

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 14TH, 2014



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13TH:

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

MONDAY DECEMBER 15TH:

7:15 am For Our Parishioners
8:30 am Olga D'Elia and Family

TUESDAY DECEMBER 16TH:

7:15 am Nilo Dumadag
8:30 am Oona Amaral

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17TH:

7:15 am Anna Pagano
8:30 am Teresa Franceschini

THURSDAY DECEMBER 18TH:

7:15 am Carmela and Vincent Nuccio
8:30 am Rev. John E. Mercer on the Anniversary
of his Ordination

FRIDAY DECEMBER 19TH:

7:15 am Jaymee Anderson
8:30 am Francesco Baldassarre

SATURDAY DECEMBER 20TH:

8:00 am Richards and Amerosa Families
5:00 pm Henry J. Scroope III

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21ST:

7:30 am Richard Verito
9:00 am Nicholas Zappetti
10:30 am Salvatore Traina
NOON Arnold J. Criscuolo

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. 14TH:



The **ALTAR BREADS AND WINES** this week are in memory of:

HENRY J. SCROOPE III

requested by his loving wife Catherine A. Scroope.

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

The students in our CCD Program will be putting on a Christmas play in our Church on Sunday Dec. 21st at Noon.

There will be **NO** CCD Classes on December 23rd, 24th, 30th and 31st. Classes resume on January 6th.

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. This retreat is open to both men and women. For reservations call Steve at 347-861-0316.

MISA DE GALLO

The Misa de Gallo is a Filipino tradition of preparing for Christmas by a Novena of Masses honoring Our Lady. It has been decided by the Filipino community that they would split the Masses up at various parishes. Our Special

Novena Mass will be held on Thurs. Dec. 18th at 8:00 pm. here at our Church. All are welcome.

held on Mon. evenings at 7:30 pm and Wed. mornings at 9:30 am. Cost is \$30. Register at the rectory.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and release to prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord and a day of vindication by our God... Do not stifle the spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test everything, retain what is good. Avoid any semblance of evil.”

Isaiah’s statement written six centuries before the time of Christ, is the statement Jesus used as He revealed His mission in His hometown of Nazareth. Today, the mission of Christ the Redeemer is no different, and in the words of St. John Paul II, has been entrusted to the church. May we make it real and relevant.

By baptism we have been anointed, Christened. The name Christ means the Anointed One. I have a mission, I have been sent, to bring glad tidings to others. I can and will ease the suffering of someone else, a sick friend, a lonely neighbor, through a card this year, or better a telephone call or visit. I can assist freeing someone from an addiction or habit that weighs them down, as we find in A. A. sponsors. Prisoners, are not only the incarcerated, but refugees from war torn countries living in camps, separated from families cared for by Catholic Relief Services, Doctors without Borders, or Lamp for Haiti. In this way we announce a year of favor, we say ***“A Blessed Christmas.”***

Decide today how the Spirit will speak through you. Let the prophet Isaiah speak again through your actions. Test everything, but above all do something!



GOSPEL: JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

John explains that he is only a messenger to the people for One more powerful than himself. John stresses to them that they must make a path for the One so powerful that he is not fit to unfasten the strap of His sandal.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT “A CAPPELLA”

Voyces will be performing in our Church this Sunday Dec. 14th at 3 pm. All are welcome to attend.



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.

BIBLE STUDY

The next Bible Study, led by Sister Marcia, will be on ***“Mary in the Bible”*** beginning on Jan. 12th and running for eight (8) weeks. ***Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother*** is a Catholic Bible study that reveals Mary’s unique role in God’s Kingdom and in our lives. Sessions will be

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

We were honored to have Cardinal Dolan celebrate the 5 pm Mass this Sat. and for the blessing of our traditional Christmas Trees. Many blessings have been bestowed on our parish during this time.

Confessions will be heard from 4 pm to 8 pm at our Church on Reconciliation Monday Dec. 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.

May God Bless you all this Christmas Season.

