



LUKE 3:10 - 18



Prepare Joyfully!



The Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday - we light a pink candle as a symbol of joy!

CHECK OUT THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SAYS ABOUT THE SOURCE OF JOY CCC 1423-1424



NAME A PERSON OR A THING THAT BRINGS A SMILE TO YOUR FACE WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THEM / IT?

DO YOU THINK A PERSON CAN DECIDE TO BE JOYFUL, EVEN IF LIFE IS TOUGH? EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER



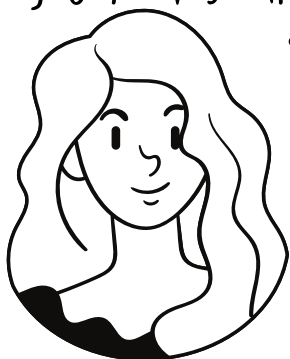
WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MIKE SCHMITZ, "ADVENT: MORE THAN A CHOCOLATE CALENDAR" (ASCENSION PRESENTS) AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW



- Advent is a penitential season like Lent: ☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE
- Advent is a season of d_____ and j_____ preparation for the coming of Jesus.
- How does Fr Mike define "devout"? _____



JOY VS HAPPINESS



- Happiness often comes out of our _____ when things are _____.
- Joy is the ability to have a certain happiness _____ of your circumstances.
- Joy is an abiding sense of _____.
- Joy comes from knowing that the Father _____ me and He knows my _____.

- Joy is a **choice**! We can choose to live with an abiding sense of the Father's love. Our circumstances can be awful and we can still be _____.

CHRIST'S MAJOR ARRIVALS

- His Past Coming at the original C_____.
- His future coming at the End of T_____.



WHAT DO SAINTS DESCRIBE AS THE INTERMEDIARY ARRIVAL OF CHRIST?



The arrival of Christ into our _____. This can happen when we open our hearts to His _____, whenever we _____ in His name, when we are in the presence of the _____.



WHAT'S THE GOAL OF ADVENT?



The goal of Advent is not to have a merry Christmas. The goal is to worship him well, celebrate the fact He came into this world, AND to prepare for His _____



Question: If Advent is the whole-hearted and joyful preparation for the coming of Jesus into our lives.... if Jesus showed up in your life today, would there be any room for Him? Take a moment to think about today's schedule. Is there room there for Jesus?

PREPARE JOYFULLY!

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Should we party during Advent? Limited amounts of Christmas parties, music and food can help us enter into the Christmas mood, but we need to be able to say no.

Why is being able to say "no" important? What does it make room for in Advent?

IF I CAN LEARN TO SAY "NO" MORE TO MATERIAL THINGS, I CAN LEARN TO SAY "YES" MORE TO JESUS.



Now Read Luke 3: 1-18



In this Gospel passage, we hear John the Baptist being asked by many groups of people what they need to do in their own lives to prepare for the Messiah's coming? John gives specific recommendations to each group, to soldiers, to tax collectors and so on. Everyone can live their lives in expectant and joyful preparation. Each of our hearts is unique. Our circumstances vary. For us, the Messiah's arrival happened 2000 years ago, but we still need to prepare for his arrival. What might John the Baptist recommend personally to you? What do you need to say "no" to, in order to make more room for Jesus? As we prepare throughout Advent, there's a growing sense of excitement and expectancy in our readings: preparing for Jesus should fill us with excitement! Jesus is offering us hope, peace, joy and love beyond anything we can imagine or what the world can offer. Let's not cram our hearts full of things that don't last, and lose out on His graces!

MISSION

MAKE A DECISION TODAY TO LIVE ADVENT *JOYFULLY* AND PREPARING TO WELCOME JESUS. USE OUR DAILY ADVENT CALENDAR TO HELP YOU IF YOU NEED SOME IDEAS. TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR DAILY SCHEDULE. WHERE CAN YOU FIT FIVE TO TEN MINUTES IN EACH DAY FOR PRAYER? CAN YOU SET YOUR ALARM TO GO OFF EARLIER? CAN YOU CUT OUT A FEW MINUTES OF TV / GAMING / MUSIC? DECIDE FOR WHOLE-HEARTED JOYFUL PREPARATION - IF YOU DON'T DECIDE, IT WON'T HAPPEN!

WHAT DO I NEED TO SAY NO TO THIS WEEK?



PRAYER TIME!

PRAYER FOR JOY:

My God, You know me by name and You love me, with an eternal love that never fades. Show me how to base my joy on You, because in You my joy will be complete, no matter what circumstances come my way. You delight in me - help me to truly believe that! Amen



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON JOYFUL PREPARATION



- [Make Room \(Casting Crowns\)](#)
- [The Earth Stood Still \(Future of Forestry\)](#)
- [Unspeakable Joy \(Chris Tomlin\)](#)
- [O Come, O Come Emmanuel \(David Crowder Band\)](#)
- [When Hope Came Down \(Kari Jobe\)](#)
- [Awake O Sleeper \(Ike Ndolo\)](#)
- [Hearts Waiting \(Matt Redman\)](#)
- [God Made Low \(Sovereign Grace\)](#)

Click the links for the YouTube videos to listen to some suggestions!



Why Joy is More Christian than Happiness (Fr Mike Schmitz)



JOY (The Bible Project)