

The 4<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday of  
Advent



*The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,  
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.*

*Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
Be it done unto me according to Your Word.*

*And the Word was made flesh,  
And dwelt among us.*

From: The Angelus Prayer

**ST. JOHN BOSCO  
CATHOLIC  
CHURCH**  
December 20, 2020

# *The Pastor Jots It Down*

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. John Bosco and St. Rosalie Parishes,

***“The Lord, our King, is drawing near; O come let us adore Him!”***

These words are taken from the Christmas Novena in Chant. They are sung in response to each of the messianic prophecies of the Old Testament foretelling Jesus coming.

My first year in a Salesian Seminary I was introduced to this beautiful Salesian tradition to prepare for Christ’s coming on Christmas.

These are appropriate words for us on this Fourth Sunday of Advent. Despite the hustle and bustle of these final days of the Advent Season, we are reminded not to forget the reason for the season – the birth of Jesus Christ, our King. Amid the material preparations, this verse reminds us that we must keep the focus of deepening our personal relationship with Jesus close to our hearts these days.

We know the four ends of prayer: Adoration (or Praise), Contrition (or Sorrow), Thanksgiving and Supplication (or Petition).

These days to keep focused, it would be good to take some time to find a quiet spot:

- ✦ To praise God for His Goodness, Love, and Mercy -- possibly mentioning specific examples of how you have experienced God’s Goodness, Love and Mercy in your life.
- ✦ To show our sorrow for our sinfulness by admitting that we have strayed from His pathways and have committed sin -- possibly naming the sins for which you are most sorry and the sins which you need help to conquer. Also, if need be to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation to worthily receive Jesus in Holy Communion on Christmas Day.
- ✦ To thank God for the many blessings he has bestowed upon us; to thank him, too, for the crosses and tribulations that have come our way, and for the grace and strength He has given us to cope – possibly naming the graces and blessing and the crosses and tribulations.
- ✦ To ask the Lord for one’s personal needs, the needs of one’s family, one’s neighborhood, our country and for the needs of our world – possibly making known specific needs of each group.

One could possibly begin this exercise of deepening our relationship with the Trinity by praying the Our Father and concluding with the Hail Mary.

In our gospel today, we hear the account of the Angel Gabriel announcing to Mary that she was to become the Mother of God. Mary couldn’t quite understand but she responded in faith: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”

Mary’s YES was a complete act of trust in God. By her YES she totally placed her life in God’s hands.

May we by our YES to God, place our lives totally in His Hands.

God bless you!

## ***St. John Bosco Catholic Church***

***Served by the Salesians of Don Bosco***

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**Fr. Mark Hyde, SDB**

*Pastor*

### **Current Mass Schedule**

Monday - Friday: 7:00am

Saturday: 8:00am

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm

Sunday: 9:00 & 11:00am

### **Current Confession Schedule**

Saturday: 4:30 - 5:15pm (*before Vigil Mass*)

**Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions:**

*Wednesday 7:00 - 8:00pm*



## *St. Rosalie Intercede for Us*

The intercession of St Rosalie brought an end to the 1624 Plague in Palermo, Italy.

As the virus continues to surge, we call upon St. Rosalie to intercede for our protection and health.

### *Prayer to St. Rosalie*

*O glorious St Rosalie, filled with compassion for those who invoke you, with love for those who suffer, we come to ask your intercession once again.*

*We come in prayer to beg you to intercede in dispelling the coronavirus just as you did many years ago with the plague in Palermo. Our world and our country are facing the task of combatting this virus. Please help our leaders to make the best decisions about who gets the vaccine first to stop its further spread. Heal those who have contracted the virus and protect all health care providers and essential workers.*

*Please listen to our request, dear St. Rosalie. We pray all this in the name of Jesus and in the power of the Most Holy Trinity.*

*Amen*

# Light and Love

Metaphorically speaking, we've been on one long, grueling walk this year – with much of it seemingly “in the dark.” We've faced a lot of unknowns with few available answers; and on some days, we've felt fear and anxiety wrap around us like a shroud. Will this trek ever end, we may have wondered on more than one occasion. Is there a light at the end of this tunnel?

