

**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God ~ January 1, 2017**

**Sunday Scripture Meditation:**

**Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21**

The Church celebrates New Year's Day in a special way by honoring Mary as the Mother of God. But Mary isn't just the Mother of God; she is our mother as well. Try to see how Mary is asking us to ponder who Jesus is and what He has done for us. Mary is also asking us to treasure Him above everything else.

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**CELEBRATION OF MASSES THIS WEEK**

**Sat. Dec 31 4:30 PM +ANTOINETTE, +GEORGE AND +GEORGE R. MARGONIS  
~ David Margonis**

**Sun. Jan 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God  
7:30 AM +RICHARD LAVERY ~ *Patricia Secchiaroli and Son, Lawrence*  
9:00 AM +BETTY KARCSINSKI ~ *The Lapinski sisters*  
11:00 AM +DAVID PETREYCIK ~ *Joe and MaryAnn Walsh***

**Mon. Jan 2 7:30 AM FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE in our country and the world**

**Tues. Jan 3 7:30 AM FOR BLESSINGS ON OUR PARISH FAMILY ON THE  
FEAST DAY OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS**



**Wed. Jan 4 7:30 AM +MICHAEL STIFIL, Anniversary ~ *Fr. Robert Maty***

**Thurs. Jan 5 7:30 AM +EDWARD and +KATHRYN BARICKO ~ *Sr. Joseph Therese***

**Fri. Jan 6 7:30 AM FOR VOCATIONS to the priesthood and religious life**

**Sat. Jan 7 8:00 AM FOR MISSIONARIES  
4:30 PM +MICHAEL ANDRISO, Anniversary ~ *Daughter, Marion Rader & husband, Charles***

**Sun. Jan 8 7:30 AM +SOPHIE RINGAWA ~ *Roseanne, Melisse and Matt***

**9:00 AM +MARION GRESKO ~ *Flor Soto***

**11:00 AM +MILDRED DRAKE ~ *Daughters, Deborah Hood & Arleen Drake***

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH ~ WEEK OF 12-25-2016**

Operating Costs – Weekly amount needed to meet expenses of all five buildings ---- \$9,975

Sunday Collection ..... \$ 7,446

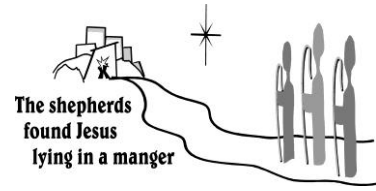
Other Collections: Annual, Monthly, Holy Day... \$ 6,371

TOTAL WEEKLY INCOME..... \$ 13,817

SURPLUS ..... \$ 3,842

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE OVERVIEW Operating Costs Year to Date \$9,975 x 26.....\$ 259,350

Actual Weekly Income Year to date \$254,246 Shortfall \$5,104



**PRAYER CORNER: Your prayers are requested for the sick and the suffering, those in ongoing treatment and/or rehabilitation and those 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:

- Jay Behan, Ronald Hetten, Peggy Hudak, Fr. Robert Maty, Richard Miller, Dottie Millo, Helen Mino, Janet Onze, Peter Panicale, Jo-Ann Petreycik, Charles Rader, T.J. Recupido, Jennie Tesla**

**Our sympathy and assurance of prayer is extended to the families of Frank Steel and Michael Roman, who were buried from our church last week.**



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – January 1**

**The Solemnity of Mary: No Religious Education Class ~ No Confirmation Class**

**January 8 Religious Education Classes /Children's Liturgy ~K through 8 ~ No Confirmation Class**

**The parish office will be closed on Monday, January 2 and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3.**

**If you or a member of your family is homebound and would like a visit from a Eucharistic Minister, please call the parish office 203-375-5815.**

**EVANGELIZATION CORNER When the time of promise was**

fulfilled, Mary, the Mother of God, daughter of the earth, gave birth to the fruit of the Tree of Life; Jesus Christ, true God and true man, the salvation of all peoples.



