

**ST. ELIZABETH - ST. BRIGID PARISH**

December 24, 2017- December 31, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**LITURGICAL SCHEDULE**

(†) Deceased (ℒ) Living

**Monday, December 25 ~ The Nativity of the Lord**

8:30 AM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: For the Parishioners  
9:30 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Bishop Edward T. Hughes †  
10:30 AM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: For the Parishioners  
11:30 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: For the Parishioners

**Tuesday, December 26 ~ St. Stephen**

8:45 AM (St. Brigid) Morning Prayer  
9:00 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: David Olivier ℒ

**Wednesday, December 27 ~ St. John**

8:45 AM (St. Elizabeth) Novena  
9:00 AM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: John Sweeney †

**Thursday, December 28 ~ The Holy Innocents**

8:45 AM (St. Brigid) Morning Prayer  
9:00 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Maureen Sumner †

**Friday, December 29**

8:45 AM (St. Brigid) Rosary for Vocations  
9:00 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Sr. Angeline dal Corso, MPF †

**Saturday, December 30**

5:00 PM (St. Brigid) Mass: John T. Dolan †  
6:30 PM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Denise Stanley †

**Sunday, December 31 ~ The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary, and Joseph**

7:30 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Sr. Angeline dal Corso, MPF †  
8:30 AM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Dr. Thomas Paterniti †  
9:30 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: William Jones †  
10:30 AM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Florance Crann †  
11:30 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: For the parishioners



**PEACE LIGHT**

Each year, a child from Upper Austria fetches the light from the grotto in Bethlehem where Jesus was born.

The light is carried in two blast proof miners lamps on an Austrian Airlines jet from Tel Aviv, Israel to Vienna, Austria from where it is distributed at a Service of Dedication to delegations from across Europe who take it back, with a message of Peace, to their own countries. Austrian Airlines then flies the miners' lamps containing the Peace Light from Bethlehem to New York City. ***This year, the Sciarra family has arranged for St. Elizabeth Church and St. Brigid Church to have the Peace Light.***

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

**Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, 2017**

**St. Brigid** ----- 4:00 PM

(E) F. Howard (R) M. Ruggia

(A) C. Ruggia, B. Luther, K. Watkins, M. Dolan

**St. Brigid** ----- 6:00 PM

(E) F. Perez, G. Perez (R) P. Riedel

(A) Assistance Needed

**St. Brigid** ----- 10:00 PM

(E) B. Peterson, B. Henderson (R) J. Howe

(A) L. & W. Mahala, B. & A. Henderson

**Christmas Day, Monday, December 25, 2017**

**St. Elizabeth** ----- 8:30 AM

(E) K. Spinda (R) Assistance Needed

(A) C. Moreau, I. Barsanti

**St. Brigid** ----- 9:30 AM

(E) B. Carlson (R) C. Mortenson

(A) Assistance Needed

**St. Elizabeth** ----- 10:30 AM

(E) F. Grigni (R) E. Van Arsdale

(A) Assistance Needed

**St. Brigid** ----- 11:30 AM

(E) V. Zachman, J. Zachman (R) C. Roselle

(A) Assistance Needed

**Saturday, December 30, 2017**

**St. Brigid** ----- 5:00 PM

(E) G. LaGrassa (R) C. Ross

(A) M. Orosz

**St. Elizabeth** ----- 6:30 PM

(E) R. Sternick (R) Assistance Needed

(A) Assistance Needed

**Sunday, December 31, 2017**

**St. Brigid** ----- 7:30 AM

(E) H. Kochanski (R) S. Santucci

(A) A. Johnson

**St. Elizabeth** ----- 8:30 AM

(E) K. Spinda (R) P. Riedel

(A) Assistance Needed

**St. Brigid** ----- 9:30 AM

(E) B. Carlson (R) E. Van Arsdale

(A) Assistance Needed

**St. Elizabeth** ----- 10:30 AM

(E) Assistance Needed (R) Assistance Needed

(A) Assistance Needed

**St. Brigid** ----- 11:30 AM

(E) F. Grigni (R) Assistance Needed

(A) L. & W. Mahala



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**FIRST READING: 2 SAMUEL 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16** King David plans to build a temple to honor God. But God tells Nathan the Prophet that instead he will give David rest from his enemies, and ensure that both his house and community will be protected forever.

**SECOND READING: ROMANS 16:25-27** In this letter of Paul to the Romans, he explains that the gospel reveals the mystery that had been hidden for many ages. Now it has been made known to all, so that they may believe, obey, and give glory through Jesus Christ forever.