ELECTRONIC GIVING (Parish Pay Program)

This 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.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY DECEMBER 20TH:

5:00 pm M. Salcedo – I. Pastena

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21ST:

7:30 am M/M B. Madaio

9:00 am R. Skelton – R. Colella

10:30 am M/M S. LaRosa

NOON M/M E. Boccieri

LECTORS MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY DECEMBER 20TH:

5:00 pm M. Salcedo

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21ST:

7:30 am I. Bialza

9:00 am J. Magliocco

10:30 am C. Daniels

NOON N. Tricorico

ALTAR BOY MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY DECEMBER 20TH:

5:00 pm M. Tubay – J. Tangco – M. Santa - J. Bosco

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21ST:

7:30 am C. Baria – J. Clyne – C. Rodriguez

9:00 am N. Lopez – J. Foresta – R. Whalen

10:30 am R. Eckman – J. Flood – D. Pangilinan

J. Inigo

NOON J.Venditto – J.Gonzalez – L. & S.

ST. PAULS PUBLISHING

The Society of St. Paul at the Alba House on Victory Blvd. has a vacancy for a part-time sales assistant in its marketing department. Fluency in both English and Spanish, good

computing skills and a pleasant phone manner are required. For a job application form, call Dora at 800-343-2522 from 1 pm to 5 pm, weekdays or email dora@stpauls.US.

All tickets to be purchased by Feb. 25th. For further information and/or reservations call Marie at 718-356-5277.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS



CONFESSIONS:

Monday December 15th from 4 pm to 8 pm

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

Vigil, Wednesday, December 24th:

5:00 pm and Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY:

Thursday December 25th:

**7:30 am - 9:00 am - 10:30 am
and 12 Noon**

ST. MARY'S CHOIR

On Sunday December 21st at 1:30 pm (one hour performance) the Choir of St. Mary's Church will perform its 31st Annual Christmas Concert. The program will feature traditional, as well as contemporary music commemorating the holiness of the season. St. Mary's Church is located on Bay Street. There is **NO ADMISSION FEE**.

PARISH GIVING TREE

This week we will be distributing all the gifts donated by you, our parishioners, who were so good in taking all the tags off the giving tree. Many children from our own parish will be happy this year because of your generosity. We will also be giving your donations to the organizations requesting the merchandise for the needy.

Last week we received two beautiful **Thank You** notes from the social director of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church and from the food pantry organizer of St. Mary the Assumption Church. Both letters expressed their happiness over the amount of food we collected for their pantries. It means so much to so many to know that we care for those less fortunate that ourselves on Staten Island. Thank you all again and may God bless you all.

BUS TRIP TO ATLANTIC CITY

Tropicana Casino Tues. Dec. 30th. Bus departs 9 am from the front of our Church. Cost: \$38.00, back 25. If interested call Agnes at 718-494- 5475.

2015 CHURCH CALENDARS

Next weekend Dec. 20-21st, the 2015 Church Calendars will be distributed after all Masses. A word of thanks to Matthew Funeral Home for their generosity once again this year in contributing the calendars for our parish.

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE FOR HOLY CHILD

The CCD Program from Holy Child Parish on Staten Island sponsors an Annual Dinner and Show at the Old Bermuda Inn. This year it will be held 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 and 80's. Price: \$65.00

ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS

"It's a Holy and Wholesome Thing to Pray for the Dead"

During the year 66 families in our parish experienced the death of a loved one. As is our custom, there will be a Memorial Mass for our beloved deceased who were buried from our parish this year. All family members, friends and parishioners are invited to this Memorial Mass which will be held on Sat. morning January 10th at 9:00 am. Our prayer is that God will give your loved ones eternal life and those who remain behind the strength and courage to carry on.

"We give back to You, O God, those whom You gave us. You did not lose them when You gave them to us, and we did not lose them by their return to You. Your dear Son has taught us that life is eternal and love cannot die."

NEW AT ST. PETER'S CEMETERY

St. Peter's cemetery has served the Catholic faith community for well over a century. As a response to the desire to pre-plan one's final arrangements, St. Peter's Cemetery will now offer families the opportunity to purchase graves for future use. These future use graves will be limited to the graves available in Section R only (at the intersection of Tyler Ave. & Clove Rd.). Other sections of the cemetery will still be available for the purchase of immediate need of burial space. For individuals who prefer cremation, St. Peter's Cemetery also offers cremation niches that can hold 2 standard sized urns. The niches are available in St. Peter's Columbaria Garden for pre-need or immediate need. For information call the cemetery office at 718-442-2363, Mon.-Fri., 8 am to Noon and 1-3 pm.

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, Josephine Cordaro, Michael Delfino, Carol Devine, Margaret Ryan Galeoto, Nicole Giambone, 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.

*THE HEIGHT OF YOUR
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
WILL EQUAL THE DEPTH OF YOUR
CONVICTIONS!*