

Joy is Christians' hallmark

3rd Sunday of Advent (December 15): (R3) John 1:6-8, 19-28; (R1) Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11; (R2) 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24.

In the past, the Third Sunday of Advent was called "Gaudete Sunday" — "Joyful Sunday." In the second reading, St. Paul writes, "Rejoice always, never cease praying, render constant thanks; such is God's will for you." The Christian life is meant to be a life of joy, prayer and thanksgiving to God.

In an article titled, "Gloomy Caesar and Happy Jesus," the author contrasted what we know of Tiberius Caesar, who ruled Rome in A.D. 30, with what we know of Jesus. Of Tiberius, the historian Pliny wrote, "He is the gloomiest of mankind." But of Jesus we read that in the shadow of his cross, he "took bread, and gave thanks ..." and when the supper was over, they sang a "hymn and went out ..." The article concludes: "We are not to be dispensers of Caesar's gloom but rather transmitters of Jesus' joy."

Kaufmann Kohler states in the *Jewish Encyclopedia* that no language has as many words for joy and rejoicing as does Hebrew. In the Old Testament 13 Hebrew roots, found in 27 different words, are used primar-



Father **Albert Shamon**

A word for Sunday

ily for some aspect of joy or joyful participation in religious worship. The good Israelite regarded the act of thanking God as the supreme joy of his life.

A man traveling to St. Louis on business looked on Sunday morning for a place to worship. He asked a policeman to recommend a church to him, then asked why that particular church had been suggested. The policeman replied: "I'm not a church man myself, but the people who come out of that church are the happiest looking people in St. Louis."

For those of us who are adults, one thing that makes Christmas so joyful is seeing the wide-eyed expressions of wonder on little faces. Children know about joy. Adults can lose their joy so easily.

Here is a list of joy robbers during the holiday season: fighting

crowds and traffic, not getting enough sleep, not having enough time, spending too much money, eating or drinking too much, skipping meals, long trips, being apart from friends and family.

Find some way this special season to defeat the blues. Join a group singing carols, work in a soup kitchen, adopt a needy child for Christmas, visit shut-ins who have no one to care about them, do something that will bring someone else joy. For joy has a way of boomeranging: It gives the person who gives it more joy than the one who receives it.

Joy is the hallmark of the true follower of Christ. Don't let it slip away.

Father Shamon is administrator of St. Isaac Jogues Chapel, Fleming.

DAILY READINGS

Monday, December 16
Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17A; Psalms 25:4-9; Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday, December 17
Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Psalms 72:3-4, 7-8, 17; Matthew 1:1-17

Wednesday, December 18
Jeremiah 23:5-8; Psalms 72:1, 12-13, 18-19; Matthew 1:18-25

Thursday, December 19
Judges 13:2-7, 24-25A; Psalms 71:3-6, 16-17; Luke 1:5-12

Friday, December 20
Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalms 24:1-6; Luke 1:26-38

Saturday, December 21
Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18A; Psalms 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Luke 1:39-45

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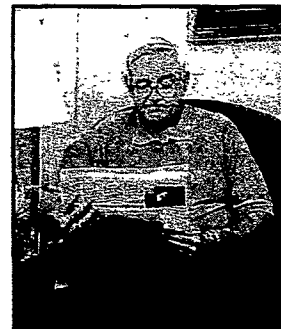
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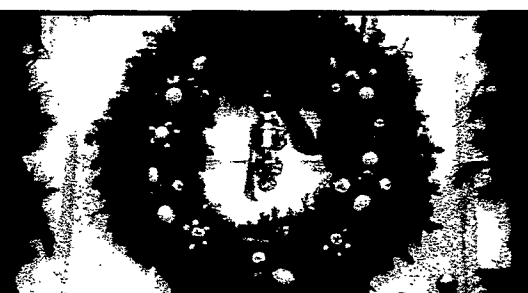
As the holidays draw near, don't worry about the hazards of winter. Instead, you can focus on enjoying a carefree lifestyle at The Benchmark Greece Communities.

We serve three delicious meals daily and offer a variety of social, cultural and educational activities. It doesn't matter what it's doing outside because inside you'll have everything you need including 24-hour staffing, providing personal care and medication monitoring, housekeeping and linen service, as well as fitness and health programs. With all of this taken care of for you this winter will be safe and secure.

Happy Holidays!

The Harbor at Greece
A Benchmark Senior Living Community for the Memory Impaired
1 Tree Line Drive • Rochester, NY
(Just off Rte 390 on Latta Road)
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The Crossings at Greece
A Benchmark Senior Living Community
3 Tree Line Drive • Rochester, NY
(Just off Rte 390 on Latta Road)
585-720-9330
www.benchmarkquality.com



December Events

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 14th • 8:30-11:00am

Bring the whole family to The Crossings and join us for a pancake breakfast with a special visit from a jolly good fellow - Santa Claus!

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday & Sunday, December 14th & 15th

Saturday & Sunday, December 21st & 22nd

Saturday & Sunday, December 28th & 29th

11:00am-3:00pm

We invite you to take a tour of our beautiful community, and meet our dedicated staff.

Gingerbread House Contest & Display

Sunday, December 15th • 11:00am-3:00pm

The Harbor's first annual Gingerbread House contest!

Stop by to see the results and vote for your favorite house.

Christmas Carols

Friday, December 20th • 9:30-11:00am

The Crossings invites you to join us as students of King Rood School stop by to sing your favorite carols.



Join Us For Our 1st Annual

Gingerbread House Contest

Sunday, December 15th • 11am-3pm

The Harbor at Greece, 1 Tree Line Drive

Do you create the best Gingerbread House every holiday season? Then enter this contest. Decorated gingerbread houses will be on display for all to view. Come down and cast your vote. The winners will be chosen at 3pm. Don't miss this fun event for the whole family.

Prizes	The Harbor at Greece
1st Place \$250	A Benchmark Senior Living Community for the Memory Impaired 1 Tree Line Drive • Rochester, NY (Just off Rte 390 on Latta Road)
2nd Place \$100	
3rd Place \$50	The Crossings at Greece A Benchmark Senior Living Community 3 Tree Line Drive • Rochester, NY (Just off Rte 390 on Latta Road)
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We Hope You Will Join Us

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