

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers  
December 22 and 23

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

5:00 MARY IANNUCCI 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

7:00 THANKSGIVING BY THE APOE FAMILY  
8:30 ANNA & ANTHONY VILLANI  
10:00 MARGARET, GEORGE & THOMAS KOPF  
11:30 PEOPLE OF THE PARISH  
1:00 ADELE & SALVATORE AGNELLO  
5:00 ANN ROSE MONTANA

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

7:00 JAMES COMARDO  
9:00 PHILIP VACHON

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

7:00 PHILIP VACHON  
9:00 JOSEPH LAZICKI

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

7:00 CORINNE A. O'BRIEN & DICK KENNEDY  
9:00 DENNIS PETERSON

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:00 MARGUERITE TARASOVIS  
9:00 RAYE & MILDRED VITACCO

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:00 JOHN & DOROTHY CZARNOMSKI  
9:00 MARGHERITA & PHILIP FRABOTTA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

9:00 ANDRE ROC JUDY  
5:00 MARY C. & JAMES R. CAMPBELL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:00 THE HAYES FAMILY  
8:30 AL & SUE AMORE  
10:00 MICHAEL MUSTILLO, JR.  
11:30 PEOPLE OF THE PARISH  
1:00 JOSEPH BUDNICK  
5:00 JOHN K. & JOHN KERIN DALY

Saturday, December 22

5:00 Bill Jones

Sunday, December 23

7:00 Sr. Angela  
8:30 Charles Romanelli Mary Romanelli  
10:00 Roy Hansen  
11:30 Ken Wisniewski Dorothy Tarafa  
1:00 Stephen Brown  
5:00 John Caban

**Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers -**

Please contact Nora in the rectory at 718-442-0058 as soon as possible regarding which Mass or Masses you would like to serve during the Christmas Season.

Sick Relatives & Friends

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, John Lewis, 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, Grace Ford Seamans, Roseanne Liveo, Robert Donohue, Ottimia Paradiso, Elizabeth James Timmins, Robert Poggi, USM, Joyce Rusinak, Barbara Brennan, Venera Delamonico, Sam Pezzano, Sheila Jones, Edward B. Hanson, Franco DeGennaro, Robert Gaylord, Emily Baron, Frank Silvestri, Carol Van Manen, Robert Pepe, Christian Pepo, Grandma Nancy Bifulco

Collection for December 9

Regular . . . . . \$7,554.00  
Retired Religious . . . . . \$2,263.00  
Immaculate Conception . . . . . \$1,207.00

In the charity of your prayers, please pray for the soul of

Anna McCarthy  
Joseph Pristera  
John Kubasek

*The Rectory Office will be closed on  
Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25, 2012 and  
New Year's Day, Tuesday, January 1, 2013*

The Bread and Wine are in loving memory of **Ann Rose Montana** requested by Mary and Joe Introbartolo.

The Sanctuary Candle is in loving memory of **Joseph and Anthony Budnick** requested by the Bocignone Family.

## LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF FAITH -

At my first parish Immaculate Heart of Mary, we had a wonderful man who was a lector at Sunday Mass. His name was Jack McCarthy. Some of us might remember him as “Captain Jack” McCarthy who was on Channel 11 here in New York. He would introduce the “Popeye” cartoons on that channel and in later years, the Captain narrated the Saint Patrick’s Day Parade live over WPIX.

Well, on the First Sunday of Advent one year, Captain Jack was in church to be the lector at the 6:45 AM Mass of which I was the celebrant. I was a little surprised however that morning, to see all four candles of the Advent Wreath lit up. When I asked Jack what happened he said, “Oh Father, you see I couldn’t figure out which candle to light, so I lit up all of them.” At least he was trying to be helpful.

Some of us are a bit like Captain Jack when it comes to the customs and traditions of the Catholic Church. We may not fully understand exactly why the Church does certain things! Take for example, the Advent Wreath which is placed right up near the altar. This custom originated in Germany during the sixteenth century.

There are four candles on the wreath. Three of the candles are purple and one of them is pink. Purple is the color of Advent and it is the color of Penance. Actually Advent is supposed to be something like a “Little Lent” as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the infant Savior on Christmas Day. During Advent, the priest wears purple robes and the joyful hymn, “Gloria” is not said or sung during Sunday Mass.

