



St. Paul's Co-Cathedral Parish

720 Spadina Crescent East

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4th Sunday of Lent March 10, 2024 Laetare Sunday

Words are stories waiting to be unfolded.

The word for this Sunday, 21 days before Easter, is “Rejoice.”

It comes from the **Introit** (the Scripture Passage that opens a Mass which we usually replace by a hymn) for this Sunday: *Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her!* (Isaiah 66:10)

The vestments are rose, just as they were on “Rejoice” Sunday in Advent where the Introit was, “*Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, Rejoice*” (Phil. 4:4).

Strangely, given all the “joy” words in English that could be used, the Latin titles for these Sundays are maintained: Advent: **Gaudete**; Lent: **Laetare**.

What is up with that? Well, simply the English translation of the command to “REJOICE” in *Isaiah* and *Philippians* has these two different Latin terms: in *Isaiah*, **Gaudete!** In *Philippians*, **Laetare!**

Who cares, Fr. Stephen?

Well, the Church does. We are the Holy Community called by the Word of God and *words matter!*

No, not in the silly way of this “open-minded” culture which raises its children to be paranoid about being made “unsafe” by words, but in the open-hearted way of the **LOGOS** (the “Word” who is God in Greek). The **LOGOS** is not a “safe” word at all (especially if you are fearful of the world or mediocre in heart). There are depths – inexhaustible depths – to the **LOGOS** – to Christ our God – that invite us into dangerously freeing experiences, that will turn our lives upside-down.

GAUDETTE – the Advent word for Joy – comes from the words our ancestors spoke millennia ago to describe what happens when hard toil results in great food and dancing – **making merry, rejoicing**. The word JOY is born directly of this.

Not so **LAETARE** – our Lenten Word this Sunday. It seems to come from the word used by our ancestors for **a person who has been set free from servitude**, who was released from bondage to any master to become a Free-person with their own land!

In other words, **one joy is the party (Gaudete) and the other joy is the reason for the party (Laetare)**.

Indeed, the Introit for today goes on to command us to “*gaudete cum laetitia, qui in tristitia fuistis*”, - “**You who were filled with sadness, make merry with the exultation of being free!**” (my translation)

Christians are never to be *wet blankets*. We party not out of desperation nor do we rejoice because YOLO (you-only-live-once). Indeed, we are joy-filled because we are freed from slavery to the grind of sin and we exult because in Christ we shall live forever.

Indeed, Jerusalem rejoices because it is free from being “the earthly Jerusalem”! Jesus Christ is the New Jerusalem and all who live in Him are Freepersons of the Eternal Jerusalem that is His Body the Church.

On more word-story: the Hebrew for “rejoice” means, “**Be bright! Shine! Be Cheerful!**” So, let us be bright in fasting, shine in our prayer, and be cheerful in our giving.” No wet blankets – only the shining joy of Heaven.



MONDAY, March 11, 2024

11:00 am - Confessions, Adoration & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** (*SI Fr. Stefano Penna*)
6:30 pm - Medjugorje Prayer Group

TUESDAY, March 12, 2024

11:00 am - Confessions, Adoration & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** (*SI Fr. Andrzej Wychucki*)
7:00 pm - *Mulieris Dignitatem*

WEDNESDAY, March 13, 2024

11:00 am - Confessions, & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** (*† Anne Katerinich*)
1:00 pm - Eucharistic **Adoration** until 5:00pm
3:00 pm - Prayer Cenacle
7:00 pm - Confirmation Study
7:30 pm - Choir

THURSDAY, March 14, 2024

11:00 am - Confessions, Adoration & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** (*SI Bing Bacolor - Espina*)
7:00 pm - RCIA
8:00 pm - Christ the King Prayer Group

FRIDAY, March 15, 2024

11:00 am - Confessions, Adoration & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** (*SI Vanessa Benesh*)
5:30 pm - Sto. Nino Prayer Group
6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY, March 16, 2024

11:00 am - Confessions, Adoration & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** (*† Agnes LePage*)

SUNDAY, March 17, 2024 5th Sunday of Lent

8:00 am - **Mass**
10:00 am - **Mass**
5:00 pm - Filipino **Mass**
7:30 pm - **Solemn Vespers**
8:00 pm - **Mass**

Palm Sunday, March 24

Masses at 8:00 am, 10:00 am & 8:00 pm

Holy Tuesday, March 26

No 12:10 pm Mass

Chrism Mass at Holy Family Cathedral - 7:00 pm

Holy Thursday, March 28

No 12:10 pm Mass

Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:00 pm

Adoration after Mass until Midnight

Good Friday, March 29

Stations of the Cross - 11:00 am

The Seven Last Words of Christ - 12:00 pm -

Preached by Fr. Penna

Confessions - 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Good Friday Solemn Liturgy - 3:00 pm

Tenebrae - 7:30 pm

Holy Saturday, March 30

Easter Vigil - 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday, March 31

Mass - 8:00 am

Mass with Bishop Mark Hagemoen - 10:00 am

Easter Triduum ends - **No** 8:00 pm Mass

Extended opportunities for Confession

Friday March 15 & 22 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Saturday March 16 & 23 from 10:00am - 12:00pm &
1:00pm - 3:00pm

Good Friday from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Penitential Service

Friday, March 22 at 6:30 pm

Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 6:30 pm

OFFERING for March 3, 2024

Cash Donations	\$ 250.85
Envelope Donations	\$ 760.00
PAG	\$ 6,410.00

We invite you to a **special presentation of music and prayer** on **Friday, March 22 at 6:30 pm**. The **Stations of the Cross** will be recited in collaboration with members of the St. Paul's Choir in offering Giovanni Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*. Come hear this Lenten practice sung in a beautiful Baroque setting. Throughout the evening, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered.