

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

5:15 PM Claire Tumminelli (Ann.),
By family
 Louis & Bessie Acciardo and Donna
 Acciardo Meith (Rem.),
By family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:00 AM Christopher & James Shepard (Birth.
 & Christmas Rem.), *By family*

10:00 AM Laurie Parrillo (Rem.),
By mom and family
 Madeline & Eugene Blanchette
 (Rem.), *By family*

11:30 AM Ange Ishimwe (Rem.),
By Lillian and family

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 – Christmas Eve

4:30 pm Richard DelPonte and Mary & Mickey
 Russo (Rem.), *By family*
 Bobby 'Bo' & Robert H. Desmet
 (Rem.), *By family*

10:30 PM Corine Holtmann (Rem.), *By family*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25 – Christmas Day

10:00 AM Albert Cournoyer (25th Ann.),
By Claire and Lillian
 Deceased Members of the Nero
 Family (Rem.),
By Bill Nero and family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

9:00 AM Angelo Ruscetta (Ann.),
By family
 Paul and Anna Kelley (Rem.),
By Wini and Marie

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

NO SCHEDULED MASS TODAY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

NO SCHEDULED MASS TODAY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29


5:15 PM Vincent Langella (Rem.),
By family
 Christopher Lautieri (Christmas
 Rem.),
By Betty and Gene Costantino

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

8:00 AM OPEN INTENTION

10:00 AM Herman Autotte (Rem.),
By Janet and Joe Zeman

11:30 AM Lori Bennett (Month's Mind),
By family



Sanctuary Lamp
Week of December 23 – December 29
"In Memory of"
Edith Amitrano &
Lawrence Martino (Rem.),
By Yolanda and Family

**The Fourth Sunday
of the Season of
Advent**

December 23, 2018

"Behold the handmaid of the Lord!"

PASTOR'S COMMENTS

Borrowed from Paul Turner

From out of Nowhere

Victory is always exciting. But when the hero is a complete unknown who comes seemingly out of nowhere and performs as a pro, the victory electrifies all the more. The previously unknown hero thrills in many arenas—in sports, the arts, politics, and even religion.

Micah prophesied that God's chosen people would receive a new leader from a town of no reputation, some place called Bethlehem. This village was too small to be listed among the clans of Judah. Even so, God spoke through the prophet that Bethlehem would supply Israel with a ruler able to govern with divine strength. This ruler's greatness would reach the ends of the earth and bring peace.

For Christians, the identity of this ruler is well known: Jesus, who, Luke says, was born in Bethlehem. Jesus brings excitement to the history of religions because he came from nowhere, from a town that had never accomplished anything great.

But the real significance of Jesus is not his unfamiliar birthplace. It is the extent and result of his reign. He rules the spirits of believers all over the world. He brings peace to those whose hearts are heavy. He brings hope to those who live in obscurity, whose good deeds go unnoticed and whose love goes without reward. The heroism of the just will never escape God's sight.

Before I go on vacation: I would like to thank all those who gave so willingly and generously to help those in need, or trouble, or pain at this time.

Also, I want to express sincere thanks for the many cards, greetings and gifts shared with Diane, our Parish Secretary, Robert Manzo, our CCD Director, Pat Mendes, our CCD Secretary and myself at this special time of year.

Fr. John



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Office Hours: 9am to 4pm.
Monday – Thursday
Phone : 232-9321
E-mail – srbccd@aol.com

Religious Education Classes

Day	Month	Grade	Time
Sun	Dec-23	9&10	No Class
Mon	Dec 24	7&8	No Class
Tue	Dec-25	1 thru 3	No Class
Wed	Dec-26	4 thru 6	No Class

Pat, myself and all our Ccd teachers would like to wish everyone a Blessed Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



"Be one of the small number who find the way to life, and enter by the narrow gate into Heaven. Take care not to follow the majority and the common herd, so many of whom are lost. Do not be deceived; there are only two roads: one that leads to life and is narrow; the other that leads to death and is wide. There is no middle way."

-----St. Louis de Montfort

ROB MANZO

Volunteer Opportunity

You are invited to serve as Christ did by joining fellow parishioners at Mary House meal kitchen, housed at St. Patrick's church and school in Providence. Please contact Terry Novak if you are able to serve on any of the following dates. Email is preferred

terrinnovak57@msn.com--but you may also call 331-7075. Many blessings come to those who serve!

Monday, January 21 (3:30-6:00)
Monday, February 25 (3:30-6:00)

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, ROSARY FOLLOWING 8:00 **AM** MASS IN THE UPPER CHURCH

WEDNESDAY, AAGROUP MEETING AT 7:00 **AM** IN THE CHURCH HALL (EVERY WEDNESDAY)

THURSDAY, NA GROUP MEETING AT 7:00 **PM** IN THE SACRISTY

FRIDAY, AA AT 8:00 **PM** IN THE CHURCH HALL (EVERY FRIDAY)

FRIDAY, NA GROUP MEETING AT 10:00 **PM** IN THE CHURCH HALL

DAILY READINGS

Sunday Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Monday Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79

Tuesday Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Wednesday Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Thursday 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Friday 1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Saturday 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35



Call: Jan Zarrella (274-6576) or Charon Souza (231-3962) or Eileen Morrison (349-3601)

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR FOOD SHELF!

