

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 7TH, 2014



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6TH:

5:00 pm Jason Ravelo

SUNDAY DECEMBER 7TH:

7:30 am Millie Annunziato

9:00 am Salvatore Traina

10:30 am John J. Beale

NOON Maria and Vincent Zanfardino

MONDAY DECEMBER 8TH:

7:15 am Vincent Grandelli

8:30 am Peter Liggio

7:30 pm Rosaria and Antonio Davi

TUESDAY DECEMBER 9TH:

7:15 am For Our Parishioners

8:30 am Madeline Inconiglios

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10TH:

7:15 am William Mills

8:30 am Lucille Gargano

THURSDAY DECEMBER 11TH:

7:15 am Jaymee Anderson

8:30 am John Gagliardi

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12TH:

7:15 am John Magrino

8:30 am Jeanette Martino

7:00 pm For Our Parishioners

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13TH:

8:00 am Gloria Stelmokas

5:00 pm Lucy Gallo

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14TH:

7:30 am Elizabeth Andruzzi

9:00 am Philip and Adelaide DiGeorge

10:30 am Luigi and Nancy Violetta

NOON Mary and Paul Cataldo

BEREAVEMENT

"Blessed are those who mourn; for they shall be comforted."
-Matthew 5:4.

Our Bereavement Minister, Deacon Michael Venditto, is available to assist anyone who has experienced a loss. Call the rectory (718-761-5421) weekdays between 9 am and 5 pm to set up an appointment with Deacon Michael.

SPONSOR CERTIFICATES

Anyone desiring a Certificate to serve as a sponsor for a Sacrament must be a Roman Catholic who has received the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. They must be registered in the parish for at least 3 months or known by one of the priests. **Certificates are distributed only after weekend Masses in the sacristy NOT IN THE RECTORY.**

RCIA PROGRAM

Are you or a friend interested in becoming Catholic? Or perhaps you need to be confirmed. The RCIA Program invites you to meet every Wed. at 7:30 pm in our Parish Center. No registration necessary.



MEMORIALS FOR WEEK OF DEC. 7TH:



The **ALTAR BREADS AND WINES** are in memory of:
SALVATORE TRAINA
requested by his loving family.

The **SANCTUARY LAMP** burns this week in memory of:
LUCILLE AND ANDREW GARGANO
requested lovingly by their sisters Josephine and Connie.



JOIN THE CHOIRS

The **Adult Choir** holds practices on Wednesday evenings at 8:00 pm in the Parish Center. **NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.**



Children's Choir: Do you like to sing? Children (from second grade or older) practice on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center. Join the Choir and make new friends.

CCD PROGRAM

CCD children will be putting on a Christmas play at the 5:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Practices will be held on Saturdays, Dec 13th and 20th at 10:30 am in church.

There will be **NO CCD** classes December 23, 24, 30 or 31. Classes resume on January 6.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Adoration will be held Mon. through Fri. from 12 to 4:30 pm in St. Christopher's Church, Midland Ave. Each Wednesday from 3 to 4 pm is dedicated to praying for vocations. For further information call 718-351-2452.

MARRIAGE BOOK FOR 2016

The Marriage Schedule Book here at our parish for the year 2016 weddings opens on Monday January 12th. Please call the rectory between 9 am and 4:30 pm on that day to set up an appointment to meet with a priest to set your marriage date. In order to be married at our Church your family must be registered here at the parish.

RICHMOND DIVISION

The annual retreat for the Holy Name Societies on Staten Island will be held this year on Jan. 17, 2015 (snow date January 31) at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church. Rev. Thomas Devery will be the spiritual leader. Day starts with Mass at 9 am, continental breakfast at 10:15 am, discussion at 11 am, lunch at 12:30 pm, final discussion at 1:30 pm. Cost: \$25 per person. For reservations call Steve at 347-861-0316.

VOYCES CLASSICAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT "A CAPPELLA"

The concert will be held on Sunday Dec. 14th at 3 pm in our Church. All are welcome to attend



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT.....

“Thus it is that John the Baptizer appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance which led to the forgiveness of sins... The theme of his preaching was:

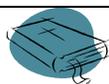
‘One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie His sandal straps. I have baptized you in water; He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.’... So, beloved, while waiting for this, make every effort to be found without stain or defilement, and at peace in His sight.”

We hear the message of John the Baptist so frequently that it might fall on deaf ears. He called, yes, challenged his listeners to examine their lives, change their way of living and in the words of Peter to be without stain or defilement.

