

December 15-16, 2007
Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete (Rejoice)
Isaiah 35:1-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

Before the post-Christmas fatigue strikes, before discarded trees litter the sidewalks and before the first Valentines appear...this weekend provides us an opportunity to be 'excited-of-heart' at the nearness of Christmas. While we adults may grow weary with all the preparation and expenses associated with Christmas, can we not each recall the days of our youth when we would mark-off the days on the calendar in anticipation of Christmas morning? These Advent days are time-tested days in which we are invited to get excited with our ANTICIPATION of Christmas, of its potential, of our dreams for what the day might bring. The Prophet Isaiah uses rhapsodic terms to describe a 'God-blessed-future': the desert blooming with flowers, the lame leaping, the mute singing...joy and gladness triumphing over sorrow and mourning. WOW! This is going to be SOME event! Indeed, wisdom teaches us that our anticipation of an event may actually be more exciting and fulfilling than the event itself. For example, the long-term anticipation and planning for a splendid vacation is a good chunk of the fun... the vacation comes and goes all too quickly and once it's over, it's over. The Gospel of Matthew directs our attention appropriately to what is supposed to be the source of our rejoicing, namely the person of Jesus. While the commercial aspects of our culture tempt us with every manner of devise, bauble or pleasure...as people of faith we are urged to lift our eyes out of the Christmas catalogs and perceive the gift that will not fade, break or be the wrong size...Jesus. As we begin afresh our conversations with Jesus, the inquisitors sent by John the Baptist to Jesus could very well be us: "Are you the one who is to come or should we look for another?" Jesus' answer can be found in our midst, right here in our rows of chairs; amongst us, the blind have regained their sight, the lame have walked, the deaf have heard and those whose spirits have been dead have been raised to life. Not bad.....and certainly cause for REJOICING!

On this rosy day (as in the color of the vestments), thank you for joining with our Corpus Christi Community as we draw ever-closer to Christmas. Please take a Bulletin with you so that you will have the full Christmas Eve and Day schedule. Today, SUNDAY, is the occasion of our Rectory Open House...the Bulletin has directions, consider yourself invited! The eggnog will be cold, the cookies fresh and the tree nicely decorated...ALL FOR YOU! This Tuesday we will have TWO ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES at 10:00 a.m. and at 7:00 p.m. With all the other preparations you are making for Christmas, don't forget to take care of your soul with a worthy Reconciliation. Finally, as is our tradition, we are happily accepting Christmas Poinsettias for our decorating efforts. Please drop them off throughout this week or bring them with you NEXT WEEKEND to Mass. We need lots and lots of bright colors in our very BIG Grand Hall...so your donations are sought and appreciated. Please, no plants smaller than the average 6" pots (otherwise they dry out and die and get tossed before we use them for decorating!) but we can also use the large 'Costco' variety as well. Christmas is in the air, take some time to remember your hopes and dreams...give them fresh life...and remember, you are loved. FKB