



# Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 18, 2016



*They shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." ~Matthew 1:23*

## Weekly Mass Intentions



### Mass Intentions

#### Saturday December 17

8:00am - †  
5:00pm- † Jim & Gene Obermayer  
7:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions

*Offered by:*  
*Offered by:* Family

#### Sunday December 18

8:30am-† Stanley & Marcella Mikos  
10:00am- † Joseph & Mary Contardo  
11:30am- † Parish Community Intentions  
1:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions  
6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

*Offered by:* Family  
*Offered by:* Theresa Contardo

#### Monday December 19

8:00am- †  
12:05pm- † Special Intention of Ralph Munoz, Sr.  
Joseph Munoz & Susan Ferris

*Offered by:*  
*Offered by:* Susan Ferris

#### Tuesday December 20

8:00am- † Nonso Christian Ugbo  
12:05pm- †

*Offered by:* mother, MaryAnn  
*Offered by:*

#### Wednesday December 21

8:00am - † Mary & Lawrence Iannucci  
12:05pm-†

*By:* Sue, Pat, Maria & Dominic  
*Offered by:*

#### Thursday December 22

8:00am- †  
12:05pm- † William M. Frickenstein

*Offered by:*  
*Offered by:* Family

#### Friday December 23

8:00am- † Grace & Ciro Frulio  
12:05pm- † Andrew & Ralph Frulio

*Offered by:* Frulio Family  
*Offered by:* Frulio Family

#### Saturday December 24 ~Christmas Eve~

8:00am- ~Unborn babies in wombs & their families  
4:00pm- † Dolores Elizabeth Zukowski & Margaret Harden  
12:00am- † Mrs. Helen Valentine

*By:* Deacon Jim Stahlnecker  
*Offered by:* Zukowski Family  
*By:* son, Thomas Valentine

#### Sunday December 25 ~Christmas Day~

10:00am- † Dolores Elizabeth Zukowski

*By:* Victoria & Wilfredo Garay

## Weekly Memorials

**Bread & Wine**  
**Tabernacle Candle**  
**Memorial Candle**  
**Memorial Candle**



~ †  
~  
~ †  
~ †

### Liturgical Minister's Schedule Christmas Schedule

#### Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Mass - 4:00 PM

*Lector:* Victoria Garay

*Eucharistic Ministers:* Victoria Cappucci, Alexis Crowdell & Mariana Zukowski

#### Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – Midnight Mass – 12:00 AM

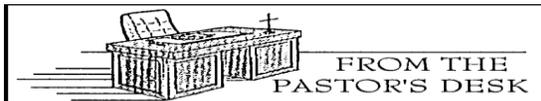
*Lector:* Linda Graves

*Eucharistic Ministers:* Linford Smith & MaryAnn Ugbo

#### Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day Mass - 10:00 AM

*Lector:* Ceferino Albarracin

*Eucharistic Ministers:* Delmeter Carey, Peg & Tom Ventrudo



**In this final week of Advent, is Christmas already done and gone?** This week offers us the opportunity to enter into the celebration of Christmas with minds and hearts renewed.

As the Church invites us to enter into a period of prayer and reflection in anticipation of the celebration of Christmas (the Advent season), the world is already immersed in Christmas. How many of you have already attended a Christmas/Holiday party? How many of you have already exchanged gifts? How many of you have already grown tired of the tree that you so enthusiastically decorated the day of, or the day after, Thanksgiving? This week offers us the opportunity to pause and remember the significance of the feast we are about to celebrate. We have to choose whether we will take advantage of this opportunity or not. It is not hard. It doesn't require much time. It simply requires the desire to enter into the final week of this season with the intention of experiencing in our hearts what this feast celebrates.

Every day this week, find five or ten minutes of quiet time to read this passage quietly to yourself: "For God so love the world that God sent God's only Son into the world not to condemn the world but that the world might be saved through him." God loves this world. God loves you personally. As difficult as your life may be right now, you should find peace, strength and joy in the knowledge that God loves as you are and that God only desires what is good for you. To share that love, do something nice for someone this week, particularly someone whom you find it difficult to like. Buy a cup of coffee for a co-worker. Visit someone who cannot leave their home and bring a small gift of cookies or candy. Give a pair of gloves to a homeless person. In this daily prayer and in your small acts of kindness, you remind yourself of what the feast of Christmas is about; it is about love. It is about the love of God for us and how we can make that love real in our world though how we choose to live our lives.

Use this final week of Advent to prepare your hearts for the coming feast!

