

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

December 24, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Saturday, December 23

5:30 pm For Jack & Jessie Kennedy by Clark Family

Sunday, December 24

8:00 am For Alfred Stepien

9:30 am For Florence Acker by Acker Family

11:00 am For Thomas & Julia Dugan by Monteverde Family

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

4:30 pm For Bruce Russell and Vincenzo Ditrolio by Connallon Family

6:30 pm For Rose & Frank Porco by Reilly Family

10:00 pm For Ruth Petersen by Petersen Family

Christmas Day Monday, December 25

9:30 am For Florence Acker by Acker Family

11:00 am For

Tuesday, December 26

8:45 am For John J. Kennedy by Clark Family

Wednesday, December 27

8:45 am For Mary & Milton Celano by Clark Family

Saturday, December 30

5:30 pm For

Sunday, December 31

8:00 am For Paul Kennedy by Clark Family

9:30 am For

11:00 am For

REMEMBRANCE MEMORIALS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Altar Breads & Wine – In loving memory of Patsy & Philip Marchese by Marchese family.

Sanctuary Lamp – In loving memory of Vito and Marie Benardone by Corry and Benardone families

Mass Candles:

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December 30, 31, 2017

Saturday, 5:30 pm

Celebrant: Fr. Marcin Michalowski, Deacon Tom Gibbons

Lector: Daniel & Isabella DiLizia

Eucharistic Ministers: Help Needed

Altar Servers: Help Needed

Sunday, 8:00 am

Celebrant: Fr. Marcin Michalowski, Deacon Jim Jones

Lector: Jim Scott

Eucharistic Ministers: Help Needed

Altar Servers: Help Needed

9:30 am

Celebrant: Fr. Marcin Michalowski

Lector: Katie Van Woert

Eucharistic Ministers: Help Needed

Altar Servers; Help Needed

11:00 am

Celebrant: Fr. Marcin Michalowski

Lector: Sharon Donovan

Eucharistic Ministers: Help Needed

Altar Servers: Help Need

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day

9:30 and 11:00 am Mass

Tuesday, December 26

Parish Office Closed

8:45 am Daily Mass

8:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

Wednesday, December 27

8:45 am Daily Mass

Baptism - Milo Antonio Grilo

Thursday, December 28

Parish Office Closed

Friday, December 29

No events

Saturday, December 30

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

5:30 pm Mass

Sunday, December 31

8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am Mass

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Current Year	Last Year 2016
December 17, 2017: \$3,692 Envelopes used: 56 Extended Catholic Obligations: \$589 Envelopes used: 25	December 18, 2016: \$2,910 Envelopes used: 67 Extended Catholic Obligations: \$532 Envelopes used: 29
Supermarket Gift Cards: December 17, 2017 Sales: \$4,520 Profit: \$226 YTD Profit: \$8,362.50 2016 YTD Profit \$6,664.00 # of Families 19	St. Mark's Faith Direct Church Code is NJ484

FAITH DIRECT...

In this season of Advent, we are continuously preparing ourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth. Why not help our own parish prepare for the coming New Year by signing up with **Faith Direct**? By supporting St. Mark the Evangelist, both you and our parish can save some time and peace of mind this holiday season. Already using **Faith Direct**? Don't forget to add your Christmas or End-of-Year contributions to your account. Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: **NJ484** Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

God Bless You, Fr. Marcin

FOOD PANTRY STATUS...

The L.V. Food Pantry is about to enter the critical winter season - - There are a lot of demands on us at this time of year, but if each person just brings an item or two, it can make a huge difference. Hearty soup, hot cereal, baby food, pasta/sauce, etc. would be especially helpful at this time of year. But as always, anything you can donate will be appreciated. Merry Christmas and many thanks from the Long Valley Food Pantry!

FROM FR. MARCIN...

My dear parishioners,

Christmas is already here!!! Can you believe it? In our observance of the Lord's Day we commemorate the Fourth Sunday of Advent. This year we come quickly to the Feast of Our Lord's Holy Nativity with little time spent in the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent belongs to Mary. We look at Mary and we see in her simplicity and in her obedience to God's will a wonderful model for our own lives. During Advent but especially today on the fourth Sunday of Advent we have been thinking of Mary and her son Jesus in her womb. During Advent we remember Jesus growing silently and invisibly in Mary's womb. Now on this last Sunday of Advent we think more particularly about Mary. Mary was humble; that was why she was able to make the greatest act of faith in history. Mary said one word to the angel, "Amen", conceiving Jesus in faith, and then she conceived Jesus in her womb. Every time we say "Amen" to God, we conceive Jesus in faith as Mary did. Then when we act on Jesus' words, we bring Jesus into the world as Mary did. **Let us say "Amen" to God and bring Jesus into the world this Christmas.** All we have to do is say "Yes" to God and God will do the rest. Let us tell God that we will not worry about our weaknesses and limitations but that we will trust in him and find our reassurance in him. We are all, called to be disciples and followers of Jesus. Mary is our model. Let us ask Mary to help us be good disciples of Jesus, that like her we may be a servant of the Lord, so that the Word may become flesh and dwell among us this Christmas.

