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Pastoral Assistant: Sr. Mary Beth Read, O.S.U.

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Second Sunday of Advent December 06, 2015 Tel: (914) 963-1486 Fax: (914) 375-1115 stjohnsp@optonline.net



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5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

Monday thru Friday: 8:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon Saturday: 8:00 a.m. Sacrament of Penance Saturday: 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Sacrament of Marriage

Make arrangements six months prior to wedding
Sacrament of
Baptism

Every Sunday after the 12:30 Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 5, 2015 Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent

5:00 p.m. Giacomo and Esterina Magretti

Sunday, December 6, 2015 **Second Sunday of Advent**

8:00 a.m. Mass for the Parishioners of

St. John the Baptist

9:30 a.m. **Mary Quill**

11:00 a.m. R.A.S./H.N.S. Mass - Joan Pangia 12:30 p.m. For the Deceased Members of the **Luppinacci and Fiore Families**

Monday, December 7, 2015

Feast of St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Peter and Helen Duggan 8:00 a.m. **Anthony Quagliara** 12:00 noon

5:00 p.m. For the Deceased Members of the

Gaudio and Urrico Families

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thomas Heverin 8:00 a.m.

12:00 noon Salvatore and Josephine Miceli

7:30 p.m. Alma Layug

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Feast of St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin 8:00 a.m. **Anthony Capobianco**

12:00 noon For the Deceased Members of the

Karbowski Family

Thursday, December 10, 2015 8:00 a.m. **Frances Dippolito**

12:00 DiMarzo and Madio Families;

Vivian and Dan Siano

Friday, December 11, 2015 Feast of St. Damasus I, Pope

Anthony J. Del Giudice – 45th Anniversary 8:00 a.m.

and Anthony J. Trotter – 6th Anniversary

12:00 noon Josephine and Joseph Guido

Saturday, December 12, 2015 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe 8:00 a.m. Frasca Giorgio

Saturday, December 13, 2015 Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent 5:00 p.m. Jenny Giardina

Sunday, December 14, 2015 Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Sante Zangrilli

9:30 a.m. Mass for the Parishioners of St. John's

11:00 a.m. Kathleen, Peter, Bernadette and

Eileen Fitzsimons

12:30 p.m. Conte Family, Daniel Fama,

Edward Makowski and Robert Brescia



II. Mark Dubouzet and Megan Aniban

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 6th

R.A.S./H.N.S. Mass – 11:00 a.m. -- Church

Monday, December 7th

R.A.S. Christmas Party – 7:00 p.m. – lower Church

Wednesday, December 9th

Senior Club – following 12:00 noon Mass – lower Church R.E. Grades 1st through 5th -- 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. – School R.E. Grades 6th through 8th -- 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. – School

Sunday, December 113th

Lessons and Carols – 5:00 p.m. – Church Refreshments – following Concert – lower Church

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, December 5th

5:00 p.m. – M. Colaiacovo and D. Odume

Sunday, December 6th

8:00 a.m. – D. Hijazin and S. Farrelly 9:30 a.m. – S. Healy, N. Tierney and R. Tuffy 11:00 a.m. - D. Liberatore and S. Osso 12:30 p.m. – S. Joyce and J. Velasquez

Saturday, December 12th

5:00 p.m. – R. Duffy and C. Maher

Sunday, December 13th

8:00 a.m. – J. Postighone and D. Vanadia 9:30 a.m. – E. Higgins and E. McLaughlin 11:00 a.m. - N. Camacho and M. Luby 12:30 p.m. – M. McCarthy and L. McGarvey

Holy Day: The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation is celebrated this Tuesday, on December 8th. This is the title by which we honor Mary as Patroness of the United States. Our Masses for the Feast are as follows: Vigil Mass this Monday, December 7th, at 5:00 p.m. Masses on Tuesday, December 8th are at 8:00 a.m., 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m.