## What a struggle!

And yet as many a pilgrim on the “Camino de Santiago” can tell us, even the most arduous hike can yield unexpected gifts.

Why bring this up? Well, for two reasons. First, one of the Camino's best-known origin stories involves a medieval shepherd who, one very dark night, spotted a gleaming star that lit his way to the burial place of Saint James the Great. Second, the thousands of determined people who set out to recreate this journey on foot each year do not have an easy go of it. They have no star to guide them. They're laden by blistered feet, sore muscles, exhaustion and self-doubt. But their stories of perseverance exist everywhere: in movies, in literature, in pop culture and in family folklore. They forge meaningful bonds; gain invaluable insights into who they are; learn to find comfort in solitude; and so much more. In striving for their destination, these pilgrims' stories tell us, there is value in the journey itself.



As we enter this celebratory season—one like no other we've experienced – it may feel as if there's little to be merry about. If that's the case for you, try reflecting on that shepherd in the night and all those pilgrims traversing the lonely miles. What faith they must have

had—to follow that star, to persist through challenges, to keep walking in the dark toward an unknown destination with an undetermined timeline.

Let their inspiration wash over you so that you, too, may forge ahead in faith. Maybe you can sit down with a comforting mug of hot chocolate or tea and think about the unexpected gifts you've received along this year's trek. We may not be able to gather around the tree to exchange presents with our families and friends this year, but we can “remember this December, that love weighs more than gold” (Josephine Dodge Daskam Bacon). This year especially, material things mean far less than the relationships we've maintained, and will continue to maintain, despite physical distancing.

Remember, too, that Christmas is the season of light. Our destination may yet elude us, but as Saint John reminds us, “and the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it” (John 1:5).



Courtesy: Salesian Missions Monthly Inspirational Message for the Month of December  
To sign up for these monthly inspirational messages contact Salesian Missions  
[info@salesianmissions.org](mailto:info@salesianmissions.org) or call 914-633-8344

## *Pope's Prayer Intention December*

**For a Life of Prayer**



*We pray that our personal relationship  
with Jesus Christ be nourished  
by the Word of God  
and a life of prayer.  
Amen.*

## *Vocation Prayer Intention*

From December 20 - 26  
please pray for



**Brother Joshua Sciuolo**  
who is in  
Theology II  
currently studying in Isreal

# *Christmas Mass Schedule*



### **ST. JOHN BOSCO**

December 24<sup>th</sup> Morning 7:00 a.m. Fr. Wilgintz

#### **Christmas Eve**

6:00 p.m.	Fr. Mark	Vigil Mass
10:00 p.m.	Fr. Lou	Mass at Night

#### **Christmas Day**

7:30 a.m.	Fr Wilgintz	Mass at Dawn
9:00 a.m.	Fr. George	Mass during the day
11:00 a.m.	Fr. Mark	Mass during the day

### **ST. ROSALIE**

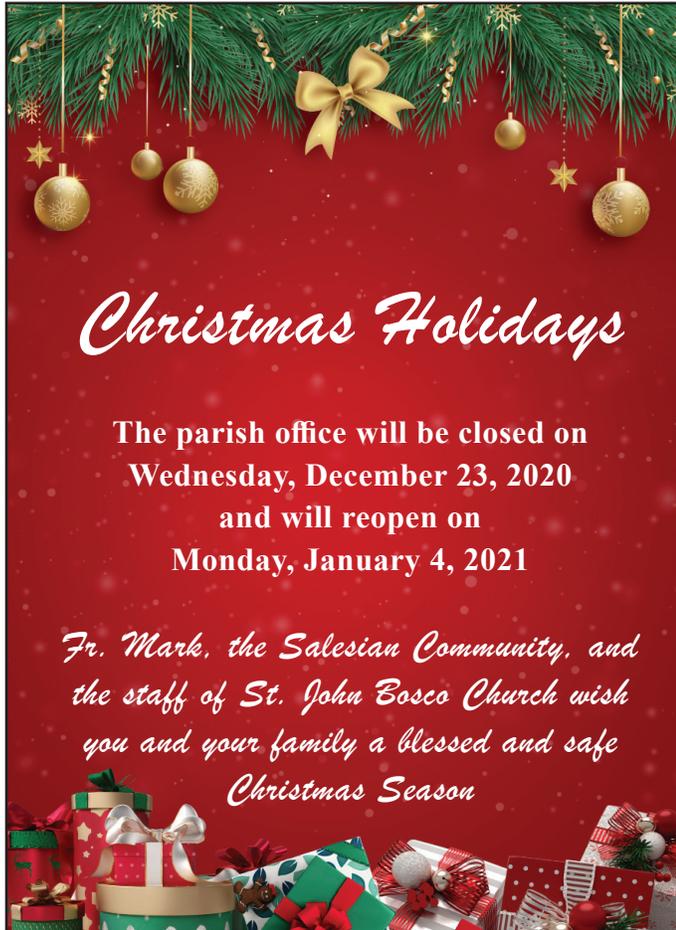
December 24<sup>th</sup> Morning 7:00 a.m. Fr. Mark

