

**DECEMBER 4, 2016  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**MONDAY**

8:30 Deceased members of the Connors Family req. by Family

**TUESDAY – Saint Nicholas**

8:30 Winnie Hunter  
Daniel Tiangson req. by Family

**WEDNESDAY – Saint Ambrose**

8:30 William McGovern req. by Family  
Lucy Marzullo req. by Anne & John Novak

**THURSDAY – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

8:30 Special Intention for the Geronimo Families req. by Anna & Simon  
7:00 Gloria Opitz req. by Family

**FRIDAY – Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtltoatzin**

8:30 Joseph Comunale req. by Mr. & Mrs. Louis Fiore

**SATURDAY**

8:30 Jack Stoltz req. by the Fabiano Family  
Daniel Tiangson req. by Family  
5:30 John E.J. McLaughlin req. by Joan & Anne Marie  
Debbie Kubik req. by William Mueller

**DECEMBER 11, 2016  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

7:45 Veronica and Boleslaw Wojciechowski and Deceased Family Members req. by Edna & Joseph Pietrucha  
9:00 People of the Parish  
Lolita Samson req. by Family  
10:30 Donna DeVasto req. by the Perretta Family  
Lois Biondi req. by Kathleen Makoujy  
12:00 Deceased members of the Rona, Banciu and Dirle Families req. by the Dirle Family  
Special Intention of the Family of Andre Rona req. by the Dirle Family  
5:00 NO 5 PM Mass Due To Christmas Concert

**PARISH FINANCES**

<b>November 20, 2016</b>	<b>\$ 9,582</b>
<b>November 27, 2016</b>	<b>\$10,167</b>
<b>Haiti</b>	<b>\$ 5,900</b>
<b>Home Missions</b>	<b>\$ 2,623</b>
<b>Next week's second collection is for our Diocesan Assessment.</b>	



**REFLECTION**

**MERCY AT OUR CORE**

The Year of Mercy ended on November 20, the feast of Christ the King. Does this mean that, as we start the liturgical year again, mercy moves into the background? Surely not! The intense focus of this last year should help us to see that every encounter with God is saturated with mercy, and this included the birth of Jesus.

The Latin word for mercy is Misericordia. It means to let one's heart be touch by the suffering of another. The Greek verb for Christ's reaction of compassion means literally that his guts are wrenched. It does not matter whether someone suffers as a result of sin, like the prodigal son; or just because they are hungry, as when he has compassion on the five thousand and feeds them; or when the Good Samaritan, bowled over by the wounded man lying by the side of the road, comes to his aid. The Hebrew word for mercy is linked to the word for the womb. It is the immediate and unconditional compassion of a mother for her child. Who cares whether it is the child's fault or not!

Jesus is the Son of the compassionate Father. Moses hears the voice of God from the burning bush: "I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry against their taskmasters, so I know well what they are suffering" (Exod 3:7).

Advent witnesses to our trust that God indeed bears all of our afflictions and comes in Jesus to heal us. Whatever pain we have, whatever desolation we bear, God hears and invariably responds. We may talk as if God is emotionally touched by what happens, and is pained and saddened. These are necessary metaphors, but God's closeness is infinitely more intimate than an emotional state; God nestles at the very core of our being, knowing what we live from within, as it were.

This holy creativity already is bursting into our world when a virgin has a child, and the barren womb of Elizabeth becomes fertile. This we remember when in the dead of winter, when all seems barren, in the northern hemisphere at least, a child is born who is God's inventive mercy in person. Spring will come soon!

