



# Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 20, 2015

*"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy."  
~Luke 1:44*



## Weekly Mass Intentions

### Saturday December 19

8:00am- † Gertrude Lovelock

5:00pm- † William M. Frickenstein

7:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions

### Sunday December 20

8:30am- † Dorothy Keenan

10:00am- † Bobby Bienz

11:30am- † Parish Community Intentions

1:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions

6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

### Monday December 21

8:00am- † Inna Caponegro

12:05pm- † Mary & Lawrence Iannucci

### Tuesday December 22

8:00am- †

12:05pm- † Ivan Delgado ~Birthday Anniversary~  
& Pedro Ochoa

### Wednesday December 23

8:00am- † Mr & Mrs. Guiseppa Vitiello  
& Mr. & Mrs. Alfredo Segreto

12:05pm- † Dominick Negri

### Thursday December 24 ~Christmas Eve~

8:00am- † Grace, Ciro & Andrew Frulio

5:00pm - † Domenick & Catherine Dianora

12:00am - † Pancrazio LaMorte

### Friday December 25 ~Christmas Day~

10:00am- † Mrs. Helen Valentine

### Saturday December 26

8:00am- † Anna & Charles Urwin

5:00pm- † Louis Scaramucci

7:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions

### Sunday December 27

8:30am- ~ Special Intention for Betty Jobe & Offered by: Nieces & Nephews

For Albert Sevorwell's Health

10:00am- † Dolores Elizabeth Zukowski Offered by: Victoria & Wilfredo Gara

11:30am- † Parish Community Intentions

1:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions

6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

## Weekly Memorials

Altar Bread & Wine

Tabernacle Candle

Memorial Candles



~ † Jim & Gene Obermayer Offered by: Family

~ † Jim & Gene Obermayer Offered by: Family

~ † Domenick & Catherine Dianora

Offered by: Family



Offered by: Hinton Family

Offered by: Family

By: Mr. & Mrs. Louis Carey

Offered by: Cappucci Family

Offered by: Joe & Joan Fortunato

By: Pat, Sue, Maria & Dominic

Offered by:

Offered by: Mayra Calderon

Offered by: Frulio Family

Offered by: daughter, Rose

Offered by: Frulio Family

By: daughters, Ann & Yolanda

Offered by: wife, Rafaella & Family

Offered by: son, Thomas Valentine

By: sister, Yolanda & niece, Lynn

By: Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Sullivan

Offered by: Nieces & Nephews

Offered by: Victoria & Wilfredo Gara



**"Behold, I come to do your will, O God."**

These words of Jesus, quoted by the author of the letter of the Hebrews, remind us of the total dedication of Jesus to the will of God. As disciples of Christ we, too, are called to a total dedication of ourselves to the will of God.

As we read and reflect on the Gospels, Jesus emphasizes continually that he came to do the Father's will. The only story that we have of Jesus's youth is the story of how he remained in Jerusalem after the celebration of the Passover in order to discuss the sacred scriptures with the religious experts. When his parents found him in the Temple, they asked Jesus why he had remained behind without telling them and Jesus replied: "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Jesus wanted to be in constant communion with the Father in order to know his will and to receive the grace and wisdom necessary to fulfill that will. This explains why Jesus was regularly in prayer with his Father. Through their conversation together, Jesus received the grace and wisdom necessary in order to fulfill the Father's will in his daily life and ministry.

In today's Gospel, Elizabeth praises Mary, the Mother of Jesus with these words: "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." In consenting to be the mother of Jesus, Mary conformed her life to the will of God and remained faithful to that commitment in spite of the hardships she endured. She was clearly a woman of prayer and through that prayer, just as with her Son, Mary came to understand what God willed for her and how she was to fulfill the will of God for her.

We have just 5 days left in Advent. If you do not have a regular habit of prayer, now is the time to create such a habit so that you can hear the will of God for you, and seek the grace of God to do what God asks of you. If you do have a regular habit of prayer, then have you given God the space that God needs in order to share with you what God wills for you and to receive from God the grace and strength you need to do it?

*Fr. Mark Hallinan, S.J.*

## Liturgical Minister's Schedule for CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY

### Christmas Eve - Thursday - 5:00 PM

Lector: Alexis Crowdell (carry Gospel Book) E.M.: Linford Smith, Samuel & Linda Torres

### Christmas Eve - Thursday - 12:00AM

Lector: Linda Graves (carry Gospel Book) E.M.: Delmeter Carey, Emmanuel Fode & Bill Hinton

### Christmas Day - Friday - 10:00AM

Lector: Joan Knighton (carry Gospel Book) E.M.: Theresa Contardo, Peg & Tom Ventrudo

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

These readings are found complete on our parish web page ([www.olmcsi.org](http://www.olmcsi.org)). Click on "USCCB Daily Readings."

