

December 13, 2015

*Third Sunday of Advent*

MASSES for the WEEK

*"It is a holy and wholesome thing to pray for the living and the dead." (II Mac. 12:46)**Sunday, December 13, 2015*

7:00 AM Anna Pszonak  
*Req. Ted Pszonak*

8:30 AM Edmund J. Polakowski  
*Req. John and Rosalie Decker*

10:00 AM Lucy Fay (11th Anniversary)  
*Req. Husband, Mike*

11:30 AM Vincent and Sadie Obiso  
*Req. Family*

1:00 PM The Dyer and Walsh Families  
*Req. Wife, Teresa*

*Monday, December 14, 2015*

7:00 AM Ken Pietrucha  
*Req. Lorraine and Charles Brick*

8:30 AM George Sciarra  
*Req. Catherine and Bob*

9:30 AM Multiple Intention Mass

*Tuesday, December 15 2015*

7:00 AM Steven Beckley (1st Anniversary)  
*Req. Wife, Judy*

8:30 AM Peter and Catherine Carolan  
*Req. Daughter, Karen*

*Wednesday, December 16, 2015*

7:00 AM Chapel Association  
*Req. Same*

8:30 AM Josephine Testa (Birthday)  
*Req. Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Boud*

*Thursday, December 17, 2015*

7:00 AM Richard Heagen  
*Req. Wife, Angela and Family*

8:30 AM Elizabeth Carolan  
*Req. Husband, Bob*

*Friday, December 18, 2015*

7:00 AM Vincent Campanelli  
*Req. Wife, Evelyn*

8:30 AM The Pitti and Klippert Families  
*Req. John Pitti*

*Saturday, December 19, 2015*

7:00 AM Teresa O'Leary  
*Req. Husband, Daniel*

8:30 AM George Sciorra  
*Req. Bob and Catherine*

4:00 PM Walter Materko  
*Req. Elsie, Carol and Henry*

5:30 PM Michele Muldoon (41st Anniversary)  
*Req. Mom and Dad*

*Sunday, December 20, 2015*

7:00 AM Nicholas & Maria Iannelli  
*Req. Rocco Iannelli*

8:30 AM Rose Fanizzi  
*Req. Children, Bernadine & Joseph*

10:00 AM Maria & Joseph Koch  
*Req. Daughter and Son*

11:30 AM Eleanor Tardo  
*Req. Husband, Pasquale*

1:00 PM Bill Golden  
*Req. Wife, Bea and Family*

**Multiple Mass Intention  
Monday at 9:30 AM  
December 14, 2015**

In Memory of: Rev. Francis E. Santitoro  
The Santitoro Family (*Living & Deceased*)  
Rev. Frank Porazzo, & Porazzo Family  
Kathleen & Anthony Jackomin  
Joseph P. Flaherty  
Steven Kilianski (Speedy Recovery),  
*Req. Grandmother*  
Carol Giesler, *Req. Husband,*  
Bernard  
Ann Domanski, *Req. Husband,*  
John  
Betty Varsalone, *Req. Husband,*  
Tony  
Mary and Robert Petersen,  
*Req. Daughter, Lucille*  
Eugene Wefer, *Req. Wife, Lucille*  
Fred Kustowski, *Req. Wife, Mary*  
Paul Lenzo, *Req. Marie Daquila*  
DeYonker & Catanzaro Families,  
*Req. Marie DeYonker*  
Nick & Millie Esposito,  
*Req. Marie DeYonker*  
Lucille Rhode (*Living*), *Req. Daughters*  
Edna Billington, *Req. Daughter,*  
Debra Hyland  
Lorraine Gutkowski, *Req. Emily,*  
Sister  
Felicia Grace Chiodi, *Req. The Chiodi*  
Family  
Geraldine Valinoti, *Req. Family*

