



First Sunday of Advent - November 30, 2014



Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. -Mark 13:33

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday November 29

8:00am- † Stephen Spano

5:00pm- † Deacon Anthony Lagotta

Sunday November 30

8:30am- † Isabel Maria Quiñones

10:00am- † Deacon Anthony Lagotta

11:30am-*Living*-Special Intentions Fr. Stephen Valenta

6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Monday December 1

8:00am- † Grace Coleman

12:05pm- † Mary Lou Brown

Tuesday December 2

8:00am † Capper & Coleman Families

12:05pm- † Mary Louise Brown

Wednesday December 3

8:00am- † Grace Coleman

12:05pm- † Charlie & Margie Bianco

Thursday December 4

8:00am- ~ Intentions of Leeann Irwin & Mel

12:05pm- † Pellegrino Pellecchia

Friday December 5

8:00am- † Grace Coleman

12:05pm- † Jean Gerard Alexandre

Saturday December 6

8:00am- † Capper & Coleman Families

5:00pm- † Junior Cintron & Philip

Sunday December 7

8:30am- † Msgr. Augustine J. DiBlasi & Pat

10:00am- † James "Skip" Crowdell

11:30am-*Living*-Special Intentions Fr. Stephen Valenta

6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions



Mass Intentions

Offered By: Frances Spano

Offered By: Rosalia Patterson

Offered By: Oliveras Family

Offered By: Joann Scamardella

Offered By: Friends

By: Aurora Nazareno Ocampo

Offered By: Altar Rosary Society

By: Aurora Nazareno Ocampo

By: Jon & Eileen Gerber

By: Aurora Nazareno Ocampo

Offered By: Bianco Family

Offered By: Fr. Gil

By: wife, Anna & Family

By: Aurora Nazareno Ocampo

Offered By: Theresa Contardo

By: Aurora Nazareno Ocampo

Offered By: Cintron Family

Offered By: Family

By: son, Theresa Contardo

Offered By: Friends

Weekly Memorials

Bread & Wine

Tabernacle Candle

Memorial Candle

Memorial Candle



Lectors & E.M. ~ SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER ~

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Lectors: Linda Graves & Tom Ventrudo (*carry Gospel Book*) *Substitute:* Bill Hinton

Eucharistic Ministers: Linford Smith, Tom & Peg Ventrudo

Substitute: Angelo Sabella

Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Lectors: Joan Fortunato & Delmeter Carey (*carry Gospel Book*) *Substitute:* Joan Knighton

Eucharistic Ministers: Theresa Contardo, Joseph (Joe) Fortunato & Linda Torres

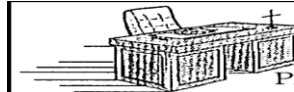
Substitute: Delmeter Carey

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Lector: Thelma Washington (*carry Gospel Book*) *Substitute.:* Alexis Crowdell

Eucharistic Ministers: Crescencia (Chris) Pascua, Lydia Moran & Beverly Marryshow

Substitute: Alexis Crowdell



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Advent is here. What do you plan to do other than shop for Christmas and decorate?

Advent is a difficult season for us as Catholic Christians. We don't have traditions of prayer and discipline similar to those that we have in Lent to help us enter into this season. Advent is also a very short liturgical season. And it is hard to enter into the Advent season when the rest of the world has been celebrating Christmas since early October! Yet, Advent is an important season for us as Christians. It is a time in which we should reflect seriously on the marvelous truth that God entered into human history in the person of Jesus. God did this so that we might share in God's life now and one day share in the fullness of God's life forever. God became flesh in Jesus so that each and every one of us might know the salvation that is the desire of God for us. God knows each of us by name and God desires the personal salvation of each one of us. This is truly remarkable! God loves each one of us personally and wants us to share in God's life now and forever! To savor this truth and reflect on its importance for us is a good reason to enter into the Advent season.

What can we do to make Advent a true season of preparation for the great feast of Christmas? Prepare a gift for Jesus each day. The gifts you will offer Jesus on the feast of his birth will be the good deeds you do in this Advent season – visits to the sick and homebound, calls to those who are alone, donations that you make to food banks and soup kitchens, time that you spend with your family without any interruptions for calls, texts, or e-mails. Start each day of Advent with this simple prayer: "Good and gracious God, I ask that these days be a time of grace and blessing for me as I give thanks that you entered into this world in the person of Jesus. May each kind word that I say and each act of kindness that I do be the gifts that I gather to present to your Son on the feast of his birth."

