

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, December 14: St. John of the Cross

4:30 Jeannine & Armand Maurier †

Third Sunday of ADVENT – Dec. 15: Gaudete Sunday

8:30 Mary 'Pat' Hartigan † 2 Month Remembrance

10:30 Ned Hughes † 1st Anniversary

5:30 Esther Reed (16th), Ann Marie O'Connor (19th) †

Monday, December 16

8:00 For the People

Tuesday, December 17

8:00

Wednesday, December 18

8:00

Thursday, December 19

8:00 Raymond Mallory Jr. † 24th Anniversary

Friday, December 20

8:00 Al Fabrizio † Month's Mind

Saturday, December 21

8:00 Anna Yaroschuk † 25th Anniversary

4:30 William Hale † 8th Anniversary

Fourth Sunday of ADVENT, December 22

8:30 Alan W. Bryant † 10th Anniversary

10:30 Dave and Joan Evans †

5:30 For the People



Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24th: Christmas Eve

4:00PM & 6:00PM

December 25: Christmas Day

8:30AM & 10:30AM



"He who enters into the secret place of his own soul passes beyond himself, and does in very truth ascend to God.

Banish, therefore, from thy heart the distractions of earth and turn thine eyes to spiritual joys, that thou mayest learn at least to repose in the light of the contemplation of God."

St. Albert the Great

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.



Offertory Collection week ending December 8, 2019.

\$4,615. On-line \$352. TOTAL \$4,967.

Budgeted \$6,000. Difference - \$1,033

Thank you for your generous support.

Christmas Collection: Clergy Health and Retirement Trust. Whether they are working to enrich our parishes or seeing to the needs of the broader communities in which they serve, priests have dedicated their lives to helping all of God's children. Each Christmas, we have the opportunity to support our priests through the special collection benefitting the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust which offers preventive health and wellness programs, offers one-on-one support and advocacy to priests with health concerns, and operates Regina Cleri, a state-of-the-art facility where senior priests live in community.

Please support our priests, who through their ministry create stronger communities for all, by giving generously to this year's Christmas collection. *This special collection is a primary source of funding to care for our priests. Your generosity is very much appreciated.*

Funds from this special collection are managed by the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust – an independently managed trust with a majority lay board of trustees. The funds are used for the sole benefit of active and senior priests in good standing.

Gospel Readings for the Sacred Season of Advent...

Go and Tell John. The poor have the good news preached to them. Matthew 11:2-11

A Star Shall Come. A Star shall come out of Jacob, a scepter out of Israel. Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17

The Lion of Judah. The Lion of Judah holds the scepter, the ruler's staff. Genesis 49:2, 8-10

Call His Name Jesus. Call him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:18-25

Filled With the Spirit. John will turn many in Israel to the Lord their God. Luke 1:5-25

The Throne of David. The Lord will give him the throne of his father David. Luke 1:26-38

Blessed Are You. Elizabeth exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women. Luke 1:39-45



Gospel Reflection: Matthew 11:2-11

Jesus gives John the Baptist's disciples a specific list of reasons why they need not look any further for the Messiah. What further proof would they – and do we – need? We have been given a blueprint for discipleship through the life, work, and words of Jesus. He taught us how to pray to God, how to break open the Scriptures, how to care for our brother and sister, how to love one another, and how to teach the faith.

Take some time to consider how you stand up for your Christian beliefs. Do you ever shy away from standing up for what you believe because you are afraid that people will make fun of you? Or, do you take the opposite tactic and stand up for your beliefs so strongly that you wind up alienating or hurting the feelings of others? Pay attention to how John the Baptist testifies to Jesus's coming. He simply speaks the truth as clearly and patiently as he can. He challenges those in power in a loving and respectful way. What can you learn from his approach?

A Light for our Path...



The Third Sunday of Advent... The third week of Advent is a time to rejoice with family and friends. *Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.*

- Light two purple and one pink candle on your Advent Wreath
- 'Grace' comes from the word "thanks". Think about all you have to be thankful for as you say grace.
- Christmas lights make us think of Jesus – the Light who came into the world.
- Candy canes remind us of a shepherd's staff.
- Popped kernels in strings of popcorn represent new life.
- Window lights recall the journey of Joseph and Mary.
- Give Christmas ornaments as gifts... Families can treasure them for years to come.
- Remember, it is not what we keep, but what we share...

**"Say to those whose hearts are frightened:
Be Strong! Fear not! Here is your God!"
On Gaudete Sunday,
we rejoice in the Lord's coming!**



Music for Advent: We all love Christmas music – in fact, we've been hearing it in the stores since early November! Would you like to take a break from the commercial music scene and instead listen to music for Advent. Look no further than your local Ventress Memorial Public Library. Through HOOPLA, library patrons can download music to your phones, tablets, televisions or computers. You need the HOOPLA app on your device. Register as a patron of Ventress with your library card number and Pin. Selected items will be immediately available on your device – no waiting! If you would like help making this leap to streaming music online, a staff librarian is happy to assist you! Call 781-834-5535 and ask to speak with Nancy Hickey, she can help you over the phone or make an appointment. Enjoy!



Christmas Tree

Again, this year, we invite everyone to bring a Christmas Tree Ornament to place on our tree. The ornament can come from a family, or individual persons, each member of a family may want to bring an ornament. It would be great to see ornaments that are expressions of the person, for example a carpenter might want to place an ornament of a miniature saw, etc. In the spirit of 'The Little Drummer Boy' who did not have a tangible gift to offer the Christ Child, instead he offered his talent; each ornament is an expression of each one of us, that we bring forth to offer to Christ this Christmas.



KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS



Our Lord promised grant to all those who will receive Communion on the First Fridays of nine consecutive months the grace of final repentance.

Duxbury's Miramar Retreat Center offers time to reflect upon a different aspect of Jesus, with opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and celebration of the Eucharist each First Friday from 10 am to 1 pm (includes lunch). Fr. Joe Bisson SVD, Facilitator; \$40 for each Friday, with \$15 deposits; 2020 SPECIAL PRICING - \$90 FOR THREE FIRST FRIDAY RETREATS. Please call 781.585.2460 or email MiramarRegistrar@gmail.com to register.

Last weekend, we held our Advent Retreat Evening and our Confirmation Retreat. Special thanks to all those who helped to make them successful. We have received such positive feedback from many who attended the retreats, thanks to the presenter, Colleen Kelly-Rayner, for a job well done,

Remember: Jesus is the Reason for the Season!



Christmas Flowers... If you would like flowers on the Altar in memory of a loved one, envelopes are available at the church entrances. Please include \$5 for each name and be sure to print legibly. All names will be remembered in our Christmas bulletin.



CHRISTMAS COMMUNION FOR SHUT-INS... If you know of someone who would like to receive a home visit, please call the church office to make arrangements.

CHURCH CALENDAR:

Dec. 15: Confirmation Prep. 6:30-8pm
Dec. 16: EDGE, 6:30-8pm
Dec. 18: F.F.F. Leaders meeting, 6:30-8:30pm



Thank you to all who contributed to our **GIVING TREE**. Your generosity will bring such joy to the little ones and families that are struggling to make ends meet. May God Bless each and every one of you. We Are Blessed!

Family Mass

Thank you, thank you! We are so grateful for the many people who help make our Family Mass special. Our December Liturgy was enhanced by the talents of readers: Riley Lanzillo, Christopher Hitchens and Lauren Noyes; our gift bearers: Kathy and Madison Calabrese; and our greeter: Madison Calabrese. We would like to especially thank the Noyes family for generously donating the donuts and preparing hospitality for after Mass. We are truly blessed to have so many people give their time and talents to help us.

Our next Family Mass will be January 12th. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Mary Counihan or Deb Conlon. We are always happy to put you to work!!



Today, we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. So often when we are waiting, we get tired or impatient. But today, we focus on joy: the reason behind our wait. Jesus' birth and his Second Coming are certainly reasons for joy, not just because of his presence, but also because of what his presence means. Think of a time when you have waited to hear whether you made a team or got cast in a play. Finding out that you're in is great news, not just because you were chosen, but because of the events that you will participate in. The same is true of the good News of Christ. Not only do we hope to be with him and the Father in heaven, we also participate in building his kingdom on earth. Are we willing to speak the truth about Jesus?



*He who carries God in his heart,
bears heaven with him
wherever he goes.*

St. Ignatius of Loyola

Eight-night escorted **Pilgrimage to Lourdes & Fatima**
Accompanied by Fr. Michael Rora, April 27—May 5, 2020.
Pilgrimage includes: all airfare, hotels, breakfast, lunch and dinner, guides, all transfers, trip to The Eucharistic Miracle, Santarem, daily Mass.
All tips, taxes and surcharges. \$3,115 per person. For additional information and brochure, please contact Jim Chaisson at 781-588-2036 or Marian Pilgrimages at 781-331-2444, email infor@marianusa.com.

BLESSING OF THE BAMBOLINI

Bring you baby Jesus from your creche at home to be blessed next weekend.



REJOICE!

No Prayer, No Peace – Know Prayer, Know Peace



*When you pray, go into your room,
Close the door and pray to your
Father who is unseen....
For your Father knows
What you need before you ask him.
Matthew 6:6, 8*

While giving a tour of heaven, Saint Peter led a group of spectators down a long aisle where hundreds of angels sat idle. “Why aren’t they busy?” asked one of the tourists, referring to the celestial beings.

“Oh,” Saint Peter replied, “those are guardian angels waiting to help humankind. They leave as soon as they are summoned.”

“How do I put in a request?” asked the man excitedly.

“Do you know how to pray?” answered Saint Peter.

For all that is said and written about prayer, it is really a simple activity. In order to pray, there is no technique or protocol to learn. We don’t have to be free from sin or blameless. Nor do we have to get down on our knees or attend a special service in a special building. Our own little room will do. We can choose any words we would like, because we were created to speak directly to our Creator, to sit at His table and partake of all the good things He has waiting for us. We don’t have to change a single thing about ourselves.

As those who have tried it know, prayer changes lives. It is a universal way for our souls to communicate with a higher power, to call upon God to send His angels to assist us. We can pray to receive. We can pray for answers and guidance. There is not matter too small for prayer. Prayer is our own private conversation with God.

Prayer is a kind of calling home every day. It can bring to us a sense of serenity and at-homeness in God’s universe. It can bring us renewed strength and courage. It offers a peace that the world can neither give not take away.

Prayer is an unopened gift. Open yours and see what miracles God has in store for you.

Food for Thought: Take a moment right now and have a conversation with God. He is always there, 24/7, ready and waiting to listen to whatever we have to say.