Pat Bartiromo (Birthday), *Req. Wife and*  
Family  
Antoinette, Marie & Lucille Iacullo,  
*Req. Anne Iacullo*  
Joseph Michael Puccio (Healing),  
*Req. Grandparents*  
For the Martyred Christians,  
*Req. Grace Marie & Lawrence Puccio*  
Jan J. Wolek-Enny, *Req. Nieces and*  
Nephew  
J. Walter Enny, *Req. Children and*  
Grandchildren  
Stephen & Sarah Bederka and Family,  
*Req. Ann Bederka*  
Richard & Angela Cuzzolino,  
*Req. Ann Bederka*  
Dorothy Murphy, *Req. Altar Rosary*  
Society  
Robert Stefanic, *Req. Lillian Stefanic*  
Katherine "Kay" Malloy,  
*Req. Lillian Stefanic*  
Matt & Ann Franich, *Req. Linda and Chris*  
Frank Vincent, *Req. Joan Draper*  
Alfredo Vieira, *Req. Wife, Maria*  
Eugene Delaney, *Req. Wife, Monica*  
Valerie O'Leary, *Req. Louise Badolato*  
Feliz Herencia, *Req. Dolores & Belisario*  
Herencia  
Olga Syre, *Req. Eva Zak, Sister*  
Howard Ferraro, *Req. Aunt Kay & Uncle*  
Eddie

**SPECIAL INTENTIONS – WEEK of December 12, 2015 December 18, 2015**

Bread & Wine & Altar Candles Church  
Robert Berg, *Req. Wife, Pat*

Bread & Wine & Altar Flowers Chapel  
Dec'd. Mbrs. Stupinski & Hogan Families,  
*Req. Walter & Bernadette Stupinski*

Sanctuary Candles – Church  
Robert Berg, *Req. Wife, Pat*

Altar Candles – Chapel  
Rev. Francis E. Santitoro & Marie Santitoro, Sister,  
*Req. Andre and Ann Santitoro -Vispetti*

Altar Flowers – Church  
Robert Berg, *Req. Wife, Pat*

## PARISH NEWS

ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY

On December 16th we will have a luncheon at (The Grove, formerly The Legend Lounge) in Toms River at 12:30 p.m. At our Christmas Luncheon we will be exchanging gifts. Please bring a small gift of \$10.00. The tickets for the luncheon are \$25.00 per person and may be obtained by calling:

Jean Hanna (732) 473-9755

We wish you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

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HOLY NAME SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Holy Name Society will be held on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 12:30 pm

May we wish you a most Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

President, Andrew Turco (732) 286-6353

LEGION OF MARY

Our meetings take place on Mondays from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM.

The Legion of Mary is pleased to offer a weekly visitation of the Blessed Mother's statue to homes within the Parish community.

If you are sick or homebound and would like to say the Rosary with someone, kindly call

Jean Hanna (732) 473-9755

TRIVIA (Medium to Hard)

1. What politically active film actor said, "Political correctness is tyranny with manners"?
2. What founder of one of the original colonies said, "Wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it"?
3. What U.S. service academy has Duty, Honor, Country as its motto?
4. In 1956 what was designated by Congress as the national motto?
5. What American humorist famous for his book *Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*, coined the term "mutual admiration society"?
6. What is the meaning of "Hoosiers" the name for Indiana residents?

## PARISH NEWS

ATLANTIC CITY TRIP TO RESORTS

Date: January 4, 2016

Cost: \$23.00 Coins: \$25.00

Tickets are sold by the Parish Auditorium on Tuesdays from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. or call: Mr. Sandy Monda (732) 349-0143

The bus leaves for Atlantic City from St. Maximilian Kolbe Church promptly at 9:15 A.M.

Note: All Cancellations are non-refundable.

ADORATION

The Adoration devotion is to join the Holy Father in praying for the unborn and for the special intentions of our families. The Adoration is held every Friday from:

12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM

On December 25th the Adoration will not be held due to Christmas Day.

LOCAL CHURCHESCHRISTMAS PENANCE SERVICES

St. Barnabas Church

Monday, December 14th 7:00 p.m.

