

**DEACON TONY'S DECEMBER 7TH HOMILY
FOR THE
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*** GUAUDETE SUNDAY * REJOICE AND BE JOYFILLED ALWAYS, AGAIN I SAY REJOICE.**

I rejoice heartily in the Lord in this Jubilee year, when all is returned to God. Isiah has been sent to proclaim glad tidings to the poor, freedom to the captives, release to the prisoners, to heal the brokenhearted, and announce a year of favor from the Lord God.

In the Jubilee year our relationship with God is restored and all debt is forgiven. This is a true reason for rejoicing. We do not hold to these customs today although some are hoping for forgiveness of student loans.

The closest thing that we have today is RECONCILIATION, whereby we repent of our sins before Jesus in the sacrament and he throws them as far away as the east is from the west. That means that are sins are no longer there. If you turned to Jesus a few hours after you had confessed your sins and asked Him if you could talk it over with Him some more, he would say, "what sin?" That is one joyful act and forgiveness is one Godly act.

When Paul writes to the Thessalonians to rejoice always and pray unceasingly, we can see the need to be ever grateful. So what do we do with all this joy?

We witness to the greatness of our God and always point to Jesus as the reason for our hope.

We have the greatest example of that witness in our Blessed Mother Mary. She always points to Jesus as the culmination of our life.

In our Responsorial Psalm today we have the only time that Mary prays in the Scripture. We hear her beautiful words that she prays before her cousin Elizabeth at the Visitation in the Magnificat.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.

And my spirit exalts in God my Savior;

For He has looked with favor on my lowliness,

and His name will be forever exalted.

For the mighty God has done great things for me,

and His mercy shall reach from age to age.

And holy, holy, holy is His name

And holy, holy, holy is His name.