

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

December 20, 2015

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 19

5:30 pm For Joseph Malchitsky, Thomas & Thomas Iannarelli by Santorelli Family

Sunday, December 20

8:00 am For Bill Dondiego by Cronin Family
9:30 am For Bob Dotson, Jr. by McGrath Family
11:00 am For Andrzej Kapitula by Joann McElwaine

Monday, December 21

8:45 am For Celine Mancini

Tuesday, December 22

8:45 am For Refugees

Wednesday, December 23

8:45 am For Peace

Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve

4:00 pm For Parishioners of St. Mark's
6:30 pm For Parishioners of St. Mark's
11:00 pm For Parishioners of St. Mark's

Friday, December 25 Christmas Day

9:30 am For Parishioners of St. Mark's
11:00 am For Parishioners of St. Mark's

Saturday, December 26

5:30 pm For Mark Favara by Charles and Carole Culbert

Sunday, December 27

8:00 am For Steven Baron by Anne Ronceray
9:30 am For Dorothy C. Vaughn by Chris Zimmerman
11:00 am For Al Arbour by Bill Barron & Family

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

November December 26, 27, 2015

Saturday, 5:30 pm

Celebrant: Rev. Daniel Chajkowski
Greeter: Help Needed
Lector: Kevin O'Shea
Eucharistic Ministers: Holly Zimmerman
Altar Servers: Help Needed

Sunday, 8:00 am

Celebrant: Msgr. Joseph Goode
Greeter: Carmen Veras
Lector: Susan Vetterl
Eucharistic Ministers: Rick Gebbia
Altar Servers: Help Needed

Sunday 9:30 am

Celebrant: Rev. Daniel Chajkowski
Greeter: Anne Ronceray
Lector: Katie Van Woert, Sarah Murray
Eucharistic Minister: Eric Woelfel, Marylee Terpstra
Altar Servers: Help Needed

Sunday 11:00 am

Celebrant: Msgr. Joseph Goode
Greeter: Dan Haurey
Lector: Tom Hanifin, Sharon Donovan
Eucharistic Ministers: Liam McLoughlin, Trish Mitchell, Lorraine Fleming
Altar Servers: Help Needed

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:

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAIN PARISH

Saturday, December 26

5:00 pm Celebrant: Msgr. Joseph Goode
7:00 pm Celebrant: Msgr. Joseph Goode

Sunday, December 27

7:45 am Celebrant: Msgr. Peter McHugh
9:15 am Celebrant: Msgr. Joseph Goode
10:45 am Celebrant: Msgr. Ray Lopatesky
12:15 pm Celebrant: Rev. Dan Chajkowski

ST. MARK'S NEEDS \$5,280 PER WEEK TO MEET OUR FINANCIAL OBLIGATION

Current Year	Last Year 2014
December 13, 2015: \$3,040 Envelopes used: 72	December 14, 2014: \$2,670 Envelopes used: 75
Supermarket Gift Cards Week of December 13, 2015 Sales: \$3,280 Profit: \$164 YTD Profit: \$6,221.50 # of Families: 16	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 through Faith Direct, both you and our parish can more easily project your future contributions.

You can sign up online at www.faithdirect.net using our church code: **NJ484**, or by mailing a paper enrollment form available in the parish office.

God Bless You,
Fr. Joe





“UNTO TO US A CHILD IS GIVEN...” Prophet Isaiah

The celebration of Christmas reminds us of the fulfillment of a promise that God made to his people many times in many different ways over the centuries of religious history. From the stories of Genesis we hear of God’s mercy after sin entered into human existence. God promised that sin would not triumph but that God would send a savior into the world to redeem humankind. In the fullness of time God sent Jesus, born of Mary of Nazareth into the world. This week as we enter into the fourth week of Advent our attention is called to the events of Bethlehem (meaning “house of bread”). In this small town located in what is now Palestinian territory is where Mary and Joseph and shepherds along with angels heralded the birth of Jesus (Emmanuel – “God with us”). Jesus was born in poverty. Jesus was born and lived in the time of occupation by a foreign power (Roman Empire). Jesus and his family were forced to become refugees in Egypt to escape the threats of King Herod. As he “grew in wisdom and grace” Jesus would go forth and become a preacher of God’s Word who risked the wrath of established religious leaders of his day because he did not teach the politically correct message. Jesus would go forth and proclaim himself to be “the light of the world”. Jesus would invite the poor, the hungry, and the blind and lame to come to him and be renewed and refreshed in his presence. Jesus asks those who would be his disciples to forget their possessions in order to possess treasure in a kingdom that will never end.

The life of many people in the world today parallels what Jesus was familiar with. Jesus knew poverty. He knew regimes that terrorize people. He knew the unsettledness of being a refugee. He knew the hatred of those who did not agree with his message. He also knew the poor and those in need were special to him because he saw himself in their faces. Jesus calls his followers to open their eyes and hearts to understand that if you really want to see him we too have to look into the faces of those whom others might forget. As we tell the Christmas story this week and celebrate this Christmas the gift of Jesus, be mindful of the blessings we have received from God and give thanks and do not forget to share the joys and blessings we have received with all our brothers and sisters of the human race for Jesus came among...Fr. Joe

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY...SUNDAY JAN 3RD...

Come to our Epiphany Pot luck Lunch... see details below and sign up to in the gathering space. We are looking forward to having an afternoon with our parishioners.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EPIPHANY POT LUCK LUNCH... St.

Mark’s Epiphany Pot Luck Lunch is a tradition at St. Mark’s. It’s a wonderful time for all of us to get together after the holidays in a relaxed, stress-free way and to welcome our newest parishioners. Signup sheets are in the gathering space. Please look for the letter of your last name – this will tell you what your family should bring. It’s important to let us know what dish you’ll be bringing to share so we don’t have a lot of duplicates. Plan your dish serving approximately 8-10 people. If it’s a hot dish, please bring it hot, we will have sternos set up, but we are not able to heat things up. Please also bring your dish in the disposable aluminum pans that will fit into the sterno set ups. A half tray size is perfect (approx. 9x13) You can bring your dish when you arrive to the lunch at noon, or drop it off before you go to 11:00 mass and we’ll keep it warm with the sternos.

SERVING CHRIST IN OTHERS...A message from Catholic Charities USA and Caritas International

On his visit to the U.S. Pope Francis said, “Climate change is a problem which can no longer be left to a future generation. When it comes to the care of our ‘common home’, we are living at a critical moment of history.” Stand united with Pope Francis by urging our nation to care for our common home and preserve it for future generations.

We need to think less about our own personal comforts and more about the pain of those who are suffering. We need to look into the face of the poor and see Christ there. Those in need are not a burden they are gifts given by God so we have opportunities to share and to serve.

FOUR PILLAR OF STEWARDSHIP: 3rd of 4 articles

The third pillar is Formation... Christian stewardship is a way of life, a call to be mature disciples of the Lord. It is transforming. It leads us on the road that reaches out to people-the sick, the needy, the hungry or anyone yearning to be closer to God.

...IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES...4th Sunday of Advent, December 19-20

Down through history, God provided us with a roadmap. He foretold various signs and conditions through His prophets. These prophets spoke of things that mankind should watch for so that the Messiah would be recognized and believed. These signs or prophecies were given to us in the Old Testament written hundreds of years before Jesus’ birth. There are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament that Jesus fulfilled through His life, death and resurrection. For example - The Messiah would be Born in Bethlehem .. The Prophecy - Micah 5:1 ... *But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathaha, least among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times.*

The Fulfillment - Matthew 2:1 “*Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod.*”

About the prophecy: Micah was a late eighth century BC prophet, a contemporary of the prophet Isaiah. Unlike Isaiah, who was a native of the holy city, Micah was an outsider from the countryside and must have been a controversial figure. He would have been unpopular with the leaders whom he condemned and the wealthy whom he criticized. His prophecy was first proclaimed to the exiles after Jerusalem fell and her leading citizens deported to Babylon. Not only did the people of Israel lose their city and its Temple, but they also lost hope when Jerusalem fell. Micah offers hope and deliverance by announcing the grand role to be played by little Bethlehem. In the Gospels, Jesus says the last will be first and the least will be greatest. Such is the fate of Bethlehem, the least of the cities of the Kingdom of Judah’s clans, but the future birthplace of Israel’s Messiah.

WHY WE ARE CATHOLIC...

We are Catholic because we believe:

To the shepherds, the angel announced the birth of Jesus as the Messiah promised to Israel: “To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” From the beginning he was “the one whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world,” conceived as “holy” in Mary’s virginal womb. God called Joseph to “take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit,” so that Jesus, “who is called Christ,” should be born of Joseph’s spouse into the messianic lineage of David. The Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph 437

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS...

