Come
Let Us
Adore Him!

December 25, 2016
The Nativity of the Lord - Cycle A

The Sacraments of Life

Preparing for Marriage

Banns Posted

First Time ~
Alex Siedlecki & Danielle DeLuca

Second Time ~
No Banns

Third Time ~
No Banns

For Our Sick
Please remember in your prayers
the sick of our Parish: Robert Dobbins, Robert Semeraro, Marie Azicri, Monica Restrepo, Kristy Minningel, Thomas Cox, Edward Leitch, Roseann Donarumma, Joan Thorman, Marilyn Ann O’Hara, Angela Mancusi, Mary Anne Bonner, Isabel Sampson, Ignacio Guzman, Frank McCluskey, Sean Regan, Anne Aguís, Kathleen M. Elsner, Tom Fleury, Mary Jane Simmons, Evelyn Scalise, Mary Blasko, Richard D’Alessandro, Dan Aranda, Charles Chertiza, Marcella Dwyer, Jenien Horner, Dorothy Meloni, Joy Lichten, Kristy Minninger, Sandy Cardona, Norman Gomez, Brandon Davey, Raymond Meigel, Angela Colantrello, Mary Ellen Szwejkowski, Fr. Joseph Arevalo, Gertrude Albert, Sabina Dojlidko, Kathleen Gallagher, Lee Dorn, Dorila Cardozo, Frank Ferguson, Marie Greer & Silvio Gomez.

Bread & Wine for the Eucharist

In Memory of Laura Ann Farrell & Marguerite Martinelli

Altar Rose

In memory of Brendan Lynch

For Our Deceased
Please pray for the families and souls of our deceased members including Anna F. Dieterich.

REFLECTION FOR TODAY
For unto us is born this day a Savior! In response to so great a love, only the gift of my whole self will do. You have given us Yourself, dear Lord; in love and thanksgiving, I commit myself afresh to you.

Mass Schedule & Readings For The Coming Week:

At this Mass, we remember:
Monday, December 26
Acts 6:8 – 10; 7:54–59, Mt 10:17 – 22
7:45 Mr. Wilmarth
9:00 Valentino, Bato, Eva Nulaj

Tuesday, December 27
1 Jn 1:1–4, Jn20:1a, 2–8
7:45 Catherine M. Frederico
9:00 Robert Jelardi

Wednesday, December 28
1 Jn 1:5—2:2, Mt 2:13 – 18
7:45 Merlinda Nones Masaya
9:00 Anthony Scheriff

Thursday, December 29
1 Jn 2:3–11, Lk 2:22–35
7:45 Diana L. Nacchia
9:00 Intentions of Thanksgiving for Friday
Night Prayer Group

Friday, December 30
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17, Ps 128:1–5, Mt 2:13–15, 19–23
7:45 Special Intention
9:00 Mary McLoughlin

Saturday, December 31
1 Jn 2:18–21, Jn 1:1–18
9:00 Intentions of Pamela Gmelin
Weekend Celebrations (barring last minute changes)
4:00 Confessions Today Fr. Francis
5:00 Richie O’Shea Fr. Charles
Ronald Bannister
Joann McKinnon

Sunday, January 1 ~ Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
Nm 6:22–27, Ps 67:2–3, 5–6, 8, Gal 4:4–7, Lk 2:16–21
7:00 People of St. Joseph Fr. Francis
8:45 Elizabeth Fiore Fr. Ethel
9:30 Holiday - No Mass
10:15 George Wanser Fr. Ethel
12:00 Michael Roche Fr. Charles
5:00 Holiday - No Mass
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of Fr. Ethel, Fr. Joe, Fr. Francis and our Pastoral Team, I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas. May your hearts be filled with peace knowing that a savior has been born for you, who is Christ the Lord. Without Jesus our Savior being born on that first Christmas, we would have NO hope of redemption (not just at the end of our lives but on a daily basis). Christmas reminds us that we don't earn our way to heaven by doing good things and living holy, moral lives. We will get to heaven on the mercy and love of God. Life is about opening our hearts to the reality of just how much God loves us, that He sent a savior to save us from our sins, from ourselves and bring us to heaven. As we open our hearts each day to His love, our natural response to Him becomes wanting to live a life of obedience to His word, a life of good works (charity) and holiness. Wanting to love and please the God who has given himself completely to us becomes the desire of our hearts. This kind of living tells God we are so very grateful for all He has done for us. Living a selfish, self-centered, me-focused life tells God, I am going to do whatever I please in life and you, your ways, your laws don't mean anything to me. This is hell on earth for that person and for all eternity.

