

My soul rejoices in my God.

December 17, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent



Saturday, December 16

5:30 pm For Antoinette Porzilli by Sue & Grace Reilly
For Dr. Manuel Isaias Lopez by Lopez Family

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

Monday, December 18

8:45 am For

Tuesday, December 19

8:45 am For Mark Zeliff by Zeliff Family

Wednesday, December 20

8:45 am For Thomas Mackie by Sue Reilly

Saturday, December 23

5:30 pm For

Sunday, December 24

8:00 am For

9:30 am For

11:00 am For

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

4:30 pm For Bruce Russell and Vincenzo Ditrolio by Connallon Family

6:30 pm For Rose & Frank Porco by Reilly Family

10:00 pm For Ruth Petersen by Petersen 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 23, 24, 2017**

No schedule for Christmas weekend. Please contact your coordinator with your availability for any of the scheduled masses.

Saturday, 5:30 pm, Sunday 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

Christmas Eve: 4:30, 6:30 and 10:00pm

Christmas Day: 9:30 & 11:00am

FOOD PANTRY STATUS...

The L.V. Food Pantry is about to enter the critical winter season - - 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!

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Monday, December 18

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

Tuesday, December 19

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 20

8:45 am Daily Mass
8:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

Thursday, December 21

Parish Office Closed

Friday, December 22

No events

Saturday, December 23

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
5:30 pm Mass
Baptism Wesley Cole Rohlf

Sunday, December 24

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

Christmas Eve

4:30, 6:30, 10:00 pm

Children's Christmas Nativity Story at 4:00 pm before the 4:30 mass

Christmas Day

9:30 & 11:00 am

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Current Year	Last Year 2016
December 10, 2017: \$2,626 Envelopes used: 54	December 11, , 2016: \$3040 Envelopes used: 72
Supermarket Gift Cards: December 10, 2017 Sales: \$4,290 Profit: \$214.50 YTD Profit: \$8,136.50 2016 YTD Profit \$6,469 # of Families 22	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, 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

FROM FR. MARCIN...

My dear parishioners,

The liturgy of the third Sunday in Advent presents to us the figure of John the Baptist and describes the place he occupies in God's plan. Thus, it helps us to find our place and prepares us for Christmas. John the Baptist was a great man. Jesus described him as the greatest among those born of woman. When Jesus began to proclaim the Kingdom of God, John gave way to him. In today's Gospel John the Baptist says:

"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord.'" In John the Baptist we see a model for our own spirituality, knowing our smallness and nothingness, that we are not worthy to untie even the sandal strap of the Lord. John pointed away from himself to Jesus. Humility, like that of John the Baptist in the Gospel today, brings happiness.

WHAT WILL BRING YOU JOY AND HAPPINESS? There are various types of joy and happiness; some are superficial and come and go but there is also deeper and lasting joy and happiness that abides and remains. Advent reminds us that the joyful answer to our problems lies in God. True joy and happiness is to be found only in God. What a difference there is between "Happy Holidays" and "Merry Christmas." Anyone, even a pagan, can celebrate Happy Holidays, but how beautiful it is to have Christ at the center of a Merry Christmas. Christ is the one and only gift at the center of a Merry Christmas who is lacking from Happy Holidays. If we are not finding our joy and happiness in God we are under an illusion and sooner or later God will give us the painful grace of allowing that illusion to give way to reality. God is the answer. Only in God can we find true joy and happiness.

What a joy for us to be saved by Jesus! But how unfortunate it is that we may live much of our day without realizing even how precious we are to God, that we are worth the price of Jesus' precious blood and his life. We can indeed rejoice in God our Savior. Our second reading, taken from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, urges us, *"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."*

It is really our vocation to "rejoice always." How can we rejoice always? When we put our trust and hope in God, then even in difficult times when there is a storm at the surface, we can "rejoice always" deep within. When Jesus summarized the first three commandments as loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength he was really giving us a prescription for deep and permanent joy and happiness. Any unhappiness we experience is really an experience of the lack of God. God is the fulfillment of our anxieties and worries, of our needs, of our greed.

CHRIST IS THE ONE AND ONLY GIFT AT THE CENTER OF A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Remember that our celebration of the Solemnity of the Nativity of our God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebration in the Holy Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. This year we have Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday. This Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Advent. **I remind you that YOU MUST FULFILL THE COMMANDMENT TO OBSERVE THE LORD'S DAY BY ATTENDING HOLY MASS ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH AND THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH.** That means attendance at Holy Mass twice in one weekend. No cheating!!!

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

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. God bless you!

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS...

Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters to continue in active ministry". Writes a religious sister. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders? Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

FROM FR. SLAWEK...

St. Lazarus, (First Century) – December 17

Lazarus and his sister Martha and Mary were friends, as well as followers, who often enjoyed the hospitality of their home in Bethany. When Lazarus fell ill his sister hastened to notify Jesus. But he did not immediately come. After deliberately dawdling, he arrived some days later to find Lazarus already dead and buried. The sisters' greeting carried a reproach: "If you had been here our brother would not have died". Nevertheless, Jesus proclaimed: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me shall live even though he dies."

After instructing that the stone be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb, Jesus called out, "Lazarus, come forth!" From deep in the darkness there was an unmistakable movement, and a moment later Lazarus emerged, alive again.

How Lazarus made use of this new gift is unknown. John reports that this extraordinary sign simply added fuel to the hatred of Jesus' enemies; they began to plot not only his death but that of Lazarus as well. Various legends describe the later post-Easter adventures of Lazarus – whether preaching in Cyprus or, according to more fanciful accounts, escaping with Mary Magdalene to the south of France.

The Gospels record no words of Lazarus. He served silently as a powerful witness to Christ's power over death and as the first to respond to Christ's call – addressed to all believers – to leave behind the ways of deadness, to embrace the Risen Life.

**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 dear brothers and sisters according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church the Fifth Commandment teaches us that Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth".

Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law:

"You shall not kill the embryo by abortion and shall not cause the newborn to perish. God, the Lord of life, has entrusted to men the noble mission of safeguarding life, and men must carry it out in a manner worthy of themselves".

Life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception: abortion and infanticide are abominable crimes. Also formal cooperation in an abortion constitutes a grave offense.

The Church attaches the canonical penalty of excommunication to this crime against human life. The Church makes clear the gravity of the crime committed, the irreparable harm done to the innocent who is put to death, as well as to the parents and the whole of society. God bless you



ANTIOCH RETREAT FOOD SIGN UP SHEET...Once again we need your help feeding the Confirmation Candidates, Peers, and adults on their retreat. There are specific items needed. Please see the sign-up sheet in the gathering space. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS
IN MEMORY/HONOR OF:**

Cho Family, Hannah Magistro, Culbert Family, Doloes Milazzo, Marjorie A. and Samuel Terpstra, Jean Redmond, Charles & Ellen Eichler, Thomas & Julia Dugan, Anthony & Anna Monteverde, Patricia Barone,

**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 10am – 2:30pm. Please sign up at runsignup.com or on the sign-up sheet in the gathering space. We would appreciate any help even if you cannot stay the whole time.



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.



