

Steady your hearts  
God is near

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT ~ December 11, 2016

### Sunday Scripture Meditation:

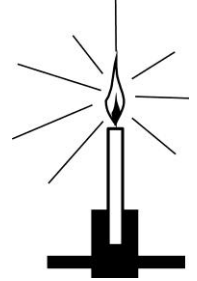
Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

During Advent we can ask the Spirit to help us see the beauty in that dank and unwelcoming manger. See what happens as you dwell on the baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes. When we ponder God's word, our spiritual instincts will come alive, and the Holy Spirit will give us new insights in to His love for us.

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### CELEBRATION OF MASSES THIS WEEK

Sat.	Dec 10	4:30 PM	+JOHN AND +ANNA ZAHURSKY ~ <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Bill Uhelsky</i>
Sun.	Dec 11	7:30 AM	+LUCY CANTAFIO ~ <i>Connie Sandor</i>
		9:00 AM	+JENEATH QUICK ~ <i>Diem Tran</i>
		11:00 AM	+AUGUSTIN PETRUS ~ <i>Alex and Anna Onuska</i>
Mon.	Dec 12	7:30 AM	+SOPHIE RINGAWA ~ <i>Roseanne and Matt Melisse</i>
Tues.	Dec 13	7:30 AM	+JENEATH QUICK ~ <i>The Tran Family</i>
Wed.	Dec 14	7:30 AM	FOR THE INTENTIONS OF OUR PARISHIONERS
Thurs.	Dec 15	7:30 AM	FOR THE INTENTIONS OF ALL PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS
Fri.	Dec 16	7:30 AM	FOR ALL PERSECUTED AND DISPLACED PEOPLES of the world
Sat.	Dec 17	8:00 AM	+MARY PUCCI ~ <i>Betty Pucci and Family</i>
		4:30 PM	+PRIHODA AND +SKOVIRA FAMILY ~ <i>Marge Prihoda</i>
Sun.	Dec 18	7:30 AM	LIVING AND DECEASED OF THE SANDOR FAMILY ~ <i>Connie Sandor</i>
		9:00 AM	+JENNY SEKELSKY, <i>The Family</i>
		11:00 AM	+EDWARD AND +IRENE DEMOVICK ~ <i>Stephanie and Michael Dunn</i>



**FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH ~ WEEK OF 12-4-2016 – will be published in next week's bulletin.**



**PRAYER CORNER:** Your prayers are requested for the sick and the suffering, those in ongoing treatment and/or rehabilitation and whose lives are heavily burdened. If you are a parishioner or know of a parishioner who would like to be included in the Prayer Corner, please call the parish office at 203-375-5815. Please pray for the good health of: **Richard Miller, Dottie Millo, Helen Mino, Peter Panicale, Jo-Ann Pretreycik, Charles Rader, T.J. Recupido, Jennie Tesla**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** December 11: Religious Ed. Class/ Children's Liturgy ~ K through 8 ~ Reconciliation ~ Confirmation Class held in Convent **December 18** : Religious Education Classes/Children's Liturgy ~ K through 8 ~ Reconciliation~ Confirmation Class held in Convent



**We offer our sympathy and prayer** to the families of **Juliette Breton and Helen Lindberg** who were buried from our church last week.

**The Ladies Guild is now selling Oplatky (Christmas Wafers) in the vestibule of the church before and after Masses** until the weekend of December 17 & 18. Cost for a package of 6 wafers is \$3.00. Oplatky will also be available at the parish office Monday through Friday, 9:00AM to 4:00PM

**Advent** is the time for rousing. Humanity is shaken to the very depths so that we may wake up to the truth about ourselves. The primary condition for a fruitful and rewarding Advent is renunciation, surrender.  
+Fr. Alfred Delp, S.J.



### Christmas Giving Tree

**The deadline for dropping off gifts is THIS WEEKEND, December 10 & 11.**

*Gifts not returned by the cutoff date cannot be distributed in time for Christmas. Thank you for your continued generosity in this worthy activity.*

### Grateful thanks to the Guild of the Mother of Jesus



**members and the volunteers who helped to organize, prepare, bake and distribute the baked goods last weekend.** Your hard work and continued dedication make this event the success that it is. Orders were received as far away as Lakeville, CT!



**Youth Choir News:** Rehearsal is held every Wednesday in the Church Choir loft.

**Christmas Eve Pageant :** Choir rehearsals are held in the church choir loft from 6:00 PM to 6:45 PM on Wednesday, Dec. 14 and on Wed. Dec. 21 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. Cast of characters; Shepherds, Shepherdess, Wisemen, Angels, Holy Mother Mary and St. Joseph. Rehearsals are on Wednesday Dec. 14 from 6:00 PM to 6:45 PM and Wed. Dec. 21 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. A pizza party will be held for the choir and cast members on December 21.