In light of this, I would like to share with you a Christmas prayer that I came across the other day. May it bless your heart. Dear Lord, I thank you for this day, I thank you for my being able to see and to hear. I am blessed because you are a forgiving and understanding God. I am blessed because you were born for me in order to save me from myself so that I could live with You forever. I am blessed because I have come to understand that only You can fill the hunger, thirst and longing in my heart for complete and total love. You have done so much for me and You keep on blessing me. Forgive me this day for everything I have done, said or thought that was not pleasing to You. I ask now for your forgiveness. I desire my life to be pleasing you in every way. Please keep me safe from all danger and harm. Help me to start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude. Let me make the best of each and every day, living in your presence and clearing my mind so that I can hear from You. Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over and give me Your grace when I am pushed beyond my limits. I know that when I can’t pray, you listen to my heart. Continue to use me to do your will. Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others. Keep me strong that I may help the weak, keep me uplifted that I may have words of encouragement for others. I pray for those who are lost and can’t find their way. I pray for those who are misjudged and misunderstood. I pray for those who don’t know You intimately and are looking for love in all the wrong places. I pray for those who do not believe in You. I pray for each and every member of my family. I pray for peace, love and joy in their homes. I pray that every eye that reads this prayer knows there is NO problem, circumstance or situation greater than You, O God. Every battle is in Your hands for You to fight. I pray that these words be received into the hearts of all those who read this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen!

Lastly, as our year comes to a close I would like to thank all of you for your time, talent and treasure this year. Your stewardship helps us to worship the Lord and serve him with gladness. Because of you our parish can reach out to so many in need. I thank you again for your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal and the thousands of lives it changes because of your generosity. With your continued stewardship of time, talent and treasure may our parish be here for many generations to come.

Have a great week walking with God. Remember, with God in you, you can do the unthinkable, unimaginable and even forgive what you think is unforgivable.

Peace and blessings, Fr. Charles, Pastor
Welcome
Our pastor, Fr. Charles Mangano, his brother priests, Fr. Joe Arevalo, Fr. Ethel Anarado, Fr. Francis Samuel and our Pastoral Team welcome you to St. Joseph. If you are visiting us for the first time, you are our honored guests and we pray that you will consider making St. Joseph your church home. We are here to assist you in your spiritual growth and maturity as together we give glory to God through our worship, prayer and service in the name of Jesus Christ. We are committed to the fullness of Roman Catholic teaching and to the promise of salvation that the Church offers to all believers. May God accomplish a great work in you among us.

Office Hours/Parish Office
(631) 669-0068
E-mail: secretary@stjosephsbabylon.org
Mon. to Thurs. 9:30am to 9:00pm
Fridays 9:30am - 7:30pm
Sat. 9:30am to 6:30pm ❌ Sun. 9:30am -1:30pm

Cemetery Office
(631)669-0068 Ext. 107
Monday to Thursday 9:00am to 12:30pm
Please call in advance for an appt. during these hours.

Faith Formation Office
(631)587-4717
Mon. to Fri. 9:00am to 4:00pm

Hispanic Office
(631)669-0068 x131
Friday 7:00 to 9:00pm

Outreach Office
(631)669-4544
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
9:30am to 1:30pm
Other times by appt. (631-669-4544)

Food Pantry
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
9:30am to 1:30pm
Other times by appt. (631-669-0068 x 128)

Thrift Shop
(631)669-5574
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
10:00am to 3:00pm
Nursery School - (631)661-4559
Youth Ministry - (631)669-0068 x 108
Parish Office Fax - (631)669-9175
WebSite: www.stjosephsbabylon.org

MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION

Calling All Cake Bakers

The Ministry of Consolation would like to invite you to join our team of cake bakers.

The delivery of a home-made cake to a bereaved family in our local area is such an unexpected, pleasant surprise that says—

We are a welcoming community, we understand your pain and sadness. Your act of kindness is never forgotten by the family receiving your gift.

The Ministry of Consolation is such a beautiful and loving Ministry. Please join us so we may continue to lighten the burden for families at a difficult time in their life.

Bakers are on a rotating schedule. Please call Barbara Schade, 631-968-8793 or 631-669-0068, ext. 160.

If you’re not a baker, but would like to know more about us, please call us about other opportunities.

Parish Office News

Christmas Office Closings

Christmas Day, Dec. 25th ~ Closed
Monday, December 26th ~ Closed
New Year’s Eve, Dec. 31st ~ 9:30am-12pm
New Year’s Day, January 1st ~ Closed
Monday, January 2nd ~ Closed

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Our Parish Mission Statement

The Parish of St. Joseph is a Roman Catholic Community of Christ’s Disciples:
We Welcome. We Worship. We Witness.

Liturgy

We Assemble for Prayer

The Eucharist
Each day and each weekend, we celebrate the Eucharist, the Summit & Source of Catholic Christian Spirituality.

Rosary
We pray the Rosary before the 9:00am Eucharist Mondays through Saturdays.

Men’s Spirituality Group:
Witness and grow in Faith. Meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Church.

Nocturnal Adoration
A Holy Hour with the Blessed Sacrament is offered on the First Friday of each month, from 9:00pm to 10:00pm in the Church.

