



**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 16, 2018**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

5:00PM – Charles and Mary Carofano
req. by The Carofano Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

8:00AM People of the Parish

9:30AM Juli Sadler req. by Porcelli and Schaffer Families

11:00AM Luigi and Nicolina Vitale
req. by Dino and Maria Tonelli

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

9:00AM Lorenzo Diorio
req. by Carol and Richie Messina

*****Confessions in Rectory 4:00pm-8:00pm**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

9:00AM Maria Ronk req. by Grandma

*****WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH**

8:00AM Mary and Myles Doyle req. by Family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

9:00AM Tom Amodeo req. by Wife, Anne

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

9:00AM No Mass

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

5:00PM Gloria Sorrentino req. by Nancy Dilorenzo

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

8:00AM People of the Parish

9:30AM Mary and Frank Kartis req. by Family

11:00AM Andrew Juras and Anna and Mirko Vinski
req. by Juras and Vinski Families

Please note: Time change for Wed., Dec. 19th Mass

OUR CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE (Monday, Dec. 24)

No 9am Mass

4:00pm – Family Mass at St. Mary's

9:00pm – Mass – St. Mary's

CHRISTMAS DAY (Tuesday, Dec. 25)

8:00am – NO MASS

9:30am – Mass - Our Lady of Mercy

11:00am – Mass at St. Mary's



Weekend schedule before New Year's

Saturday, Dec. 29th – 5:00pm – St. Mary's

Sunday, Dec. 30th

8:00am – St. Mary's

9:30am – Our Lady of Mercy

11:00am – St. Mary's

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Monday, Dec. 31

4:00 pm Vigil – St. Mary's

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Tuesday, Jan. 1

Solemnity of Mary

8:00am – NO MASS

9:30am – Mass at Our Lady of Mercy

11:00am – Mass at St. Mary's

**A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR
AND PASTORAL ASSISTANTS**

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

As we enter into the joy of Christmas time, we pray that the new life of Christ be born in us each day. Let the light of Christ find a dwelling place in our hearts as we nurture it throughout this New Year. And may the Christ Child fill your New Year with His Blessings.



Fr. Thomas K. Dicks
Pastor

Deacon Thomas Cornell
Deacon Vincent Porcelli

DIVINE MERCY GROUP



The next Divine Mercy meeting is January 6th after the 8 pm Mass. The Chaplet will be prayed at 7:40 before Mass. All are invited to attend.

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

At 4:30pm on the first Saturday of each month, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy is sung before the 5:00PM Mass in St. Mary's Church. Won't you join us in this beautiful prayer.

TITHING REPORT

This past week's collection totaled \$4707. 120 Envelope users donated \$3026; non envelope users, \$1681. \$957 was collected for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and \$1027 was sent to the Archdiocese for the Retired Religious Annual Collection. We once again thank you for your continued generosity.



WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

We ask your prayers *Dorothy Szeli, (Marge Evangelisto's Sister)*, who recently passed away. May God grant her His Eternal Rest and give peace and comfort to her family and friends.



HEALING PRAYERS...

... are asked for all the sick of our Parish, especially *James Berkise, (who was struck by an automobile on Friday, Dec. 7th, as he was crossing 9W to attend Mass for Our Lady's Feast Day)* and for all whom we know are ill. We also ask your prayers for their family members and others who are caring for their loved ones. May God give them the strength and grace to help them through these difficult times.



MEETING NOTICE

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING CHANGE

Please note that beginning in January of 2019, meetings for the Knights of Columbus will now be held at 7:00pm on the 3rd Thursday of every month in the Parish Hall. Members are encouraged to attend. New members are always welcome.

K OF C BLOOD DRIVE

This Sunday, December 16th from 8AM to 1PM, the Knights of Columbus will be holding their seasonal Blood Drive in the Parish Hall.



As a little incentive and thanks for your donation, a pancake breakfast with all the "trimmings" will be offered. Stop up after Mass with the family and let them also enjoy a great breakfast, compliments of the K of C.

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT...

...was held this past Friday. Over 100 people attended and had a wonderful time. The children portrayed the real meaning of Christmas and were simply adorable. We thank the parents and their children for their participation and especially thank Mary Noonan and Ann Marie Coffey (our Religious Ed Staff) for all they did to coordinate this year's event.

SPREAD THE NEWS....



.....the Christ Child is coming! Let us try to bring back the real meaning of Christmas - the Birth of Our Savior.

Over the years commercialism seems to have become the "reason for the season." **Churches should be filled** during Advent with the expectation of Christ's Coming. **Instead, the malls are filled.** Let's change that !

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK...

...the members of **UNICO** for their very generous donation of \$2000 for our Food Pantry. (Just today, we paid a bill of nearly \$900 for our Thanksgiving order and restocking of pantry shelves. The Christmas order has also been placed but not yet billed to us.)

...the members of the **Middlehope Fire Department Ladies' Auxiliary** for their generous donation of \$200 also for the Food Pantry. Without the thoughtfulness of groups such as these, we would have a difficult time keeping our pantry open.



RENEW AND REBUILD CAMPAIGN

The Renew and Rebuild Campaign is officially underway for our Parish. Our Parish has already repaired much throughout this past year. In an upcoming Bulletin we will give you an accounting of all that has been done. In order to do what we needed to do, it was necessary to use money which we had been saving for future projects (your monthly donations had been specifically put into a "fund raiser" account which was used for some of the projects.) We ask that in this next phase of fundraising that you be as generous as your means will allow. Fr. Tom will be speaking more about this campaign in the following weeks.

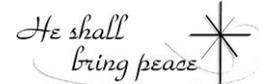
TODAY'S GOSPEL MESSAGE by Rev. William J. Reilly

"Everyone should see how unselfish you are. The Lord Himself is near. Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude. Then God's own peace which is beyond understanding will stand guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."... "The crowds asked John 'What are we to do?'...the people were full of anticipation..."

At the midway point of Advent, we too can ask the question the crowds put to John the Baptist. We might preface it with another question: 'What have we done thus far?' What is the Lord asking of me during the next ten days? St. Paul is quite clear telling his audience to focus on the Lord, offering prayer, petitions and expressions of gratitude.

Do not fall into the trap of routine or busyness, without a moment each day of prayer that God's peace may reign in your heart. Our novena of preparation can consist simply by turning to the Word of God, reflecting on the mystery of Jesus' coming, and how we want Him to find us when we celebrate His birth. Then God's own peace will be really with us.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4a

Micah speaks of the ruler who will come from Bethlehem. He discusses how the people of Israel will be saved from corruption and live in peace.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Paul describes to the Hebrews how Jesus came into the world and offered to do God's will. We were saved through his sacrifice, the only offering sufficient for the sins of the world.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Mary paid a visit to Elizabeth, whose baby stirred in her womb upon hearing Mary's greeting. Elizabeth filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Elizabeth was deeply overjoyed that the words God had spoken to Mary had now been fulfilled. ©2000 Bon Venture Services

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