

December 20, 2015

Fourth 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 20, 2015

7:00 AM Nicholas & Maria Iannelli
Req. Rocco Iannelli
 8:30 AM Rose Fanizzi
Req. Children, Bernadette & Joseph
 10:00 AM Maria and Joseph Koch
Req. Daughter and Son
 11:30 AM Eleanor Tardo
Req. Husband, Pasquale
 1:00 PM Bill Golden
Req. Wife, Bea and Family

Monday, December 21, 2015

7:00 AM Mildred "Bunny" Mento
Req. Rita Cafaro
 8:30 AM Richard Gulya
Req. Frank & Janice Zwolinski
 9:30 AM Multiple Intention Mass

Tuesday, December 22, 2015

7:00 AM Margaret Mikolajczyk
Req. Jane, Mary and Carol
 8:30 AM Joyce Scaturro
Req. Husband, Joseph

Wednesday, December 23, 2015

7:00 AM Marian Shuhala
Req. The Moye Family
 8:30 AM The Osnato & Way Families
Req. Helen Osnato

Thursday, December 24, 2015

7:00 AM Mauro DeRobertis
Req. Daughter, Mary
 8:30 AM Brendan Vesey (2nd Anniversary)
Req. Wife, Bridie and Family
Christmas Eve
 4:00 PM All Parishioners Living & Deceased
 5:30 PM All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Friday, December 25, 2015

Christmas Day
 7:00 AM All Parishioners Living & Deceased
 8:30 AM All Parishioners Living & Deceased
 10:00 AM All Parishioners Living & Deceased
 11:30 AM All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Saturday, December 26, 2015

7:00 AM Joan Scardaville
Req. Husband, Anthony
 8:30 AM Jesusima Sarabosing
Req. Doris Alison
 4:00 PM Edward James & Tess Wadiak
Req. Mom and Dad
 5:30 PM Jennie & Vincent Fasciani
Req. Judy and JoanCarole

Sunday, December 27, 2015

7:00 AM George Smith
Req. Wife, Margaret
 8:30 AM Dennis Leenig (6th Anniversary)
Req. Parents and Family
 10:00 AM Walter J. Kozak
Req. Wife, Helen, Son and Family
 11:30 AM Manuel & Avelina David
 (Blessing 50th Wedding Anniversary)
 1:00 PM David Blood
Req. Family

**Multiple Mass Intention
Monday at 9:30 AM
December 21, 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
Smarch & Kozak Families,
Req. Helen Kozak
Michael Lanza, *Req. Wife, Millie*
Henry Przychodzki, *Req. Wife,*
Rose
Rose Gonzalez, *Req. Daughter,*
Rose
John & Ceclia Bogavih, *Req. Katherine*
Sonny Raulli, *Req. Wife, Jean and*
Children
Jack & Pauline Stephens,
Req. Gloria Crayton
James Burns, *Req. Wife, Doris*
Josephine & Michael Pricoli,
Req. Ruth and Bob
Jack Morgan, *Req. Wife, Anna*
John P. Morgan, *Req. Mom*
Terry Vail (13th Anniversary),
Req. Mom
John Keelen, *Req. Wife, Eileen*
The O'Connor Family,
Req. Daughter, Eileen
Adelaide & Frank Plumaker,
Req. Niece, Eileen

Dec'd. Mbrs. Iacullo & Salvatoriello
Families, *Req. Ann Iacullo*
Santa and Nunzio Adamo,
Req. Basil & Mary Adamo
Lucy and Frank DiMartino,
Req. Basil & Mary Adamo
Robert Hollar, *Req. Basil & Mary*
Adamo
Josephine DiMartino, *Req. Basil & Mary*
Adamo
Anthony Manno, *Req. Wife,*
Eleanor
Sal Alberti, *Req. Eleanor Manno*
Vincent and Angela Cuzzolino,
Req. Ann Bederko
Stephen Salon, *Req. Ann Bederko*
Katherine "Kay" Malloy,
Req. Lillian Stefanic
Vincenzo LaMillia, *Req. Family*
Maria Rosa LaMilia, *Req. Family*
Santo Accurso, *Req. Sister and*
Family
Jack and Diletta Delfino,
Req. Children
Rudy and Yolanda Valtrori,
Req. Children
Rocco Miraldi, *Req. Wife, Mary*
Ann Spinelli, *Req. Mary, Sister*
Barbara Mae Zappula (2nd Anniversary)
Req. Arlene Z. Toth

SPECIAL INTENTIONS – WEEK of December 19, 2015 December 25, 2015

Bread & Wine & Altar Candles Church
Joseph & Antonette DeLuca, *Req. Daughter,*
Celeste

Bread & Wine – Chapel
Caroline Pafumi, *Req. Husband, Mike*

Altar Candles – Chapel
John Guerin, *Req. Wife, Pat*

Sanctuary Candles – Church
Grieco, Latini & Lupico Families, *Req. Gloria*
Grieco

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

Altar Flowers – Church
Joseph Persichetti, *Req. Wife, Catherine*

PARISH NEWS

ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY

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

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 1:00 PM. Coffee and cake will be available before our meeting starts.

