



Second Sunday of Advent  
December 4, 2016



<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>December 3</b> Cyril DeSouza and Jennie Aielli
<b>Sunday</b> 7:30 am 9:00 am 11:00 am  5:00 pm	<b>December 4</b> Jack Stewart and Julie Ferrioulo Nicholas Marconi and Karl Buckman For the protection of the unborn & their families And Nancy Sapienza Paige Garrubbo and Rita Reardon
<b>Monday</b> 8:00 am	<b>December 5</b> Brendan Foley and Eleanor Dodge
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:00 am	<b>December 6</b> Yvonne Moakler and Mary Komorek
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:00 am	<b>December 7</b> Vincent Albanese and Valerie Della Vecchia
<b>Thursday</b> 8:00 am  7:00 pm	<b>December 8</b> Edwin L. and Ethel E. Sprague, Jr. and Mark L. Bringham Anna and Antonio Cafuoco
<b>Friday</b> 8:00 am	<b>December 9</b> Mary and Patrick Breheny
<b>Saturday</b> 8:00 am 5:00 pm	<b>December 10</b> Louise Nothum and Teresa Toscano Virginia and Carlo Miele and Deceased Members of the Lepore Family
<b>Sunday</b> 7:30 am  9:00 am  11:00 am  5:00 pm	<b>December 11</b> Henry & Catherine Schanz and Rosemary & George Zimmerman Deceased Members of the Leonett Family and Karl Buckman Rosalie Fonck and Edward Shalhoub and Anna Gaydos Daniel Leahy and Theresa Conroy Neubauer

### Mass Schedule December 10th & 11th

Fr. Bob	Sunday 11 am & 5 pm
Fr. Chris	Saturday 5 pm, Sunday 7:30 am & 9 am

### Reconciliation (Confession) December 10th

Fr. Chris	Saturday 4:00-4:30 pm
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### *Reconciliation Service*

Monday, December 12, 2016  
7 pm in the Church

Several priests will be available to celebrate  
the Sacrament of Reconciliation

### **Reflections from the Fathers for Advent 2016**

"What is the meaning of 'Prepare the way of the Lord'? It means: make ready for the reception of whatever Christ may wish to do."  
St. Cyril of Alexandria, *Commentary on Luke*, 6

## Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2016

### **First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10**

Isaiah tells us that when Christ comes, the weak will be made strong, the deaf will hear, the blind will see, and, above all, "sorrow and mourning will flee."

### **Second Reading: James 5:7-10**

As the farmer waits patiently through winter and spring for the "yield of the soil" so, too, must we wait patiently for the coming of the Messiah.

### **Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11**

While in prison, John sends a messenger to Jesus to ask, "Are you He who is to come or do we look for another?" Jesus replies by citing the miracles he has performed for the blind, the deaf, and the crippled. He concludes by identifying John as the messenger He has sent to prepare the way.

## **ADVENT SERIES ON PRAYER**

St. Patrick Parish invites you to join us during this second week of Advent for the second in our series of three presentations on *Prayer*.

On Tuesday, December 6th, Rev. Deacon Thomas P. Shubeck, PhD will present ***An Eastern Christian Journey to Christmas and Theophany in the Byzantine Catholic Church***. This session will provide an introduction to Eastern Spirituality through a discussion of the Eastern journey to Christmas and Theophany.

**Tuesday, December 6th**  
**Parish Office Building South Room**  
**7:30 pm-8:45 pm**

*Please use the Washington Avenue door.*



### **The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**

This Thursday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a holyday of obligation in the United States. Under this title the Blessed Mother is patroness of the United States as well as Spain, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Masses will be celebrated in church at 8 am and 7 pm. **Please note that 7 pm is a new starting time for holyday masses in the parish.**

## Weekly Memorials

**The Lamp** burning before the Blessed Sacrament the week of December 4th is in memory of deceased family members given by Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kelly.

**The Candles** on the altar the week of December 4th are in memory of deceased members of the Women of Mary.

**The Flowers** on the altar the week of December 4th are in memory of John Taylor Babbitt given by Mr. & Mrs. Sean Donovan.

