

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2008



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY December 20

5:00 PM ANTHONY S. SIRIANNI
r/o Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Flaherty

SUNDAY, December 21

8:00 AM CAROL ALEXANDER
r/o Rick & Elaine Hardy

10:30 AM ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY

MONDAY, December 22

8:30 AM ELIZABETH, THOMAS & LOUIS DEBARI
r/o Sam & Maria Tridente

TUESDAY, December 24

8:30 AM Peter & Teresa Lussani
r/o Rick & Elaine Hardy

WEDNESDAY, December 24

****There will be no Mass at 8:30 a.m.**

4:00 PM PARISHIONERS OF ST. THEODORE

7:00 PM PARISHIONERS OF ST. THEODORE

12:00 PM PARISHIONERS OF ST. THEODORE

THURSDAY, December 25

9:00 AM PARISHIONERS OF ST. THEODORE

11:00 AM PARISHIONERS OF ST. THEODORE

FRIDAY, December 26

No Mass

SATURDAY December 27

5:00 PM SALLY R. GIORLANDO
r/o John & Marion Lynch

SUNDAY, December 28

8:00 AM GENEVIEVE KENSICKI
r/o Paul & Nadie Hill

10:30 AM PETER ALBANO JR.

r/o Family

Dear Parishioners,

The world has always been waiting. Mankind has always felt the need for salvation; we have always known that things are 'just not right' and have called out to God asking Him to intervene and straighten things out.

I'd like to say a word to the children now. I'm sure you're all very excited about Christmas, about Christmas dinner and sweets and presents and so on. I hope you all have a fun Christmas. But don't forget what the fuss is really about – take a little time to look at the baby Jesus in the crib – at home or here in the Church. We are celebrating His birthday at Christmas; so take some time to thank Him for coming into the world to be our best friend who helps us to live good and holy lives. Adults, we could do worse than to do the same. Christmas is an invitation. God loves us and sends His Son to become one of us. God becomes truly human, a true man, and we are invited to live a divine life. Christmas is wonderful because we are given this invitation over and over and over. God never gives up on us. We can give up on God but God never gives up on us.

Because we have this invitation, we can believe that there is light in our world. All of our work against poverty or against war or against injustice of any type is a reflection of God's love for us. Even those who do not acknowledge God and who truly try to love their fellow human beings participate in God's love. What a difference it makes, however, when we know that God loves us and invites us to share divine life. What joy it brings to us. The best image for this is always Mary, the Mother of God, who accepted God's plan and changed everything about our human history completely.

“And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone”.

May Christ bring us all through our faith, lived in fidelity to the Gospel and to the Church, to the glory of that heaven from which He came as the Truth to save us and to share with us the love of God. May the same Lord Jesus grant you all a really happy and a very holy Christmas.

In Christ

Fr Zenek, SDS

Parish Announcements

Parish Office will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 & Jan. 1
No CCD Dec. 22 & Dec. 29 or R.C.I.A. classes Dec 23 & Dec. 30



Tabernacle Candle

In Memory of Joan and Michael Hayde
and Carol Rose Dausch
by Hayde-Dausch Family

Altar Candles

In Thanksgiving for George and Yolanda Cote
by Charlene Cote.

Bread & Wine

In Memory of Elizabeth, Thomas & Louis Debari
by Sam and Marietta Tridente



Oplatek Christmas Wafers Available

Christmas wafers are available for you in the vestibule.
Any donation is appreciated.

Anyone in Need of a Walker?

A parishioner has a walker to donate that was purchased new and used only a few times. If you know of anyone in need, please call the Parish Office Mon-Thur. 9a-2p. 908-689-8318

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Confession every Saturday 4:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Masses:

Wednesday, December 24th

****No Mass at 8:30 a.m.****

4 p.m., 7 p.m. and 12 Midnight

Christmas Day Masses:

Thursday, December 25th

9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

New Year' Eve

7 p.m.

