

**DECEMBER 11, 2016  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**MONDAY – Our Lady of Guadalupe**

8:30 Milton Kozdron req. by Family  
Lisa Devenny (7<sup>th</sup> Anniv.) req. with love from Mom and Family

**TUESDAY – Saint Lucy**

8:30 David Campbell req. by Mike Carollo

**WEDNESDAY – Saint John of the Cross**

8:30 Judy Wainwright req. by Geoff & Judy Zoeller

**THURSDAY**

8:30 James McCarten req. by Geoff & Judy Zoeller

**FRIDAY**

8:30 Kathy Weckler req. by the Weckler Family  
James Opitz req. by Family

**SATURDAY**

8:30 Special Intention for Marie, Hector & Andre req. by Family  
Joann Cambouris req. by her son  
5:30 Sinon & Vesonder Families req. by Jim & Sylvia Riordan  
Carolina Smith req. by Marguerite McDonough

**DECEMBER 18, 2016  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

7:45 Michael Wilhelm req. by Christa, Thomas & Oliver Schmidt  
9:00 Eugene Sutherland req. by Family  
10:30 People of the Parish  
Gertrude Drenowski req. by Edna & Joe Pietrucha  
12:00 Robert Moyle req. by Joan & the Family  
Richard J. Uhl req. by Anna & Simon  
5:00 Donna DeVasto req. by Bill & Ellen Mueller

**PARISH FINANCES**

<b>December 4, 2016</b>	<b>\$ 11,773</b>
<b>Parish Maintenance (H.E.L.P.)</b>	<b>\$ 3,218</b>
<b>Amazon.com – September</b>	<b>\$ 61</b>
<b>ParishPay – November</b>	<b>\$ 7536</b>

Next week's second collection is for Retirement Fund for Religious.



**REFLECTION**

**Bigger Than Any of Us**

“And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me,” [Jesus] concludes, in one of the most ignored passages of all time. The Greek word for offense is *skandalon*, which makes the literal translation something more like, “And blessed is anyone who is not scandalized by me.” But to the ancient Greeks the word meant a stumbling block, so that the best translation is, “And blessed is anyone who does not get tripped up on me.” What is Jesus saying? That the Messiah has not come to be the center of attention? That he has not come to ascend a throne, to fulfill all the expectations of his people? It sounds that way. It sounds as if he has come not to wield power but to give it away, to be himself, to glorify God, and finally to disappear into the crowd of those who have found his love contagious.

What is Jesus saying? It sounds as if he is saying, “Go tell John that everyone who is expected has already arrived. Go tell him what you hear and see. Things may not be working out the way he wanted them to, but every now and then, in surprising places, marvelous things are happening. People who were blind to the love loose in the world have received their sight; people who were paralyzed with fear are limber with hope; people who were deaf from want of good news are singing hymns. And best and most miraculous of all, tell John that this is not the work of one lonely Messiah but the work of God, carried out by all who believe, and there is no end in sight. Tell him I am the one, if you must, but tell him also that yes, he should look for another, and another, and another. Tell him to search every face for the face of God and not get tripped up on me, because what is happening here is bigger than any of us. What is coming to pass is as big as the Kingdom of God.”

Barbara Brown Taylor from *Give Us This Day*

## THE WEEK IN THE PARISH 12/12/16 – 12/17/16

Sun.	4:00 PM Christmas Concert	Church
Mon.	7:30 PM Women's Cornerstone	Cassidy Hall
Tues.	9:00 AM Scripture Sharing	Library
	6:30 PM Endowment	St. Benedict
	7:00 PM DVD Series	Cassidy Hall
Thurs.	6:45 PM BINGO (non-smoking)	McKenna Hall
	7:00 PM Divorce Support	St. Lucy
Fri.	8:30 PM AA	Cassidy Hall
Sat.	8:30 PM AA	McKenna Hall

## LITURGY

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Isaiah tells us that when Christ comes, the weak will be made strong, the deaf will hear, the blind will see, and, above all, "sorrow and mourning will flee."

#### Second Reading: James 5:7-10

As the farmer waits patiently through winter and spring for the "yield of the soil" so, too, must we wait patiently for the coming of the Messiah.

#### Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

While in prison, John sends a messenger to Jesus to ask, "Are you He who is to come or do we look for another?" Jesus replies by citing the miracles he has performed for the blind, the deaf, and the crippled. He concludes by identifying John as the messenger He has sent to prepare the way.

#### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

#### KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those serving in the military especially: Richard Fox, John Garlasco, Brian McCarthy, Lt. Daniel Faherty, Joseph Venutolo, Cpl. Marc Vero, Sgt. Jeremy Overstreet, Kevin Michael Kiefer, Michael Krapels, Robert Stumpe, USMC, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Curcio, Staff Sgt. Lena Webb, Spc. Samuel Nolan, US Army, Lt. Jamie Curcio, Navy Reserve, 1<sup>ST</sup> Lt. Christopher Tantillo; Cpl. Conor J. Brady, USMC, LCpl. Marc Stanziale, USMC. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Joseph Brunone, US Nat'l Guard, Brandon Adams, USAF. Please continue to pray for all our servicemen and women.

Be strong!  
**HERE IS YOUR GOD**  
Fear not!

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### SPIRITUALITY OF THE TWELVE STEPS FOR EVERYONE

You are invited on a powerful journey that will lead you along the steps towards freedom and new life. The spirituality of the 12 steps transcends multiple religious and secular traditions, and it gets to the heart of the most basic of human desires: happiness, peace, and inner freedom. Join us on Tuesdays, at 7 – 8:30 PM in Cassidy Hall for this DVD series led by Fr. Anthony Ciorra, with follow-up discussion & refreshments.

### DOGMA TEAM

Dogma Team meets on Mondays, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM in the Youth Room.

### CATHOLIC ACADEMY OF SUSSEX COUNTY NEWS



### A Note from the Principal: Patricia A. Klebez Reverend George A. Brown School

#### *Innovative Curricula and Schedule Prepares RB Students*

New curricula and a semi-departmentalized schedule is preparing 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students for what lies ahead in the Pope John Middle School and beyond the classroom. Just implemented this year on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade levels, students are rotating to four different teachers who are experts in their field. Students enjoy learning from their specialists in religion, social studies, science, and creative writing.

Also, new to the Reverend Brown School this year is the Makerspace for all students in grades PreK-4. Students attend the Makerspace weekly and engage in hands-on, creative ways to design, experiment, build, and invent as they deeply engage in science, engineering, and tinkering.

Make sure to tune in to WSUS 102.3 FM on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:30a.m. to hear our amazing and talented Reverend Brown 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Choir ring in the holiday cheer while singing live! Their angelic voices are sure to bring you joy this Christmas season.

For more information about the faith-based learning opportunities at Reverend Brown or to schedule a tour, please call 973.729.9174.

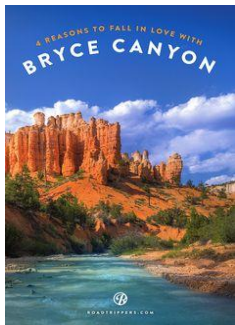
**OUR LADY OF THE LAKE  
CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
TODAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup> 4:00 PM.**

*Come and sing along!  
Share the joy as we await the coming of  
Our Lord Jesus!*



*Join us for the reading of nine lessons from  
Sacred Scripture celebrating the birth of Jesus along  
with Our Lady of the Lake Children's Choir, Adult  
Choir, and instrumentalists performing traditional  
and contemporary Christmas Music.  
Hope to see you there!  
Free will offering will be appreciated.*

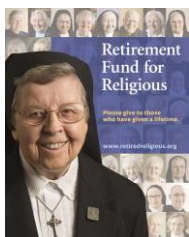
**U.S. NATIONAL PARKS TOUR-  
MAY 23-June 5, 2017  
ONLY 6 SEATS LEFT!**



Join us on a comfortably-paced, in-depth tour of 6 of the U.S. National Parks, Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons, The Arches, the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, and Monument Park, a tribal park. The grand finale of the trip will be a night in Las Vegas!

*For more information, call the  
parish office or Judy and Bill  
Bosworth, 973-729-4629.*

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**



"Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry," writes a religious sister. Your gift to next Sunday's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital support for the retirement needs of senior sisters, brothers, and religious

order priests. It also helps ensure that younger members can continue the good work of their elders.

**THE GIVING TREE**



We will once again be collecting baby items to benefit Birth Haven in Newton. The Christmas tree will be up in the vestibule for the weekend of December 17-18. Items that would be most appreciated are: boys or girls clothing - size 0-9 mos., baby monitors, crib sheets, BOPPY pillows, car seat/stroller combo, baby laundry detergent, wipes, diapers.

**WE'VE BEEN ASKED TO ANNOUNCE**

**Eva's Village Collecting Items**

Eva's Village is collecting donations to make gift bags for 500 persons who dine in their Community Kitchen on Christmas Day. Most needed items are fleece blankets (new), gloves and socks (new, gender-neutral), and full-sized toiletries. Donations will be collected until December 16; please contact Angela Vance at (973) 523-6220 X 248 for more information.