**Fr. Mark Hallinan, S.J**

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

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

### **TODAY: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 7:10-14  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-24

### **Next Sun: Christmas**

Reflect over one of these Gospels:  
Luke 2:1-14; Luke 2:15-20;  
John 1:1-18



**KEEP YOUR PHONE FREE - YOU MAY BE A WINNER IN OUR RAFFLE!** – We will notify the winners of our raffle on Monday morning. We offer our gratitude to all of you who participated in the raffle and to all the persons who helped with the sale of raffle tickets. *Thank you!*

### **REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH WEEK OF THE ADVENT SEASON:**

Jesus...invites us to say with him to the Father: "Here I am! I am coming to obey your will."

Mary herself has already followed her Son, though he is not yet born. Asked as an unmarried virgin if she is willing to be the mother of Jesus and assured that, with God, all things are possible, she has already said: "Yes! Let all this happen to me as you have planned it." At this stage, she has no idea what is in store but she has said her Yes and she will be faithful to it.

[Our scripture readings for today] ask: "Have you said 'Yes' yet?" It is a question that the readings are asking each one of us. We are about to celebrate Christmas very soon. Probably all our other preparations have been made or we are up to our eyes making them. But have we made the most important preparation of all? Yes to the Father, yes to Jesus, yes to all that we will experience in the coming year, yes to every call that God makes and will make of us?

Part of the meaning of Christmas is that by contemplating the experiences of Jesus and Mary, we learn from them how to say an unqualified and unconditional Yes. Because that is where the real joy and happiness of Christmas lies. All the rest is tinsel. *Sacred Space – Irish Jesuits*

**POPE FRANCIS on JOY:** How meaningful in this regard for us too are the ancient words which guided the first Christians: "Clothe yourselves in joy, which always is agreeable and acceptable to God, and rejoice in it. For all who are joyful do what is good, think what is good, and despise sadness... All who put aside sadness and put on joy will live in God" The experience of [God's] mercy brings joy. May we never allow this joy to be robbed from us by our troubles and concerns. May it remain rooted in our hearts and enable us to approach with serenity the events of our daily lives. **Pope Francis.**

**PRAYER FOR THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT:** Lord Jesus Christ, who is, who was, and who is to come, we pray for the virtue of hope, that amidst the trials and difficulties of this world, we may keep our hearts fixed upon you, who reigns over all of creation. May your grace enliven us, strengthen us, and defend us, as we await your coming in glory. *Amen. David Bennett*

**CHRISTMAS TIME in SONG and DANCE: TODAY** - Sunday, December 18, 5 p.m. at St. John's University, Staten Island Campus, in the gymnasium at 300 Howard Avenue. Admission is free. Presented by the Richmond County Orchestra, Alan Aurelia, Maestro. There will be special performances by the New American Youth Ballet performing excerpts from the Nutcracker, Italian Opera selections by local Staten Island singers, and a special visit from Santa.

**FEAST OF THREE KINGS** – Sunday, January 8, 2017, there will be a distribution of toys for children 14 years of age and younger in the school gym at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

**DISPOSE OF YOUR CAR and CONTRIBUTE to GOOD WORKS** - You can donate your used car, truck or van, operational or not, to the St. Vincent DePaul Society and the St. Vincent DePaul Society will contribute \$50 or \$100 to our church. If you do not have a vehicle that is ready for retirement, perhaps a family member, friend or colleague at work does. Call the Society of St. Vincent DePaul at 718-491-2525. Please tell them that you heard of this program through Mount Carmel Church on Staten Island. *Thank you!*

**NEW WORLD PREP CHARTER SCHOOL – OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHARTER SCHOOL** – Save the date for their Open House – Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. – 26 Sharpe Avenue. NWP is a small, public college preparatory middle school serving 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Founded to respond to the academic, social and emotional needs of non-English speaking households, as well as students from throughout the North Shore Community. **Visit:** [www.newworldprep.org](http://www.newworldprep.org) or call 718-705-8990. Admission is by lottery. There is no cost to attend the school.

**WEEKLY OFFERING:** December 11<sup>th</sup>: \$3,300; Retired Religious: \$864; Feast of O.L. of Guadalupe: \$5,528 – *Thank you!!*

**LOVE** - We may ask ourselves if we are prepared for Christmas, but that question may focus on the wrong things; we may be thinking of decorations and Christmas gifts and Christmas dinners. However, the question we should be asking is "Are our souls ready for Christmas?" That should be the most important part of our Advent preparation. Is God present within us? Are we ready to welcome Christ? In his letter to the Romans, the Second Reading, St. Paul uses the phrase "the Spirit of holiness." Paul, and in a more important way Christ Himself, calls us to holiness. Holiness is more than what we do; it has everything to do with what we are. Holiness is characterized by our relationship with the Lord. We are waiting for Christ, but the reality is that Christ is waiting for us. St. Teresa of Calcutta may have said it best when she stated, "It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you. Yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at someone and offer them your hand." Doing that is being holy, too. *Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc.*