

REJOICE: ADVENT IS A TIME FOR RECONCILIATION

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The color of the candle this third Sunday of Advent is rose to signify Joy, the Joy to be had greeting the One who comes in Mercy to save us from our sins.

Mark's Gospel begins with John the Baptist crying out "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his path" (Mark 1:3). We prepare by repenting, making a straight, joyful path into our hearts. In Matthew (3:2), John heralds Jesus' coming saying, "Repent, the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" And the first words of Jesus in Mark (1:16) also call us to "Repent!" Advent is preparation to encounter Christ, a conversion of heart, turning from sin to Jesus for his Mercy and forgiveness. Advent is a season of reconciliation through Jesus. He wants us to know His Father (John 14:7) and to know there is nothing we can ever do that would make the Father love us any less. Hear that? There is *nothing* we can ever do to make the Father love us any less. Nothing!



So, let us prepare joyfully for Christmas – and for Mass often throughout the year – by coming to the Sacrament of Reconciliation to receive the Father's Mercy. Archbishop Vigneron wrote that renewal of Reconciliation is essential to our **Unleashing the Gospel** (Marker 3.2). He recounts the Prodigal Son whose father *runs* out to greet him with great joy. Let us go to the Father in Confession this week, for our sake and that of our family and all around us, for "the spiritual healing and forgiveness received through the Sacrament [of Reconciliation] cause grace to flow through the whole community" (Marker 3.2).



Jesus invites us to encounter Him in the merciful embrace of the Father's boundless love in **Reconciliation**. Find joy! Confessions are heard every **Saturday afternoon at 3:00 pm**.