

3rd WEEK OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 11, 2016
Mary Johnson, President & Cathy Liska, Lay Moderator In-Training
Milwaukee Chapter

READINGS:

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:1-5; Matthew 11:2-11

Today is known as *Gaudete* Sunday a Latin term found in Philippians (*Gaudete in Domino semper* translated as “Rejoice in the Lord always”), which is the Introit (opening prayer) for this Sunday. Since the mid-point of the season has passed, the Church shows its gladness and anticipation and the priest wears rose-colored vestments. It is also the day when the third candle on the Advent wreath, rose in color, is lit to emphasize our joy that the coming of our savior is near. Station churches in Rome are churches appointed for special liturgical celebrations. Of the church stations for the Advent season, the Vatican Basilica is assigned to *Gaudete* Sunday as being the most important and imposing of the four. Throughout Advent continual reference is made to our Lord’s second coming emphasized on the third Sunday (*Gaudete*) by additional signs of gladness and further marked by a new invitation calling the faithful to worship and hail with joy the Lord whose coming nigh is close at hand, foretelling of bringing the promised redemption for our sins. Essentially, the readings advise us to rejoice in the favor that God bestows on those who look to the coming of Christ.

REFLECTION:

As members of the Vincentian Family, we are called to pour out our energies in service to the poor, listen attentively to their needs, and show our caring hearts to all our brothers and sisters. In this Advent gospel, John the Baptist calls us to prepare the way of the Lord by eliminating from our lives whatever impedes His coming. Bless us that we may do exactly that.

PRAYER:

God of joy, you strengthen what is weak, you enrich the poor, and give hope to those who feel lost and broken. Help us to serve the poor with compassion and give them hope. Heavenly Father, make us strong that we may honor you and your holy work through our humble efforts.

TRY THIS TODAY:

In what ways can our actions show that we are doing Christ’s ministry?