**Hear our Prayers for those who are ill** especially Anthony LaFerrara, Stanley Wisneski, Neiko Pagaling, Judy Latalladi, Marlene Wisneski, Carmela Cecere, Marie Conlan, Sandra Dols, Eleanor Gilsenan and **for all our deceased.**



*From the Desk of Our Pastor*

### Religious Sisters, Brothers, and Priests

Many of us have been influenced by a religious sister, brother or priest. Like some of you I recall attending an elementary school taught by religious sisters who rendered much discipline to my life. I live with a heartfelt memory of a spiritual director in seminary, Sr. Maryanne Huddleston, a member of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary who inspired me with meaningful social justice concerns, and brought to light the value of human relationships in the life of a priest. There are other religious who provided much insight into my life, which includes some Franciscan priests as well as Sr. Margaret Foster O.P., a former staff member of St. Patrick Church. My aunt, Sr. Marita, a religious sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, bonded with me in a graceful way upon my entrance into seminary as we would often share a holiday dinner and chat about our lives. After 44 years of dedication in religious life, my aunt passed away on the day of my 1<sup>st</sup> year anniversary as a priest, but conferred upon me a wonderful image of a religious sister as she spent most of her years attending to the sick at a hospital and nursing facility in Philadelphia. Unfortunately, the one thing that escaped me in my connection with those in a religious order were the financial needs of these people. I lived with the belief that there were funds to take care of them upon retirement from active ministry.

Next weekend we light the 3<sup>rd</sup> candle on the Advent wreath; it symbolizes joy. The parish gives prominence to the work of many in religious life through the annual support of the Retirement Fund for Religious, which makes a difference in roughly 33,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who benefit from this annual appeal. Many of these people are the cause of much gladness and joy in our lives. In 2015, the fund for the Retired Religious distributed \$25.6 million to 395 religious communities for the direct care of senior members. Additional funding was allocated for education, consultation, and resources that enable religious communities to plan more effectively for retirement. An independent study of Planning and Implementation Assistance, a program for congregations with critical funding deficits, found that 81 percent of participants reduced their retirement shortfalls.

Despite the progress and tremendous generosity to the Retirement Fund for Religious, too many religious communities still struggle to provide a modest, safe retirement for aging members. Of 550 communities providing data to the National Religious Retirement Office, only 45 are adequately funded for retirement. Historically, Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests received small stipends for their work that just met the needs of their day. Any surplus funds were reinvested in ministry and the education of younger members. As a result, hundreds of U.S. religious communities lack adequate retirement savings. During the early and mid-twentieth century, the Catholic Church in the United States experienced a surge in vocations to religious life as numbers peaked in the mid-1960s. Care for elderly members was provided largely by younger ones. Over time the number of vocations decreased while lifespans increased. The result led to far fewer younger members available to support the retirement and eldercare needs of senior members. In 2016, 68 percent of the religious communities had a median age of 70 or older.

Since eldercare costs continue to rise while the number of religious requiring care grows, aging religious need your help. Thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests spent years working in Catholic Schools, hospitals, and agencies for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement for Religious collection helps provide prescription medications, nursing care, and more. As the church has moved from a Year of Mercy into a Year of Grace, your help in this collection renders respect and compassion to these people who have provided many generations with their gifts of time, wisdom, love, education and grace as many retired religious have offered their lives in service by way of educating the young, comforting the sick, and seeking justice for the oppressed. Today many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Next weekend the parish welcomes St. Margaret Foster O.P. to speak to us about life as a religious sister. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish ongoing needs for so many of these people. Please be as generous as possible.

*In Christ's Love,  
Fr. Bob*

**BAPTISM:** Arrangements should be made one month in advance by calling Deacon Joe Wisneski at 973-635-4976. Parents are expected to attend an instructional session with a Baptism Team. Baptisms are celebrated at 12:30 pm Sundays.

**RCIA-RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:** The R.C.I.A. invites non-baptized persons and those baptized into another faith to participate in a faith journey in preparation for becoming a Catholic. If you are interested in any aspect of R.C.I.A., please email Deb at [Dkuzma@st-pats.org](mailto:Dkuzma@st-pats.org) or call her at the parish office at ext. 23.

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:** Congratulations! In order that we can together plan for your big day, couples should notify the Church and begin to prepare at least one year in advance of the date. Please email Fr. Bob at [Fr.Bob@st-pats.org](mailto:Fr.Bob@st-pats.org) or call Fr. Bob at the parish office ext. 22.

**MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOME BOUND:** If a family member or someone you know is recuperating from a hospital stay or is homebound for any length of time and would like to receive Holy Communion, please let us know. It is a priority for the parish community to support and be present to those who cannot be with us for the celebration of the Eucharist. If you would like a priest or deacon to visit a family member who is hospitalized, contact Peggy at [Pgentile@st-pats.org](mailto:Pgentile@st-pats.org) or call her at the parish office ext. 25.

**SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Please call the parish office at 973-635-0625 to arrange for a priest.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST:** Children preparing to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist begin preparation in first grade. To register, visit our website at [www.st-pats.org](http://www.st-pats.org) or contact Ginny, [vsalvatore@st-pats.org](mailto:vsalvatore@st-pats.org).