Prayers for Our Service Men & Women

We continue to pray for the following military personnel and their families:

U.S. Navy:
PO3 Joshua D. Benoit
Lt. Michael Catalano
Lt. John T. Izzo
Lt. Caroline Mayer
PO2 Kristen Tice
PO1 Rasheen Tice

U.S.M.C.:
Sgt. Lauren Colantropo
Malik Rodriguez
Nelson Sanchez, Jr.
PFC Joshua J. Coughlin

U.S. Air Force:
CPO Benjamin Flad
Capt. Matthew W. Sibley
F.A. Madison Mulders

U.S. Army:
SPC Elliot Chodkowski
SSG Joshua Insull
LTC John Kallo
SSG David C. Ray
Eric Stein
LTC Jon J. Uebel
PV2 Danny Bornschein
Sgt Edwin Zambrano
PFC Dominick Pittito
Capt. Stephen Scuderi
PFC Mark Ospina
Lt. Joseph A. Vanderveldt, II
2LT Anthony C. DiBiasi
PV2 Alexandra Diaz

U.S.A.F.:
Maj. Matthew G. Bland
AB Christopher Signoret
SSGT Brandon Ward
MSGT John Hatzidakis

Handicap Ramp

This week a handicap ramp was built by the back entrance of the rectory which the priests use so the rectory can be handicap accessible. The diocesan preference is that every building be handicap accessible. Included in this project was the redoing of those back steps which were incorporated into the ramp. The steps were very steep and awkward to climb. The curbing was also redone since so much of it had chunks of concrete missing along with areas of concrete that had lifted making it a tripping hazard. Now it will be safer for people to walk over and on the curb.

Sacrificial Giving

Thank you for your generosity in returning to God and God’s work some of what God has given to you.

12/11/16
Actual Collection $25,399.00
Budgeted Collection $25,923.00
(-$524.00)

God Bless You!

Parish News
Christmas Eve /Day Music Schedule

Christmas Eve Mass Schedule
Christmas Eve: Saturday, December 24
Carol in 30 minutes before Masses
4:00 pm Church – Youth Band ~ Fr. Charles
4:15 pm Hall – Adult Folk Ensemble ~ Fr. Francis
4:15 pm (in English) in La Capilla – Children’s Choir ~ Fr. Ethel
6:00 pm Church – Guitar & Cantor ~ Fr. Ethel
6:30 pm Misa en Español in Nolan Hall - Choir ~ Fr. Joe
Midnight - Church - St. Joseph’s Choir ~ Fr. Charles

Christmas Day Mass Schedule
Sunday, December 25,
7:00 am Church – Guitar & Cantor ~ Fr. Francis
8:45 am Church – Guitar & Cantor ~ Fr. Ethel
9:30 am Nolan Hall – Guitar & Cantor ~ Fr. Francis
10:15 am Church – Organ & Cantor ~ Fr. Charles
12:00 pm Church – Contemporary Music Ensemble ~ Fr. Charles
11:30 am Misa en Español in Nolan Hall - Choir ~ Fr. Joe

No 5:00 pm Mass in Church on Christmas Day

Christmas Pageant

The children of the parish performed in the annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday. A wonderful time was had by all, and a free will offering benefited St. Joseph’s Outreach. A special Thank You to Teresa Hansen and Meaghan Ruf for organizing the annual pageant.
Thank you for your generous support of the 2016 Catholic Ministries Appeal.

Completing your 2016 pledge ensures that our Parish will benefit by receiving our full rebate.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to give, please prayerfully consider making a donation to the Appeal.

    Pledges can be accepted until December 31\textsuperscript{st} and payments can be made through January 31\textsuperscript{st}!

Extra envelopes are provided in the back of the church.

Mail to:

Diocese of Rockville Centre
Catholic Ministries Appeal
PO Box 4000
Rockville Centre, NY 11571-4000
The Knights of Columbus will be hosting the Parish's Annual Winter Blood Drive in the O'Connell Room of the Parish Hall on Thursday, December 29 from 3 to 9 pm. Please come if you can as blood is in short supply. There will be Free Meatball Heroes for all donors.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Bishop McDonnell 1403 invites you to a Birth Rite Baby Shower for the benefit of THE LIFE CENTER on Wednesday, January 11th, 2017 in the O'Connell Room at 7:30 pm (doors open at 7:00 pm)

Come enjoy the party and support the women and men who have made the good decision to have their babies.

Please bring “new” baby items such as diapers, bottles, outfits and formula and you can place items in the bassinets you will find in the Church, and Hall over the next few weeks. Unwrapped gifts please.

The collection of all items has started.

We also accept gently used, in good condition, strollers, car seats, play gym sets, etc. For additional information for delivery of larger items, contact: Dorothy Buckley @ 631-539-8522.
Vocation Events

January 20: Vocations Holy Hour at St. Patrick’s, Bay Shore at 7pm

For more details call (516) 678-5800 Ext. 214 or log onto www.longislandpriest.com

Memorials

Memorials: A special thank you to Barbara Conti for memorializing the bells in the church which now ring during the consecration of the Mass and the Vittorio family for memorializing the bells in Msgr. Nolan Hall. Also, a parishioner called wanting to memorialize a vestment for her deceased husband. Therefore, we ordered a purple vestment for Advent. We are also in need of 4 purple stoles for the priests to wear when hearing confession collectively. They are $350.00 each. If anyone would like to memorialize one of the purple stoles please call Alice at (631) 669-0068 Ext. 171.