New Year's Day

9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Senior Choir: Sunday 9 a.m. Dec. 21

Tuesday 7 p.m. Dec. 23



Message to the Decorating Committee

Please join Fr. Zenek on Monday, Dec. 22 to help prepare the church for Christmas. Outside preparations will start at 4:00 pm, but please stop by after work if you aren't able to make it at 4:00 to help with the inside.

And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, for there was no room for them in the in.

Whatever happened to the manger? If you visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, you'll see a grotto with a marble floor and a silver star to mark the spot of the birth of Jesus. There's no manger in sight.

But in the Church of St. Mary Major in Rome, there are five small boards of sycamore wood from the Middle East that have been traditionally referred to as the crib of Bethlehem. Since at least the fifth century, there's been a chapel at St. Mary Major fitted up to represent the cave at Bethlehem, and the evidence is that the chapel was built specifically to house those boards.

Since the sixth century, St. Mary Major has had the secondary title of St. Mary of the Manger. Today, in the Nativity Chapel there is the oldest existing devotional reconstruction of the stable of Bethlehem. It's been the site of the first papal Mass at Christmas since the seventh century.

But it took 600 years for anyone to think of setting up a manger scene in any other church at Christmas. It was St. Francis of Assisi—most imaginative of saints—who set up the first one outside of Rome, in the church of Greccio in Italy in 1223. The Franciscans popularized such scenes in churches, and after about 100 years everybody expected a church to have a Nativity scene at Christmastime.

Our Weekly Offering

December 13 & 14, 2008 \$ 3,901.70

Last Year \$ 2,872.38

Above the operating cost of the church, we owe the Diocese over \$4,000 monthly for: Assessment--\$33,000, Property Liability Insurance--\$15,000, and Diocese High Schools Subsidy--\$3,000. Consequently, we are unable to meet these obligations with collections averaging \$3,200 weekly. As a result, I need to ask that you please be as generous as possible this Christmas season and throughout the year.

**Thank you,
Fr. Zenek**



**Religious Education Students: Print Name(s) on the line
December 20 & 21 , 2008**

CCD and R.C.I.A. REMINDERS

There will be **no Religious Education Classes on Monday, December 22nd and Monday, December 29th**. Classes resume on January 5th. No R.C.I.A. on Tuesday, December 23rd.

Please Note: The CCD phone # is 699-8393—**DO NOT** call the Parish Office for matters concerning CCD. CCD office hours: Monday –Wednesday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MINISTERS

Altar Servers

Dec 24 Robert & Juliette Capaldo, Justin Watt, Sean Flaherty- 4 pm
Dec. 24 Robert & Mackenzie Mason- 7 pm
Dec. 24 Philip Koskoff, Melody Haag- Midnight
Dec. 27 Sean Flaherty & Carlee Moran
Dec. 28 Mackenzie & Robert Mason (8 am)
Sarah Kochan, Justin Watt, Walter & William
Gonsiewski (10:30 am)

Lectors

Dec 24 Fran Licciardiello- 4 pm
Dec. 24 Nancy Guerriere 7 pm
Dec. 24 Mary Rupell- Midnight
Dec. 27 Christine DeLellis
Dec. 28 Theresa Lucas- 8 am; Phil Koskoff- 10:30 am
Dec. 31 Nancy Guerriere- 7 pm
Jan 1 Mary Rupell- 9 am

Eucharist Ministers

Dec. 25 James Mattison-C-; Eileen Mattison-C; Rose Strohmaier-E
Dec. 27 Tim Flaherty (C), Denise Flaherty (E) Tim Moran (C)
Dec. 28 Emily Cirone (E) Monica Merkel (C)
Diane Keggan(C) (8 am)
Patricka Kollar (C) Mary Koskoff(C) Tina Jackson- 10:30
Jan 1 James Mattison-E-; Eileen Mattison-C; Rose Strohmaier-C-9a