

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

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 2

10:45 am Mass at Heath Village

Sunday, December 3

8:00 am For

9:30 am For Bernard Cho by Corry Family

11:00 am For David Rygielski by Yonki Family

Monday, December 4

8:45 am For Tom Mackie by Dondero Family

For Claire Grieve by Stokes Family

Tuesday, December 5

8:45 am For

Wednesday, December 6

8:45 am For Tarek Chtaih by Connallon Family

Friday, December 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Holy Day of Obligation

8:45 am

7:00 pm

Saturday, December 9

10:45 am Mass at Heath Village

5:30 am For Robert Scanga by Walter & Barbara Lublanecki

Sunday, December 10

8:00 am For Mark Zeliff by Stokes Family

9:30 am For Stephen Nichols by Paula Field

11:00 am For Elvira Griffin by Mazzullo Family

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 9, 10, 2017

Saturday, 5:30 pm

Celebrant: Fr. Slawomir Tomaszewski, Deacon Tom Gibbon

Lector: Joanne Lee

Eucharistic Ministers: Barbara Burke

Altar Servers: Help Needed

Sunday, 8:00 am

Celebrant: Fr. Slawomir Tomaszewski, Deacon Jim Jones

Lector: Bill & Amy Barron

Eucharistic Ministers: Rick Gebbia, Mark Vetterl

Altar Servers: Help Needed

Sunday, 9:30 am

Celebrant: Fr. Slawomir Tomaszewski

Lector: Sarah Murray

Eucharistic Ministers: Eric & Sharon Woelfel

Altar Servers: Help Needed

Sunday, 11:00 am

Celebrant: Fr. Slawomir Tomaszewski

Lector: Al Escudero

Eucharistic Ministers: Lorraine Fleming, Ed Michonski

Altar Servers: Help Needed

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Monday, December 4

8:45 am Daily Mass

4:30 pm CEC Grades K-5

6:00 pm Altar Server Training

7:30 pm Parish Advisory Council

7:30 pm Boy Scout Meeting

Tuesday, December 5

8:45 am Daily Mass

4:30 pm CEC Grades K-5

6:00 pm Altar Server Training

7:00 pm Fund Raising Meeting

7:30 pm Choir

Wednesday, December 6

8:45 am Daily Mass

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

6:00 pm JYM classes

8:00 pm Knights of Columbus

Thursday, December 7

Parish Office Closed

Friday, December 8 - Holy Day of Obligation

8:45 am & 7:00 pm Mass Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Saturday, December 9

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

5:30 pm Mass

Sunday, December 10

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

12:00 pm Baptism of Wesley Cole Rohlf

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Current Year	Last Year 2016
November 26, 2017: \$2,100 Envelopes used: 44 Online for October: \$9,060	November 27, 2016: \$2,887 Envelopes used: 51 Online for November \$8,313
Supermarket Gift Cards: November 26, 2017 Sales: \$4,050 Profit: \$202.50 YTD Profit: \$7,599.50 2016 YTD Profit \$6,071.50 # of Families 20	St. Mark's Faith Direct Church Code is NJ484

FOOD PANTRY STATUS...

The Long Valley Food Pantry is about to enter the critical winter season - - in very good shape, thanks to your continued generosity. 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!



SAVE THE DATE...

St. Mark's Annual Pot Luck Lunch, Sunday, January 28th 12:00 pm.
Help us welcome our newest parishioners! Sign-ups to start Dec. 9th.

FROM FR. MARCIN...

My dear parishioners,

Welcome in the Holy Season of Advent. Advent is the first season in the church calendar. Advent is a season of spiritual preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ (Christmas) and looks forward to the future reign of Christ. During the first part of advent readings will speak to us about Jesus' second Coming at the end of time, and then in the second part of advent we will hear more about celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas.

Advent represents our expectation, anticipation, and preparation for who Christ is and what He has done for us. He arrived into the world as a human being, being fully God and fully man. He came to identify as one of us, as the Son of Man, as a baby born in a manger. He came for us, He came for you and He comes into our lives and into our hearts. He is coming again in great power and glory to bring His Kingdom into completion.

"Watch!" This is the key word in the short passage that the Church presents for the liturgy of the First Sunday of Advent. To watch, to stay awake, to wait for the return of the master of the house, not to sleep, this is what Jesus asks of a Christian.

Jesus often asked his disciples to watch. In the garden of Olives, on the Thursday night just before the passion, the Lord says to Peter, James and John: "Wait here, and stay awake". Watching helps us not to fall into temptation but to stay awake. We must stay awake always and not fall asleep, and watch and pray that we may not be deceived and thus go to our damnation. Thus "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you" (Eph 5: 14).

"Be watchful! Be alert!" serve as a main topic of this season. As we get ready for Christmas, we should not neglect to prepare our lives for Jesus, who came as "the light of the world." His light penetrated a dark world, which allowed all to see their Messiah, and the hope of their future. Today we need to be prepared for the coming of Christ. Learning more about what the Bible reveals about Christ's return will enable us to understand the possible significance of world events.

Be ready and watchful, for the light of the world has come and will surely come again.

God gives us a different grace in every liturgical season and God has a grace to give you this Advent. If Advent is only a time of consumerism and buying gifts for people that they don't really want or need, it is flying in the face of what Jesus is all about. There is only one gift at Christmas, that gift is Jesus. Jesus is the grace that the Father wants to give to you this Advent. Let us spend time with God to receive this grace.

As we examine our consciences this Advent and see our shortcomings we are privileged to receive the mercy of God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our Advent Penance Service will be held at St. Mark's Church on Wednesday, December 13 at 7:30 PM.