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2016: Loving Others as Christ Would

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<th>Catholic Ministries</th>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Goal 2016</th>
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<th>Collected</th>
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St. Joseph’s Nursery School

St. Joseph’s Nursery School
2017-2018 Registration

OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, January 21, 2017 and Saturday, February 4th
10:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m.

Programs available for children

4 months – Pre-K

4 months – 30 months for child & caregiver
2 ½ yr. olds – 2 days
3 yr. olds – 2, 3, 4, or 5 half days
4 yr. olds Pre-K – 3, 4, or 5 half days
Science, enrichment classes and more!

Tours are available on school days by appointment.
Please contact us at 661-4559 or
nurseryschool@stjosephs babylon.org
Christmas 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

She was found with child by the Holy Spirit!

The profound beauty of this startling mystery touches our hearts and opens our spiritual eyes to the truth that changes our lives and transforms the destiny of all of us who believe and proclaim the name of Emmanuel, God with Us, Jesus, Son of God made man. What makes this possible is God’s plan to redeem us all. Two realities come together. One divine, the power of God’s love, the Holy Spirit, enters the human heart of a simple Jewish maiden who readily accepts God’s Spirit into her heart. She in turn offers herself totally to God’s by her FIAT: let it be done to me according to your Word!

Small wonder that the angels sing as they behold Mary giving birth to Jesus, the divine Son now one with us, fully one with us, save sin, so that we might become sharers of His life through Mary, the passage way of divinity into humanity. Think of it. Contemplate it. The divine enters the world the same way all of us did: through the womb of a loving mother. Think of it. Contemplate it. In a simple stable, surrounded by shepherds with no material means but with the richness of being poor, utterly dependent on God’s loving care, teaching us what truly matters in life: human love transformed by divine love, the human love of family, the divine love of God, now joined not just this once but forever in an eternal covenant God makes with us through his only begotten Son.

As we ponder and contemplate, we are invited to respond: respond with joyful prayer, respond with grateful hearts, respond with our love for the Child, the mother, the foster father with shepherds adoring and angels singing. But now that we, once again, have come spiritually to Bethlehem with them, we must not only give thanks to God, we also must show His love through our own hearts and lives in imitation of the generosity of the new born Child Who saves the world. My friends, this Christmas may the love of God Who comes to us by the birth of Mary’s Son inspire us to renew our love for all the world, for our families and our friends and, even more, for those who are poor and overlooked, those who are suffering or alone, those who are so often “left out”, those who need us to show them the face of God which is the face of Jesus Christ.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND ON EARTH PEACE TO PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL!

A JOYFUL AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL OF YOU WHOM I CARRY IN MY HEART!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

[Signature]

PO Box 9023, Rockville Centre, New York 11571–9023 • telephone 516.678.5800 • fax 516.678.3138 • www.drvc.org
Please Help Fill Our Freezers

Outreach now has freezers. Please consider donating frozen prepackaged meals/foods. Since the items must be frozen, we ask you to please come to the Outreach office, located directly behind the Church, between the hours of 9:30am and 1:30pm on Mon-Wed-Thurs. If you cannot drop off your donations between those hours, then come to the Parish Office when it's open during the day, Mon. through Thurs. 9am to 4pm or Saturdays 9am to 1pm and we'll hold it until Outreach opens.

We are sorry, but we cannot accept home-cooked foods, we can only accept store bought pre-packaged items.

Frozen Pizza
Bread
Hamburgers and hot dogs
Ground beef, turkey

Frozen fish
Chicken - any kind
Chicken nuggets, tenders and fries

Prepared frozen foods
like lasagna and chicken & vegetable stir fry
Pork chops
Ham steaks

Frozen vegetables
Frozen mac n cheese
Frozen waffles
Frozen fruit

Book Club News

Book Club
Meeting on Thursday, January 12th, 2017 at 7:30pm in Room 255. The Fall Book discussion will be on “Last Days of Night” By Graham Moore
All are Welcome!
Please Help the Homeless

Please remember the homeless clients who stop in for help at our Outreach Center. We are happy to provide them with small “emergency kits” of ready-to-eat food, that is, food that doesn’t need to be heated or refrigerated.

Unfortunately, our stock is running low. Please help us by donating the following items:

- Bottled water
- Snack size fruit cups
- Soap
- Canned soda or juice
- Snack size puddings
- Shampoo
- Granola or cereal bars
- Small bags chips, trail mix, pretzels, cookies, etc.
- Toothpaste
- Small cans (pop-top) or packets of tuna
- Cheese and cracker packages
- Cleansing wipes
- Liquid Instant Breakfast
- Toothbrushes
- Razors
- Snack size puddings
- Deodorant

Please Help the Homeless

Thank you for your past and future donations.

