

## 3rd Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2016

### TODAY

- Collection of Gifts for Retired Religious at all Masses
- Blood Pressure Readings (McDuffee) after all Masses
- Elementary Religious Education 9am
- Nursery (Room #102) during the 10:30 Mass
- Nativity Program Dress Rehearsal (Church) after the 10:30 Mass
- Middle School Edge (DH) 5:30pm
- High School Sunday Night Live 7pm

**MONDAY** | Dec. 12 | Our Lady of Guadalupe

*Zec 2:14-17/Lk 1:26-38*

- Men's Bible Study (Room #101) 7am

**TUESDAY** | Dec. 13 | St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

*Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32*

- **Mass in Chapel** (+Cora Carson) 8:30am
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Chapel) 9am-7pm
- Nativity Program & Reception 6:30pm

**WEDNESDAY** | Dec. 14 | St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church *Is 45:6-8, 18, 21-25/Lk 7:18-23*

- Elementary Religious Ed 4 & 6pm
- **Mass in Chapel** (+Maria Agrusa) 6:30pm
- Cantor Practice 6:30pm
- Choir Practice 7pm

**THURSDAY** | Dec. 15

*Is 54:1-10/Lk 7:24-30*

- **ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE** 7pm

**FRIDAY** | Dec. 16

*Is 56:1-3, 6-8*

- **Mass in Chapel** (+Richard Jenison) 8:30am

**SATURDAY** | Dec. 17

*Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17*

- Reconciliation/Confessions (Church) 4:45pm
- Contemporary Choir Practice (Church) 4:30pm

**LORD'S DAY LITURGIES | December 18, 2016**

## 4th Sunday of Advent

*Is 7:10-14 / Rom 1:1-7 / Mt 1:18-24*

**5:30pm Saturday**

Parish Family

**8:30am Sunday**

+Patrick O'Brien  
+Eugene Yeglinski  
Mark Wilkens

**10:30am Sunday**

+Tom Maslowski  
+The deceased members of  
the Myles & Cook families

## Christmas Mazes

**SATURDAY, DEC. 24**

5:30pm ♫ with bells for children  
10:30pm ♫ with candles  
Caroling begins at 10pm

**SUNDAY, DEC. 25**

9:30am



REAL PEOPLE  REAL PRESENCE

## PREPARE and SURRENDER

Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." — Mt 11:4-5



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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## Practicing Faith

**Come to save us.** That is our prayer. It is God's promise. How do we know? Our own eyes will show us. Our own ears will tell us. The feeble are made strong. The frightened do not fear. The blind see. The sick are healed. The poor are cared for. Jesus' ministry of healing and mercy is evident everywhere. At this mid-point of Advent, this time of waiting for the Second Coming of Christ is not a passive waiting in easy chairs. It is active. It is robust. It is filled with behavior as if Jesus is right here, right now. Because he is! In what ways can his ministry of healing and mercy be my own?

- Who needs a ride to the doctor or grocery store?
- Who needs a visit to ease loneliness or fear?
- Let me recite Psalm 146:6-10 all week—it sings of mercy works.

**Prepare for next Sunday:** Read and reflect on the Fourth Sunday of Advent (beginning on pg. 50) in the "Living Liturgy" missal.

**ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC PARISH**  
 3937 Wilson Ave. SW | Grandville, MI 49418  
 616-532-9344 | Fax: 616-538-6340  
[www.spxcatholic.org](http://www.spxcatholic.org)

**Parish & Formation Office Hours:**

9-Noon; 1-5pm Mon-Thurs      9-Noon on Fridays  
 (Formation Summer Hours: 9:30-4:30pm Monday-Thursday)

**Parish Book of Prayer** — This book near the main church entrance is for your prayers of intercession or gratitude. They are part of the intentions at Mass.

**Parish Membership** — Count yourself in! If you worship with us regularly, kindly register as a parishioner. You'll receive parish mailings, and it will help us provide pastoral care should you need it. Contact 532-9344; or [parishoffice@spxcatholic.org](mailto:parishoffice@spxcatholic.org).

**Infant Baptisms** are celebrated at various times throughout the year. If you believe raising your child in our Catholic faith is one of your most important duties as a parent, call the parish office.