Confessions in Advent: In addition to our regular confessions on the next two Saturdays (December 12th and 19th) from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m., we are participating in an Archdiocesan Program,

"Reconciliation Monday in Advent" on Monday, December 14th. Confessions that day will be from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the afternoon and from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the evening. This special opportunity for confessions is being done in conjunction with most of the parishes in the Archdiocese.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: The second week in Advent strengthens the message of hope given to us in the first week. The imagery of the straight path made ready for the Lord stands as a sign of both hope and promise.

In today's first reading (Bar. 5:1-9) Baruch issues the invitation "Jerusalem, take off the robe of mourning and misery." How is this invitation received by those who assemble in our churches today? The prophet assures the listener that misery and mourning will be replaced by the cloak of the justice of God. The scripture calls us to the very essence and nature of the liturgy. We gather at the table of the Lord to be a people of service in the Lord. The acceptance of Christ in the life of the believer does indeed bring comfort and peace, but the overall goal is to bring that message of the peace and justice of God to the ends of the earth.

In our second reading (Phil. 1:4-11), St. Paul's encouraging words to the faithful people of Philippi sound as though that community has, indeed, believed in that promise and has been energized by it. They have taken the good news given to them and passed it on to all who would hear. The promise of justice is the reward for loving fidelity to the promise and the message of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel (Lk. 3:1-6) tells us that the word of God was spoken to John, son of Zechariah, and that he went around proclaiming that word. Let us make him our role model, receiving the word of God in our hearts, and going out into the world proclaiming it, so "all nations shall see the salvation of God."



SPECIAL SAINTS' DAYS - ADVENT WEEK TWO

 $\underline{\text{Monday, December 7}^{\text{th}} - \text{St. Ambrose}}$ This fourth century doctor of the Church is revered for his teaching and for his role in converting St. Augustine. He was an eloquent preacher and an original thinker who was able to use the ideas of the great Greek and Roman philosophers to support Christian truth. He was one of the great examples of the Catholic tradition of respecting faith and reason in the authentic search for truth.

<u>Wednesday, December 9th – St. Juan Diego</u>
Canonized by Pope John Paul II in July, 2002, this native Mexican was the humble, holy worker to whom Our Lady appeared in the 16th century. Revered throughout the Americas as Our Lady of Guadalupe, she miraculously impressed her image on Juan's cloak.

<u>Friday, December 11th – St. Damasus</u>
Born in Spain in the early 4th century, Damasus came to Rome and was eventually elected Pope at a particularly difficult time in the history of the Church. Beset by persecution from without and heresy within, Damasus sought to guide the Church with holiness and dedication.

<u>Saturday, December 12th – Our Lady of Guadalupe</u>
Today is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We remember Mary's appearance as a native Mexican expectant with child, shining like the sun and moon together. In Advent Mary teaches us how to wait. She is the wise virgin robed in midnight blue, patiently awaiting the groom; and she is the pregnant one, robed in the blood-red of the Spirit, yearning to see God cradled in her own arms.



Sunday Report: Last weekend 1,341 parishioners attended Mass; our collection totaled \$8781.00; average contribution: \$6.55. Thank you for your continued financial support of St. John's and its many needs. Your generosity is essential and greatly appreciated.

Rest in Peace: Let us pray for Thomas Philip and Illuminada Dacillo who were buried from our church this past week. Our prayers go out to their families and friends.

Latin Chant: During Advent at our sung Sunday Masses, we will use traditional Gregorian Chant whenever the Sanctus and Agnus Dei are sung. The chant melodies are very easy to sing and the words of these responses are so familiar in English that the Latin shouldn't pose a problem, even for someone who has never studied Latin. Moreover, it gives us an opportunity (however small) to recapture the long tradition of singing Gregorian Chant. The text of and music for these acclamations can be found in the Music Issue: Sanctus (#850); Agnus Dei (#854).



<u>Local "Coat Drive"</u>: The Sts. Peter and Paul – St. Ursula Men's Club is sponsoring a winter coat drive from now until to December 21st, to benefit those in need in the local community. We are in need of new

or gently used adult and children's coats. Coats can be brought to Sts. Peter and Paul – St. Ursula Rectory (129 Birch Street, Mt. Vernon) or you can call 914-668-9815 to schedule a pickup of your donation.

