

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

5:00 PHILIP & MARGHERITA FRABOTTA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:00 ANDRE ROC JUDY
 8:30 THANKSGIVING OF THE APOE FAMILY
 10:00 MICHAEL MUSTILLO, JR.
 11:30 PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
 1:00 XUE QIANG ZHEN
 5:00 VICTORIA EDERA

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:00 HAYES FAMILY
 9:00 JAMES R. & MARY C. CAMPBELL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

7:00 SPECIAL INTENTIONS FOR SR. TERESE MARY O'CARM & KATHERINE FRIEDEL
 9:00 GEORGE E. BRAIN 40TH ANNIVERSARY
 5:00 FAMILY MASS
 8:00
 12:00 MIDNIGHT MASS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

7:00
 8:30 CHRISTMAS
 10:00 DAY
 11:30
 1:00
 NO 5:00PM MASS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

7:00 FOR THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES
 9:00 THOMAS J. CRANE 38TH ANNIVERSARY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

7:00 ALBERT F. TARASOVIS
 9:00 CAROLYN ALBANO INTORCIA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

9:00 ANNE CURITORE 7TH ANNIVERSARY
 5:00 CARMEN GARCIA 14TH ANNIVERSARY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

7:00 JOSEPH BRADLEY
 8:30 LESLIE BLAINE
 10:00 SPECIAL INTENTION TO THE MOTHER OF THE SORROWFUL HEART
 11:30 PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
 1:00 RICHARD BERGER
 5:00 JANE & JACK GORDON

The Bread and Wine are in loving memory of **Anthony, Veronica, Anna and Joseph Budnick** requested by Nora, Richie and Anthony.

The Sanctuary Candle is in loving memory of **Anne Curitore 7th Anniversary** requested by her husband William and her Family.

Lectors December 28 and 29

Saturday, December 28

5:00 Bill Jones

Sunday, December 29

7:00 Joe Meagher
 8:30 Don O'Shea
 10:00 Theresa Cunningham
 11:30 Ken Wisniewski
 1:00 Charles Sullivan
 5:00 Efraim Ortiz



Susan Pellecchia, Lois Mazzitelli, Rosanne Mezzacappa, Christopher Luciano, Kathryn Brock, Patricia Repoli, Al Frezio, Meghan Clark, Youlanda Santella, Tim Campagna, Alberto Meranda, Matthew Gleason, Jerry Russo, Ethel Thomas, Ruth Irons, Ian Torello, Anna Parente, James Parente, Gerard Crane, Mimi Norberg, Marianne Garlan, Ruth Manieri, Dawn Meade, Lauren Lam, Rafaella Tierno, Mary Kenny, John C. Marino, Alice Longo, Spc. Bryan Camacho, Michael Rucci, Sylvia Lichtenstein, Cpl Justin Campbell, Roseanne Liveo, Robert Donohue, Elizabeth James Timmins, Robert Poggi, USM, Joyce Rusinak, Barbara Brennan, Sam Pezzano, Sheila Jones, Edward B. Hanson, Robert Gaylord, Emily Baron, Frank Silvestri, Carol Van Manen, Frank Juliano, Theresa Brier, Richard Nagrowski, Robert Pepe, Luella Page, Theresa Mirante, Fred Maley

Wedding Banns

III Meghan Miller and Colin Vautirnot

Due to early publication dates, the collections for December 15, 22 and 29 will be posted in January.

The Rectory Office will be closed Christmas Day, December 25, 2013 and New Year's Day, January 1, 2014



Father Jerome, Father Maurice, and the staff of Sacred Heart Church wish all our parishioners a Blessed and Joyful Christmas

A GIFT IS ON THE WAY!

I read recently about a woman who had waited until the last minute (like me!) to send out her Christmas cards. She rushed into a store and bought a package of 50 cards without really looking at them. In a big hurry, she addressed 49 of the fifty cards and signed them without reading the message inside.

On Christmas Day, when things had quieted down somewhat she had a chance to run upon the leftover card and finally read the message that she had sent to 49 of her friends. It read like this: "This card is just to say/A little gift is on the way." Suddenly she realized that 49 of her friends were expecting a gift from her that would never come!

Christmas is all about gifts as we know. Why do we give gifts at Christmas? The reason that we do is to remind us of the greatest gift that was ever given to this world and that was Jesus Christ, the Son of God, born in Bethlehem stable. Jesus really is the gift that keeps on giving, day after day, year after year. The Lord Jesus was the special present offered to this world by the heavenly Father - the Christmas gift without a price tag.