## AROUND THE PARISH

### ADVENT PENCE SERVICE

The annual Advent Penance Service will take place on Monday, December 12 at 7 pm in the church. The service will consist of an opportunity to experience the joy of God's mercy in preparation for the Christmas Season. The service will consist of song, scripture, reflection, and the confession of sins to one of no less than six priests who will join us for the evening. Please take time out of your busy schedules to share in the joy of God's forgiveness that comes through the Sacrament.



**Drop off THIS WEEKEND**  
**Sunday, December 4th**

Thanks to everyone who was able to help out this year with our Christmas outreach ministry! Drop off for your donations is **today**, Sunday, December 4th. Please drop off at the Fr. Ed Center by 11 am. Thanks to our many volunteers, curb side drop off is available! Thank you again!

### Breakfast in Bethlehem

*Saturday, December 10th from 9 am-12 pm in the Fr. Ed Center*

This wonderful community event is returning on December 10th. The Knights of Columbus graciously provide the breakfast and a team of elf volunteers have planned a fun-filled morning! Our children's choir will provide us with songs for the season! This free event takes place 9 am-12pm in the gym. Many hands are needed to make this event possible. If you would like to help, contact Maria Sanzo at [mangeles4@verizon.net](mailto:mangeles4@verizon.net).

**Making your list and checking it twice?** If you are starting to shop for Christmas gifts and are purchasing items from Amazon, remember to shop AmazonSmile to support St. Patrick Parish. **AmazonSmile** is a simple and automatic way for you to support St. Patrick's every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to St. Patrick Parish. To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. Type *St. Patricks Chatham* in the search box. Select St. Patrick Church in Chatham from the list and that's it!

### Children's Gingerbread Workshop

On Saturday, December 17th from 10:30 am-12 pm, Youth Ministry will be hosting a Gingerbread House Morning for children in kindergarten and older. For \$15, each child will receive a full size gingerbread house and everything needed to decorate it. Youth Ministry teens will be on hand to give individual help to the younger children. Proceeds will be used for future Youth Ministry activities and events. Grab a friend and join in the fun! Sign up sheets are available at the doors of the church and in the parish office building. Pre-registration is required!



## CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

### CHRISTMAS—THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

**Saturday, December 24, 2016-Christmas Eve**

**3:15 pm Children's Nativity Reenactment**

**4:00 pm Mass in the Parish Center**

*God Unplugged and Saturday Sound*

**4:00 pm Mass in the Church**

*Members of the Boys & Girls Choirs with harp*

**6:00 pm Mass in the Church**

*Members of the Boys & Girls Choirs with harp*

**10:30 pm Lessons & Carols in the Church**

*Saint Patrick Choir*

**11:00 pm Mass in the Church**

*Saint Patrick Choir*

**Sunday, December 25, 2016-Christmas Day**

**9:00 am Mass in the Church**

*William Brockman with Harp*

**11:00 am Mass in the Church**

*Kimmi Neuschulz with Harp*

### NEW YEAR'S-SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

**Saturday, December 31, 2016-New Year's Eve**

**5:00 pm Mass in the Church**

**Sunday, January 1, 2017-New Year's Day**

**7:30 am, 9 am, 11 am & 5 pm**



### MUSIC MINISTRY

**Magnificat Advent Christmas Concert Today!**

*Sat., Dec. 3, 7:30 pm, Christ the King, New Vernon*

*Sun., Dec. 4, 2 pm, St. Patrick Church, Chatham*

Come celebrate the coming of Christ, and Mary's words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior!" Adult and youth from the choirs of St. Patrick and Christ the King join together for this annual event. Fifty singers will be accompanied by handbell choir, strings, harp, trumpet, flute, piano, and organ. Music includes favorite Advent and Christmas songs, along with compositions by John Rutter, Michael Praetorius, and Carl Shalk. This is a wonderful time for the whole family. A reception will follow the 2 pm performance at St. Patrick Church in the East/West Room. Admission is free; there will be a free will offering.

### Parish Support-November 20th

THIS WEEK'S OFFERING.....\$14,815

LAST YEAR'S OFFERING.....\$17,598

### Parish Support-November 27th

THIS WEEK'S OFFERING.....\$17,272

LAST YEAR'S OFFERING.....\$13,918

BUILDING FUND.....\$ 1,877



# St. Patrick School

*Working Together to Challenge Minds and Foster Faith*

The students of Saint Patrick School celebrated the start of the season of Advent. Each Monday the whole school gathers together for prayer and to light the Advent wreath. Every student in the school created a paper chain advent calendar to remember to "Share your Gifts" during this season of preparation. This was a school wide Buddy Activity.

Saint Patrick School participated in the mass celebrated by Bishop Serratelli to end the Year of Mercy. All of the schools of the Diocese of Paterson gathered together for a beautiful liturgy on November 18, 2016. Our school delegation was led by members of our Student Council, faculty, parents and Dr. Ross.



