



**Church of the  
Guardian Angel**  
A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

***Blessed be God forever***

***320 Franklin Turnpike  
Allendale, New Jersey 07401***

***WWW.GUARDIANANGELCHURCH.ORG***

**PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

We, the people of Guardian Angel Parish in the Archdiocese of Newark, are a community of Catholic Christians being formed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As a community open to the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit, we strive to work, share, and enjoy life as a witness to the true meaning of Christian Living.

We believe our mission is:

- To be a community of loving and caring people.
- To teach and witness the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- To celebrate that Good News in Sacraments and Prayer.
- To minister to all people in their spiritual and physical needs.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Please call Jo Ann Del Gatto at 201-981-7081 to arrange for infant baptism and parental instruction.

**SACRAMENT OF  
CONFIRMATION**

Please contact Youth Ministry office at 201-934-5554 for information about teen sacramental preparation.

**SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST  
The LORD'S DAY**

Saturday Eve - 5:30 p.m.  
(Sunday Obligation)  
Sunday - 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m.  
WEEKDAYS: Monday - Friday - 9:00 a.m.  
(Rectory Chapel)  
HOLY DAYS: schedule posted in bulletin.

**SACRAMENT OF  
RECONCILIATION**

Saturday - 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment.

**SACRAMENTS FOR THE SICK**

Please contact the Rectory for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and to request Communion for the homebound.

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY**

Please call the Rectory at least one year in advance.

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS**

Please contact Father Charlie or the Archdiocesan Vocations Office at 973-497-4365.

***RCIA -The Rite of  
Christian Initiation of Adults***

If you are an adult interested in becoming Catholic, or if you are a baptized Catholic who would like to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist and/or Confirmation, please call Fr. Charlie at 201-327-4359 or Susan Brown at 201-327-2360.

## **PASTORAL STAFF**

	201-327-4359
Rev. Charles Pinyan, <i>Pastor</i>	x201
cpinyan@guardianangelchurch.org	
Rev. Donald Sheehan, <i>Priest in Residence</i>	x214
Rey Escalon, <i>Deacon</i>	201-264-0145
escalonr@hotmail.com	
Lori O'Reilly, <i>Parish Secretary</i>	x202
loreilly@guardianangelchurch.org	
Irene Nayden, <i>Parish Catechetical Leader</i>	x208
inayden@guardianangelchurch.org	
Jean Borzilleri, <i>Secretary for Religious Education</i>	x205
jborzilleri@guardianangelchurch.org	
Silvana Anello, <i>Rental Coordinator</i>	x218
sanello@guardianangelchurch.org	
Alex Capicchioni, <i>Youth Minister</i>	x204
acapicchioni@guardianangelchurch.org	
Andrew Monticello, <i>Director of Music</i>	201-925-4756
a_monticello@hotmail.com	
Robert Yager, <i>Custodian</i>	x203
ryager@guardianangelchurch.org	

Stan Brach and Jean Escalona, *Trustees*

Rectory Phone	(201) 327-4359
Rectory Fax	(201) 327-6478
Youth Ministry	(201) 934-5554
Religious Education	(201) 327-0352
Rentals	(201) 783-5414

## **Pastoral Council**

Parish Pastoral Council meets in the Rectory on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M.

## **Prayer Chain Ministry**

*Coordinator:* Arlene Sabino (201) 934-8441

## **STEWARDSHIP OF TIME AND TALENT**

### **Ministry of Worship**

<i>Adult Leader for Children's Church</i>	
Irene Nayden	(201) 327-0352
<i>Altar Linens</i>	Jean Borzilleri (201) 818-1559
<i>Altar Server</i>	Michael Schmidt (201) 934-3353
<i>Collection Counters</i>	Frank Anello (201) 934-1331
<i>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</i>	
June Taylor	(201) 825-8812
<i>Monthly Rosary</i>	Kathie Brach (201) 236-3116
<i>Music/Choir Ministry</i>	
Andrew Monticello	(201)-925-4756
<i>Readers of the Word (Lectors)</i>	
Robert & Patty Durso	(201) 760-9169