**TODAY: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Advent**

Micah 5:1-4  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45

**Next Sun: The Holy Family**

1 Samuel: 1:20-22, 24-28  
1 John 3:1-2, 21-24  
Luke 2:41-52



**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:** December 24 – 5 p.m. Family Mass, 7:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish, Midnight Mass at Midnight. Yes, we returned Midnight Mass to Midnight! December 25 – 10 a.m. in English and 11:30 a.m. in Spanish. The rectory will close at 4 p.m. on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. The rectory will be closed on Christmas day.

**NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)** Thursday – December 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in Spanish. Friday – January 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m. in English. On Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, there will be an 8 a.m. Mass but no 12:05 p.m. Mass. On Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, the only Mass will be at 10 a.m. The rectory will close at 1 p.m. on Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. The rectory will be closed on New Year's Day.

**ALL-FAITH CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT** – Don't miss the All-Faith Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. here at St. Mary's + Mount Carmel Church. This will be a lovely way to celebrate the season. The concert is free and should be enjoyable for all. Please come!

**BIBLE STUDY** – Want to learn more about the foundational source of our faith – the bible? We have classes on select Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon under the direction of Mr. Colin Voutrinet, our Director of RCIA. Upcoming classes: December 26, January 2 and 23, February 6 and 13. Classes are in the rectory on the first floor.

**SPECIAL NATIVITY SCENE AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL** – From the Basilicata Region of Italy comes a beautiful hand-crafted Nativity scene of stunning complexity that is on display at the recently restored St. Patrick's Cathedral (Fifth Avenue at 51<sup>st</sup> Street). The Nativity scene will be in place throughout the Christmas season. Please bring your family to see this remarkable display of artistic devotion. Buon Natale!

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**- Monday and Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. at St. John Villa Academy (57 Cleveland Place). Admission is \$10. Enter the season with this beautiful performance of Christmas classics.

**SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM for HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS** – The Venerable Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Program offers a \$2,000 award to high school seniors graduating from any high school in the Archdiocese of New York so that they can attend a college, university or trade/training school of their choice. The grant can be renewed for three additional years, if the student fulfills certain academic and service requirements. Information is available in the vestibule of the church. All applications are due by February 19, 2016. Don't delay!

**A CHRISTMAS PRAYER** - O sweet Child of Bethlehem,  
grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas.  
Put into the hearts of men and women this peace for which they sometimes seek so desperately  
and which you alone can give to them.  
Help them to know one another better, and to live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father.  
Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness and purity.  
Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join them all together in your love.  
And give us your heavenly peace. *Amen. Pope John XXIII*

**MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS for the WORLD DAY of PEACE** - We too, then, are called to make compassion, love, mercy and solidarity a true way of life, a rule of conduct in our relationships with one another. This requires the conversion of our hearts: the grace of God has to turn our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh (cf. *Ezek 36:26*), open to others in authentic solidarity. For solidarity is much more than a "feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far". Solidarity is "a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all", because compassion flows from fraternity.

**NEXT PASTOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING** – January 18, 2015 at 5 p.m.

**WEEKLY OFFERING:** December 13: \$5,961; Retired Religious: \$888. Special Collection December 11<sup>th</sup> (Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe): \$1,634. Thank you for your support of our parish!

**Fourth Sunday of Advent** - Try to imagine the scene. Jesus, the Son of God is in heaven filled with glory and majesty. He has everything and needs nothing. Yet he gives up his place and his power to come walk among us. Why would Jesus do this? Pope Francis once said, "the birth of Jesus brings us the good news that we are loved immensely and uniquely by God, and He not only enables us to know this love, but also gives it to us; he communicates it to us, (*General Audience Dec.18, 2013*). He wants to move our hearts so that we can say from experience "that God so loves the world that he sent his only son to be with us and rescue us from sin." (*John 3:16-17*) As we enter this last week of advent. Let us focus on this gift of love that God wants to give us. Maybe you feel like a shepherd, watching and waiting. Maybe you feel like Mary and Joseph already committed to the Lord and his ways. Or maybe you feel like the Magi on the road and searching. It doesn't matter. **The wise still seek Him.** As Christmas nears let us follow Mary's example and ponder the magnitude of this gift. Let's be like Joseph, open to the call of God in our lives and willing to change our plans for his. Most of all let's ask Jesus, Emmanuel to show us the way to fulfill His Gift of love by giving it away to others. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.