

The Nativity of the Lord
December 25, 2016
LITURGY SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 24

Vigil of Christmas

4:00 p.m. – For the People of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
 6:30 p.m. – For the People of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
 10:00 p.m. – Polish Mass
 11:30 p.m. – Christmas Caroling
 Midnight Mass – For the People of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

Sunday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord

8:30 a.m. – For the People of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
 10:00 a.m. – For the People of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

Monday, December 26

12:00 p.m. – George Rydel req. by Marie Byrne

Tuesday, December 27

12:00 p.m. – Nels Salvesen

Wednesday, December 28

12:00 a.m. – Alice Scutari

Thursday, December 29

12:00 p.m. – Mike Secallus req. by Marie Byrne

Friday, December 30

12:00 p.m. – Joan Skuta, 5th Anniversary, req. by family

Saturday, December 31

5:00 p.m. – For the People of Sacred Heart of Jesus

Sunday, January 1

8:30 a.m. – For the People of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
 10:00 a.m. – For the People of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

Marie Cayea, Mary Therese Loftus, Sharon Bauer, Mary Davenport, Jose Prado, Arlene Berlin, Robert Nielsen, Marge Vogel, Efrain Gonzalez, M.J. Simon, Amanda Villarubia, Mary Skelly, John Skutka, William McBurney, Anne Riordan, D.M. Lynch, Linda Hoffman,, Mike Izzo, Ethel Gorman, Edward Frame, Adam Hayward, Ronnie Abrams, Carol Centonze, James Boyle.

PARISH POLICY – PLEASE NOTE – All Catholic families living within the parish boundaries are encouraged to register as members. Registration as a parish member has many benefits, and in particular, facilitates any arrangements for baptisms, marriages, sponsors, etc. **Please contact the Rectory at 973-627-0422**

First Friday Communion Calls: A priest will be making “First Friday” visits to those who are homebound. These visits will be made by one of our priests who will distribute Holy Communion. He will also be available for the sacraments of penance and anointing of the sick. Please call the rectory at 972-627-0422 to register your name for this monthly visit by one of our priests

For St. Cecilia Cemetery information, please email Diane Boykow at StCeciliaCemetery@gmail.com

Food Certificates: Food certificates will be available after the Masses and in the rectory to purchase. Thank you for participating in this worthwhile program. If you have not, please give it a try!

We’ve changed envelope companies: If you haven’t received your most recent set of envelopes, please contact the rectory at 973-627-0422.

St. Cecilia’s Christmas Mass Schedule
Christmas Eve Vigil Masses, Saturday, December 24th

4:30 p.m. – Children’s Mass
 7:00 p.m. – Holy Mass
 9:30 p.m. – Christmas Caroling
 10:00 p.m. – Holy Mass

Christmas Day Masses, Sunday, December 25th

8:00, 9:15, 10:45 a.m. & 12:15 p.m. – Holy Mass
 3:00 p.m. – Vietnamese Mass

New Year’s Eve, Saturday, December 31st

4:30 & 7:00 p.m. – Holy Mass
 New Year’s Day, Sunday, January 1st
 8:00, 9:15, 10:45 a.m. & 12:15 p.m. – Holy Mass
 3:00 p.m. – Vietnamese Mass

BISHOP TO MAKE PASTORAL VISIT – His Excellency, Bishop Arthur Serratelli will make a pastoral visit to our parish on Saturday, January 7th and celebrate the 5 o’clock vigil Mass. We welcome our Bishop and pray that many blessings will fall upon our parish as a result of his visit.



Connor Cummings
 Requested by: Martinelli Family

Collection for December 17&18: \$3024.00
Parish Pay Electronic Giving: \$ 2,529.34(November)
Collection from last year: \$ 3022.00
Ongoing Renovation: Funds Collected \$23,782.80
Total Cost: (\$23,127.35)
Net: \$655.45

PARISH PAY: Have you thought about automating your giving? No more writing checks! You decide the amount and the frequency. Sign up today for automatic contributions to Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish. Go to the Parish Pay link at www.sacredheartrockaway.org or call 866-727-4741.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS
IN THE MILITARY

Major Mike Cherry
 LCpl. Aleksandr Killeen,
 Airman 1st Cl. Andrew Mistkowski,
 1st Lt. Nicholas DelCore, Air Force
 Captain Jessica L. Rotile Rudo
 Kenneth Rudo, Warrant Officer,1

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Irene Schreiber, Doug Bansch, Maria Acevedo, TJ Schoudel, Capt. Adam Cowan, USA, Julio Soto, Ellen Forbes, Ben Marvilla, Michelle Monslave, Amelia

	Lector	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers
December 31 @ 5:00 pm	Lyle Ryder	Jeff Meudt Bridget Wilson	Ben Raroque Mateo Raroque Sofia Raroque Volunteer Needed
January 1 @ 8:30 am	Bob Martinelli	Paul Iapalucci Volunteer Needed	Gianna Nelson Gabe Nelson Alejandro Orellana Volunteer Needed
January 1 @10:00 am	Jack Zayac	Claire Miller Anne Marie Hopler	Danielle Waskas Jessica Waskas Anthony Yagoda Volunteer Needed

ALL MINISTERS: Copies of the schedule are available in the sacristy. Any questions/concerns please contact the appropriate group leader.