St. Vincent de Paul

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul 631-669-4544.

A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR KIND AND COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS!!!
MAY YOUR GENEROSITY TO YOUR FELLOW NEIGHBORS IN NEED GIVE YOU MUCH JOY AND PEACE DURING THIS SPECIAL SEASON!
The Faith Formation Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-4pm. If you come between the hours of 9am – 9:30am, you will need to call the office to enter the building: 631-587-4717.

The Faith Formation Office will be closed beginning Thursday, December 22nd through Monday, January 2nd for the Christmas break. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 3rd at 9am. We would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas season and a new year filled with many good graces.

My unique Good Deed for the week was: Julia said grace at Thanksgiving dinner, TJ asked kids to be included in play that were by themselves, Skylar stopped a bully, Sophie helped her neighbor, John & Dominick prayed at night for Advent, Aidan prayed before bed and Owen respected his teacher.
Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry

Merry Christmas!
2016 has been a wonderful year for our Teens!

HIGH SCHOOL: Teens attended a weekend Steubenville NYC Conference, 4-day Youth Leader Training, Diocesan Youth Kick Off, Advent & Lenten Prayer Services, Cruise to Nowhere, and Roller Skating Party — in addition to weekly meetings and Parish & Community Service Projects!

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Only started in October and have already done a lot. Advent Night involved bagging breads for Thanksgiving & preparing the Church Missallettes for the new Season.
Weekly meetings are full of games, snacks, Bible Scavenger Hunts, and helping the Angel Brigade.

Check the website for more pictures and a calendar of events & activities coming up!
Www.stjosephsbabylon.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

These activities would not be possible without such a great Parish!
Some of you are our Prayer Warriors! Others our Financial Supporters!
Others give of their Time & Talent!
And so many continue to donate supplies, peanut butter & jelly, water bottles, snacks, pizza gift cards & more!
My office is an AWESOME MESS OF SUPPORT!!

Too many to name—but please know you are always in our prayers!
And Thank You to the Clergy & Staff of this Parish for believing in, and supporting the efforts of our Young Church!

MERRY CHRISTMAS & BEST WISHES FOR A GREAT 2017
St. Joseph the Carpenter Council #14771 is a Membership Organization of St. Joseph Parish. Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to men 18 years of age and older.

Meetings are normally held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 8PM in the O'Connell Room.

For membership information contact: Larry Dell’Erba at 631-539-8565.
For additional information about the Knights of Columbus and St. Joseph the Carpenter Council: Just Google “Knights of Columbus St Josephs”

The Junior Catholic Daughters will be having their annual cell phone collection drive beginning Dec. 17 thru Jan. 10. We are asking anyone receiving a new phone from Santa to please donate their old phone to help women in need. Verizon wipes out the info and enables the phones to dial 911 only. These phones are then distributed to women who have been victims of domestic abuse so they can receive immediate help in a crisis. Festively wrapped collection boxes will be located in the back of the church, at the back of Nolan Hall, and outside the parish office.

The JCDA is thankful for your support. We wish all our parish family a joyous Christmas Season!

Save the Date
for the
Birthright Baby Shower
All are welcome!
More information to follow.

Thinking of joining CDA contact me for more info: Dorothy Buckley @ 631-539-8522.
Adam Auer, a 7th grader in the Faith Formation program, wrote the following essay about God’s mercy:

Adam celebrates his First Eucharist at the 5pm Mass on Saturday and is preparing to celebrate Confirmation in the fall of 2017. He was baptized at the First Presbyterian Church in Babylon and has been attending St. Mary School in East Islip since kindergarten. He has been coming to Mass here at St. Joseph and wants to join our Church community. Please join us in welcoming Adam to St. Joseph parish community.

Moved by Mercy

By: Adam Auer

Mercy is one of God’s greatest gifts to us. Through his mercy, God saved us from all of our sins. By practicing mercy throughout our everyday lives, we can relieve people from their pain and help ourselves to have more peace in our hearts. Through this essay, I intend to help you to realize how God has had mercy on our lives in a way most people take for granted, and also show a way you can show mercy to another living creature. Read, and learn.

Many dogs in this world are suffering. Some have been raised in puppy mills, others have been abandoned by their owners, and still others are simply abused. In the case of puppy mills, conditions are terrible for these poor creatures. People who own puppy mills usually do so only for the purposes of making money, and as a result have no respect for the actual animals. The parents spend most of their lives in cages. Dogs who have been abandoned by their owners are forced to live on the streets and eat garbage until they are finally picked up by animal control. Dogs who are simply abused sometimes face even crueler fates such as malnutrition.

God has had mercy on my dog in the sense that he has never had to experience such conditions. He had excellent medical care from day one, and was born in a house, not someone’s garage. He is well fed, well hydrated, and walked about six times a day. He takes long naps on his favorite chair, which is heavily cushioned, and also gets to listen to me play piano once in awhile. He is so lucky to have a family that loves and cares for him; a family so many other dogs don’t get to have.

