

**DECEMBER 22, 2019**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**MONDAY – Saint John of Kanty**

8:30 Emeliano Bas req. by Mildred & Eduardo Bas  
 Alfonso Andrade req. by Sandra Andrade

**TUESDAY – Christmas Eve**

8:30 Laura Jean Tilton req. by Mom & Dad  
 4:00 David Leskovac req. by Elise & Tom Adams  
 4:05 Williams Connors req. by Family  
 6:00 Deceased members of the Stehr, Nolan &  
 Hillenbrand Family req. by their children  
 8:00 John H. Walker req. by the Koenig Family  
 12:00 Joan & John McLaughlin req. by Anne Marie  
 McLaughlin  
 William Geffken req. by his wife, Pat

**WEDNESDAY – The Nativity of the Lord**

9:00 Thomas Maloney req. by the Scanlon Family  
 People of the Parish  
 10:30 John P. De Laura III req by Bette & Kaity De Laura  
 12:00 Harold McGovern req. by the McGovern Family  
 Special Intention of Simon Jude Levien req. by Mom

**THURSDAY – Saint Stephen, the First Martyr**

8:30 Special Intention of the Thomas Maloney Family  
 req. by the Scanlon Family

**FRIDAY – Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist**

8:30 Barbara DiStefano req. by Marie & Craig Wilson

**SATURDAY – The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

8:30 Carmen Triano req. by Nora & John Simone  
 Special Intention of Father David McDonnell req. by  
 Elzieta Bialy  
 5:30 People of the Parish

**DECEMBER 29, 2019**

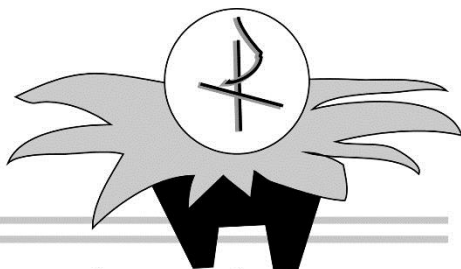
**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

7:45 Ed Maron req. by Rita & John Scanlon  
 9:00 Oswald & Monalda Reavey req. by Tom & Pat  
 Bracken  
 10:30 Margaret M. McGovern req. by McGovern Family  
 12:00 Deceased members of the J. Lorello Family  
 req. by Re Lorello

**PARISH FINANCE**

<b>Immaculate Conception</b>	<b>\$ 2,429</b>
<b>December 15, 2019</b>	<b>\$ 9,723</b>
<b>Religious Retirement Fund</b>	<b>\$ 3,030</b>

Born to us



**Jesus the Savior**

**REFLECTION**

**Ask for a Sign**

Things were looking bad for King Ahaz of Jerusalem. He was barely holding back an attack from the armies of Aram and Samaria. The situation became so desperate that Ahaz decided to appeal to the king of Assyria for help. "I am your servant and your son," he wrote. "Come up and rescue me."

Hearing this news, the prophet Isaiah urged Ahaz to reconsider. He knew that bowing to Assyria would mean adopting the nation's false idols and sinful traditions. "Ask for a sign from the Lord," he begged the king. *Let God help you.*

But Ahaz refused. He didn't want to risk God's wrath by seeming to dare God to prove himself. Besides, he thought, God could not possibly be so good as to rescue him – especially not after all the ways Ahaz had disobeyed him in the past.

Like Ahaz, we too can fear that we have to deal with the challenges of life all on our own. But God is always giving us signs of his presence and his help. Some are subtle, like a beautiful sunrise, and others are more obvious, like the faithfulness of a friend. And then there's the dramatic sign that Isaiah gave Ahaz: "The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel."

Emmanuel. God-with-us. A living, breathing sign of God's love and protection. A personal, undeniable sign of God's commitment to his people. A promise that he has seen our need and is ready to help if we turn to him.

At Mass today, you'll be surrounded by signs: statues, a crucifix, an altar, and maybe a crèche. And of course, the greatest and most intimate of all signs: Jesus, present in the form of bread and wine. He is a sign you not only see but one you can taste and touch. He is the sign that redeems, heals, and restores. So don't be like Ahaz. Welcome this sign. Take it into your heart and soul.

