

Tjird Sunday in Advent



Saturday, December 16:

5:00 Arthur Currada

Sunday, December 17:

7:00 John Maloney

9 :00 Helen Buckley

11:00 People of the Parish

1:00 Joseph Lazicki

5:00 Rita & Raymond Sykes

Monday, December 18:

7:00 Joan Fulton

9:00 Rae & Mildred Vitacco

Tuesday, December 19:

7:00 Joseph Bruno

9:00 Dennis Michael Peterson

Wednesday, December 20:

7:00 Kurt Duenzl

9:00 Nancy McVey

Thursday, December 21:

7:00 Deceased Members of the Pierog Family

9:00 Philip & Marghrita Frabotta

Friday, December 22:

7:00 Margaret Competiello

9:00 Stella Polednak

Saturday, December 23:

9:00 Corinne & Joseph Kennedy

5:00 Patricia M. Silvestri

Sunday, December 24:

7:00 Deceased Members of The Quinn & McCauley Families & Souls in Purgatory

9:00 Margaret Competiello

11:00 Thomas J. Crane (42nd Anniversary)

1:00 People of the Parish

5:00 Brendan Hoey

8:00 Alfonsina Tortaglione

12:00 People of the Parish

Saturday, December 23:

5:00 Bill Jones

Theresa Hudik

Sunday, December 24:

7:00 Joan Prenty

9:00 Sr. Iraida

11:00 Ken Wisniewski

1:00 Stephen Brown

5:00 Charles Sullivan

8:00 Vincent O'Grady

12:00 Frank DiSalvo

Maryanne Gambardella

Pat Jezycki

Dorothy Tarafa

Barbara Kelly

Efrain Ortiz

Anne Siemer

Monday, December 25:

7:00 Sr. Barbara

9:00 Donald O'Shea

11:00 Kenneth Wisniewski

1:00 Jack Gordon

Rosetta Messina

Pat Jezycki

Efrain Ortiz



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, 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, Terrence Gibbons, Jean Forte, JoAnn DiPietro, Robert Williams, Sebastian Lattuga, Linda Browne, Frances Nodar, Tina Russo, Nathaniel Sasha, Kathryn Capofari, Rosemary Regan, Anthony Umana, Barbara Rotondo, Carmela D'Angelo, Mark Herman, Anthony Columbo, Frances Bocignone, Roseanne Viano, Barbara Longo, Linda Powers, Crystal Helewa, Eleanor Cooper, Daniel Juliano, Lizabeth Walsh, Joseph DeMeo, Moira Mackey, Michael DiCostanzo

Collections:

December 10th.....\$5,856.00
Retired Religious.....\$1,697.00
Immaculate Conception.....\$2,354.00

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:

Dear Parishioners:

Father Peter Cameron writes: “On the day I first met Alison, she told me the amazing story. Alison had been adopted as an infant, and now, in her mid-fifties, had made the decision to find her birth mother. Aided by DNA analysis and Adoption Services of Catholic Charities, Alison set out on her search. And her investigation yielded some amazing things. Her maternal grandfather had been a professional musician and a member of John Philip Sousa’s marching band.

After just a bit more sleuthing, there it was on the computer screen: a photo of her mother . . . alive and well and living in San Diego. Alison told me how scary and awkward that first phone call was. But both women kept on listening, kept responding, kept giving . . . for three and a half hours. Then started the letters and emails and photographs.

But it wasn’t until their face-to-face meeting in an airport that it all came together. According to Alison, ‘There was no hesitation. We just walked right up as if we had met each other at airports forever.’ Alison’s joy that won’t quit: ‘For the first time in my life I look like someone.’

Advent is a time of longing for the great reunion with the One in whose image and likeness we have been created.” [*The Magnificat Advent Companion*, 2017.].

Advent is a time of longing. Father Peter is correct. Coincidentally, Cardinal Dolan describes this holy season in similar fashion. He points out that the world from top to bottom is not whole. “Something is missing. We need some help from outside . . . What I am proposing is that *Advent* invites us to acknowledge this: Dear God, the world is a mess, and my own life is less than whole. Something—no, *Someone*—is missing. We—I—really need *You*. Now that’s hard, because we are part of a culture that chants, ‘Hey, I’m okay, you’re okay.’ Advent invites us to say, ‘I’m not okay, and neither are you.’” [*Catholic New York*, 7 December 2017.]

