



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ DECEMBER 10, 2017

Scripture Meditation: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

*When we care for our faith, we experience God's forgiveness and feel his love for us. We become more loving and we want to reach out to those who are hurting. We find the strength to say no to temptation and thus, we become a new creation.*

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### CELEBRATION OF MASSES THIS WEEK

Sat.	Dec 9	4:30 PM	+PRIHODA and +SKOVIRA FAMILIES ~ <i>Marge Prihoda</i>
Sun.	Dec 10	7:30 AM	+ LUCY CANTAFIO, Anniversary ~ <i>Connie Sandor &amp; Family</i>
		9:00 AM	+MICHAEL PERKOWSKI ~ <i>The Perkowski Family</i>
		11:00 AM	+RONALD D. BARBER & +JAMES BARBER ~ <i>The Barber Family</i>
Mon.	Dec 11	7:30 AM	GOD'S BLESSINGS and GRACE for YOLANDA PADILLA ~ <i>Rosa Lopez</i>
Tues.	Dec 12	7:30 AM	IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE ~ <i>Anonymous</i>
Wed.	Dec 13	7:30 AM	+BARBARA MARCOTTE and +JEAN KILLORAN ~ <i>Jeanne Buynak</i>
Thurs.	Dec 14	7:30 AM	+THERESA Z. ONTKO and +JAMES J. ONTKO ~ <i>Dennis &amp; Sallianne Prebensen</i>
Fri.	Dec 15	7:30 AM	+KATHERINE and +EDWARD BARICKO ~ <i>Sr. Joseph Therese, SSCM</i>
Sat.	Dec 16	8:00 AM	+LOUIS MIKLOS, JR. ~ <i>Leigh &amp; Susan Voytek</i>
		4:30 PM	+JOHN KOKINDA ~ <i>Marge &amp; Joseph Goda</i>
Sun.	Dec 17	7:30 AM	+MARY PUCCI ~ <i>Betty Pucci &amp; Family</i>
		9:00 AM	+MICHAEL J. BUDA, SR. ~ <i>Cousin, Eleanor Buda Burke</i>
		11:00 AM	+JOSEPH and +FRANCES KURIMSKY ~ <i>Son, Daughter &amp; Son-In-Law</i>



**PRAYER CORNER:** Your prayers are requested for the sick and the suffering. Please pray for the good health of:



**Fr. Andy, Msgr. Cuneo,  
James Bepko, Mike Dunn, Ceil Elias,  
Millie Elias, TJ Recupido**

*If you would like a loved one added to our Prayer Corner or Prayer Board, please call the parish office.*



**Our sympathy and assurance of prayer** is extended to the family of **Keith Baylen**, who was buried from our church last week.



**Altar Flowers for this weekend** are given in honor of the **Immaculate Heart of Mary.**



**The Ladies Guild is selling Oplatky** (*Christmas Wafers*) before and after Mass every weekend until Dec. 16/17. Cost is \$3.00 for a package of 6 wafers. Oplatky is also available at the parish office.

**Evangelization Corner:** The herald's voice cries out: Prepare the way of the Lord! The way lies through our own hearts. We go to meet the Lord and clear the way so that we may travel in freedom and joy.



**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December - This month the Pope asks us to pray for the elderly.**

*"Those who have lived the longest have the most to give! Let us take care of them - they are our future. Let us pray that the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations."*



**HNJ Faith Formation Program:**

**Dec. 10** ~ Students

**Confirmation:** Session 6

**Dec. 17** ~ Students **Confirmation:** Session 7

**YOUTH CHOIR NEWS:** The Youth Choir will rehearse on Wed., Dec. 13 at 5:15 PM to 6:30 PM in the Church Choir Loft

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT NEWS:**  
**CAST REHEARSALS for Characters and Choir** will be held on **Wed. Dec. 13** from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM and **Wed. Dec. 20** from 5:30 PM to 7:00PM. Our annual Christmas Eve Pageant is held on Christmas Eve BEFORE the 4:30PM Christmas Eve Vigil Mass. The pageant begins promptly at 4:00 PM and ends at 4:25 PM. \*\*A Cast & Choir Pizza Party to be held in the Hall beginning 6:15 PM. (Wed. Dec. 20) Any questions: please call Nina DeMasi 203-394-3657



People, Look East!

*The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able. Trim the hearth and set the table. People, look East, and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way!* French carol



Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:8



**FROM OUR HNJ QUILTERS**

60 plus quilts, afghans and 75 baby hats were delivered to Yale Children's Hospital to comfort those in need during a frightening time of treatment and being hospitalized at Christmas time. 25 blankets, hats and scarves were

delivered to Caroline House in Bridgeport for moms and children in need. Free Hats and scarves decorate the Baldwin Center Christmas tree for Stratford children.