DECEMBER 8 – HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

On Friday, December 8 we observe solemnity of **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**, Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America. This is a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION – which means – we are obligated to come to church.

Masses at St. Mark's: Friday masses at 8:45am and 7pm.

Masses at OLM: vigil mass (Thursday, Dec.7) at 7:30pm. Friday masses at 9:30am and 7:30pm.

Join us for Holy Mass as we pray for our beloved country and our good citizens.

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

2017 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL IN GIVING, WE RECEIVE

As you plan to celebrate the joy of the Christmas season by giving gifts to your friends and loved ones, there is one gift that you can give to tens of thousands of people. It does not require ten thousand name tags or ten thousand bows. All that's needed is a completed pledge card to the Bishop's Annual appeal or an on-line gift at www.2017appeal.org. Say "Merry Christmas" to so many of your brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Paterson who need some hope and joy in their lives by participating in the Bishop's annual appeal today. May God bless you for your generosity.

FROM FR. SLAWEK...

St. Nicholas - Bishop of Myra (Fourth Century) December 6

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. The prisons were so full of bishops, priests, and deacons, there was no room for the real criminals—murderers, thieves and robbers. After his release, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church, where a unique relic, called manna, formed in his grave. This liquid substance, said to have healing powers, fostered the growth of devotion to Nicholas. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, St. Nicholas Day, December 6th.

Widely celebrated in Europe, St. Nicholas' feast day, December 6th, kept alive the stories of his goodness and generosity. In Germany and Poland, boys dressed as bishops begged alms for the poor—and sometimes for themselves! In the Netherlands and Belgium, St. Nicholas arrived on a steamship from Spain to ride a white horse on his gift-giving rounds. December 6th is still the main day for gift giving and merrymaking in much of Europe. For example, in the Netherlands St. Nicholas is celebrated on the 5th, the eve of the day, by sharing candies (thrown in the door), chocolate initial letters, small gifts, and riddles. Dutch children leave carrots and hay in their shoes for the saint's horse, hoping St. Nicholas will exchange them for small gifts. Simple gift-giving in early Advent helps preserve a Christmas Day focus on the Christ Child.

FROM FR. JAVIER...

TEACHING FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH - THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Fifth Commandment

You shall not kill. "You have heard that it was said to the men of old, You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment. But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment".

Legitimate defense

My dear brothers and sisters according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church in the numeral 2263 says, The legitimate defense of persons and societies is not an exception to the prohibition against the murder of the innocent that constitutes intentional killing. "The act of self-defense can have a double effect: the preservation of one's own life; and the killing of the aggressor.... the one is intended, the other is not."

Love toward oneself remains a fundamental principle of morality. Therefore it is legitimate to insist on respect for one's own right to life. Someone who defends his life is not guilty of murder even if he is forced to deal his aggressor a lethal.

Legitimate defense can be not only a right but a grave duty for someone responsible for another's life. Preserving the common good requires rendering the unjust aggressor unable to inflict harm. To this end, those holding legitimate authority have the right to repel by armed force aggressors against the civil community entrusted to their charge.

Also the State's effort to contain the spread of behaviors injurious to human rights and the fundamental rules of civil coexistence corresponds to the requirement of watching over the common good. Legitimate public authority has the right and duty to inflict penalties commensurate with the gravity of the crime. The primary scope of the penalty is to redress the disorder caused by the offense. When his punishment is voluntarily accepted by the offender, it takes on the value of expiation. Moreover, punishment, in addition to preserving public order and the safety of persons, has a medicinal scope: as far as possible it should contribute to the correction of the offender.

The traditional teaching of the Church does not exclude, presupposing full ascertainment of the identity and responsibility of the offender, recourse to the death penalty, when this is the only practicable way to defend the lives of human beings effectively against the aggressor. God bless you.

ATTENTION BOYS AND GIRLS 4TH GRADE AND

ABOVE...On Monday, December 4th and Tuesday, December 5th we will have an Altar Server training session in the church at 6:00 pm immediately following CEC class. If you have a child who wishes to be trained and placed on our regular schedule now is the time to come and learn about this awesome ministry.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE...

Supermarket gift cards will be sold on Mon. /Tues. next week at CEC and this is the last chance for the classes to get credit for the sales towards the cupcake party. Please try to make a purchase.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING...

Tues. December 5th at 7:00 pm. All are welcome.

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.

LONG VALLEY COLUMBIETTES....

Columbiettes will be selling homemade cookies at all St. Mark's and OLM masses the weekend of Dec. 16/17. Thank you for your support which will benefit many others. Merry Christmas.

Columbiettes Fundraiser at Charming Charlie's in the streets of Chester on Sat. Dec. 16 from 10am-7pm. Great gifts for the whole family. Please let cashier know your purchase is to support L.V. Columbiettes and a percentage of the proceeds will benefit many local organizations. Thank you

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA...

Schooley's Mountain Fire Company. Sunday, December 3rd
8 am-12 pm. Bring the whole family!!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS...

OLM Rosary Altar Society would like to invite you and a friend to join them on Tues., Dec. 5th for their monthly meeting at OLM. Recitation of the rosary at 7:15 pm, followed by Mass and Novena to our Blessed Mother at 7:30 pm. Refreshments after mass. We will be collecting for Birth Haven and have our Christmas Grab Bag. Call Linda Richartz 876-9601 or Cindy Jones 684-0661.



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, Bernie Cho, 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, Claudia Kallmeyer, Jim Karpinski, Kevin Kay, Russell H. Keller, Mary Koenig, Jean Koenig, Mara Lak, Christina Lanaris., Margaret Leon, Maryann Litor, 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 Plosi, 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