## YOUTH MINISTRY

### This Week in Youth Ministry

**Winter Antioch Team Meeting:** Tues., Dec. 6, 7-9:30 pm;  
In the YMC

**Spring Antioch Team Meeting:** Wed., Dec. 7, 7-9:30 pm;  
At St. Vincent Martyr

### Service Opportunities

**Sign up on the SPYM board in the lobby of the Church or by emailing Maggie at [mgrady@st-pats.org](mailto:mgrady@st-pats.org)**

**Food Pantry Restock:** Sat., Dec. 17; 8:30-10:15 am

**Gingerbread Workshop:** Sat., Dec. 17; 10:30 am-12 pm

*Shifts available from 9 am-1 pm*



## FAITH FORMATION

**Faith Formation December Classes:**  
December 11th & 12th

**Faith Formation January Classes:**  
January 8th & 9th  
January 22nd & 23rd

### **First Reconciliation Celebrations**

**Friday, December 9th at 7 pm**

Children attending Catholic School

Children attending Faith Formation Session I

Rehearsal: Tues., Dec. 6th from 4-5:15 pm in the Church

**Saturday, December 10th at 10 am**

Children attending Faith Formation Session II

Children attending Faith Formation Session IV

Rehearsal: Wed., Dec. 7th from 4-5:15 pm in the Church

## Around Chatham

### **Chatham Jaycees 49th Annual Christmas Tree Sale**

The Chatham Jaycees are holding their annual Christmas Tree Sale at the corner of Main Street and Brooklake Road at the Chatham-Madison border. Trees, wreaths and garland are offered 9 am to 8 pm on weekends and 6-9 pm on weekdays. Proceeds benefit a variety of civic and charitable organizations and provide a major scholarship for a graduating Chatham High senior. Past recipients include St. Pat's pre-school program, the Senior Services Center of the Chathams, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America, ECLC School and the Chatham Emergency Squad.

*Congratulations to the winners of the NJ Right to Life/Respect Life 2016 Raffle: 1st Prize (Volvo)-Barbara Ellis, Bedminster; 2nd Prize-Vince Giallorenzo, Wyckoff; 3rd Prize-John Corcoran, River Vale; 4th Prize-Don Zorovich, Allentown. Thank you to all who participated!*



Here's a holiday surprise that only the dictionary can provide. Do you find the word "Xmas," as an abbreviation for Christmas inappropriate? Many people do. Each year at this time, we try to remind ourselves from whence this phrase, XMAS, derives.

Keep Christ in Christmas?? Absolutely! But when we read Merry Xmas, we are really being more authentic to the word Christ, than if we were to write: Merry C-Mas." the X in XMAS isn't an X at all: it's a Chi. Chi is the first letter of "Christ" in Greek (and has a CH sound): *Χριστός*. When ink and paper cost a lot of money, shorthand would be used for economy's sake. X'temmas dates from 1551 and Xmas dates from 1753-that is far before modern secularization. The Greek name *Χριστός* is also responsible for one of the most visible Christian symbols, the Chi-Rho (see picture) which uses the first 2 letters of Jesus' name. (What looks like a P is Rho which makes and R sound.) There's a long and sacred history of the use of X to symbolize the name of Christ, and from its origin, it has meant no disrespect.

You won't find Xmas in church songbooks or even on many greeting cards. Xmas is popularly associated with a trend towards materialism, and sometimes the target of people who decry the emergence of general "holiday" observance instead of the particular cultural and religious ritual HOLY DAY. We keep Christ in Christmas by our actions and full participation in the spiritual elements of the season. God bless you and everyone as we celebrate the day when heaven touched earth, and the Son of God became a man.

## **THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH**

### **Monday, December 5**

Faith Formation: 4 pm; School

Rosary: 6:30 pm; Church

Meditation Group: 7:00 pm; Church

### **Tuesday, December 6**

First Reconciliation Practice: 4 pm; Church

Advent Series on Prayer: 7 pm; South Room

### **Wednesday, December 7**

First Reconciliation Practice: 4 pm; Church

### **Thursday, December 8**

Walking with Purpose: 9 am; Fr. Ed Parish Center

Marian Prayer Group: 10 am; North Room

Walking with Purpose: 7 pm; South Room

### **Friday, December 9**

Adult Scripture Study: 9 am; South Room

First Reconciliation: 7 pm; Church

### **Saturday, December 10**

Pastoral Council Meeting: 8:30 am; South Room

Breakfast in Bethlehem: 9 am; Parish Center

First Reconciliation: 10 am; Church

### **Sunday, December 11**

Chili Sign Up: Church Lobby

RCIA: 12:15 pm; South Room