

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 23, 2018

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners:

I pray that this Holy Season of Advent has been a moment of Grace for all of us. This is truly a beautiful Parish and the faith and generosity of you, our dear parishioners, is so inspiring. The number of gifts received from you from our *Advent Giving Tree*, and all the food and money donated and Christmas dinners given out by our Saint Vincent DePaul Society to make Christmas a little extra special for those in need is what we are all about.

We come now to the Fourth Sunday of Advent. With Christmas only a day away, our Gospel shifts our attention from the preaching of John Baptist, which we have heard the last two weeks, to Mary. All the yearning and waiting for centuries throughout the Old Testament comes to its fulfillment as God, through the Angel Gabriel, asks a humble virgin of a tiny town called Nazareth to be the Mother of His Divine Son. At Mary's response, "*Let it be done to me according to your word*," the Eternal Word of the Father became Flesh in her womb and began to dwell among us. And so, in today's Gospel of the Visitation Mary's cousin Elizabeth, inspired by the Holy Spirit, exalts Mary with the words: "*Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled*."

How much we owe to the faith, the trust, and the humility of Mary. This is what made her most pleasing to God. As St. Augustine put it: "*Mary, full of faith, conceived Christ in her heart before she conceived Him in her womb*." Mary's attitude teaches me that my life is not all about me and my plans, but about God and His plans for my life, and that with Him nothing is impossible, not even almighty God entering into our human condition as a helpless and vulnerable infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. As St. John Paul II put it: "*We are left in awe of the mystery of a God who lowered Himself to take on our human condition, being born as a defenseless baby lying in a manger, lowering Himself all the way to laying down His life for us on the Cross*."

This is the mystery of Divine Love, of Divine Mercy, of the Humility of God which Christmas is all about. How much our troubled world needs to be touched by this mystery. How much our troubled

world needs to know Jesus. May the warmth, light, and peace that descended upon the world at the birth of Jesus that first Christmas, descend upon our world once again this Christmas, and upon you and your families, and remain with you forever. May God bless us all.

Sincerely in Christ,
Rev. Matthew J. Furey



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT THE ADVENT WREATH

Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

O Lord stir up your might and come. Aid us with your powerful assistance so that, through your grace and merciful forgiveness, we may attain salvation which now is hindered by our sins; you who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit; one God forever and ever. (Someone lights all the candles.)

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2018

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24 for Christmas

4:00pm in the Church and School
5:30pm in the Church Only
12:00am Midnight Mass
(Choir sings at 11:30pm)

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25
7:00am, 8:30am, 10:00am,
11:30am, 1:00pm

**THERE WILL BE NO 5:30PM MASS ON
CHRISTMAS DAY**

(December 26, 9am Morning Mass Only)

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Monday, December 31, 2018

Vigil Mass – 5:30pm

Tuesday, January 1st, 2019

8:30AM, 10:00AM, 11:30AM
1:00PM

NO 5:30PM MASS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

*“God so loved the world that He gave
His Only Son.”*

Merry

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Father Charles and our Rectory Staff, I want to extend to all of you our prayers for a very blessed Christmas and New Year. I want to thank all of you, our good and faithful parishioners, from the depths of my heart for your love, your faith, your prayers and your support of our beautiful Parish all year long. If anyone has been away from us or from the Church, we welcome you home and hope you will remain with us. Please know that we love you, we need you, and are here to serve you.

This past year has been a momentous one for Sacred Heart with so many celebratory events occurring to mark our 150th Anniversary. What a treasure this Parish is and has been for so many this past century and a half and will be for many more generations to come because of the faith and sacrifices of our dear parishioners.

We hear from St. Luke in the beautiful Gospel of Midnight Mass: *"Today in the City of David a Savior is born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you, you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."* God's ways are not our ways. His display of power is an infant lying in a manger wrapped in the clothes of the poorest of the poor. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI put it so beautifully: *"God is so great that He can become small. God is so powerful that He can make himself vulnerable and come to us as a defenseless child, so that we can love Him. God is so good that He can give up His Divine splendor and come down to a stable, so that we might find Him."*

May we open our hearts wide to the infant Jesus this Christmas, for there will never be true and lasting Peace in our world until Jesus, the Prince of Peace, is born in every human heart. My prayer is that this be the best Christmas yet for you and your families, and that you experience the Peace our Lord Jesus was born to bring us in a very real and profound way. **Merry Christmas!**

**Sincerely in Christ,
Rev. Matthew J. Furey**

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 23

Monday, December 24 – Office closes at 2pm

Tuesday, December 25 – Merry Christmas

Wednesday, December 26 – Office Closed

Saturday, December 29

St. Joseph Group – 7:30am in the Rectory

Sunday, December 30

Christmas!

VILLAGE OF SUFFERN

Dear Fr., Furey,

During this blessed season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Village Board and Staff, wish to extend to you and the parishioners of Sacred Heart Church, our sincere wishes for a joyous Christmas filled with hope and peace. May you all have a happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely, Edward Markunas, Mayor

SACRED HEART RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

May the Christ Child

Bless and fill our Parish Family
with Peace and Joy on Christmas
and throughout the New Year.

With Love & Prayers,

Sacred Heart Religious Education Program

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

We wish to thank the many parishioners who contributed food, money or effort during the year to help us in our mission. Our efforts reflect **your generosity** to the many less fortunate as we strive to help them in Christ's name.

