



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

December 11, 2022: The Third Sunday in Advent

Joy: the 3rd Week of Advent

The pink candle is generally lit on the third Sunday of Advent: it represents joy. Each candle in the advent wreath has a significant meaning, but the third candle of Advent has a unique place. In most advent wreaths, it is the one candle that is a different color than the others. There is something special, more spontaneous, and celebratory about the theme of the third week of Advent compared to the others. In Luke's reading for this week, we hear Elizabeth exclaim: "the child in my womb leaped for joy!" That child was Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist.



Mary visits Elizabeth: Luke 1:39-45

*In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, **the child in my womb leaped for joy**. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."*

Is "Joy" special?

What is notable about the emotion joy? Joy is often felt as a surprise. Joy frequently sneaks up on us, delights us, and unexpectedly bringing a smile to our faces and uplifts our spirits even before we fully realize why. All joy, especially divine joy, outruns our logical minds, encompasses us before we even understand what has happened. The reaction of the child in Elizabeth's womb was a wonderful example of the experience of joy. Unexpected. Free. Spontaneous. Genuine. Pure. The emotion of joy is given through God's grace. The birth of Jesus brings us joy.

Isaiah tells us of the approaching teacher and savior: "His delight shall be in the fear of the lord." Through his human existence, Jesus demonstrated that *joyful* wisdom. This Advent, think...have we had moments of joy and realization like Elizabeth when Mary visited her? What in our lives given by God fills us with joy and delight?

Prayer for the Third Week of Advent

Stir up our joy, O Lord, as we anticipate your coming among us. Though we are hindered by darkness and doubt, let your mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Let us keep in our prayers: the soul of Nancy and her family who mourns her; continued healing and comfort for Elizabeth, Keith, Sally, Bill, Margo, Justin; for the poor in spirit who seek God or a deeper knowledge of Him; Lord, hear our prayer!