

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

December 2, 2018

First Sunday of Advent



Saturday, December 1

5:30 pm For Raymond Anthony McCarthy Jr. by McGrath Family

Sunday, December 2

9:00 am For William McNally by Skoczylas Family
 11:00 am For Dorothy LaMalfa by McDermott Family
 For Anamaria Markle by Lennon Family

Monday, December 3

8:45 am For

Tuesday, December 4

8:45 am For Elizabeth Feldhusen by Parishioners of St. Marks

Wednesday, December 5

8:45 am For

Thursday, December 6

8:45 am For

Friday, December 7

7:00 pm Vigil mass for Feast of the Immaculate Conception a Holy Day of Obligation

Saturday, December 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception-Holy Day of Obligation

10:00 am For

5:30 pm For Arthur Wendell Fritts by Vanderhoof Family

Sunday, December 9

9:00 am For Sandra Casablanca by Rich & Marianne Nyman
 11:00 am For Alexander Dominick Gorini in honor of his Baptism today by Mike & Nancy Lennon

**REMEMBRANCE MEMORIALS
 FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER**

Altar Breads & Wine: In loving memory of Aeneas and Genevieve Corry by Corry/Benardone family

Sanctuary Lamp: In loving memory of Vito and Marie Benardone by Corry/Benardone family

Mass Candles:

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE
 December 8, 9, 2018**

Saturday, 5:30 pm

Celebrant: Fr Marcin Michalowski
 Lector: Help Needed
 Eucharistic Ministers: Barbara Burke
 Altar Servers: Help Needed

Sunday, 9:00 am

Celebrant: Fr. Marcin Michalowski
 Lector: Jim Scott
 Eucharistic Ministers: Carmen Veras, Mark Vetterl
 Altar Servers: Help Needed

11:00 am

Celebrant: Fr. Marcin Michalowski
 Lector: Isabella DiLizia, David Escudero
 Eucharistic Ministers: Lorraine Fleming, Ed Michonski
 Altar Server: Help Needed

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Monday, December 3

8:45 am Mass
 10:45 am Mass at Heath Village – Faith Chapel
 4:30 pm CEC K-5
 7:30 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, December 4

8:45 am Mass
 6:15 pm JYM

Wednesday, December 5

8:45 am Mass
 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
 6:00 pm Columbiettes Western Council Meeting

Thursday, December 6

8:45 am Mass

Friday, December 7

Parish Office Closed
 7:00 pm Vigil Mass for Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Saturday, December 8

10:00 am Mass Feast of the Immaculate Conception
 8:00 am Men's Bible Study
 5:30 pm Mass – Guest speaker for Retired Religious

Sunday, December 9

10:45 am Mass at Heath Village – Health Care Center
 9:00 & 11:00 am Mass – Guest speaker for Retired Religious
 12:00 pm Baptism Alexander Dominick Gorini

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Current Year	Last Year 2017
November 25, 2018: \$1,648.75 On line for November: \$7,376	November 26, 2017: \$2,100 On line for November: \$9,060
Supermarket Gift Cards: Sales: \$3,300 Profit \$165 2018 YTD Profit \$5,847.50 2017 YTD Profit: \$7,599.50 # Families 15	St. Mark's Faith Direct Church Code is NJ484

FOOD PANTRY STATUS...

The many families in the area that got Thanksgiving food baskets from the Long Valley Food Pantry send their heartfelt thanks to the parishioners of St. Mark's. We were surely in their prayers on Thanksgiving Day.

St. Mark's donated \$830 in gift cards, plus several bags of food items. That certainly made an enormous difference in the lives of many families.

Unfortunately, we are about to enter the critical winter season. There are lots of demands on us at this time of year, but let's not forget our neighbors in need. Nourishing food items such as hearty soups, baby food, hot cereals, coffee/tea, etc., would be especially helpful – but, as always, anything you can donate will be greatly appreciated.

Best wishes for a blessed season for the Long Valley Food Pantry!

MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

Welcome to December! Welcome to the Season of Advent!
Our preparation for Christmas has begun! Today is a special day, and not just a day, but the beginning of a special season, Advent, and new Liturgical Year – Year C. During Advent we focus on waiting, waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus, and during the week before Christmas our waiting changes to waiting for our celebration of the birth of Jesus. Anytime we wait we do so because we expect something to happen; we wait for a bus or train because we expect it to arrive. When we are wait for a bus or train we cannot see it coming but hope it will come. During Advent we are waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus because the Second Coming of Jesus will bring all God's plans for the world to completion. As we wait in hope for the Second Coming of Jesus we know he is with us in so many ways especially in the sacraments.

