

# Parish of St. Sylvester

## Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 2017

*The child to be born will be called holy,  
the Son of God.*

—Luke 1:35



### Liturgies and Intentions for the Week

#### Saturday, Dec. 23 - Vigil Mass - Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00 p.m. = Felice & Paul & Elizabeth Maneggia

#### Sunday, Dec. 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. = Edward Koynian, Jr. (happy ann. in heaven)

10:00 a.m. = Mary Rapp

12:00 noon = deceased members of the McCoy family  
and Mary Bhatia

#### Sunday, Dec. 24 - Vigil of the Nativity/Christmas

4:00 p.m. = Intentions of the Parish Family

11:00 = Singing of the Carols of Christmas

11:30 = 'Midnight' Mass of Christmas

#### Monday, Dec. 25 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD / CHRISTMAS

7:30 a.m. = for the

10:00 = Parish

12:00 noon = Family

#### Tuesday, Dec. 26 - St. Stephen, Deacon and 1<sup>st</sup> Martyr

8:30 a.m. = Justo Villanerde (happy anniversary in heaven)

#### Wednesday, Dec. 27 - St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

8:30 a.m. = Francis G. Golden

7:00 p.m. = HOUR OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

#### Thursday, Dec. 28 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

8:30 a.m. = (good health & happy b'day.) Soccoro Villa Verde

#### Friday, Dec. 29 - St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

8:30 a.m. = Mariano Girardi

#### Saturday, Dec. 30 - 6<sup>th</sup> Day of Octave of the Nativity

9:00 a.m. = Columba Battista (1st ann. in heaven)

#### Saturday, Dec. 30 - Vigil Mass for Sunday

4:00 p.m. = Tony and Dolores Amoroso

#### Sunday, Dec. 31 - Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:30 a.m. = for our parish family

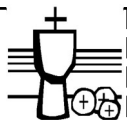
10:00 a.m. = Guiseppe Scia

12:00 noon = Thomas McCoy, Jr.



*This week the Sanctuary Lamp burning  
before the tabernacle is offered  
in thanksgiving and for the  
good health of Alice Europa  
at her request*

*Bread and Wine at all the Masses  
this week are offered in memory of the  
deceased members of McCoy  
family and Mary Bhatia  
requested by Anne*



### Weekly Collections

Our Parish Family's  
Support on . . .

Dec. 17, 2017

First Collection - \$4,109.00

Reserve Fund - \$1,159.00



**PLEASE PRAY . . .** for those anticipating a  
hospital stay, recuperating, and  
the homebound in our parish and in our families. Please  
keep this list near the place where you pray each day so that  
you remember them throughout the week.

Victor Andrea, Joseph Bertolini, Cecilia Brennan,  
Nancy J. Bushman, Antonia Carlino, Lucille Chatznoff,  
Frances Cirincione, Stephen Cucci, Fr. Paul Duffy, MM,  
Robert Golden, Neil Hartnett, Dr. Nicolas C. Lansigan, Jr.,  
Thomas Galvin, Connie Garbarino, Richard Hassel,  
Bridget Kehley, Frank Labano, Louis Matos,  
George Moresca, Delia Murguia, Amy O'Donnell,  
Linda Orber, Lee Poyntz, Carmela Rogan,  
Phyllis Savarese, Annette Scardigno,  
Louise Stanley, John and Ann Vincenzo

*Please let us know if anyone for whom we are praying has  
recovered from illness/surgery so that we may  
rejoice with you and then make room for others in need of  
prayer. Thank you.*



*Lord, hold our troops safe in your  
loving hands . . .*

Seaman Daniel Brennan - U. S. Navy  
SR Francis S. Cummings - U. S. Navy  
SR Michael J. Cummings - U. S. Navy  
Col. Jeffrey N. Davila, MD - U. S. Air Force  
Francesca DiSimone-Biggins - U.S. M.C.  
Lucia DiSimone-Biggins - U. S. M.C.  
Ryan Foley - U.S. M.C.  
Alvin S. Joseph II - U. S. Navy  
Lt. Col. Jay Le Pore - U. S. Air Force in Japan  
Col. Patrick J. Mahaney, Jr. - U. S. Army  
Prescod Montgomery - U. S. Army in Iraq  
Ens. II Steven Pasignajen-Trimble - U.S. Navy/Persian Gulf  
Samuel Rios - U. S. Air Force  
Darrin Sack  
Joseph Somma - U. S. Marine Corps  
Major Michael Volpe - U. S. Army  
*Has someone here been transferred, demobilized, discharged,  
retired? Please let us know.*