**GOSPEL: LUKE 1:26-38** The Virgin Mary is approached by the angel Gabriel, who tells her that she has been chosen to bear the Son of God. Mary is first afraid, yet shows her unquestioning faith when she simply says, "Let it be done to me as you say."

**SAINT ELIZABETH-ST. BRIGID PARISH CONTACT LIST**

| <b>Parish Group</b>     | <b>Contact Name and E-mail</b>  |
|-------------------------|---|
| Bible Study/Book Club   | Sr. Donna Marie Kemberling, SCC<br><a href="mailto:AdultEd@sainte.org">AdultEd@sainte.org</a>   |
| Choir                   | Mary Lieberman<br><a href="mailto:Choir@sainte.org">Choir@sainte.org</a>  |
| Couples in Christ       | Gabriella Daus<br><a href="mailto:ParishLife@sainte.org">ParishLife@sainte.org</a>  |
| Daughters of Mary       | Tess Johnson<br><a href="mailto:Daughters_of_Mary@sainte.org">Daughters_of_Mary@sainte.org</a>  |
| Knights of Columbus     | Abe Van Beveren III<br><a href="mailto:kofc11386@gmail.com">kofc11386@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:KofC@sainte.org">KofC@sainte.org</a>                                   |
| Lectio Divina           | Men: Jerry Tutak<br><a href="mailto:Lectio_M@sainte.org">Lectio_M@sainte.org</a><br>Women: Vera Ricciardi Zachman<br><a href="mailto:Lectio@sainte.org">Lectio@sainte.org</a> |
| Parish Pastoral Council | Vera Ricciardi-Zachman<br><a href="mailto:PastoralCouncil@sainte.org">PastoralCouncil@sainte.org</a>  |
| RCIA                    | Margaret Mulrooney<br><a href="mailto:ParishLife@sainte.org">ParishLife@sainte.org</a>  |
| Religious Education     | Denise O'Callaghan<br><a href="mailto:RelEd@sainte.org">RelEd@sainte.org</a>  |
| Reverence for Life      | Kathy Marie Denuel<br><a href="mailto:RevforLife@sainte.org">RevforLife@sainte.org</a>  |

Or please call the Parish Office at 908-234-1265

**PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2017**

My dear friends in Jesus Christ,

*"I bring you tidings of great joy: Today in the City of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!"* (Luke 2:11)

Good news, indeed, for Christ is the only perfect Christmas gift! Our relatives and friends may have shopped for hours to obtain for us an ideal gift. We ourselves may have endured the rush and crush of Christmas shopping. For some, our fingers may be numb and our eyes tearing up from internet shopping. Our giving may even bring to others an immense amount of unselfish love. Yet we all know that even our best gifts are unable to make others completely happy. We shall never be perfectly pleased, even with the beautifully wrapped gifts under our own Christmas tree. For only Jesus Christ can completely satisfy us!

At Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph were without the comforts and conveniences of Nazareth; they did not have the warm, cheerful atmosphere of their home; they lacked even the bare essentials for decent living. "There was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7). Yet they were happy. For in the stable of Bethlehem Mary gave birth to the giver of all happiness.

Then there were the Shepherds who first heard the "good news of great joy" (Like 2:10): So they went with haste, and they found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in the manger. And when they had seen, they understood what had been told them concerning this Child.

Good news of great joy continues to be ours even in a world that seems to bring news of heartache, hatred and violence all too often. We are reminded time and again that only Christ the Lord can completely satisfy us! That is why Christ did not abandon us but gave us his Church to console and comfort us. If there are parishioners who need our services such as those who are homebound, please do not hesitate to call the Parish Office and let us know.

May God bless you and all the members of your family this Christmas 2017 and throughout 2018!

In Christ Jesus Our Lord,

Reverend Monsignor Edward C. Puleo

## Christmas Mass Schedule 2017

### Christmas Eve December 24

4:00 PM St. Brigid Church  
Mass with Children's Nativity  
Overflow seating in St. Patrick Hall  
6:00 PM St. Brigid Church  
9:30 PM St. Brigid Church  
Christmas Carols  
10:00 PM St. Brigid Church

### Christmas Day December 25

8:30 AM St. Elizabeth Church  
9:30 AM St. Brigid Church  
10:30 AM St. Elizabeth Church  
11:30 AM St. Brigid Church

### New Year's Day Schedule 2018

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
New Year's Day January 1, 2018  
(Not a Day of Obligation)  
9:00 AM St. Elizabeth Church

## BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE OR A MANGER SCENE



God of Mary and Joseph, of shepherds and animals, bless us whenever we gaze on this manger scene. Through all the days of Christmas may these figures tell the story of how humans, angels, and animals found the Christ in this poor place. Fill our house with hospitality, joy, gentleness, and thanksgiving, and guide our steps in the way of peace.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

<https://www.osv.com/MyFaith/ChurchSeasonsandFeasts>



## PRAY FOR POPE FRANCIS AND HIS INTENTIONS

**The Elderly.** That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

### MIDDLE SCHOOLERS!

All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

ICE SKATING!

