

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

December 10, 2017

Second Sunday of Advent



Mass Intentions

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

Monday, December 11

8:45 am For

Tuesday, December 12

8:45 am For

Wednesday, December 13

8:45 am For Mark Zeliff by Women's Bible Study

Thursday, December 14

8:45 am Mass at Heath Village

Saturday, December 16

5:30 pm For Antoinette Porzilli by Sue & Grace Reilly

Sunday, December 17

8:00 am For
9:30 am For Robert DiClemente & Grazia Marchesani
by Cresci & DiClemente Families
11:00 am For Carl Fania by Fania 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 16, 17, 2017

Saturday, 5:30 pm

Celebrant: Fr. Javier Bareno

Lector: Tom Morley

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Scarda

Altar Servers: Help Needed

Sunday, 8:00 am

Celebrant: Fr. Javier Bareno

Lector: Tony Cretella

Eucharistic Ministers: Carmen Veras

Altar Servers: Help Needed

Sunday, 9:30 am

Celebrant: Fr. Javier Bareno

Lector: Kevin O'Shea

Eucharistic Ministers: Gina & Paul Tupaczewski

Altar Servers: Hannah & Sarah Tupaczewski

Sunday, 11:00 am

Celebrant: Fr. Javier Bareno

Lector: Dina Carmelengo

Eucharistic Ministers: Angel Nowak, Nick Caruso

Altar Servers: Help Needed

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Monday, December 11

8:45 am Daily Mass
4:30 pm CEC Grades K-5
7:30 pm Boy Scout Meeting

Tuesday, December 12

8:45 am Daily Mass
4:30 pm CEC Grades K-5
7:30 pm Choir
8:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

Wednesday, December 13

Angel Gifts for DYFS children due back
8:45 am Daily Mass
9:30 am Women's Bible Study
6:45 pm Tree Lighting JYM students
7:30 pm Advent Penance Service

Thursday, December 14

Parish Office Closed

Friday, December 15

No events

Saturday, December 16

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
1:00 pm Antonelli Baptism
5:30 pm Mass

Sunday, December 17

8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am Mass
12:00 pm

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Current Year	Last Year 2016
December 3, 2017: \$2,500 Envelopes used: 58	December 4, 2016: \$3,222 Envelopes used: 68
Supermarket Gift Cards: December 3, 2017 Sales: \$6,450 Profit: \$322.50 YTD Profit: \$7,922.50 2016 YTD Profit \$6,290.50 # of Families 20	St. Mark's Faith Direct Church Code is NJ484

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 - - 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!

FROM FR. MARCIN...

My dear parishioners,

We are in the season of Advent, the season of waiting and hoping, waiting and hoping for God, waiting and hoping for the Second Coming of Jesus. As much as we are waiting and hoping for God, can you imagine how much more God is waiting and hoping for each of us, waiting and hoping that we will turn to him during this season of grace, Advent? We have heard so often of God's love. Do you ever think about God's love searching for you, longing for you, wanting no hindrance or obstacle between you and him?

This season of Advent is a time of grace for us. It is a time of grace given to us to prepare our hearts so that we are ready to receive Christ at Christmas. That is what Christmas is all about, Jesus. We do not want to get lost in the frenzy of the run up to Christmas and forget what Christmas is all about. Advent is a time of grace to remind us that Jesus is the reason for Christmas.

During this season of Advent, let us ask ourselves is there anything keeping us and God apart? Is any sin of any kind in our lives keeping us separated from God? During this season of waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus, can we also look into our hearts and turn from sin to God asking forgiveness? We may say we have no sins and when we go to Confession we have to make up sins to tell the priest. Are we really that holy? There were only two people on this earth who had no sin, Jesus and Our Lady. If we say we have no sin are we expected to think that you are Jesus or Our Lady? If we say we have no sin do we not mean that we have allowed our consciences to go dead so that now we sin but are not even aware of it?

We are living now in this time of mercy when we have an opportunity to repent. Let us receive as much grace as we can from God during this time of Advent. The Lord has no limits to what he wants to give us, it is we who put limits on what he wants to give us. The Lord is waiting to receive you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to take you in his arms and hold you close to his breast. Let us pray as much as we can during this season of Advent. During this season of Advent we think in a special way of Our Lady, pregnant with Jesus. Pray to her and ask her to help you prepare your heart for Jesus. So during Advent, as well as other types of prayer I recommend the Rosary to you in a special way.