St. Joseph Church

Tuesday, December 15th 7:00 p.m.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Church

Wednesday, December 16th

12:00 Noon to 1:30 p.m.

St. Justin's Church

Friday, December 18th 7:00 p.m.

St. Luke's Church

Monday December 21st 7:00 p.m.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Thanks to everyone who donated small turkeys and food during the Thanksgiving season for the unfortunate folks of the parish during this holiday.

This Christmas season, we are accepting small turkeys or canned hams to help the needy of our parish.

Thank you all once again for sharing your charity with others throughout the year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

**BINGO...BINGO... BINGO**

Bingo is held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in the Parish Hall auditorium. Doors open at 10:00A.M. and the games begin at 12:00 Noon.

Note: Bingo will not be held on:

Tuesday, December 22nd; Thursday, December 24th, Tuesday, December 29th; Thursday, December 31st.

Bingo will start again on Tuesday, January 5, 2016

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**ARTS & CRAFTS**

The group is continuing to meet on Mondays, from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM. Come join us and bring some of your ideas.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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**WEEKLY DEVOTIONS**

The weekly devotions of Bread and Wine; Altar Candles, Sanctuary Candles and Flowers are available for 2016 for the Church and Chapel.

Stop by the Parish Office during our business hours to request your special week.

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**SECOND COLLECTION**

The second collection this weekend is for the Non-Diocesan Special Collection of Retired Religious.

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**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday, the Day of joy. The Christian message is called the gospel (good news), an announcement of Joy for all people. The Church is not a haven for sad people but a joyful home. Those who are sad find true joy.

His coming among us strengthens us, makes us steadfast, and gives us courage. God gives us the strength to go forward. God is always with us in order to help us go forward. God loves us so very much. That is why God is with us to help us, to strengthen us, and to help us go forward. *Courage!*

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**A WINTER PRAYER**

By: Karen Piconi

*Help us to embrace winter, Lord. Give us the courage to face the cold and bitter depth of our anger, fear, frustration and grief and find in the blizzard of emotions, the towering backbone which is our virtue.*

*Help us to embrace winter, Lord. Help us to bury our dead, to cast off those qualities in us that have long ago ceased to promote healing and forgiveness, that have long ago failed to nurture the seeds of love which You have planted in our hearts.*

*Help us to embrace winter, Lord. Let us choose life in all its seasons. Let us choose love instead of fear, peace instead of confusion, courage instead of anger, healing instead of regret..... Let us choose to embrace winter so we may finally choose You and the promise of spring. Amen.*

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**PARISH COOKBOOKS**

"Heavenly Delights" which you helped write, are now available for \$15.00 per book. They make great Stocking Stuffers for the holidays,

Cookbooks will be available after the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday and after the 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses on Sunday, during the month of December.

This is a fundraiser for our church. Please help in this great event and purchase a great Cookbook that all may enjoy.

The Cookbook Committee

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**OPLATEK CHRISTMAS WAFERS**

Practice the ancient custom of sharing the Christmas wafer with family and friends. The sharing of the Christmas wafer gathers all around the family table and points to the Eucharistic Table of the Lord.

The Christmas wafer gathers all together in a sacred alliance of forgiveness and love of times when family and friends will not be together. Wafers may be obtained in the parish office during the weekdays.

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

May the wisdom of the saints inspire us in our daily lives.

- December 13 St. Lucy
- December 14 St. John of the Cross
- December 15 Blessed Maria Julia Ivanisevic
- December 15 St. Mary di Rosa
- December 16 Blessed Mary Fontanella
- December 16 St. Adelaide, Queen
- December 17 St. Olympias
- December 18 St. Gatian, Bishop
- December 19 Blessed Urban V, Pope

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

Maybe it's your favorite season, maybe it's one you dread. Either way....Christmas is coming. The preliminaries took place over the Thanksgiving weekend and now we are in the home stretch.