Act and pray every day to make Advent real.

Fr. Mark Hallinan, S.J.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

These readings are found complete on our parish web page (www.olmcstmary.org). Click on "USCCB Daily Readings."

TODAY: First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 63:16-17, 19, 64:2-7
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

Next Sun: Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8



CARDINAL CAMPAIGN - \$4,000 to Our Parish – Thank you for your support of the Cardinal's Campaign this past year. The Archdiocese recently sent us a check in the amount of \$4,000. This is a percentage of the money that we raised beyond our goal. Thank you for your generosity to this Campaign which is so important to the Archdiocese and to our parish!

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE – We have begun our Christmas raffle! First prize is a basket of premium liquor, second prize is a basket of wine and snacks, and third prize are two bottles of Irish liquor in a special Christmas basket. These prizes will make great Christmas gifts! Tickets are \$5.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR- At the 5 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve (Wednesday, December 24), there will be a special children's choir. Parents with children who are interested in participating in the choir should leave a message in the rectory for Ms. Nina Lopez. **PRACTICES START THIS SATURDAY, DEC. 6th, at 2:30 p.m. in the Church.**

KEEP ON VOLUNTEERING! We have received some new volunteers to serve as ushers, lectors and Eucharistic ministers. There is room for more! Please leave your information at the office. Thank you!

THE INCARNATION – Mr. John Lantry has begun a three-part presentation on the wonder of the Incarnation on Saturdays. The final two presentations will be on December 6th and December 13th at 11 a.m. Using the Madeleine L'Engle book, "The Glorious Impossible" as a reference point, Mr. Lantry will weave together the Christmas story through prose, poetry and prayer. Session 2: (a) The Visitation (b) The Nativity; Session 3: (a) the Presentation (b) the Journey of the Wise Men and Our Journey. Mr. Lantry is the former director of retreat ministry at Linwood Spirituality Center. Registration is required. Please call: 718-442-3411.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE – We will be offering an Advent Reconciliation service on Saturday, December 13th, at 10 a.m. There will be an opportunity for individual confession within the service.

YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE – Pope Francis has proclaimed 2015 a Year of Consecrated Life, starting on the First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2014, and concluding on February 2, 2016, the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus. "Consecrated Life" refers to the men and women who live their lives under public vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in religious congregations such as the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) or the Schoenstatt Sisters. As we give thanks for the witness of these men and women to Christ and his Gospel, all Catholic Christians must recognize that in their work and daily lives they, too, are called to give faithful witness to Christ and his Gospel. We also pray that more young men and women will embrace the consecrated life which offers rich service to God and the people of God.

Prayer for the Year of Consecrated Life:

O God, throughout the ages you have called women and men to pursue lives of perfect charity through the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. During this Year of Consecrated Life, we give you thanks for these courageous witnesses of Faith and models of inspiration. Their pursuit of holy lives teaches us to make a more perfect offering of ourselves to you. Continue to enrich your Church by calling forth sons and daughters who, having found the pearl of great price, treasure the Kingdom of Heaven above all things. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOLIDAY FAIRS –

St. Roch's – December 6th – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. – Christmas gifts, food, and raffles.

Monsignor Farrel High School – December 7th – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Christmas gifts, food, raffles, visit from Santa. Admission: \$3 or \$5 per family. 2900 Amboy Road.

Weekly Offering: November 23rd - \$2400. Budget - \$2,100. Thank you!

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION - Each of the seven sacraments, like other aspects of the Church's pastoral plan, is an attempt to be faithful to the image of Christ we discover in the Gospels. Anointing of the sick is rooted in Jesus' saving deeds of healing and even rescue from death. What is your favorite encounter of Jesus with a sick person? Often, it seems that Jesus would go at once to the person in a crowd who was in the most pain, in the deepest need. A man born blind, Peter's mother-in-law, a woman afflicted by years of uncontrollable hemorrhages, a little Roman girl beloved by her soldier father, a crippled man lowered from the rafters, and even a man who lost his ear to a swinging sword in the garden of agony. This list reads like an admissions chart in an emergency room, and perhaps that is the point. The whole human experience from childhood to old age, from sudden catastrophic illness to chronic debilitating conditions, is represented by those for whom Jesus has such great compassion. This we can name a treasure of tradition with a capital "T." We are a people of compassion for our sick, who reach out in tenderness to listen, to keep vigil, to strengthen, to touch with reverence, and to anoint with precious oil. *Rev. James Field, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.