

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00PM Mary & John Dooley & Family
8:00AM Maria & Martin Morin
10:00AM Dinko Busanic
12:00PM Clement Petrocelli

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:00AM Adolph Tarabocchia
11:30AM Milagros Sanchez

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

8:00AM Adolph Tarabocchia
11:30AM Jack Matesic

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:00AM Adolph Tarabocchia
11:30AM Bozo & Anthony C. Morin

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

8:00AM Mosca & Romano Families
11:30AM Martin Picinich

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

8:00AM Jean Maruska
11:30AM Bruno Matesic

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

ST. PETER CANISIUS
11:30AM Marica Pavin
Zlatko Simonovic
Alice Dowling
Edward Giunta
Antonio Matesic
Marlene Villegas
5:00PM Agnes & Charles Rossi

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00AM Philip Lapolla
10:00AM Maria Martire & Angela
Garritano
12:00PM Kevin Lisky

ALTAR BREAD

In Memory of
Mark Piccirillo

ALTAR WINE

In Memory of
Marlene Villegas

SANCTUARY LAMP

In Memory of
O'Connor Family

MASS CANDLES

In Memory of
Maria & Martin Morin

PREPARING FOR MASS

The readings for next Sunday are:

Is 7:10-14

"The virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel."

Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Rom 1:1-7

Paul must spread the name of Christ to all.

Matt 1:18-24

The events leading to Jesus' birth

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK – DECEMBER 15, 2019

My dear parishioners and friends,

"Gaudete in Domino semper, iterum dico, gaudete."

(Ent. Ant. 3rd Sun. Advent)

This Sunday takes its name from the first word of the Latin entrance antiphon: "Gaudete" "Rejoice". In Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, "Evangelii Gaudium" (2013) our Holy Father notes how "Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved." [EG. 6]. His words should encourage us to joyfully continue the mission of Jesus in our world, even in the face of suffering and sadness.

We Christians recognize how our society is suffering a spiritual deprivation that only God's loving presence can alleviate. We recognize how our church community is suffering from the wounds inflicted on the innocent Body of Christ by the sinfulness and neglect of many of her ministers and members. And we recognize how our own sinfulness has added weight to the burden which prevents us from being able to freely respond to God's loving invitation to receive the gospel in joy.

On this Sunday when we are prayerfully called to "Always Rejoice in the Lord" let us cling more tenaciously to Him in love as we pay heed to the words of St. James "Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand."

Once again, we want to encourage all of you to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Advent. This week we are offering several opportunities for you to go to confession. In addition to our regular Saturday confessions Dec. 21st (12:00-1:00 PM), we will be offering the following day and times: Friday Dec. 20th (8:30AM-6:00 PM), the whole day. All confessions will be heard in the Church during those hours.

Fondly yours in Christ,

Fr. Bruce

PARISH SUPPORT

Thank you for sharing the gift of your treasure so that we can continue to do God's work here

December 1, 2019

Sunday Collection

\$5,327.00

Immaculate Conception..... \$1,729.00

"You too must be patient. Make our hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." – James 5:8

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer we better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.



THURSDAY BINGO GAMES BEGIN AT 12:15PM. WE NOW OFFER BIGGER JACKPOTS, PROGRESSIVE AND 50/50 GAMES. COME OUT AND ENJOY YOURSELF AND WIN SOME MONEY AND HAVE FUN.

BIBLE STUDY

A Bible Study will be held on Tuesday, December 17th at 7:00PM in the Church Hall. Please bring your bible. Fr. Boniface will conduct the Bible Study.

47TH ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE

The Respect Life Ministry of Saint Nicholas Parish, Palisades Park, is sponsoring a bus trip to the 47th Annual March for Life in Washington, DC on January 24th. They are asking all parishes and the Knights of Columbus Councils in this area to join them. If you cannot attend the march in January, please consider donating any amount so that they can lower the price for the people attending. The current cost is \$30 per person but may decrease if they can enough donations. If you want to reserve your seat or need more information, contact Vincent Maresca at 201-362-6812 or email him at vpmaresca@gmail.com

**"PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING.
PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!"**



GALA NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

ONLY THREE WEEKS LEFT TO GET TICKETS for our Gala New Year's Party on Tuesday, December 31st from 7:30PM-12:30AM. Dinner will be catered by Roman's Restaurant, New Milford. Menu includes the following: baked ziti with ricotta, chicken francese, roast beef, tossed salad, vegetables, potatoes, dessert beer, soda, champagne toast at midnight, hats and noisemakers. Music will be by DJ Gazo. Tickets are \$35 per person and will be available at the Rectory. **NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!**

BIBLE DIARIES

Bible Diaries are now available for sale at the rectory. Each book will cost \$12.00. Each Diary contains daily readings, thought provoking reflections, an examination of conscience, a biography of the Saint of the Day, and numerous prayers and more. It's a wonderful Christmas gift for family and friends. A limited number is available.