In the past there were few detergents. One brand or another was used for all laundry needs. We then became sensitive to retaining colors and not too harsh on fabrics. Special products were developed to remove stains and those tricky spots. They speak of the power found in products to achieve a perfect wash.

Although advent is a time of anticipation and waiting, our preparedness is of great importance. Four short weeks allow us to focus on the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the power the Spirit pours into our lives. Are we serious about advent? Do we need that power today? Are you committed to preparing the way of the Lord in our own lives, at home, with those who enter the circle of our friends? Do we speak of our spiritual preparation and not just shopping for gifts? The gift of the Spirit of Jesus is the reason for our advent.

Together let us prepare the way of the Lord!



GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

In this passage, John the Baptist stressed the importance of the coming of the Messiah. He acknowledged that he was only the messenger, and unfit to “stoop and untie His sandal straps.” John urged them to prepare for one far holier than he, Who would walk among them.



MORNING DEVOTIONS

Following the 8:30 am weekday Mass is the Recitation of the Rosary and spiritual devotions. On Fridays there is the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hour. On First Fridays there is Benediction. On Sat. following the 8 am Mass, novena prayers are said.

CHRISTMAS TREE PROGRAM

Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, will be celebrating the 5 pm Mass on Dec. 13th and will be lighting our Christmas Trees after that Mass. What an honor once again for our parish. Let’s be sure to be present at this very important occasion of our parish and to be honored by the Cardinal’s presence. After the lighting of the trees we invite all to the Parish Center for refreshments.

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

Confessions will be heard from 4 pm to 8 pm at our parish on Reconciliation Monday December 15th. Advent gives us a wonderful opportunity to preach on the importance of the Sacrament of Penance and to remind our parishioners that this Sacrament is the best way to prepare for the joy of Christmas and celebrating the birth of our Savior.

BIBLE STUDY

Sister Marcia will be running the Bible Study beginning on Mon. Jan. 12th and Wed. Jan. 14th for eight (8) weeks. The theme will be ***“Mary in the Bible”***, a Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother which is a Catholic Bible Study that reveals Mary’s unique role in God’s Kingdom and in our lives. Sessions will be held on Mon. evenings at 7:30 pm and Wed. mornings at 9:30 am Cost is \$30. You may register at the rectory.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13TH:

5:00 pm -----

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14TH:

7:30 am M/M Madaio

9:00 am M. Mendez - T. Hanley

10:30 am M/M V. Violetta

NOON M. Bonamo - M. Martino

LECTORS MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13TH:

5:00 pm I. Bialza

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14TH:

7:30 am N. Tricorico

9:00 am C. Daniels

10:30 am P. Magliocco

NOON S. Bilardi

ALTAR BOY MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13TH:

5:00 pm R. Whalen – N. Lopez – J. Venditto

R. Eckman – D. Pangilinan – J. Inigo

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14TH:

7:30 am M. Tubay – J. Tangco

9:00 am J. Bosco – J. Carristo

10:30 am R. Whalen – J. Venditto – L. DeMartino

S. DeMartino

NOON C. Rodriguez – A. Boniface – D. Boniface

C. Baria

PARISH GIVING TREE

Our Christmas Giving Tree that stands in the vestibule of our Church, is a reminder to us all that many families are in need this year. Our volunteers spend numerous hours writing tags with “Wish-lists” from many organizations on Staten Island and for our own parishioners who we know are in need. You are invited to remove a tag, purchase the gift item written on the tag, wrap the gift and place the original tag on the package. Return it to the Giving Tree on the date listed on tag. **Gifts are to be returned no later than next weekend - Dec. 14-15th. Thank you for your generosity.**

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

On Monday Dec. 8th we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. It is a holy day of obligation. The **Masses on Dec. 8th are at: 7:15 am, 8:30 am and 7:30 pm (there is NO Vigil Mass on Sunday Dec. 7th).** This doctrine was revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful that “the Blessed Virgin Mary in the first instant of her conception in her mother’s womb was, by a unique grace and privilege of Almighty God in view of the merits of Jesus Christ the Savior of the human race, preserved exempt from all stain of original sin.” In other words, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception is in actuality the Conception of the Blessed Virgin by St. Anne. **For many Catholics the expression Conception of Mary was taken to mean the conception of our incarnate Lord within Mary’s womb by the power of the Holy Spirit; this feast we celebrate on the Feast of the Annunciation.**

“MISA DE GALLO”

Our parish, along with the Filipino community, cordially invites you to celebrate the Misa de Gallo - Christmas Novena Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary (a Filipino tradition of preparing for Christmas) at 8 pm on December 18th at our Church. The schedule for Novena Masses at other parishes are:

Mon. Dec. 15 th	St. Joseph’s Rosebank
Tues. Dec. 16 th	St. Joseph/St. Thomas
Wed. Dec. 17 th	Blessed Sacrament
Thurs. Dec. 18th	Here at our parish
Fri. Dec. 19 th	St. Sylvester’s
Sat. Dec. 20 th	Sacred Heart
Sun. Dec. 21 st	Holy Rosary
Mon. Dec. 22 nd	St. Charles
Tues. Dec. 23 rd	St. Peter’s

December 24th Midnight Mass at St. Paul’s Church

Light refreshments will be served following each Mass.

Electronic Giving (Parish Pay Program) is an alternate means of supporting your parish instead of using the envelope system. This program will collect monthly contributions from your checking, savings or credit card accounts. There is **NO COST** to you, the parishioner, to participate in this program. Log onto www.paritypay.com or call 1-866-727-4741 Ext. 1.

THE GORETTI GROUP YOUTH EVENT

Community service hours available to all teens who can attend the next Goretti Group event on Friday Dec. 12th at Holy Family Church, Watchogue Rd. Rock out with Fr. Joe Espillat, the Youth Director for the NY Archdiocese, and his band the MOC’S. Great music, talks and free pizza and snacks from 7 pm to 9:45 pm. All are welcome.

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE FOR HOLY CHILD CCD

Holy Child’s School of Religion will be sponsoring their annual Dinner and Show at the Old Bermuda Inn on Sat. March 14th from 7 pm to 11 pm. Enjoy the sounds of the all star band “Rhythm Rascals”, music of the 60’s, 70’s & 80’s. Price \$65.00 per person. There will be a 50/50 and raffles. All tickets must be purchased by Feb. 25th. For further information and/or reservations call Marie at 718-356-5277.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE FEASTDAY DEC. 12

Father John will celebrate Mass here at our Church at 7:00 pm on Friday in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The New York Archdiocese will expose the Image of Our Lady at the Immaculate Conception Church on Targee St. All Churches on Staten Island are cordially invited to celebrate the holy Eucharist with the image on Wed. Dec. 10th at 7 pm. The image will be exposed for veneration until midnight.

MARRIAGE

Congratulations to the newly married couple in our parish during the month of November:

Mr. & Mrs. Michael A. Bujka (Marissa Marchese)

BAPTISM

Through the sacrament of Baptism we welcome into the Church and our parish family the following children who were baptized during the month of November:

Nicolette Marie Crivera, Jonathan Joseph Kolbaska, Alina Jenna Maiorana, Neal Anthony Marasciullo and Michael Gregory Sellitti. Congratulations to the happy parents! Let us all pray and be mindful of our serious obligation to bring up these children in the practice of the faith.

THE SICK

Prayer Request for Sick Parishioners

Every worshipping community is called to pray for the sick or elderly in their parish. It is a privilege to ask Our Lord to heal and strengthen the sick. **The Prayer List for the Sick** is our way of reaching out to our parishioners, young and elderly, who have received a critical diagnosis and are unable to go about the routines of life:

Maryann Azzarello, Brook Balacco, Nora Bonilla, Sally Caputo, Rosalie Carroll, Vera Cerullo, Jared Choset, Josephine Cordaro, Michael Delfino, Carol Devine, Nicole Giambrone, Donna Hazen, John Hudson, Vanessa McIntosh, Ralph Moceo, Maria Scaglione and Ann Volpe. The listed names above for those asking for prayers has been updated according to months on the list. Those remaining have been reinstated by parishioners calling after the six month period. If anyone wishes to put a name back or to add a new name of a parishioner who is sick please contact the rectory Mon.-Fri. from 9 am to 5 pm.

SHUT-INS

If any member of your family is homebound and unable to attend Mass, notify the girls at the rectory and if you wish, a priest or an extraordinary minister will bring you the Eucharist on the first Friday of the month.

REST IN PEACE

Let us pray for our deceased relatives, friends, parishioners and benefactors and for those who are most forgotten. Sympathies of our parish are extended to the families of those whose loved ones were buried from our Church in Nov.: **Sylvia Amarino, Jaymee Anderson, Dominick D’Alessandro, Lucy DeBartoli, Rose M. DeLucia, and Justo R. Villaverde.**

BLESSED ARE WE WHO CAN LAUGH AT OURSELVES.....FOR WE SHALL NEVER CEASE TO BE AMUSED!