

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

December 18, 2016



Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."
Matthew 1:23

ANNOUNCED MASSES

If you wish to bring up the gifts for a Mass being said for your loved one(s), please see the Usher before Mass.

Vigil (Sunday) Mass – December 17

5:00 PM Daniel Claffey

Sunday, December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM Daniel Deneher – 21st Anniversary

10:15 AM St. Joseph's – Louis and Concetta Pecorelli

12:00 PM Lucille Meltzer and Michelle McGrath
Bischoff

Monday, December 19 – Late Advent Weekday

8:15 AM Raymond Valentine

Tuesday, December 20 – Late Advent Weekday

8:15 AM Terrance Mangan

Wednesday, December 21 – Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

8:15 AM Anna Treuter

Thursday, December 22 – Late Advent Weekday

8:15 AM Bill Schultz, William A. Schultz and all the
People of the Parish

Friday, December 23 – Saint John of Kanty, Priest

8:15 AM John, Madeline and William Critelli

Saturday, December 24 – Vigil of Christmas

4:00 PM All the People of the Parish

6:00 PM St. Joseph's – All the People of the Parish

8:00 PM All the People of the Parish

Sunday, December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

10:00 AM All the People of the Parish

MEMORIALS

The **Sanctuary Candle** this week is burning in loving memory of the Merando and Miller Family donated by Chuck and Paula Tompkins. The candle will burn from December 18th through December 24th.

Flowers in front of the Blessed Mother this weekend were donated in loving memory of Raymond Valentine by his family.

Flowers in front of the Blessed Mother for the week beginning December 17th were donated in loving memory of Daniel Claffey.

The **Offertory Gifts** for the week beginning December 17th were requested in loving memory of Daniel Claffey.

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Children Christmas Choir rehearsals are held on Mondays, November 28th through December 19th, 3:15 to 4:00 pm at Our Lady of Loretto Church.

Adult Choir rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm in the choir loft. New members are welcome at all weekend Masses. If you would like to sing, please come to a rehearsal or call Jeffrey V. Lutz at 228-5612.

GRAYMOOR PRAYER GROUP

Increase your time in prayer. The Graymoor Prayer Group, following the Medjugorje prayer format, meets Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 pm at the Spiritual Life Building 6th floor Chapel. The prayer facilitator is Diana Roda: (845) 424-4175.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERLINE

Call in your intercessions.

Marian Shrine (Divine Mercy), Stockbridge
800-804-3823

PLEASE PRAY

For the sick and suffering, especially

Lucy Abbatine	Wesley Ann McGovern
Lucas Boesch	Merna Mendelson
Robert Broughal	Todd Morris
The Brusco Family	Joseph Nowakowski
Kathleen Clements	Brian O'Keeffe
Carmine Comberiata	Inelda O'Keeffe
Joseph C. Etta	Neilan Pierce
Christopher Hartly	Vivian Pisanelli
Joseph Hoda	Phillip Rossignol
Parker Jane Holloway	Melissa Castro-Santos
Joey Hyatt, Jr.	Miguel Santos
Elizabeth M. Hynes	Sally Singh
Geoff Lyons	Ralph Torres
Kathleen Manganello	Connie Tuomey
Mary Marion	Frank Volkmann
Paula Martino	Lidia Watrud

and for all our dearly departed, that the fighting among nations cease, that vengeance end and lasting peace begin, and for all of our prayers in our book of petitions.

WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 11, 2016

REGULAR WEEKLY COLLECTION – \$6,466
RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS – \$1,779

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS ATTENDANCE

	Adults	Children	Total
Saturday, 5:00 pm	105	9	114
Sunday, 8:30 am	101	19	120
St. Joseph's Chapel Sunday, 10:15 am	54	13	67
Sunday, 12:00 pm	102	22	124
Total	362	63	425

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Saturday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27-29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25];
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14; Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20; Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Loretto Council #536

PHILIPSTOWN FOOD PANTRY DELIVERY

Today • December 18th

The Knights of Columbus are collecting food and other items, including diapers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, cleaners and paper towels, for the Philipstown Food Pantry this weekend. Please leave donations in the cry room. Thank you for your generosity!

Grand Knight – Paul Grandetti

To join, email our Membership Director, John Hackney:
johnhackney@hotmail.com.