It is sad that not only animals have such horrible problems, but so do humans too. Humans face abuse, poverty, malnutrition, and abandonment, problems similar to those faced by some animals. By adopting both humans and animals into good homes, we can show them mercy like nobody else ever did. We can end their pain and their suffering, show them hope they had never seen before. If people don’t want to adopt, they could also donate money, food, clothes, and other things to charitable organizations that help humans or animals going through these types of lives. It is important in life to realize that someone always has it worse than ourselves. We should always thank God for the life we have, and also to help and pray for people and animals going through tough times. With mercy, we can do powerful things I pray that you would go out into your life, realize what a great life you have, and then help someone else with theirs. Go out into your life, and move someone or something with mercy!
The good news of the coming of Christ could not be confined within the limits of one nation. Thus, far from the east, men were studying the stars, and some strange phenomenon in the sky brought them to Judea in search of a new born king. These visitors are some of the mystery characters of the New Testament. So little is known about them that we are not even sure what to call them. Many commentators simply call them Magi, which is just the English spelling of a Greek word that is difficult to translate. Some modern translations call them “astronomers” or “astrologers”. But they are most widely and commonly known as “The Wise Men.” That, I think, has come to be more an interpretation than a translation. It is the consensus of the centuries that these were men of wisdom, that they thought clearly and acted wisely.

Most of us would like to believe the same thing about ourselves. Even people who care little about being religious would like to be wise. No one wants to be a fool. Life is too valuable to be frittered away in a foolish fashion. Whatever we do with these lives of ours, wherever we spend them, however we invest them, we would certainly like to do it wisely. So maybe if we take a look at this ancient story, we can learn a modern lesson about the elements of wisdom.

For you and me to say that we have found the Christ and that he has found us does not mean that we have come to the end of life’s search. What we have actually done is enroll in a university from which we will never graduate, at least not in this life. We will make some discoveries: we will gain some beautiful insights: we will learn some liberating truths: but we will never arrive. Truth is an unending frontier. The exciting adventure of discovery is as infinite as the nature of God himself.
CHRISTMAS 2016

Jack was having a great summer. The longtime owner of a fishing boat on the southern part of the Jersey Shore, Jack was very busy with charters for striped bass, fluke, flounder…whatever was biting. He was booked solid for eager fishers of fish but also had a number of groups that were interested in simply spending a leisurely summer evening on the Atlantic Ocean, watching the sun go down while enjoying a few adult beverages and assorted edible treats. Life was good for Captain Jack in early August, and he looked forward to it getting even better.

Grandparenthood was on the horizon for Jack and his wife, Diane…double grandparenthood, in fact. Their son Christopher and his wife Kerri Ann were expecting twins just before the year ended. “Great timing,” Jack said to himself. “My season slows down around then. We’ll have all the time in the world to spoil them.” Such were Jack’s thoughts in midsummer, but soon they would change.

In early August, 20 weeks into her pregnancy, Kerri sensed something was wrong. Her doctors confirmed that there was indeed a problem and put Kerri in the hospital immediately. Her condition worsened, and one of the fetuses was delivered stillborn. Jack and Diane found some comfort in holding their first grandchild, if only for an instant, and began to pray that somehow the surviving twin would fare better. The doctors were not so sure. Jack and Diane began to pray even harder.

At week 29, Emilia Evelyn arrived and was immediately sent to the neonatal unit at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, weighing just over two pounds. Jack and Diane felt their early prayers were working because Emilia was at perhaps the best hospital for such cases on the Northeast. Now, of course, they realized they needed more prayers, so they spread the word to all of their friends and asked their friends to spread to the word to all of their friends. Emilia fate was in the hands of the medical staff at UPenn Hospital but more so in the hands of God…and Jack and Diane wanted to make sure God got the message.

Emilia’s progress has been slow but steady, and, though certainly not under the Christmas tree, Jack and his family will have the best present of all when Emilia Evelyn leaves the hospital to begin her life as a normal child on or about Christmas Day, the end of the normal gestation period for twins. The family will always think of Emilia as their Miracle Baby.

We too celebrate a child’s birth, and He has been the Miracle Baby for mankind for the past 2,000 years. Will His arrival this year stir our hearts to live the kind of life that will bring us an eternity in heaven? Will we, like Emilia’s family, truly understand how precious a life can be? Will the joy of Christmas Day stay with us long after the presents are put away? Perhaps this Christmas we will open that perfect gift…the one not under the tree…the one in our hearts.

PRAYER

Meister Eckhart once said: “What good is it that Christ was born 2,000 years ago if he is not born now in your heart?” Lord, on this joyous Christmas Day, our prayer is simple: Give us the Grace we need to find You in our hearts, so we can do the things we need to do to make Christmas an everyday occurrence. This we ask in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOD BLESS US, EVERYONE.

Stewardship...

