

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

December 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent



Saturday, December 15

5:30 pm For Raymond Anthony McCarthy, Jr. by Lennon Family
For Erlinda Alianza by Timog Family

Sunday, December 16

9:00 am For Robert Di Clemente & Grazia Marcheseani
by Anthony & Lina Cresci and Jean DiClemente
For Thomas Tell by Susan Reilly

11:00 am For Carl Fania by Fania Family and
Pasqualina Carbone by McGrath Family

Monday, December 17

8:45 am For

Tuesday, December 18

8:45 am For

Wednesday, December 19

8:45 am For John Burke by Burke Family

Thursday, December 20

8:45 am For

Saturday, December 22

5:30 pm For Thomas Korpanty by Solecki Family

Sunday, December 23

9:00 am For Parents of Charlotte & Stanley Skoczylas by Skoczylas Family

11:00 am For Francesco Giovanna Patruno and Antonio & Serafina Pirello by Maria & Mario Pirrello

Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve

4:30 pm For Marilyn & Colin O'Connor by Frank & Kelly Roehrig

6:30 pm For Arthur Rice by Fania Family

10:00 pm For Elvira & James Griffin by Labue Family

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 22, 23, 2018

Saturday, 5:30 pm

Celebrant: Fr. Marcin Michalowski

Lector: Joanne Lee

Eucharistic Ministers: Nancy & Mike Lennon

Altar Servers: Help Needed

Sunday, 9:00 am

Celebrant: Fr. Marcin Michalowski, Deacon Tom Gibbon

Lector: Kevin O'Shea

Eucharistic Ministers: Carmen Veras, Steve Beggin

Altar Servers: Help Needed

11:00 am

Celebrant: Fr. Fr. Marcin Michalowski

Lector: Dina Carmelengo

Eucharistic Ministers: Eric & Sharon Woelfel

Altar Server: Help Need

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Monday, December 17

8:45 am Mass

7:30 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, December 18

8:45 am Mass

5:15-6:15 CEC Confession

6:15 pm CEC Nativity and Tree Lighting K-10

Wednesday, December 19

8:45 am Mass

7:00 pm Advent Penance Service at Our Lady of the Mountain Church

Thursday, December 20

8:45 am Mass

Friday, December 21

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, December 22

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

5:30 pm Mass

Sunday, December 23

9:00 & 11:00 am Mass

SYM

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Current Year	Last Year 2017
December 9, 2018: \$1,743	December 10, 2017: \$2,626
Supermarket Gift Cards: December 9, 2018 Sales: \$3,450 Profit \$177.50 2018 YTD Profit \$6,122.50 2017 YTD Profit: \$8,136.50 # Families 16	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.

Signing up is easy! Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: **NJ484**, or **text the word ENROLL** to (Text-to-Give Phone Number).

Already using Faith Direct? Log in to add your Christmas or End-of-Year contributions to your account, or text a dollar amount to (Text-to-Give Phone Number) to make a one-time gift today!

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.
God Bless You, Fr. Marcin

MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

Today in our celebration of the Lord's Day we come to the Third Sunday of Advent. The joy and happiness in the Lord that we celebrate today is symbolized by lighting a rose candle on the Advent wreath today instead of a purple one and also symbolized by wearing rose vestments today instead of purple ones.

I would like to recall a time when we see Jesus being happy and joyful. Did Jesus feel cramped and hindered? Not according to what we read in the Gospels. *In John 15:11* we read Jesus saying, "I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete." Jesus was joyful and wanted his disciples to share his joy, "I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete."

The first step to become happy in the Lord is to give up sin so that we can live a life of grace with the Lord. In the Gospel today three times people asked John the Baptist, "what should we do?" Each time he told them to give up something or not to be greedy. Our journey of conversion is a journey from wanting and being greedy and possessive to becoming unselfish. That was the journey John the Baptist asked his hearers to make and the journey we are challenged to make this Advent so that we will have true joy and happiness to celebrate at Christmas rather than just Santa Claus coming to town.

When we turn our backs on sin and follow the Lord it does not mean that we will never again have trouble. Of course we will. We will have troubles and problems as long as we live but we will have an inner peace in the Lord and find our happiness in the Lord.

The Lord wants us to be happy. Since the day we were baptized we are sons and daughters of God. Can you imagine God rejoicing over you the day you were baptized, renewing you by his love? As we heard in the Gospel John the Baptist told his listeners that he baptized with water but Jesus was coming after him and he would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire (Luke 3:16). When you were baptized you were touched by God. God put his seal on your when you were baptized. Why be unhappy? God wants you to be happy?

We remember the words of Paul from our second reading today: "I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness." "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!"

.ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE --- OLM CHURCH -- - WEDNESDAY, December 19th 7PM.

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. 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? 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 his mother Mary. If we say we have no sin are we expected to think that we are Jesus or Mary?

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.

Confession at our Parish: Saturday 5pm, Sunday 10am-11am, every day after morning mass.

Advent Reflection with Fr. Marcin --- Tuesday December 18, ---
OLM Parish Center --- 7PM

Penance Service --- OLM Wednesday December 19 --- 7PM

Divine Mercy Devotion ---OLM Church --- Friday, December 21 ---
3PM

St. Mark our patron – pray for us...

"Rejoice in the Lord always..."

Fr. Marcin

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE..

Monday, December 24th Christmas Eve – 4:30, 6:30 and 10:00 pm

Tuesday, December 25th Christmas Day – 9:00 and 11:00 am.

CONGRATULATIONS BISHOP SERRATELLI...