### **Ministry of Faith Formation**

<i>Baptismal Preparation Ministry</i>	
JoAnn Del Gatto	(201) 981-7081
<i>Catechetical Ministry (1-9)</i>	
Irene Nayden	(201) 327-0352
<i>Cornerstone - Men's Spirituality</i>	
Rey Escalon	(201) 264-0145
<i>Cornerstone - Women's Spirituality</i>	
Carolyn Blake	(201) 825-1931

### **Ministry of Faith Formation** (Cont'd)

<i>RCLA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</i>	
Susan Brown	(201) 327-2360
<i>RCLA - Rite of Christian Initiation-Children</i>	
Irene Nayden	(201) 327-0352

### **Ministry of Evangelization**

<i>AIDS Ministry</i>	Noreen Prior (201) 236-1921
	Arlene Sabino (201) 934-8441
<i>Messengers of Love</i>	Elayne McGill (201) 327-1547
<i>Photography Ministry</i>	Bill Konvit (201) 825-2972
<i>Prayer Chain Ministry</i>	Arlene Sabino (201) 934-8441

### **Ministry of Service**

<i>Art &amp; Environment Ministry</i>	
	Sophia Boniello (201) 803-6459
	Julia DiNardo (201) 723-7783
<i>Bereavement Ministry</i>	Joe Lisella (201) 825-2204
<i>Communication/Marketing</i>	
	Gerry Del Gatto (201) 825-7383
<i>Computer/Data Entry</i>	Richard Shinnick (201) 236-2112
<i>Food Pantry Ministry</i>	John Lowe (201) 327-9397
	Sue Zitolo (201) 934-9372
<i>Funeral Ministry</i>	John Frederick (201) 327-3753
<i>Giving Tree Ministry</i>	Anna DiMiceli (201) 825-7039
<i>Grounds &amp; Maintenance Ministry</i>	
	Father Charlie (201) 327-4359
<i>Homeless Shelter Ministry</i>	Joe Zitolo (201) 934-9372
<i>Hospitality Ministry</i>	Kathleen Lucas (201) 236-2577
<i>Peace &amp; Justice Ministry</i>	Gerry Del Gatto (201) 825-7383
<i>Remembrance Mass</i>	Kathie Brach (201) 236-3116
<i>Soup Kitchen Ministry</i>	Chuck Assicurato (201) 327-1393
<i>Welcome Ministry</i>	Jean Escalona (201) 825-3817

### **Ministry of Stewardship & Finance**

<i>Finance Council</i>	Michael Simendinger (201) 236-3135
<i>New Energies</i>	Susan Bolton (201) 248.0412
<i>Pastoral Council</i>	Bill Konvit (201) 906-9649
<i>Stewardship Committee</i>	Jean Escalona (201) 825-3817

### **Ministry of Community Building**

<i>Carnival</i>	Irene Nayden (201) 327-4936
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### **Ministry of Youth Stewardship**

<i>Festival of Carols</i>	Andrew Monticello (201)-925-4756
<i>Living Stations</i>	Andrew Monticello (201)-925-4756
<i>Youth Group (Grades 6-8, 9-12)</i>	
	Alex Capicchioni (201) 934-5554
<i>Youth Mass Music Ministry</i>	
	Andrew Monticello (201)-925-4756

Visit [www.guardianangelchurch.org](http://www.guardianangelchurch.org) for up to date information about the parish! Are you a snowbird? Moving? You can update your address by going to the About section and scroll down to Update Parish Information! Go to the calendar be a part of all the great things happening at Guardian Angel!



## A Message from the Pastor

December 23, 2018  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dear parishioners,  
A Blessed welcome to one and all!