There was a time when many Catholic families simply felt prohibited from getting into the Christmas spirit until Advent was over. Do you remember when it was considered wrong to put the tree up before Christmas Eve? Yet many of us have the uneasy sense that we have maybe lost something.

It is time to renegotiate... Easy enough to say, "Let us put Christ back into Christmas," or have you forgotten the reason for the season. Perhaps we have just forgotten how to celebrate it fully. We need to accept a healthy acceptance of the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany.

Practices like examining one's conscience at the end of each day or praying with the help of a rosary, a meditation book or quiet spot can bring balance to your life during a busy season.

Remember... there is no one season for charity for it is a yearlong demand of our faith. Responding to the needs of those who feel isolated during the holidays is responding to the call of Christ among us.

St. Anthony Messenger  
December 1996

*"You will never truly enjoy Christmas until you look into the face of the Father and tell Him that you have received His Christmas gift."*

HOLIDAYS, HOLIDAYS, HOLIDAYS

Holidays come equipped with stress, but keep reminding yourself that you will survive. When stress overwhelms us, we try to focus on the wonderfully relaxed future Jesus has promised us when we will live in heaven in peace with Him and ultimately... there will be no more stress or pain.

Experts say that exercising and soaking in a warm bath are two great stress relievers. But a Medical expert once said, "Laughing for twenty seconds... gives the body the kind of workout you would get from three minutes of rigorous rowing.

Now that is a holiday we can all use. Try to walk in with a funny story to share instead of a complaining.

Splashes of Joy

*"When you are in a jam, good friends and neighbors will bring you bread with peanut butter on it."* Anonymous

UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY

December 14, 1954

On this day in 1954, the general assembly of the United Nations recommended that all countries institute a Universal Children's Day.

The purpose of the Universal Children's Day is to promote international unity and awareness among children among the world. It was also to promote the welfare of children. Over the years, this day has focused on such issues as the torture of children, unfair labor practices, medical care, and sexual exploitation of children.

Today, countries celebrate Universal Children's Day on various days throughout the year, with many choosing November 20th because it is the day on which the United Nations assembly officially adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959.

Father Ken Untener

**Rejoice, the Lord is Near!**

## The Life of Jesus

*"He was called Jesus....."*

### The Miracle at Greccio

The Miracle at Greccio began the tradition of the Christmas Crib and the celebration of Midnight Mass. It is a great testimony of St. Francis of Assisi whose heart burned with love, hope and renewed faith at the great gift of love which is Christ.

In December 1223, St. Francis was returning from a visit to Rome where the Rule for his brotherhood had been approved by Pope Honorius III. While in Rome, St. Francis was received by Cardinal Hugolina and was surrounded by great attention. The humble Francis quickly left Rome for his home in Assisi, On his way, he stayed with some of his Franciscan Brothers in the Sabine Mountains.

In the same area lived a spiritual man named John Vellita who held the Brothers in high esteem. John had given the Brothers a piece of land on the outskirts of Greccio. When he came to visit the Brothers, John was presented with an unusual request. St. Francis wanted to celebrate the Holy Night of Christmas by replicating the scene at Bethlehem.

The Franciscans were to use a nearby cave and set up a troth filled with straw. John Vellita was to bring an ox, a donkey and eagerly he helped bring the plan into action. Upon hearing of the goings on, the people of the town gathered together lit torches and made their way up the hillside towards the cave. They found the Brothers around the scene with lighted candles, and beneath the manger, with the Baby Jesus, was a simple altar, for Mass to be celebrated.

The people of the town were spellbound by the words of St. Francis and tears of humility and joy was present throughout the vast crowd. Francis picked up the Infant figure of the Christ Child.... then the Child smiled at Francis.

In Greccio today, a Church has been built on the site and is still popular of pilgrimages, especially during the Christmas season.

#### Note:

To understand the special events that occurred at Greccio, we must first remember that Saint Francis of Assisi had a very special love and tender devotion for the Christ Child.