The human person is incomplete by nature. We have a hole in us that only Jesus can fill. In order to fill a hole the filler must come from outside and enter the hole, sharing in the emptiness of the hole, and then give up its own separate existence in order to conform to the dimensions of

the hole and become part of the thing with the hole. That’s what Jesus did. He is the ultimate outsider, the Heavenly Refugee, who emptied Himself and took on human form and became a man like us in all things but sin and ignorance. He sacrificed so much in order to fill us with His light and His life. We have a hunger for Him because we are built for truth and love.

Think about it. Don’t you have an appetite for truth and love? Think of all of the ways we satisfy our appetite for truth. We spend much time and treasure on education. We consult our news websites often. We delight in learning facts about the people and the things surrounding us. Why? Because we have an unlimited appetite for truth. Moreover, we want love, and want it badly. We want to receive love and we want to give love. That craving for love is the basic motivation behind every decision that we make in life. Jesus is love because He is divine—the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity—and *God is love*. (1 John 4:8). Furthermore, He is truth as He, Himself, declared at the Last Supper: *I am the way, the truth and the life*. (John 14:6).

Advent is a time when we yearn for the coming of the Kingdom. We yearn for the fullness of Christ. There is an aching involved because the yearning is only partially fulfilled in this life. And yet, there is joy in the yearning, as, for instance, the lover experiences when waiting for a call or visit from the beloved. Similarly, we experience Christian joy in the yearning for Jesus. That is the theme of today’s Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent: “Gaudete Sunday”. Gaudete is Latin for “rejoice!” Have joy!

God Bless You!

Father Eric

Sacred Heart 2017-2018: If you and your spouse are considering a Private/Catholic school for your children, Sacred Heart is the perfect choice. Sacred Heart School is a West Brighton fixture with a rich history of academic and athletic success. The school currently has an enrollment of 278 students all of who are inspired and educated in the image of God. One hundred percent of our 8th grade graduates are accepted into their high school of choice. Many of our students are awarded high school scholarships, are accepted into advanced/specialized programs and our school has among the highest ELA and Math scores on Staten Island. We place emphasis on technology in the classrooms as our kindergarten—eight grade students have Chromebooks in the classroom. Homework assignments, upcoming events and school news are posted on our school website. Also our basketball, soccer, swimming and golf teams are not only competitive, they win! Sacred Heart also has a Junior National Honor Society as well as drama, art and chess clubs. In addition we offer a free Pre-K and financial assistance is available to students from K-8th grade. If you are interested please contact the school at (718) 442-0347, private tours are available.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 23, 2017:

5:00 : B. Freund, T. Smith, G. Seaborg

Sunday, December 24, 2017:

7:00 Kasey, Kelly & Erik Shashaty

9:00 Matthew, Julia & Sean Ahern

11:00 N. Ehresman, A. Buscemi, L.O'Neal

1:00 C. Basile, A. Basile, V. Kaleta

5:00 A. Schmitt, M. Perkert, J. Mullen

8:00 A. Cruz, A. Maida, T. Koleci

12:00 M. Fernando, E. Eadiccio, A. Cardone

Monday, December 25, 2017

7:00 R. Delamasa, J. Torres, J. Oliveras

9:00 J. Orellana, M. Postler, K. Postler

11:00 N. Ramdass, W. Wenzel, W. Hollnsteiner

1:00 Ann, Kathleen & Siobhan McCafferty

Beware the Red Kettle: Catholics don't give to the Salvation Army.

As we enter stores to do our Christmas shopping occasionally we see a person ringing a bell and we see people dropping money into the red kettles of the Salvation Army. May Catholics not be among the givers! Catholics may think it is a worthy charity. It is not. The Salvation Army is a Protestant sect that opposes the Catholic Church. Why would we want to give our hard-earned money to our opponents, to those who compete with the true religion, to those who teach a distorted Gospel, quite different than the one we have been teaching for 2000 years, sowing error, confusion and division? St. Paul the Apostle warns us: *But even if we or an angel from Heaven should preach [to you] a Gospel other than the one that we preached to you, let that one be accursed! (Galatians 1:8).* Moreover, the Salvation Army favors abortion in many cases and also the evils of artificial contraception. Catholics need to be very cautious about which “charities” to give to, whether on-line, at the cash register, or at the ring-a-ling-a-ling of the red kettle. Generosity is a good thing, under the right circumstances, but the Apostle reminds us that we should be especially solicitous about being charitable to our own Catholic Church. He says that certainly we are to do good, but *especially to those who belong to the family of faith.* (Galatians 6:10).

