

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 21, 2014



The child to be born
will be called holy,
the Son of God.

-Luke 1:35

MASS INTENTIONS

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| MON., 7:00 | Dec. 22nd A.M. | Advent Weekday Nancy Cavallo r/o Joy Marconi |
| TUES., 12:00 | Dec. 23rd P.M. | Saint John of Kanty, Priest Dominick A. Chiera Sr., r/o The McCrone Family |
| WED., 4:00 | Dec. 24th P.M. | Late Advent Weekday Elizabeth Bolanowski r/o Mary Ellis |
| 7:00 | P.M. | Parishioners |
| 12:00 | A.M. | Tom Mendelson r/o Father Pat |
| THURS., 8:00 | Dec. 25th A.M. | The Nativity of the Lord Carlton Lorah r/o Marcella & Family |
| 10:00 | A.M. | Rita & Arthur Kuffner r/o Father Pat |
| 12:00 | P.M. | Patrick & Gertrude Lynch r/o Fr. Pat |
| FRI., 9:00 | Dec. 26th A.M. | Saint Stephen Philip Murray Grinnell r/o Family, Children & Grandchildren |
| SAT., 8:00 | Dec. 27th A.M. | Saint John, Apostle William Bergen r/o The Bowe Family |
| 5:00 | P.M. | Rose Daly r/o Fr. Pat |
| SUN., 8:00 | Dec. 28th A.M. | The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Parishioners |
| 10:00 | A.M. | Michelle Healey Knehr r/o Wade Knehr & Healey Families |
| 11:30 | A.M. | Jeanne V. Mooney r/o The Mooney Family |
| 1:30 | P.M. | Familias y ninos de esta Parroquia |

Week of December 21—28

Altar Candles

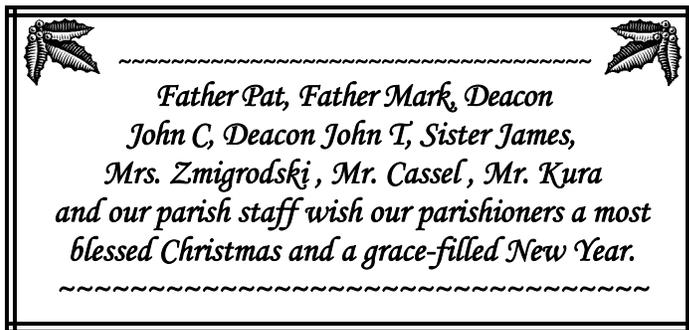
Anton & Elizabeth Gross r/o Barbara Lyons

Tabernacle Candles

William & Virginia Mattison & Children

Altar Bread & Wine

Christopher Roy r/o The Roy Family



Father Pat, Father Mark, Deacon
John C, Deacon John T, Sister James,
Mrs. Zmigrodski, Mr. Cassel, Mr. Kura
and our parish staff wish our parishioners a most
blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year.



The following couple was married on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014
Joseph Chojnowski & Elizabeth D'Addio
We pray that our Lord bless them with every grace as they
begin their married life.

PLEASE REMEMBER FR. MARK'S FATHER IN YOUR PRAYERS. JEROME P. KEHOE WAS CALLED HOME TO THE LORD ON DECEMBER 7, 2014. MAY HE REST IN PEACE.



PRAY FOR THE SICK...In your charity please pray for the sick of our parish, the sick who remain in our intentions and those whose names are kept on our prayer list in the sacristy. Prayers are requested for the recent deceased: Jerome Kehoe & Catherine Canavan.

WEDDING BANNERS

II Tara Anello & Michael Polifonte

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 27—28

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|-----------|---|
| 5:00 pm— | Natalie Zychlinski Madison Logue Hunter Logue |
| 8:00 am— | Amelia Casale Taylor Anthony |
| 10:00 am— | Jordan McEvoy Gavin Fitzgerald Shannon Fitzgerald |
| 11:30 am— | Katie Schilp Mary Schilp |



Weekly Financial information:

During the weeks surrounding Christmas and New Year's Day, our bulletins have to be processed a week or two early. As a result, weekly financial information is often not ready until after a bulletin has been sent to the printer. Our parish will publish the financial information for the weekends of December 14, 21, 30 and January 4 as well as our Christmas and New Year's Day collection in the January 11, 2015 bulletin. The Christmas 50/50 raffle results will also be published in the January 11 bulletin. Thank you for your patience.



Wednesday, December 24th - Vigil

4:00 P.M. (a Special Liturgy with our parish children.)

