This weekend we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent known as Gaudete Sunday {Gaudete is Latin for rejoice}. As we continue our Advent journey, the readings once again speak of hope. Isaiah reminds us of the power of God's spirit upon us. We realize that power as we bring forth God's plan of proclaiming liberty to captives and prisoners and building the kingdom of justice, love and peace.

Our lives and the world need that. Right now, we long for the vaccine that will aid our fight against the virus. But we are called to be diligent and continue to take measures to keep us safe and healthy. We need to continue to wear masks, wash our hands frequently, keep a safe social distance and as hard as it is not to gather with groups of family and friends in this holiday season.

This is a tough time for so many - especially the poor and vulnerable. We pray as a community to do our part to keep everyone safe and healthy. Our parish has been hit hard by the virus. We all know many have been affected by this pandemic. As people of hope, we continue to support and pray for all in need.

We will NOT livestream Mass for the next two Sundays. We are hoping everyone can recover, and Christmas Eve liturgy can be livestreamed. You are welcome to join us at St. James Liberty the next two weeks. As "sister parishes" we pray for both communities each weekend.

Thanks to all who are such good and faithful stewards. I know so many of you offer your gifts so that the good work that God has begun might continue among us.

God's peace be with all, and may we continue to be faithful to living out the message of this Advent season.

Fr. Mike

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