

It's Advent Season at Saint Elizabeth's

December 8, 2024

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Rev. Joseph Pavone

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Rev. Mr. John LaDuca

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Masses

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am,
12 noon & 6:15 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am & 5:00 pm (Anticipated)

Weekday: 7:00 am & 9:00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday 12:30 pm

Emergency Number

201-994-5699

Bereavement Ministry

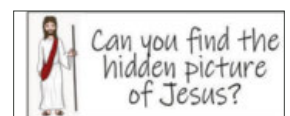
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Parish Center

Office: 201-891-1122

Parish School

Website: www.sainte-school.org
Office: 201-891-1481





Dear St. Elizabeth's Parishioners,

Last Sunday was the first day of Advent and the first day of our new liturgical year. As I noted in my homily, during our liturgical celebrations over the next four weeks, we will light our Advent Wreath. The candle I lit last week represents hope. The candle this week signifies peace, next week's is joy, and the candle for the last week of Advent symbolizes love. Each week, as we light more candles, the wreath will grow brighter, reminding us that Christ is close, and His presence enlightens our lives.

Our Advent Wreath signifies that light chases away the darkness, bringing us hope for a new tomorrow. During Advent, we strive to keep our focus on the true light that never diminishes – the light of Christ – an eternal light that gives us hope for salvation. Advent gives us an opportunity to pause, to step back a bit, to see through the gloom of the night as we wait in hopeful expectation for the coming of the Lord. His spiritual light guides us and leads us to safety. He wants to heal our brokenness and to comfort us through the darkest hour of our lives.

During Advent, we prepare for the annual remembrance of Christ's birth 2,000 years ago. It is also a time when we wait and prepare for Christ's final coming as the King of Glory who will sit in judgment of the living and the dead. But during Advent, we also prepare for the third coming of Christ - Emanuel – which means "God with us." Christ is among us. We have Him in the Eucharist. We can find Him in the lost and the lonely, the poor, the marginalized, the sick, and in those who grieve. Advent is a visible reminder of our call – both the laity and the ordained - NOT just to be followers of the light of the world, but to carry forth that light into a dark and broken world as beacons of hope!

Being beacons of hope does not end with Advent. Next year, Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year with the theme Pilgrims of Hope. He will begin the year with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024. In his letter declaring the Jubilee Year of Hope, the Pope writes:

We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire..."

In February of next year, I will be traveling to Rome to participate in an international study conference and the Jubilee Year of Hope with deacons from seventeen countries around the world. The conference is titled, Deacons: Joyful Witnesses to Hope. I will write more about my upcoming trip in my next bulletin article.

It is my prayer for this Advent and beyond that each of us will fan the flame of hope in our ministries, families, workplaces, and communities. So, let us begin the work! Strike the match, start the flame, spread the light. Be beacons of hope!

Deacon Andy

NEWS AND EVENTS

Holy Day of Obligation: On Monday, December 9, we will honor the Immaculate Conception of our Blessed Mother, Mary. The Mass schedule for that day is as follows: 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 12:00 noon, and 4:00 pm.

Hour of Grace: Fr. Robert will host an Hour of Grace Devotion at St. Elizabeth's Church on Monday, December 9, beginning at 1:00 pm (immediately following the 12:00 noon Mass) to honor our Blessed Mother, Mary.

Special Collection: A collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will take place this weekend, December 7–8. Your generous contribution will help provide necessities such as medications and nursing care, ensuring younger members can continue the important work of their elders.



Christmas Flowers: A flower memorial is a great way to remember your loved ones this Christmas. Donation envelopes were included in your envelope packet and are also available in the Narthex or Parish Center. Clearly fill in the name of your loved ones and turn in the envelopes with the weekly collection. A listing of all memorial names will be in our bulletin.

Bambinelli Sunday: All are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their nativity set for a special blessing during the weekend of December 14–15.



The Collection for the week ending December 1
 Offertory \$27,680 | Online \$8,971 | Total \$36,651



St. Elizabeth's Advent Giving Tree will be *Virtual Again!!*

Please visit the St. Elizabeth's website or Facebook page and click on the Giving Tree hyperlink for the digital form to complete. There are lots of gift options to choose from. Once you fillout the form you will be contacted by email from a member of the St. E's Giving Tree Ministry.

Or, you can call Laurie (201) 788-8980 or Dan Kocher at 201-788-5913 and they will help you.

NEW Drop Off Dates: **Saturday, December 7** from 9:00 am to 5:00pm (or) **Sunday, December 8** from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon
Drop Off Location: **St. E's Rectory Garage area.**

Organizations we are collecting for:

Perpetual Help Day Nursery School, Christ the King Church, St. Ann's, Hope Christian Services, Several Sources Foundation, Oasis, St. Joseph's Parish in Jersey City, and Families for Families.

Thank you for helping to make this Christmas more special to so many!

Advent Parish Mission

with Rev. Kevin MacDonald

Join Us...

December 16-18

Preaching on:

Monday 9:00 AM Mass & 7:00 PM

Tuesday 9:00 AM Mass & 7:00 PM

and Penance Service

Wednesday 9:00 AM Mass



In church | All are welcome | Livestream

Christmas Caroling & Bonfire

December 22 at 7:00PM

Bring your favorite Christmas cookies to share
Hot chocolate will be served

Christmas Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve

4:00 PM | 5:30 PM

7:00 PM Pageant | 7:30 PM

10:00 PM Caroling | 10:30 PM

Christmas Day

9:00 AM | 10:30 AM | 12:00 PM

Silver 25 Jubilee

Ordination Anniversary Celebration

FATHER STEPHEN FICHTER

Join us on
Saturday, January 11, 2025
5:00 PM Mass
followed by a party in the gym

ST. ELIZABETH'S

Mom's Group

GRACE. GRATITUDE. GLORY

Scan the QR code to go to our website and join today!

Meetings

Decemeber 11

January 15

February 5

9:00-10:30 am

Parish Center - L5

Women's Cornerstone XXX

Be Open....
Be Present...

Saturday
March 1, 2025

Join us for a memorable Cornerstone experience. A one day opportunity for fellowship and a renewal of faith.
If you have any questions please email the team at WCS@saintelizabeths.org.

Scan the QRCode to register.

Reflect on God who Strenghtens You!

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