

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

December 1, 2019

First Sunday of Advent



Saturday, November 30

5:30 pm For Jack Mason by Dave Donlon

Sunday, December 1

9:00 am For Marianna Vegliante by Eufrosia Conca

11:00 am For Dan Salerno by Fleming Family

Monday, December 2

8:45 am For Nicholas Mergel by Gruby Family

10:45 am Mass at Heath Village – Faith Chapel

Tuesday, December 3

8:45 am For

Wednesday, December 4

8:45 am For

Thursday, December 5

8:45 am For

Saturday, December 7

5:30 pm For Julia Dugan by Monteverde Family

Sunday, December 8

9:00 am For Joanna Grieco by Rich & Marianne Nyman

10:45 am Mass at Heath Village – Health Care Center

11:00 am For Phyllis April by Woelfel Family

**REMEMBRANCE MEMORIALS
FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER**

Sanctuary Lamp: In loving memory of Vito and Marie Benardone and Aeneas and Genevieve Corry by Corry/Benardone Family

Altar Breads & Wine: In loving memory of Jan and Amelia Krzywosz, and Wladyslaw and Anna Skoczylas by Skoczylas Family

Mass Candles:

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE
DECEMBER 7, 8, 2019**

Saturday 5:30 pm

Lector: Fred McQuaide

Eucharistic Ministers: Joanne Lee

Sunday, 9:00 am

Lector: Kevin O'Shea

Eucharistic Ministers: Help Needed

Sunday, 11:00 am

Lector: Al & David Escudero

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Herzog

GIFT CARD SELLERS NEEDED...

Gift Card Sellers needed for the Saturday, 5:30 pm and Sunday, 11:00 am mass. This is a good way to become involved with the St. Mark's community without a huge commitment. It would entail spending 20 minutes selling gift cards after one mass a month. Training will be provided at your convenience. Please email Mary Hanifin at markhanifin@yahoo.com if you are interested.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Monday, December 2

8:45 am Mass

4:30 pm K-5 CEC classes – 3rd Grade Retreat

7:30 pm Boy Scout Meeting

8:45 am Mass **Tuesday, December 3**

6:15 pm JYM classes

Wednesday, December 4

8:45 am Mass

Thursday, December 5

8:45 am Mass

Friday, December 6

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, December 7

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

5:30 pm Mass

Sunday, December 8

9:00 am and 11:00 am Mass

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Current Year	Last Year 2018
Figures not available	November 25, 2018: \$1,648 Online for November: \$7,376
Supermarket Gift Cards November 17, 2019 Sales: \$3,800 Profit: \$190 YTD 2019: \$5,480.75 Number of families: 15	St. Mark's Faith Direct Church Code is NJ484

FAITH DIRECT...

We are asking our parishioners to prayerfully consider enrolling in eGiving for your recurring weekly offering. By using eGiving you are supporting our parish's shared mission to give back to others and spread the word of God. Enrolling in eGiving is a safe and secure way to give to our parish and getting started is easy—just visit faith.direct/NJ484



MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

Readings: IS 2:1-5, ROM 13:11-14, MT 24:37-44

ALWAYS BE READY GOD CAN COME TO US AT ANY MOMENT

Welcome to December! Welcome to the Season of Advent! Our preparation for Christmas has begun! Today is a special day, and not just a day, but the beginning of a special season, Advent, and new Liturgical Year – Year A. During Advent we focus on waiting, waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus, and during the week before Christmas our waiting changes to waiting for our celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Advent represents our expectation, anticipation, and preparation for who Christ is and what He has done for us. He arrived into the world as a human being, being fully God and fully man. He came to identify as one of us, as the Son of Man, as a baby born in a manger. He came for us, He came for you and He comes into our lives and into our hearts. He is coming again in great power and glory to bring His Kingdom into completion.

