

3rd Sunday of Advent

This is pledge weekend for the cathedral's Building Glory Capital Campaign. We chose a day close to our patronal feast, the Immaculate Conception. We have prayed for success at Mary's intercession. For over two years our parish leadership has been discussing a historic upgrade. We aim to replace the building along Broadway with a new structure housing an improved Donnelly Hall and better meeting rooms, with a more welcoming cafe for Morning Glory Ministries to feed the hungry of downtown Kansas City with dignity. Our new parking lot will be attractive, and we have reached an agreement with adjacent garages to provide for the overflow. The projected cost is \$14 million. We have in pocket and pledged over 40% of that, around 5 and half million. I'm grateful to the dozens of members of cathedral parish who have already made their pledge, and to many more making their pledge today. Whatever we raise this weekend we use as leverage next month to seek gifts throughout the diocese and with those interested in making downtown Kansas City safer and prettier.

The interior of this cathedral remains the same, but you'll find better accessibility for those with disabilities, restrooms in a more convenient location, and opportunities to build our community in friendship and in service. We'll have a more inviting space to bring the gospel to our visitors and to practice it.

All of this will require sacrifice, but as you know from family life, sacrifice is easy for those who are in love. We readily give to show how deeply we care. Giving feels good when we use our resources to express our values.

We're asking for a three-year pledge toward this campaign above what you regularly give to the parish. You each know your capabilities, but I ask you to consider prayerfully a personal challenge to show your love for the church with a strong gift to this campaign. Many are already stretching to make this a historic moment for this cathedral and for future generations. We have mailed packets to all our members. Some of them have not yet arrived. You will find pledge forms in the pews today. On our web site you can see the campaign video, brochure and pledge form. We have extra packets in the office.

To our visitors, thank you for worshiping with us. You always enhance our gatherings by bringing your faith to us. You too may show your love for this cathedral and our campaign in the collection basket, by mail or on line.

This Third Sunday of Advent is still known by its old Latin title, *Gaudete*, which means "Rejoice!" The readings anticipate Christmas, the dawn of new hope through the coming of Jesus Christ. In our first reading, Zephaniah proclaimed a message of joy to the people of Jerusalem newly returned from exile. They had work to do, a temple to rebuild, homes to renovate, new friends to make. Their task required sacrifice, and Zephaniah inspired them with a simple message: "Be glad and exult." "The Lord is in your midst." "He will rejoice over you.... He will sing joyfully because of you." To a people surrounded by grace but filled with inner doubts, Zephaniah basically said, "Cheer up!"

My brothers and sisters, the Lord is in our midst. He knows the challenges that surround you, but he helps you through them. Let's all show our love for the Lord by pledging to this community's campaign for him, Building Glory.

Sunday, December 12, 2021