Stewardship Sound Byte

We are grateful this week for all stewards who have the courage, like Joseph, to listen to God’s voice in their own hearts and conscientiously pursue the tasks to which they have been called.
Catholic Ministries Appeal

A few weeks ago a parishioner came up to me and asked how much more money we need in order to reach our Catholic Ministries Appeal goal. He said that whatever our parishioners give financially to the appeal from now until December, he would match it, up to $10,000.00, so we can reach our goal. This parishioner is giving a great gift for the sake of the ministries of the diocese and our own parish since we will then receive a rebate if we reach our goal. Our Appeal goal set by the diocese is $134,300.00. So far parishioners have pledged $117,009.00. We need $17,291.00 more to reach our goal. I invite you to please consider making a pledge to the Catholic Ministries Appeal which helps thousands in need here on Long Island. If you send your pledge directly into the diocese, please make sure you attach a note and write in the memo of your check that it is to be applied to St. Joseph’s Parish in Babylon. Blessings Fr. Charles

News From Outside the Parish

PROFESSIONAL THERAPY AND COUNSELING

Professional therapy, provided by New York State licensed therapists including therapists who specialize in Bereavement, Bipolar Disorders and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, is available to our parish and 147 other parishes. This program, under the direction of Dr. George Giuliani, has been conducted in the diocese for the past 41 years for the convenience of parishioners. It is provided by the Catholic Counseling Center, a proprietary professional corporation, which is independent of and not controlled or supervised by the parish or diocese. Most insurance policies, including Medicare, are honored. We are currently looking for licensed therapists in Nassau, Suffolk and Queens. For confidential information and appointments, please call Dr. Giuliani at the Catholic Counseling Center at (631) 243-2503 or go to our website at http://www.thecatholiccounselingcenter.com.

Be a Hero! Volunteer Today

Would you like to help seniors in your community?

Willing Hearts, Helpful Hands Program Needs You!

This is an opportunity for you to make a difference in your community by helping family caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias throughout Long Island.

Willing Hearts, Helpful Hands is a unique program that helps caregivers keep loved ones in the comfort of their own home for as long as possible and eases the stress associated with being a caregiver.

Volunteers will receive free ongoing training and a monthly $50 living allowance.

To find out how to lend your helpful hands, contact us today.

Telephone: (516) 586-1507 or email: WHHH@parkerinstitute.org
LAS HORAS DE OFICINA DEL MINISTERIO HISPANO SON:
DOMINGOS DESPUÉS DE LA MISA
FONO: (631) 669-0068 Ext. 131

CURSO BIBLICO
TODOS LOS MARTES DE: 7:30PM — 9:30PM
SALON # 256 Por favor llamar @
Antonia (631) 422-5433

REFLEXION
¡Hoy nos ha nacido un salvador! En respuesta a
un amor tan grande, solo el regalo de mi mismo
será suficiente. Te has dado a nosotros, amado
Señor; en amor y agradecimiento, me entrego de
nuevo a ti.

Estamos agradecidos esta semana por todos los mayordomos
de nuestra parroquia que se regocijan porque el Verbo se hizo
con carne y mora entre nosotros! ¡Vengan, adorémonos!

Intercesiones por la Vida
Para todas las madres, y especialmente las que esperan el naci-
miento de su hijo: que por la intercesión de la Madre de Dios
puedan crecer en el amor de su hijo todos los días;

Oramos al Señor,
Señor, escucha nuestra oración

La Paz empieza con
Nosotros

'Ven a mi casa esta Navidad'
Tú que estás lejos de tus amigos, de tu tierra y de tu hogar,
y tienes pena, pena en el alma, porque no dejas de pensar.
Tú que esta noche no puedes dejar de recordar,
quiere que sepas, que aquí en mi mesa,
para ti tengo un lugar.

Por eso y muchas cosas más, ven a mi casa esta Navidad.
Tú que has vivido, siempre de espaldas, sin perdonar nin-
gún error, ahora es momento de reencontrarnos,
ven a mi casa, por favor.

Ahora ya es tiempo, de que charlemos, pues nada se perdió,
en estos días, todo se olvida, y nada sucedió.
Por eso y muchas cosas más, ven a mi casa esta Navidad.

BAUTISMO:
Tercer domingo de cada mes. Clase:
Segundo domingo de cada mes. Venir a la oficina del
Ministerio Hispano con dos meses de anticipación o
llame @ (631) 669-0068, Ext. 131. Traer el certificado
de nacimiento original del niño.

RITO DE INICIACIÓN CRISTIANA PARA ADULTOS: (RICA)
Les invitamos a una preparación espiritual de
conversión a la fe católica. Llame a la Sra. Julietta
Mieles, al (631) 669-0068, ext. 131.

CATEQUESIS DE NIÑOS Y ADULTOS:
Llamar a la oficina del Ministerio Hispano. (631) 669-0068, ext. 131.

MATRIMONIO:
Las parejas que desean casarse,
deben inscribirse con seis meses de anticipación.
Llamar al Padre Joe Arévalo al (631) 669-0068 ext. 104.

PRE-CANA:
Próximas clases Pre-Matrimoniales:
Sábado, 11 de febrero de 2017. Llame a Ruth y
Salomón Aguilar @ 631-592-9474.