**Youth Choir News:** *Thank you to all the Christmas Eve Pageant participants. Bravo! Your efforts were greatly appreciated by all who attended and we look forward to next year! Also, thank you to the members of the Youth Choir for staying after the Pageant and singing at the Christmas Eve Mass.*

**The Youth Choir is on winter break.**

We will resume our Wednesday rehearsals, in the church choir loft, on January 11, 2017 from 5:15 PM to 6:15 PM. *The Youth choir is looking for new members to join our wonderful group. If you are in grade 6 through 12 and like to sing, please come to our next rehearsal.*



**Our Parish Nurses will be available Next weekend, January 7 and 8,**

to take blood pressure readings and answer any medical concerns. The nurses will be in the Church Vestibule -Confessional Room following all the weekend Masses. **Did you know?** *People who get*



*the flu shot are at reduced risk of developing atrial fibrillation, a common type of heart rhythm abnormality. This was the finding of a Taiwanese study which compared more than 11,000 people ( average age of 71) newly diagnosed with a-fib to a comparable group without the condition, focusing on whether they had the flu during the past year and whether they had been vaccinated.*

**The LORD'S KITCHEN ~ The next date for Holy Name of Jesus Church to prepare a hot meal at the Lord's Kitchen is Wednesday, January 11.**

If you can help us by volunteering to either help cook or serve the meal, please contact Armand Majewski 203-521-5915 or Toni Majewski 203-520-5117. In order to help pay for the food and supplies, please place your check made out to Holy Name of Jesus or cash in an envelope marked "Lord's Kitchen" and put it in the offertory collection or bring it to the Parish office. *Following this January date, the next date will not be until April or May so please help us soon with your monetary donations or come and experience the Holy Spirit of Giving from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM on January 11, 2017.*

***To all our friends at Holy Name of Jesus Church: Thank you so much for your donation in support of Sterling House's Resource Center holiday giving tree program. Your support of Sterling House is making a difference in the lives of children and families in Stratford and surrounding communities. As we look forward to celebrating our 85th anniversary in 2017 we truly appreciate your thoughtfulness and extend a heartfelt thank you and our best wishes to all!***  
Amanda Meeson, Executive Director

*From The Connecticut Hospice, Inc.*

**The CT Hospice is sponsoring a volunteer orientation and training this winter in our Shelton Home Care office.**

If you or someone you know is looking for an opportunity to serve others in your community, we would like to hear from you. Our homecare and nursing home patients and families are in need of your care and support. As a volunteer, you can fill your hours by in-home companionship, provide spiritual care or bereavement services, help in the arts, Reiki, Pet Therapy or meet transportation needs. For more information, please contact Joan Cullen at 203-315-7510 or jcullen@hospice.com



**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.

**"Educate a Woman...Educate a Family"**

**Mercy Learning Center** – 637 Park Ave, Bridgeport seeks volunteers. Since 1987 Mercy Learning Center has provided basic literacy and life skills training to low income women in the Greater Bridgeport area. The Center serves more than 900 women and 150 children each year. MLC is open Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

**The Center is seeking volunteers to teach English Language Learners as well as reading and math in its one-on-one or small group tutoring program.**

The commitment is twice per week for two hours. No experience necessary. Training and materials provided. **New Tutor Training Dates are Friday, January 6 and Friday, January 27** from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM (lunch provided). Please contact Lynn Gabriel or Sandra Santy to register for a training session. 203-334-6699

lynn.gabriel@mercylearningcenter.org or sandra.santy@mercylearningcenter.org

**Defending Our Religious Liberty**

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our democracy. The federal health care mandate fundamentally alters the fragile balance between government and religious groups created by the framers of our Constitution. The same First Amendment that protects religious freedom protects freedom of the press. We wouldn't stand for the government telling news programs whom to interview or what articles to write. *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 elected representatives.*