

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

5:00 JOHN R. KUBASEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

7:00 HELEN PIEROG  
9:00 RAYMOND G. SYKES  
11:00 MARIE & FRANK BARNARD  
1:00 MARY IANNUCCI  
5:00 WILLIAM FRANZ

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

7:00 SR. THERESE MARY, O'CARM  
9:00 PHILIP & MARGHERITA FRABOTTA

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

7:00 RONALD DE SIO  
9:00 JOSEPH KEMP

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

7:00 NINA PALMIOTTI  
9:00 JANE & JACK GORDON

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

7:00 DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE DOLAN &  
LYONS FAMILIES & THE SOULS IN  
PURGATORY  
9:00 PATRICIA M. SILVESTRI

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

7:00 STELLA POLEDNAK  
9:00 JOSEPH LAZICKI

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:00 DENNIS PETERSEN  
5:00 CORINNE A. O'BRIEN & RICHARD KENNEDY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:00 MARIE D. CARNEGIE  
9:00 AL & SUE AMORE  
11:00 MICHAEL MUSTILLO, JR.  
1:00 THOMAS J. CRANE  
5:00 SALVATORE PARAMITO

Flowers on the altar in loving memory of Niall James Sullivan donated by his mother Elizabeth Sullivan.

The Bread and Wine are in loving memory of William Franny requested by his family.

LECTORS

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday, December 19

5:00 Frank Ponterio Anne Seimer

Sunday, December 20

7:00 Joan Prenty  
9:00 Don O'Shea Elizabeth D'Antuono  
11:00 Ken Wisniewski Dorothy Tarafa  
1:00 Charles Sullivan Shirley Fennell  
5:00 Robert Mazzucco Efrain Ortiz

Sick Relatives & Friends

Susan Pellecchia, Lois Mazzitelli, Rosanne Mezzacappa, Christopher Luciano, Patricia Repoli, Tim Campagna, Meghan Clark, Alberto Meranda, Jerry Russo, Anna Parente, James Parente, Ruth Manieri, Mary Kenny, John C. Marino, Michael Rucci, Cpl Justin Campbell, Barbara Brennan, Sam Pezzano, Sheila Jones, Edward B. Hanson, Robert Gaylord, Emily Baron, Frank Silvestri, Carol Van Manen, Frank Juliano, Richard Nagrowski, Theresa Mirante, Barbara Walsh, Christian Pepo, Joe Arrigo, Thomas Coppola II, Terrence Gibbons, Sondra Cronin, Jean Forte, Baby Michael John DiCostanzo, Bill Kiesewetter, JoAnn DiPietro, Frances Bocignone, Sebastian Lattuga, Linda Browne, Linda Powers, Frances Nodar

Collection December 6

Regular ..... \$7892.00  
Monthly ..... \$2933.00

*Newly Baptized*

John Louis McCarthy, Jr.  
Douglas Reilly Wertheimer  
Luke Robert Martin  
Noah Bradley Alvarez

**Bible Study**



**BIBLE STUDY GROUP** meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7PM in the rectory. If you are interested in joining contact the rectory at 718-442-0058.

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

The life of Christ is the key to human history. That is why we measure time based upon His birth. The circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth are worth reflecting upon. They have much to teach us. St. Alphonsus Liguori (*The Incarnation, Birth and Infancy of Jesus Christ*) offers some very fine insights. He points out that Jesus suffered for us even while in His Mother's womb. Alphonsus says that other children before birth, while remaining in the womb of their mothers, generally do not suffer. If they do suffer in some slight degree, at least they are unconscious of what they feel, since they are deprived of understanding. Jesus, on the other hand, while an infant, endures for nine months the darkness of that prison, endures the pain of not being able to move, and is perfectly alive to what He endures. It is for this reason that Jeremiah said: *A woman shall compass a man.* (31:22). The Prophet, six centuries before Christ, foretold that a woman, which was Mary, should bear enclosed in her womb, not a child, but a man. A man? Regarding His human age, Jesus was a child. Regarding His use of reason He was already a perfect man, since Jesus Christ was full of divine wisdom from the first instant of His life. His godhead was no less present in Mary's womb that it was at creation of the universe. For this reason, St. Bernard said, "Jesus was a man while not yet as born, but in wisdom, not in age." And St. Augustine stated, "The unspeakably Wise was in His wisdom a speechless Infant."

Next, says Alphonsus, He comes forth from the prison of his mother's womb, but for what, to enjoy himself? He comes forth to fresh suffering, for He chooses to be born at midnight in the middle of winter, in a cave, where beasts find stabling. He is born in such poverty that he has no fire to warm him, nor clothes enough to screen him from the cold. "A grand pulpit is that manger," says St. Thomas of Villanova. Jesus teaches us the love of suffering in the grotto of Bethlehem. Everything in the stable is painful. All is painful to the sight, for one sees nothing but rugged and dark rocks. Everything is painful to the hearing, for He hears only the cries of animals. Everything is painful to the smell, from the stench of the litter that is scattered around. Everything is painful to the touch, for His cradle is only a narrow manger, and His bed only a handful of straw.

