

THE PARISH OF SAINT EUGENE

DECEMBER 6, 2020 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 Prepare the way of the Lord.
Psalm 85 "Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us Your salvation."
2 Peter 3:8-14 We await new heavens and a new earth.
Mark 1:1-8 Make straight the paths of the Lord.

Advent is a season of preparation and today's readings emphasize our need to prepare for the Lord's coming. But Isaiah also gives us words of comfort and hope. The Lord's coming is a sign of God's generosity. The Second Letter of Peter tells us to conduct ourselves in holiness and devotion, echoing John the Baptist's call for repentance. As we prepare the way of the Lord, let the Word of God inspire us.

MEMORIAL CANDLES & BREAD & WINE

Interested in memorializing the Sanctuary Candle by the Tabernacle or for the Virgin Mary, Our Blessed Lady? These candles, which burn continuously, could burn for your specific intentions. If you are interested in having a loved one remembered or a special intention placed before God, please contact the rectory. An offering of \$10.00 a week is requested.

TABERNACLE CANDLE
 SPECIAL INTENTION FOR OUR PRIESTS

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE
 SPECIAL INTENTION FOR THE CENNERAZZO FAMILY

BREAD AND WINE
 SPECIAL INTENTION FOR THE PARISHIONERS



PARISH SUPPORT

As evidence of their gratitude for God's generosity to them in their lives, our people returned to His Holy Church the following offerings:

	2020	2019
Weekly Collection.....	\$5075	\$8216
Thanksgiving.....	\$930	\$1266

"As stewards we are accountable to God for our time, talent and treasure. We return to the Lord, the giver of all our gifts, a truly grateful and meaningful first share of our time, talent and treasure."

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Tuesday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass schedule is 9AM, 12 Noon. The evening 7:30 Mass will be a recorded Mass on Facebook.

The church office will be closed in observance and will reopen on Wednesday, December 9th at 9:30am.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

5:00 PM Gloria Molina & Shirley Martinez (decd)
req. by Caliboso Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:00 AM Louis Cilento (decd)
req. by Ann Marie Savone

10:00 AM Jack Davis (decd)
req. by Clare Davis

12:00 PM Eira Fatima Maghuyop (decd)

6:00 PM Fr. Fernan (living)
req. by Catholic Daughters

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

6:45 AM Maria & Miriam (living)
 Happy Birthday
req. by Febe Carmelo

9:00 AM Joe Richter Sr. (decd)
req. by Phyllis Richter

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

6:45 AM Fr. Fernan (living)
req. by Denis & Joan Mulcahy

9:00 AM Michael Helen & Anne Noone (decd)
req. by Margaret Gill

12:00 PM Michael Farrell (decd)
req. by John McKeon

7:30 PM Joe & Phyllis Richter (living)
req. by Phyllis Richter

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

6:45 AM George Serafin (decd)
req. by Phyllis Drew

9:00 AM Michael DiBenedetto (decd)
req. by Phyllis Richter

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

6:45 AM Kaitlin Palmieri - Special Intention
req. by Gina Mastrangelo

9:00 AM Cookie Dina & Family (decd)
req. by Colleen Dina

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

6:45 AM Joseph Prestipino (decd)
req. by Maria & family

9:00 AM Fr. James Shevlin (decd)
req. by Fr. Fernan & Gina Mastrangelo

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

9:00 AM Davis Family (living)

PRIVATE MASSES

All 6:45 AM Daily and 7:30 PM Holy Day Masses are being offered privately by Pastor until further notice.

Dear Parishioners:

Second Sunday of Advent: O holy, patient, and loving God, in this season of grace-filled longing, we await the coming of Your Son and our Savior. It is difficult for us to remember that this is a holy time. There



are many distractions: commitments seem to pile up, and expectations are high. In the midst of our busy world, our busy lives, we need Your help to remind us of what is important and necessary. While many of those things that we do not need will come to us in packages gleaming and bright, the one gift that will last comes from you alone, gracious God, as we grow in our awareness of Your love. Bless us, our family and friends, and the food and the company that we share. Increase in us a growing urgency to celebrate the birth of Your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Feast of Saint Nicholas: Today, December 6th is the Feast of Saint Nicholas. God of joy and cheer, we thank You for your servant, the good bishop Nicholas. In loving the poor, he showed kindness; in caring for your children, he revealed your love. Make us thoughtful without need of reward so that we too, may be good followers of Jesus.

Immaculate Conception: The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is Tuesday, December 8th. The masses on December 8th will be 9:00 AM & 12:00 PM. Father will stream a mass at 7:30 PM. The church office will be closed on Tuesday, December 8th in observance of the Holy Day.

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, didst prepare a worthy dwelling place for thy Son, we beseech thee that, as by the foreseen death of this, thy Son, thou didst preserve her from all stain, so too thou wouldst permit us, purified through her intercession, to come unto thee. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, thy Son, who lives and reigns with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.

Saint Eugene Legion of Mary: The legion will be conducting their annual giving tree. Please take an ornament off of the wall tree and assist them as they bring joy to those in need. The gifts will be distributed to various organizations that are in need. All the gifts are to be unwrapped and must be returned back to the proper area in the baptistery by December 15th. Red tags on left, Gold Tags on the right. The gift cards are to be placed into the red mailbox.

