



Fifth Sunday of Advent ~ December 27, 2015

"See what love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God; and so we are." (1 John 3:1)



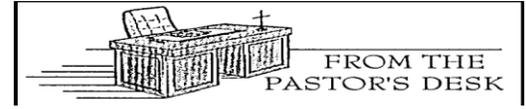
Weekly Mass Intentions



Mass Intentions

Offered by: sister, Yolanda & niece Lynn

Offered by: Mrs. & Mr. Anthony P. Sullivan



"Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." What an amazing proclamation of faith!

"We are God's children now..." Are we? Yes and No. Yes, by virtue of our baptism we have been adopted by God as God's own sons and daughters, brothers and sisters to God's only Son Jesus. This is itself remarkable. God, our Creator, sees us as God's children. God, the ideal parent, loves us with a love that is unconditional, total, and always faithful. God's love for each one of us is irrevocable. The problem is that we are not always comfortable with the idea that we are children of God. We want to think of ourselves as independent adults; persons who do not need a parent's guidance, wisdom and direction. As a result, we can sometimes choose to follow a way that is not faithful to the way that God has shown us will result in a deeper relationship with God now and the fullness of life in God after death. We sin. We choose to follow our own path rather than the path that will strengthen our relationship with God and assure our salvation. The Christmas season is a good time for us to seek the grace to live as true children of God.

We shall be like God, for we shall see God as God is. Wow! If we embrace our identity as children of God and accept the wisdom, guidance and direction of God then death will be our passage into the presence of God. There we shall be like God because we will see God face-to-face. Think of that! Our hope is that one day we will be embraced by our loving parent and gaze upon the face of God as the radiant love of God envelopes us. Perhaps that hope is so extraordinary that it becomes impossible for us to appreciate. It seems too much for us to comprehend. But what a great privilege and blessing it is to have this hope! It is this hope that should encourage us to embrace our identity as children of God.

In this Christmas season, embrace your identity and so live in the great hope that is ours!

Fr. Mark Hallinan, S.J.

Saturday December 26

8:00am- † Ann & Charles Urwin
5:00pm- † Louis Scaramuzzi
7:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Sunday December 27

8:30am- † Special Intention for Betty Jobe & By: Niece & Nephews
For Albert Sevorwell's Health
10:00am- † Dolores Elizabeth Zukowski Offered by: Victoria & Wilferdo Garay
11:30am- † Liana Marcela Lopez & Jenny Lizette Lopez Offered by: Jamie Lopez
1:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions
6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Monday December 28

8:00am- † Mary Romano ~5th Anniversary Offered by: Family
12:05pm- † Cintron Family By: Ann & Teresa

Tuesday December 29

8:00am- Special Intention~ Jack Field Offered by: Friend
12:05pm- † Susan Avila Offered by: Rose Negri

Wednesday December 30

8:00am- †
12:05pm- † Ivan Delgado & Pedro Ochoa ~ Birthday Anniversary Offered by: Mayra Calderon

Thursday December 31 ~ New Year's Eve

8:00am- † Mrs. Helen Valentine Offered by: son, Thomas Valentine
7:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Friday January 1 ~2016~

10:00am- † Leonard Henry Wonszewitz II Offered by: wife, Cinderella

Saturday January 2

8:00am- † Josephine Bruno Offered by: daughters, Barbra & Mary
5:00pm- † Miriam Luciano By: Family
7:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Sunday January 3

8:30am- †
10:00am- † Edward & Vivian Morgan Offered by: Coppucci Family

Weekly Memorials

Bread & Wine

Memorial Candle

Memorial Candles



~ †
~ † Ann Urwin Offered by: Family
~ † Charles Urwin Offered by: Family

Liturgical Minister's Schedule for the Masses

Saturday - 5:00 PM

Lector: Linda Graves (carry Gospel Book) E.M.: Linfred Smith, Peg & Tom Ventrudo

Sunday - 8:30AM

Lector: Joan Knighton (carry Gospel Book) E.M.: Diane Carbonaro, Theresa Contardo & Cinderella Wonszewitz S.M: Bill Hinton