“WAIT FOR GOD IN PATIENT HOPE.”

The words of Jesus in the Gospel today express the mood of this early part of the Advent season:

“Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.”

For those who are finding these times difficult for one reason or another the message of Advent is “Wait for God in patient hope.” God has not abandoned us, God is with us though sometimes our lack of faith prevents us from seeing him. Remember Jesus in the womb of Mary for nine months; Mary could not see Jesus but she knew that the Word had been made flesh and she was waiting in hope for his birth. Wait in patient hope for God to fulfill his plans in his own way in his own time.

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.

During this special season of spiritual renewal God is waiting for us in the sacrament of reconciliation. 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 OLM CHURCH on Wednesday, December 19 at 7PM.

Confession at our church is held every Saturday night at 5pm and every Sunday morning from 10am to 11am. Priest is also available for confession every day after morning mass. Every Catholic child and adult should receive this sacrament of God's mercy before Christmas. Do we hear God calling us; “Come to me...”

DECEMBER 8 – HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

On Saturday, December 8 we observe solemnity 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: Vigil Mass (Friday, Dec 7) at 7:00pm. Mass on Saturday (Dec.8) at 10:00am.

Masses at OLM: Vigil Mass (Friday, Dec.7) at 4:30pm (silent mass) 7:00pm. Mass on Saturday (Dec.8) at 9:30am.

Evening masses on Saturday are already masses for the 2nd Sunday of Advent.

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

Day of Recollection – Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors – December 8th.

Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors please join us for Advent Day of Recollection next Saturday. We begin at 9:45am with Rosary follow by Mass at 10am and short meeting and reflection afterwards.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEK

Second collection will be take next weekend to support Retirement fund for Religious. Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests need your help. Through prayer, love, and sacrifice, they established catholic schools, hospitals, and more. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left a shortage in retirement funding. The generous support we have given throughout the years is very much appreciated by nuns and brothers who depend on this found to help support them in their old age, especially in regard to health care. Many of these men and woman have served the people of God in the Diocese of Paterson. Across the United States, hundreds of religious communities lack financial resources sufficient to meet the retirement and health-care needs of aging members.

Next Sunday we will have a guest speaker – Sister Joseph Spring from Religious Teachers Filippini. Sister will speak to us at all masses about how important it is to give to those who have given a lifetime. PLEASE BE GENEROUS AND GIVE TO THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN A LIFETIME.

COLLECTION ALERT!!!

As your pastor I am very sad to inform you that our weekly collection this year compared with last year is down.

7/01/2017 – 11/26/2017 ---- regular collection \$51,728; Faith Direct \$47,675

7/01/2018 – 11/26/2018 ---- regular collection \$47,776; Faith Direct \$40,685

Difference: regular collection is down \$3,952; Faith Direct \$6,990

Last year total: \$99,403. This year (the same period of time): \$88,461. **BIG DIFFERENCE!!! -\$10,942**

I always look at you with love and faith. St. Mark's Church is in my heart and I do whatever I can to keep our parish in good shape. Please look how many things were done recently. Parish Hall (walls and floor). Lobby is painted, some decorative accent in the Lobby and Church, new thermostats and many other things were updated and renovated. Our 30th Anniversary celebration in March went well. It was a special time for all of us. We need to be positive and with optimism look forward. I need your help and support. Your weekly generous offering is very important to cover our expenses and even do the work that is necessary. Last year winter was very expensive for us.

I never ask for myself but I ask for our Church. Priests come and go but you stay because St. Mark's Church is your second home. When you give, please give from your heart, be generous and pray for your priests.

I humbly ask you, please increase you weekly offering even a little bit. **THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU!**

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ALL THOSE WHO ARE WORKING VERY HARD TO KEEP OUR PARISH IN GOOD SHAPE. My special thanks at this time go to

Kevin Fleming, Knights of Columbus, and Kim Dunn for running our very strong fundraising committee.

I would like to say thank you very much to all those who went to Mamma's Restaurant and supported our Church. The income from this event was \$200.

In the beginning of January I am going to call a meeting (open forum) to invite you to come and talk about our parish. If you have any ideas, suggestions, complains please let me know. Only if I know about something, I can do better.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT– Sunday, Dec. 2nd - 4pm
Advent Reflection at OLM PARISH CENTER on Wednesday at 7pm.

