

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2017
LITURGY SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 24-Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:00 p.m. – Kevin McGuire req. by the O'Neill & McGuire families

8:30 a.m. – Cesar Sagnip req. by Mommy Bible Study

10:00 a.m. – Ronnie Abrams

Christmas Eve:

4:00 p.m. – Christmas Pageant: For the People

6:00 p.m. – For the People of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

10:00 p.m. – Polish Holy Mass: For the People

11:30 p.m. - Christmas Caroling

Midnight - Christmas Holy Mass: For the People

Monday, December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord

8:30 a.m. – For the People of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

10:00 a.m. – For the People of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

Tuesday, December 26–Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

12:00 p.m. – Mary Ann Hopler req. Pat & Mary Skelly

Wednesday, December 27- Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist

12:00 p.m. – Kenneth Patterson

Thursday, December 28- The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

12:00 p.m. – Donald Joice

Friday, December 29- Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr

12:00 p.m. – Captain Nels Salvesen req. by the Maulbeck family

Sunday, December 31- The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

5:00 p.m. – Ethel Gorman req. by Donna & Michael Gosden

8:30 a.m. – Mary Ann Hopler req. by the Nelson family

10:00 a.m. – Ethel Gorman req. by Louise & W.H. Anderson Inc.



burns in memory of ... Ludivina Jandura

Requested by Kathy Peer & Mary Davenport

Collection for December 16 & 17: \$3052.00
Parish Pay Electronic Giving: \$2696.89 (November)
Collection from last year: \$3024.00

PARISH PAY: Have you thought about automating your giving? No more writing checks! You decide the amount and the frequency. Sign up today for automatic contributions to Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish. Go to the Parish Pay link at www.sacredheartrockaway.org or call 866-727-4741.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN THE MILITARY:

Major Mike Cherry, LCpl. Aleksandr Killeen, Airman 1st Cl. Andrew Mistkowski, 1st Lt. Nicholas DelCore, Air Force, Captain Jessica L. Rotile Rudo, Kenneth Rudo, Warrant Officer,1

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Irene Schreiber, Doug Bansch, Maria Acevedo, TJ Schoude, Capt. Adam Cowan, USA, Julio Soto, Ben Marvilla, Michelle Monslave, Amelia Marie Cayea, Mary Therese Loftus, Sharon Bauer, Mary Davenport, Jose Prado, Arlene Berlin, Robert Nielsen, Marge Vogel, Efrain Gonzalez, Amanda Villarubia, Mary Skelly, John Skutka, William McBurney,

Anne Riordan, D.M. Lynch, Linda Hoffman,, Mike Izzo, Edward Frame, Adam Hayward, Carol Centonze, James Boyle, Carol Ann Boyle, Jessica Gorman, Theodora Maulbeck. John Krause, Ethan Chandra, Jim McNamara, Dorothy Murray, Louise Kelly, Tom Gorman, Carlos Carbajal, Danielle Cicchetti, Miguel Fojas, Mila Sering.

PARISH POLICY –PLEASE NOTE: All Catholic families living within the parish boundaries are encouraged to register as members. Registration has many benefits, and in particular, facilitates any arrangements for baptisms, marriages, sponsors, etc. Please contact the rectory at 973-627-0422

CERTIFICATE OF ELEGIBILITY – All Catholic Churches in the United States require from Catholics serving as a Godparent for Baptism or a sponsor for Confirmation a certificate of eligibility. This document certifies that the Godparent/sponsor is a registered member of the parish, attends Holy Mass, approaches the sacraments regularly and contributes to the support of the Church via the offering envelope system or Parish Pay.

Oplatek Available: Oplatek, the traditional bread used for the Christmas Eve Vigil Supper, can be found at the side altar in the church. A suggested donation of \$2.00 would be appreciated.

Divine Mercy Academy's Calendar Raffle is underway!

The calendar raffle will feature a total of \$5,000 in cash prizes. A winner will be drawn every week from February 2nd through June 1st. Weekly cash prize amounts vary. Each week the winning ticket will be put back in the drum, so each \$10 ticket gives you 18 chances to win! Please email HSA@DMARockaway.org or call 973-769-1028 for tickets. Tickets will also be available from our gift card sellers after Masses. **This makes a great stocking stuffer!** Thank you for your support of Divine Mercy Academy!

Knights of Columbus March for Life Bus Trip:

We invite you to the 45th March for Life in Washington, DC on Friday, January 19th. The bus departs at 6 AM from the Gardner Field Park & Ride in Denville. There will be Mass at 5:15AM at St. Mary's in Denville. There is no charge for the bus but we ask that you bring \$10 (for the DC metro and a tip for the driver). Seats are on a first come, first served basis, so please contact Jim Rizos at 973.627.2596 or j.rizos@verizon.net to reserve your place. If you are unable to join us on the March, please keep the cause for life in your prayers.

