

December 1, 2019
First Sunday of Advent

MONDAY

8:30 Henry Oak req. by Clare & Mike Gallagher

TUESDAY – Saint Francis Xavier

8:30 John Celauro req. by the Infante Family

WEDNESDAY – Saint John Damascene

8:30 Barbara Tripi req. by Marianne Brady

THURSDAY

8:30 Scott Maisco req. by Betsy Sutherland

FRIDAY - Saint Nicholas

8:30 Special Intention of Kelly Laureano req. by Anna & Simon Levien
James France req. by the Sauer Family

SATURDAY – Saint Ambrose

8:30 William J. McGovern req. by the McGovern Family

5:30 Peter Nocerino req. by the Nocerino & Kiefer Families
Helen & John McLaughlin req. by Anne Marie McLaughlin

December 8, 2019
Second Sunday of Advent

7:45 Kelly McNiff req. by Celeste & Joe Alonzo

9:00 People of the Parish
Gloria Shope req. by Family

10:30 Gloria Opitz req. by Family
John Celauro req. by Kathy & John Nelson

12:00 Richard Redshaw req. with Love by his family
Yolanda Rico req. by Amor Stark

PARISH FINANCES

Because of an early print deadline, the collections will be published next week.

We await the Savior
EMMANUEL

REFLECTION

BE PREPARED

This is it – we have lit the first Advent candle. Christmas is less than four weeks away, so we need to get ready. If we plan on giving gifts, sending Christmas cards, or having guests over for Christmas dinner, now is the time to start planning.



Jesus is saying something similar in today's Gospel reading, but with a different focus: "Get ready; you don't know when I will come again!"

So how can we prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming, both at Christmas and at the Second Coming? Here's one idea: just as you give Christmas gifts to your friends and family, think of a gift you could give the Christ child. Here are some possibilities:

- Set aside an hour each week to sit before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. In the quiet of his presence, praise and thank him for becoming a man and saving you from sin and death.
- Serve the needy in some way. Volunteer at a food kitchen, buy gifts for a struggling family, or help decorate the home of an elderly neighbor.
- See where you have strayed from God. Then go to Confession and receive his forgiveness and the grace to follow him more closely.
- Is there anyone you need to forgive? Ask Jesus to help you forgive that person, and then reconcile with them if possible.
- As you decide what you will give Jesus, remember: it's not only about what *you* do to get ready for him coming. It's also about what *he* wants to do for you.
- As you sit before him in adoration, he wants to give you his peace.
- As you reach out to the needy, he wants to encounter you in his beloved poor.
- As you go to Confession, he wants to fill you with his mercy.
- As you forgive other people, he wants to help heal your wounded relationships.
- Jesus is so generous that he wants to help *you* get ready for *him*. So slow down this Advent, and let him give you the gift of a willing heart.

From: *The Word Among Us*

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH 12/1 – 12/7/19

Sun.	No Religious Ed	
Mon.	6:30 pm Youth Group	Youth Room
	7:00 pm No Charismatic Prayer Meeting	
	7:00 pm K of C	McKenna Hall
Tues.	9:00 am Bible Study	St. Joseph
	9:00 am – 7:15 pm Eucharistic Adoration	
	7:00 pm Parent Support	St. Francis
Thurs.	6:45 pm BINGO (non-smoking)	McKenna Hall
	7:00 pm RCIA	St. Lucy
Fri.	8:00 pm AA	Cassidy Hall
	6:00 pm Christ in Christmas setup	McKenna
Sat.	9:00 am Legion of Mary	St. Benedict
	9:30 & 11:00 am First Reconciliation	Church
	2:00 pm Christ in Christmas	McKenna Hall
	6:30 pm Tree Lighting	On Church grounds

LITURGY

**DECEMBER 1, 2019
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The words of Isaiah urge all people to forsake war and to live in peace forever. The tone reaches a climax in the words, "One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again."

