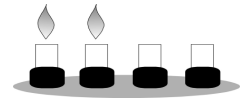


December 6, 2009 Second Sunday of Advent



Confession Is a Sacrament:

The Sacrament of Penance, commonly called Confession, is one of the seven sacraments recognized by the Catholic Church. Catholics believe that all of the sacraments were instituted by Jesus Christ himself. Confession was instituted on Easter Sunday, when Christ first appeared to the apostles after his Resurrection. Breathing on them, he said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained" (John 20:22-23).

The Purpose of Confession:

That reconciling of man to God is the purpose of Confession. When we sin, we deprive ourselves of God's grace. And by doing so, we make it even easier to sin some more. The only way out of this downward cycle is to acknowledge our sins, to repent of them, and to ask God's forgiveness. Then, in the Sacrament of Confession, grace can be restored to our souls, and we can once again resist sin.

What Is Required?:

Three things are required of a penitent in order to receive the sacrament worthily:

1. He must be contrite—or, in other words, sorry for his sins.
2. He must confess those sins fully, in kind and in number.
3. He must be willing to do penance and make amends for his sins.

How Often Should You Go to Confession?:

While Catholics are only required to go to Confession when they are aware that they have committed a mortal sin, the Church urges the faithful to take advantage of the sacrament often. A good rule of thumb is to go once per month. **(The Church strongly recommends that, in preparation for fulfilling our Easter Duty to receive communion, we go to Confession even if we are aware only of venial sin.)**

The sacrament, by its very nature, confers graces that help us to live a Christian life, which is why the Church requires us to receive it at least once per year. Moreover, it was instituted by Christ as the proper form for the forgiveness of our sins. Therefore, we should not only be willing to receive the sacrament, but we should embrace it as a gift from a loving God.

Opportunity for confession:

December 15th at 7:00 PM and every Saturday at 4:00 PM.

In Christ
Fr. Zenek, SDS

Saturday, December 5

5 p.m. **Joseph Matarazzo, Sr.**
r/o The Haines Family

Sunday, December 6

8:00 a.m. **Ann Montebello**
r/o The Tozzi Family

10:30 a.m. **Pieda Castro, Dora Delgado & Cathy Morera**
r/o The Sanchez Family

**** HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION 12/7 OR 12/8****

Monday, December 7- Immaculate Conception Vigil

No Morning Mass

6:15 p.m. **Antonio Marchetti**

Tuesday, December 8- Immaculate Conception

8:45 a.m. **Tony Falvo**
r/o Barbara, Angela, Maria & Anthony

6:30 p.m. **Special Intention**
r/o Charlene Cote

Wednesday, December 9

8:45 a.m. **Ralph Melchioore**
r/o Joan L. Mandel

1 p.m. @ Colonial Manor for the **Carmelite Sisters**

Thursday, December 10

8:45 a.m. **Elizabeth, Louis, & Thomas DeBari**
r/o Sam & Marietta Tridente

Friday, December 11 -No Mass

Saturday, December 12

2:00 p.m. @ Warren Haven for **Etta Kovacs**
r/o Mike & Barbara Kovacs

5 p.m. **Eunice Durnin**
r/o Mary Rupell

Sunday, December 13

8:00 a.m. **Gina Simone**
r/o Nancy Martinez

10:30 a.m. **Michelina & William Juliano**
r/o Family

****Parish office closed Dec. 8**

Dear Parishioners!

Every year when we begin Advent, we can remind ourselves that this word Advent means for us the coming of the Lord. Our Catholic tradition reminds us that there are three comings of the Lord: in the flesh at His incarnation, in our hearts when we respond to grace and at the end of time when the universe is transformed and the final judgment takes place. The best way to be prepared for Christ coming is sacrament of reconciliation. But a lot of us don't remember what is confession? Let me help you.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a holy day of obligation. A vigil Mass will be said on Tuesday evening at 6:15. On Wednesday the Masses for this Holy Day are at 8:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Confessions: Dec. 15-, 7 pm to 8 pm
Sat. 4 pm to 4:30 pm

Christmas Vigil Mass: 5 pm:

Children's Mass;
11 pm Concert; 12 Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day Masses: 9 am & 11 am

Dec. 20: 11:30 am: Blessing of Baby Jesus

Dec. 28: Special Mass 6 pm: Feast of the Holy Innocents: Blessing of babies and children at this Mass.