OUR LADY'S GUILD

Our Lady's Guild wishes to thank all our friends and parishioners who donated gifts for Birthright. We would like to wish them and all of our parish family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

The Faculty, staff and administration of the school wish to extend their best wishes during this Christmas season. May all members of the Sacred Heart School and Parish community have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

SALESIAN COMMUNITY OF DON BOSCO PREP

On behalf of all of us here at Don Bosco Prep, we wish you and your loved ones a very blessed Christmas with health and happiness in the New Year.

Fr. Jim Heuser
Director/President

AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECTS

The Community of Tagaste Monastery wishes you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Peace, Joy and Hope to you and to your loved ones
this Christmas Season!**

**La comunidad del Monasterio de Tagaste le desea
una Santa Navidad y Feliz Año Nuevo**

**Paz, Gozo y Esperanza a usted y todos sus seres
queridos en la Navidad!**

ANUNCIOS

El Grupo de Oración en Español tiene lugar habitualmente los miércoles, a las 8 de la noche en la cafetería. Los próximos bautizos en español tendrán lugar el 19 de enero 2019 a la 1pm. Contactar en el 357-0035.

SHARING WHAT WE HAVE IN JESUS' NAME
Due to early printing collections totals will be announced in the beginning of the year.



Remember Our Sick Please pray for those who are ill and have asked us to pray for them: Keith Alanis, Luciano Antonucci, Jenna Applebaum, Theresa Anselmi, Baby Ty, Michael Brady, Pat Brady, Annette Burbridge, Dolores Cangelose, Frank Calfa, Kelly Collins, Robert Conly, Comerford Family, Teresa & Tom Consolo, Robert Cosenza, Joe Davey, Anthony DeFrancesco III, Matthew DeMayo, Cledha Desir, Mary Discini, John Duffy, Ginny Figula, Stefanie Gaudelli, Arlene and Fred Gentile, Mark Goldman, Debra Gravina, Catherine Greeley, Senan Halpin, Roy Harris, Clement Hayes, Carrin Holborn, Mr. Harris, Domenic & Anthony Iannaccone, Rob Incognoli, Bob Janson, Fran Janson, Susan Jarkiewicz, Fred Lemoine, Elizabeth Lempka, Vasily Lockhart, Roberta Lynch, Laura Mack, Matthew Luludis, Marie Marasuilo, Thomas Mathai, Jeanne Matera, Richard McCarthy, Debra McGovern, Catherine McMenamin, John McLoughlin, Ken Meyer, Florence Mohan, Joseph Mikulka, Thomas O'Connor, Jennifer O'Hara, Pat O'Neill, Shace Paljusevic, Claudia Spallanzani, Joseph Pasculli, Ruth Schwetz, Michael Shumway, Jean Simons, Roberto Sorgo, Maureen Starke, Barbara Veraldo Strano, Margaret Szaro, Fr. Peter Tarantino, SA, Phyllis Varacalli, Fr. Wing, Marie Witt, and Vladimir Zaslavsky.

ALTAR MEMORIALS DECEMBER 23, 2018

Altar Wines In Memory of
JOHN BUKOWSKI, II

Altar Breads In Memory of
ANTHONY GRAFF

Altar Candles In Memory of
JEANNE BUKOWSKI

Sanctuary Lamp In Memory of
ROBERT O. COLBATH

CLUB WINNERS SPECIAL DRAWING FOR DECEMBER 23, 2018 CONGRATULATIONS!

First Prize: \$1,000.00 - Mary Miranda
Second Prize: \$500.00 - Susan & George Conklin
Third Prize: \$250.00 - Lillian & Michael Tymoch
Fourth Prize: \$100.00 - Etta Rooney

Many thanks to all who participated!



SCHEDULE OF MASSES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

9:00am – Eileen & Arthur Fields

SATURDAY, VIGIL MASS 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:30pm -Grace Rozzi

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:00am – All Parishioners

8:30am – Stephen & Paula Gangone
Pat & Tony Chiulli

10:00am – Daniel Greeley & Andrew Statham

11:30am – Foster Family

1:00pm – Joseph & Filomena & Antonio Russo

5:30pm – Parish Memorial Society

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

7:00am – Daniel “DJ” Albarelli

9:00am – Nancy Collins

4:00pm– C– ALL PARISHIONERS

4:00pm– S– ALL PARISHIONERS

5:30pm – ALL PARISHIONERS

12:00am – Midnight Mass

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25 Merry Christmas

7:00am – ALL PARISHIONERS

8:30am – ALL PARISHIONERS

10:00am – ALL PARISHIONERS

11:30am – ALL PARISHIONERS

1:00pm – ALL PARISHIONERS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

9:00am – Aline Hendrickson

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

7:00am – Stephen Karas

9:00am – Charles J. Collins

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

7:00am – Special Intentions Kenneth & Althea Frank

9:00am – Snezana Pietri

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

9:00am – Special Intentions Eric Hendrickson

SATURDAY, VIGIL MASS

5:30pm – Special Intention Joanne Morency

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

7:00am – All Parishioners

8:30am – Special Intention Bobby & Nina Frank

10:00am – Charles J. Lynch

11:30am – Foster Family

1:00pm – Frances Marconi

5:30pm – Parish Memorial Society



Let us pray for our deceased parishioners, and family members and loved ones:
Especially: **Christine Corcillo, Ann Mellett**