Happy Fourth Sunday of Advent, and Merry Christmas! What a joy to come together in these final days of Advent – and then Christmas! Jesus, the Word made Flesh who came to us once as an infant, comes to us in his Holy Word ... and he comes to us in the divine gift of His Body and Blood! How life-changing it is whenever we hear and respond to his call to “do this in remembrance of me.” How amazing to know and believe that our God loves us so deeply that He sends us His Son – that we might have eternal life. The infant we celebrate is the Jesus, the Light coming into the world.

If you are a visitor or newcomer, or if you are returning to Mass after having been absent, then I offer you a *special word of welcome!* Guardian Angel parish seeks to be your home in faith. We are a very neighborly church in the best sense of the word. Here you will find a place where each Sunday we gather for Mass to praise God as a community of faith and to be nourished in Word and Sacrament, and to be blessed and sent forth in service to Church, community and world! While any of us at times may experience a special feeling of faith in the moment, we know that it is the commitment to journey together with Christ each day that truly draws us to Him and our brothers and sisters ... and there is a place for you here!

We are always ready to accompany those who would like to inquire about the Catholic faith, or grow in your faith. We have a great group that meets weekly with inquirers in a relaxed and informal setting to discuss what it means to have a relationship with Jesus Christ in the community of the Catholic Church. If you or someone you know (baptized or not) would like to learn more, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at 201-327-4359 x 201 or [cpinyan@guardianangelchurch.org](mailto:cpinyan@guardianangelchurch.org)!

\*

The service our parish provides to those in need (near and far!) is sometimes well known among parishioners and sometimes not. This is not something “extra,” but an essential part of the Christian life – serving Christ in our brothers and sisters. Through the generous sharing of time, talent and treasure of parishioners, here are just a few recent highlights:

- We hosted three homeless families in our Auditorium during Thanksgiving week, providing meals and comfort
- We collected more than 200 gifts through our “Giving Tree” which a team of parish volunteers than gave to children as we visited them at a school in Paterson.



### Monday December 24<sup>th</sup> - Vigil Mass for Christmas

4 p.m. (*children's choir*)  
6 p.m.  
8 p.m.

### Tuesday December 25<sup>th</sup> - Mass for Christmas Day

7:30 a.m.,  
10 a.m.,  
11:30 a.m.

*In making your plans for Christmas Mass, please keep in mind:*

- It is usually very crowded at the 4 p.m. Mass, but there is adequate seating at all other Masses.
- Whether you are here, or will be traveling, your generous sharing of your “stewardship of treasure” in the Guardian Angel Christmas collection is a vital and significant part of our annual parish funding of all of our ministries and facilities maintenance, and is deeply appreciated!

### MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

*Holy Day of Obligation*

### Monday, December 31st (New Year's Eve)

5:30 p.m. Mass in the church

### Tuesday, January 1st (New Year's Day)

10:00 a.m. Mass in the church

### EPIPHANY “OPEN HOUSE” CELEBRATION

**ALL ARE INVITED**

**Sunday, January 6, 2019 - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

in the Rectory

*Everyone is invited to bring an appetizer or dessert to share.*

Hosted by your Pastoral Council

- We collected hundreds of dollars' worth of toiletries, coffee, tea and Ensure for local AIDS care residences
- And each week, our St. Anthony food cupboard receives your donations of non-perishable food for Bergen County families in economic distress.

May the celebration of Christmas Mass truly renew us in the joy of being children of God, brothers and sisters in Christ!