New Year's Eve Mass: 6:30 pm

New Year's Day Mass: 9 am & 11 am

Devotional Candles

The \$3 stipend requested for the devotional candles located before the statues of the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph pays for the purchase of these candles. For many months the amount collected has been less than the candles burned. Please, when lighting a candle, don't forget to put your donation in the basket next to the statues. We understand that the current economic condition has affected many and not all can afford the stipend. Please remember that prayer is powerful and one can kneel in prayer at these statues without lighting a candle.

Decorating the Church for Christmas

Those interested in helping Father decorate the church for Christmas are asked to come to the church on December 21. Those of you who are able to come at 3 p.m. will help with the outside, while there is still daylight, and those who come later will join the others to finish with the inside of the church.

CHILDREN CHOIR REHEARSALS

The Children Choir will meet on December 13 and December 19 at 3:30 p.m. to practice for the Children's Christmas Mass, which will be celebrated on December 24 at 5 p.m.

Notice: The Parish Office will close at 12 noon on Dec. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, & 16; closed on Dec. 10, 11, 17 & 18.

Please pray for: Chris, Bree, Anna & John Saks, Stephen, Ray & Alice O'Donnell, Vickie Li Puma, Theresa, Mary, Robert Gross, Lillian Shaffer, Bridget,

Beatrice Gillis, Erin Stanton, Theresa Kugelman, Katlyn Faulkner, Chris Gilheany, Dolores, Renee Drag, Geri Hedges, John P., Honol Shah, Barbara Zack, Charlie, Vinnie Perna. To add Name: Call Parish Office 908-689-8318



Special Collection

Our Weekly Offering

Last Week \$2,453.00 Last Year

\$3,165.50

Diocesan Assessment Fund: \$ 585.

Dec. 7/8: Immaculate Conception

Dec 12/13: Religious Retirement

Sanctuary Candle in Loving Memory of

Peter Matthew Albano, Jr.

By Mon & Dad

Pilgrimage to Poland, Czech Republic & Austria

To date, 24 people have signed up. The price per person is \$3,100 for the 11 days; for more details visit www.sttheodorenj.com. Please join us (Fr Michael from Hampton, and Fr Zenek) for pilgrimage to Poland (Krakow, Wadowice, Czestochowa), Czech and Austria (Vienna and Melk). July 6th - 16th, 2010

Religious Education Corner

- **Dec 7, 6:15 pm:** Mass for the Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation: **ALL REL. ED. STUDENTS & PARENTS** are to attend. If it is impossible for you to attend this Mass, the other Masses for this holy day of obligation are 12/8 @8:45 am & 6:30 pm

BRUNCH WITH SANTA

Due to lack of support, the planned Brunch with Santa has been cancelled. In its place Santa will visit with the children after the 10:30 Mass, Dec. 13 in the Parish Center without charge. Hospitality Sunday will also take place. Those who have paid, please stop by the Parish Office during regular business hours for a refund.

Altar Servers

Dec. 12: Sean Flaherty, Christopher Pollack, Carlee Moran

Dec. 13: Robert & Juliette Capaldo-8; Kaitlyn Gagliano, Melody Haag, Justin Watt-10:30

Dec 19: Evan & Ryan Moran, Christopher Pollack

Dec. 20: Sarah Kochan & Auston Viotto-8; Justin Watt, Philip Koskoff, Kaitlyn Gagliano-10:30

Lectors

Dec. 12: Fran Licciardiello

Dec 13: Joan Capaldo-8; Robert Gagliano-10:30

Dec. 19: Christine DeLillis

Dec. 20: Theresa Lucas-8; Philip Koskoff-10:30

Eucharistic Ministers

Dec. 12: Denise Flaherty E, Tim Flaherty C, Eileen Mattison C

Dec 13: Bill Supple C, Emily Cirone C, Diane Keggan E-8; Joy Haag E, Tina Jackson C, Jane Labato C

Dec. 19: Ginny Moran E, Tim Moran C, Charlie Shipley C

Dec. 20: Nadie Hill, Monica Merkel C, Emily
Cirone C-8; Helene Picht E, Karl & Rose
Strohmaier C

Dutch Valley Christmas Tree Farm in Changewater.

NJ will be open every day after Thanksgiving, 9a to 5p.

They have trees, grave blankets & wreaths. 166

Changewater Road; 908-689-0793