Thank you for your contributions to our Giving Tree from the Catholic Charities Organization called Project Reach. The gifts will be greatly received.

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 Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

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

CONFESSIONS

Confessions are canceled on Wednesday, December 23rd.

THE OPLATEK CHRISTMAS WAFER

Practice the ancient custom of sharing the Christmas Wafer with your family and friends.

Many years ago the children awaited for the first star the "Baby" born in Bethlehem the true bread of life. Oplatek is Latin from the word Oblatum meaning Holy Bread.

Stop by the Parish Office Monday through Friday to purchase your Oplatek Wafers. (9:00 am to 3:00 pm)

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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

The Adoration will not be held on:

Friday, Christmas Day, December 25th

Friday, January 1, 2016 New Year's Day.

SELECTING A LIVE TREE

When selecting a live tree, make sure it is freshly cut. The trunk of the tree should be sticky to the touch. The needles should be difficult to pull from the branches and needles should not fall every time it is moved and keep the tree watered.

Finally, turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving the house or going to bed.

Remember: If the neighbors keep their lights on all night.....so what!

TRIVIA (Answers on Page 9)

1. THE SONG "RED RIVER" BECAME BETTER KNOWN BY WHICH TITLE?
2. WHAT PATRIOTIC POEM FIRST APPEARED IN THE "BALTIMORE AMERICAN" ON SEPTEMBER 20, 1814?
3. THE U.S. HIGHEST AUTO ROAD CLIMBS UP WHAT COLORADO MOUNTAIN?
4. WHAT MAKE OF CAR IS THE OLDEST ACTIVE AMERICAN MAKE?
5. WHAT IVY LEAGUE SCHOOL AWARDS THE PULITZER PRIZES?

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

On Tuesday, January 5, 2016, Bingo will start again..

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.

COLLECTION

The second collection this weekend is for Parish Development and Maintenance.

JUBILEE HOLY YEAR of MERCY

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In honor of the Jubilee Holy Year of Mercy which started on the Blessed Virgin Mary's feast day of December 8th and lasts till Jesus, King of the Universe on Sunday, November 20, 2016, why don't we pray in a special way for the peace and safety of our Country?

One good way is to take away 15 minutes of TV everyday to pray with family or neighbor for the protection and spiritual growth of the United States of America.

To celebrate the mercy of God even more in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we have a framed blessed picture of Jesus as the Divine Mercy (14" x 17" with stand) that you can take home for a week. This way it can be passed about throughout the parish during this holy year.

Sign up now for your week by contacting the Parish Office. (732) 914-0300

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, hence, the holy offspring to be born will be called *Son of God*. To him who is able to strengthen you in the Gospel which I proclaim when I preach Jesus Christ."

(Letter to the Romans)

When I preach Jesus Christ, the Gospel which reveals the mystery hidden for many ages... to Him, the God who alone is wise, may glory be given through Jesus Christ unto endless ages.

May the Word of God, and the Word which became flesh, take root in our lives.

Rev. William J. Reilly

ST. MAXIMILIAN FOOD PANTRY

A special Thank You for your kind food donations during the Thanksgiving season. We are now collecting small turkeys or small canned hams for Christmas for the less fortunate parishioners of the parish.

The needy members of our Church are most appreciative for your kindness.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

In this joyous season why not celebrate your marriage and its many blessings by attending a Marriage Encounter Weekend?

The Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend will be held on:

January 15 to January 17, 2016

Early registration is advisable as space is limited. Registration and information call:

(732) 904-9636

"HEAVENLY DELIGHTS" COOKBOOK

Our new cookbook "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.

This is a fundraiser for our church. Please help in this great event.

The Cookbook Committee

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

- December 20 Sts. Abraham, Issac & Jacob
- December 21 St. Peter Canisius, Priest
- December 22 St. Chaeremon & Ischyriion
- December 23 St. John of Kanty, Priest
- December 23 St. Marie Marguerite d'Youville
- December 24 St. Adele
- December 25 Christmas Day
- December 25 St. Peter Nolasco
- December 26 St. Stephen