**A special thank you to Theresa Yash – she has knitted 825 baby hats since the quilting group started 21 years ago – and she's still knitting!**

Thank you and God bless all our dedicated quilters for the good work they do. Cathy Tringhese

**The Stratford Mobile Pantry will be at HNJ on Tuesday, December 12 from 3:00PM to 4:00PM in the parish parking lot.** Free, fresh and nutritious food for individuals and families. There is no paperwork or ID's required.

Sponsored by the CT Food Bank in partnership with the Stratford Dept. of Health. Don't forget your reusable bags!

**Notre Dame Fairfield is hosting a Holiday Cookie Sale. The sale will take place on Friday, Dec. 15 from 11:00AM to 6:00PM and Saturday, Dec. 16 from 9:00AM to 1:00PM.** Homemade and specialty cookies will be available to purchase at \$10 per pound. Proceeds of the sale will go to the NDF Parent Association. Notre Dame is located at 220 Jefferson St. in Fairfield. Call 203-372-6521 or email tmarzik@notredame.org for more information.

**The Slovak Alliance Christmas Party will be held on Dec. 17 from 1:00 PM- 5:00 PM at the Mill River Country Club in Stratford.** Buffet Menu. Vinny Carr will be providing the afternoon's entertainment! For info-please call Marta Suchyak 203-377-1874 or Monique Antonelli 203-878-2214 by THIS Monday, Dec. 11.

**"Speaking to Sparrows" Film Screening**  
**Wed., Jan. 10 or Thurs., Jan. 18, 7:00-9:00 PM,**  
**St. Catherine of Siena Parish Hall, Trumbull.** An evening of discussion following this documentary about women finding courage to confront the uncomfortable. The film brings to light issues facing women and creates space for difficult conversations that are a light in the darkness and can bring healing. Regardless of age, women struggle with the same issues and will benefit from this free event whether they are 16 or 60. For more information about the film, visit: [www.speakingtosparrows.com](http://www.speakingtosparrows.com).

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A man sent his friend a cryptic Christmas card. It said: A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z. The recipient puzzled over it for weeks, finally gave up and wrote asking for an explanation. He finally received the explanation on a postcard: "No L."

**Financial Support of our Parish-Week of Dec. 03, 2017**

Operating Costs – Weekly amount needed to meet expenses of all five buildings ...\$11,000

Sunday Collection ..... \$ 4,851

Other Collections: Annual, Monthly, Holy Day \$ 2,015

Total Weekly Income..... \$ 6,866

Shortfall..... \$ 4,134

**Fiscal year to date overview**

Operating Costs Year to Date: \$11,000 x 23 \$ 253,000

Actual Weekly Income Year to date: \$ 244,438

Shortfall ..... \$ 8,562

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter "Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God."** Let us learn to comfort each other better by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. **The next Weekends are Feb 2-4, 2018 in Manchester, CT and Jul 6-8, 2018 in Manchester, CT.** For more information, call Dennis & Jane Lamondy at 860-481-3720 or visit them at [wwmectw.org](http://wwmectw.org)

**Defending Our Religious Liberty** In a letter to the U.S. Senate, the United States Conference for Catholic Bishops (USCCB) stated that it stands ready to work with Congress to address problems with the Affordable Care Act in order to protect the most vulnerable among us. They said, "The Catholic Church remains committed to ensuring the fundamental right to medical care, a right which is in keeping with the God-given dignity of every person, and the corresponding obligation as a country to provide for this right. Health care debates must not be reduced to only those elements which appear most politically expedient; those without a strong voice in the process must not bear the brunt of attempts to cut costs."

**Advent trust "Trusting in God's Grace"** by Cathy Donovan in Family Faith on the Go ~ "The hardest prayer I have ever uttered was, "God, you know best; your will be done." I immediately felt a sense of fear at having given over my control of the situation and asking God to take over. And then I felt a sense of acceptance knowing that God's response would be better than anything I could manage. We have been surrounded with challenges lately: a tough economy, natural disasters of biblical proportions, political unrest and violence in many countries. Watching the news can be downright depressing! Maybe you feel a bit like Job right now, facing personal life challenges that rattle your soul and shake your faith. During Advent we are in the liturgical season of hope. It is hope in our God, who loves us so much he sent his Son to join us in our humanity, in our challenges and triumphs, in our joys and in our sorrow. This is the season of "Emmanuel" — God with us. God does not promise to fish us out of our struggles. Rather, God promises to be with us in them. God stands ready, with arms open wide, to embrace us when we need it most. We need only trust and fall into God's embrace."

**Read more articles like this from Our Sunday Visitor, at our parish website [hnojchurch.com](http://hnojchurch.com)**