Sunday - 10:00AM

Lector: Sharely Manuel (carry Gospel Book) E. M.: Emmanuel Fode, Beverly Marryshaw & Mariana Zukowski S.M: Alexis Crowell

New Year's Day Friday - 10:00AM

Lector: Sharely Manuel (carry Gospel Book) E.M.: Alexis Crowdell (Chris) Pascua & Cinderella Wonszewitz

SCRIPTURE READINGS

These readings are found complete on our parish web page (www.olmcsi.org). Click on "USCCB Daily Readings."

TODAY: *The Holy Family*

1 Samuel: 1:20-22, 24-28

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

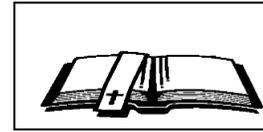
Luke 2:41-52

Next Week: *Epiphany*

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12



NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) Thursday – December 31st at 7:30 p.m. in Spanish. Friday – January 1st at 10 a.m. in English. On Thursday, December 31st, there will be an 8 a.m. Mass but no 12:05 p.m. Mass. On Friday, January 1st, the only Mass will be at 10 a.m. The rectory will close at 1 p.m. on Thursday, December 31st. The rectory will be closed on New Year's Day.

PASTOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – Monday, January 18th at 5 p.m. in the Meeting Room.

BIBLE STUDY – Want to learn more about the foundational source of our faith – the bible? We have classes on select Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon under the direction of Mr. Colin Voutrintot, our Director of RCIA. Upcoming classes: December 26, January 2 and 23, February 6 and 13. Classes are in the rectory on the first floor.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE – Thank you for your support of our Christmas raffle! We earned almost \$1300! The winners were: Viella Clardy who won the food basket, Rosalia Paterson who won the wine basket and Rosa Gutierrez who won the liquor basket.

SPECIAL NATIVITY SCENE AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL – From the Basilicata Region of Italy comes a beautiful hand-crafted Nativity scene of stunning complexity that is on display at the recently restored St. Patrick's Cathedral (Fifth Avenue at 51st Street). The Nativity scene will be in place throughout the Christmas season. Please bring your family to see this remarkable display of artistic devotion. Buon Natale!

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM for HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS – The Venerable Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program offers a \$2,000 award to high school seniors graduating from any high school in the Archdiocese of New York so that they can attend a college, university or trade/training school of their choice. The grant can be renewed for three additional years, if the student fulfills certain academic and service requirements. Information is available in the vestibule of the church. All applications are due by February 19, 2016. Don't delay!

A PRAYER to THE HOLY FAMILY – Perhaps your family could make time to pray this prayer together daily?

JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

MARY, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

FROM THE MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS for the WORLD DAY of PEACE - Mercy is the heart of God. It must also be the heart of the members of the one great family of his children: a heart which beats all the more strongly wherever human dignity – as a reflection of the face of God in his creatures – is in play. Jesus tells us that love for others – foreigners, the sick, prisoners, the homeless, even our enemies – is the yardstick by which God will judge our actions. Our eternal destiny depends on this. It is not surprising that the Apostle Paul tells the Christians of Rome to rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep (cf. *Rom* 12:15), or that he encourages the Corinthians to take up collections as a sign of solidarity with the suffering members of the Church (cf. *1 Cor* 16:2-3). And Saint John writes: "If anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother or sister in need, yet refuses help, how does God's love abide in him? (*1 Jn* 3:17; cf. *Jas* 2:15-16).

WEEKLY OFFERING: December 20th: \$3495. Thank you for your support of our parish!

Feast of the Holy Family- During this season of giving, let us remember the most important gift we have received – being children of God. As God's children, it's important that we express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children and other family members and friends that you love them, frequently.