

DECEMBER 16, 2018
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MONDAY

8:30 Charles Catalano req. by Clare Cronin
 Maria Triano req. by the Simone Family

TUESDAY

8:30 Virginia Bodo & Deceased members of the
 Bodo, Tran & Kelly Families req. by Robert
 Bodo & family

WEDNESDAY

8:30 Charles Catalano req. by Gerri Ellis
 Kathleen Nolan req. By Judy & Bill Bosworth

THURSDAY

8:30 Elizabeth & Stefan Mancz req. by Erika &
 Family

Special Intention of Carmen Triano req. by the
 Simone Family

FRIDAY – Saint Peter Canisius

8:30 Charles Catalano req. by Kathryn Clark

SATURDAY

8:30 Charles Catalano req. by Marie Eisenhardt
 5:30 Geraldine Wynne req. by Kim Collins & Family

DECEMBER 23, 2018
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:45 Charles Catalano req. by Anna & Simon
 Laura Jean Tilton req. by Mom & Dad
 9:00 Paul Dick req. by the Nolan Family
 Timothy Savage req. by Bill & Pat Dermody
 10:30 Teresa & Stefan Kovacs req. by Erika & Family
 12:00 People of the Parish

PARISH FINANCES

Immaculate Conception	\$ 2,251
December 9, 2018	\$ 10,185
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 2,247



REFLECTION

REJOICE ALWAYS IN THE LORD

St. Paul believed that rejoicing was a basic disposition that we all should try to maintain, even when things don't go our way. In his short Letter to



the Philippians, in fact, he spoke about rejoicing fifteen times. And let's not forget that Paul was in prison when he wrote the letter! He was not going to let his circumstances rob him of his joy.

So how did Paul maintain a joyful disposition? First, he rejoiced because he knew Jesus' love. If you backup just two chapters in this letter, you'll see him singing a hymn that extols Jesus' willingness to empty himself, become a man, and die on the cross. And then in the next chapter, he writes, "I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord: The thought of Jesus' love – a love that gives of itself freely – continually filled Paul with joy.

Second, Paul rejoiced in the Philippians themselves. They were his joy and his crown. They were his dear friends who had joined him in a "partnership for the gospel." He rejoiced because he knew he had brothers and sisters who loved him and supported him in his faith.

We will all encounter times of trial and suffering, but Jesus asks us to rejoice whether or not the sun is shining on us. He especially wants us to rejoice as we prepare for Christmas. If Paul were here, he would urge us to keep things in perspective – to look at our lives through the lens of God's love. He would urge us to never to let anxiousness rule our lives, but to strive to keep our sense of peace at all times. He would urge us to pray through the tough times and to find reasons to rejoice.

Jesus has done so much for us. Let's repay him by rejoicing in his love – and sharing that joy with the people around us.

"Lord help me hold onto my joy, especially when I face the difficult challenges of life."

From: *The Word Among Us*

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH 12/16 to 12/22, 2018

Sun.	9:00 & 10:30 CCD Advent Prayer Service	MH
	11:00 AM-9:00 PM CYO Basketball	Gym
Mon.	5:00 PM CYO Basketball	Gym
	7:30-Parish Advent Penance Service	Church
Tues.	9:00 AM Scripture Class	Library
	5:00 PM CYO Basketball	Gym
	7:00 PM RB Christmas Concert	McKenna
Wed.	3:00 PM RB Teachers	Cassidy Hall
	5:00 PM CYO Basketball	Gym
	7:00 PM R.C.I.A.	St. Benedict
Thurs.	5:00 PM CYO Basketball	Gym
	6:45 PM BINGO (nonsmoking)	McKenna Hall
	7:00 PM Women's Cornerstone	St. Joseph
Fri.	5:00 PM CYO Basketball	Gym
	8:30 PM AA	Cassidy Hall
Sat.	7:30 – All Day – CYO Basketball	Gym
	9:00 AM Legion of Mary	St. Benedict
	12:30-3:00 PM Legion of Mary Curia	Cassidy Hall
	8:00 PM AA	McKenna Hall
Sun.	11:00 AM-9:00 PM CYO Basketball	Gym

SCRIPTURE CLASS

Scripture class takes place on Tuesday mornings following 8:30 a.m. Mass. We meet every Tuesday in the Parish Library. Bring a friend as we all journey in our faith together. It will be an hour well spent.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Zephaniah urges the people of Jerusalem to rejoice because the Lord is in their midst. He conveys the message that God will love and protect those who have remained faithful to him.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Paul encourages the Philippians to be ready for Christ. He tells them not to worry about their concerns, but to instead ask God's help and allow his peace to fill their hearts and minds.

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

John the Baptist answers people who ask him what they should do, leading some to believe he was the Messiah. John clearly states that he will be followed by one so powerful that "I am not fit to loosen his sandal strap."

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4a

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

MUSIC MINISTRY

Adult Choir practice takes place on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir loft.

Contemporary Choir practice takes place on Saturdays, at 4:30 p.m. in St. Cecilia Room.

Children's Choir practice takes place on Thursdays at 2:45 p.m. in the St. Cecilia Room.

