, "This man has something and I want some of that!" Remember, these are the castaways that the Pharisees would not have anything to do with. They are the people who were not allowed in the temple. They had been in a desert of their own, confronting the guilt of being unworthy, falling short of the Law of Moses and being ostracized. To them came the baptism and forgiveness of sin as free as water. They had listened to the voices of locusts and judgement. No, it was time to pay attention to the blessings now and the blessings the Messiah bring. They lived a "Vision Quest" in day to day life.

Advent and Christmas Season is full of locusts and wild honey. There is an increase in depression and sadness while we listen to the over-the-top celebrating while remembering losses and deaths. The person with us last Christmas no longer speaks to us. She/he has died. There may be the guilt and sorrow for past behaviors. We may live in Southside Virginia where the temperature is cool this time of year, but we can be in a desert. In the light of John and in the light of the stories about the Messiah, what can we learn about ourselves?

There is the wild honey. There are memories that make us feel joyful and alive. There are hopes. After all, our vision quest does contain a vision. We allow our culture and society to be our spiritual desert. Might I love again Might I allow myself to make plans for getting together? What is my vision for the one who is with us but is yet to come? How can I know him better?

*"See Thee more clearly. Follow Thee more nearly. Love thee more dearly. Day by day." (Godspell)*

## **PARISH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today is the Third Sunday of Advent. The third candle lit in our Advent Wreath today is rose. It is also known as "Gaudete Sunday."**

Today, the Catholic church uses the color rose to indicate a joyful feast day or holiday. Gaudete Sunday's counterpart in Lent is "Lactare Sunday", another break in penance to rejoice in hope as we approach Easter. During both days, the priest wears rose vestments. Also, today, Fr. Jim will do an anointing of the sick during mass.

**Next Sunday is the Fourth [and final] Week of Advent:** This year's calendar presents a unique situation. Next Sunday is not only the Fourth Sunday of Advent, but also Christmas Eve. In order to facilitate the taping of the Christmas Mass this Tuesday, the Liturgy Team will meet tomorrow at 10:00 am to partially decorate the altar. We are scheduled to meet again on Thursday, December 21, at 1:00 pm to continue readying the altar for Christmas Eve and Christmas morning masses. Teamwork - that's what it's all about!

**Christmas Letter from Charlie and Mary Graf:** Charlie and Mary are settling in their new home in North Carolina and life away from Virginia. They emailed me a beautiful Christmas letter to share with you with loving thoughts and their new address. A copy is included in this bulletin so we can all keep in touch via telephone, email or snail mail.

**Christmas Eve Celebration: Sunday, December 24th at 6:30 pm** Please join us at 6:30 pm for finger foods. Musical presentations will begin at 7:15 and our annual Children's Christmas play, written by Miss Beatrice Heady, will be presented at 7:30.

**Craft Club Update:** Beginning January 2024, the Craft Club will meet the 2nd Wednesday and the 4th Friday of each month.

***"Awake From Your Sleep"***