**Sacrament of Marriage** — The lifelong covenant between a man and a woman is a sign of God's covenant with us. At least six months of prayer and preparation are needed before entering this commitment. Please contact Fr. Chris as soon as you are engaged. Couples celebrating an anniversary ending in a "0" or "5" may request a special blessing.

OTHER MARRIAGE RESOURCES: [www.foryourmarriage.org/](http://www.foryourmarriage.org/)

**Pastoral Care of the Sick** — If you or a loved one are seriously ill, homebound, or anticipating surgery, please contact Rosemary Beahan or Fr. Chris in the parish office. The hospitals do not contact us.

**PARISH OFFICE**

**Rev. Chris Rouech** | Pastor  
 532-9344, ext. 107 | [frchris@spxcatholic.org](mailto:frchris@spxcatholic.org)

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**FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY**

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 538-2600, ext. 122 | [epost@spxcatholic.org](mailto:epost@spxcatholic.org)

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**Kim Lobert** | Director of Maintenance  
 538-2600, ext. 116 | [maintenance@spxcatholic.org](mailto:maintenance@spxcatholic.org)

**An Advent View from 40th & Wilson**

**FR. CHRIS ROUECH**  
[frchris@spxcatholic.org](mailto:frchris@spxcatholic.org)



**THE SPECIAL ROSE COLOR FOR THIS THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT IS A SIGN THAT WE'VE TURNED THE CORNER IN THE SEASON.** The first two weeks of Advent focused on being alert for that promised day when Christ will "come again in glory and judge the living and the dead."

For the rest of Advent, the Mass texts are meant to deepen our desire to celebrate the birth of our Savior throughout the season of Christmas, beginning Dec. 25.

I imagine no one knows more about what it means to "prepare and surrender" than a mother giving birth to a child.

On a much smaller scale, some of the same dynamics of preparation and surrender occur when you celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our Advent Communal Penance Service is at 7pm Thursday.

The brief liturgy will include an examination of conscience so you will be prepared to confess your sins and surrender to God's mercy extended through a priest.

Please avail yourself of this opportunity. It will make your Christmas all the richer because you will have received the gift that God came to deliver the world through Christ: forgiveness.

**Advent Joy for Imperfect Christians**

by David Gibson

It is not mysterious at all that the Church lodges an annual day of joy in the heart of Advent. The tone of this December day, called Gaudete Sunday, is set by the coming joyful days of Christmas, which the Advent season awaits.

But something is a little mysterious about joy itself. The entire notion of joy mystifies many. For joy is as difficult to define as the happiness it resembles. Am I joyful if I do not feel wonderfully alive and excitedly hopeful at every moment?

Some judge themselves harshly against an imaginary standard for joy, perhaps joy as they imagine it to exist in other people's lives. Here they suspect that they do not measure up.

Pope Francis gets this. He realizes that "joy is not expressed the same way at all times in life, especially at moments of great difficulty."

In *The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium)*, his 2013 apostolic exhortation on evangelization, the pope said that "joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved."

Note how Pope Francis made clear his conviction that joy can coexist with "great difficulty" in life. A problem-free life does not define "joy."

He wrote, "The most beautiful and natural expressions of joy that I have seen in my life were in poor people who had little to hold on to." He turned attention as well to "the real joy shown by others who, even amid pressing pro-

fessional obligations, were able to preserve, in detachment and simplicity, a heart full of faith."

It is lamentable, though, he said, that "sometimes we are tempted to find excuses and complain, acting as if we could only be happy if a thousand conditions were met." The lives of some Christians, he observed, "seem like Lent without Easter."

The road to joy is not paved by "narrowness and self-absorption," Pope Francis suggested. Neither is joy characterized by "naive optimism." Instead, Christians are "challenged to discern . . . how wheat can grow in the midst of weeds" and to remain confident that the light of the Holy Spirit "always radiates in the midst of darkness."

Is it time to rethink the illusory image of joy that makes itself known too frequently—a dispiriting image that makes us think we've missed out on joy?

The scripture readings for today's Masses could aid this rethinking. "The coming of the Lord is at hand," they proclaim (Jas 5:8). A Christmastime of joy is visible on the horizon.

But what will its joy feel like?