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Paul invites us to put away all the things of darkness and sin and to prepare for the coming of Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

A comparison is made between the destruction caused by the flood in Noah's time and the need to be prepared for the second coming of Christ. "You must be prepared in the same way. The Son of Man is coming at the time you least expect."

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

**DECEMBER 8, 2019
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12



CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING

There will be NO Charismatic prayer group on Monday, December 4th. The Charismatic prayer group meets on Mondays at 7:00 pm in the Saint Joseph Room. Meetings include prayer, praise, songs, worship and teachings, and an openness to living a *New Life in the Holy Spirit* - all with a focus on developing a more active faith life and in our personal relationship with Jesus Christ. For more info contact Jeff Tucker, 973-726-9011.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are Peacemakers

This week the young people of the parish preparing for Reconciliation on God's gift of peace. All the baptized are anointed to announce the kingdom and make all people sharers in the peace of Christ. We are blessed and bring God's blessings to others. How do we as a parish strive to live as peacemakers and to make a difference?

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group meets every Monday, 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the parish center. Join us and bring a friend.

CHRISTMAS TRADITION - OPLATKI

The Knights of Columbus provided a project for the Youth Group to stuff envelopes with oplatki. Father Kamil explained the tradition that is celebrated in Poland and other Slovak countries. The youth group then learned how to pass the oplatki to share in an abundance of blessings! The Youth Group filled bags of envelopes that will be going to three churches, including Our Lady of the Lake.



Speak with Father Kamil who will share with you the Christmas Eve tradition and if you have not incorporated the oplatki into your own family and friend tradition, this is the year to do so! Many blessings to each of you!

CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS



Come Together One and All To Hear the Voices No One Hears Saturday, December 7th

Our Lady of the Lake, with the aid of our Confirmation and local high school students, will bring our tenth anniversary of "Christ in Christmas" to life. This event in the spirit of the true

meaning of Christmas, brings together young children ages 5 through 10 to build Teddy Bears for the children in homeless shelters in the Sussex County area.

This year the bears will be donated to our 250 families currently residing at homeless shelters in Sussex County. We invite you to join us in McKenna Hall from 2-3:30 pm, as a parish family for Christmas cheer and spirit.

So, please save the date, watch the bulletin, check our parish home page of the OLL website at www.ourladyofthelake.org.

Let us know you are coming – register at <https://2019christinchristmas.eventbrite.com>.

Alaska Cruise and Denali National Park Tour July 6-July 17, 2020



Join Father David on an 11-night, 12-day trip of a lifetime to Alaska's Inside Passage and Denali National Park. We will visit Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay (Very nice in July!), Hubbard Glacier (Also very nice

in July!), Seward, Denali National Park, and Anchorage. We will cruise the Inland Passage where we will see magnificent glaciers and go whale-watching. The area is noted for humpback whales, beluga whales, whale sharks (orcas), porpoises, and dolphins. We will explore Denali National Park and see Mt. McKinley, which, at a 20,000 ft. elevation, is second only in elevation to Mt. Everest, at 29,000 ft. We will ride on the official Alaska Railroad, visit the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, and even visit an Iditarod Dog Musher!

For more information, call Judy and Bill Bosworth, 973-729-4629.

CAN YOU GIVE SOMEONE A RIDE TO CHURCH?

There is a woman who is new to the area and needs a ride to Church on Sundays. She does not drive and would like to attend the 12 Noon Mass. If you would like to volunteer to bring her to church and back home, please call the parish office. If more than one person volunteers, you will be able to take turns. Please call the parish office to volunteer. (973) 729-6107.

Thank you!

WE'VE BEEN ASKED TO ANNOUNCE

First Thursday of Advent at Sacred Heart Center

Come join us for our monthly First Thursday Advent Retreat at Sacred Heart Spirituality Center on December 5th, 2019. Our Theme this year is "Living as Missionary Disciples!" Our topic for this month as we prepare for celebrating Jesus' coming to live among us, is "Encountering Jesus."

