

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday December 13, 2014

Vigil for Sunday

5:30pm Salvatore Spadafora

Sunday December 14, 2014 -Third Sunday in Advent

7:30am All Parishioners of SFX

9:30am Anna and Thomas Miano

11:15am Louis Lombardi

12:30pm Kathleen and Harry Riconda

Monday December 15, 2014

7:30am Rosa and Pietro Barbuti

9:00am Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR

Tuesday December 16, 2014

7:30am Giuseppe Bertorelli

9:00am Caterina and Salvatore Pagnotta

Wednesday December 17, 2014

7:30am In Thanksgiving

9:00am Frank Vitacco

Thursday December 18, 2014

7:30am Albert Marku

9:00am Theresa and Emilio DeBellis

7:00pm Simbang Gabi - Filipino Christmas Novena Mass
(Reception in Rectory Lower Level)

Friday December 19, 2014

7:30am Gladys Bonano

9:00am Josephine Cinque

Saturday December 20, 2014

7:30am Pietro Provenzano and Deceased and Living
Members of the Provenzano Family

9:00am Nora Carney

Vigil for Sunday—Youth Mass

5:30pm Tony Procino

Sunday December 21, 2014-Fourth Sunday in Advent

7:30am All Parishioners of SFX

9:30am Salvatore Picone

11:15am Marianne Lenna

12:30pm Frank Ramunno

Next week's Readings (Fourth Sunday of Advent):
2 Samuel Chapter 7:Verses1-12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89;
Romans Chapter 16:25-27; Luke Chapter 1:26-38

This week's second collection is for Retired Religious Sisters and
Brothers of the Archdiocese.

Weekly Collection (Parish Pay included)
December 7: \$5,971
Second Collection (Capital Expenditures): \$2,137
Immaculate Conception: \$1,101
Thank you for your generosity. May God Bless you.

RECONCILIATION MONDAY: Tomorrow, Monday, December 15th. Confessions will be heard from 4pm to 8pm here at St. Francis Xavier and in all Churches of the Archdiocese of NY.



Congratulations to Anthony Minella and Siobhan Slattery who were married here at St. Francis Xavier on Saturday, December 6, 2014.

Congratulations to two of our Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal on their First Profession of Vows: Sr. Josephine Marie of Mercy and Sr. Gemma Maria of Christ Crucified.



Francis Xavier School: The children in New Beginnings to Grade 3 will be visiting Santa on Monday, December 15th. They are very excited. All the children will do their Christmas shopping on Thursday, December 18th in the gym. These activities are sponsored by the Home-School Association. For updated information please visit the school website at sfxschool.net.



Religious Education—Learning to live our Catholic faith 24/7: Heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers, catechists, students and parents for your participation in today's Christmas Pageant "The King's Birthday." A special thank you to Dale Kolarek, Producer/Writer of Set To Go Studios, Mario and Ryan Gamilo, and our Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal for making the pageant so special in honor of God's greatest gift—Jesus.

Nursing Home visit: December 21st for Confirmation Service to distribute the gifts for the residents.

Classes will resume on: Sunday, January 4th, 2015.

Confirmation requirements due on January 4/5-Information Form, Letter to Bishop Lagonegro, Saint name report, and Sponsor Eligibility.

Christmas at St. Francis Xavier: A reminder that Christmas Flowers and Decorations can be memorialized in honor of loved ones. Each \$25 donation can be memorialized with up to three names. The Christmas Flower envelopes are available in the vestibule of the Church and included with your Church envelopes. You can leave these envelopes at the Rectory or drop them in the collection basket.

The Giving Tree: Please return the gifts under the tree in the vestibule today, December 14th or at the Rectory during the week.

YOUTH CENTER: Saturday, December 20th in the school gym after the 5:30pm Mass. Join us for the 5:30pm Mass when our newly formed teen choir will provide music led by our teenagers. For all students grades 5 through 9, \$10 admission or free for those who attend the 5:30pm Mass.

The Lighter Side of Christmas: Please join us for a fun evening of favorite Christmas Carols by our Choir members, Saturday, December 27th at 6:30pm.