Think of the joy gardeners feel after waiting patiently for a harvest and viewing "the precious fruit of the earth" (Jas 5:7). If their joy is not of the jumping-up and-down, gleeful kind, it nonetheless is real.

Joy also is experienced when "the blind regain their sight" (Mt 11:5). This prompts memories for me of what it feels like when, after thinking long and hard about the right decision to make in a consequential matter, my eyes suddenly open and I see clearly the steps I

(Continued on page 5)



## Faith Formation | Religious Education

ELIZABETH POST  
epost@spxcatholic.org

**NATIVITY PROGRAM:** Our elementary Nativity Program is coming up! Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, Dec. 13. Program begins at 6:30pm in the church (doors open at 6:15pm). Please have all participating children arrive by 5:50pm. Contact the Formation Office with any questions.

**CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE:** There will be no elementary religious education classes from Dec. 21—Jan. 4. Classes resume on Sunday, Jan. 8.

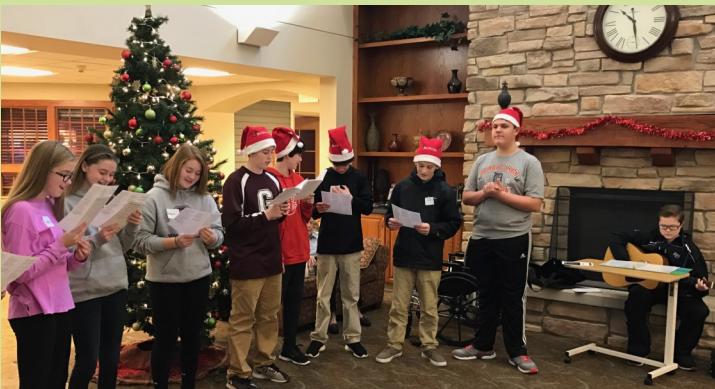
### MIDDLE SCHOOL EDGE ~ Sunday 5:30-7:30pm

- Dec. 11 ~ New Testament
- Dec. 18 ~ Edge
- Dec 25, Jan 1, & Jan. 8 ~ Christmas Break
- EDGE will resume on Sunday, Jan. 15.

### 8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION RETREAT ~ Jan. 7 & 8 ~ 9am-9pm

All 8th graders preparing for Confirmation are expected to attend this retreat. Sponsors will participate in the retreat from 4-7pm on Saturday, Jan. 7.

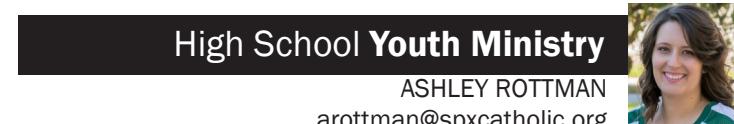
**MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICE:** Last weekend over 50 middle schoolers participated in a variety of service projects throughout the surrounding area. We had groups caroling and decorating



Medilodge Rehab Center. Teens baked cookies for mothers and children at Safe Haven, and another group visited In the Image to sort through donations and help patrons shop. We had a group hand out hot chocolate and lead a game of BINGO for the homeless at Degage. Another bunch headed to St. Ann's to play BINGO and visit with the elderly while a few others cleaned the church on Black Friday.



**NOVEL READERS BOOK CLUB** meets at 7pm Monday, Jan. 9 at 7pm in McDuffee to discuss *The Jane Austin Book Club* by Karen Joy Fowler. Contact Linda Stray (lindastray@yahoo.com or 249-8034) or Mary Boehm (538-9635 or meb2904@aol.com) with inquiries.



## High School Youth Ministry

ASHLEY ROTTMAN  
arottman@spxcatholic.org

### CONFIRMATION RETREAT PLANNING ~ Dec. 11

Those interested in helping with the 2017 Confirmation Retreat should join Ashley and Elizabeth in Room 101 after the 10:30 Mass TODAY (12/11).

**SNL RELATIONSHIPS ~ Dec. 11 ~ 7-8:30pm:** We will finish our series on different relationships that shape our lives. Join us as we explore the significance of our family, friends and significant others by taking a journey with the holy family to Bethlehem.