A LOOK AT DECEMBER

1. On December 7, 1887 Delaware was the first state to ratify the United States Constitution
2. On December 8, 1993 President Clinton signed the North American Free Trade Agreement allowing free trade between the U.S., Canada and Mexico.
3. On December 9, 1962 the Petrified National Park in Arizona was made into a national park.
4. On December 11, 1816 Indiana became the nineteenth state to join the United States.
5. On December 14, 1819 Alabama was the twenty-second state admitted to the United States.
6. On December 16, 1773 the Boston Tea Party took place. The colonists dressed as Indians dumped more than three hundred chests of British tea into the Boston Harbor.
7. On December 21, 1913 the first crossword puzzle written by Arthur Wynne was published as a supplement to New York World.
8. On December 27, 1947 The Howdy Doody Show first aired on television.
9. On December 28, 1973 President Richard Nixon signed the Endangered Species Act concerning endangered species of animals in the U.S.
10. Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

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A Christmas Message

Dear Parishioners & Friends,

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May I take a moment to wish you all, a very Merry Christmas. Our Lord Jesus Christ, born in a stable over two thousand years ago, welcomes us with open arms to comfort, heal and give us peace, joy and love.

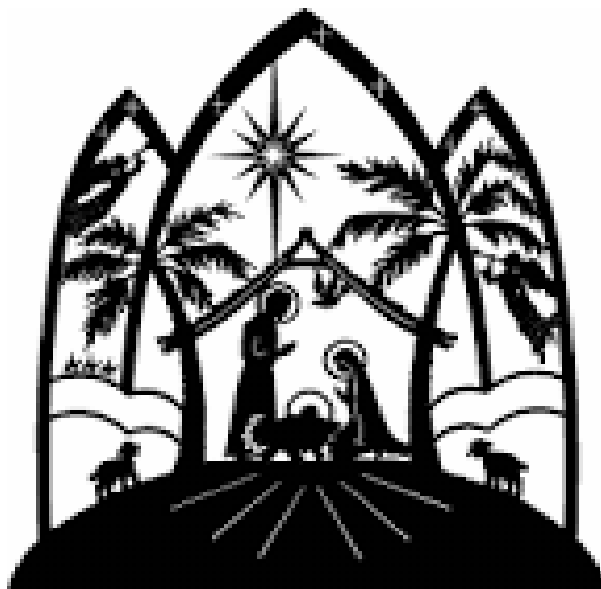
Thank You so much for all that you give to our Church and to others. Maintain that giving joyful spirit through thick and thin, and never despair. Know in the depth of your heart that our God loves you beyond your wildest imagination. Pass on that love through good selfless acts.

On behalf of Father John, our wonderful staff, our Deacons Al and Stan, our visiting priests and all our faithful volunteers, may I wish you all a joyful Christmas season and a very Blessed New Year.

*Yours in Christ,
Father Steve*

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“The Light has come and has shone upon a world enveloped in darkness.”



The Life of Jesus

HE WAS CALLED, JESUS

Luke 2: 1-21

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

At that time, Caesar Augustus decreed that a census of all his subjects should be taken. Because Joseph was of the house and family of David, he had to go to Bethlehem. His wife Mary accompanied him on this journey from Nazareth in the north to Bethlehem in the south, a distance of seventy- five miles.

Bethlehem was crowded and the holy pair could find no lodging but a hillside cave. Here the Christ Child was born. Mary wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, a trough for feeding animals, which she had made ready.

Shepherds were in the district keeping the night watch over their flocks in the field. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared in their midst, illuminating the field with a heavenly brightness. The shepherds became frightened and the angel said to them:

"Do not be afraid for behold I bring you good news of great joy which shall be to all the people. There has been born to you today, a Savior who is Christ the Lord. Presently, the infant is lying in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes."

When the angel left, the shepherds said, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has made known to us. Hastening to the manger, they found the new born Baby with His mother and Joseph. Seeing the Holy trio, the shepherds understood the message given them by the angel. Then they glorified God in their praise of all that had been given them to see and hear.

The shepherds told everyone of that marvelous night of the news which was presented to them..

Summary:

God's ways are not man's ways. For the coming of the Lord we would have prepared a warm house, a comfortable bed and possibly servants. How exciting.... All the best conveniences.

But, God allowed Jesus to be born in a cave or stable and to be laid in a manger. The most acceptable gift we can bring this Holy Child is a heart, humble and loving like those of the shepherds.

The Life of Christ
Catholic Press

WORD TO BE SPOKEN

Jesus came into this world for one purpose. He came to give us the good news that God loves us, that God is love, that He loves you and He loves me. Jesus wants us to love one another as He loves each of us.

We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas time, not in a cold manger of our heart but in a heart full of love and humility,

May His coming this Christmas bring to each one of us that peace and joy that He desires to give. Let us pray much for this grace of peace and joy in our hearts, in our communities and in our Church.

Blessed Mother Teresa

THE GIVER OF ALL GIFTS

God, the giver of all gifts, gave us the most important gift we could ever receive, namely Jesus.

This gift of everlasting Love is for all. All we need to do is accept the gift, no more and no less.

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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. STEPHEN

Patron of Deacons & Stonemasons

Steven was a disciple of Christ. He was chosen after the Ascension as one of the seven deacons. Their job was to share what they possessed with the poor and displaced persons in need of charity.

