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*JMJ*

Dear Parishioners,

In these last days of Advent the liturgy invites us to contemplate in a special way the Virgin Mary and St Joseph, who lived with unique intensity the period of expectation and preparation for Jesus' birth. In today's Gospel Saint Luke presents the Virgin Mary as "a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David". The Evangelist Matthew, however, places a greater emphasis on the putative father of Jesus, stressing that through him the Child belonged legally to the lineage of David and thus fulfilled the Scriptural prophecy that the Messiah would be a "son of David".

But Joseph's role cannot be reduced to this legal aspect. He was the model of a "just" man who, in perfect harmony with his wife, welcomed the Son of God made man and watched over his human growth. It is therefore particularly appropriate in the days that precede Christmas to establish a sort of spiritual conversation with Saint Joseph, so that he may help us live to the full this great mystery of faith. Saint Joseph is given a special emphasis. His silence is steeped in contemplation of the mystery of God in an attitude of total availability to the divine desires. In other words, Saint Joseph's silence does not express an inner emptiness but, on the contrary, the fullness of the faith he bears in his heart and which guides his every thought and action.

It is a silence thanks to which Joseph, in unison with Mary, watches over the Word of God, known through the Sacred Scriptures, continuously comparing it with the events of the life of Jesus; a silence woven of constant prayer, a prayer of blessing of the Lord, of the adoration of his holy will and of unreserved entrustment to his providence.


It is no exaggeration to think that it was precisely from his "father" Joseph that Jesus learned - at the human level - that steadfast interiority which is a presupposition of authentic justice, the "superior justice" which he was one day to teach his disciples.

Let us allow ourselves to be "filled" with Saint Joseph's silence! In a world that is often too noisy, that encourages neither recollection nor listening to God's voice, we are in such deep need of it. During this season of preparation for Christmas, let us cultivate inner recollection in order to welcome and cherish Jesus in our own lives.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Father Newcomb*

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The Church will be decorated for Christmas today, Sunday, December 20th, after the 11:30 Mass. Anyone who would like to help is welcome to come. Please practice proper social distancing and wear masks.



Christmas Eve/Day Masses

Thursday, December 24th 4pm

Thursday, December 24th 10pm

Friday, December 25th 10am

Wishing everyone a very Merry and Blessed Christmas.

**Christmas Masses** will be first come, first seated. We are allowed 50% capacity of the Church. The Mass Schedule is 4pm, 10pm Christmas Eve. 10am Christmas Day. Especially for Christmas, kindly wear your mask when entering and exiting the Church. Please do not congregate in the Narthex, so that we can safely and healthily, worship the birth of Our Savior.

The parish office will close at noon on December 24th and reopen Tuesday, December 29th.

**Holy Hour** will resume on January 11th in the Chapel. Confessions will be heard from 5:30pm until 6:15pm. Adoration will be from 5:30 pm until 6:30pm

**St. Mary's Food Pantry** is still available to all in our local and area communities. The next date will be Friday, January 8th from 10am until noon. If you or anyone you know is in need of food, please have them come during those times.

We now have a section of St. Mary's Cemetery with new graves available. The following is the fee schedule to obtain the **Right to Burial**:

Single Depth \$1000  
Double Depth \$1300

For more information, call Gina at the parish office Monday- Friday 9:30am until 3pm.  
(845) 856-8212

Payment plans are available.



We would like to thank all who donated to our Christmas Food Baskets. We were able to make sure 75 families had everything they needed for a Christmas meal and extras for the week as well.

40 Days for Life Fall Campaign ended Nov. 1st. Here are the following results of our prayers, fasting and/or physical presence at an abortion facility: 753 lives saved from abortion, 4 abortion workers converted, and another abortion facility CLOSED.



Solemnity of Mary Mass Schedule :  
Friday, January 1st  
9am and 5pm.

**The Cardinal's Appeal** is still ongoing. Our goal is \$34,500. We have received pledges totaling \$19,080 from 97 donors. You can visit [Cardinalsappeal.org](http://Cardinalsappeal.org). All donations can be mailed directly to :The Cardinal's Appeal PO Box 4020 NY, NY 10261. Our Parish number is **518**.

The collection for December 12th/13th was \$3,296. Thank you for your continued generosity.

**Announced Masses**

**Monday, December 21 (Peter Canisius, priest & doctor of the Church)**  
9:00am Ed Eckes, by Ellen Pentland & fam.  
**Tuesday, December 22**  
9:00am Ed Eckes, by Dick & Barbara Drew  
**Wednesday, December 23 (John of Kanty, priest)**  
9:00am Ed Eckes, by Jeanmarie & Donnie Shields & family  
**Thursday, December 24**  
4:00pm John Coady, by the family  
10:00pm Willard Dixon Morrison, by Patrick Leap  
**Friday, December 25 (Christmas)**  
10:00am Stephanie & Allen Tooley, by the fam.  
**Saturday, December 26**  
4:00pm Raymond Gansarski, by the family  
**Sunday, December 27 (Holy Family)**  
8:30am Michelle Marino, by Deacon Rich & Joanne Marino  
11:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's  
1:00pm Mary & Claire Brislin, by Paul Brislin



*The Sanctuary Lamp will burn brightly this week in the Church, in memory of John & Mary Oliver, by the family.*



*The Sanctuary Lamp will burn brightly this week in the Chapel, in memory of John Ritzel & Thomas Osowick.*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Debi Cotugno, Michael Bello, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Jeannine Lincoln, James Lincoln, Charles Hildebrandt, Maureen Hildebrandt, Walter Szpakowicz, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, James Roach, John F Flynn, Jr., Catherine Simons, Michael Medaglia, Robert Witherow, Allen Lynch, Enid Decker, Jackie Mundy, Allan Garcia, Eric Hildebrandt, Stephen A. Odrechowski, Scott Robertson, Eva Scopino, Jan Kaminski, Ellen Pentland, Leticia Nuestro, Christina Nuestro, Catherine Scopino, Amelia Quinn, Tonya Addy, Jackie Hamilton, Brandon Ulrichs, Helen Eckes, Gloria Hicks, Stephanie Gaide, Elizabeth Startup Jones, MaryLynn Beam, Nancy Crumley, Carol Gomillion, David Lisker, Donald Wolff, Carmen Lagatol, Carmen Ramos, Jose Brito, Wayne DeMarco, Carmella Balsamello, Emogene Bloomer, Michael D'Alto, and Gloria Hinkley.

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Please Maintain/Remove from the Prayer List

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Return before December 27th, 2020

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