The pink candle which we light today, is known as the “joyful candle.” This Sunday is called “Gaudete Sunday” which in Latin means “joyful.” We rejoice that we are drawing closer to Christmas Day.

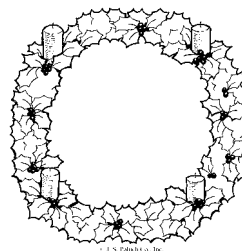
When we actually light the candles of the wreath (not all at once like old Captain Jack!) it brings to mind the fact that Jesus Christ said, “I am the light of the world; he who follows me does not remain in the darkness.” During this time of the year of course, there is less sunlight as we approach winter. In a spiritual sense, we followers of Christ are meant also to be a light that overcomes the darkness of sin by the way we live our lives, by our faith, charity, and goodness.

The wreath itself is in the shape of a circle. The circle shape of course, has no beginning or end. That is the perfect illustration for the love of God which is eternal. The greens on the wreath signify hope. All followers of Christ have hope in Jesus who came so that we might have true life and have it more fully.

Finally, at times there are red berries or a red bow on an Advent Wreath. The color red indicates in a very vivid way, the color of blood and the fact that Jesus Christ shed His blood for all of us on the cross. You and I came into this world in order to live. The Lord came into this world in order to die - to sacrifice His life for all of us sinners - may we be grateful.

During this time of the year, all of us are incredibly busy. Why not come to church and reflect a little on the Advent Wreath? May it stir our hearts as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of the newborn King on Christmas!

Sincerely in Christ, Father Jerome



## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2012



### CONFESSIONS

Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

4:00-8:00PM

Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

4:00-5:00PM

Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

4:00-4:45PM

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

11:00AM-12Noon

### MASSES

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

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

5:00 PM - Family Mass

8:00PM

11:30 PM - Choir Prelude Mass at Midnight

#### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

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

7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 AM & 1:00 PM

**NO 5:00 PM Mass**

#### **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

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

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

#### **NEW YEAR'S DAY**

Tuesday, January 1, 2013

7:00, 9:00, 11:00 AM & 12:30 PM

**No 5:00 PM Mass**

### Mark Your Calendars!!

Don't miss Kids Praise Choir singing 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Advent Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> 11:30 AM Mass today - nothing like their angelic voices during Advent Season!!

Parish Choir sings 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent 11:30AM!!

Portugal Traveling Choir sings 4<sup>th</sup> Advent 11:30AM!!

Italy CD's are Here!! God Bless the miracles of Advent - the long-awaited CD's are here from our Great Cathedrals of Italy Tour last year 2011.

Please pick up your pre-ordered CD in church vestibule/rectory office- Better yet-grab a few more while you are at it!! Makes a great Christmas Gift!!

### Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

Our Christmas Eve Midnight Mass rivals the glory and wonder of a city church! Parish Choir provides beautiful strings, Stuart on the organ - both Traveling and Parish Choirs come together for caroling at 11:30PM, leading into a most magical way to celebrate Christmas Mass at Midnight!! Bring your friends, families - anyone over 10 years old most welcome to come up at 11:50PM and help us sing the melodies of our most beloved carols - See you there!!

Pamela 442-0058 (VM 24)

See you in BCR!! See you in the Loft!! See you in the Chapel!! See you in Portugal 2013!



CCD classes will resume on  
Wednesday, January 2, 2013

## THE GIVING TREE



Please bring your wrapped gift to the church by **today, December 16<sup>th</sup>**. The families and charities receiving your gift will have a merrier Christmas this year because of you.

## ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE DECEMBER 22 & 23

Saturday, December 22

5:00 Nicholas Antonacci, Bianca Roman

Sunday, December 23

7:00 Kyle Watson, Matthew Miller

8:30 Regie Delamasa, Maeve Butler

10:00 Thomas Laub, Noreen Donnelly

11:30 Alaina Santiago, Jazlyn Alcaide

1:00 John & Deidre McCafferty

5:00 Donald & Andrea Regan