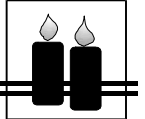


# Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2008

Prepare the way  
of the Lord



## MASS INTENTIONS

Dear Parishioners,

### Christmas Traditions: The Oplatkj Wafer

*This beautiful Christmas tradition will give a new warmth to your family holiday. It can be a lot of fun to introduce your family to new Christmas traditions from around the world, and the Polish tradition of the Oplatkj wafer is a great place to start. Once started it is impossible to stop this heartwarming tradition.*

*What Is It?*

*The Christmas traditions surrounding Oplatkj begin with a simple white wafer baked from flour and water (similar to the wafers used during a Catholic mass, Catholicism is the primary religion in Poland). The wafers are beautifully designed and etched with Christmas images: The Nativity, Christmas Star, and other things that make them almost too beautiful to eat.*

*Each family member takes a turn to break off a piece of the wafer and pass it to someone else with a blessing, a simple expression of what you desire for this person in the coming year -- from all the blessings of health, good fortune, love, and happiness to a simple wish for good grades or a successful marriage.*

*Even the family pet can get in on the act with Polish Christmas traditions. Usually, the pure white wafers are passed between family members, but special colored wafers are set aside for the animals. Traditionally this symbolizes the presence of the animals at Christ's birth in Bethlehem, but in our modern times when pets are such an important part of our families, it can also be a way of bonding with your precious animal.*

*Where Does It Come From?*

*Like many Christmas traditions, this one is of uncertain origin, but we do know that it was widely celebrated by Polish nobility in the 17th century. Since then, oplatkj has acquired a more nationalistic meaning: in the years following Poland's division, it became common to wish for Poland's freedom when sharing oplatkj.*

*Adding Love and Meaning to Your Holiday Celebration*

*Oplatkj wafers are usually shared right before the Christmas Eve meal. The entire family gathers around the table, and the eldest family member begins the ritual. It's amazing the stories that have come from this simple activity: tales of long grudges released, ancient wrongs forgiven, and family members drawn together in love again.*

*Like so many Christmas traditions, this one makes a beautiful addition to any family's Christmas Eve.*

*In Christ*

*Fr Zenek, SDS*

#### SATURDAY December 6--\*\*Note Morning Mass

9:00 AM FIRST SATURDAY MASS

5:00 PM PIEDA CASTRO, DORA DELGADO &  
CATHY MORERA  
r/o Sanchez Family

#### SUNDAY, December 7

8:00 AM MARIETTA & VITO MASELLIS  
r/o Angela Gross

10:30 AM ANTHONY S. SIRIANNI  
r/o Scot & Heidi Romano

#### MONDAY, December 8

8:30 AM SPECIAL INTENTION  
r/o Charlene Cote

7:00 PM PIEDA CASTRO  
r/o Sanchez Family

#### TUESDAY, December 9

8:30 AM ANTHONY FALVO  
r/o Daughters, Barbara & Maria

#### WEDNESDAY, December 10

8:30 AM ANTHONY G. DONATONE  
r/o Jim & Eileen Mattison

#### THURSDAY, December 11

8:30 AM IN THANKSGIVING FOR CARMELITE  
SISTERS  
r/o Fr. Anthony

#### FRIDAY, December 12

No Mass

#### SATURDAY December 13

5:00 PM SUSAN YONAITIS KASTNER  
r/o Mom & Dad

#### SUNDAY, December 14

8:00 AM GRAZIA TIRINO  
r/o Castagna Family

10:30 AM WILLIAM & MICHALINA JULIANO  
r/o Family



### Tabernacle Candle

In Memory of Paul J. Boccolini III  
By Mom, Dad and Ejvind

**Flower Offering**  
Please remember to bring your Flower offering envelopes in as soon as possible so an order can be placed for Christmas.



### Start Your Tradition of the Christmas Wafer

If you want to start (or continue) this tradition with your family, Oplatkj wafers are available in the vestibule. A donation in any amount is appreciated.

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

### Advent Confessions

Every Saturday - 4:00 - 4:30 PM  
Tuesday, Dec. 16- 7:00 – 8:00 PM

### Christmas Eve Masses:

Wednesday, December 24th  
4:00PM ~ 7:00PM ~12 Midnight

### Christmas Day Masses:

Thursday, December 25th  
9:00AM ~ 11:00AM

The Warren County Community Singers present their “Winterfest of Music”, to be held on Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> at Centenary College in Hackettstown and on Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup> at the First Presbyterian Church in Washington. Free Admission \* Donations Welcome. For more information call 908-850-8954 or singers@goes.com

**Charles Dickens: A Christmas Carol in Christmas Carols (A Musical Version).** Performed by Immaculate Conception Parishioners at Immaculata High School “Little Theatre, Somerville, NJ. December 12 at 8:00am and December 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 and 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. For tickets call 908-725-1112 ext. 1124.

### CHOIR REHEARSALS

Senior Choir: Sunday 9 a.m. Dec. 7, 21  
Tuesdays 7 p.m. Dec. 9, 16, 23

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Junior Choir: Sunday 9 a.m. Dec. 14  
Saturdays 4 p.m.; Dec. 13, 20



### Mass at Warren Haven

Tuesday, December 9 at 2:30 PM In Thanksgiving by Cathleen & Don DeLorenzo

### Altar Rosary Society Christmas Party

**Monday, Dec. 15 @ 7 p.m. in the Parish Ctr.**

**A short meeting will be conducted before the covered-dish dinner. Members and their families welcomed.**

Second Collection- Dec. 13/14

For the benefit of Religious Retirement

### Penance Service

Tuesday, December 16 at 7 p.m.  
Three priests will join Fr. Zenek to hear confessions.

### Our Weekly Offering

Nov. 29/30, 2008 \$ 3,212.50

Last Year

\$ 4,505.90

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

### Holy Day of Obligation Monday December 8<sup>th</sup>

#### Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary

Masses: 8:30am, 6pm (no music) & 7pm (Religious Ed students are to attend one of the Masses with their parents—no class in school)



Religious Education Students: Print Name(s) above  
December 6 & 7, 2008

## MINISTERS

### Altar Servers

Dec. 13 Carlee Moran, Austin Viotto.  
Dec. 14 Mackenzie & Robert Mason ( 8am)  
Philip Koskoff, Walter & William Gonsiewski  
(10:30am)  
Dec. 20 Evan 7 Ryan Moran  
Dec. 21 Robert 7 Juliette Capaldo 8 am  
Kaitlyn Gagliano, Melody Haag, Melissa Cairo 10:30 am

### Lectors

Dec. 13 Christine DeLellis.  
Dec. 14 Theresa Lucas (8am)  
Elmer Kollar (10:30am)  
Dec. 20 John Haines  
Dec. 21 Mary Rupell 8 am  
Bob Gagliano 10:30 am

### Eucharist Ministers

Dec. 13 James Mattison (C) Eileen Mattison (E)  
Charles Shipley (C)  
Dec. 14 Joan Capaldo (C) Nadie Hill (C) Diane Keggan (E)  
(8am)  
Mary Koskoff(C) Phil Koskoff (E) Patricia Kollar (C)  
(10:30 am)  
Dec 20 Ginny Moran (C), Tim Moran (E) Ray Vonderheide (C)  
Dec. 21 Rose Strohmaier (E), Bill Supple (C), Monica Merkel (C) 8a  
Jane Labato (C), Helene Picht (C), Joy Haag (E) 10:30 a