



DECEMBER 24, 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Scripture Meditation: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Scripture Meditation: Vigil Mass Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25

Christmas Day! Try to sit quietly and let the grace that is in us convince us that Jesus is Lord. The best present we can give Jesus is to let his grace well up in our hearts. Just sit with the Lord, and let that grace touch your heart!

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CELEBRATION OF MASSES THIS WEEK

Table with columns for Day, Date, Time, and Mass Details. Includes entries for Dec 23-31 and Jan 1 with names like +IRENE and +EDWARD DEMOVICK, +JOSEPH and +MARION GRESKO, etc.



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

Fr. Andy thanks you for your prayers and well wishes as he continues to recover at CareOne in NJ. If you would like to send him a card please send to: LTACH - CareOne at Trinitas Regional Medical Center 225 Williamson ST., Elizabeth, NJ 07202 Rev. Andrew Marus

The Convent Chapel Sanctuary Candle for Christmas Day is for the Intention of World Peace. Given by Anne Havelick.

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26.

HNJ Faith Formation Program: Dec. 24 and Dec. 31~ No Religious Education classes

A Blessed and Merry Christmas is extended to all our Parish Family & Friends! Fr. Boccaccio, Fr. Andy, Msgr. Cuneo, our visiting priests: Msgr. Bernelli, Fr. Biroshak, Fr. Crofut, Fr. DeMayo, Msgr. Esposito, Fr. Ramos, and Deacon Michael, Sr. Gloria Marie, Sr. Joseph Therese, Parish Staff and Volunteers.



Our thanks and gratitude to the parishioners who decorated our beautiful Christmas altar and set up our outdoor manger. For the lovely music and voices of our Senior Choir, Youth Choir and Nativity Pageant participants. For the faithful service provided by our Ministers of the Word and Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers, Ushers and Religious Education teachers. To all our Parish Family for your prayers, participation and support, may God bless you!



Our annual Christmas Eve Nativity Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 24 beginning at 4:00 PM prior to the 4:30PM Vigil Christmas Mass. We have 29 participants in this wonderful production! Please plan to attend!



Sunday Obligation: December 23-24, 4th Sunday of Advent.

You may attend a Vigil Mass on Saturday, Dec. 23 or any Mass on Sunday, Dec. 24 (including any Christmas Vigil that concludes before midnight) in order to fulfill the Sunday obligation. Should you choose to fulfill your Sunday obligation by participating in a Christmas Vigil Mass, one should also attend Mass on Monday, December 25, in order to fulfill the Christmas obligation.

Christmas Obligation, December 24 & 25:

You may attend one of the Vigil Masses on Dec. 24 or any Mass on Monday, Dec. 25, in order to fulfill the Christmas obligation (unless, as noted above, the Christmas Vigil fulfills the Sunday obligation.)

Our Christmas Mass schedule: Sunday, December 24

4:00 PM – Nativity Pageant

4:30 PM – Christmas Vigil Mass

10:00 PM – Caroling with the HNJ Senior Choir

10:30 PM – Christmas Vigil Mass

Monday, December 25 ~ 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

***Please note, there will not be a 7:30 AM Mass on Christmas Day, December 25.



Monday, January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

Because the solemnity falls on a Monday, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation. However, all our parish family

is invited to celebrate and honor our Blessed Mother at Mass on **Monday at 8:00AM or 10:00AM.**

YOUTH CHOIR NEWS: The next rehearsal for the Youth Choir will be on Wednesday, January 10 at 5:15 PM to 6:30 PM in the Church Choir Loft.

2018 Calendars are available at the Church entrances.

Kindly take one calendar per family. **Our grateful thanks to Galello Funeral Home for their continued sponsorship of our Church calendar.**

Pope Francis' message from St Peter's Basilica

Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Christmas! Christ is born for us; let us rejoice in the day of our salvation! Let us open our hearts to receive the grace of this day, which is Christ himself. Jesus is the radiant "day" which has dawned on the horizon of humanity. A day of mercy, in which God our Father has revealed his great tenderness to the entire world. A day of light, which dispels the darkness of fear and anxiety. A day of peace, which makes for encounter, dialogue and, above all, reconciliation. A day of joy: a "great joy" for the poor, the lowly and for all the people. (cf. Lk 2:10) Go to the Vatican Radio site to hear or read the Pope's entire Christmas message. <http://en.radiovaticana.va>

Evangelization Corner: *In the Annunciation made by the angel to Mary, God's promise of salvation is kept. The hope of God's people is fulfilled, as our Advent hope will be fulfilled when Christ comes in his glory.*

Financial Support of our Parish-Week of Dec. 17, 2017

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

Sunday Collection \$ 5,215

Other Collections: Annual, Monthly, Holy Day \$ 959

Total Weekly Income..... \$ 6,174

Shortfall..... \$ 4,826

Fiscal year to date overview

Operating Costs Year to Date: \$11,000 x 25 \$ 275,000

Actual Weekly Income Year to date: \$ 274,273

Shortfall \$ 727

Calling all men of the parish - the Knights of Columbus, Council 2370 - of Holy Name of Jesus Church - invite you to consider joining.

The Knights of Columbus is not just a fraternity in name. It is a brotherhood of Catholic men who each play a part in improving the world around them, one community at a time. If you are interested in helping those in need, serving your parish and growing in your faith - please contact Stephen Mieczkowski at 203-378-9521.

Monthly meetings are held at Holy Name of Jesus Parish Hall. Upcoming events include a Valentine's Day Dinner Dance in February.

www.kofc.org



On Christmas Eve 1818, Fr. Joseph Mohr of St. Nicholas Church in Ogledorf, Austria, discovered the church organ was broken. Two years prior, Father Mohr had written the lyrics of "Stille Nacht" and so he asked Franz Xaver Gruber, a musician and teacher in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, to compose a melody and guitar accompaniment for the Christmas Eve Mass. The carol, Silent Night was performed that night during Mass. *Silent night! Holy night! All is calm all is bright. Round yon virgin mother and child, Holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace! Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight. Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia, Christ the Saviour is born! Silent night! Holy night! Son of God love's pure light. Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.* staugustine.com

Defending Our Religious Liberty Pope Francis has warned, "When a sick person is not placed at the center and considered in their dignity, attitudes arise which can even lead to profiteering on other people's misfortunes. The growing health poverty among the poorest segments of the population is due precisely to the difficulty of access to care." Let us pray that in transforming the HHS federal mandate, religious rights of the Catholic Church will be safeguarded.