Our Bishop, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Arthur Serratelli will celebrate his 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on Thursday, December 20th. Should you like to send anniversary greetings to our Bishop you can do so by mailing a card to the Bishop: Paterson Diocesan Center, 777 Valley Rd., Clifton, NJ 07013. His email address is: shepherd@patersondiocese.org. May God bless our Bishop with health, peace, joy and all the many blessings which come from above!

FROM FR. SLAWOMIR...

Blessed Frances Schervier – December 16

Founder, Sisters of the Poor of St. Francis (1819-1876)

Frances Schervier, the daughter of a wealthy industrialist, was born in Aachen, Germany. Upon the death of her mother, when Frances was thirteen, she assumed responsibility for the household and the care of her younger siblings. With other women in Aachen she engaged in various charitable projects, visiting prisoners, caring for the sick in their homes, and rescuing prostitutes. In 1844 she entered the Third Order of St. Francis.

In 1845, following the death of her father, she joined with several other women to form a religious community, the Sisters of the Poor of St. Francis. They established soup kitchens and fearlessly cared for those suffering from typhoid, cholera, and smallpox. Eventually Frances sent sisters to America, where she visited in 1863 and offered her services as a nurse during the Civil War. Returning to Germany she joined her sisters in nursing soldiers and staffing ambulances during the Franco-Prussian War. She died on December 14, 1876. Her beatification followed in 1974.

"If we do this [follow Jesus' command to love one another] faithfully and zealously, we will experience the truth of the words of our father St. Francis who says that love lightens all difficulties and sweetens all bitterness. We will likewise partake of the blessing which St. Francis promised to all his children, both present and future, after having admonished them to love one another even as he had loved them and continues to love them."

- Blessed Frances Schervier

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 through the ministry of priests the spiritual sacrifice of the faithful is completed in union with the sacrifice of Christ the only Mediator, which in the Eucharist is offered through the priests' hands in the name of the whole Church in an unbloody and sacramental manner until the Lord himself comes.

To the offering of Christ are united not only the members still here on earth, but also those already in the glory of heaven. In communion with and commemorating the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, the Church offers the Eucharistic sacrifice. In the Eucharist the Church is as it were at the foot of the cross with Mary, united with the offering and intercession of Christ.

The Eucharistic sacrifice is also offered for the faithful departed who "have died in Christ but are not yet wholly purified," so that they may be able to enter into the light and peace of Christ:

Put this body anywhere! Don't trouble yourselves about it! I simply ask you to remember me at the Lord's altar wherever you are.

Then, we pray [in the anaphora] for the holy fathers and bishops who have fallen asleep, and in general for all who have fallen asleep before us, in the belief that it is a great benefit to the souls on whose behalf the supplication is offered, while the holy and tremendous *Victim is present.... By offering to God our supplications for those who have fallen asleep, if they have sinned, we . . . offer Christ sacrificed for the sins of all, and so render favorable, for them and for us, the God who loves man.*

God bless you.

FOOD PANTRY STATUS...

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!



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 1st seems to be a long way off, it will soon be 2019. As great way to welcome in the New Year, St. Mark's Church is once again hosting our New Year's Day 5K.

\$25 Pre-Registration Nov.1 – Nov.30

\$30 Pre-Registration Dec.1 – Dec.27

\$35 Race day registration (check only)

Online registration, Course Map, Sponsorship and general info can be found at:<https://newyearsday5k.wixsite.com/race>.

Course will be USTAF certified & professionally timed.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 5 K RUN...

From 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. You do not have to come for the whole time any help would be appreciated. Key times for help are 11:00 am and 12:00 pm to get the runners out and started and help with the turns on the route.

GOLD'S GYM – NOURISH YOUR MIND, BODY & SPIRIT...

Join the Gold's Family this December and 50% of enrollment fee will be donated to St. Mark's. Call today for more information Hackettstown Gym (908) 852-4141, Flanders Gym (973) 584-5656. Kids Club, Group Exercise Classes, Personal Training & more.



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, Matthew Augustine, Kenneth Bernisky, Paul Buckley, John Callaghan, Emily Condit, Naalia Danilczuk, Jerry Devine, Krish Dharia, Catherine DiPasquale, Neil Donohue, Elizabeth, Connie Elliott, Larry Fine, Tracey F, Elaina Grace Gaffin, Ann Geary, Jerry Green, Barbara Gotterdam, David Guemond., Helen Greenly, Harper Lynn Granito, Regina Hague, William Heimsly, Bob Hodiern, Maria Dougherty Jante, Donna Jennings, Laurel Jilek, Joey, Jim Karpinski, Dana Karpinski, John, Kevin Kay, Russell H. Keller, Mary Koenig, Jean Koenig, Rocky Labato, Mara Lak, Christina Lanaris, Maryann Litori, Anthony Marino, Norman Milz, Marie Molloy, Madelyn Maruggi, Jonathon McClelland, Anna McFarland, Harold & Mary McKay, Edward Michonski Sr., Kathy Minichini, Faith Morelli, Robert Neilson, Sr., Maryanne & Jack Newell, Girard Nolte, Jr., Josh Olsen, Jim Owens, Arlene Parikh, Nicky Pilosi, Laurie Pitcock, Clifford Reynolds, Jim Robinson, Ryan, Jillian Elizabeth Sayer, Donald Schmitt, Jeff Schpiner, Ann Sentfinger, George Sentfinger., Bill Siegrist, Rhonda Soto, Special Intention, Judy Stone, Cindy Sullivan, William Thompson, Mary Travisano, Debbie Trepkau., Patricia Villano, Anne Walsh