Dear Parishioners,

Pastor

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." These words of St. Paul from the opening antiphon for today's Mass strike the tone for this Third Sunday of Advent, called "Gaudete Sunday," which means Rejoice. The nearness of the Lord should fill us with Joy.

This theme of Joy and today's second collection for retired men and woman religious, prompt me to write a little about the "Year for Consecrated Life" which began on the First Sunday of Advent and will run through February 2nd, 2016. Pope Francis established this Year wishing to "express the beauty and preciousness of this unique form of Christian discipleship." It would be tempting for the vast majority of Catholics who are not in consecrated life to ignore this special year thinking it has no relevance to them. However, Pope Francis urges all of us "to live this Year for Consecrated Life as a grace because it concerns not only consecrated persons, but the entire Church." He urged the "whole Christian people to be increasingly aware of the gift that is the presence of our many consecrated men and women" and to "draw close to these men and women, to rejoice with them, to share their difficulties and to assist them, to whatever degree possible, in their ministries and works."

What a gift we have right here in our own parish with the presence of so many consecrated women, our own Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal (I always call them "Our Sisters" because they are so much a part of this parish family). Just observing them is the reason why the theme of Joy on this Gaudete Sunday made me think of writing about this Year for Consecrated Life. What a blessing their joyful witness to Christ brings to our parish and our school children. They do so much for our parish, they love teaching our school children about Jesus, and they support all of us by their constant prayers.

I had the honor of attending the First Profession of Vows of two of our Sisters on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception last Monday (Sr. Josephine Marie of Mercy and Sr. Gemma Maria of Christ Crucified.). The beauty of that Mass and the joy that resonated in that Church was so uplifting and inspiring. Father Andrew Apostoli, CFR, in his beautiful homily, spoke of the Virgin Mary, who gave everything she was, everything she had over to God and was given everything in return – she became the Mother of God and the Queen of Heaven and Earth. Likewise, he said, these sisters give everything over to God in living out their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. They give up everything the world says we need to be happy—money, possessions, sex, the freedom to do whatever we want—and are given the unique happiness and joy of surrendering their will to the Will of God and of belonging totally to Christ Jesus. And this Joy is so visible in the faces of these sisters. We all want this joy, we all need this joy, we all need Jesus. "Seek first the Kingdom of God," Jesus tells us, "and everything else will be given you besides."

Consecrated life is a prophetic life which points our attention to Jesus. To be consecrated means to be given to God, to belong totally to Him. We were all consecrated by our baptism. All of us belong entirely to God, and are called to live out that consecration in our own state in life. We will never find the peace and the joy we are looking for until our will is conformed to His. May the witness of Consecrated life, and in particular the witness of our Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal, help us to live our lives more fully in union with the heart and mind of Jesus, and to know the Joy of belonging totally to Him and of living in His Kingdom now and forever. May God bless us all.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Matthew J. Furey



FAMILY PRAYER : Third Sunday of Advent- The family may gather around the Advent Wreath, recite a short prayer and light two purple candles and the Rose colored candle. The purple candles remind us of our need for penance. The Rose candle reminds us Christmas joy is truly near. Prayer for the 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, God forever and ever.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, 2014

4:00pm-Vigil Mass

5:30pm-Vigil Mass

12:00 Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, December 25, 2014

7:30am, 9:30am, 11:15am and 12:30pm

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Wednesday, December 31, 2014

5:30pm-Vigil

Thursday, January 1, 2015

7:30am, 9:30am, 11:15am and 12:30pm



Please remember the following

members of our parish community in your prayers:

William Ahaarn, Dennis Aiello, Edwardo Alica, Mary Annunzio, Judith Arriaga, Betty Barbagallo, Nettie Bianchini, Joe Blandino, Maryanne Cataldo, Louis Campisi, Flavia Chiappa, Maria Ciacco, Theodore Civetta, Jenny Cioffi, Loreen Clavin, Lorraine Capozzi, Angelo Caruso, Brenda Colon, Joanne Cunneen, Richard Daum, Carlann Defede, Antoinette DeLillo, Baby Colin Depriest, Alfred DeSantis, John Dinelli, Patrick Dolan, Baby Max D'Onofrio, Carmella Emily DonVito, Mario Esguerra, Cheryl Espinoza, John Esposito, Esther Finn, Carmen Flores, Billy Fischer, Luis Paz Florencio, Sr., Peter Frenna, Donald Gallagher, Alexis Marie Gonzalez, Cora Gonzales, John Hastings, Charlotte Hayes, Kerry White Hemmer, Laura Liferri Hernandez, Gloria Iriazary, Frances Jenkins, Felix Jaiman, Emily Koch (6-yr. old), Rosemarie Leo, Margaret Leonard, Ann Kittle, Angela Liferri, Gloria Lisanti, Lucy Lorusso, Barbara Lyne, Andy Massa, Vincent (Jimmy) Mastrogiovanni, Paul McAllister, Joseph Milone, Jennie Miraglia, Maria Mazzella, John Mullane, Brianan Murtagh, John Muzzillo, Michael Nichols, Paige O'Donnell, Teresa O'Hara, Kerry O'Keefe, Rosa Maria Ortiz, Louie Paone, Ralph Palumbo, Sylvia Pankovcin, Virginia Parthen, Richard Quararone, Giselle Ramos, Thomas J. Reardon, Blake Rosens, Angela Rizzo, Alojandra Rosario, Rosa Russo, Gloria Santaniello, Anthony Saraco, Theresa Smith, Niko Stravrianopoulos (3-yr. old), Marie Swain, Juliana Szanto, Paul Teehan, Frank Toapha, Justina Torres, Patricia Trainor, Lori Mayer Tricoli, Diana Vicinanza, Dominick Villara, Gelacio Villaviza, Christopher Vitale, Kathy Vitale, George Walsh, Rev. Arthur Welton, Gary Wieler, Jonathan Wilson (12-year old), Ottilia Zangrandi, Madelyn Ziesel



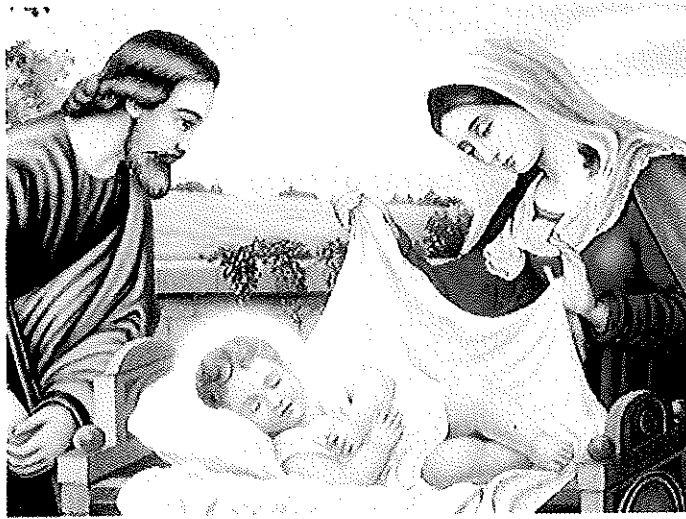
In your prayers please remember all the men and women serving in our

Armed Forces, especially: Zachary Piragnoli, Nick Visconti, Christopher C. Cannata, Carlos E. Blanco, Emmanuel Martinez, Lt. Michael Tafone, Cpl. Christopher Antony, Cpt. Brian Pascuzzi, Master Sgt. Janelle Amador, Anthony Thomas Candito, Sgt. Troy Mastin, 1st Lt. Nicholas Cardillo



Pray for those who have died: Madeline Provenzano and Vincenzo Nargi

St. Francis Xavier Christmas Schedule 2014



CONFESSIONS

Monday, December 15, 2014 - Reconciliation Monday

4:00pm to 8:00pm

Saturday, December 20, 2014

4:00pm to 5:00pm

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