Banns of Marriage: Anthony Carrea and Caitlin Pfeifer will be married on December 29, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

My Dear Parishioners,

In our observance of the Lord's Day we commemorate the Fourth Sunday of Advent. This year we come quickly to the Feast of Our Lord's Holy Nativity with little time spent in the Fourth Sunday of Advent. In this Sunday's Scriptural texts the image of God's House is found within the Old Testament and the Gospel passages for today. In the Old Testament periscope we find references made to the building in which God dwells and in the Gospel we find the dwelling place of God to be within the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Both of these images are significant within our Catholic belief of the Lord's dwelling place. The sacred is found within physical structures and also within individuals. Both are places where the Divine is to be found, both are places which should be respected and honored.

The Blessed Virgin Mary became the first tabernacle containing the real presence of the Only Begotten Son of God through the power of the Holy Spirit, "...and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." The church contains a tabernacle also, it houses the Eucharist, the bread which by the power of the Holy Spirit and the words and actions of the priest, becomes the presence of Christ Himself.

The church building is a holy house in which the presence of Christ is to be found and celebrated. It is always important for us to be reminded of this since we live in a secular world and sometimes it becomes difficult for some to distinguish a church from a theater, for example. As the guardian of the holy place that is our church I am observing more irreverence regarding the sanctity of our church. It is not so much among our own parishioners but rather more noticeable when weddings, funerals or other celebrations take place within our church at which others attend. However, I am not going to let our own parishioners off the hook. It is important to acknowledge our Lord's presence in the tabernacle when we enter the church by GENUFLECTING BEFORE WE ENTER OUR PEW AND BEFORE WE LEAVE THE CHURCH. The church is not the place to bring food and drink, to engage in active cell phone use or for men to be wearing hats. Proper church decorum needs to be addressed occasionally because we all forget and need to be reminded of what is expected. The manner in which we conduct ourselves in the Lord's House is important and if it wasn't so I would not be addressing it. And so as your father and with pastoral love I share this with you and especially depend upon our good parents to model for our children the manner in which we come before the Lord.

I am most grateful to all those who assisted me and the priests in decorating our church for the celebration of Christmas. To all of you, my beloved parishioners, I wish you God's great blessing during these days of Christmas!

Merry Christmas!

Father Zig

SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON TO BE HONORED IN CONVENT STATION: The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth cordially invite you to join them for the Feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and the Seton Associate Commitment Ceremony. Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, January 6, 2018, at Holy Family Chapel, Convent Station, NJ, at 11:00 a.m. The Mass will be followed by a light lunch in the study hall of the Academy of Saint Elizabeth. The Heritage Room at the Motherhouse will be open for a display of Mother Seton memorabilia. For more information call 973-290-5470. In case of inclement weather call (973) 290-5478. Snow date is January 13, 2018.

ATTENTION MEN – A new men’s group called FATHERS OF ST. JOSEPH will be meeting every other Saturday morning at 5:30 a.m. in the St. Cecilia Office Building. The sole aim and purpose of the group is to labor for the restoration, revitalization and redemption of human fatherhood, in order that it may become what it has been created to be: an efficacious icon that directs the human family to its Father. The Fathers of St. Joseph gatherings are not so much meetings as they are mini retreats, whose aim is to communicate the spirituality of fatherhood in a manner that encourages and inspires fathers to embrace, engage and – by the power of the Holy Spirit – sanctify their vocation. **The next gathering is SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30th!**

St. Marks New Year 5K: Come start 2018 off with a brisk dash around Long Valley and support a great cause—St. Mark the Evangelist R.C. Church. St. Mark’s Church is hosting a 5K run on January 1st starting at 11:30 am through beautiful Long Valley. Come on out and walk or run the course. Compete for prizes and enjoy some fellowship and breakfast afterwards. Teams are welcome. Registration information is available at <https://newyearsday5k.wixsite.com/race> Registration fee is \$25 until December 1st. Come join the Fun!! Father Marcin is the administrator of St. Mark’s!

The Sacred Heart/Saint Cecilia Rosary Society Invites all parish organizations of both parishes to the CHRISTMAS PARTY!! Sunday, January 7th, 2018 1:30 PM at St. Francis, Pocono Rd, Denville. All reservations must be made by January 2nd. Cost per person: \$25.00 Please make checks payable to the Rosary Society and send into the office no later than 1/2/18.