From: *The Word Among Us*

**THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH – 12/22/19 – 12/29/19**

<b>Mon.</b>	<b>6:30 pm Youth Group</b>	<b>Youth Room</b>
	<b>7:00 pm Charismatic Prayer Group</b>	<b>St. Jos.</b>
	<b>7:00 pm Advent Communal Penance Service</b>	
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>See Christmas Eve Mass Schedule</b>	
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>NO MORE BINGO</b>	
	<b>9:00 am Bible Study</b>	<b>St. Joseph</b>
	<b>7:00 pm RCIA</b>	<b>St. Lucy</b>
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>8:00 pm AA</b>	<b>Cassidy Hall</b>
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>9:00 am Legion of Mary</b>	<b>St. Benedict</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>1:00 pm Women's Social</b>	<b>Cassidy Hall</b>
	<b>No Religious Ed.</b>	

**LITURGY**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14**

Ahaz receives from Isaiah a prophecy that he will be successful in war and is urged to ask for a sign that the prophecy is true. The sign is "The virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel."

**Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7**

Paul greets the Romans by pointing out that Jesus is the Christ who was promised to them in Scripture. He, Paul, is the apostle favored with the task of spreading the name of Christ to all.

**Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24**

In a brief, straightforward, simple narrative, Matthew recounts the events leading to Jesus' birth. He details the appearance of the angel in a dream to Joseph and stresses that "All this happened to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophets."

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

**DECEMBER 29, 2019**

**HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

**First Reading:** Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

**Second Reading:** Colossians 3:12-21

**Gospel:** Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

**ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE**



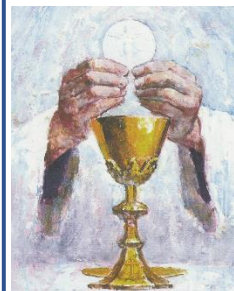
In preparation for the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we will have confessions available every Monday during Advent from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.

**Our Advent Communal Penance**

**Service** will take place on **Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>** **beginning at 7:00 PM.** There will be additional priests available for confessions. Please take this opportunity to prepare for Christmas.

**CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING**

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.



***EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS ARE NEEDED to serve at Christmas Masses. Please sign up ahead of time on the special sheet stapled inside the regular Sunday Mass EM binder in the vestibule of the church.***

**WE'VE BEEN ASKED TO ANNOUNCE**

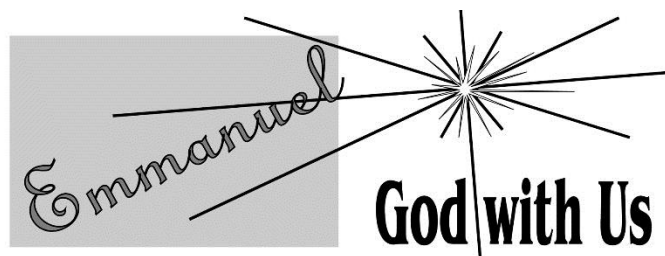
**Saint Paul's Abbey Christmas Trees**

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.



**Reunion of Hearts**

Reunion of Hearts support group for families dealing with issues of estrangement. Thursdays 7:00 to 8:30 pm, January 9 – March 12, 2020 at St. Thomas Church, 5635 Berkshire Valley Rd., Oak Ridge, NJ. To register or for more information, call or text Janet at (201) 213-8499; email Janet@POfeifferPowerSeminarscom



## GODSPELL AUDITIONS:

Audition Notice  
**North Star**  
Theater Company  
in collaboration with  
Our Lady of the Lake Church

# GODSPELL

Auditions: January 2 + 3 @ 6:30-9pm  
Performances: March 13, 14, 15 + 18

Auditions will be held at  
21 Kennedy Ave  
Ogdensburg, NJ 07439

Producer Jodi Halteman	Director Allison Ognibene	Stage Manager Chrissy Fulmer
Tech Director John Kollar	Music Director Dr. Deborah Prudenti-Gianuzzi	Choreographer Kelly Dacus-Smith

www.northstartheater.org

Our Lady of the Lake is teaming up with North Star Theater Company for the musical, "Godspell." Auditions will be held on Thursday, January 2, and Friday, January 3, from 6:30 to 9 pm, at the North Star Theater Company Studio, 21 Kennedy Avenue in

Ogdensburg. (It is the basement of the First Presbyterian Church.) High School to adults are welcome to audition.

