

The Academy of Our Lady of Peace

# Religion at the Academy

Dec 12, 2021

## The Third Sunday of Advent: All About Rejoicing

Joy and rejoicing is the most prevailing theme in today's Mass readings. In the first reading, the Israelites are told to shout for joy and to be glad and exult with all their hearts. In the Responsorial Psalm, we are told to cry out with joy and gladness. In the second reading from the book of Philippians, we are told to rejoice in the Lord always.

Why are we doing so much rejoicing? Well, we are close to the birth of Christ and, as John the Baptist reminds us in the Gospel reading, Jesus will give us the greatest gift of all: the Holy Spirit. John tells us that while he baptizes with water,

**He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**

Luke 3:16

That is the true joy of the faith, and the cause for the rejoicing. We are never alone. We have an advocate. We have a guardian. We have someone who is constantly in our corner. Not only do we have the perfect love of God the Father, and the incredible sacrifice of God the Son, but we also have the continued presence and guidance of God the Holy Spirit.

How can we not rejoice?

