

Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday – 12/14/25

Gaudete Sunday! Rejoice Sunday. It's meant to be a reprieve from the rigors of Advent. That's why I'm wearing Rose vestments. An admixture of the violet of Advent and the white of Easter...to make the color rose as we await the coming of Jesus.

So is Jesus the one who is to come, or should we look for another?

I imagine if anyone of us were sitting in a prison cell like John the Baptist because of our witness to Christ we might also harbor similar thoughts.

It's not easy to serve Jesus. He makes demands on us because the gift he's offering is quite literally out of this world.

But we all have to make a decision. Are we going to serve God completely in every detail no matter what the cost or are we going to serve him only when it is convenient or maybe not even at all?

It's vitally important that we get this right. Venerable Mary of Agreda's account of the fall of Lucifer and one-third of all the angels from her book, The Mystical City of God as given to her by the Blessed Virgin Mary makes the importance of this decision very clear.

According to her account, Lucifer was the most beautiful of all of God's creatures. The name "Lucifer" literally means bright star, bright being or light bearer.

Of all the angels, Lucifer was also by far the most intelligent, and powerful as well. But, like us, Lucifer and all the angels were created with freewill.

Unfortunately, Lucifer abused his freedom and so became the most prideful, envious and ugly of all creatures. In other words, he chose to become the most evil creature in all of creation and one-third the angels followed him down that same path.

It said that Lucifer and all of the angels were created in that one instant when God said, "Let there be light." In that moment they came to exist as beings of light. Yet even though they were created in a kind of heavenly realm, they had not yet been allowed to see God.

Furthermore, God's plan was revealed to them in stages so that they could freely choose to serve God. In this regard, all of the angels were, just like all of us here on earth, on a sort of trial. They were being tested and would have to earn, if you will, the privilege of seeing God by passing this test of obedience to God's plan.

They were also informed of the consequences of disobeying God – either Heaven or Hell. Initially all of the angels, including Lucifer, were in accord with God's plan.

However, when it was revealed that the angels would have to kneel before and serve Jesus Christ, God the Son in human form, Lucifer's self-love, and the sins of pride and envy, got the better of him. Human beings have physical bodies – in his mind, mere animals – and he couldn't imagine kneeling before such an inferior being.

The last straw came when Lucifer was told that he and all the angels would have to serve the Queen of Heaven, Mary the mother of Jesus – a purely human being.

Lucifer rebelled against God and convinced one-third of the angels to serve, obey, and worship him rather than God. And then the reality set in that they had lost paradise forever.

The tremendous hatred and envy that Satan and his demons have for humanity has no equal in all of creation. This hatred stems from the fact that we human beings can still attain the heaven that they will never enjoy.

Therefore, Lucifer and his demons tempt us with the seven capital sins of pride, envy, wrath, sloth, greed, gluttony, and lust.

The more we fall to these sins – without repentance – the more we are at risk of becoming slaves to them. If we become slaves to them then they darken the intellect like being in a prison cell where light cannot enter and we start to wonder, is Jesus the one or should we look for another?

But we have a lot to be joyful about because the Prophet Isaiah tells us to “Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you.”

Most importantly, Jesus tells us in the gospel today, “The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. Even if we have failed in the past Jesus can restore us to full spiritual health.

We always have ample reason to rejoice. Jesus is the only one who can save us, we need look no further. So, today let's definitively give our yes to Jesus Christ regardless of the cost.