Confessions: Confessions have resumed in the church starting On Wednesday's

and Saturdays from 1:00-2:00 PM. Please enter through the church ramp door and proceed to the Adoration Chapel/Cry Room hallway. Confessions will be conducted in the hallway of the chapel entrance. Please maintain Social Distancing while waiting on line in the Church.

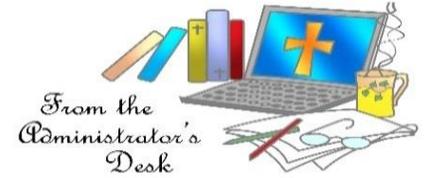
Advent Day of Reconciliation: Monday, December 21st in all the parishes in the Archdiocese of New York, it will be the annual Day of Reconciliation (Penance). The schedule in our church will be from 3:00-5:00 pm and 6:00pm -8:00pm in the church. Penance is a great way to prepare ourselves as we await the birth of our Lord.

Letters to God: If any child would like to write a letter to God for Christmas please have them write the letters and put them into an envelope marked "Letters for God" and place them in the mailbox located in the church. All the letters will be presented to *Our Lord* on Christmas Eve.



Prayers: As we enter this glorious season of Christmas, let us not forget that this is an extra difficult time for those who are sick, searching for a job, or have lost a loved one. Please let us remember all of these, our neighbors and parishioners in prayer. ***Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2***

Christmas Toy Drive: We are again this year, conducting our Christmas Toy Drive. Please remember those who are less fortunate than us. The Toy Box is on the side of the church.



Knights of Columbus: The Knights will be selling “Keep Christ In Christmas” signs as well as car magnets after all of the masses this weekend.



Our Knights of Columbus Council hosts a daily prayer service every night at 7:30 pm for 30 minutes (via audio/video conference) where they pray for an end to the pandemic to the pandemic, for all those who are sick, or for those who have passed away, and for all our healthcare workers and for those keeping us safe. For more information or to join please email jrko3995@gmail.com. In honor of the recent beatification of its founder, the now Blessed

Michael McGivney, the Knights of Columbus has extended through the end of December its offer of one year of **FREE** online membership to Catholic men. By selecting the “**Join**” menu at www.kofc.org and entering **MCGIVNEY2020** in the promo code, busy Catholic family men and professionals can instantly be part of the largest Catholic fraternal benefit society for **FREE**. No credit card will be required. Catholic men aged 18 and up are encouraged to take advantage of this no-risk opportunity. Online members also have the option of transitioning to traditional, membership with a local council. For more information contact Bob Maffucci at **917-319-5525** robert.maffucci@kofc.org

May God bless you always, Gina Mastrangelo, Administrator

Christmas Tree Blessing

Lord Jesus, Encircle this tree with Your blessing, May its twinkling lights remind us of the hope and promise of Your coming. May we find joy in the memories we share in its tinsel and trimmings. May the presents we place beneath it give rise to an appreciation for the gift of Your presence among us. We ask this in Your holy name. Amen.



Beloved of God,

**The Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Lady
within the Womb of Saint Anne**

December 8th... Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America



“Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a Son and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.” (Matthew 1:18-23)



Prepared for... pre-destined. As we have read above, Saint Joseph was prepared for the task before him as Foster-Father of Our Blessed Lord and Husband to the Mother of God. What a kindness by Almighty God... *“God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial He will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it.”* (1Corinthians 10:13) He had many difficult moments before him, not least of which was protecting the Baby Jesus and His Mother from evil wrought through King Herod... *“When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under.”* (Matthew 2:16) As Saint Joseph was prepared, so too was Our Blessed Lady prepared.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is that act of preparedness when God intervened at the moment of the conception of Mary in the womb of her mother Saint Anne (pictured above). Excuse me as I take a moment to explain the difference between *pre-destined* and *pre-determined*. As in the passage above, the words of the Angel are of great importance... *“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.”* This *“do not be afraid”* is not a demand from God ordering Joseph to take Mary into his home. It is rather a spiritual encouragement offered from above to let Joseph know that whatever he has to face in the years ahead if he decides to take Mary into his home, that *“God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength.”* The decision remained with Joseph. He was not *pre-determined* to be the foster-father and guardian of the Lord. He was, however, *pre-destined, prepared or given from God all that he needed to fulfill this role if he freely decided to follow the will of God.*

Our Blessed Lady’s *preparation* began at her conception, which was free from Original Sin. Tradition reveals that Mary’s parents, Saint Joachim and Anne, were elderly and without child (just like the parents of Saint John the Baptist and many others throughout the Old Testament). God heard their prayers and Saint Anne conceived a daughter. This precious gift was for only a short time, according to tradition. Just three years after God had removed Saint Anne’s curse and graced her with a child, Mary was dedicated to God and entered the service at the Temple... and so continued Mary’s *preparation* to eventual assent to being the Mother of God.

Have you prepared your soul for it to be a dwelling place for Christ? How do I do that? *“Jesus answered and said to him, “Whoever loves Me will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him.”* (John 14:23) Keep the word of God and God will live in you.

God love you... Father Fernan