Vocal- Instrumental Group - contact our Music Director, Krzysztof Kowalewski at the parish office. *New and existing members are invited.*



Mrs. Darlene O'Neill's grade 4 Sunday morning Religious Ed class seen here holding candy canes attached to notes of Christmas cheer they made in class that will go on the ADOPT A FAMILY bags for the needy. Truly a fun activity focusing on the true spirit of Christmas.



Children in grade 3 celebrated the beginning of Advent by lighting the first candle on the Advent wreath. To get ready for the birth of Christ they made a Jesse tree which helps us remember the people who prepared the way for Jesus. The name comes from Isaiah 11:1 which says: "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse: from his roots a Branch will bear fruit" – Isaiah 11:1

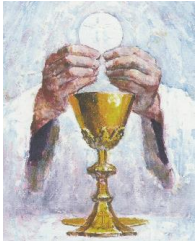
YOUTH GROUP

ATTENTION TEENS - Need service hours?

Come to the FIRST SUNDAY each month. Join us at the 12:00 p.m. Mass, followed by lunch, fellowship and a service project at the Church. From 1 - 2:30 p.m. in youth group room. RSVP - allisonO@ourladyofthelake.org

MEET NEW FRIENDS!

OLL Youth Group - all high school teens and college students are welcome. Join us every Monday from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Meet new friends, talk about faith, play some board games and outside games, listen to music and enjoy snacks.

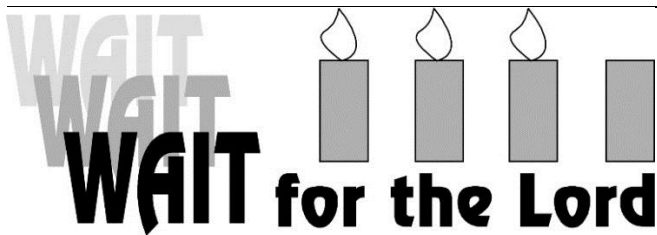


EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED to serve at *Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses.* Please sign up on the inside cover of the brown sign-in binder in the vestibule of the church.

THE GIVING TREE



We will once again be collecting baby items to benefit Birth Haven in Newton. The Christmas tree in the vestibule is for Birth Haven. 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.



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). 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.

WE'VE BEEN ASKED TO ANNOUNCE

St. Paul's Abbey – Christmas Trees

St. Paul's Abbey, on Route 206, one mile south of Newton, has thousands of Christmas trees ready to choose 'n' cut, 7 days a week from November 23 to December 23, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We also have the Abbey Gift Shop with many items that make ideal Christmas gifts, including books, statues, jewelry and more.



NJ CONSERVATORY – HANDEL'S 'MESSIAH'

NJ Conservatory's Symphonic Chorus accompanied by its Baroque Orchestra will present this year's performance at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 246 Woodport Rd., Sparta on Sunday, December 16th at 4:00 p.m. Tickets \$40, \$35, \$30 reserved seating with 30% student discount. Please call 973-402-2004.

March for Life Bus Trip to Washington DC

Friday, January 18, 2019

Come join us for our annual pilgrimage to give witness to the Beauty of Life. The cost is only \$10.00. Children and students are free. Bus leaves after the 6:00 a.m. Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Branchville and leaves Washington for return trip around 3:30 p.m. The bus will make a food stop along the way and on the way back. Call Our Lady Queen of Peace office at 973-948-3185.



C.R.A.F.T. SUPPORT GROUP

Trying to help a loved one who is struggling with substance use can be frustrating. The Craft Support Group for Family & Friends can help! On the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., learn new ways to help loved ones struggling with addiction. C.R.A.F.T. ("Community Reinforcement and Family Training) offers simple suggestions helping participants reduce stress while offering guidance and inspiration. Free of charge and open to anyone interested in helping a loved one and feeling better themselves!

NORDIC KNIGHTS OCEANIC CRUISE



Join Father David and Our Lady of the Lake parishioners on a cruise on the Nordic Knights of Oceanic Cruises from July 22nd

to August 4th 2019 -visiting Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Denmark, and London. Contact Dan Scully at Daniel.scully@scullytravel.com or 973-534-6462.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



Monday	Penance Service
December 17	7:30 p.m.
Monday	Christmas Eve
December 24	8:30 a.m.
	4:00 p.m.
	4:05 p.m. in McKenna Hall
	6:00 p.m.
	8:00 p.m.
	12:00 Midnight
Tuesday	Christmas Day
December 25	9:00 a.m.
	10:30 a.m.
	12:00 Noon
Monday	New Year's Eve
December 31	Regular Morning Mass - 8:30 a.m.
	5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass
Tuesday	Solemnity of Mary the Holy
January 1,	Mother of God
2019	(New Year's Day)
	8:30 a.m.
	7:00 p.m.



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

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

Allison Ognibene Confirmation/Youth Minister

Krzysztof Kowalewski Music Director

Lori Kelly 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

Weekday Masses 8:30 a.m.

Holy Day Masses

8:30, 9:30 a.m. (except August 15th), and 7:00 p.m.

Confessions

Saturday 4:00 to 5:00 and at 6:30 p.m.

Miraculous Medal 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, or 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

ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE



In preparation for the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Our Advent Communal Penance Service will take place on **Monday, December 17th beginning at 7:30 p.m.** There will be

additional priests available for confessions. Please take this opportunity to prepare for Christmas.