RECONCILIACIÓN:
Sábado a las 4:00pm o llamar
para una cita, al Tel. # 669-0068 ext. 104.

UNCION DE LOS ENFERMOS:
Llamar a la oficina principal (631)669-0068 Ext. 100.

CURSILLO DE CRISTIANDAD:
Los invita a vivir un fin
de semana con Cristo. Tenemos Ultreya todos los
domingos a las 12:30pm. en el Salón # 256. Mas
información llame a Cristina Vera @ 631-327-6141.

RENOVACION CARISMATICA:
Tiempo de encuentro
con Dios. Les invitamos a experimentar el amor de Dios
de una manera diferente al escuchar un mensaje de
buenas noticias y esperanza para su vida y la de su
familia. Todos los viernes @ 7:15 p.m. Para mas
información llame a Ana Ramos. (631)617-2129.

COMUNIDAD DE MARIA:
Siguiendo los mensajes de
María Reina de la Paz y sobre temas de María en
general) - Sábados de 7:00pm-9:00pm. Comunicarse
con Adriana Mascari, al (631)681-0005.

COMITE:
El primer sábado de cada mes a las 10:00am
en el salón # 256. Para la agenda, llamar a Ana Ramos
al Tel. (631)617-2129.

ROSARIO:
Domingos a las 11:00am en la Capilla.

HERMANAS UNIDAS:
Todos los segundos domingo de cada mes, en el salón # 256, después de la misa.

EL APOSTOLADO DE LA CRUZ:
Todos los jueves
de 9:00 - 11:00am en el Salón # 252A. Comunicarse
con Adriana Mascari al Tel. (631) 681-0005 o Luz Marina
López al (631)321-6861.

INTENCIONES PARA UNA MISA:
Ver a Herminda y
Ana Elia López después de la misa.

HORA SANTA:
Cuarto domingo del mes. 12:30pm

MONAGUILLOS O ACOLITOS:
Ver a Felipe y
Claudia Rodas. Deben haber recibido la Primera
Comunión.
La Natividad del Señor - Ciclo A

Navidad 2016

Queridas Hermanas y Hermanos en Cristo,

¡Ella se encontró que estaba embarazada por obra del Espíritu Santo!

La profunda belleza de este portentoso misterio toca nuestros corazones y abre nuestros ojos espirituales a la verdad que cambia nuestras vidas y transforma el destino de todos los que creemos y proclamamos el nombre de Emmanuel, Dios con Nosotros, Jesús, Hijo de Dios hecho hombre. Lo que hace esto posible es el plan de Dios para redimirnos a todos. Dos realidades se unen. Una divina, el poder del amor de Dios, el Espíritu Santo, entra en el corazón humano de una simple doncella Judía que acepta de manera natural el Espíritu de Dios en su corazón. Ella a su vez se ofrece totalmente a Dios por medio de su FIAT: ¡Que se haga en mi conformidad con tu Palabra!

No es de extrañar que los ángeles canten mientras contemplan a María dando a luz a Jesús, el Hijo divino ahora uno con nosotros, totalmente uno con nosotros, salvo el pecado, para que podamos llegar a ser partícipes de su vida a través de María, el pasaje de la divinidad a la humanidad. Piénsalo. Contémpalo. El divino entra en el mundo de la misma manera que todos nosotros: a través del vientre de una madre amorsa. Piénsalo. Contémpalo. En un establo sencillo, rodeado de pastores sin medios materiales pero con la riqueza de ser pobre, totalmente dependiente del cuidado amoroso de Dios, enseñándonos lo que realmente importa en la vida: el amor humano transformado por el amor divino, el amor humano de familia, el amor divino de Dios, ahora unido no sólo esta vez sino para siempre en un pacto eterno que Dios hace con nosotros a través de su Hijo unigénito.

A medida que meditamos y contemplanos, somos invitados a responder: responder con oración gozosa, responder con corazones agradecidos, responder con nuestro amor por el niño, la madre, el padre adoptivo con los pastores adorando y los ángeles cantando. Pero ahora que una vez más hemos venido espiritualmente a Belén con ellos, no sólo debemos dar gracias a Dios, también debemos mostrar su amor a través de nuestros propios corazones y vidas, imitando la generosidad del recién nacido que salva al mundo. Mis amigos, que esta Navidad el amor de Dios que nos llega por el nacimiento del hijo de María nos inspire a renovar nuestro amor por todo el mundo, por nuestras familias y nuestros amigos y, más aún, por los pobres y abandonados, los que están sufriendo o están solos, los que están tan a menudo "excluidos", aquellos que necesitan que les mostremos el rostro de Dios que es el rostro de Jesucristo.

¡GLORIA A DIOS EN EL CIELO Y EN LA TIERRA PAZ A LA GENTE DE BUENA VOLUNTAD!

¡A TODOS USTEDES, QUE LLEVO EN MI CORAZÓN, UNA NAVIDAD ALEGRE Y BENDICIDA!

[Signature]

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