My dear parishioners and friends,

TODAY we celebrate Christmas and the Lord's Day! The Western Church and some Churches of the East commemorate on this weekend the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We sing in the Responsorial Psalm for the vigil Masses, "Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord." It is this miracle of the Incarnation which set into motion the economy of salvation. The taking on of flesh of the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, has brought about the coming of the Kingdom of God. In Jesus the forces of evil are conquered and the reign of sin is dispelled,

We gather in our parish church today to join with the angels in heaven" ... praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.'" It is good that we thank God for sending us His Only Begotten Son who suffered and died for our sins. The defeat of death and the forces of evil was accomplished by His Holy Resurrection which we celebrate every Sunday and refer to as "the Lord's Day." Each week we gather as a family of faith to commemorate this cornerstone of our belief.

How wonderful that the Christmas celebration brings together many families and friends. These bonds of love and friendship are life-giving and beyond price. I am so happy to welcome those who are with us this weekend from out of town visiting family and friends here in Rockaway. Please know that your presence here with us for Christmas is indeed a special gift for which I thank Almighty God.

This week between Christmas and New Year is a week which many people have off from work and school. This time becomes like a retreat from which we can escape from some of our regular duties to find time with friends and relatives. This has been the way of life for generations.

This year at Saint Cecilia's, and only for the week between Christmas and New Year, our daily Mass will be celebrated at 9 o'clock rather than at 8 o'clock. Hopefully this may encourage more of our children and vacationing adults to consider attending morning Mass before beginning their holiday activities. The regular daily Mass time of 8 a.m. returns on Monday, January 2nd. The daily Mass schedule at Sacred Heart remains as is.

On behalf of myself, Father Marcin, Father Mateusz, Deacon Paul, and Seminarians Mateusz and Joseph, I wish you and your loved ones, "A HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS!"

God bless you!

Father Zig

From Bishop's Pastoral Letter: BETHLEHEM: RECEIVING THE BREAD OF LIFE

[6] "Bethlehem" literally means "House of Bread." It has this name because of its location in the grain producing region of Old Testament times. How appropriate that Jesus is born here. After the multiplication of the loaves and fish, Jesus identified himself as "the bread that came down from heaven," (Jn 6:41). As bread satisfies our hunger and strengthens us physically, Jesus fills our empty hearts with the love and wisdom of God. We feast on his every word. As Scripture says, "Not by bread alone does man live but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the Lord" (Dt 8:3).

[10] Jesus' own invitation "Take and eat, this is my body" (Mt 26:26) requires a worthy response on our part. As St. Paul tells us, we should examine ourselves before receiving Holy Communion. His words are strong: "Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the Body and Blood of the Lord. ... For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Cor 11:27 and 29).

[11] When St. Paul speaks about "discerning the body," he is telling us two very important conditions for the worthy reception of the Eucharist. First, we must recognize the Eucharist for what it is. We must hold firm that this is no ordinary bread, no blessed bread, no sacred sign. We must believe that the Eucharist is truly the Bread of Life. It is Jesus, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, whole and entire, before whom the angels bow in adoration. Without such Catholic faith, no one should dare receive the Eucharist.

[12] Secondly, we need to recognize the holiness of Christ who comes to be our food and drink. Thus, we should approach Holy Communion in the state of grace. As the Catechism of the Council of Trent beautifully expresses, "Before [Jesus] gave to His Apostles the Sacrament of His precious Body and Blood, although they were already clean, He washed their feet to show that we must use extreme diligence before Holy Communion in order to approach it with the greatest purity and innocence of soul."

[13] Therefore, anyone whose life objectively stands in serious, public contradiction to any one of the Ten Commandments needs first to repent with a firm purpose to sin no more before receiving Holy Communion. Anyone who has committed a mortal sin needs to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation, make a good confession and be absolved before receiving. As St. Paul solemnly warns us, "Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord" (1 Cor 11:27). The Sacrament of Reconciliation cleanses us of our sins, whether mortal or venial, thus disposing us for the proper reception of Holy Communion.

[14] We are all sinners. Thus, we need the humility of the shepherds to whom the angel brought the glad tidings of our Savior's birth. When the angel announced to them that "In the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord" (Lk 2:11), they rejoiced. They knew that they were sinners. They recognized that Jesus had come to save them from their sins. And so they hastened to the manger. We, too, need to acknowledge our sins, seek forgiveness and hasten to Bethlehem.

[15] Jesus, the Bread of Life, longs to be our food and drink. He comes to the weakest and the strongest among us. The repentant sinner and the struggling saint find in him, "the true bread come down from heaven" (Jn 6:32). Before so great a sacrament, we humbly echo with ardent faith the words of the Centurion ... "Lord, I am not worthy." Repenting of our sins and receiving the Eucharist, we come to Bethlehem and Jesus makes our soul his manger and our home his dwelling place.