Friday, January 5th



Ramil Caragay  
(908) 443-1802  
sesb@boldym.com

### Ice Skating at the Bridgewater Sports Arena

Friday, January 5th, 2018

We'll hop on the bus at St. Brigid Church at 6:15pm and return by 10:15pm.

Download your form at [boldym.com/sesb/forms](http://boldym.com/sesb/forms). Please return the form to the parish office with a \$30 check to St. Elizabeth-St. Brigid Parish by Tuesday, January 2nd.

## SKI TRIP

BOLD Ski Trip 2018

February 2-4, 2018

Gore Mountain, NY &  
Holiday Inn, Lake George

For Grades 9-12

REGISTER NOW at [www.boldym.com/ski18](http://www.boldym.com/ski18)

## FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> -- DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>



The Altar Bread and Wine at St. Brigid Church are being offered in loving memory of

**Louis G. Di Perna**



The Sanctuary Candle at St. Brigid Church is being offered in memory of

**Timothy Sweeney**

as requested by Joan & Don McCarthy

*Please Pray for the Sick of the Parish*

**"For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven..."**

**A time to heal...** Please pray for the sick of our parishes including: Elizabeth Kurylo, Ruth Stahl, Maria Nucci, Dave Martin, Ann Buttacavoli, Victoria Gass, Barbara Giarretta, Phyllis Munstis, Mike Tocci, Magdalena Mendez, Kathryn Zacharias, Mary Hanlon, John Gallagher, Dottie Brienza, Richard LaPointe, Pamela Palma, Philipa Reist, Brigitta Reist, Joan Beam, Charlie Blake, Barbara Ryan, Cheryl Huberdeau, Collin Perrone, Larry Gaffney, Robert Caffrey, Kieran Flynn, Louise Pickel, Mary Christensen, Nancy Santucci, and Msgr. Sean Cunneen.

**A time to die...** Please pray for those who have recently passed away.

## YOU CAN SAVE YOUR MARRIAGE

### RETROUVAILLE—A life line for troubled marriages

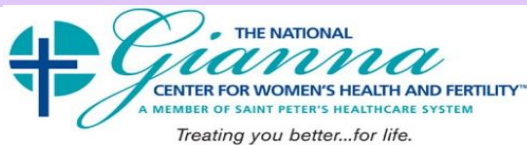


Has your relationship become unloving or uncaring? Has your relationship become cold and distant? Are you thinking about separation or divorce? Are you already separated or divorced but both of you wish to try again? Then the Retrouvaille may help you.

**RETROUVAILLE** (*Rediscovery*)—sponsored by the Family Life Office in the Diocese of Metuchen consists of a weekend experience for couples (no group discussions) with six follow-up sessions.

The next program is scheduled for the weekend of February 9-11, 2018. All inquiries are confidential. For more information please call: Family Life Office 732-562-1990 x4573. To register call Rich & Annette Colasuonno 732-236-0671 or Tom & Pat McTague 732-583-4468 (evenings).

## SAINT PETER'S GIANNA CENTER



We are very pleased to introduce you to the Saint Peter's Gianna Center located in New Brunswick, NJ. The Center is dedicated to offering truly prolife women's health care, including infertility services, general gynecologic care, and more. All services are provided in accordance with the US Catholic Bishops Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services. Please contact us at 732-565-5490 or visit us at: <http://www.saintpetershcs.com/GiannaCenter/> for more information.

## RALLY FOR LIFE IN TRENTON, NJ

The Diocese of Metuchen's Office of Human Life and Dignity will be running a bus to the Rally for Life in Trenton, NJ on Monday, January 22, 2018. The bus ride is free of charge, but since space is limited all passengers must reserve their seats. Passengers will board the bus at the Diocesan Center in Piscataway at 9:30 AM. The Rally at the State House begins at 11 AM and ends at 1 PM. The bus will bring everyone back to the Diocesan Center between 2 – 2:30 PM. If you have any questions or would like to reserve a seat please email [amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org) or call 732-562-1990 exts. 1543 or 1629.



