

**DECEMBER 24, 2017
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

MONDAY – The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

- 9:00 Walter J. Sutherland req. by Mike & Barbara Tilton
Henry Kedda req. by Dottie Maciejczyk
- 10:30 Gail Tucker req. by her husband, Jeff
- 12:00 People of the Parish

TUESDAY – Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

- 8:30 John & Pearl Collins req. by Bernie & Joan Beihl
Special Intentions of Mr. & Mrs. Mark Abbate & Family req. by Jim Walker

WEDNESDAY – Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

- 8:30 Monalda & Oswald Reavey req. by Thomas & Patricia Bracken
Martin Jachts req. by his wife, Ann

THURSDAY – The Holy Innocents

- 8:30 Peggy McGovern req. by Jean McGovern
Deceased members of the Winberry Family

FRIDAY - Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr

- 8:30 Kathleen Nolan req. by Judy & Bill Bosworth
Carol Herwood req. by Caroline Reilly

SATURDAY

- 8:30 Helen Craig req. by Alice & Bill Kelly
- 5:30 Claire Schiemer req. by Barbara Pontilena

DECEMBER 31, 2017

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

- 7:45 People of the Parish
Patrick Brady req. by Joanna & Gil Mattos
- 9:00 Brigid Brady req. by Ray & Pat Convey
David & Maura Lerias req. by Virgie & Family
- 10:30 Tina Spatarella req. by Karen Ferrara
Sister Angela Tiencken req. By Mary Louise Hennighan
- 12:00 Remedios Malvar req. by Emil & Claudette Velasco
Special Intention for Lisa Giuffrida req. by Sandy Andrade

PARISH FINANCES

December 17, 2017	\$ 10,930
Fund for Religious Retirement	\$ 3,700

REFLECTION

EMMANUEL – CHRIST AMONG US

The birth of Jesus captures a timeless truth. In the words of the angel to the shepherds, the birth of Jesus is a sign to us. It's a sign of God's faithfulness, sending the Messiah long promised by the prophets. It's a sign that God has sanctified human life by becoming one of us in Christ. It's a sign that we never have anything to fear because God is with us. Emmanuel, now and always.



For a moment let us use our imagination to open up completely to what is here. Just close your eyes and see Mary with the little baby Jesus *resting on her shoulder. The baby is small and vulnerable. Look at the mother and the child, such a picture of our basic humanity. See them in your mind. Now, Mary turns to you says,

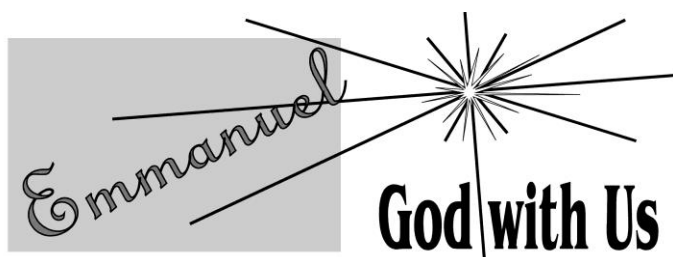
“Here, please hold the baby for a moment.” And she hands the baby to you, and you hold him in your arms. Keep that moment in your imagination, holding the Christ-child who is the Son of God. It's unbelievable.

Today we rejoice that our God has come to us in the person of Jesus. Into the poverty of a stable and the fragility of human life, a savior is born for us, wrapped in simple blankets and laying in a manger. Into the reality of war, violence and injustice, Jesus is born anew to bring peace, harmony and love. Into the fragility of sickness, anxiety and sin, he comes to minister healing, security and forgiveness. Into whatever is happening in our world, or in our lives, Christ is born to bring reconciliation, courage, joy and new hope. This is the Good News that God destined to share with his people.

As we reflect and gaze upon the nativity scene, let us be certain that the Christ who was born in Bethlehem is with us always. In the outstretched arms of a tiny babe we see the arms that grew to embrace the cross. As we ponder with love, may the words of the angel host fill our minds and hearts: “Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all people on earth.”

Have a blessed Christmas!

Father David



THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH - 12/24/17 to 12/31/17

Mon	MERRY CHRISTMAS	
Thur.	NO BINGO (non-smoking)	
Fri.	8: 30 PM AA	Cassidy Hall
Sat.	After 8:30 Mass – Legion of Mary	St. Benedict
	8:00 PM AA	McKenna Hall
Sun.	Women's Social	Cassidy Hall

LITURGY FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

King David plans to build a temple to honor God. But God tells Nathan the Prophet that instead he will give David rest from his enemies, and ensure that both his house and community will be protected forever.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

In this letter of Paul to the Romans, he explains that the gospel reveals the mystery that had been hidden for many ages. Now it has been made known to all, so that they may believe, obey, and give glory through Jesus Christ forever.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The Virgin Mary is approached by the angel Gabriel, who tells her that she has been chosen to bear the Son of God. Mary is first afraid, yet shows her unquestioning faith when she simply says, "Let it be done to me as you say."

