



## Advent & Christmas Schedule

Wednesday December 17	Advent Penance Service	6:00pm
Saturday December 20	Mass Fourth Sunday of Advent	6:00pm
Sunday December 21	Mass Fourth Sunday of Advent	7:00am & 9:00am
Wednesday December 24	Carol Service	10:00pm
Wednesday December 24	Christmas Eve Mass (Vigil)	11:00pm
Thursday December 25	Christmas Mass (Day)	8:00am
Saturday December 27	Mass (Holy Family)	6:00pm
Sunday December 28	Mass (Holy Family)	7:00am & 9:00am
Wednesday December 31	Carol Service	10:30pm
Wednesday December 31	New Year's Eve Mass	11:00pm
Thursday January 1	New Year's Day Mass	8:00am
Saturday January 3	Epiphany Mass	6:00pm
Sunday January 4	Epiphany Mass	7:00am & 9:00am



### DID YOU KNOW

**Gaudete Sunday** is the joyful Third Sunday of Advent, marked by the word "Gaudete" (Rejoice!), signaling that Christmas, the arrival of Jesus, is near, offering a break from the season's penitential purple with rose-colored vestments and the pink candle on the Advent wreath to symbolize this building anticipation and hope.

# Stella Maris Church Community

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**Pastor: Rev. Fr. Richard Brown**  
**Associate Pastor: Fr. Jude Akagha**  
**Deacon: Mark Hitchener**

**Church Council Chair :** David DeMorasse  
**Finance Chairperson :** Neville LynFatt

**MASS TIMES:** Sunday 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.  
Tuesday – Saturday 6:00 p.m.  
**RECONCILIATION:** Appointment/Announced

## Third Sunday of Advent



**Year A - December 14, 2025**

### Today's Readings

<b>1st Reading:</b>		<b>Is.</b>	<b>35: 1-6 .10</b>
<b>2nd Reading:</b>		<b>Jas.</b>	<b>5: 7-10</b>
<b>Gospel Reading:</b>		<b>Mt.</b>	<b>11: 2-11</b>

**Response: Come, Lord, and save us!**



**Third Sunday of Advent – Year A:  
Gaudete Sunday: Rejoice in the Lord  
Always**

“Gaudete in Domino semper — Rejoice in the Lord always” (Phil 4:4).

This joyful command of St. Paul gives today its name: Gaudete Sunday. In the midst of Advent’s quiet watchfulness, the Church invites us to lift our hearts in joyful expectation, for “the Lord is near.”

Today’s rose candle on the Advent wreath signals that Christian waiting is never passive. We rejoice not because life is perfect, but because God is faithful. We rejoice because Christ has already come in Bethlehem, comes to us now in Word and Sacrament, and will come again in glory. Our hope is rooted in what God has already done.

In the Gospel, Jesus points to the signs of the Kingdom breaking forth — the blind see, the lame walk, the poor hear Good News. These signs remind us that wherever Christ is welcomed, life is renewed.

As we enter the final days of Advent:

- Let us look for the small signs of God’s presence in our daily lives.
- Let us share joy, especially with those who struggle to find it.
- Let our prayer be: “Come, Lord Jesus. Restore our joy.”

May this Gaudete Sunday awaken in us a deeper confidence that God is at work, and that the One we long for is indeed very near

**Fr Richard**



## Happy Birthday



**14th December**  
Xavier Handal ♦ Yvette McDowell ♦  
Lorrian McMaster ♦

**15th December**  
Buffy Campbell ♦ Andre Reid ♦ Sariah Richards ♦

**16th December**  
Lorna Carroll-Lewis ♦

**17th December**  
Janice Carby ♦ Marissa Mayne ♦ Dylan Smith ♦

**18th December**  
Patrice Abrahams ♦ Shameka Henry ♦

**19th December**  
Wendell Day ♦

**20th December**  
Victoria Grant ♦ Jason Walker ♦ Christina Howell ♦  
Adam Thompson ♦ Ida-Gaye Warburton ♦



### Happy Anniversary



**16th December** ♦ Hubert & Jean Lowrie-Chin  
♦ Dean & Ashley Wong

**18th December** ♦ Mark & Michelle Chin  
♦ Danville & Marjorie Davidson  
♦ Richard & Janet Sharp  
♦ Harold & Fay Soltau  
♦ Kieffer & Michaela Thomas

**19th December** ♦ Krishna & Leah Vaswani

**20th December** ♦ Austin & Jacqueline Maitland  
♦ Garfield & Tracey Sinclair  
♦ Lloyd & Janice Tenn

**MERCY TREE**  
The Mercy tree still has some gift tags on it. Parishioners who have not yet taken a tag are being asked to take one from the Tree, each tag has the description of a person and the type of gift that would be appreciated. Once you have picked a tag the gift should be wrapped or placed in a gift bag with the tag securely attached and taken to the Stella Maris Foundation on Grants Pen Road, by Monday, December 15, 2025 for distribution before Christmas.



Thank you in advance for your kind generosity.