St. Mark's – pray for us...

Stay close to God and renew your relationship with Him during this Season of Advent.

God bless you,

Fr. Marcin

FROM FR. SLAWOMIR...

St. Nicholas – December 6

Bishop of Myra (Fourth Century)

St. Nicolas is one of the most popular of all saints. Many hundreds of churches are named after him, and his fest day is an occasion for ardent celebration in many parts of the globe. But as for his biography, it may be summarized in the simple statement that he served as bishop of Myra, a provincial capital in Asia Minor sometime in the fourth century.

The most curious development in his cult has been the amalgamation of this fourth-century bishop with the features of a Scandinavian elf. The transfiguration of St. Nicholas into Santa Claus has been traced to Dutch Protestants living in New Amsterdam. As the story made its way back to England the familiar features of Father Christmas gradually took shape until he had achieved iconographic status.

In this role there are at least echoes of certain ancient legends. In one story Nicholas rescued three young girls whose father, for want of a dowry, was about to sell them into prostitution. Nicholas tossed three bags of gold through their window, enough to pay the dowry for each sister. In another story he restored three little boys to life after they were murdered by an evil maniac.

Well does he deserve to be remembered as the patron of children, honored not just as the purveyor of toys but as a protector of the innocent.

“The Giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic His giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves”.

- Attributed to St. Nicholas

TEACHING FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH - THE SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH
The Sacrament of the Eucharist

The Sacramental Sacrifice Thanksgiving, Memorial, Presence

My dear brothers and sisters the Eucharist is a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Father, a blessing by which the Church expresses her gratitude to God for all his benefits, for all that he has accomplished through creation, redemption, and sanctification. Eucharist means first of all "thanksgiving."

The Eucharist is also the sacrifice of praise by which the Church sings the glory of God in the name of all creation. This sacrifice of praise is possible only through Christ: he unites the faithful to his person, to his praise, and to his intercession, so that the sacrifice of praise to the Father is offered through Christ and with him, to be accepted in him.

The sacrificial memorial of Christ and of his Body, the Church

The Eucharist is the memorial of Christ's Passover, the making present and the sacramental offering of his unique sacrifice, in the liturgy of the Church which is his Body. In all the Eucharistic Prayers we find after the words of institution a prayer called the anamnesis or memorial.

In the sense of Sacred Scripture the memorial is not merely the recollection of past events but the proclamation of the mighty works wrought by God for men. In the liturgical celebration of these events, they become in a certain way present and real. This is how Israel understands its liberation from Egypt: every time Passover is celebrated, the Exodus events are made present to the memory of believers so that they may conform their lives to them.

2018 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Here I Am, Lord!

As the year comes fast to an end, and many are planning on how to make a final year-end charitable contribution that has the most impact, please consider the many lives that are helped because of the support given to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. These are your neighbors, your friends, our senior priests and seminarians and urban school students. All of us can play a part in the Bishop's Annual Appeal – as either a contributor to the cause or as a recipient of its mission – and all are blessed as a result. Please make the Bishop's Annual Appeal a priority in your year-end philanthropy. Gifts can be made by check, credit cards, through gifts of securities or on-line at www.2018appeal.org. If you are 70 ½ or over and have an IRA, you can receive a tax benefit by instructing your IRA investment manager to donate your required minimum distribution to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Please consult your tax or financial advisor for more information.

PARISH FUNDRAISING EVENTS...

- **AMAZON SMILES-YOU SHOP AMAZON DONATES...**
Buy your gifts and essentials at smile.amazon.com during the Christmas season and all year round! You shop. Amazon donates. Here's how: Visit smile.amazon.com to complete your Christmas and year round shopping. Type in "St. Mark the Evangelist Church Long Valley, NJ" under "Select a Charity". 0.5% of your purchase goes to St. Mark's at no cost to you!
- **NEW YEARS DAY 5K RUN...**As much as January 1 seems to be a long way off, it will soon be 2019. As a great way to welcome in the New Year, St. Mark's Church is once again hosting our New Year's Day 5K. Last year this event raised over \$4,000 for St. Marks. This year we hope to double that amount and have made some upgrades to this wonderful 5K on January 1 – USATF certification and a professional timing system. So as you begin to make your holiday plans, please consider participating in St. Mark's New Year's Day 5K. Thank you