In Christ,

*Father Charlie*

# MASSes for the WEEK

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**Saturday December 22**  
5:30 pm Babbilonia, Castronuova, Favata and Muhlhahn Families

**Sunday December 23**  
7:30 am Joanne Schlegel  
10:00 am Federici & Gutto Families  
11:30 am William Nayden

**Monday December 24**  
9:00 am The Van Tassel Family  
4:00 pm People of the Parish  
6:00 pm People of the Parish  
8:00 pm People of the Parish



**Tuesday December 25**  
7:30 am People of the Parish  
10:00 am People of the Parish  
11:30 am People of the Parish

**Wednesday December 26**  
9:00 am Ruben Cedeno

**Thursday December 27**  
9:00 am Ann Dunn

**Friday December 28**  
9:00 am Herbert Haller

**Saturday December 29**  
5:30 pm Johannah Griffin

**Sunday December 30**  
7:30 am Alfred Haynes  
10:00 am Eugene Egan  
11:30 am Giovanna Palmeri

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK



Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45  
Monday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79  
Tuesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]  
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14  
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20  
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]  
Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22  
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
Friday: 1 Jn 1:5 -- 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18  
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35  
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Guardian Angel is a tithing parish. Biblical tithing means 10% of gross income to God. We ask half of this, or 5%, for your Parish Church.

### Weekly Offering

The **December 16th** collection will be reported in an upcoming bulletin

## DAILY MASS IN CHURCH CHRISTMAS OCTAVE

Keeping with our parish custom, our 9 a.m. daily Mass will be celebrated in the church (instead of the rectory chapel) during the weekdays of the Christmas Octave. This year, that means the following dates: Wednesday, December 26th through Friday, December 28th and Monday, December 31st. We return to the rectory chapel on Wednesday, January 2.

## RECTORY OFFICE CLOSINGS

The rectory offices will be closed Monday & Tuesday, December, 24th and 25th and Monday & Tuesday, December 31st and January 1st.



## BAPTISM

Many blessings to **Maya Grace Noonan**, daughter of Michael and Rachel Noonan, who was baptized in our church this weekend. May she always find a welcome home here at Church of the Guardian Angel.

## Weekly Collections

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The **Collection Counting Ministry** is looking for new members. The 3 teams rotate each week to count the weekly collections. The time commitment for each team is minimal - Monday morning for an hour. If you are interested in this ministry, have any questions or are willing to share your time please contact Chairperson, Frank Anello at (201) 934-1331.

*As the old adage goes... "many hands make light work!"*

## CENTER FOR FOOD ACTION DECEMBER NEEDED ITEMS

See flyer at Food Pantry with Number of Families supported by Northern NJ Center for Food Action Locations)

### 85 Cans of Hearty Soup per Week

Donations can be dropped off at the St. Anthony Food Pantry at the entrance to the Church. Monetary donations are welcome and can be placed in the orange bucket at the Food Pantry. **If each Parish family donates at least one Can of Hearty Soup (i.e., Progresso or Chunky Campbell) on a weekly basis throughout December, we can meet our goal.** Please note that **Perishable Items Cannot Be Accepted.** If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact Sue Zitolo at 201-934-9372, szitolo@aol.com or John Lowe at 201-327-9397, john.lowejr@att.net.

Don't forget to add your Christmas or End-of-Year contributions to your church. Place your gift in the collection basket or visit [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) and use our church code: **NJ513**. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

Fr. Charlie

# YOUTH MINISTRY



## CONFIRMATION NEWS....

### UPCOMING DATES...

- Confirmation Sponsor forms were due November 1st, if you have not yet submitted a form, please do so ASAP!
- ALL YOUTH MASSES ARE REQUIRED FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE. The next Youth Mass is Sunday, January 6th at 11:30am! A sign up sheet will be on the table by the church entrance.
- The 2nd sponsor retreat is going to be January 6th at 8:30AM to 11:30AM. If you have not gone yet this is the last opportunity!
- Tuesday, January 8th is the first of four Large Group CCD sessions. All confirmation candidates must attend all four, or you will need to attend the make up session in February.
- The youth are invited to serve at St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark through Guardian Angel Youth Ministry. This takes place on Saturdays, and it is preferable that a parent join as well. This link is a survey for weekends that work for your family, select all that apply: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RZNVKRV>. It counts towards individual service and parent service.