The auditions will run as follows: 6:30 pm singing audition. Please prepare a song from Godspell and bring either a karaoke track or sheet music.

7:30 pm there will be a dance audition, followed by reading from the script at 8:15 pm.

If you only are interested in singing in the ensemble, you will only need to be at the singing portion of it. We will have a "Godspell Choir" for the show.

Godspell will take place at the altar of Our Lady of the Lake on March 13, 14, 15 and 18. The show will be directed by Allison Ognibene, music direction by Dr. Deborah Gianuzzi and technical direction by John Kollar. Many thanks to the Knights of Columbus for helping to support funding for Godspell.

## THE GIVING TREE



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

## FAITH AND FAMILY NIGHT AT PRUDENTIAL CENTER

February 8, 7:00 pm  
NJ Devils vs. LA Kings



Join Our Lady of the Lake and other churches for Faith and Family Night at Prudential Center in Newark when the New Jersey Devils take on the LA Kings! The event will feature Christian bands before and during the game, and an opportunity to bond with fellow parishioners. We have reserved a block of tickets where we can sit

together as a parish. Tickets are \$49, which includes a draw string bag, t-shirt, group photo on the ice, our Church name on the jumbotron, and a FUN TIME! Bring the family and cheer on the team! This could be a great Christmas or Confirmation present.

<https://fevo.me/olfaithandfamilynight>.

### Looking for a way to help our parish community?

Come join our Offertory Counting Team! We need help from parishioners with this essential task. About once a month, you would be scheduled to count the weekly offertory or special collections with 2-5 other team members. The bonus is a few hours of fellowship! If interested, please call Lori at the parish office for details, and we can begin scheduling you for January. (973) 729-6107. Thank you in advance!

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



Mrs. O'Neill's 5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday morning Religious Ed class decorated Christmas Tree cards for the staff of Our Lady of the Lake, very thoughtful & greatly appreciated.

# CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



Monday December 23	<b>Advent Communal Penance Service</b> 7:00 PM
Tuesday December 24	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 4:00 PM (overflow in McKenna Hall @ 4:05) 6 PM, 8 PM & Midnight
Wednesday December 25	<b>Christmas Day</b> 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM & Noon
Tuesday December 31	<b>New Year's Eve</b> Regular Morning Mass - 8:30 AM 5:30 PM Vigil Mass
Wednesday January 1, 2019	<b>Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God (New Year's Day)</b> 8:30 AM 7:00 PM

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



**PLEASE NOTE:** Eucharistic Adoration will take place on **Tuesdays** from now on, beginning after the 8:30 Mass and closing at 6:45 p.m. with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Evening Prayer. On **December 16<sup>th</sup>** adoration will **begin at 2:30 pm** due to school confessions.



## O, COME LET US ADORE HIM!



*Father David, Father Kamil, Deacon Sonny, Deacon Jim and the Parish Staff wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year!*



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS  
**HIS WORD TODAY** by Rev. William J. Reilly

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 22, 2019**

**“Through him we have been favored with apostleship that we may spread his name and bring to obedient faith all the Gentiles among whom are you who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all in Rome, beloved of God and called to holiness, grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”**

Do you ever count how many Christmas cards you receive? Do you classify some as religious, family pictures, or strictly secular? A card sometimes expresses how people feel about you, or even the Christmas season. We are about to celebrate the birth of Christ. Is not this passage of Paul to the Romans a great Christmas wish? We may not be in Rome, but his care for those loved by God is quite clear. We 1. Belong to Jesus Christ 2. Are called to holiness 3. Grace is his wish for us and 4. Peace is the result of the presence of the Lord.

May the blessings of Christ be with you and yours.