By: Fr. Timothy Radcliffe

## THE WEEK IN THE PARISH 12/4/16 – 12/11/16

<b>Sun.</b>	<b>After Masses – Squires Luminaries Sale</b>	
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>6:30 PM Knights of Columbus</b>	<b>McKenna Hall</b>
	<b>7:30 PM Respect Life</b>	<b>St. Benedict</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>9:00 AM Scripture Sharing</b>	<b>Library</b>
	<b>7:00 PM Women's Cornerstone</b>	<b>Library</b>
	<b>7:00 PM DVD Series</b>	<b>Youth Room</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>7:00 PM Choir Practice</b>	<b>Church</b>
	<b>7:30 PM Baptism Class</b>	<b>Library</b>
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>6:45 PM BINGO (non-smoking)</b>	<b>McKenna Hall</b>
	<b>7:00 PM Divorce Support</b>	<b>St. Lucy</b>
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>8:30 PM AA</b>	<b>Cassidy Hall</b>
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Adopt-a-Family</b>	
	<b>Drop off Gifts</b>	<b>McKenna Hall</b>
	<b>8:30 PM AA</b>	<b>McKenna Hall</b>

## LITURGY

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### **First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10**

In this beautiful passage, a messianic prophecy, Isaiah exults in the coming of the Lord, who will bring justice and peace for all.

#### **Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9**

Paul reveals to us the necessity of living in peace and harmony. His words "Accept one another, then, as Christ accepted you, for the Glory of God" are as needed today as they were in Paul's own time.

#### **Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12**

John the Baptizer prepares the way for Jesus. Clothed in a garment of camel's hair, he baptizes the people in the Jordan River, but warns the Pharisees in ringing tones that they must give evidence that they mean to reform.

#### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**First Reading:** Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

**Second Reading:** James 5:7-10

**Gospel:** Matthew 11:2-11

### KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those serving in the military especially: Richard Fox, John Garlasco, Brian McCarthy, Lt. Daniel Faherty, Joseph Venutolo, Cpl. Marc Vero, Sgt. Jeremy Overstreet, Kevin Michael Kiefer, Michael Krapels, Robert Stumpe, USMC, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Curcio, Staff Sgt. Lena Webb, Spc. Samuel Nolan, US Army, Lt. Jamie Curcio, Navy Reserve, 1<sup>ST</sup> Lt. Christopher Tantillo; Cpl. Conor J. Brady, USMC, LCpl. Marc Stanziale, USMC. 1<sup>ST</sup> Lt. Joseph Brunone, US Nat'l Guard, Brandon Adams, USAF. Please continue to pray for all our servicemen and women.

### ADVENT CONFESSIONS

***There will be confessions on Monday evenings during Advent at 7:30 PM.***

***The Communal Penance Service will be on Monday, December 19 at 7:30 PM.***

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### WE ARE PEACEMAKERS

This week the young people of the parish preparing for Reconciliation reflected on God's gift of peace. All the baptized are anointed to announce the kingdom and make all people sharers in the peace of Christ. We are blessed and bring God's blessings to others. How do we as a parish strive to live as peacemakers and to make a difference?

### SPIRITUALITY OF THE TWELVE STEPS FOR EVERYONE

You are invited on a powerful journey that will lead you along the steps towards freedom and new life. The spirituality of the 12 steps transcends multiple religious and secular traditions, and it gets to the heart of the most basic of human desires: happiness, peace, and inner freedom. Join us on Tuesdays, at 7 – 8:30 PM in Cassidy Hall for this DVD series led by Fr. Anthony Ciorra, with follow-up discussion & refreshments.

### DOGMA TEAM

Dogma Team meets on Mondays, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM in the Youth Room.

### CATHOLIC ACADEMY OF SUSSEX COUNTY NEWS



### POPE JOHN XXIII HIGH SCHOOL

Pope John XXIII High School gathered as a school community to celebrate Mass and bless the food baskets to be donated for Thanksgiving. In total, Pope John assembled over 200 baskets to be distributed locally. Pope John also collected over 250 turkeys that were given out. Thank you to all who supported our efforts.

Pope John is putting on "Sister Act" as our Fall Drama. There is a special Senior Citizen Performance on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM. Opening night is Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, Friday's performance is at 8:00 PM and Saturday's performances are at 2:00 and 7:00 PM. All members of our community are welcome.