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Today is a beautiful day as we think about God's love for us. Today we are very happy to celebrate what is out of this world, God's love for us, becoming part of this world when Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

The gift at Christmas for all of us is Jesus. Jesus will not force himself into your life, it is up to you to be open and receive Jesus. There was no room for Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in the inn the first Christmas. Are you making room for Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in the inn of your heart this Christmas?

Let us adore baby Jesus in the manger. A baby easily wins the heart and love of anyone with human feelings, but how much more does this baby win our heart and love. Let us kneel before baby Jesus and thank him for coming to save us. As we look on baby Jesus we think of the mystery of God's love for us. Why did God who is almighty and all-powerful become small and powerless as a baby? Quite simply, out of love for us. God became human so that we might become more like God.

As we see baby Jesus in the manger we reflect on God's way being a way of gentleness and tenderness. God's way is not one of violence but gentleness. There is a lack of goodness and love in the world but God is tender and loving. As we look on baby Jesus in the manger we see that he is the answer to today's problems. Instead of violence, in baby Jesus in the manger we see gentleness. Instead of hatred, in baby Jesus in the manger we see tenderness. Instead of selfishness, in baby Jesus in the manger we see love for us. Let us ask baby Jesus to

help us to be gentle, tender and loving with those around us as he was in the manger.

God gave us the greatest gift of all that first Christmas, his Son Jesus. Jesus waits for you to give him a gift in return, the gift of your heart, the gift of you making room in the inn of your heart for him not just at Christmas or Easter but every day, and especially to worship him at Mass every Sunday. Jesus has done everything for you, can you do something for Jesus? Open your heart to Jesus.

"Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace". Baby Jesus, help us to be people of peace and to spread peace everywhere we go.

It is my first Christmas with you, and my heart is very happy. Thank you very much for everything that you do for our great parish. Thank you for your kindness. God wants to do a miracle in your life. **Merry Christmas!!!** Do not be afraid to say it...**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!**

With prayer...
Fr. Marcin

*OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAIN PRAY FOR US...
ST. MARK PRAY FOR US...*

CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM FR. SLAWEK IN POLISH...

W duchowej łączności w wieczór wigilijny, życzę aby światło nocy betlejemskiej zajaśniało na Waszych drogach życia. Niech nowo narodzone Dzieciątko Jezus wszystkim Wam błogosławi i ubogaca Was swoimi darami. Wesółych Świąt!

Best wishes in Polish

CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM FR. JAVIER IN SPANISH...

Queridos amigos, celebraremos esa bendición, ese milagro que se llama Jesús, ese hermoso acontecimiento llamado Navidad, el nacimiento de nuestro salvador, el nacimiento de nuestra esperanza, el nacimiento a través del cual Dios padre nos muestra el inmenso amor que tiene por todos nosotros.

Navidad es el acontecimiento que nos reúne como familia, como creyentes, como miembros de una sola Iglesia.

Gracias Padres Celestial por permitirnos celebrar el nacimiento de nuestro salvador con los seres amados y en familia.

Feliz Navidad
Merry Christmas

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF:

Cho Family, Hannah Magistro, Culbert Family, Dolores Milazzo, Marjorie A. and Samuel Terpstra, Jean Redmond, Charles & Ellen Eichler, Thomas & Julia Dugan, Anthony & Anna Monteverde, Patricia Barone, Ray Vanderhoof, Sr., Hannah Magistro, Thomas & Irene Walsh, Mary Walsh, Agnes and Joseph Dondero, Margi Schuelke, Judith Sullivan, Bernie Howlett, Billy Howlett, Mary & Bill Kuhl, Margaret & Johnny Burke, Frank & Claire Lankford, Frank & Pauline Pagnani, John, Patricia & Christopher Grace, Janina Klyz, Krzyszof Wilk, Cezary Czapkowski, James & Vera Griffin, Philip & Edna Labue, Joseph Callaremi, Sr., Dave Woeste, Robert & Katherine Hughes, Jane & Jim Pedlow, Patti Hughes, Chris Perry, Bill Perry, Marilyn Uccardi,



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT...

