

*JMJ*

Dear Parishioners,

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, our parish Feast; the liturgy invites us to turn our gaze to Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, Star of Hope for every person. Today, the Second Sunday of Advent, it presents to us the austere figure of the Precursor, whom the Evangelist Matthew introduces as follows: “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea: “Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Mt 3: 1-2). His mission was to prepare and clear the way for the Lord, calling the people of Israel to repent of their sins and to correct every injustice. John the Baptist, with demanding words, announced the imminent judgement: “Every tree, therefore, that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire” (Mt 3: 10). Above all, John put people on guard against the hypocrisy of those who felt safe merely because they belonged to the Chosen People: in God’s eyes, he said, no one has reason to boast but must bear “fruit that befits repentance”.

While the Advent journey continues, while we prepare to celebrate the Birth of Christ, John the Baptist’s appeal for conversion rings out in our communities. It is a pressing invitation to open our hearts to receive the Son of God, who comes among us to make manifest the divine judgement. The Father, writes John the Evangelist, judges no one but has given all judgement to the Son because he is the Son of Man (see Jn 5: 22, 27). And it is today, in the present, that our future destiny is being played out. It is our actual conduct in this life that decides our eternal fate. At the end of our days on earth, at the moment of death, we will be evaluated on the basis of our likeness - or lack of it - to the Child who is about to be born in the poor grotto of Bethlehem, because He is the criterion of the measure that God has given to humanity. The Heavenly Father, who expressed His merciful love to us through the birth of His Only-Begotten Son, calls us to follow in His footsteps, making our existence, as He did, a gift of love. And the fruit of love is that fruit which “befits repentance”, to which John the Baptist refers while he addresses cutting words to the Pharisees and Sadducees among the crowds who had come for Baptism.

Through the Gospel, John the Baptist continues to speak down the centuries to every generation. His clear, harsh words are particularly salutary for us, men and women of our time, in which the way of living and perceiving Christmas unfortunately all too often suffers the effects of a materialistic mindset. The “voice” of the great prophet asks us to prepare the way of the Lord, who comes in the external and internal wildernesses of today, thirsting for the living water that is Christ. May the Virgin Mary guide us to true conversion of heart, so that we may make the necessary choices to harmonize our mentalities with the Gospel.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Father Newcomb*



**Bake Sale**

***The Senior and Junior Choirs will be holding a bake sale this weekend, December 7th/8th, after all Masses to help defray the cost of the musicians for Christmas. We appreciate your support!***



***The 2nd collection next weekend, December 14th/15th is for the Retired Religious.***

***Please give to those who gave a lifetime.***

***The Mass tomorrow, Monday, December 9th, for our parish Feast Day is in the Church.***

***Liturgical Ministers for December 14/15, 2019***

<b>Mass</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	<b>Altar Servers</b>
4:00pm	J. SMITH	K. BOBISH	M. FEDRIZZI, S. BHIKARRY
8:30am	J. HENDRICK	W. CARMODY, S. RIORDAN	M. REINHARDT, D. GERARDO
11:30am	M. ESLING	J. SNELLINGER	I. AND S. CUELLO, A. LAUTURE

As tradition holds, there will be a Giving Tree in the Narthex. Please consider making a donation. All donations are split between the Elks Club and the Rotary Club at the Port Jervis High School.



**Our Food Basket Collection** is well under way. We are still in need of jelly, canned fruit, gravy, soup, vegetables, stuffing, cereal, pasta and sauce, etc. We do not need any peanut butter.

**We will be collecting hams and turkeys on Monday, December 16th from 4-6pm. Thank You!**

There will be a Holy Hour for Life on Sunday, December 8th at 9pm in the Chapel.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Sunday, December 8th - Feast of the Immaculate Conception Brunch** Join us after the 11:30 a.m. Mass at Most Sacred Heart Hall as we honor Mary and celebrate our Parish Feast Day. Kindly RSVP to [danilegyoungliving@gmail.com](mailto:danilegyoungliving@gmail.com) by December 4th or call the parish office.

**Sounds of the Season - Annual Christmas Caroling** Join us Tuesday, December 17th, and help share the joy of the season with all. We will meet at 4:15 p.m. in the lobby at Bon Secours hospital.

**Reconciliation Monday** will be on December 16th. Confessions will be heard throughout the Archdiocese from 4pm until 8pm.

**W**hat will an increase in your offertory cost you? Your increased donation is an investment in the future of our parish. Please consider what you can do to help.

<p><b>\$5</b></p>	<p><b>\$10</b></p>
<p><b>\$15</b></p>	<p><b>\$20</b></p>

**Announced Masses**

- Monday, December 9 (Immaculate Conception)**  
9:00am Blaise Joseph Zorich, by Dr. Jane Brooks  
Mary Anne Rohner, by Dick and Barbara Drew
- Tuesday, December 10**  
9:00am Richard Ambrose Hagen, by the Hagen family  
Michael Costescu, by Nenita Costescu
- Wednesday, December 11 (Damasus I, pope)**  
9:00am Marlene Ashworth Roe, by Dolores Gore and family
- Thursday, December 12 (Our Lady of Guadalupe)**  
9:00am Mary Caracciolo, by Mary and Agnes  
George Green, by the Hildebrandt family
- Saturday, December 14**  
4:00pm Joseph Kucher, my mom and family
- Sunday, December 15**  
8:30am Joseph Cox, by Erika Cox and family  
11:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's



***The Sanctuary Lamp will burn brightly this week in the Church in memory of Edwin Dale Greeves, by the Stierle family.***

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Donald Wolff, Carol Gomillion, David Lisker, Nancy Parsons, Debi Cotugno, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Jeannine Lincoln, James Lincoln, Charles Hildebrandt, Maureen Hildebrandt, Walter Szpakowicz, Carmella Balsamello, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, James Roach, Catherine Simons, Brendan Carmody, Joe Formisano, Nico Nicolette, Jaryd Viserta, Steven Gaesser, Kacey Warner, Sandra Ramsey, Lorraine Mannarino, Antonino Mazzara, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Mary Lynn Beam, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Mercedes Rodriguez, Jose Brito, Michael Medaglia, Barbara Straub, Tress Loughrey, Sal Careri, Cody Bain, Robert Witherow, Susan Upton, Theresa Fuller, Allen Lynch, Enid Decker, Jackie Mundy, Chris Marion, III, Carmella Balsamello, Barbara Lindsay, Robert Ackerman, Wayne DeMarco, Ryan O'Connor, Elizabeth Brennan, Jerri Kavanaugh, Allan Garcia, Christine Habertzettl, Eric Hildebrandt, Rose Gotthardt, Georgia Gotthardt, and John Olenick.

We now have Eucharistic Adoration cards available. For a donation, you can gift a card for Christmas, birthdays, get well, etc. and spend time with our Lord. They are available in the parish office.

The collection for Nov. 30th/ Dec. 1st was \$XXXX.  
Thank you for your continued generosity.