ESTATE SALE

There will be a huge estate sale in Leonia beginning this weekend. If interested in browsing or purchasing, please call 757-645-6868 for an appointment or you may email tradetalks@aol.com Items to be sold include: sports equipment, hummels, dinnerware, furniture, furs, women's clothing, garden tools, lawn mower, tools, a 2010 Lexus, costume jewelry and much more. A percentage of the proceeds from the estate sale will be donated to Epiphany Church.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

If you receive weekly envelopes, there is an envelope for Christmas Flower Offerings. You may give your donation in memory of a loved one or simply just as a gift from your family. If you do not receive envelopes but wish to participate, please use a blank envelope and put Christmas Flower Offering on the envelope as well as your intentions or use one of the Christmas Flower envelopes at the Church doors. You may place the envelope in the collection basket or bring it to the rectory.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Greater Bergen Community Action will hold ESL Classes (English as a Second Language Classes) from January–March 2020. Morning Classes will be on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30AM-12:30PM. Registration date is December 17 at 1:30PM. Potential students must register and take a placement test. Bring a photo ID, proof of address and social security card. For registration information call 201-366-1020 Ext. 7236.

FAUSTINA – A LIVE PRODUCTION

Faustina, a popular live production, will be presented at Felician University, Lodi, Breslin Performing Arts Center, 262 South Main Street, on January 10th at 7:00PM, and on January 11th at 1:00 & 7:00PM. General Admission is \$25 and children 8-14 are \$15 per ticket. Buy tickets at johnleaps.com or call 800-313-6933. Faustina is a powerful multi-media live production, filled with music, drama and inspiring performances. Not only does the drama share the life of Saint Faustina, but it also incorporates the story of a modern woman who struggles with the issues that so many in our culture face – abuse, promiscuity and abortion – offering God's forgiveness for all sinners. It's a message of hope and healing that touches audiences deeply.

MASS FOR OUR COUNTRY

Mass for our country will be held at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 60 Byrd Avenue, Bloomfield on Thursday, January 2nd beginning with a patriotic rosary at 7:00PM followed by Mass at 7:30PM. It is an opportunity to come together and pray for God's blessings and mercy for our country. All are welcome. It is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark Office for Evangelization.

SPECIAL SCHEDULE FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON CONFESSIONAL SCHEDULE

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Friday, December 20.....(all day).....8:30AM-6:00PM
Saturday, December 21.....12:00-1:00PM

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES - TUESDAY

Vigil Mass (Children's Choir)..... 4:45PM
Christmas Eve Mass (Chamber Music).....9:45PM

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES-WEDNESDAY

Masses.....9:00AM, 10:30AM (Adult Choir) & 12:00Noon

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS – TUESDAY

Vigil Mass.....5:00PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY - WEDNESDAY

Masses.....9:00AM & 11:30AM

PATRONAL FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Saturday, January 4.....5:00PM

Sunday, January 5.....8:00AM, 10:00AM & 12 Noon

RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS

The financial needs of the Religious Congregations especially during these days of economic stress continue to call upon the generosity of our people. The number of retired men and women in Religious Life increases every year and with that their need for their living and health care. With the costs of health care increasing and the income of religious communities decreasing, today many communities struggle to care for their elderly members. The aging men and women count on the generosity of those who were beneficiaries of their tireless ministry and they pray for their donors. We ask for your kind generosity to the servants of the church who find themselves in need. This will be the second collection today.

SPECIAL MASS

All are welcome to the Church of St. Mary, 20 Legion Place, Closter for the Third Saturday Mass, December 21st at 12 Noon. Mass is offered for the support, healing and recovery of not only those individuals directly affected with the abuse of alcohol and/or drugs, but also for anyone involved in the life of the alcoholic or drug addict. A support group, Meeting of Hope, will follow the mass. For information, please call 201-768-7565.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Ann Callagher, Caroline Craven, Felicia Martello, Arianna Cappola, Doris Levy, Cindy Simeone Reynolds, Baby Juliette Payne, Brian Hone, Cora Shaffer, Kathleen Warren Meserole, Baby Michael, Clyde Harger, Cesar Valdecantos, Kay Tak, Michele Spino, Evelyn Rodriguez, Barbara Snow, Mary Iannaccone, Doris Portillo, Teresita Zafra-Santos, Ann Marie Applegate, Geraldine Fox, Tatiana Flores, Rosalie Connors, Christopher Nash, Pat Romano, Donna Carrajat, Tony Martello, Little Gabriel, Rachel Rocks, Timmy Cappola, Sean O'Connor, Vladimir Drobikov, Vinka Uselj, Louanne Mitchell, Kathy Lennon, Colleen Meyers, Domenick Deodino, Rosemarie Liversidge, Christine Caruso, Patrick Bove, Camille Moglia, John Keegan, Kay O'Connor, Anthony Martini, Pantaleon Domingo, Richard & Patricia Citro, Brother Peter Lyne, Frank Magdaluyo, Conrado Trinidad, John Mitchell, Joanne Kaiser, Patricia Warren, Ramon Villavicencio, Danilo Bonifacio, Angie Vigna, Daniel Johnson, Ryan Cariddi, Bob Sirianni, Laura Cipullo, Frances Marino.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED OF THE PARISH

Catherine Hall, George Hartwig, Sister Mary Aloysius Morgan, Deacon Wilfred Leconte, Joseph Tolomeo, Fran Cimmino, Sister Carol Jaruszewski.