

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2008



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY November 29

5:00 PM JOSEPH WALSH

r/o Mr. & Mrs. William Supple Jr.

SUNDAY, November 30

8:00 AM GRAZIA TIRINO

r/o Family

10:30 AM THERESA ESPOSITO

r/o Alicia Esposito

MONDAY, December 1

8:30 AM ROSE EMMA

r/o Sofia Fernandez

TUESDAY, December 2

8:30 AM CAROL McLINDEN

r/o DeStafano Family

WEDNESDAY, December 3

8:30 AM FRANK ROCHE, JR.

r/o Charlene Cote

THURSDAY, December 4

8:30 AM PATRICIA RAMSTAD

r/o Ann & Howard Morpeth

FRIDAY, December 5--Note time change**

9:00 AM EDWARD & ANNA DURNIN

r/o Mary Rupell

SATURDAY December 6--Note Morning Mass**

9:00 AM

5:00 PM PIEDA CASTRO, DORA DELGADO

r/o Sanchez Family & Cathy Morera

SUNDAY, December 7

8:00 AM MARIETTA & VITO MASELLIS

r/o Angela Gross

10:30 AM ANTHONY S. SIRIANNI

r/o Scot & Heidi Romano

Christmas Giving Tree

Please return UNWRAPPED gifts with the original ornament attached no later than this Sun., Nov. 30 to the bins in the parish center.



Holy Day of Obligation Monday December 8th

Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary

Masses: 8:30 am, 6pm (Religious Ed students are to attend this Mass—no class in school) and 7pm

First Friday and First Saturday MASSES

Mass will be celebrated at St. Theodore every first Friday and first Saturday at 9 a.m. with an hour of the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament immediately following.

Dear Parishioners,

Here is a quiz for you. You are sleeping. You are dreaming. A big lion is chasing you. You try to run away and you see a tiger coming in front of you. You turn sideways, but every side you turn to, you find a ferocious animal coming after you. How can you escape? The answer is: Wake up.

By waking up one enters a whole new world of reality, different from that of the dream world. What was a huge problem in the dream state becomes a non-issue in the waking state. Dream state concerns and priorities lose their importance and new concerns and priorities take their place.

In today's gospel Jesus admonishes and encourages his followers to remain alert in the spirit. He was about to leave them for an uncertain length of time. By their faith and commitment to Jesus, his followers are like people who have roused themselves from spiritual slumber. But the time of his absence would be a time of trial for their faith life when they would be tempted to doze off. He enjoins them to remain awake and watchful so that whenever he comes to them he would find them not sleeping but watching in faith, ready to welcome him.

Today we enter the season of Advent: a time of special preparation for the coming of the Lord. Mark's portrait of the doorman watching out to open for the Lord whenever he "suddenly" appears is an image of what we are expected to be doing all year long but especially during the season of Advent. The doorman keeps awake in order to recognize and welcome the Lord at his coming. Faith, likewise, transforms us into people who are able to recognize the Lord and willing to receive him. Recognition is crucial because the Lord does not always come in easily recognizable ways. At Bethlehem he came in the form of a baby and people did not recognize him. In the Parable of the Last Judgment, which we heard last Sunday, he said he came to people in the form of the most needy and disadvantaged of this world and many did not recognize him. But true people of faith did recognize him and serve him in these people who live in the blind-spot of society. Faith is first a way of seeing, and then a way of living.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father" (Mark 13:32). This saying can be understood literally to mean that Jesus did not know the date of the end of the world. It can also be understood as a strategy meant to discourage the disciples from further inquiry into the matter. In either case the implication for us is the same: Put an end to idle speculations regarding the date of the Last Day. Open your eyes in faith to see God present and active in your life and in your world. Open your heart and your house to the Lord who comes to you daily in the form of the needy man or woman. This is the best way to prepare to welcome the Lord when he comes on the Last Day.

I would also like to invite those who love God, and the flame of their baptismal candle is already burning brightly in their hearts. Come today to adoration (Holy Hour at 3PM) and for Rosarians day of prayer (December 2 at 7PM) so that the candle will become a blazing furnace of such intense heat that it reaches your neighbor and the person beside you on the pew on Sunday. For this is another way to evangelize people – through our worship.

Fr Zenek, SDS

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Senior Choir: Sundays 9 a.m. Nov. 30; Dec. 7, 21
Tuesdays 7 p.m. Nov. 25; Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23

Junior Choir: Sundays 9 a.m. Nov. 23; Dec. 14
Saturdays 4 p.m.; Dec. 13, 20



Religious Education Student: Print Name on the line
November 29/30, 2008

UP COMING AT ST. THEODORE'S

~ **Food Pantry**—A container for your donation of nonperishable food is located in the Parish Center. We are now donating items to the Food Pantry in Washington, NJ (instead of Phillipsburg) so we can provide for the needy in the immediate vicinity.



Dec. 5 –Friday **Tricky Tray Event**
6pm in Parish Center

~ **Dec. 6 Youth Group** will be participating in the Robert Wood Johnson Hospital's annual Christmas party for children with AIDS. Donations that are needed: apple juice, flour, brown sugar, white sugar, powdered skim milk, unsweetened cocoa, oatmeal, chocolate chips, M&Ms, rice crispies cereal—needed no later than 10:30 Mass 11/23.

Dec. 16- 7 p.m. Penance Service

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Every week the bulletin will contain a section designated for Religious Education Students. In this area they are to print their name, cut out this section, and give to their Catechist every Monday. This is to show that they are attending Mass regularly.



Advent **Advent Wreaths for Sale by**
The Altar Rosary Society...

after the weekend Masses in the Parish Center. The Rosarians have replacement candles, as well as wreaths for sale. Start or continue this lovely tradition of our faith by purchasing one for your home.

MINISTERS

Altar Servers

Dec. 6 Sean Flaherty, Ryan Moran 5 p.m.

Dec. 7 Robert & Juliette Capaldo 8 a.m.

Luke Gleba, Miranda Vargo, Sarah Kochan,
Gianna Orecchio 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 13 Carlee Moran, Austin Viotto 5 p.m.

Dec. 14 Mackenzie & Robert Mason 8 a.m.

Philip Koskoff, Walter & William Gonsiewski 10:30
a.m.

Lectors

Dec. 6 Nancy Guerriere 5 p.m.

Dec. 7 Joan Capaldo 8 a.m.

Jeanine Gleba 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 13 Christine DeLellis 5 p.m.

Dec. 14 Theresa Lucas 8 a.m.

Elmer Kollar 10:30 a.m.

Eucharist Ministers

Dec. 6 Denise Flaherty C; Tim Flaherty C; Ginny Moran E

Dec. 7 Emily Cirone C; Monica Merkel E; Bill Supple C 8a

Helene Picht E; Tina Jackson C; Joy Haag C 10:30 a

Dec. 13 James Mattison C; Eileen Mattison E; Charles Shipley C

Dec. 14 Joan Capaldo C; Nadie Hill C; Diane Keggan 8 a.m.

Mary Koskoff C; Phil Koskoff E; Patricia Kollar C-
10:30 a.m.



Altar Rosary Society Day of
Retreat
at St. Theodore

All parishioners are invited to join the Rosarians for a day of retreat on Dec. 2. Adoration and Confessions begin at 7 p.m. followed by Mass at 8 p.m.