Pope John is also celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, and our Christmas Concert is on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.

Thomas J. Costello, *Principal*  
*Pope John XXIII Regional High School*  
*Make a Difference!*  
*Saint John XXIII Pray for us*

**OUR LADY OF THE LAKE  
CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup> 4:00 PM.**

*Come and sing along!  
Share the joy as we await the coming of  
Our Lord Jesus!*

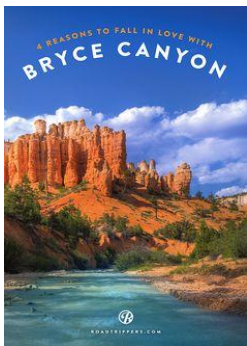
*Join us for the reading of nine  
lessons from  
Sacred Scripture  
celebrating the birth  
of Jesus along with  
Our Lady of the  
Lake Children's  
Choir, Adult  
Choir, and*



*instrumentalists performing traditional and  
contemporary Christmas Music.*

*Hope to see you there!  
Free will offering will be appreciated.*

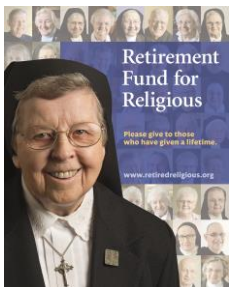
**U.S. NATIONAL PARKS TOUR-  
MAY 23-June 5, 2017  
ONLY 6 SEATS LEFT!**



Join us on a comfortably-paced, in-depth tour of 6 of the U.S. National Parks, Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons, The Arches, the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, and Monument Park, a tribal park. The grand finale of the trip will be in the night in Las Vegas!

*For more information, call the  
parish office or Judy and Bill  
Bosworth, 973-729-4629.*

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**



Sister Maryanne Tracey of Seton House, Convent Station will be here next Sunday to speak at all Masses to tell you about the Retirement Fund for Religious. The second collection on December 18<sup>th</sup> will be for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Please be as generous as your means permit.

**WE'VE BEEN ASKED TO ANNOUNCE**

**St. Paul's Abbey Christmas Tree Farm**

St. Paul's Abbey on Route 206, one mile south of Newton, has thousands of Christmas trees ready to choose 'n' cut; 7 days a week until December 23rd; 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, We also have the Abbey Gift Shop with many items that make ideal Christmas gifts, including books, statues, jewelry and more.

**BAPTISM CLASS**

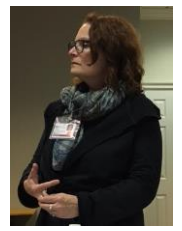


First-time parents are required to attend a Baptism Class before scheduling a date for their baby's Baptism. The next Baptism class on Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM in the Parish Library. If you plan to attend, please call the parish office at 973-729-6107.

**RESPECT LIFE – LIFE ISSUES**



Sister Sandra McKeta, a Missionary Sister of the Immaculate Conception and Chaplain at Saint Clare's Hospital in Denville, and Brandy Johnson, licensed clinical social worker, came to



Our Lady of the Lake on November 15<sup>th</sup> to talk about the importance of Advanced Directives, Living Wills and Power of Attorney. Some important points they made were:

You do not need a lawyer to make a Living Will, although some people do go to the lawyer. Some have it done when they do their Last Will and Testament. What's the difference? A living will is in force when you are alive but are unable to tell the health care professionals what you want or don't want. It does not need to be notarized, but needs to be signed by two witnesses. The Last Will and Testament (commonly referred to as your Will), goes into effect after you die.

In the living will or advanced directive, you select two people and let them know your wishes, and let them know they are listed on the living will, and who else is listed. You should give them a copy of the Advanced Directive and keep a copy where it is accessible (A good place to keep one is on the refrigerator). You should give a copy to your doctor and bring a copy with you when you are admitted to the hospital. Be sure it is dated – the most recent date is the legal one. Destroy old ones. A DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) is different, but it can be part of the living will. The representatives are not allowed to change your document and they can't do anything while you are able to communicate.