**Families Anonymous**

Families Anonymous is a twelve-step program for people concerned about drug abuse and behavioral problems of a relative or friend. Completely anonymous, nonprofessional, and nonreligious. No dues or fees. Not connected with any hospital, agency, treatment facility, religious institution, or political entity. Meetings are on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM at "The Center, 65 Newton-Sparta Rd., Andover Township, NJ For more information, call Ray Witte at 973-271-6595.

**SOCIAL MINISTRIES**

**OLL LEGACY COOKBOOKS ON SALE**



Our Lady of the Lake Legacy Cookbooks have been published and are available for purchase every Sunday after Mass. They are \$25 each and make great Christmas gifts. They may also be purchased at the Sparta Book Club. Please support this important fundraiser.

Thank you.

**PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP**

There will be a Christmas Gathering for the Parent Support Group on December 20 at 7:30 PM. Members of the group should call Betty Donnelly if you plan to attend. Her number is 973-383-2502 or email [TANTEBET@ptd.net](mailto:TANTEBET@ptd.net) by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

# Our Lady of the Lake Church

294 Sparta Avenue

Sparta, New Jersey 07871

Phone: 973-729-6107 Fax: 973-729-7203

Web Site: [www.ourladyofthelake.org](http://www.ourladyofthelake.org)

## Parish Staff

Rev. David McDonnell *Pastor*

Rev. Marcin Bradtke *Associate Pastor*

Mr. Anthony (Sonny) Curcio *Deacon*

Mr. James McGovern *Deacon*

Elizabeth Heldak *Director of Religious Education*

Laurie DiCianni *Confirmation Coord.-Youth Minister*

Krzysztof Kowalewski *Music Director*

Ellen Ormond *Secretary/Bookkeeper*

Joanna Mattos *Secretary*

Denise Aldana *Social Ministries*

## Sunday Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday 5:30 P.M.

Sunday 7:45, 9:00, 10:30 A.M. and 12 Noon

5:00 P.M. (except June, July, and August)

Weekday Masses 8:30 A.M.

## Holy Day Masses

8:30, 9:30 A.M. (except August 15<sup>th</sup>), and 7:00 P.M.

## Confessions

Saturday 4:00 to 5:00 and at 6:30 P.M.

## Novena

Miraculous Medal Devotions: Saturday 8:30 A.M.

## Eucharist Adoration:

Thursday 9:00 to 7:00 P.M.

For information on Baptisms, Marriages, Religious Education, Youth Ministry, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Visitation of the Sick, Parish Membership, please call the parish office at (973) 729-6107.

## New Parishioners - Welcome!

Won't you please register at the Parish Office

Monday - Friday, 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Or find our registration form on our webpage

[www.ourladyofthelake.org](http://www.ourladyofthelake.org)

## FINANCE

### AMAZON.COM TO HELP OUR PARISH

If you're shopping online please keep in mind that if you make purchases through Amazon.com, you can help our parish by using the link on our website

([www.ourladyofthelake.org](http://www.ourladyofthelake.org)). The church gets a little money back for every dollar that people spend on Amazon using our link. To find the link, click on the "Getting Involved" button and you will see the Amazon.com link at the bottom of the drop-down menu.

### PARISHPAY - AUTOMATED GIVING

ParishPay is an automated giving program. Those who wish can make their church donations by automatic deduction or by credit card. To enroll: a) call 1-866-727-4741, or b) use the website, ([www.parishpay.com](http://www.parishpay.com)) through the link on the parish website. Please keep in mind that signing up for ParishPay does not register you with the parish if you are just joining our parish; please come into the office to register.

## ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE



**Our Advent Penance Service will be on Monday, December 19, 2016 at 7:30 PM.**

There will be confessions on the Mondays of Advent from 7:30 to 8:30 PM.

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



<b>Sunday December 11</b>	<b>Christmas Concert</b> 4:00 PM
<b>Monday December 19</b>	<b>Penance Service</b> 7:30 PM
<b>Saturday December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 8:30 AM 4:00 PM (overflow in McKenna Hall @ 4:05) 6 PM, 8 PM & Midnight
<b>Sunday December 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b> 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM & Noon
<b>Saturday December 31</b>	<b>New Year's Eve</b> Regular Morning Mass - 8:30 AM 5:30 PM Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday January 1, 2017</b>	<b>Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God (New Year's Day)</b> 7:45 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM and 12:00 Noon. There will be NO 5:00 PM Mass