

Lord, come and save us. .

December 15, 2019 ~ Third Sunday of Advent


MASS INTENTIONS
 OF THE WEEK

Saturday, December 14

5:30 pm For Stephen Nichols *by Paula field*

Sunday, December 15

9:00 am For Lillie Banks *by Dave Donlon*
 11:00 am For Julia Ramiza *by Woelfel Family*
 For Robert DiClemente *by Jean DiClemente*
 For Grazia Marchesani *by Cresci Family*

Monday, December 16

8:45 am For Fr. Robert Gordon

Tuesday, December 17

8:45 am For Agnes Rudolph *by Gruby Family*

Wednesday, December 18

8:45 am For Elizabeth Feldhusen

Thursday, December 19

8:45 am For

Saturday, December 21

5:30 pm For Parishioners of St. Mark's

Sunday, December 22

9:00 am For Raymond Van Hoorebeke *by Marianne & Brian Silver*
 11:00 am For Chester Guzik *by Woelfel Family*

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December 21, 22, 2019
Saturday, 5:30 pm

Lector	Euch. Ministers	Gift Bearers	Altar Servers
Joanne Lee	Mary Scarda	Help Needed	Help Needed

Sunday, 9:00 am

Lector	Euch. Ministers	Gift Bearers	Altar Servers
Jim Scott	Patrick Kenney	Help Needed	Help Needed

Sunday, 11:00 am

Lector	Euch. Ministers	Gift Bearers	Altar Servers
Sharon Donovan	Sue Reilly	Help Needed	Help Needed



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Monday, December 16

Angel Tree Gifts Due Back Today

8:45 am -----Mass

7:30 pm ----- Boy Scout Meeting

Tuesday, December 17

8:45 am -----Mass

6:15 pm K-10 & Family Faith Nativity and Tree Lighting

7:30 pm ----- Advent Penance Service

Wednesday, December 18

8:45 am -----Mass

9:30 am -----Women's Bible Study

Thursday, December 19

8:45 am ----- Mass

Friday, December 20

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, December 21

8:00 am -----Men's Bible Study

5:30 -----Mass

Sunday, December 22

9:00 am and 11:00 am



WEEKLY COLLECTION

Current Year	Last Year 2018
December 1, 2019: ----- \$3,068	December 2, 2018:\$2,083
Parish Debt:----- \$849	Parish Debt:-----\$953
December 8, 2019: ----- \$2,143	December 9, 2018:----- \$1,743
Supermarket Gift Cards December 8, 2019	
Sales:----- -\$2,050	St. Mark's Faith Direct
Profit ----- \$102.50	Church Code is NJ484
YTD 2019:----- \$5,912	
Number of families: -----9	

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.

FAITH DIRECT...

During Advent we prepare our minds and hearts for the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. As we reflect on the upcoming Christmas season, it is likely that we will be busy with parties and family gatherings. Perhaps even a trip out of town to visit friends. With all of those joyous celebrations, we might miss Mass. That's where eGiving with Faith Direct can help simplify your life. By supporting St. Mark the Evangelist, both you and our parish can save some time and peace of mind this holiday season.

Signing up is easy! Visit faith.direct/NJ484, Already using Faith Direct? Log in to add your Christmas or End-of-Year contributions to your account. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God Bless You, Fr. Marcini



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:

MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

Readings: Is 35: 1-6a, 10. Ps 146: 6-7, 8-9, 9-10. Jas 5: 7-10. Mt 11: 2-11

Today in our celebration of the Lord's Day we come to the Third Sunday of Advent. The joy and happiness in the Lord that we celebrate today is symbolized by lighting a rose candle on the Advent wreath today instead of a purple one and also symbolized by wearing rose vestments today instead of purple ones.

Our readings today remind us that we, as Christians, are in a time of expectation, a time of awaiting. We are not waiting to get over or beyond something – to be done with it. Rather, we are reminded of the great coming of the Lord at Christmas when Isaiah tell us, "Here is your God he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you."

In our Gospel, Matthew goes further and challenges us to reflect on what are we really expecting at Christmas. The words he has Jesus saying to the disciples of John, should be ones we are pondering. "Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you." Who is the Jesus you are expecting and how are you ready to follow the way he is preparing for you? How is the path you are walking with Jesus impacting you and how you relate to others in real concrete ways that they can recognize?

Today it offers us encouragement by naming the Third Sunday of Advent "Gaudete Sunday," that is, in English, "Rejoice Sunday." This comes from today's Entrance Antiphon from Philippians 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord always." James in his Letter today also seeks to encourage us who are weary while in expectation, when he tells us, "Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord," and "Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand."

As the Church is encouraging us with this Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, we are called to show to others the impact of our experience with the Lord. The ways that our lives reflect the Gospel message speaks volumes to the world about the ways the Lord is here now in our lives. Even on a deeper level we can demonstrate who we are waiting for during Advent by the actions we do in Jesus' name, most particularly in the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. In the most personal way, we can be contagious in our rejoicing this day in our Advent expectation, by encouraging each other with our joy, because "God loves a cheerful giver." Most of all, work on finding encouragement through cheerful people. Let their cheerfulness be contagious to you. In doing so, be contagious by helping God to love that cheerful giver who gives to you.

The Blessed Virgin Mary, our Patron – pray for us...

"Rejoice in the Lord always..."

.ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE.

ST. MARK'S --- TUESDAY (December 17th) --- 7:30PM

OLM CHURCH --- MONDAY (December 16th) --- 7PM.