*Teens, harden not your hearts. Be open to when the Lord is telling you what is right; what is good, and you will forever find joy in life.*

Contact information for Alex:  
acapicchioni@guardianangelchurch.org  
201-327-4359 x204 or 201-934-5554

*Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.*

-- Luke 1:42

## **PREGNANT WITH GOD**

Advent, as a time of preparation for Christmas, echoes the pregnancy of Mary. Something is stirring within us, and we await the coming of Jesus. Although we the Church have observed Advent and Christmas many times, God is always offering something new to us. Like the angel asked Mary, God is always asking us to allow Christ to be born in and through us. Christ wishes to make himself at home within us, and increase his presence in our hearts.

Like pregnancy, at times God's activity within us can be disorienting and confusing. The story of Elizabeth and Mary reminds us that however uncertain we may be about what God is up to in our lives, we have cause to rejoice--because God is indeed good, and will truly bring blessing to us. And through the fruit of our own wombs, God will bring blessing to the world.

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# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Christmas is coming and we joyously anticipate the birth of our Savior. We in the Religious Education office wish you and your loved ones a joyous and blessed Christmas.

The Festival of Lights was hugely successful and everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the welcoming of the Christmas season by the prayers of our children raised in song. Remember singing is like praying twice! ;-)

On Monday evening, Christmas Eve, the 4:00pm Mass is especially for families with young children. We look forward to celebrating together with our Children's Choir. It is always so nice to see so many families there and at all of the Masses on Christmas.

Believe it or not Religious Ed registration for the 2019 - 2010 school year will be here before you know it! Registration begins on Tuesday January 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM. If you would like your family to participate in Summer Angel Wings, you must register by Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup>. Registration will be held in the rectory during the regular Religious Ed office hours of Monday to Thursday 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM. On Tuesdays during January, we will be in the rectory from 7:30 PM until 9:00 PM for those who cannot make it during the day. Families who plan to attend Tuesday afternoon or Junior High School Tuesday evening programs are encouraged to register at these times too along with any Home School families. Keep an eye out for reminder e mails which will be sent out after the Christmas Holiday. If you have any questions please contact the Religious Ed office at 201-327-0352 or [inayden@guardianangelchurch.org](mailto:inayden@guardianangelchurch.org).

Children's Church has continued to be very popular this year and after a short break during the Christmas holidays will resume in January. This is an opportunity for young children to participate in a special liturgical experience created just for them.

- All children in grades K - 3 are invited to participate at 11:30 Mass on Sundays.
- The children come to Mass and sit with their families at the beginning of Mass.
- They are then called forward and process with the adult team to the vestibule.
- For the readings and homily, the children hear the same scripture as the older participants, but the language is on their level.
- Usually a question and answer period follows the Gospel reading.
- After a short closing prayer the children return to their families during the offertory to celebrate Mass together.

The dates for 2019 are:

January 13 & 27 • February 10 & 24  
March 10, 17 & 31 • April 7

We hope that your children will participate in this on a regular basis. Since we understand that 11:30 Mass may not be the most convenient time for your family EVERY week, please know that participation in this program does not require a weekly commitment to this particular Mass. We are always looking for adult volunteers to help with this ministry. If this is something that might be of interest to you, please contact the Religious Ed office.

**NEW MINISTRY - SURVIVING DIVORCE  
AT OUR LADY OF PERTUAL HELP, OAKLAND**

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Oakland is pleased to announce a new ministry that will bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. *Surviving Divorce* is a twelve week program featuring 30-minute video presentations each week that cover topics such as shock, grief, anger, forgiveness, money issues, the children, the ex-spouse, annulment, dating, and remarriage or staying single.

Discussion, reflection, and sharing follow. This program is for the newly separated and divorced as well as those who still struggle with issues years later. It will help them find answers to their questions, restore their hope, and begin authentic healing. Participants will find comfort and counsel consistent with Catholic Church teachings. The program will run on Mondays starting January 7, 2019, from 7:00-8:30pm in the Byrne Room in St. Joseph Hall. Space is limited.