## Pastor's Corner



My Dear Parishioners,

Let's do something rather daring. Imagine, if you will, this day without carols, no child in the manger, no Christmas trees, presents, or fine, big meal. How would you celebrate? For the first three hundred years after Jesus' time Christian communities did little to mark the occasion of Jesus' birth, although commemoration of Jesus' death and resurrection were given great prominence. It was relatively easy to ascribe a date to Easter, because it happened at the time of the Jewish Passover. However, the scriptures are silent about the date of Jesus' birth. After the Roman Empire stopped persecuting Christians, the church was free to add celebrations to its official calendar and finally settled on December 25 for Christmas. No one knows exactly why this date was chosen. Christmas became a more elaborate festival during the Middle Ages, but with the rise of Protestantism in England and Germany, the feast was suppressed. Puritans who came to America did not celebrate Christmas, calling it pagan and popish. Only in the nineteenth century, especially after Charles Dickens published his runaway best-seller *A Christmas Carol*, did people begin to observe Christmas again, but often more as a family festival than a religious event. In one of today's readings, Saint Paul tells us what is at the heart of this day: *"When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life"* (Titus 3:4-7). Now that is really something to celebrate!

Christmas in the Church's calendar is a season that starts on Christmas Day and continues until the Baptism of the Lord on the first Sunday after January 6 [Jan. 7 in 2018]. Try extending your celebration through that time, with small gifts and good deeds of your choosing.

Keep smiling,

*Fr. Jacob*



The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network  
APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER UNITED STATES

### INTENTION FOR JANUARY

#### For the Elderly

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

**The Holy Father tells us:** "[...] *When I was in the Philippines, the Filipino people greeted me saying "Lolo Kiko" — meaning Grandpa Francis — "Lolo Kiko", they said! The first important thing to stress: it is true that society tends to discard us, but the Lord definitely does not! The Lord never discards us. He calls us to follow Him in every age of life, and old age has a grace and a mission too, a true vocation from the Lord. Old age is a vocation.*"



### **MARCH FOR LIFE**

**Friday, Jan. 19, 2018**

The March for Life is a peaceful demonstration held in Washington, D.C. to share the truth concerning the greatest human rights violation of our time, legalized abortion on demand.

**Bus pick-ups:**—Sacred Heart Church, 981 Castleton Ave.  
6:30 AM Mass and 7:00 AM bus departure  
—St. Charles Church, 644 Clawson St.  
6:45 AM Mass and 7:30 AM bus departure

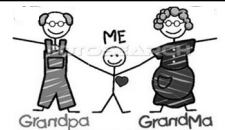
\* will make rest stops for lunch & dinner  
\* 9:30-10:30 PM will return the same evening to both locations

Cost: \$25/person, round trip + \$6-\$7 for local train + Tip \$ for the Driver  
+ optional donation for Right to Life Committee.

**Reservations/Info.:** Elisa Di Simone  
[text] 347-874-3346 [call] 718-815-4267  
[e-mail] brucebiggins@hotmail.com  
(please mark "March for Life")

### **Grandparents Corner**

It's holiday vacation time for children young and older so here's an idea for some or all of the family . . .



### **Holiday Break Workshops at the S. I. Museum**

**Tues., Dec 26 through Sat., Dec. 30 = 1 to 3 p.m.**  
Let your creativity and imagination soar over this holiday break. Visit the Museum for lots of family-friendly activities that will keep both you and the children busy and happy.

**Suggested Admission:** \$8-Adults, \$5-Sr./Student,  
\$2-Children 2-12, Free for members & children under 2  
info: StatenIslandMuseum.org, 718-727-1135