Information can also be found at KofC536.com.

IN SOLIDARITY WITH OUR PRIESTS

We support our Catholic Church, families, community and our country.

OUR LADY OF LORETTO PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

"Handing on the Faith"

845-265-3718 ★ ollfaithformation@gmail.com

CLASSES THIS WEEK

Wednesday, December 21st, 2016

Grades 1 to 5 – 3:30 to 5:00 pm

Grades 6 to 8 – 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Classes will not be held on Wednesday, December 28th due to the Christmas holiday.

Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 4th.

Please pray for our Second Graders who will receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation on Sunday, January 8th.

SERVE THE CHURCH

Consider becoming an Altar Server, Lector or Eucharistic Minister

We especially need help at the following Masses:

Altar Servers (4th Grade and up)

Our Lady of Loretto Church: Sundays • 12 Noon
St. Joseph's Chapel: Sundays • 10:15 am

Lectors

Our Lady of Loretto Church: Saturdays • 5:00 pm

Eucharistic Ministers

Our Lady of Loretto Church: Saturdays • 5:00 pm,
Sundays • 12:00 pm
St. Joseph's Chapel: Sundays • 10:15 am

If interested, please contact Anna McFadden at
anna.mcfadden@gmail.com or call 845-265-2385.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

At Our Lady of Loretto • Every Monday • 7:00-8:00 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament remains as it is with individual prayer time, but specific groups are being identified for certain Mondays so they can come together to focus in prayer for a specific intention...

- Dec 19 – Our Catechists
- Dec 26 – Respect Life Committee
- Jan 2 – The unborn and persecuted Christians
- Jan 9 – Archbishop Dolan and all bishops

LECTORS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

Lectors

December 24th at 6:00 pm
(St. Joseph's Chapel)

Eucharistic Ministers

December 24th at 6:00 pm
(St. Joseph's Chapel),

Altar Servers

December 24th at 8:00 pm,
December 25th at 10:00 am

If you can serve at any of these Masses, e-mail Anna McFadden at anna.mcfadden@gmail.com or call the Parish Office at 265-3718.

MARIAPOLIS LUMINOSA NATIVITY DISPLAY

Each Christmas, throughout the month of December, Mariapolis Luminosa in Hyde Park, NY displays over 200 Nativity scenes from every continent in the world. People come annually to see this beautiful event and have commented that their visits have made their Christmas season more meaningful.

So, if you happen to be visiting historical Hyde Park and/or the CIA, stop in and visit us. We assure you that you will not be disappointed. Musical entertainment will be provided on December 18th at 1:30 pm. For more information, please call (845) 229-0230 ext.127 or visit www.focolare.org/mariapolisluminosa.

Epiphany Dinner by the Knights of Columbus

Saturday, January 7th ★ After the 5:00 pm Mass
In the Parish Hall

Menu

Roast Pork, Roasted Potatoes, Vegetables,
Salad, Bread

Coffee, Tea and Dessert

Ticket Price

Age 0-5: Free ★ 6 to 11: \$10 ★ 12 and over: \$15
Sign-up sheet in the back of the Church/Chapel

TRUST IN GOD

"If you stay united with Christ, each one of you will be able to do great things. This is why, dear friends, you must not be afraid to dream with your eyes open of important projects of good and you must not let yourselves be discouraged by difficulties.

Christ has confidence in you and wants you to be able to realize all your most noble and lofty dreams of genuine happiness. Nothing is impossible for those who trust in God and entrust themselves to Him."

— Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

CANDLES IN THE WINDOW DURING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS



The practice of placing lighted candles in the windows before Christmas was brought to America by the Irish. The historical background of this custom is quite interesting. When religion was suppressed throughout Ireland during the

English persecution, the people could not worship publicly. Priests hid in forests and caves and secretly visited the farms and homes to say Mass there during the night.

Every Irish family longed to be visited by a priest at Christmas time to celebrate the Divine Sacrifice. To prepare for Christmas, they left their doors unlocked and placed burning candles in the windows so that any priest who happened to be in the vicinity would know they were welcome. Silently the priest entered through the unlatched door and was received by the faithful who were grateful that their home was used to worship the birth of Christ Jesus.