They also spoke about POLST which is a doctor's order which you work on together with your doctor.

We have a copy of the handouts they gave us at the parish office. You are welcome to come in for a copy.



# Our Lady of the Lake Church

294 Sparta Avenue  
Sparta, New Jersey 07871  
Phone: 973-729-6107 Fax: 973-729-7203

Web Site: [www.ourladyofthelake.org](http://www.ourladyofthelake.org)

## Parish Staff

Rev. David McDonnell	Pastor
Rev. Marcin Bradtke	Associate Pastor
Mr. Anthony (Sonny) Curcio	Deacon
Mr. James McGovern	Deacon
Elizabeth Heldak	Director of Religious Education
Laurie DiCianni	Confirmation Coord.-Youth Minister
Krzysztof Kowalewski	Music Director
Ellen Ormond	Secretary/Bookkeeper
Joanna Mattos	Secretary
Denise Aldana	Social Ministries

## Sunday Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday 5:30 P.M.  
Sunday 7:45, 9:00, 10:30 A.M. and 12 Noon  
5:00 P.M. (except June, July, and August)

Weekday Masses 8:30 A.M.

## Holy Day Masses

8:30, 9:30 A.M. (except August 15<sup>th</sup>), and 7:00 P.M.

## Confessions

Saturday 4:00 to 5:00 and at 6:30 P.M.

## Novena

Miraculous Medal Devotions: Saturday 8:30 A.M.

## Eucharist Adoration:

Thursday 9:00 to 7:00 P.M.

For information on Baptisms, Marriages, Religious Education, Youth Ministry, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Visitation of the Sick, Parish Membership, please call the parish office at (973) 729-6107.

## New Parishioners - Welcome!

Won't you please register at the Parish Office  
Monday - Friday, 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Or find our registration form on our webpage  
[www.ourladyofthelake.org](http://www.ourladyofthelake.org)

## SAINT KATERI SQUIRES LUMINARIES SALE

Sparta Columbian Squires, Jonathan Byers, Ezra Cook, and John McGuire will be selling Luminary kits after all masses for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Luminary Night. All proceeds from this sale benefit



the Samaritan Inn, Family Promise, the Sparta Food Pantry, and the Book Bank Foundation to help each of them with their work in supporting the homeless and needy of our area. Thank you for your support.

## SOCIAL MINISTRIES

### ADOPT-A-FAMILY



**Wrapped gifts** will be accepted in McKenna Hall on **Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** from 9 AM to 3 PM

### OLL LEGACY COOKBOOKS ON SALE



Our Lady of the Lake Legacy Cookbooks have been published and are available for purchase every Sunday after Mass. They are \$25 each and make great Christmas gifts. They may also be purchased at the Sparta Book Club. Please support this important fundraiser. Thank you.

### CHRISTMAS SPIRIT MAGIC AT OLL

On Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at Our Lady of the Lake, with the aid of our local high schools, brought "Christ in Christmas" to life. A very Special Thank you to the many volunteers, and to our gifted musicians and singers that are a valuable part of our Christ in Christmas celebration. These young men and women came to help our children throughout the entire event. They are the wonderful young people from Pope John High School, Morris Catholic High School, Our Lady of the Lake Confirmation Class, Newton High School, and Sparta High School.

Most of all, thank you to all our 130 young attendees and their families, for making this afternoon truly magical. Tonight these children will sleep in peace, because of you. God bless us everyone!

### PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

There will be a Christmas Gathering for the Parent Support Group on December 20 at 7:30 PM. Members of the group should call Betty Donnelly if you plan to attend. Her number is 973-383-2502 or email [TANTEBET@ptd.net](mailto:TANTEBET@ptd.net) by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**The reign  
of God  
is AT  
HAND**