Christmas will lack its full meaning if we do not prepare in our own hearts a way for the Lord. It is in our hearts that we need to make a straight highway for God. It is the valleys of sin in our own hearts that are to be filled with God's mercy and healing, and the mountains and hills of pride in our own hearts that are to become low.

God is searching for us and wants to hold us against his breast.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering the lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes. (Isa 40:11)

Will you allow him to pick you up and hold you?

"PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS."

OUR ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY DEC. 13 AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH AT 7:30PM.

During this Advent let us prepare our hearts for Christ by turning away from sin and evil and giving ourselves completely to God so that when Christ comes, or when we are called from this life, we are ready and prepared. What better way of doing this than making a very good confession receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

SAD NEWS!

Deacon Nicholas Ardito has decided to move with his family to Pennsylvania. Deacon Nick has been serving at Our Lady of the Mountain and St. Mark's Parishes for the last two years as a Deacon. He was in charge of the RCIA program and with his time brought a number of people to the Catholic Church. I would like to say thank you very much for everything that he has done for our parish. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND GOD BLESS YOU DEACON NICK.**

THANK YOU!

Special thanks to Jane McKenna for donating the new Book of Gospels in memory of her parents, Deacon John Paul Meyer and Elizabeth Helen Kenny Meyer and also to Kathy Woeste who donated the new Statue of St. Joseph in memory of her husband Dave Woeste. The new statue will be blessed next Saturday after the 5:30 pm mass. God bless you!

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS...

Second collection will be taken next weekend to support the Retirement Fund for Religious. "Thanks to support from the Retirement Fund for Religious, we are now in a much better position to care for our elders", writes a religious sister. Your donation helps her religious community and hundreds of others provide for aging members and plan for long-term needs. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

HOLY HOUR AT OLM Monday, Dec. 11TH 7-8 pm

**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION AT OLM, Friday, Dec. 15 3 pm.
A priest will be available for confession,**

FROM FR. SLAWEK...

St. Lucy

Martyr (d. 304) – December 13

Despite the paucity of reliable information about her life, St. Lucy is one of the most famous of the so-called virgin young woman from Sicily, raised as a Christian by her wealthy parents. At a young age she privately dedicated herself to Christ. When she refused the proposal of a prospective suitor, he angrily denounced her as a Christian. Subsequently she faced a series of ordeals and futile punishments – commitment to a brothel, death by fire – until at last she was put to the sword.

Because of associations between her name (Lucia) and the Latin word for light (lux), as well as certain gruesome tortures that adorn her legend, Lucy has been invoked as a patron of those who suffer from eye troubles. Her feast day in Sweden is a festival of light, celebrated by a procession of young girls wearing crowns of lighted candles.

The stories of Lucy and similar female martyrs have often been used to exalt the "virgin" state. In fact, like the stories of Perpetua and felicity (both young mothers), her story describes a woman's power in Christ to claim her own identity and a kind of integrity her persecutors were powerless defile.

"If now, against my will, you cause me to be polluted, a twofold purity will be gloriously imputed to me. You cannot bend my will to your purpose; whatever you do to my body that cannot happen to me." - St. Lucy

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".

My brothers and sisters, let us continue our learning from the Fifth Commandment

Intentional homicide

In the numeral 2268 says, "The fifth commandment forbids direct and intentional killing as gravely sinful. The murderer and those who cooperate voluntarily in murder commit a sin that cries out to heaven for vengeance".

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Infanticide, fratricide, parricide, and the murder of a spouse are especially grave crimes by reason of the natural bonds which they break. Concern for eugenics or public health cannot justify any murder, even if commanded by public authority.

Also the fifth commandment forbids doing anything with the intention of indirectly bringing about a person's death. The moral law prohibits exposing someone to mortal danger without grave reason, as well as refusing assistance to a person in danger.

The acceptance by human society of murderous famines, without efforts to remedy them, is a scandalous injustice and a grave offense. Those whose usurious and avaricious dealings lead to the hunger and death of their brethren in the human family indirectly commit homicide, which is imputable to them.

Unintentional killing is not morally imputable. But one is not exonerated from grave offense if, without proportionate reasons, he has acted in a way that brings about someone's death, even without the intention to do so.

We were created to love not to destroy.

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 10 – 2:30. Please sign up at rnsignup.com or in the lobby. We would appreciate any help even if you cannot stay the whole time.

Thank you to all who participated in the Charming Charlie Fundraiser. It was a success for St. Marks.

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



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.