If you would like to make a donation in honor or in memory of a loved one toward the flowers that will be on the altar this Christmas season, there are Flower Envelopes both in your envelope packet and on the center table in the gathering space.

SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON TO BE HONORED IN CONVENT STATION...

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth cordially invite you to join them for the Feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and the Seton Associate Commitment Ceremony. Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, January 2, 2016, at Holy Family Chapel, Convent Station, NJ at 11:00 am. The Mass will be followed by a light lunch in the study hall of the Academy of Saint Elizabeth. The Heritage Room at the Motherhouse will be open for a display of Mother Seton memorabilia. For more information call 973-290-5470. In case of inclement weather call (973) 290-5478. Snow date is Jan. 9, 2016.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4a

Micah speaks of the ruler who will come from Bethlehem. He discusses how the people of Israel will be saved from corruption and live in peace.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Paul describes to the Hebrews how Jesus came into the world and offered to do God's will. We were saved through his sacrifice, the only offering sufficient for the sins of the world.

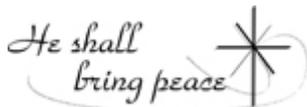
Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Mary paid a visit to Elizabeth, whose baby stirred in her womb upon hearing Mary's greeting. Elizabeth filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Elizabeth was deeply overjoyed that the words God had spoken to Mary had now been fulfilled.

COMMUNITY NEWS

POSITION AVAILABLE – VILLA WALSH ACADEMY

Villa Walsh Academy, located in Morristown, NJ, is looking for part-time school bus drivers. Interested candidates must possess a CDL with both the passenger (P) and school bus (S) endorsements. Most trips are late afternoon/early evening. There are also some weekend trips available. Please contact Jen Fleury, Athletic Director, at fleuryj@villawalsh.org or call 973-538-3680 x145.



NATIVITY STORY...

All children in grades K-8 are welcome to join us for the Nativity Story which will take place before the 4:00 pm mass on Christmas Eve (at 3:30 pm)

Practices will be held on Monday, December 21st from 4-5:30 pm and Tuesday, December 22nd from 4-5:30 pm. Children will be asked to be at church at 3:00 pm on Christmas Eve. Sign up and help bring this beautiful celebration to life!

ANTIOCH FOOD SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE POSTED IN GATHERING SPACE...

As always, our candidates, Peers and team could use your help in feeding us while we are on this year's Antioch Retreat. This beautiful tradition has helped us to have a wonderful Antioch experience, year after year. Please take a moment to sign-up for a much-needed food item. Your support is very much appreciated! Thank you.



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, John Andaloro, Tony Atkins, Charlie, Baby Natalie Rose Bassett, Kenneth Bernisky, Luz Bracero, Paul Buckley, John Callaghan, Arlene Cichlar, Hannah Clark, Emily Condit, Kaitlin Cross, Natalia Danilczuk, Daniel DePaul, Krish Dharia, Charles & Ellen Eichler, Connie Elliott, Larry Fine, George Foehner, Joseph Forlini, Elaina Grace Gaffin, Ann Geary, Barbara Gotterdam, Louie Gutierrez, Helen Greenly, Harper Lynn Granito, Regina Hague, William Heimsly, Bob Hodiern, Donna Jennings, Laurel Jilek, Claudia Kallmeyer, Kevin Kay, Russell H. Keller, Mary Anne Kindt, Raymond McCarthy Jr, Mary Koenig, Jean Koenig, Mara Lak, Christina Lanaris, Lenore, Maryann Litori, Ann Loughney, Helene Mackie, Anthony Marino, Norman Milz, Marie Molloy, Irene Maruggi, Raymond McCarthy, Jr., Jonathon McClelland, Harold & Mary McKay, Kathy Minichini, Robert Neilson, Sr., Maryanne & Jack Newell, Girard Nolte, Jr., Jim Owens, Dennis Paradise, John Parker, Arlene Parikh, Nicky Piloni, Martha Towne Riley, Clifford Reynolds, Ryan, Jillian Elizabeth Sayer, Tommy Scheffler, Ann Sentfing, Kurt Shubert, Rhonda Soto, Judy Stone, Debbie Trepkau, Debra Vitale, 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 either call the office or e mail Fr. Joe to let us know if you wish to continue to be on this prayer list.