R.A.S.: We invite you to join us in celebration of the Eucharist at our monthly Rosarian Mass this Sunday, December 6th at 11:00 a.m. Please note: Our Christmas Party will be held on Monday, December 7th. There will not be a normally scheduled meeting held in the lower Church.



<u>Lessons</u> and <u>Carols Concert</u>: On Sunday December 13th, our talented and dedicated choirs (along with some of our eloquent lectors) will present "Lessons and Carols: An Evening of

Sacred Christmas Music" under the direction of Mr. John Stufano. The program will include both well-known classical works and traditional carols along with scripture readings in an effort to help us make a prayerful preparation for the Christmas season. Come support the Parish choir, Children's choir, and all who have worked to prepare for this event. The program begins at 5:00 p.m. and light refreshments will follow. All are welcome.

<u>Monthly Maintenance</u>: Since this Sunday is the first Sunday of the month of December, we will take up our regular "First Sunday of the Month" second collection after Communion this weekend. This collection helps with the upkeep, maintenance, and cleaning of our beautiful church. Please be generous.



Holy Name Society Christmas Party: The Holy Name Society will have their Annual Christmas Party on Friday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m. at La Grotta II Restaurant (811 McLean Avenue).

R.S.V.P. by December 7^{th} to Vinny Vanadia at 646-721-0700 or $\underline{\text{vinnyv316@aol.com}}$.



<u>Christmas Traditions</u>: *The Christmas Tree* - This Christmas tradition is usually traced to pre-Christian pagan sources. Its specifically Christian origin is unclear – although many suggest that St.

Boniface who evangelized the Germans in the 8th century may have been the first to use it. As an "evergreen" tree it was an obvious symbol of life and a connection to the Cross as the "tree of eternal life" was easy to make. The Lutheran Reformer, Martin Luther, is said to have been the first to put candles on the tree to symbolize the light of Christ. The custom of hanging figures on the tree seems traceable to a period when cookies in a variety of shapes were put on the tree – the cookies suggesting the bread of the Eucharist made life giving when it is transformed into Christ's Body and Blood in the Mass.

Retired Religious: Next Sunday (December 13th) we will take up the annual special collection to assist our Retired Religious. Over 40,000 religious men and women – many with no pension and only minimal Social Security benefits – depend on this collection to assist with their living expenses and health care costs. This is an opportunity to give back to those who have given their lives to the Church.



Special Children's Mass: In two weeks (on December 20th) at our 9:30 a.m. Mass, we once again welcome younger boys and girls to a special Mass where they will be excused after the Opening

Prayer and go to the Church Hall for a special Liturgy of the Word. After this Mass please join us for a Family Coffee and Craft Hour in the school cafeteria at which we will have refreshments and make crafts for the family. We are very grateful to the parent-leaders (as well as some older children) who are assisting with this program.

Christmas Envelopes: For anyone who did not receive a Christmas envelope in the mail, they are available at the exits of the Church and in the sacristy. Christmas is traditionally a time for giving – because we are especially aware at this holy season of everything that God has given us through His Son. Your special sacrifice at this time of year does so much to insure that St. John's will be able to meet the many needs of our people and continue to be such a special church in which to pray, to hear God's word, and to receive the sacraments. God bless you for your goodness.

Hanukkah: In the Jewish Calendar, this "Festival of Lights" usually falls early in the Advent season. This year the eight day celebration begins on December 6th. The celebration centers around the lighting of the menorah (an eight-branched candelabrum) that recalls the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem by Juddas Maccabeus in 165 B.C. (see 1 Maccabees 4) It is interesting that only Catholics include the Book of Maccabees in the Canon of Sacred Scripture. Though we do not observe the Hanukkah prayers and traditions, we respect its meaning as a moment of new insight, light and happiness for the Jewish people. The image of light brought forth with the lighting of a new candle each day makes it a time of progressive growth in love and generosity.



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