



**Third Week of Advent**  
**Sunday, December 13th, 2020**

*Mrs. Katie Schaffner, Math Teacher, shares her reflections on today's Scripture readings.*



IS 61:1-2A, 10-11; LK 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 THES 5:16-24; JN 1:6-8, 19-28

As I read the readings for today I couldn't help but notice the overriding theme of joy. This triggered my memory. This is the pink candle week. My years studying Theology and Latin finally paid off as I remembered the word for it—Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word for “rejoice.” It seems strange to me that God has to remind us to rejoice in what should be one of the most joyful times of the year. But I have to admit, this is probably the time of Advent that is least joyful for me. Final exams are looming and stress is high. It usually hits me about this time that I have officially waited until the last minute to start my Christmas shopping, again. The logistics of splitting time equally between two families distract me. The joy of Christmas is so close, yet so much stands between me and that joyous celebration.

Leave it to this Sunday's readings to call me out on my “grinchiness.”

“Rejoice always”. There is always something to be joyful about.

“In all circumstances give thanks”. For even though this hour, this day, this year may not be going our way, our salvation is.

I am not always a joyful person, but I have learned that being joyful is intentional. I think we all know someone who seems joyful all the time (i.e. Mrs. Nixon—see her December 4th reflection). I have often found myself envious of these people and become upset with God that He didn't make me that way. Now I see, however, that I have to invite God to make me that way. And then I have to give Him the room to do it. He will not just make me joyful, but He will make me better in every possible way. For “the one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.”

I often tell my students in SAT Prep class to avoid choices that say “all” or “always” because there is very little in life that is so definite. On this Gaudete Sunday, let us rejoice in one thing that is.

**Faith: Lived, Deepend, Celebrated**

During these uncertain times, we welcome your prayer requests. The Bishop Chatard community will lift up your prayer intentions in the weekly BCHS Prayer Chain. **Email Mr. Steven Patzke, at [spatzke@bishopchatard.org](mailto:spatzke@bishopchatard.org), your prayer intentions or to join the prayer chain.**