Online Giving: Do you know that Sacred Heart now offers online giving which makes donating quick and easy. This is perfect for our parishioners who take frequent vacations, have a busy weekend schedule or have moved but wish to continue their support of our parish. Just go to the Sacred Heart website, www.sacredheartsi.org and click on the link at the top of the page. Also kindly remember Sacred Heart Church in all your estate and will planning.

The Rectory Office will be closed for business on both Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th. Regular business hours will resume on Wednesday, December 27th.

Sacred Heart Parish Groups

Bible Study: Our Pastor, Fr. Eric has a weekly bible study group which meets on Saturdays from 1-2 PM in the school's small cafeteria. During the hour The Rosary is recited, Father gives a short bible lecture and there is a brief group discussion. All parishioners are encouraged and welcome to attend.

Altar Servers: We are always looking for new boys and girls to become altar servers. If you are in the fifth grade or older, are a practicing Catholic and have received your first Holy Communion you can join. If anyone is interested please contact the Rectory at (718) 442-0058 or simply ask Fr. Eric after Mass. Being a server not only increases one's spiritual experience at Mass but also is a great way to get involved in the parish.

Sacred Heart Youth Group: Sacred Heart currently has a Youth Group for children in grades 6-12. If your child is interested in joining or if you have any questions contact Maria Montouri at (347) 247-2930. The group meets every first and third Monday of the month in the school cafeteria at 7 PM. There is free pizza, drinks and snacks for all who attend the meetings. The group does service projects like clothing and coat drives, eyeglass drives and bake sales as well as fun social activities like movie nights, bowling and laser tag! Also, any student who is currently in need of community service hours can join for an easy way get hours and have some fun at the same time.

Legion of Mary: The Sacred Heart chapter of the Legion of Mary meets weekly (if possible) on Wednesday's at 6:30 PM in the rectory. The meeting lasts roughly one hour and the members pray The Rosary and offer assistance to the Pastor. If you are interested please call Patti Foley at (718) 983-5416. All are welcome

and thanks to all who support The Legion of Mary.

Sacred Heart Choir: The Adult Choir sings on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, rehearsals take place at 10:15 AM the Sunday you are scheduled to sing. If any new members who can carry a tune wish to join they do so by simply showing up. Being a member of the choir is a great way to enhance your spiritual experience at Mass. Remember he who sings prays twice!

Youth Activities Council: The Sacred Heart Youth Activities Council is a parish men's club that meets (schedule permitting) on the first Friday evening of the month. Coaches of the various sports teams attend and give an update on recent and upcoming events. Various fundraisers that not only benefit the teams but also the school are planned and discussed. Even if your child has already graduated from the school, you are still encouraged to attend and enjoy the camaraderie. The meeting lasts usually for an hour and afterwards refreshments are served.

Holy Name: The Holy Name Society is one of the oldest and most traditional groups and we are excited to be bringing it back to Sacred Heart. All men of the parish ages 18 and older can join and meetings are held on the first Sunday of the month at 6:30 PM in the school auditorium. Light refreshments are served.

Christmas Pageant: As is traditional, the 5 PM Mass on Christmas Eve, Sunday December 24th will have a pageantry theme. If anyone in grades 2-12 wishes to participate in the pageant please contact Tina Althoff at (718) 702-7207.

Sacred Heart Giving Tree: As is our tradition, the Sacred Heart Giving Tree is up and we encourage our parishioners in this season of giving to help a needy family. Gifts can be placed under the tree when you attend Sunday Mass or brought in person to the rectory office. Just a reminder that if you do take a gift request from the tree it must be brought back both wrapped and tagged no later than Sunday, December 17th.

Sacred Heart Church

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2017

CONFESSIONS

Monday, December 18th

4:00 - 8:00 PM

Friday, December 22nd

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Saturday, December 23rd,

11 AM - 12 Noon | 4:00 - 4:45 PM

MASSES

4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24th

7, 9, 11 AM, 1 PM

Christmas Eve, December 24th

5:00PM - Family Mass

8:00PM

11:30PM - Choir Prelude (to the 12 Midnight Mass)

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25th

12 Midnight Mass

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

NO 5:00 PM Mass

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Sunday December 31st

7, 9, 11 AM

1 & 5 PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY

(Not a Holy Day of Obligation)

Monday, January 1st

7 & 9 AM

981 Castleton Ave

Staten Island, New York 10310