As we examine our consciences this Advent and see our shortcomings we are privileged to receive the mercy of God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. During this season of Advent, let us ask ourselves is there anything keeping us and God apart? Is any sin of any kind in our lives keeping us separated from God? We may say we have no sins and when we go to Confession we have to make up sins to tell the priest. Are we really that holy? There were only two people on this earth who had no sin, Jesus and his mother Mary. If we say we have no sin are we expected to think that we are Jesus or Mary?

We are living now in this time of mercy when we have an opportunity to repent. Let us receive as much grace as we can from God during this time of Advent. The Lord has no limits to what he wants to give us.

Bishop's Annual Appeal

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 Our Lady of the Mountain Parish in Long Valley, NJ.

We can help our parish in this way

Due to recent tax law changes, if you are age 70 1/2 or older and are required to withdraw a 'required minimum distribution' (RMD) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) you can request a donation be made directly to St. Mark's Church which will reduce the taxable amount of your RMD regardless if you itemize or take the standard deduction. These are called Qualified Charitable Donations and they must come directly from your IRA to the parish (see IRS Publication 590-B for complete details).



St. Mark's Advent Penance Service - Tuesday (December 17) - 7:30PM

OLM Advent Penance Service - Monday (December 16) - 7PM

Holy Masses - St. Mark:

Christmas Eve: 4:30PM, 6:30PM, 10PM

Christmas Day: 9AM, 11AM

New Year's Eve: 5PM

New Year's Day: 9:30AM

Holy Masses - OLM:

Christmas Eve: 4PM, 6:30PM, 10PM

Christmas Day: 7:45AM, 9:15AM, 10:45AM, 12:15PM

New Year's Eve: 4:30PM

New Year's Day: 10AM, 12NOON

INTERNET UPGRADE AT ST. MARK'S...

Recently our Internet has been completely upgraded. This was all done at no cost to the parishioners thanks to the generosity of the Knights of Columbus and Kevin Fleming's expertise. The upgrades were helpful recently at our Craft Fair allowing vendors to easily use their credit card reader to accept payments. This Internet upgrade and also the improvements to our thermostats/HVAC system last year are much needed and appreciated improvements to St. Mark's.

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

2. The ordination of priests - co-workers of the bishops

My dear brothers and sisters, the priests exercise their full ministry in the Holy Mass. *"In the Eucharistic assembly of the faithful that they exercise in a supreme degree their sacred office; there, acting in the person of Christ and proclaiming his mystery, they unite the votive offerings of the faithful to the sacrifice of Christ their head, and in the sacrifice of the Mass they make present again and apply, until the coming of the Lord, the unique sacrifice of the New Testament, that namely of Christ offering himself once for all a spotless victim to the Father."* From this unique sacrifice their whole priestly ministry draws its strength.

The priests, prudent cooperators of the episcopal college and its support and instrument, called to the service of the People of God, constitute, together with their bishop, a unique sacerdotal college dedicated, it is, true to a variety of distinct duties. In each local assembly of the faithful they represent, in a certain sense, the bishop, with whom they are associated in all trust and generosity; in part they take upon themselves his duties and solicitude and in their daily toils discharge them. Priests can exercise their ministry only in dependence on the bishop and in communion with him. The promise of obedience they make to the bishop at the moment of ordination and the kiss of peace from him at the end of the ordination liturgy mean that the bishop considers them his co-workers, his sons, his brothers and his friends, and that they in return owe him love and obedience.

"All priests, who are constituted in the order of priesthood by the sacrament of Order, are bound together by an intimate sacramental brotherhood, but in a special way they form one priestly body in the diocese to which they are attached under their own bishop..."

God bless you.

Religious Education News 

NATIVITY...It is time for our children, under the leadership of Mrs. Jess Morgan, to reenact the Nativity Story for us. The Nativity will be presented on Tuesday Evening, Dec. 17 as part of our Annual Tree Lighting, as well as on Christmas Eve at the 4:30 pm Mass. There is a signup sheet on the center table in the gathering space to let us know if you would like to be part of it. Children in grades preschool through 5th are invited to participate.

KRISTEN'S TREE... The gifts for the Kristin's Tree are due back no later than **Monday, December 16th**. They will be picked up by the Division of Child Protection and Permanency to be delivered. Please be sure to bring your **UNWRAPPED** gift by this Monday, December 16. God bless you for your kind generosity.



Third Sunday
of Advent



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

THANK YOU...

To everyone who participated in our 28th annual community auction and helped make it a wonderful success.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR VETERANS

Our Council's fourth degree team will be selling 50/50 raffle tickets after all masses this weekend. All proceeds from this raffle will support our veterans and charitable organizations. Your generosity and support in this effort to assist these deserving men and women is greatly appreciated. THANK YOU!

Reflection for the Week

Some men see things as they are and say why? I dream things that never were and say why not?
George Bernard Shaw

Become a Knight!

www.lvkofo.org



Richard Alvarez, Tony Atkins, J. Barone, Bob & Jeff Cheripka, Daria Cremonini, Brittany Cicchino, Carol DeAlvandes, Ann Geary, Sue Geary, Heidi L., Daniel Huntz, Suzy Ladlee, Vincent Lai, Mary McArdle, 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 – there is still time to sign up for the St. Mark's New Year's Day 5K. Please see runsignup.com to complete your registration. Hope to see you in 2020.



Remember to shop at Smile.Amazon.com and support St. Mark the Evangelist Church. Buy your gifts and essentials at smile.amazon.com. Type in St. Mark the Evangelist Church Long Valley, NJ under "Select a Charity" Amazon donates 0.5% of your purchase to St. Mark's at no cost to you. Thank you for your support.