

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## DECEMBER 15, 2019

### FROM OUR PRIESTS' DESKS:

#### **Bulletin insert for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

"Are you he who is to come, or should we look for another?" That was the question John the Baptist asked Jesus through two of his disciples in today's Gospel (Mt. 11:2-11). Kind of strange ... Didn't John himself point out Jesus to his disciples as "the Lamb of God", an affirmation of faith that we also echo as we gaze at the consecrated host at Mass before receiving Holy Communion: "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world." So why is it that John is now expressing doubt about the identity of Jesus? "Are you he who is to come," he asked, "or should we look for another?"

Maybe the reason for John's doubt is to be found in the words of Jesus himself, when he sends John's disciples back to him with the order to tell John what they have seen and heard—words and works of mercy and healing for the blind, the deaf, the cripples, and the lepers: all the outcasts of society in ancient Israel. They were words that pointed to the fulfillment of the promises of Isaiah in today's first reading that the eyes of the blind would be opened and the ears of the deaf would be cleared. In the end, it seems that John's vision of the Messiah was too restricted. Although he knew the Savior was coming, he envisioned that coming through the lens of the more severe prophets of the Old Testament, who warned of a time of judgment, of wrath, of fire, and of condemnation for sinners, and especially for unbelievers. This was something very different from what Jesus was actually doing! Rather, Jesus was revealing more the God of mercy than the God of judgement! In the end, John realized that his own understanding of his mission must be broadened, even humbling stating: "He [Jesus] must increase, and I must decrease."

Maybe the challenge of today's Scripture readings for us, then, is whether we are willing and able to change our own point of view about God, and of what it means to be a believer and a follower of Jesus. Is our own vision of God too limiting—for ourselves and for others? Do we see more the God of judgement or the God of mercy? Does our view of God cause us to approach God with fear and doubt rather than with confidence and trust? Tomorrow is

Reconciliation Monday when all Catholics are invited to "come home", to return to our Catholic family if we have drifted away; to return to the Sacraments. We are all in need of the healing grace, and perhaps especially the "healing of memories" from the guilt or shame or bitterness or regret that Reconciliation provides. In the Sacrament we do acknowledge the God of justice who calls on us to be faithful and responsible, but we also gratefully embrace the Father of mercies who is willing to forgive any offense, any sin of ours, if we have true contrition. Let's take advantage of this special moment for healing . . . and how about inviting a friend who has been away from the Church to accompany us? Make it a night out and have a bite to eat together after Confession! It doesn't have to be locusts and wild honey: we'll leave that to John the Baptist!

Continued Advent blessings on all of you!

Fr. John Gruben, OAR

### **SCHEDULE FOR ADVENT CONFESSIONS 2019**

**Monday, December 16– 4:00 to 8:00pm  
Reconciliation Monday**

**(Blessed Sacrament will be exposed)**

**Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 noon to 1:00pm  
Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> – 3:00 to 5:00pm**



#### **PRAYER FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Hear our prayers, O Lord, and enlighten the darkness of our minds and hearts by your coming on earth; you who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit; one God forever and ever. (Someone lights **the rose candle** & two purple candles)

#### **SHARING WHAT WE HAVE IN JESUS' NAME**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Advent-\$13,490.  
Last Year's- \$13,329.**

**Immaculate Conception - \$2,107.  
Last Year's - \$4,104.**

## CHRISTMAS MASSES 2019

### *Christmas Eve*

**Tuesday, December 24 for Christmas**

4:00pm in the Church and School

5:30pm in the Church Only

12:00pm Midnight Mass

(Choir sings at 11:30pm)

### *Christmas Day*

**Wednesday, 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)**

### THE GIVING TREE Gifts are due TODAY!



This effort highlights the generosity of our parishioners towards those who can use some help. The Giving Tree donations go to Good Counsel Homes, Birthright, Ramapo Manor, needy children, homeless and others in need.

## PARISH CALENDAR

**Sunday, December 15**

**Monday, December 16**

### RECONCILIATION MONDAY

**CONFESSIONS 4:00PM TO 8:00PM**

**(Blessed Sacrament exposed throughout)**

Rel Ed. – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade 4:30pm to 6:00pm

Rel Ed. – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade 7:00pm to 8:30pm

**Tuesday, December 17**

CYO – 5:30pm to 9:00pm

Rel. Ed. Grades 3–5 – 4:30pm

Rel. Ed. Grade 8 – 7:00pm

Choir – 7:00pm – Church Loft

Prayer Group – 7:30pm in the Rectory Chapel

**Wednesday, December 18**

RCIA – Rectory 7:00pm

Hispanic Prayer Group – 8:00pm in the cafeteria

**Thursday, December 19**

CYO Basketball – gym 5:30 to 9:00pm

**Friday, December 20**

**Saturday, December 21**

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

**Sunday, December 22**

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



**TODAY**

**7:00PM**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Come join the children of the parish as they tell the story of Our Lord's Jesus's Birth in word and song.

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Baskets will be distributed on Thursday, December 19th. **Deadline for donations: Sunday, December 15.** Thank you.

## CHRISTMAS AT SACRED HEART

Christmas Flower envelopes are available in the back of the Church to donate for the poinsettias on the Altar during the Christmas Season in loving memory of a loved one. Envelopes for a Christmas gift to the parish are also available. Thank you for your goodness to our Parish.