## 2018 MARCH FOR LIFE – WASHINGTON, DC

Pro-Life advocates from around the country will gather in Washington, DC, to seek change for the right to human life on the 46th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision on Roe v. Wade on **Friday, January 19, 2018**. Please note: The March will not be held on the actual anniversary of Roe v. Wade. The March for Life Rally will take place at noon at 12th St. on the National Mall, in between Madison Drive and Jefferson Drive. Following the Rally, the March will begin on Constitution Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets at approximately 1 PM. Please check: [www.marchforlife.org](http://www.marchforlife.org) for more information. Busses will leave locally from the following locations:

Annandale - Immaculate Conception  
Contact: Bill Smith • (908) 797-7359

Somerville - Immaculate Conception  
Contact: Kevin Dugan • (908) 788-7736

## RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY



**Week 32** “There are so many things happening to me this week! My brain is growing quickly now and I am thinking all sorts of new things. It is taking huge amounts of calcium for my bones to harden and I am continuing to gain more weight. I am even starting to look a little chubby. I'll bet my parents will just love to squeeze my pudgy cheeks. I am healthy and beautiful and thanks to God, I am wonderfully made.”

## SPIRITUAL ADOPTION

### SPIRITUALLY ADOPT-A-BABY

Pray for Unborn Human Life



I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
will pray daily:  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
I love you very much.  
I beg you to spare the life  
of the unborn child that I  
have spiritually adopted who is  
in danger of abortion.  
-- Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen



**Thank you for all the Giving Tree gifts. Happiness will abound on Christmas morning. Please continue to pray for those who will receive these gifts.**

### PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY



Remember in your prayers the members of our Armed Services, especially Patrick Blankenship of the USMC & Ryan O'Connor of the US Army, close friends of Jean Fall; John F. Stahl of the US Army, son, Joseph Stahl of the Navy, grandson, and Eric Hummel of the US Army nephew of Ruth Stahl; Brendan Patrick Duffy of the US Army, son of Deacon Larry & Denise Duffy; Jordan Weaver of the Air Force, husband of Christy (LaPointe) Weaver; Timothy Donovan of the US Navy, close friend of Tom Gioino; Charles Clough of the USMC, son of John & Jan Clough; PFC Sean McMahan of the US Army, friend of The LaPointe family; John Walker of the Air Force, grandson of Bernard & Joan O'Reilly; Christopher Jibilian, US Navy pilot and Matthew Jibilian US Navy Seal, grand-nephews of Charlie & Pina Jibilian; Specialist Kyle Patterson of the US Army, godson of Mary Oswald.



### DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Commencing in the New Year, Eucharistic Adoration will be held in the Chapel at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway. Volunteer adorers and intercessors are needed Monday through Friday during business hours to pray for the intentions of the Diocese. For information or to volunteer, call Laura (732) 529-7932 or email [evangelization@diometuchen.org](mailto:evangelization@diometuchen.org).

### GIVE THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING



We will soon be showering our loved ones with gifts. It doesn't take too much wisdom and prudence to see that the best God has to offer is His beloved Son Jesus. As St. John of the Cross put it: "The Father spoke one Word, which was His Son, and this Word He always speaks in eternal silence, and in silence it must be heard by the soul."

How can we receive and give this best of God's gifts? Mother Teresa was an expert at giving, and she has the answer for us. She said, "The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time that you will spend on earth. Each moment that you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with Him and make your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in heaven, and will help bring about an everlasting peace on earth." In her famous Vanarasi letter, Mother Teresa wrote to her spiritual children:

*"Jesus wants me to tell you again how much love He has for each one of you – beyond all you can imagine. I worry some of you still have not really met Jesus – one to one – you and Jesus alone. We may spend time in chapel – but have you seen with the eyes of your soul how He looks at you with love? Do you really know the living Jesus – not from books but from being with Him in your heart? Have you heard the loving words He speaks to you? Ask for the grace, He is longing to give it...How can we last even one day without hearing Jesus say, 'I love you' – impossible. Our soul needs that as much as the body needs to breathe the air...Jesus wants you each to hear Him – speaking in the silence of your heart."*

Along with Mother Teresa and Jesus, I want you to receive that gift of His love as Advent melts into Christmas.

Except from: "Mother Theresa's Christmas Present" by Suzie Andres <http://catholicexchange.com/mother-teresas-christmas-present>