



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**AND THE NAVTITY OF THE LORD
December 24, 2017**

Saturday, December 23rd

- 9:00 Kim Knowles req. by Mom and Michael
- 5:30 John DeRuzza, Sr. req. by John DeRuzza

Sunday, December 24th

- 7:30 For the Living & Deceased Members of St. Patrick's Parish
- 9:00 Hickmat Nemnom req. by Christine Meyer
- 10:30 Christine Lonczak & Edward Lonczak req. by Lonczak-Collins Families
- 12:00 Lillian & Patrick Salanitro
- 4:00 Donald Doyle req. by the Welch Family
- 6:00 Robert Melican req. by the Melican Family
- 8:00 Scott Tinter req. by the Tinter Family
- 10:00 Spadaccia, Catri and Esting Families req. by the Family

Monday, December 25th

- 8:30 For the Living & Deceased Members of St. Patrick's Parish
- 10:30 James Flynn req. by the Flynn Family
- 12:00 Joseph & Teresa Vitelli req. by Marianne Vitelli
- 1:30 John Citro, Sr. & John Citro, Jr. req. by Dot Citro

Tuesday, December 26th

- 7:00 John S. Llewellyn, Jr. req. by The Voltaggio Family
- 9:00 Francesco Gallo req. by Lillian Hernandez

Wednesday, December 27th

- 7:00 -
- 9:00 Rita Costello req. by Sr. Kathleen Fitzgerald

Thursday, December 28th

- 7:00 -
- 9:00 Eileen Luccarelli req. by the Family

Friday, December 29th

- 7:00 -
- 9:00 Vincent J. Buchan req. by the Ventura Family

Saturday, December 30th

- 9:00 Antonietta Cerone req. by the DeSimini Family
- 5:30 Addolorata Pennetta req. by The Scuderi Family

Sunday, December 31st

- 9:00 Susan Durkin req. by Marion Wilson
- 10:30 Umberto & Castanza Stangarone req. by the Desimini Family
- 12:00 Raymond F. Hickey, Sr. req. by the Family

RECENT COLLECTIONS
December 17th \$8,103.00



Pray for the Sick

Rayyan Ahsan, Tatum Allen, Virginia Barrett, Zoe Bonowitz, Walter Brady, Lauren Dittrich Bilyeu, Dominick Cannavo, Michael Casarella, Conner Curran, Marie Doescher, , Frankie Dezell, Maureen Doran, Mary Doyle, Meghan Farrell, Helen Flower, Jean Gallagher, Duane Goff, Jeffrey Greason, Leslie Hammerschmidt, Margaret Harrington, Healy Pauline Marie, Molly Henry, Pauline, Francine M. Holley, Chester Hooper, Richard Hughes, Freeman Huntington, Christine Iannino, Kathleen T. Kelleher, Bill Killen, Maureen Laning, John Li Conti, Dominic Lombardi, Veronica Lopez, Frank Kearns, Joyce Kersh, John Magnotta, Kevin Mahoney, Steve Mazzei, Jim Murphy, John Pasquale, John Reardon, Madeline Sanford, Chris Schate, Matthew Scherer, Otto Siegwarth, Thomas Valentine, Michael Walsh, Mia Wiltse, Albert Young, Christine Young, Eileen Riley Zawada, Magdalena Zikely and all who request our prayers.

Service Personnel Prayer List

The name listed below is service personnel serving in our nation's armed forces who are relatives of our parishioners. Please keep them in your prayers.

- Darren Adler/Marines
- Charlie Carr /Air Force
- Richard Hughes/Marines
- Steven Scully/Marines

It is a privilege and a duty for us to pray for those commended to our prayers. From time to time we start a new list to make sure that it is up-to-date. If we have removed someone who should remain on the list, please call the Parish Office at 234-3344.

Partner-in-Faith Prayer

Heavenly Father, we ask your blessings and protection on the people of Sacred Heart Parish. We, your children at St. Patrick's, invoke your name on their behalf. We are grateful for all you have given us and in return we are mindful of those who have less than we do. Bless us all and keep us close to you. May the example of your Son, Jesus Christ, be the strength that will make us one in you. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FROM THE PASTOR'S

DESK:

In the name of all the Clergy and Staff of St. Patrick's Parish I pray that everyone connected to our parish will have a Very Blessed Christmas as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and God, Jesus Christ.

The following refection is taken from a letter by Saint Leo the Great, pope:

"To speak of our Lord, the son of the blessed Virgin Mary, as true and perfect man is of no value to us if we do not believe that he is descended from the line of ancestors set out in the Gospel. Matthew's gospel begins by setting out the genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham, and traces his human descent by bringing his ancestral line down to his mother's husband, Joseph. On the other hand, Luke traces his parentage backward step by step to the actual father of mankind, to show that both the first and the last Adam share the same nature.

