

The Third Sunday of Advent – 12/13/2020

Advent is supposed to be a season of penance awaiting the coming of the Lord but every year in the midst of this penitential season we are called to put our penance aside for a day and rejoice that eventually our Lord will make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

We call this day Gaudete Sunday – today is this day – Rejoice Sunday.

On top of this, as members of Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church we have an additional reason to rejoice.

The pope has declared this year – which began Tuesday December 8th – a year of Saint Joseph to mark the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

The Patron of the Universal Church is additionally a patron of our particular church right here in Beal City, Michigan.

And the one thing we know clearly about Saint Joseph from Sacred Scripture is that he was a just man and without justice there really can be no rejoicing.

In the first reading today, Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would bring joy, healing and liberation...that he would make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

But we cannot have justice without truth.

In order to establish justice we have to be able to judge between what is good and what is evil so that we, as individuals and as a society, can avoid evil and do good.

Unfortunately, our world today has essentially abolished objective moral truth. You've heard it, well that's your truth.

If everyone's truth is as good as anyone else's then nobody's truth is worth anything, which would have to include the truth of the Catholic Church as well.

So in the end, just do whatever you want because God is Love and mercy and everyone ultimately goes to heaven anyway.

On the surface one might be tempted to think that this would be a good reason to rejoice – everyone goes to heaven no matter what they do because after all we're all good people.

But if this were the case then there wouldn't be any need for a Messiah, or Mary or Joseph, or the saints, or the Church. Say goodbye to Christmas and every other Christian holiday because none of it would matter. Sounds like a living hell to me.

There is a lot of nonsense being circulated in society and in the Church today and we have an obligation to reject it so that we don't get caught in its trap because our eternal salvation is riding on the Truth.

The gospel reminds of John's mission. He came to testify to the truth and he lost head over it.

"A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

Jesus is the light of the world – Jesus is Truth incarnate. There is no darkness, no error, no falsehood in him. John knew this well because of his humility and said of himself that he was not even worthy to untie his sandal straps – the task of a slave.

Do we have the humility to let the light of Christ guide us in this present darkness through what Holy Mother Church has consistently taught?

I hope so because only then we will truly rejoice heartily in the Lord and God will be the joy of our souls.

And then like Saint Joseph, the Patron of the Universal Church and our personal patron, we too will be clothed with a robe of salvation and wrapped in a mantle of justice.