The day begins at 9:00 am with 'coffee and,' and includes an opening prayer, a short talk, Eucharistic Adoration, the opportunity for Confession, Mass at 12:00 Noon, and a light lunch. The day concludes at about 1:30 pm. Fifteen dollars is the suggested offering. There is no need to pre-register – all are welcome. For further information, visit our web site: sacredheartspiritualitycentre.org, e-mail us at shretreatcenter@gmail.com or call (973) 383-2620.

Saint 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 29 to December 23, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. We also have the Abbey Gift Shop with many items that make ideal Christmas gifts, including books, statues, jewelry and more.



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

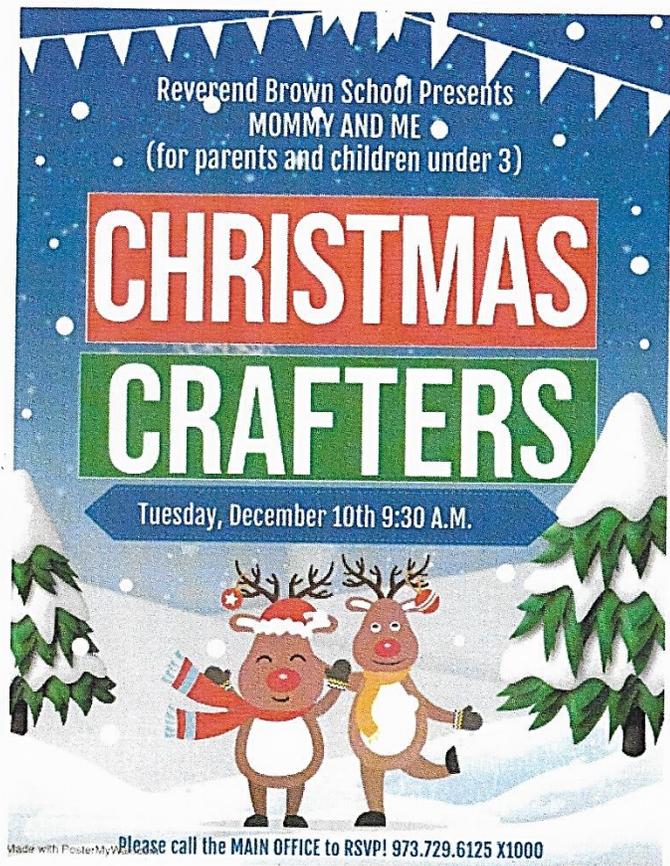
HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

First Sunday of Advent December 1, 2019

“Come, let us climb the Lord’s mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob. That he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths.’ They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again.”

The great season of hope and expectation, Advent, is our invitation to walk with the Lord. It takes effort to climb a mountain, with challenges, avoiding crags and barriers, holes and obstacles. But climb we must. Would that Isaiah’s vision be our goal, not making weapons of destruction, but striving for peace. The swords and spears of his time are now missiles, bombs, drones capable of erasing humankind.

The Isaiah vision has been rewritten by the American Bishops’ statement ‘the Challenge of Peace.’ May we train for peace and not for war in all its ugly forms. This is the season of hope.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



PLEASE NOTE: As of December 3rd, Eucharistic Adoration will take place on Tuesdays beginning after the 8:30 Mass and closing at 6:45 p.m. with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Evening Prayer.

Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry



Christmas Food Basket Give Away 2019

Every holiday season, we distribute a holiday meal to Sussex County families in need who otherwise might not be able to sit together for a holiday meal.

In order to give everyone a complete dinner we are asking for your help to make it possible.

We are in need of the following items:

- Canned vegetables
- Gravy
- Apple sauce
- Cranberry sauce
- Boxed (instant) potatoes
- Apple juice
- Hot chocolate
- Candy canes
- Cookies

Any item you wish to donate can be dropped off in our food pantry closet in Cassidy Hall through December 15.

Thank you!

2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal Diocese of Paterson



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.