#### **Christmas Eve**

4:00 p.m.	Fr Wilgintz	Vigil Mass
6:00 p.m.	Fr. George	Vigil Mass
8:00 p.m.	Fr. Mark	Mass at Night

#### **Christmas Day**

10:30 a.m.	Fr. George	Mass during the day
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## Christmas Holidays

The parish office will be closed on  
**Wednesday, December 23, 2020**  
 and will reopen on  
**Monday, January 4, 2021**

*Fr. Mark, the Salesian Community, and  
 the staff of St. John Bosco Church wish  
 you and your family a blessed and safe  
 Christmas Season*

### Sanctuary Candle

*In Memory of*  
**Rufus & Adele DeSoto**

### Bread & Wine

*In Memory of*  
**Melvin & Ruth Cheramie**

### Fourth Week of Advent

*Love*

*Dear Jesus,  
 May the light of your love always shine in our hearts.  
 As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love  
 for us. Let your love transform every aspect  
 of our lives and touch everyone we encounter.  
 Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen.*

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, December 19

8:00am Parishioners of St. John Bosco  
 5:30pm +Jacqueline G. Guillot  
 +Peter John Paul Nguyen  
 +Joseph Lai Duc Anh  
 +John Baptist Tuan Nguyen  
 +Wayne Delaune  
 +Joyce Sonnier  
 +Gene Robinson  
 +All Souls in Purgatory  
 Conversion of Sinners  
 Fr. Sid Figlia, sdb  
 +Penelope Solis  
 +May & Ruiz Families  
 +Fr. Michael Fraser  
 +Cheryl Perry Smith  
 +James' Soul  
 Happy Birthday Fr. Mark (12/18)

### Sunday, December 20

9:00am +Guillermo & Candida Calimlim  
 +All Souls in Purgatory  
 Conversion of Sinners  
 +Mary Ann Ramos  
 +Anna Tran Thi Phuong  
 +Phero Vu Van Hoa  
 +Ulrik Johansen  
 +Derek DiMarco  
 +Rufus DeSoto, MOB 12/21  
 +Maria Ha Thi Bui, AOD  
 +Paul Louis Nguyen Dinh Dzung  
 Happy Birthday Kim Cuc Thi Nguyen  
 11:00am +Charles & Genevieve Darsey

### Monday, December 21

7:00am +Anna Nguyen Thi Van

### Tuesday, December 22

7:00am +John E Hourcade, Sr., MOB

### Wednesday, December 23

7:00am Happy Birthday Hang 'Moon' Ha

### Thursday, December 24

7:00am +Melvin & Ruth Cheramie  
 6:00pm Parishioners, Living & Deceased  
 10:00pm Parishioners, Living & Deceased

### Friday, December 25

7:30am Parishioners, Living & Deceased  
 9:00am Parishioners, Living & Deceased  
 11:00am Parishioners, Living & Deceased

*"All my work began with a simple Hail Mary  
 for Our Lady's help."*

- Don Bosco