The Christmas feast was a time of great emotion of him. Francis viewed the celebration as a privilege and spoke of Christmas as a feast of gentleness, humility, generosity and above all poverty. It is said that the Saint's heart melted with love at the thought of this little child born in a stable.

*The First Christmas Crib  
Brother Francis Haworth, T.O.R.*

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### STILLE NACHT (Silent Night)

*Josef Mohr (1792-1848)*

*Silent Night! Holy Night!  
Slumber all; in delight  
Watch the two saintly guardians there,  
Over the Child in His ringlet hair,  
Sleep in heavenly Peace!  
Sleep in heavenly Peace!*

*Silent Night! Holy Night!  
God's own Son.. Oh, how bright,  
Shines the love from Thine infinite Face;  
While the hour strikes forth Thy grace...  
Christ who is born unto us!  
Christ who is born unto us!*

*Silent Night! Holy Night!  
Shepherds first learned its might  
From the Angels with Glorious cheer  
Singing round them far and near...  
Christ the Savior is here!  
Christ the Savior is here!*

## LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Occasionally in this space will appear a short article covering the lives of the saints, especially with reference to those saints whose likeness appear on the stained glass windows in the church and chapel, or whose statue is present in the chapel area or the candle room area.

### ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

*Patron of Contemplatives*

John knew poverty and hardships early in life. His father, who had been disowned by his family for marrying beneath him, died soon after John's birth, leaving his family with little means for support.

John was educated in a school for poor children and worked in a hospital for patients with venereal diseases. His empathy for the poor and compassion for the sick loved him to become a Carmelite.

Ordained a priest, John met Teresa of Avila who asked him to help reform the Carmelite Order. He took the name John of the Cross and moved with another friar into a house near Avila. The Order was known as the Discalced (shoeless) Carmelites, because the men walked about barefoot to symbolize their dedication of poverty.

Many Carmelite brothers felt threatened by the reform, however, and took drastic measures to stop it. John was arrested and moved to another monastery where he was locked in a narrow cell without windows. Although he was beaten regularly, John refused to renounce his new Order. After nine months, John miraculously escaped.

John is now famous for his poems and other writings. *The Dark Night of the Soul* is one of his most well known works. In it he explains how a person must let go of temporal attachments to make room for God's presence.

John continued to suffer injustice from others, but always until his death, at the age of 49 years old, believed his suffering brought him closer to God.

*Lord, you endowed St. John of the Cross with a spirit of self-denial and a love for the cross.*

### ST. MARY di ROSA

*Foundress of the Handmaids of Charity*

Born into a large Italian family, Paula di Rosa was a delicate girl whose father was a wealthy textile owner. Her family was devoted to the Church. When Paula was just a child, her mother died, and Paula was educated by nuns.

At the age of seventeen, she left school to take charge of her father's household. Although her father tried to find her a husband, Paula did not want to marry. Instead, she wanted to dedicate her life to helping others. So she began with the women and children who worked in her father's textile mill, arranging retreats and missions as well as establishing a women's guild.

During a deadly cholera epidemic, Paula bravely tended to the sick in the hospital. Her work was so impressive that she was asked to run a workhouse for the poor and abandoned girls. Worried that many of the girls had no place to sleep at night, Paula opened a small boarding-house for them. She also started a school for girls who were hearing impaired, but wanted to do even more.

When Paula was twenty-seven she founded a religious society called the Handmaids of Charity which was dedicated to the physical and spiritual care of the poor and the sick. When Italy was at war Paula and her sisters offered their services at a military hospital. Despite the doctors' opposition the Handmaids provided comfort in the hospitals and also to the wounded and dying on the battlefield.

When her congregation was finally approved in the year 1850, Paula took the name of Mary of the Crucified. She died five years later from physical exhaustion. Her faith and selfless works remain an inspiration to this day.

*Lord, teach us to nurture all children in a community of hope and help make the world a better place. Amen*