As we know, this week we celebrate the Nativity of Jesus. On Christmas Day, the Lord Jesus entered this world of time and took on our lowly human flesh. Now, most of us are familiar with the Christmas story, the manger, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the Wise Men and so on. Yes, we have heard the story many times before. But do we let the spirit of Christmas really penetrate our hearts?

There are some lessons that Christmas imparts. One lesson could be detachment from material goods and things. We all have so much in this country while people in other lands have not the basic necessities for living. One pastor that I served under used to say, "Things were better when we were poor." There might be some truth in that statement. Too many possessions and things clutter up

our lives, erode the spirit and cripple our relationship with God.

Again, Mary and Saint Joseph that first Christmas night had really nothing to speak of from a worldly point of view. They had no house, money or even a crib for the baby! They did have Jesus however and that was the main thing. God took care of the Holy Family. Christmas teaches us to trust more in the Lord's care over us and worry less about the material side of life.

A second lesson of Christmas is humility.



Jesus the Son of God took on our humanity; the Word becomes flesh. The Immortal One became a little Baby in a manger. It is hard for us to understand this humility. Saint Paul wrote about it in one of his Letters. Paul wrote, "Jesus emptied Himself, took the form of a slave being born in the likeness of men."

What a humiliation for God to become man! From the Lord's humility we can learn to be less arrogant, less proud and more thoughtful for others instead of putting ourselves first all the time.

Finally, the last lesson of Christmas is Joy. I think of the joy of the shepherds that First Christmas night when they saw the little Christ Child with His Mother; the joy of the Wise Men when they viewed the star that hovered over the place where Jesus lay. We can experience joy too when we recognize the Lord as He is born again on the altar each day in the Holy Eucharist. The tabernacle is our Bethlehem and our guiding star. Jesus is with us still. Yes, He is the gift that is really on the way this week!

May we all appreciate the lessons of Christmas and grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ! Merry Christmas!
Sincerely in Christ, Father Jerome

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2013

CONFESSIONS

Monday, December 23 - 4:00- 5:00 PM
Tuesday, December 24 - 11:00AM - 12Noon

MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24
5:00PM - Family Mass
8:00PM
11:30PM - Choir Prelude Mass at Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25
7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30AM & 1:00 PM
NO 5:00PM Mass

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Tuesday, December 31
7:00, 9:00 & 5:00 PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY 2014

Wednesday, January 1, 2014
7:00, 9:00, 11:00 & 12:30 PM
No 5:00PM Mass



Registration for Grades K-8 is ongoing.
Please contact the school office to
register: 718-442-0347.



CCD -Classes resume January 8, 2014

Choir News

Words fail to express our gratitude to all of you who supported us with your prayers and encouragement on our recent once in a lifetime choir tour to Fatima/Portugal!! We look forward to sharing our adventures in great detail over the coming months - if possible, we will produce a souvenir DVD, with pictures and our performance soundtrack!! We will keep you posted!!

For now, all our musical efforts shift to preparations for Advent Liturgies and our beloved Midnight Mass. Midnight Mass begins with a Christmas Carol sing-along at 11:30PM, led by Parish Choir /organ and strings! Our choir loft rivals any city church for Midnight Mass! Usually members from all our choirs gather in the loft to lead the congregation in singing our most loved carols!! If you have children over 9, there really is no better way for your family to experience the wonder, joy and awe of the Christmas Miracle than attending Midnight Mass together as a family. Better yet arrive by 11:15PM and come on up to the loft to sing melodies with us!!

Whether from the loft or from the congregation, do not miss the most glorious music liturgy of the season-see you at 11:30PM, Tuesday, December 24, 2013!!

“O Come Let Us Adore Him ...”

Pamela and the Choirs 442-0058 VM24
Parish Choir/Traveling Choir sings Advent 4 - today, Dec. 22, 2013 11:30AM!! All choirs sing Christmas Day 11:30AM Mass!!

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE DECEMBER 28 & 29

Saturday, December 28

5:00 Sean Hartnett, Steven Mickel

Sunday, December 29

7:00 Matthew Riccardi, Jack Lotito
8:30 Daniel Ramirez, Carly O'Brien
10:00 John Paul Hoey, Andrew Johnson
11:30 Margaret Donovan, Timothy Donnelly,
Kyle Watson
1:00 Andrea & Donald Regan, John Altschuler
5:00 Rudy Merlino, Gabrielle Garcia



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.