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

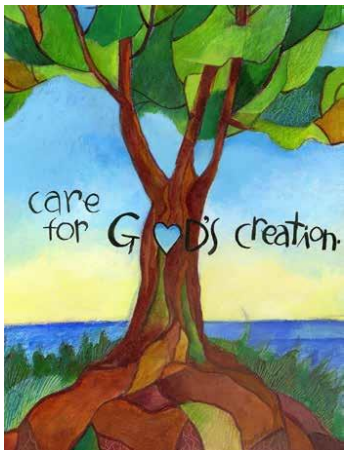
First Reading: Gn 15:1-6, 21: 1-3

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION A NEW MINISTRY AT OUR LADY OF THE LAKE

Join us on Mondays from 4:00 to 5:00 PM in the Parish Library beginning January 8th, 2018.



We will gather to pray and work in thanksgiving for the goodness of creation. We join our voices, as St. Francis of Assisi did in his Canticle of the Sun, and as Pope Francis echoed in his encyclical on the environment. "Praised be you, O Lord, for the beauty and goodness of the created world!" We thank God for the gift of creation and show our appreciation through our care. If you are interested in working with us to Care for God's Creation let us know at LaudatoSi.OLL@gmail.com.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The Adult Choir practice takes place on Tuesdays at 7:30 PM in the Choir loft.



Contemporary Choir - Saturdays, 4:30 PM in St. Cecilia Room.

Children's Choir practice takes place on Thursdays at 2:45 PM in the St. Cecilia Room.

Vocal- Instrumental Group - contact our Music Director, Krzysztof Kowalewski at the parish office. *New and existing members are invited.*

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

WELCOME ABOARD!



It gives me great joy to appoint Allison Ognibene as our next Youth Minister and Confirmation Coordinator of Our Lady of the Lake Parish. I know that Laurie DiCianni, who held this position for 15 years, would be delighted with her replacement.

A resident of Sparta, Allison and her husband, Bill, are proud members of our parish. She attended DeSales University and went to Brooklyn College for her

MFA. Allison is no stranger to our parish family. She has taught 7th Grade CCD for several years, and now coordinates the Adopt-a-Family ministry, and sings in the choir. She also participated in the Cornerstone Retreat.

Allison's motto is "Living with JOY – Jesus, Others, Yourself." She is delighted to have this opportunity to work with our youth. "I am truly humbled", she said "to be asked to take this very important role in the church, and to assist the youth as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. I am also honored to help the Dogma team as they share their stories with peers and sharing the Catholic faith."

I know that Allison, given her many gifts, will be a blessing to our young people and to our parish. Please keep her in your prayers.

Fr. David

DOGMA TEAM

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

SCRIPTURE CLASS

Scripture class takes place on Tuesday mornings following 8:30 morning Mass. We meet every Tuesday in the Parish Library. Bring a friend as we all journey in our faith together, it will be an hour well spent!

WE'VE BEEN ASKED TO ANNOUNCE

Rachel's Vineyard

The Diocese of Paterson is sponsoring a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat January 26 to 28. This is a safe place to renew, rebuild, and redeem hearts broken by abortion. For more information, please call (973) 377-1004 ext. 425 or RVPaterson@gmail.com.

Seeking Accommodation

A woman in need of room and board in exchange for help with children or elderly and some light housekeeping and household chores. Is able to drive to doctor's office or shopping. Can provide care and companionship. If interested, please call the parish office at (973) 729-6107.

WELCOME TO THE WeShare FAMILY!

ParishPay has transitioned to **WeShare**. Here are several things to keep in mind as you familiarize yourself with WeShare.

We take security seriously. Donors' recurring donations will continue as scheduled. But donors must authenticate their account and email to receive WeShare emails or to make any changes to their account. The first time a donor enters the system – they will have to go through a one-time validation requiring:

- Their ParishPay user name
- The last 4 digits of the bank account or credit card used with ParishPay

And ONE of the following two options:

- Their email address
- A collection name and the specific amount donated within the last 6 months.

Please feel free to contact the customer service team for assistance at WeShare@4lpi.com or call 1 (800) 950-9952 and select *Option 1*.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE

Would you like to know more about our parish? Go to www.ourladyofthelake.org. We have the same information as before, but in a new format. We hope you will like it. You can see the Sunday Bulletin – the current week and archived issues from the beginning of the year. You can find the schedules for Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers under 'Liturgy'. Need to register in the parish? The Registration form is there under "New Members". How to sign your child up for Religious Education. And, of course, if you have any questions or have trouble finding anything, please call the parish office at (973) 729-6107.

Our Lady of the Lake Parish Yacht Cruise

Sailing on a Mediterranean

July 28th – August 8th, 2018



WINDSTAR
CRUISES
180° FROM ORDINARY®



Classic Italy & Croatia/Dalmatian Coast Windsurf Yacht Cruise

*10 DAYS FROM Rome to Venice including
Rome, Amalfi, Sicily, Kotor, Dubrovnik, Split,
Rovinj and Venice.*

Explore the shores of Italy, Croatia and Montenegro, discovering the charm of Venice, the magnificence of Rome, and the vast beauty of the Dalmatian Coast. Wander down the ancient cobblestone streets of Taormina, travel up the sparkling fjord to Kotor and bask in the allure of small ship cruising as your yacht anchors in the heart of Old Town Dubrovnik while larger ships only pass by. From remarkable small ports such as Rovinj to timeless cities like Venice and Rome, discover the Mediterranean's most charming and historic destinations in one incomparable voyage.