In the Liturgy of the first Sunday of Advent, the Church places us before an extract of the discourse of Jesus on the end of the world. Advent means Coming. It is the time of preparation for the coming of the Son of Man into our life. Jesus exhorts us to be vigilant. He asks us to be attentive to the events in order to discover in them the hour of the coming of the Son of Man.

At the beginning of Advent, it is important to purify our look and to learn anew how to read the events in the light of the Word of God. And this in order not to be surprised, because God comes without telling us, when we least expect him. To show how we should be attentive to the events, Jesus goes back to the episode of the deluge in the time of Noah.

“Wake from sleep.” These are the words of Paul to the Romans in our second reading today. These words are also good for all of us to hear as we begin Advent. From what sleep are we to awake? Paul encourages the Romans to wake from being asleep in sin, in other words to take a look at their lives and see how they are doing.

Jesus in the Gospel is also sounding the alarm. He tells his listeners that before the Great Flood people were completely unaware of what awaited them. They carried on with their daily business and knew nothing was amiss until the flood came. Those people needed to hear the alarm-clock call of Paul to the Romans, “Wake from sleep” but only Noah and his family were wide awake and living holy and honest lives.

At the Second Coming of Jesus at the End of time there will be the Final Judgment (Catechism 678-689; 1038-1041; 1059) but we will each meet Jesus in what we call the particular judgment at the moment of our death (Catechism 1021-1022). We do not know when our lives will end so be ready, says Jesus. Be always in a state of grace, awake, says Jesus because we do not know when he will call us from this life.

There is much to wake from now and Advent is a time to wake from sin. Advent is a time to prepare not only for Santa Claus coming to town but to prepare for Jesus coming to town and what better way to prepare than to do as Paul says, to wake from sin, in

other words to prepare our hearts for Jesus. And what better way to wake from sin and prepare our hearts for Jesus than to make a good, sincere and honest Confession this Advent. God is always waiting to pour out his love and forgiveness and mercy on us. Sin need never be the last word in our lives, Jesus can forgive sin and his forgiveness and love and mercy can be the last word in our lives.

ST.MARK PRAY FOR US...

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS – SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEK

Second collection will be taken next weekend to support Retirement fund for Religious. Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests need your help. Through prayer, love, and sacrifice, they established catholic schools, hospitals, and more. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left a shortage in retirement funding. The generous support we have given throughout the years is very much appreciated by nuns and brothers who depend on this fund to help support them in their old age, especially in regard to health care. Many of these men and woman have served the people of God in the Diocese of Paterson. Across the United States, hundreds of religious communities lack financial resources sufficient to meet the retirement and health-care needs of aging members.

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal “For I Was Hungry...”

As the year comes fast to an end, and many are planning on how to make a final year-end charitable contribution that has the most impact, please consider the many lives that are helped because of the support given to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. These are your neighbors, your friends, our senior priests and seminarians and urban school students. All of us can play a part in the Bishop's Annual Appeal – as either a contributor to the cause or as a recipient of its mission – and all are blessed as a result. Please make the Bishop's Annual Appeal a priority in your year-end philanthropy. Gifts can be made by check, credit cards, through gifts of securities or on-line at www.2019appeal.org.

If you are 70 ½ or over and have an IRA, you can receive a tax benefit by instructing your IRA investment manager to donate your required minimum distribution to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Please call the Bishop's Annual Appeal office at 973-777-8818, ext. 218 for addition details and also consult your tax or financial advisor for more information.

I would like to bring to your attention that many companies offer free gift matching for non-profit organizations. It is great idea to use it for our Annual Bishop Appeal. Whatever employee donates for Annual Bishop Appeal, company donate the same amount. I would like to encourage you to ask if your company offer gift matching and if they do ask for paperwork and send to Tim Potter, Director of Development Office of Paterson Diocese at tpotter@patersondiocese.org with note that this matching gift needs to be credited to St. Mark's Parish in Long Valley, NJ.

**COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US ST. NICHOLAS DAY
OLM CHURCH**

Calling all families! Come join us for a family event at OLM, featuring Santa himself! We will celebrate St. Nicholas Day on Friday, December 6th in the Parish Center. From 5-6:45pm, celebrate the start of Christmas with a pizza dinner, drinks, arts and crafts, and a special photo op with Santa! At 7:00pm, we will be showing a Christmas movie and providing snacks, along with hot cocoa. Feel free to wear your PJs! It will be a night you won't forget!

Please contact Laura Bigos at laurajbigos@gmail.com or 551-206-9874 if you plan on attending, or with any questions you may have. We can't wait to see you all there!

FROM FR. JAVIER...

TEACHING FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH - THE SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

The Sacrament of Holy Orders

The Three Degrees Of The Sacrament Of Holy Orders

Episcopal ordination - fullness of the sacrament of Holy Orders

My dear brothers and sisters, let us continued our learning from the Catechism of the Catholic Church. According to our catechism *"Amongst those various offices which have been exercised in the Church from the earliest times the chief place, according to the witness of tradition, is held by the function of those who, through their appointment to the dignity and responsibility of bishop, and in virtue consequently of the unbroken succession going back to the beginning, are regarded as transmitters of the apostolic line."*

To fulfill their exalted mission, *"the apostles were endowed by Christ with a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit coming upon them, and by the imposition of hands they passed on to their auxiliaries the gift of the Spirit, which is transmitted down to our day through episcopal consecration."*

As Christ's vicar, each bishop has the pastoral care of the particular Church entrusted to him, but at the same time he bears collegially with all his brothers in the episcopacy the solicitude for all the Churches: *"Though each bishop is the lawful pastor only of the portion of the flock entrusted to his care, as a legitimate successor of the apostles he is, by divine institution and precept, responsible with the other bishops for the apostolic mission of the Church."*

The above considerations explain why the Eucharist celebrated by the bishop has a quite special significance as an expression of the Church gathered around the altar, with the one who represents Christ, the Good Shepherd and Head of his Church, presiding.

God bless you



COMMUNITY BENEFIT AUCTION AND DINNER

St. Luke's – Dec. 7, 2019

Our annual auction is a wonderful evening out featuring both live and silent auctions, a buffet dinner, beer, wine, beverages and deserts. Be part of the action, help those in need and have fun! Proceeds fund programs that benefit the needy our seniors, our youth and our veterans. Please consider donating. All donations – financial, product, service will be gratefully accepted. Live auction begins at 8 PM, silent at 6 PM, admission \$25. Visit our website for additional details.

Reflection for the Week

*As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them,
John F. Kennedy*

If you would like to be a part of an organization whose principal work involves helping others in need, we'd like to meet you. B

Become a Knight!

www.lvkof.org



Richard Alvarez, Tony Atkins, J. Barone, Bob & Jeff Cheripka, Daria Cremonini, Brittany Cicchino, Carol DeAlvandres, Ann Geary, Sue Geary, Kathleen Goodman, Heidi L., Daniel Huntz, Suzy Ladlee, Vincent Lai, Mary McArdle, Anna McFarland, Denise Niessing, Girard Nolte, Jr., Rosemarie Picarelli, Georgette Petromelis, Christopher Popp, Tim Popp, John S, Don & Joyce Schmitt, George and Ann Senftinger, Fredrick Senftinger, Special Intention, Tracy Tobin, Christopher Zeliff

ST. MARK'S NEW YEAR'S DAY 5K ...

Attention runners and walkers – it is time to start thinking about signing up for the St. Mark's New Year's Day 5K. The registration fee increases on November 1. Please see runsignup.com to complete your registration. Hope to see you in 2020.

AMAZON SMILE... Remember to shop at Smile.Amazon.com and support St. Mark the Evangelist Church. Thank you

PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT SCHOOLEY'S MOUNTAIN FIREHOUSE...

December 1, 8:00am-12:00pm. Children ages 4-10 \$4, Senior Citizens \$6, Adults \$8. Pancakes, Eggs, Pastries **ALL YOU CAN EAT!!!** 231 Schooley's Mountain Road.

