



**December 4, 2022  
Masses for the Week**

Saturday	Mary Forster	5:00pm
Sunday	People of Parish	8:00am
Sunday	Carolyn Hughes	10:00am
Monday	Mary Forster	5:30pm
Tuesday	Richard Spoth	8:00am
Wednesday	<i>Immaculate Conception Vigil</i>	5:30pm
Thursday	<i>Immaculate Conception Vigil</i>	10:00am 7:30pm
Friday	Grace DiPaola	5:30pm
Saturday	Anne Gessner	5:00pm

**Please Pray for Our Sick**

Fanny Bonventre, Fr. Burke, Carol Dennin, Tim Doushaurm, Liz Ferro, William Fitch, Diann Keyser, Fred Kimlin, Lynne Lazzaro, Gandiva Mohinani, Lucy Padilla, Jeannine Riopelle, Marie Stein, Christopher Van Aken

**Please Pray for Our Deceased**

Ethel Navarro

**Tithing \$4,435.00**



**Immaculate Conception**

This Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Mass is Wednesday at 5:30pm and Thursday at 10am and 7:30pm.

Dear Parishioners, I invite you to look at two sections from one of the great Christian poems, "The Hound of Heaven" by Francis Thompson:

*I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;  
I fled Him, down the arches of the years;  
I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways  
Of my own mind; and in the mist of tears  
I hid from Him, and under running laughter.*

[But at the end, when he has nowhere else to run to, the hound catches up to him and says]

*Rise, clasp My hand, and come!  
...Ah, fondest, blindest, weakest,*

*I am He Whom thou seekest!*

*Thou drivest love from thee, who drivest Me*

The poet, who was a slave to substance abuse, writes of having searched for joy in all the wrong places. Yet, he has a God who refuses to abandon him. We have a God who not only loves us, but also longs for us.

I have found at many times in my life, that I have just wanted to run and hide from my relationship with God: either He is too great, and I am too small, or He is too perfect, and I am too pathetic. What do we do when we have a God who seeks us out as if we were the only one in the universe, even if that means that we were also the greatest sinner in the universe as well? The answer is to allow His love to wash over us and allow ourselves to *be* loved.

We all know that we should strive to love God, but do we allow God to love us? Which is more difficult? I presume the answer is different for each of us because we all have our reasons, perhaps, for withdrawing our love from God or for keeping God's love for us at bay.

Advent should be a time for healing. No matter how far we've strayed from Him and no matter how much we keep Him at a distance for fear of being loved unconditionally, the narrative of the Incarnation and life of Christ should remind us that while we can never be exempt from suffering, neither will God exclude Himself from the trials we endure in our humanity. And if we can give Him just a little bit of wiggle room, oh the healing miracles He can work in us!

**Retirement Appeal - Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>**

✠ Next weekend's appeal benefits 30,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests. Our elderly religious offer a shining example of what it means to "serve the Lord with gladness" During their days of active ministry, they worked tirelessly to build Catholic schools and hospitals, promote social justice and embrace the neediest among us. Inspired by love, their service, past and present is marked by joy and a desire to do God's will. As you know, many religious communities find it difficult to provide for aging members. Your gift will allow for vital funding for medications, nursing care and more. We are all asked to support many worthy causes. So, I invite you to give what you can and to pray for God's continued blessing on all our women and men religious. Remember, they are praying for you.



### Christmas Gifts

We are collecting Christmas gifts for local youngsters. Gift tags for children in need are on the tag tree in the rear of the

Church. Please attach the tag to the gift you donate. We ask that you place an **unwrapped** gift in a gift bag.

Food items for our Christmas baskets are also needed. No expired food items, please. Bring the gifts and food **no later** than December 18<sup>th</sup>.



### Christmas Pageant

Our eighth grade religious education class is hosting this year's Christmas pageant. It will be held in Mulry Hall on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be pastries and beverages for all to share afterwards.

### Rosary Altar Society

*Team two is scheduled*



### Flower Memorial Fund

Envelopes for Christmas memorials are in the rear of the church. Just fill in the envelope and place it in any first collection basket. We are indebted to our parishioners who choose to remember their deceased loved ones by contributing to this fund. It is the primary means we have for funding the decoration of the sanctuary.



For whatever part you played to fill a shoebox and put a smile on the face of a child, showing them Jesus' Love, **THANK YOU!!** Through your overwhelming generosity in filling a box, donating items to fill other boxes, donating funds to purchase items and or covering shipping costs.. you put smiles on **281** children's faces. If there was a way to thank you, individually, I surely would. You know who you are and we **THANK YOU**. As you smile and open a Christmas gift, think of that child, who is opening your box, with a smile on his/her face. **THANKS** again!!

### Prepare your heart for Christmas

#### Reconciliation Monday

Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate our Advent Reconciliation Monday from 2-4pm and 6-8pm in the confessional at Church.



### Food for the Poor

Next weekend, Deacon Mitchell will be speaking on behalf of Food for the Poor which is one of the largest international relief and development organizations in the United States. "Our work is motivated by our faith in God, spreading His unconditional love, regardless of race, wealth, or creed as we minister to those in desperate need in primarily 17 countries throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. By providing lifesaving food, secure housing, clean water, healthcare, emergency relief, micro-enterprise projects and education opportunities, we are giving those in extreme poverty a chance at a better future, and showing them God's love. Help us serve those in extreme poverty. With your help, we can bring relief to the suffering. Our mission is to link the church of the First World with the church of the Third World in a manner that helps both the materially poor and the poor in spirit."

### DAY OF RECOLLECTION: ADVENT A SPIRITUAL OASIS-

Do you find the season of Advent to be too hectic? Do you need time to reflect and pray? Sr. Marita Funke will offer an Advent retreat day at St. Joseph's Church New Paltz on Saturday, December 10 from 9:45 A.M.-3:00 P.M. We will gather in the parish center and lunch will be provided. Please register for this retreat by December 5 by emailing Sr. Marita at [maritaosb@aol.com](mailto:maritaosb@aol.com)

### ST. BONAVENTURE AND THE NATIVITY-

On Thursday, December 8 at 7:00 P.M. Fr. John Koelle will offer a presentation on St. Bonaventure's work *The Tree of Life* and how it can help us to reflect on the Nativity of our Savior Jesus Christ. It will be in the church hall of St. Joseph's Church (34 South Chestnut St. in New Paltz) and all are welcome.

### Mariapolis Luminosa Nativity Display



Mariapolis Luminosa will be hosting their International Nativity Display with 200 creches from over 50 countries on Dec. 9 – Dec. 27, 1 pm – 7 pm. There will be children's

activities, weekend entertainment by local choirs and choruses and a lovely gift shop to browse for last minute shopping. Come join us and sing along to your favorite Christmas carols. For more information, go to [www.luminosa.focolare.us](http://www.luminosa.focolare.us), or call 845 229-0230, Ext 127. Suggested donation: \$5