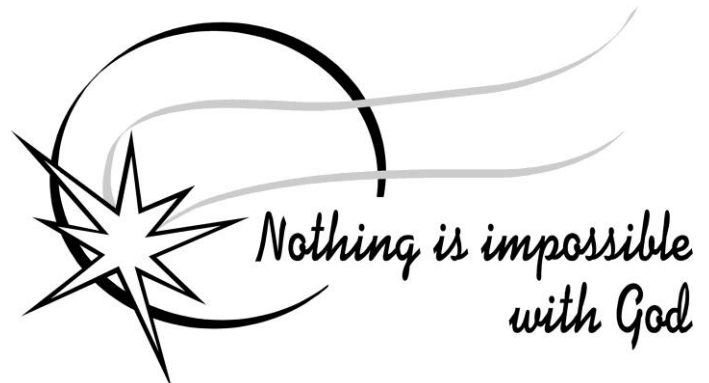
Pricing from \$3,385.00 pp. dble.

These prices include the 5% group discount a \$100.00 per person ship board credit as well as NDA: \$345.00pp and Tax: \$139.00pp. Note: Complimentary roundtrip transfers from OLL-Newark. Airfare is additional at @\$1,000.00 pp. Pre & Post stays in Rome and Venice are optional.

For information, please contact Dan Scully c-973-534-6462 or Daniel.Scully@ScullyTravel.com



**Scully Travel Group 6 Apple Tree Ln.St.2B
Sparta, NJ 07871 WWW.ScullyTravel.com**



Christmas Schedule



Sunday – Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 PM, 4:05 PM (overflow in McKenna Hall)

6:00 PM, 8:00 PM, 12:00 Midnight

Monday – Dec. 25 – Christmas Masses

There will NOT be a 7:45 Mass

9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 Noon

Sunday – Dec. 31 – Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

7:45 AM, 9:00, 10:30, 12:00

January 1, 2018 – New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

(not a holy day of obligation this year)

8:30 AM, 7:00 PM

SPECIAL NOTICE

The last Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve. The Saturday Vigil Mass on December 23rd, and the morning Masses on Sunday, December 24th (Christmas Eve) 7:45, 9:00, 10:30 & 12:00, will fulfill the Sunday obligation. The late afternoon and evening Masses (4:00, 4:05, 6:00, 8:00 and Midnight, will be Christmas Masses, as well as the 9:00, 10:30 and 12:00 on December 25th (Christmas Day).



Father David, Father Marcin

Deacon Krzysztof

Deacon Sonny

Deacon Jim

and the entire Parish Staff

wish you all a

Blessed and Happy Christmas.

Our Lady of the Lake R.C. Church
294 Sparta Ave., Sparta, New Jersey 07871

Parish Mission Statement

Our Lady of the Lake is a Roman Catholic Community founded in tradition and based on our faith in Jesus Christ. With the help of the Holy Spirit we share the message of God's love with all. Through our ministries and school, we strive to address spiritual, social and educational needs. We are nourished by the Eucharist, enlightened by the Word and guided by our devotion to Mary, Our Lady of the Lake.

Rev. David McDonnell	Pastor
Rev. Marcin Bradtke	Associate Pastor
Rev. Mr. Krzysztof Ślimak	Deacon
Mr. James McGovern	Deacon
Mr. Anthony (Sonny) Curcio	Deacon
Elizabeth Heldak	Director of Religious Education
Allison Ognibene	Conf/Youth Director
Krzysztof Kowalewski	Music Director
Denise Aldana	Social Ministries
Ellen Ormond	Secretary/Bookkeeper
Joanna Mattos	Secretary

Sunday Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday	5:30 P.M.
Sunday	7:45, 9:00, 10:30 A.M. and 12:00 Noon

Weekday Masses

8:30 A.M.

Holy Day Masses

8:30, 9:30 A.M. (except August 15th), 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 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Parish Membership

Our Parish Family invites all its members to participate fully. If you move to another Parish, or change your address, please notify us.

Please see our website for more information.

New Parishioners – Welcome!

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

Parish Office & Rectory	(973) 729-6107	Fax (973) 729-7203
Religious Education Office (on weekdays)	(973) 729-6107	
E-Mail	info@ourladyofthelake.org	
Web Site	www.ourladyofthelake.org	
School Offices		
Rev. George A. Brown (Pre-K to Gr. 4)	(973) 729-9174	
Pope John XXIII Middle School (Gr. 5 to 7)	(973) 729-1967	
Pope John XXIII High School (Gr. 8 to 12)	(973) 729-6125	