7:00 P.M.

12:00 Midnight Mass

(Lessons and Carols at 3:30, 6:30 and 11:30 P.M.)

CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, December 25th

8:00 A.M. 10:00 A.M. 12:00 P.M.

Due to the large crowds who attend Mass on Christmas, the last Mass will be celebrated at **12:00 noon instead of 11:30 A.M.** Please note this change.

Mary, Mother of God

Wednesday, December 31st -

7:00 P.M. Vigil

Thursday, January 1st

9:00 A.M. 12:00 noon

(NO CONFESSIONS: DECEMBER 27)

PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGES:

Friday, December 26th Mass at 9:00 A.M. ONLY.

Monday, December 29th Mass at 9:00 A.M. ONLY.

Tuesday, December 30th Mass at 12:00 Noon.

Thursday, January 1st Mass at 9:00 A.M. & 12:00 noon.

PLAN AHEAD... The parish Office will close at 1:00 P.M. on Wednesday, December 24th.

Thursday, December 25th and Friday, December 26th the Parish Office will be closed.

There will be NO CONFESSIONS on Saturday, December 27, 2014.

Last chance to purchase **Oplatke** to share at your Christmas meal.

THANK YOU to our Knights of Columbus for the wonderful "Breakfast with Santa." Thank you to our parishioners---especially our younger parishioners who helped to make this event a most enjoyable experience.

THANK YOU to our generous parishioners who supported our Jesse Tree this Christmas. Approximately 426 gifts plus 90 gift cards were collected. Thank you for your generosity!!!

Christmas 50/50 Raffle:

Please remember to complete your **Christmas 50/50 raffle book**. Booklets can be returned to the parish office or dropped into the collection at Mass. Extra books are available at the Parish Office. Our Parish is hoping to replace the exterior doors of our church and the funds raised through this raffle will be put toward this project. There will be one winner who will receive half of the proceeds. Now won't that be a nice call to receive on New Year's Day right after the 12:00noon Mass!!!



**A NOTE
FROM
FATHER
PAT**

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." In today's gospel passage we consider Mary's encounter with the messenger of God, the angel, Gabriel. We are told that the angel has been sent by God to this young woman with an incredibly important message: "God has chosen you to be the vehicle of the fulfillment of His pledge to the House of Israel---through you, the Messiah will enter into the human condition." Mary, this innocent young girl from the countryside, readily accepts the invitation given through the angel. She will do as God asks. She is now "Full of Grace." And the "Son of God" becomes present in her womb.

So often our Trinitarian understanding of God is overlooked in this Gospel passage as we consider the power of Mary's "yes" to the request that is made by the Angel, Gabriel, on behalf of God the Father. And Mary's "yes" did, in fact, open our world to the radical presence of God, as the baby Jesus---truly God made man!

Gabriel, in answer to Mary's questioning assures her that "the Holy Spirit will come upon you" and the "power of the Most High will overshadow you." That is God the Father will send His Holy Spirit to her and she will become with child---the very child of God, Himself!

The name "Gabriel" can be understood to mean "strength of God." Gabriel is the angel who brings the message to Zachariah that his wife will deliver a special child, a son to be named John---one who will proclaim the coming of the Messiah. It is this same angel who will come to Mary and announce the Messiah---the Son of God---to be called Emmanuel, Jesus, Son of the Most High. He will bring salvation to the House of Israel!

How powerfully the Gospel of Luke unfolds God's plan for the salvation of the human family. Just as the Father has promised from ancient days, a Messiah will now come among us. Prior to his arrival, one with a powerful prophetic voice will announce his coming---indeed, he will prepare the way for him by inviting the House of Israel to enter into a baptism of repentance---a turning away from sin.

In addition, a young virgin will conceive and give birth to a child---one destined for the salvation of all. This is Jesus---the Christ-child. Jesus is born into the world because the young and innocent girl has the simple yet awesome courage to say "Yes" when God's messenger speaks to her heart!

We are now entering into our final days of Advent preparation, and we are ready to encounter the Christ-child. Like Mary, God also speaks to us. Indeed, the messenger of the Lord whispers very quietly in the depths of our souls, inviting us to also say "Yes" to God. We are invited to become one with the Lord, with the Savior, the Messiah, as we get ready to celebrate the great feast of Christmas!

Today we are invited to listen with the ears of the soul. God's messenger calls to each of us in the silence of our hearts---in the depths of our souls. "Follow Me" is the message. Like Mary, will we have the courage to say "Yes?"

In peace and prayer,

Father Pat