## VINCENT LINGUANTI SONS OF ITALY

We thank the Sons of Italy here in Rockland County for their generous donation of food to feed the needy among us this Christmas! God Bless us one and all!

## THANK YOU!



We wish to send a huge **THANK YOU!** to all those who helped with the Christmas Parade floats. Especially Mr. Ken Lordy who loaned us the trailer for our Nativity display and arranged for Rick from Hal Motors to loan us the flatbed. Thank you so much gentlemen. Sacred Heart even received an award "Most Festive". Really, we just tried to say to All that Jesus really is the reason for the season. God Bless us one and All and Merry Christmas!

## CRISIS PREGNANCY HOTLINE GOOD COUNSEL HOMES

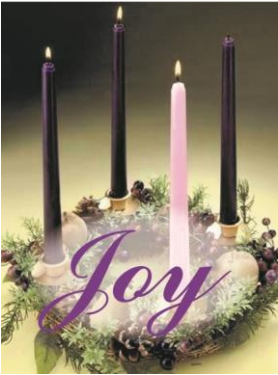
For Pregnancy emergencies call Any time of day:  
1-800-723-8331 [www.goodcounselhomes.org](http://www.goodcounselhomes.org)

## 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 21 de diciembre 2019 a la 1pm. Contactar en el 357-0035.



Please pray for those who are ill and have asked us to pray for them: Keith Alanis, Jenna Applebaum, Theresa Anselmi, Michael Brady, Pat Brady, Annette Burbridge, Robert Conly, Comerford Family, Teresa & Tom Consolo, Joe Davey, Anthony DeFrancesco III, Matthew DeMayo, Cledha Desir, Mary Discini, John Duffy, David Eckert, Sr., Ginny Figula, Stefanie Gaudelli, Arlene Gentile, Mark Goldman, Debra Gravina, Senan Halpin, Roy Harris, Clement Hayes, Mr. Harris, Domenic & Anthony Iannaccone, Rob Incognoli, Bob Janson, Fran Janson, Susan Jarkiewicz, Anna Kasperska, Eileen Kennedy, Fred Lemoine, Elizabeth Lempka, Vasily Lockhart, Roberta Lynch, Laura Mack, Rosemarie Manthey, Matthew Luludis, Marie Marasuilo, Thomas Mathai, Jeanne Matera, Richard McCarthy, Rosemary McCormick, Rich McDowell, Debra McGovern, Catherine McMenamin, John McLoughlin, Ken Meyer, Florence Mohan, Joseph Mikulka, Barbara Neilson, Robert Nunes, Thomas O'Connor, Jennifer O'Hara, Pat O'Neill, Nancy Overend, Shace Paljusevic, Peter Princi, Etta Rooney, Claudia Spallanzani, Joseph Pasculli, (Baby Ty) Reilly Frank Salveggi, Janet Schwartz, Ruth Schwetz, Michael Shumway, Jean Simons, Roberto Sorgo, Maureen Starke, Shaun Stein, Richard Vanadio, Barbara Veraldo Strano, Phyllis Varacalli, Kali Villela, Robert Vogt, Fr. Wing, and Vladimir Zaslavsky.



**SCHEDULE OF MASSES**

- SATURDAY, VIGIL MASS**  
5:30pm – Harold Gravius
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 3<sup>RD</sup> ADVENT**  
7:00am – All Parishioners  
8:30am – Alma Greenidge  
10:00am – Special Intention Anita Kalathara  
11:30am – Peter Manghisi  
1:00pm – Lester & Walter Bernstein  
5:30pm – Parish Memorial Society
- MONDAY, DECEMBER 16**  
7:00am – Robert Gise  
9:00am – Armand & Delia Miele  
7:15pm – Novena
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17**  
7:00am – Nancy Collins  
9:00am – Patricia M. Brennan
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18**  
7:00am – Craig Handwecker  
9:00pm – Christopher Nigro
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19**  
7:00am – Special Intention Tadeusz & Malgorzata Kasperskcy  
9:00am – Paula Panico
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20**  
7:00am – Joan Doyle  
9:00am – Maria Michelotti Costa
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21**  
9:00am – Charles & Florence Marsalisi
- SATURDAY, VIGIL MASS**  
5:30pm – Robert O. Colbath
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 4<sup>th</sup> Advent**  
7:00am – All Parishioners  
8:30am – Dianne Messina  
10:00am – David Hazell  
11:30am – Richard Doran  
1:00pm – Eileen & Arthur Fields  
5:30pm – Parish Memorial Society



**FOR OUR ARMED FORCES**

We pray for all the men and women serving our country in the armed forces especially the sons and daughters, grandchildren and loved ones of our parishioners.

**ALTAR MEMORIALS  
DECEMBER 15, 2019**

- Altar Wines In Memory of  
**JEANNE BUKOWSKI**
- Altar Breads In Memory of  
**HENRY BUKOWSKI**
- Altar Candles In Memory of  
**ANTHONY GRAFF**
- Sanctuary Lamp In Memory of  
**JOHN BUKOWSKI, II**



Let us pray for our deceased parishioners, and family members and loved ones especially:  
**Dean Richard KNIPP**

**BOOSTER CLUB**  
**WEEK 19- JOYCE MILLER**