To justify this practice in the eyes of the English soldiers, the Irish people used to explain: "We burn the candles and keep the doors unlocked, that Mary and Joseph, looking for a place to stay, will find their way to our home and be welcomed with open doors and open hearts." The English authorities, finding this Irish "superstition" harmless, did not bother to suppress it.

Prayer Over the Christmas Manger at Home

Lord, please bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to Him, Who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

THE MEANING OF THE MANGER

"Augustine drew out the meaning of the manger using an idea that at first seems almost shocking, but on closer examination contains a profound truth. The manger is the place where animals find their food. But now, lying in the manger, is he who called himself the true bread come down from heaven, the true nourishment that we need in order to be fully ourselves. This is the food that gives us true life, eternal life. Thus the manger becomes a reference to the table of God, to which we are invited so as to receive the bread of God. From the poverty of Jesus' birth emerges the miracle in which man's redemption is mysteriously accomplished."

— Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

"The soul hungers for God, and nothing but God can satiate it. Therefore He came to dwell on earth and assumed a Body in order that this Body might become the Food of our souls."

Saint John Vianney

HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFESSION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Holy Communion and Confession are always available for the homebound. Please call the parish office and leave your name, address, phone number and most convenient time to visit.

REGIONAL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2017-18

Starting December 1st, NEW students and ALL rising Kindergarteners may apply to our Regional Catholic Elementary Schools and learn about Financial Assistance in one of three ways:

1. Online, via www.ApplyCatholicSchoolsNY.org
2. Over the phone, by calling our bilingual number at 646-794-2885
3. In person, at any of these participating schools:

Holy Trinity School

20 Springside Ave • Poughkeepsie • (845) 471-0520

St. Denis–St. Columba School

849 Route 82 • Hopewell Junction • (845) 227-7777

St. Mary School

106 Jackson Street • Fishkill • (845) 896-9561

St. Mary's School

2 Convent Ave • Wappingers Falls • (845) 297-7500

St. Peter School

12 Fr Cody Plaza • Hyde Park • (845) 471-6600

St. Columbanus School

122 Oregon Rd • Cortlandt Manor • (914) 739-1200

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School

1375 East Main Street • Shrub Oak • (914) 528-3563

St. Patrick School

117 Moseman Rd • Yorktown Heights • (914) 962-2211

If you haven't had a chance to visit, we invite you to experience a Catholic school in action by attending an open house event or by scheduling a private tour.

Upcoming TOURING TUESDAY open house dates are:

January 10th, 2017, January 31st, 2017,
February 14th, 2017, March 14th, 2017 and April 4th,
2017 from 9 to 11 am or by appointment

Founded in faith and focused on the future!

POPE FRANCIS: DON'T WHITEWASH YOUR SINS – LET GOD HEAL YOU

Vatican City, December 5th, 2016 – The Catholic News Agency and EWTN News reported that as Christmas approaches, Pope Francis said don't downplay your sins. Instead, name them honestly in the Sacrament of Confession, open your heart, and ask the Lord to heal you from within. If we merely say: "yes, yes, I have some sins; I go, I confess, and then I go on as before," we don't allow ourselves to be recreated by the Lord, the Pope said. It's as if we've applied "two coats of paint" on our heart, believing that is good enough. "No!" he said. What we

should do instead is name our sins carefully, saying: "I've done this, and this, and this, and I am ashamed at heart. And I open my heart," asking the Lord to "recreate me!" Doing this is what will give us the courage to go towards Christmas with "true faith," Francis said. It often happens that we want "to hide the gravity of our sins," he said, but when we attempt to "diminish," instead of acknowledge our sins, they become "very ugly," like "the venom of a serpent" that seeks to destroy others. We must "get to the bottom of our sins and then give them to the Lord, so that He will cancel them and help us go forward with faith."

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

December 24th - January 9th

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 9, 2017). During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him... including the fact that he was born to die for us.



Advent Reconciliation Services Monday, December 19th

Our Lady of Loretto Church
8:45 to 9:30 am (following the 8:15 am Mass) • 4:00 to
5:00 pm • 7:00 to 8:00 pm



Christmas Sunday, December 25th

Our Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve – Our Lady of Loretto

4:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass with Children's Choir
8:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass

Christmas Eve – St. Joseph's Chapel

6:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass

Christmas Day – Our Lady of Loretto

10:00 am Christmas Mass