St. Alphonsus asks, "What son of a poor person was ever born in a stable?" In a stable only beasts are born. Sons of princes are born in warm rooms prepared for them, adorned with hangings, silver cradles, the finest clothes, and they are waited on by the highest nobles and ladies of the kingdom. The King of Heaven, instead of a warm and beautiful room, has nothing but a cold grotto, whose only ornament is the grass that grows there. Instead of a bed of feathers, he has nothing but a little hard sharp straw. Instead of fine garments, he has but a few poor rough cold and damp rags. Let worldly pride blush at the resplendent humility of the Savior.

Then shortly after His birth, our Redeemer was obliged to flee from his own country into Egypt. The Holy Family must have suffered much on this journey. What did they do for food? Where did they rest at night? How were they lodged? What could they have had to eat except a little hard bread? Where could they have slept at night, in that desert, if not on the ground, in the open air, or under some tree? They arrive in Egypt and anyone may imagine how great must have been the poverty that for seven years they had to endure, being as they were without relatives and without friends. St. Basil says that they had scarcely enough to subsist on, procuring their food by the work of their hands. Sometimes, the Infant Jesus, with hunger in His belly, went to ask Mary for a little bread, and Mary had to send Him away, saying that there was not any. The Holy Family returns to Nazareth where Jesus is a carpenter, working by the sweat of His brow. Finally, the Redeemer comes forth to preach, and in those three last years of His life He continues a life of poverty. He said to a certain man, who wished to follow Him: *The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.* (Luke 9:58). Eventually He would die, naked and bloody.

St. Alphonsus concludes, "Now, after a God has suffered so much for the love of man, will man have a repugnance to humble himself for the love of God?" Well said.

God Bless you.  
Father Eric

## CCD DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

**Class Dates** -December 16 for Grades 1-5 only

**Regular Classes Resume in 2016:**

January 6, 13, 20 & 27th

### The Gift of a Catholic Education:

**The 2016 SI Catholic Elementary School Open Houses are: January 12, February 2, February 23, March 8 and April 12 from 9-11AM**

This Christmas, give the gift of a Catholic Education. SI Catholic Schools are Christ-centered, academically excellent, and welcoming communities that teach students to be life-long learners and leaders energized by fidelity to Christ, the Church, and one another. Visit [www.buildboldfutures.org](http://www.buildboldfutures.org) or call 646-794-2885.

Additional Open Houses and private tours are available

### Reconciliation Monday:

Cardinal Dolan has designated Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> as our "Advent Reconciliation Monday". All parishes in the Archdiocese of New York are expected to provide the Sacrament of Reconciliation on that day. This is part of our parish Advent preparation. We pray that Reconciliation Monday will help you to appreciate the great gift God has given us in this sacrament. For us here at Sacred Heart, we will have confessions on **Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-8:00pm.**

### Christmas Confession Schedule

Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> - 4:00-8:00PM

Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> - 4:00-5:00PM

Wednesday, December 23 - 4:00-5:00PM

Thursday, December 24 - 11:00AM-12:00 Noon

### Christmas Eve Mass Schedule

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

5:00PM Family Mass

8:00PM

11:30 PM Choir Prelude Mass at Midnight

### Christmas Day

Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

7:00, 9:00 11:00 AM and 1:00PM

NO 5:00 PM MASS

### New Year's Eve

Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

7:00AM, 9:00AM & 5:00PM

### New Year's Day

Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

7:00, 9:00 11:00 AM and 1:00PM

NO 5:00 PM MASS

## **Choir News** ♪

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**FRANCE VOYAGER CHOIR/PARISH CHOIR** sings today, December 13<sup>th</sup> - **a wondrous 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Advent Mass 11AM!!!!** Don't miss it!! Better yet, come on up to the loft and join us!!

### Midnight Mass

Midnight Mass at Sacred Heart is arguably one of the most beautiful and beloved music liturgies celebrated all year long! Led by 2 choirs (Parish Choir, France Voyage Choir); organ; strings. A congregational sing-a-long begins at 11:40PM, filling our magnificent poinsettia filled church with cherished carols and anthems!! Imagine singing together with your teenager/parent and grandparents sharing Mass together with generations of family/friends/relatives - establishing an extraordinary tradition shared together for generations to come!! For truly, at Midnight on Christmas Eve, there is no more wondrous or glorious place to be than Sacred Heart Church Midnight Mass 2015!! See you at 11:30 PM Christmas Eve!! Pamela and the Choirs (VM 24)

**All Choirs:** Sing Christmas Morning 11AM!!

See you in the loft!

**Family Choir-**Start your *New Year* off right-Come Sing with us for *The Epiphany of the Lord* Mass - 11AM January 3, 2016!! See you in the loft!! Pamela 442-0058 (VM 24)

Sing Choirs of Angels!! Sing in Exultation!! Come to France 2016!! Buy an Advent CD!! Join a Choir TODAY!!

## ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE DEC 19 & DEC 20

### Saturday, Dec 19

5:00 Albert Cardone & Elizabeth Eadicicco

### Sunday, Dec 20

7:00 Noelle Ehresman & Austin Maida

9:00 Samantha Baniswal & Bernard Daniels

11:00 David & Billye Albro

1:00 Matt Kalikas & Jack Lotito

5:00 Timothy Donnelly & Marc Artuz

### Abortion Pill Reversal Program:

If you know someone who has taken RU-486, please let them know that there is now a successful method of reversing the pill's effect-within 72 hours of taking this abortion pill-with no harm to the mother or the baby who has been conceived. For immediate help (time is of the essence) please call (347) 495-3789 for assistance.