OLM – Second Monday of each month from 7-8 pm, Next Adoration is on January 8th

St. Mark– Last Monday of each month from 7-8 pm. Next Adoration is on January 29th



ANTIOCH RETREAT FOOD SIGN UP SHEET...Once again we need your help feeding the Confirmation Candidates, Peers, and adults on their retreat. There are specific items needed. Please see the sign-up sheet in the gathering space. Your support is greatly appreciated.

RUNNERS WANTED!!!!

ST. MARK’S NEW YEARS DAY 5K RUN...

St. Marks is hosting a 5K run on January 1. This is a great way to start the year off with a bang. Currently we are looking for people and businesses to sponsor the event as well as volunteers to help us with the planning. If you are interested, please reach out to Pat Regan at Patrick.regan@outlook.com.

We really want this to be a family event but all participants must either walk or run; due to insurance limitations we cannot have children on bikes, dogs or strollers as part of this event. Thank you.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!!!! We need volunteers for the day of the 5K (January 1) from 10am – 2:30pm. Please sign up at runsignup.com or on the sign-up sheet in the gathering space. We would appreciate any help even if you cannot stay the whole time.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SARAH’S FIGHT FOR HOPE FOUNDATION...

Bunco Night Fundraiser & Designer Bag Raffle. January 17th here at St. Mark’s, doors open at 6:30 pm-game start 7:30 pm. Pre-sale donation \$20, at door \$25. Group of 4 \$70, door prizes, coffee/tea and dessert. BYOB & Appetizers ONLY with table Reservation \$20. Ticket purchase: www.sarahsfightforhope.org.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

King David plans to build a temple to honor God. But God tells Nathan the Prophet that instead he will give David rest from his enemies, and ensure that both his house and community will be protected forever.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

In this letter of Paul to the Romans, he explains that the gospel reveals the mystery that had been hidden for many ages. Now it has been made known to all, so that they may believe, obey, and give glory through Jesus Christ forever.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The Virgin Mary is approached by the angel Gabriel, who tells her that she has been chosen to bear the Son of God. Mary is first afraid, yet shows her unquestioning faith when she simply says, “Let it be done to me as you say.”



All- powerful and ever-living God the lasting health of all who believe in you, hear us as we ask your loving help for the sick; restore their health, that they may again offer joyful thanks in your church.

Randi Alloway, Richard Alvarez, Tony Atkins, Charlie, Natalie Rose Bassett, Kenneth Bernisky, Bill Betz, Luz Bracero, Paul Buckley, John Callaghan, Arlene Cichlar, Hannah Clark, Emily Condit, Kaitlin Cross, Natalia Danilczuk, Krish Dharia, Catherine DiPasquale, Connie Elliott, Larry Fine, Tracey F, Elaina Grace Gaffin, Ann Geary, Jerry Green, Barbara Gotterdam, Louie Gutierrez, Helen Greenly, Harper Lynn Granito, Regina Hague, Claudia Harrington, William Heimsly, Bob Hodiern, Maria Dougherty Jante, Donna Jennings, Laurel Jilek, Joey, Claudia Kallmeyer, Jim Karpinski, Kevin Kay, Russell H. Keller, Mary Koenig, Jean Koenig, Mara Lak, Christina Lanaris., Margaret Leon, Maryann Litori, Ann Loughney, Wayne Marks, Anthony Marino, Norman Milz, Marie Molloy, Irene, Madelyn S. Maruggi, Raymond McCarthy Jr., Jonathon McClelland, Meghan McDonough, Harold & Mary McKay, Edward Michonski, Sr., Kathy Minichini, Robert Neilson, Sr., Maryanne & Jack Newell, Girard Nolte, Jr., Marilyn O’Connor, Josh Olsen, Jim Owens, Arlene Parikh, Nicky Piloni, Clifford Reynolds, Jim Robinson, Ryan, Jillian Elizabeth Sayer, Jeff Schpiner, Rev. Frank Rodimer, Rhonda Soto, Special Intention, Judy Stone, Cindy, Sullivan, William Thompson, Mary Travisano, Debbie Trepkau, Rev. Zbigniew Tyburski, Anne Walsh, Robert Ron Werner, Marie Zimbile

Every now and then we try to update our prayer list of names of the sick and special intentions. We have alphabetized the names in the hopes of making them easier to read. There are some names that we in the parish office cannot associate with a person who made the request to pray for them. Please look over the list and if you requested prayers for a person please call the office to let us know if you wish to continue to be on this prayer list.