The suggested cost of the program for participants (\$15.00) is for the *Surviving Divorce* Personal Guide. All other program materials are free. Please contact the Pastoral Associate, Joel S. Peters, at 201-337-7596, ext. 315 or at joel@olphoakland.org for more information or to register. Take that first step today towards your healing and wholeness.

**ALTAR LINENS MINISTRY**

Please consider becoming part of the Altar Linen Ministry! The commitment is minor, only about four times a year. The duties include washing and ironing the linens used at daily and weekend masses. A few of our participants are retiring so we are looking to add some new members. Please contact Jean Borzilleri at 201-327-0352 or at jborzilleri@guardianangelchurch.org.



**Hold Your Next Event At Guardian Angel**

Auditorium Capacity 325 People

Msgr. Salemi Hall Capacity 75 People

**Fully Air Conditioned**

- Communion/Confirmation/Graduation Parties
- Retirement/Birthday Parties/Sweet 16/Quinceanera
- Fundraisers/Dance Recitals/Competitions
- Baby/Bridal Showers/Rehearsal Dinners
- Community/Corporate Meetings
- Holiday Parties/Repast Luncheons

**Silvana Anello Rental Coordinator @ 201-783-5414** or  
E-mail: sanello@guardianangelchurch.org

**IMPORTANT CHURCH WEBSITES:**

Church of the Guardian Angel Website:

**www.guardianangelchurch.org**

Facebook:

**www.facebook.com/GuardianAngelChurchAllendale/**

The Archdiocese of Newark

**www.rcan.org**

The Catholic Advocate

**www.rcan.org/advocate**

**Away for the weekend? Go to: www.masstimes.org**

**New Energies**  
PARISH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

**ST. LUKE CHURCH:**

Visit [www.churchofstluke.org](http://www.churchofstluke.org) for more information and parish bulletin.

**CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION:**

Visit the website at [www.churchofpresentation.org](http://www.churchofpresentation.org) for more information, and the parish bulletin.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS**

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 23, 2018

*"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy."* LUKE 1:44



When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading each Sunday, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. Do you prepare for Mass each week or do you just show up and expect to be entertained? We are called to be active participants, not passive bystanders.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

There is a Christmas song that says of Bethlehem: "Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light." Bethlehem is a suburb of Jerusalem. Its main tourist attraction in the time of Jesus was that it was the birthplace of David. Though today it has many modern homes and buildings, you can still see that it is part of "the hill country. . .of Judah." (Lk 1:39) It is not too far from En Kerem, where John the Baptist was born, and apparently where today's Gospel takes place. We see in the Gospel reading today how Elizabeth and her unborn child rejoiced at the news of Jesus' coming birth. The story implies that Mary went to see Elizabeth as soon as the angel told her about Jesus. Maybe it was easier to tell her cousin, who was also with child, than her fiancé. I would think that talking about it made this miracle more real. I know that talking about my faith makes it more real to me.

Jesus is the "everlasting Light" mentioned in the song. That light shines today, not just in Bethlehem, but everywhere that his followers bring it. When we console someone who is mourning, that light shines. When we offer to help someone in need, it shines brighter. When we forgive someone who hurt us, the light is burning. When we offer to sponsor a candidate in the RCIA, the light grows. When we teach a child how to pray, it shines even brighter. Our dark streets need the everlasting Light today as much as they did 2000 years ago. Today we remember how Mary and Elizabeth shared their faith in God. They did so much like we do today. Mary could not see her unborn son yet, but helped Elizabeth to believe by her words. Jesus, who seems to be invisible today, is seen in the shared faith of those who bring him into the world by their words and actions.

Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

**COVER SHEET**

**CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS**

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Lori O'Reilly

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