

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
5:00 CATHERINE SYKES SMITH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
7:00 GENE SPILLANE
9:00 BEN ZARRELLI
11:00 XUE QIAN ZHEN
1:00 NIALL SULLIVAN
5:00 JAMES SULLIVAN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7
7:00 JOHN HUDIK
9:00 MARGARET WOODS
7:00 RAFAELLA TIERNO

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8
7:00 DOROTHY RICCIARDI
9:00 MARY FOPEANO
12:00 MARIA DA ROCHA
7:00 DAWN WALSH

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9
7:00 MAUREEN F. MC DONOUGH
9:00 NELSON MOREY & ANNE MULLIGAN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10
7:00 CHARLES, MARY & CHARLES DONOHUE
9:00 GERARD CRANE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11
7:00 DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE DOLAN & LYONS FAMILIES & THE SOULS IN PURGATORY
9:00 LEO C. MASTERSON

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12
9:00 JULIE RAJEWSKI
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

Flowers at St. Joseph 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 EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday, December 12

5:00 Mary Rosso Theresa Hudik

Sunday, December 13

7:00 Vincent Tarasovis
9:00 Don O'Shea Evelyn Bilotto
11:00 Roy Hansen Regina Torello
1:00 Charles Sullivan Shirley Fennell
5:00 Efrain Ortiz 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, 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 November 22

Regular . . . . . 6344.00
Building Fund . . . . . 913.00
Thanksgiving (Human Development) . . . . . 1821.00

Collection November 29

Regular . . . . . .6881.00
Budget Deficit . . . . . .783.00
November 50/50 . . . . . 528.00
Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Pawel Kaleta on winning the November 50/50



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass Times will be Mon, Dec 7th at 7:00PM and Tuesday, Dec. 8th at 7AM, 9AM, 12Noon and 7PM.

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Advent is a time of preparation for the celebration of the coming of Christ at Christmas. Christmas is all about...well...you know. Robert Smith, of Pennsylvania tells a boyhood story. You may want to read it to your children and grandchildren. Robert states:

I was only twelve years old and Christmas was only a few days away. I dressed hurriedly because the snow out there was waiting for me. What would I do first? Build a snowman? Slide down the hill? Throw some snowflakes in the air and let them flutter down? Well, our family station wagon pulled into the driveway and Mom called me over to help her with the groceries. When we finished that, she said, "Bob, here are Mrs. Hildebrand's groceries." No other instructions were necessary. As far back as I can remember, Mom shopped for Mrs. Hildebrand's food and I delivered it. Our ninety-five-year-old neighbor lived alone. She was crippled with arthritis, and she could only take a few steps with a cane. I liked Mrs. Hildebrand. I enjoyed talking with her. More accurately, I enjoyed listening to her. She told me wonderful stories about her life, about a steepled church in the woods, horse and buggy rides on Sunday afternoon, and her family farm that had no electricity or running water. She always gave me a dime for bringing her groceries. Five minutes later I would be across the street at Beyer's Candy Store. I headed over with the grocery bags that day and then rang the bell. "Come in," she said cheerfully; "put the bag on the table." I did so more hurriedly than usual because I could hear the snow calling me back outside. She sat at the table, picked up the items out of the bag and told me where to set them on the shelves. I usually enjoyed doing this, but it was snowing! As we continued, I began to realize how lonely she was. Her husband had died some twenty years before. She had no children. Her only living relative was a nephew in Philadelphia who never came to visit her. Nobody ever called on her at Christmas. There was no tree, no presents, no stockings. For her, Christmas was just another date on the calendar. She offered me a cup of tea, which she did every time I brought in the groceries. "Well," I thought, "maybe the snow could wait a bit." We sat and talked about what Christmas was like when she was a child. Together we traveled back in time, and an hour passed before I knew. "Well, Bob," she said,

"you must be wanting to play outside in the snow," as she reached for her purse, fumbling for the right coin. "No, no, Mrs. Hildebrand. I can't take your money this time. You can use it for more important things," I insisted. She looked at me and smiled. "What more important thing could I use this money for, if not to give it to a friend at Christmastime?" She placed a whole quarter in my hand. I tried to give it back, but she would have none of it. I hurried out the door and ran over to Beyer's Candy Store with my fortune. I had no idea what to buy—a comic book, a chocolate soda, ice cream. And then I spotted a Christmas card with an old church on its cover. It was just like the church Mrs. Hildebrand described to me, and I knew I had to buy it. As I walked across the street with my gift, I was so proud of myself. I felt like I'd just hit a homerun in the World Series. I rang Mrs. Hildebrand's doorbell. "Hello, Mrs. Hildebrand," I said, and handed her my card. "Merry Christmas." Her hands trembled as she slowly opened the envelope, studied the card, and began to cry. "Thank you. Thank you very much," she said in almost a whisper. "Merry Christmas to you." On a cold and windy afternoon a few weeks later, the ambulance arrived next door. My mom said they found Mrs. Hildebrand in bed. She had died peacefully in her sleep. Her night table light was still on when they found her and it illuminated a solitary Christmas card with an old country church on the cover. (This tale is taken from *A World of Stories* by Fr. William Bausch)

St. Alphonsus Liguori (*The Incarnation, Birth and Infancy of Jesus Christ*) asks, "Before the coming of the Messiah, who loved God upon earth? Hardly was He known in a nook of the world, that is, in Judea; and even there how very few loved Him when He came. After the Redeemer was born, God was more loved by men in a few years than He had before been loved since the creation of man." Jesus said: *I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing.* (Luke 12:49). The fire to which He was referring was the fire of love, love for Him who came to set us free. In loving Him—in *truly* loving Him—it follows that we love the people (*all* the people) we meet in our journey through life. By doing so, we hit home runs!

God Bless Sacred Heart Parish!

Father Eric

## CCD DECEMBER SCHEDULE CHANGE

Grades 1 to 5 will have CCD on Dec 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>  
Grades 6 to 8 will only have CCD on December 9<sup>th</sup>

## Choir News ♪

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### Sacred Heart Home School Association:

St. Monica's Mother Guild Ladies Night Out  
Wed, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> from 7-11pm at The Staaten -  
\$55pp - Buffet, DJ, Open Bar, Raffles



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### THE GIVING TREE - 'Tis

the season to be thankful for what we have and mindful for the needs of others. The Special Events Committee invites all our parishioners to take a gift ornament off the Giving Tree in the church and purchase the item listed on the ornament for someone in need this Christmas Season. Once you have purchased your gift, please return it wrapped with the ornament tag from the Giving Tree on the outside of the package. You can place your gift under the tree on Sundays or during the week. The cut off date to return the gifts to the Giving Tree is December 13<sup>th</sup>. We wish to thank all the people of Sacred Heart for always being so generous with your donations to the Giving Tree. The families and charities receiving your gifts will have a merrier Christmas this year because of you.



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### Spanish Mass in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe -

Dec 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM

A local Spanish speaking group has requested a Mass in honor of the patroness of the Americas. We are happy to oblige!

All are welcome. Homily in English and Spanish.  
Mariachi music. Refreshments follow in the school.

### Christmas at St. Peter's:

Start the Christmas season the old fashioned way!  
St. Peter's H.S. Seton Chorale/ Glee Club Alumni  
present the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Concert at St. Peter's  
Church, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00PM. Come, enjoy beautiful  
Christmas music For ticket information call Wayne '83  
at 718-971-3267. For program ads call Theresa '72 at  
718-981-8047.



### CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

The Sacred Heart Parish Annual Tree  
Lighting Ceremony will be on Saturday,  
December 12<sup>th</sup> following the 5:00 Mass.

FRANCE VOYAGER CHOIR/FAMILY CHOIR sings today,  
December 6<sup>th</sup> - a wondrous 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Advent Mass  
11AM!!!! Don't miss it!! Better yet, come on up to the loft  
and join us!! **Prizes!! Treats!! Coffee!!!** Bring the entire  
Family!

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

### ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE DEC 12 & DEC 13

#### Saturday, Dec 12

5:00 Kathleen, Mary & Siobhan McCafferty

7:30 Marc Artuz & Daniel Ramirez

#### Sunday, Dec 13

7:00 Hayley Bond & Noelle Ehresman

9:00 Patrick & Keifer Regan

11:00 Sean Hartnett & Michele Chen

1:00 Deidre & John McCafferty

5:00 Timothy & Eric Koleci

### Cardinal Dolan Young Adult Mass with Matt Maher &

Audrey Assad: You are invited to join the office of  
Young Adult Outreach for a Young Adult Mass presided  
by Cardinal Dolan on Wed, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at St.  
Patrick's Cathedral. Confessions and Adoration with  
music by Matt Maher & Audrey Assad will be held from  
6:30-7:30pm. Please arrive early. There will be a post-  
Mass social at a location TBA. Learn more at  
[www.CatholicNYC.com](http://www.CatholicNYC.com)

### Staten Island Grandmothers Club

Chapter 899 needs you. We are a friendly and fun  
local not for profit social/fraternal organization. Our  
main purpose is to assist sick children and their families  
right here on Staten Island. Please contact Alana  
Chanod at 347-423-1190 for more information.