No doubt the Son of God in his omnipotence could have taught and sanctified men by appearing to them in a semblance of human form as he did to the patriarchs and prophets, when for instance he engaged in a wrestling contest or entered into conversation with them, or when he accepted their hospitality and even ate the food they set before him. But these appearances were only types, signs that mysteriously foretold the coming of one who would take a true human nature from the stock of the patriarchs who had gone before him. No mere figure, then, fulfilled the mystery of our reconciliation with God, ordained from all eternity. The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon the Virgin nor had the power of the Most High overshadowed her, so that within her spotless womb Wisdom might build itself a house and the Word become flesh. The divine nature and the nature of a servant were to be united in one person so that the Creator of time might be born in time, and he through whom all things were made might be brought forth in their midst.

For unless the new man, by being made in the likeness of sinful humanity, had taken on himself the nature of our first parents, unless he had stooped to be one in substance with his mother while sharing the Father's substance, and being alone free from sin, united our nature to his, the whole human race would still be held captive under the dominion of Satan. The Conqueror's victory would have profited us nothing if the battle had been fought outside our human condition. But through this wonderful blending the mystery of new birth shone upon us, so that through the same Spirit by whom Christ was conceived and brought forth we too might be born again in a spiritual birth; and in consequence the evangelist declares the faithful to have been born not of blood, nor of desire of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

May the Prince of Peace shower his choicest blessing on you and those you love. A very Blessed and Merry Christmas to you and yours!

WORDS OF INSPIRATION

Complete Surrender

At the Annunciation Mary is so open, so free, so trusting. She is completely willing to hear words that go far beyond her own comprehension. She knows that the angel's words come from God. She seeks clarification, but she does not question their authority. She senses that Gabriel's message will radically interrupt her life, and she is afraid, but she does not withdraw. She responds with a complete surrender and thus becomes not only the mother of Jesus but also the mother of all who believe in him. Mary's "yes" to God's love summarizes the deepest possible response to God's loving action within us. God wants to let the Holy Spirit guide our lives, but are we prepared to let it happen?

-Henri J.M. Nouman
The Road to Daybreak

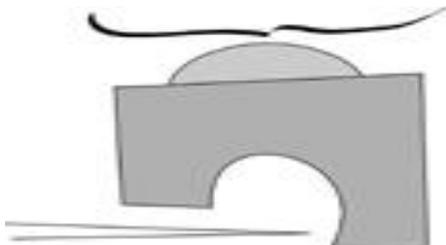
Morning Prayer

The Vatican has asked Pastors of parishes to either introduce or expand the faithful's appreciation for and the use of The Liturgy of the Hours formally known as the Breviary. The purpose of these prayers is to help us fulfill Saint Paul's encouragement to pray always. The Liturgy of the Hours consist of five major hours and two minor hours. The major hours include The Office of Readings, Morning Prayer (Lauds), Daytime Prayer, Evening Prayer (Vespers) and Night Time Prayers (Compline). The minor hours include Mid-morning and Mid-afternoon.

During the Seasons of Advent and Christmas we will publicly celebrate Morning Prayer at 8:45am on Mondays through Saturdays. Please join us as we use the Psalms and Canticles that Jesus himself had prayed.

Respect for Life Committee

Our Spiritually adopted babies are growing quite beautifully now. Their weights are approaching 2 pounds. Babies born prematurely at this time have a very good chance of surviving. The medical advances in caring for extremely small newborn infants are extraordinary indeed. Each passing year we witness advances that allow our medical professionals to save younger and younger premature infants.



COLLECTION COUNTERS NEEDED

For many years it has been the tradition that our collections were counted on Sundays from 10 am till about 2 pm. The goal was to have two counters per Sunday with different people for each weekend. Soon after I arrived the people who did the 5th Sunday of the month resigned. This was not seen as much of an inconvenience because of the rarity of the month having five Sundays. Eventually others also chose to stop counting the collections. At this point there are only two Sundays that are covered and these are the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month. One person did come forward to help with the 4th and 5th Sundays, but having only one person is not optimum.

I have asked a number of times for volunteers for Sunday, but no one has come forward. Therefore, I am now inclined to ask for volunteers to count the collection on Monday mornings following the 1st, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month. If we could have three or four people on these Mondays, the whole collection could be counted and deposited in a relatively short. If you have free Monday mornings, please consider joining this new group of counters.