**ALTAR FLOWERS** this weekend are in honor of the Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

**Our Holy Name of Jesus Men's Society will hold their Annual Christmas Party on Thursday, December 15 at 6:00 PM at the Blue Goose Restaurant.** Dinner choices are roast Prime rib au jus, Baked Stuffed Jumbo Shrimp & Chicken Marsala or Fresh Atlantic Salmon. Complimentary hot Hors D'oeuvres will be served. All entrees served with Homemade Bread and butter, Fresh Garden Salad with house dressing, Baked Potato, Vegetable du jour, Dessert and Coffee or Tea. Total person cost \$32 for members and \$38.50 for nonmembers. **The deadline for reservations is THIS WEEKEND, December 11.** Please contact Larry Wells at 203-375-2836 or [lawman56@optonline.net](mailto:lawman56@optonline.net)



**Take a look at the Diocesan Website front page and scroll down to see our International Festival of Foods coverage and photos.**  
[www.bridgeportdiocese.com](http://www.bridgeportdiocese.com)  
**More photos of this great evening are posted in the church vestibule.**



**Our Parish Online offertory giving for the month of November was \$1602. If you are tired of writing weekly checks and prefer to give to your parish online - visit our parish website**  
[www.hnojchurch.org](http://www.hnojchurch.org) and click the "OnLine Giving" icon found on the left side column to follow simple directions for setting up your account. **Did you know?** On line givers have the added convenience of being able to print out their yearly tax statement.



**Centers of Mercy:** *From Bishop Caggiano: "Now that the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy is concluded, I am very happy to announce that several of our parishes have very generously offered to continue indefinitely as Centers of Mercy."*  
**Tuesday,** from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM: St. Catherine of Siena, Trumbull (**with Eucharistic Adoration**) St. Joseph, Brookfield, Our Lady of the Assumption, Fairfield (**with Eucharistic Adoration**)  
**Wednesdays,** 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM St. Pius X, Fairfield  
**Thursdays** 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM:  
 St. Theresa, Trumbull, Sacred Heart, Danbury and St. Charles Borromeo, Bridgeport  
**Monday through Friday** 11:30 AM to 12:00 Noon, St. Augustine Cathedral, Bridgeport

**Defending Our Religious Liberty:** **May the leaders who were elected last month be guided by the Holy Spirit as they fulfill their positions.** *If you haven't done so already, please voice your opposition to the federal health care mandate by calling U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell at 202-205-5445, and your newly elected representatives. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.*



**EVANGELIZATION CORNER**

John announces the coming of the Messiah, who will burn away in the fire of the Spirit all that hides God's goodness in this world. **Let us open our lives to His cleansing power as we prepare to celebrate the mystery of our redemption.**

**We thank everyone who supported the Fall Parish Raffle.** Our profit was \$2780. Supporting our raffles helps with ongoing repairs and maintenance of our five buildings. Your participation enables us to see our debt go down and the financial health of our Parish continue to improve. May God continue to bless our Parish Family.



**Hospice Project Wreath 1, Slovak Catholic Sokol:** **Our sincere thanks to all who joined us monetarily or with your donations of toys, books, etc. for the children visiting relatives and friends at the Connecticut Hospice.** The Arts Director was delighted to receive them, and we know they will bring smiles and comfort to those who get to use or keep them. God bless you all for remembering the little children who are the "favorites of Christ".  
 Eileen S. Wilson, President



**Beginning next weekend through the month of January we will be collecting toiletries for the homeless.** Items will be distributed to area people in need. You may drop off your donations in the marked box in the vestibule of the church. Thank you for your charity.

**What better way of celebrating the Advent Season than in song? The Diocese of Bridgeport Youth Choir, C4Y is hosting its second annual Christmas concert, Arise and Shine on Sunday, December 18 at 6:00 PM at the Klein Memorial Auditorium in Bridgeport.** C4Y is made up of young people from over 40 parishes and schools. The concert will feature some of your favorite traditional and contemporary Christmas hymns, as well as prayers and scripture readings. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and can be purchased online at [www.theklein.org](http://www.theklein.org) or by phone at 800-424-0160.

**Bus trips – Christ the Redeemer Council 15870 Knights of Columbus is running the following trips for 2017.** Savannah, Parris, Jekyll and St Simon's Islands April 30-May 6 \$625 ~ Boston June 10-12 \$299 tour Boston, Lexington and Concord and more. Canadian Island of Coudres September 5-10 with tours of Montreal, Quebec City and visit St Ann De Beaupre Shrine \$719. ~ Memphis Oct. 7-15 \$743.00 admission to Graceland, Sun Studio and Rock N Soul Museum Inc and more. Call John Benard 203-877-2737 for info and fliers.