### UGLY SWEATER ADVENT PARTY ~ Dec. 18 ~ 7-9pm

Dust off those Santa Claus sweaters for our annual pre-Christmas celebration. Join us as we celebrate Jesus' birthday in the company of friends old and new. We'll rock some yuletide jingles, holiday nibbles and maybe even some reindeer games. We will also do a white elephant exchange. Bring a gift (max. \$15) to participate.



## Pastoral Care, Outreach & Initiation

ROSEMARY BEAHAN  
rbeahan@spxcatholic.org

**HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS:** Are you struggling and wondering how your family will get through the holidays? Will there be gifts under the tree for the children? We can help...call the Parish Office; information is kept confidential.

**PICTURES FROM THE NOVEMBER MEMORIAL:** Please remember to pick up your loved one's picture from the Nov. Memorial that was in church. The pictures are in the McDuffee Room.



## Parish Life

ANDY REBOLLAR

arebollar@spxcatholic.org



**THAT MANY IS YOU!** The first semester ended Saturday morning, but not to fear, the next TMIY semester starts again on Jan. 21. It's never too late to start becoming a better man. If you are wondering about it, or know someone who could benefit, make the step and commit or plant the seed. You never know how God may work through that step. Contact me via email or call 532-9344 for more information.

**PARISH APP ROLLOUT TEAM NEEDED:** St. Pius X will be rolling out a parish app through MyParish App in the coming months, and we're looking for a few enthusiastic parishioners willing to be a part of the team. It would be two meetings leading up to the roll out and then help with the roll out weekend. All ages are welcome and no technical experience is needed, just enthusiasm, a smart phone, and a willingness to help promote. If interested, email me or call 532-9344.



**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:** We have an active presence at St. Pius X Catholic Parish. "LIKE" us for updates on parish events and for resources and articles to help you grow in faith.



## Mass Assignments for Dec. 17 &amp; 18

Mass Cord.	5:30pm John Chrusciel	8:30am Mike & Brenda Grandy	10:30am Mary Lang
Greeters	Brian & Denise Kolesar Mark & Rene Nelson	Steve & Kristi LeQuia Chris & Michelle Visscher	Dolores Jesnek Molly Jesnek Jim & Kathy Kohmescher
Servers	Isabel Castro Lucas Castro Pierson Rumble	Ava McIntyre Samantha McIntyre Noah Ziegler	Colin Davis Jacob Davis Ryan Minnick
Eucharistic Ministers	Mattie Conlon Mary Cook Nancy Hoekstra Angie Lemont Harold Lemont Barbara Sawicki Melissa Seguin Monica Tyler Donna Vaughn	Ellen Halfmann Steven LeQuia Debra Neff Tara Pankratz Mary Rademacher Janine Skavnak Karen Tonning <b>2 Volunteers Needed</b>	Chris Koetsier Jim Kohmescher Jen Meyering Pat Milanowski Mike Miller Kris Phillips Jacob Ruemenapp Kate Ruemenapp Debbie Shereda Tom Shereda Mike Signore Nick Sundstrom Paul Sundstrom
Lector	Jennifer Castro Linda Harnish	Linda Polzin Trey Pankratz	Helena Signore Connor Fischer
LWC			Judy Konopka
	Usher Team: B	Usher Team: D	Usher Team: G

real people + real presence

## Growing in Christ

## Weekly Stewardship Report

**STEWARSHIP THOUGHT:** In this Sunday's gospel, we hear of Jesus' response to John whether he "is the one that is to come." Jesus points to the miracles he's done: allowing the lame to walk, cleansing lepers, and giving sight to the blind. The gift Jesus offered these individuals was freedom to be the people God created them to be. No longer were they burdened by the cultural beliefs about where their different ailments originated, whether it was their sin or the sin of their family. What they did with their newfound freedom was up to them. They were stewards of it. We too receive countless gifts from God. While they may not be as dramatic, we too are called to be stewards of them. How will the stewardship of your gifts proclaim Christ is the one that is to come? ~ by Andy Rebollar, Pastoral Associate for Parish Life

## Time and Talent

## MASS ATTENDANCE

Dec. 3 &amp; 4: 5:30pm—284 | 8:30am—296 | 10:30am—563

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT** of \$1,000 in support of our Flint neighbors! Your generosity during the water crisis offered assistance when it was needed the most. Providing help...creating hope. Vicky L. Schultz/President/CEO Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties

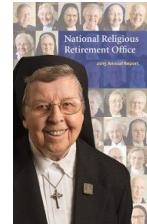
## CHRISTIAN SERVICE FOOD PANTRY ~ CHRISTMAS HELP

Are you available to wrap, pack or deliver the gifts from the Giving Tree to St. Joseph the Worker parish? We will be wrapping gifts on Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 1:30pm. Packing baskets on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 1:30pm, and delivering to St. Joseph on Friday, Dec. 16 around 9:30am. We will be packing and wrapping at the Food Pantry. If you are available to deliver on Friday, please call the Parish Office at 532-9344.

**ALTAR SERVERS FOR FUNERALS:** We are in need of adults to be altar servers for funerals. Please consider joining this much needed and appreciated ministry. Contact Rosemary Beahan in the Parish Office at 532-9344 or [rbeahan@spxcatholic.org](mailto:rbeahan@spxcatholic.org)

## Treasure

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS** makes a difference in the lives of roughly 33,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who benefit from the annual appeal. Elder care costs continue to rise while the number of religious requiring care grows. Please support this week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious and give to those who have given a lifetime.



PARISH SUPPORT Fiscal Year 2016-17   Week 23/52	Last week 12/3 & 12/4	Year to Date	Prior Year to Date
Adult Envelopes	\$ 23,028	\$288,410	\$ 285,677
Electronic Giving <a href="http://spxcatholic.org">spxcatholic.org</a>	\$ 8,142	\$101,173	\$ 99,312
Youth Envelopes	\$ 15	\$ 128	\$ 83
Loose Offerings	\$ 717	\$ 14,651	\$ 14,142
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 31,902</b>	<b>\$404,362</b>	<b>\$399,214</b>
Budget Overage/(Shortfall)	\$ 14,971	\$ (10,043)	\$ -
<b>OTHER GIVING</b>			
Master's Mission	\$ 1,819	\$ 16,845	\$ 16,613
Special Coll: Human Development	\$ 745	\$ 4,564	

St. Pius X has 958 registered households. Last week, 381 contributed either by using an offertory envelope or electronically. Every gift is gratefully received as a sacrifice united with Christ's own self-offering in the Eucharist to share God's love.

## Our prayer list for healing

Please continue to pray for the following and all the sick in our Parish, their families and friends, those hospitalized and home-bound, and those in care facilities. To be included on the Prayer Chain (separate from this bulletin list), call Jason George at (231) 736-7487.

Linda Padula	Gerry Dekkinga	Bob Brock	Joe Capriglione
Kenneth Schumacher	Mary LaSarge	Judy DeVoe	Erika Yonker
Kelsey Gibson	Andre Miles	Ron Geldersma	Marie Nevins
Robert Kasperlik	Catherine Cesare	Diane & Mary Prindle	Andy Wierzbicki
Joe Lemont	Henry Visscher	Betty DiTrapani	Mike Sartorius
Beverwyk Family	Joe & Margaret Grandy	Rose Reilly	Clara Raaymakers
Anthony McAndrew	M. Forrester	Laurie Bialik	Gina Catania
Jennifer Hassell	Marty Schumacker	Bill Paumier	Christopher Thrall
Mick Vaughn	John Stoddard	Carol Guffy	Bob & Holly Ann Ott
Ben Baird	Derek Bull	Shannon Olman	Diane Austin
Rich Hubbard	Stephen Meurer	Dorothy Rennager	James Raap
Kathy Maslowski	Charles & Mag Frol	Patrick Bartz	Ilene Topolinski
Deb Russo	Tom & Becky Hoffmann	Ellen O'Toole	Sarah Johnson
Catherine Owens	Mike Connell	Peggy Galt	Justin Vriezema
Jeff Zylstra	Mary Jebb	Markell Barnhart	Lenore Nufrio
Marlene Strong	Mary Beth Jensen	Pat Rummel	Robert Ryzanca
Cindy Cole	Megan Reynolds	Chris Vanderslice	Mary Benson-Slosser
Jill Moyer	Jim & Mary Ann Norcutt	Leo Raap	Deb Finnigan
Nell Wouters	Allen Mulligan	Jim Stotenbur	Marion & Marie Rythewski
Brianne Bassett	Matt Rich	Bob Bagin	Ken Jenkins
Tom Wojtas	Joe & Winnie Kulaga	Jonathan Kolenda	Sandy Ressell
Kerry Deboer	Donna Waters	Cindy Thrall	John Blanchard
Sr. Jean Marie Wojtas	Pat DeJong	Norm Pokora	Linda Wood
Terri Bernott	Clara Jo Braybrook	Barbara Barney	Zachary Matzke
Ann Berg	Jane Voss	Karen Bourassa	Pam Willemstein
Arline Dzwonkowski	Tom Villermure	Judy Perrin	Alberta & Vito Licari
Cleo Ruppel	J.D. Sypniewski	Rylie Rau	Pat Grzybowski
Christopher Alighire	Jerry Piela	Larry Kietzman	Judy Wojtas
Ann Ferguson	Connie Alighire	Scott Kowalczyk	Cody VandenBerg
Mark Wilkens	Kim Wheat		



