



Deacon Greg's Corner



Laetare Sunday – Rose (Pink) Vestments

Have you ever thought that twice a year any Priest or Deacon with the first name of Floyd can be call pink Floyd? Ha, not bad if I do say so myself!! This Sunday is one of those days - Laetare Sunday The other is Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent.

So what is Laetare Sunday and what does it mean:

The fourth Sunday of Lent, serving as a "midpoint" pause to rejoice amid the 40-day penitential season. Today's celebration signifies approaching Easter joy, allowing rose-colored vestments, flowers on the altar, and musical instruments. Laetare is Latin for "rejoice".

Key Meaning and Significance:

A Call to Rejoice: The name comes from the opening Latin words of the entrance antiphon, "Laetare Jerusalem" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem").

Halfway Mark: It provides encouragement for the faithful to persevere through Lenten fasting and penance.

Symbolism of Rose: Priests and Deacons may wear rose-colored (often pink) vestments instead of violet, symbolizing the mixture of sorrow and the joy of coming salvation.

Anticipation of Easter: The day highlights the hope of the Resurrection, offering a temporary break from the austerity of Lent.

Often called "Refreshment Sunday" or "Rose Sunday," it provides a glimpse of the joy that awaits at Easter. The liturgical reforms allow for more cheerful music and floral decorations, which are typically subdued or absent during the rest of Lent.

Hopefully, this short explanation helps you to better understand today's celebration.

God Bless!

Deacon Greg

