

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 21ST, 2014



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY DECEMBER 20TH:

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

MONDAY DECEMBER 22ND:

7:15 am For Our Parishioners

8:30 am Joseph Foresta and John Peres

TUESDAY DECEMBER 23RD:

7:15 am Lucia Mangieri

8:30 am Luigi DeBenedictis

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24TH:

7:15 am Anthony Semo

8:30 am Joseph Glen Cesaro

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE:

5:00 pm Catherine and Joseph O'Brien, Henry J. Scroope III and the V

MIDNIGHT Joseph Foresta and John Peres

CHRISTMAS DAY THURSDAY DECEMBER 25TH:

7:30 am Deceased and Living of the Langone, Bonaguro, Emerling and Spivey Families

9:00 am Vincent Grandelli

10:30 am Gloria Creazzo

NOON Angelina Stucchio

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26TH:

7:15 am Matteo Partenope

8:30 am Michael Mazziotta and Carmela Rubino

SATURDAY DECEMBER 27TH:

8:00 am Teresa and Giulio Franceschini

5:00 pm Stefano Fazio

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28TH:

7:30 am Margaret and Angelo Falzarno

9:00 am Connie Guido

10:30 am Peter and Frances Messina

NOON Reggie Rosado

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. 21ST:



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

GLORIA CREAZZO

requested lovingly by her daughters.

The **SANCTUARY LAMP** burns this week in memory of:

GLORIA CREAZZO

requested lovingly by her daughters.

The **MAIN ALTAR CANDLES** burn this week in memory of:

ANTHONY SEMO

requested by Doreen and Stephen Volpe.

The **BLESSED SACRAMENT ALTAR CANDLES** burn this week in memory of:

DANIELLE NGAI

requested lovingly by her grandmother Julie Bartolomeo.



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

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 adoration 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.

MSGR. FARRELL HS "A CHRISTMAS CONCERT"

This Sat. Dec. 20 at 7:30 pm, in their gym, Msgr. Farrell invites all to an evening of Christmas with their marching band. Refreshments will be served. Boys and girls from

grade 7 through 11 can join the band or colorguard that evening.

Cost; \$25 per person. This retreat is open to both men and women. For reservations call Steve at 347-861-0316.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you and power of the Most High will overshadow you; hence, the holy offspring to be born will be called Son of God... to Him who is able to strengthen you in the Gospel which I proclaim when I preach Jesus Christ, the Gospel which reveals the mystery hidden for many ages.. to Him, the God who alone is wise, may glory be given through Jesus Christ unto endless ages. Amen."

Gabriel's response to Mary's question of how this can happen, reveals the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in her life and in the lives of believers. We sometimes forget the existence of this gift and power in our lives. As we bring the season of advent to its climax with the birth of Christ, we ask that He be born anew, with new power in our lives. We not only recall the Bethlehem event, but live the Bethlehem experience today.

The concluding words of praise, the doxology or hymn of glory taken from the letter to the Romans, becomes a Christmas gift and greeting for all of us, as we are called to preach the Good News, glad tidings, the Gospel, no longer hidden but made manifest in the Child of Bethlehem and in enthusiastic believers today. May the Word of God, and the Word which became flesh, take root in our lives.



GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

The Virgin Mary is approached by the Angel Gabriel, who tells her that she has been chosen to bear the Son of God. Mary is first afraid, yet shows her unquestioning faith when she simply says, **"Let it be done to Me as You say."**



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

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.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

May the Peace and Joy of Christ be yours this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year.

We are delighted to welcome each and every one who will come worship with us on Christmas day. Whether you are a family member, friend, familiar face, or visitor, know that your presence enlivens our celebration and our parish. Join us as we gather to praise and thank our generous God on this blessed day.

If you are not already an active member of this parish, consider sharing in what we have to offer. Our parish is here to assist all who wish to know God more deeply. We serve our parishioners through social activities, sacramental preparation and comfort to the sick and those who mourn. Feel free to call on us if we may be of service to you in any way.

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.parishpay.com or call 1-866-727-4741 Ext. 1.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY DECEMBER 27TH:

5:00 pm M/M M. Pastena

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28TH:

7:30 am M/M V. Violetta

9:00 am K. Carpenito – J. Porto

10:30 am M/M D. Marro

NOON M/M G. Mannino

LECTORS MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY DECEMBER 27TH:

5:00 pm S. Kelly

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28TH:

7:30 am R. Rose

9:00 am L. Buttacavoli

10:30 am M. Donadic

NOON S. Bilardi

ALTAR BOY MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY DECEMBER 27TH:

5:00 pm C. Baria – J. Foresta – A. Rivas

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28TH:

7:30 am J. Flood J. Tangco

9:00 am A. & D. Boniface – J. Bosco

10:30 am J. Venditto – R. Eckman – J. Carristo
M. Tubay

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking cookies, preparing meals and arranging a beautiful table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook...

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't....

LOVE NEVER FAILS

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS



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

Our warm personal greetings to you and your family as we share the blessings of another celebration of the Birth of Christ.

We are most grateful for all the support and encouragement you have given us during the year.

Peace and Joy of the Christ Child be with you.

Rev. John J. Wroblewski, Rev. Mendis and the Staff of the Parish...

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.

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."

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 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.

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.

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.

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

A CHRISTMAS VERSION (Part 1)

If I decorate the house perfectly with plaid bows, twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator...

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend many holiday parties; and sing in the choir, but do not show love to my neighbor, I have missed the point...

GOD GRANT YOU THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS... WHICH IS FAITH;

*THE WARMTH OF CHRISTMAS...
WHICH IS LOVE;
THE ALL OF CHRISTMAS...WHICH IS
CHRIST!*