Stephen was a leader and spoke with vigor on quoting Jesus. But, he was misquoted by hearsay that was to destroy him. Stephen was taken to court and falsely accused. He told the members of the court that the Israelites had rejected God's messengers and His Son. Blinded by anger, the members dragged Stephen outside and stoned him. He met death trusting in God as he forgave his enemies.

Saint Stephen preached the Word of God without fear and lived the mystery of Christ to the end.

ST. JOHN OF KANTY

Patron of Poland and Lithuania

John grew up in Poland and became a priest and teacher at the University of Krakow. He was disciplined, although he was very hard on himself. John was understanding and patient to his students and they loved him for his kindness. The faculty members who were not fond of him, had John removed from the University and sent to do Parish work.

John became a true pastor of souls, showing himself as their friend when they were in need and caring for the poor. After some years he resumed his duties as a professor. Four times he traveled to Rome, on foot with only the clothes on his back. During the last thirty years of his life he abstained entirely from meat and continued with fasting, prayer and severe discipline along with all Christian virtues.

ST. MARIE MARGUERITE d'YOUVILLE

Canada's First Born Saint

Marie came from a prominent family and was the oldest of six children. When her father died, the family became poor and Marie helped her mother with the education of her siblings along with daily chores.

When Marie's mother remarried, the town disapproved of her husband which forced the family to move. They settled in Montreal, Canada.

Marie met Francis d'Youville a wealthy young man, married him and had six children. Francis turned out to be a rogue, gambled and ran around with other women. His mother lived with them which added additional fuel to the fire. People turned against her because of the bad reputation of her husband. When Marie's husband died she was only twenty-nine years old. She had to cover his debts and started a needlework shop.

Marie started a lay group in her parish and opened a home to care for the sick and the poor. Soon other women came to help and they became known as the Grey Nuns (the Sisters of Charity.) They opened the first orphanage in North America and also a military hospital.

ST. PETER CANISIUS

Patron of the Catholic Press

When Peter was to take his final vows as a Jesuit, he saw a vision of the Sacred Heart while kneeling in St. Peter's Church. From that time on he offered all his work to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

During the great plague he cared for the sick people in Germany. He then founded colleges, and wrote a catechism which has been translated into many languages.

Peter lived in an age of confusion and never became discouraged. He died in Switzerland and was canonized a Saint in 1925 by Pope Pius XI.

Our Faith

IT'S CHRISTMAS

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom God
favors." (Luke 2: 14)*

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Christmas is the feast of the presence of God, who comes among us to save us. The birth of Jesus is no fable, but an historic event which truly occurred in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago.

Faith enables us to recognize the child born of the Blessed Mother as the true Son of God, who for love for us became human.

In the face of Baby Jesus we contemplate the face of God who does not reveal Himself in strength and power but in the weakness and frailty of a newborn baby. This is what our God is like... God comes so close in a child. This Child reveals the faithfulness and tenderness of the unconditional love which God surrounds each of us.

That is why we celebrate at Christmas, thus reliving what the shepherds at Bethlehem experienced, and we celebrate together with so many fathers and mothers who struggle each day, facing so many sacrifices. Thus, we celebrate together with the little ones, the sick, and the poor for Christmas is the celebration of God's encounter with us in Jesus.

I hope that everyone will come to know the true face of God, the Father who has given us Jesus, and that everyone will feel God's closeness, live in God's presence, and adore God.

May each of us give glory to God, by our lives spent for love of Him and of all our brothers and sisters.

In the Words of:
Pope Francis

A CHRISTMAS POEM

By: Robert Stephen Hawker

In 1838 Cornwall, England, Uncle and Aunt were titles of respect. Aunt Mary is the old Cornish way of addressing Christ's Mother.

Aunt Mary

Now of all the trees by the king's highway,
Which do you love the best?
The one that is green upon Christmas Day
The bush with the bleeding breast.
Now the holly with her drops of blood for me
For that is our dear Aunt Mary's tree.

Its leaves are sweet with our Savior's Name,
Tis a plant that loves the poor;
Summer and winter it shines the same
Beside the cottage door,
The holly with her drops of blood for me
For that is our kind Aunt Mary's tree.

Tis a bush that the birds will never leave,
They sing in it all day long,
But the sweetest of all upon Christmas Eve
Is to hear the robin's song.
Tis the merriest sound upon earth and sea,
For it comes from our own Aunt Mary's tree.

Father,

*Thank you for sending Jesus as the
Savior of the world, a greater gift than
anyone ever expected.*

Amen

Trivia (Answers)

1. Moon River
2. The Star Spangled Banner
3. Pike's Peak (Colorado)
4. Buick in 1899
5. Columbia University, New York

"Merry Christmas"