*We offer the sympathy, love, and prayers  
of our parish to the families of:*

**ANN KEENA**  
*aunt of Nancy Benson*

**We warmly welcome the following into our faith family and  
pray for God's continued blessing on them.**

**BRISTOL NICOLE LEE**

*daughter of Nicholas & Alexia (Judge) Lee*

**AVERY MAE McMEANS**

*daughter of Michael & Christina (Kobeszka) McMeans*

**MADELYNN KATHLEEN SPEDOSKE**

*daughter of Mark & Jennifer (Wortman) Spedoske*

**AVA MARIE TENBRINK**

*daughter of Sean & Shannon (Anderson) TenBrink*

**BRAYDEN MATTHEW VANDERBUR**

*son of Drew & Jillian (Hanrahan) Vanderbur*



**When choosing which businesses to patronize,  
please choose those who advertise in this bulletin.  
Their support pays for this publication.**

**True Value Builders**

**Special pricing and metal roofing!**

*See our ad on back page*



## BISHOP DAVID J. WALKOWIAK ASKS US TO PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS

Loving God,

Raise up dedicated leaders who will shepherd your people and guide them to your Son. Give generous and willing hearts to the seminarians of our Diocese who have heard your call to live a life of service to the Church. Help us to encourage and support them as they strive to become priests who are models of discipleship, possessors of wisdom and on fire with love for your people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We especially pray for:

**Andrew M. Ayers**

**University of  
St. Mary of the Lake  
Mundelein Seminary  
1000 East Maple Ave.  
Mundelein, IL 60060**



## Joy possible even in times of despair

*(Continued from page 2)*

should take.

It makes me think, too, of the quiet sense of satisfaction felt when a fearful, reluctant friend or family member—possibly someone suffering the effects of an addiction—takes the first steps into a more rewarding lifestyle.

Then there is the joy that, at least for a while, displaces other worries when someone close to us recovers from an energy-sapping illness. We rejoice as “feeble” hands regain strength and “weak” knees are firmed-up (Is 35:3).

Finally, when considering what joy looks like in real people’s lives, think how the spirit soars when a desert bursts into bloom and the “parched land” sings (Is 35:1).

There are deserts in many lives. These deserts may assume the form of lifeless, damaged relationships at home or the loss of any sense of life’s purpose. Joy of a special kind is experienced when hard work, renewed commitment and faith bring a desert back into bloom.

True enough, however, any of these forms of joy could bring on tears. But they will not be tears of despair.

Life typically feels more joyful when a sense of expectation pervades it. It is easier to relish life when we look forward to something, whether a birth, a new home, a child’s return, a vacation, or a reunion that promises time together with friends or relatives we seldom see.

This is what makes Advent unique. Advent looks ahead expectantly. It points directly away from despair and toward the joy that accompanies the Lord’s coming—not his coming into a perfect world but into the actual world we inhabit.

Pope Francis insisted on Gaudete Sunday 2013 that Advent joy is “not a superficial joy.” It is the kind of joy that comes of being able to reopen our eyes, “to overcome sadness” and “to strike up a new song.”

*Gibson served on Catholic News Service’s editorial staff for 37 years.*