The Food Shelf is in need of:

- TUNA
- PASTA/ JAR SAUCE
- PEANUT BUTTER / JELLY
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- RAMEN NOODLES
- \$10.00 STOP & SHOP OR PRICE RITE GIFT CARDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**
- Thank you for your generosity!**



Outreach, Prayer Shawl and Lap Blanket Ministry

What a wonderful response we have gotten from our St. Robert's parish. Since this is an ongoing ministry, please continue to be generous. The poor and homeless need winter coats, hats, white socks, blankets and other winter clothing. Please bring clean items to church and leave them in the vestry. If you or a friend are in need of a comforting touch, Please call Carolyn at 231-5864 and she will leave the item requested with your name on it in the vestry. We recently started our lap blanket ministry for the residents at Cherry Hill Nursing Home. If you'd like to knit, crochet or work with fleece, please consider making a lap blanket. The sizes needed are 36 x 36, 35 x 40. Fleece blankets should be double sided for warmth. These too, can be left at the vestry. Please add your name and address so that we can thank you.



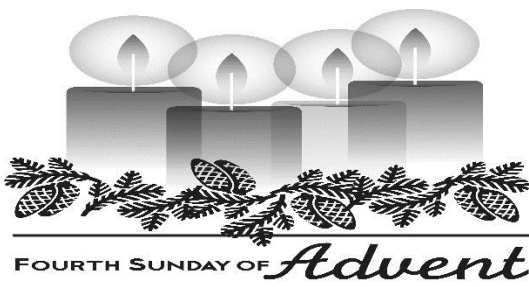
Thanks to all that support our Giving Tree, Adopt-a-Family and our Food Shelf Programs!
YOUR GENEROSITY IS TRULY APPRECIATED BY THOSE IN NEED!

THE SIGN OF PEACE

During this season of Colds and Flu we should be mindful of each other's well-being and during the Sign of Peace at Mass nod or smile at our neighbor rather than shaking hands.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the family of the late Rose Spencer, Rose Loffredo, Alfred Petrucelli, and Raymond Johnson, Jr. for their thoughtful donation given in their memory for our Food Shelf Ministry.



St. Rocco Church, 927 Atwood Avenue, Johnston RI 02919, will host ***A Journey Through the Nativity*** on **Sunday, December 30th at 3 P.M.** The event will feature the parish choir and soloists accompanied by a brass and string ensemble. Admission is free and a reception will follow. For further information please call 401-692-5270 or write to musicaasanrocco@gmail.com.

Religious give thanks. "This money is pure gift" writes a religious sister of the support made possible by the **Retirement Fund for Religious**. "It enables us to continue providing care for our elderly sisters." Your gift to last week's collection helps hundreds of religious communities meet pressing retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Thank you for your generosity!

Are You Listening to "Relevant Radio"?

Turn to 550 AM for truly Catholic radio station, reporting news about our faith from around the world as well as featuring talks, interviews, presentations and prayers relevant to all Catholics. Want to grow in your faith? Listen to "Relevant Radio" daily!



The Rectory and CCD Offices will be closed on December 24th at 12 Noon and December 25th and 26th in observance of Christmas.

"And all mankind will see God's salvation." Every year, the former President Bush and his wife Laura used to send out a Christmas card with a Bible verse on it. For Christmas 2001, when the country was still coming to terms with the Sept. 11th attacks, the Bushes decided to choose a verse that conveyed their faith and hope. They picked this verse from the *Psalms*: "I believe I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." [An interview with First Lady Laura Bush by Ellen Levin, *Good Housekeeping* (Jan. 2002), pp. 105, 130.] That is the promise of Christmas. Isaiah put it like this: "Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation." That is the hope that sustains us in good times and bad. We shall see God's salvation. Christ came because the world needed saving.



Now God says to us
What He has already said to the earth as a whole
Through His grace-filled birth:

*I am there. I am with you.
I am your life. I am your time.
I am the gloom of your daily routine. Why will you not hear it?
I weep your tears – pour yours out to me.
I am your joy.*

*Do not be afraid to be happy; ever since I wept, joy is the standard of living
That is really more suitable than the anxiety and grief of those who have no
hope.*

*I am the blind alley of all your paths,
For when you no longer know how to go any farther,
Then you have reached me,
Though you are not aware of it.
I am in your anxiety, for I have shared it.
I am in the prison of your finiteness,
For my love has made me your prisoner.*

*I am in your death,
For today I began to die with you, because I was born,
And I have not let myself be spared any real part of this experience.*

*I am present in your needs;
I have suffered them and they are now transformed.
I am there.*

*I no longer go away from this world.
Even if you do not see me now, I am there.
My love is unconquerable.*

*I am there.
It is Christmas.*

Light the Candles! They have more right to exist than all the darkness.

*It is Christmas.
Christmas that lasts forever.*

From Karl Rahner's The Eternal Year: