



Dear Parishioners,

While we still have a month left in the calendar year, the beginning of Advent signals the start of a new liturgical year, the cycle of feasts and celebrations by which we enter ever more deeply into the mystery of Christ. These weeks are a gift to us as we prepare to open our hearts to the Infant Savior at Christmas. Here are some suggestions:

- Spend a few minutes each day in prayer. Two helpful resources are *Prepare Him Room: Advent Family Devotions* by Amy Welborn, and *Wait for the Lord: Daily Advent Meditations and Prayers*, drawing from the writings of the late Henri Nouwen. Copies of both are available in the narthex, as is the ever-popular *The Word Among Us*.
- Come to weekday Mass. Even better, come twenty minutes early and join in praying Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, the official ‘cycle’ of the Church’s daily prayer. We pray Morning Prayer in common on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 8:40am.

## ADVENT

Advent is an excellent time to receive the sacrament of Penance. If it’s been awhile, there’s no better time than the present—and no better present to give yourself and the Lord. Confessions are heard each Saturday from 3:00 to 3:45pm; we will also take part again in “Reconciliation Monday” on December 15. On that day, priests in every parish in the Archdiocese of New York will hear confessions from 4:00 to 8:00pm. I am also happy to make appointments with those who prefer another time; just call the office or shoot me an e-mail ([pastor@stmarysportjervis.com](mailto:pastor@stmarysportjervis.com)).

- Consider spending an hour of your week in prayer before the Lord in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel. If you’ve never been to the chapel, feel free to stop by during office hours; we’ll be happy to show you in.
- If you’re looking for good, inexpensive gifts or cards that convey the true meaning of Christmas and support religious brothers and sisters at the same time, visit [www.monasterygreetings.com](http://www.monasterygreetings.com) or [www.printeryhouse.org](http://www.printeryhouse.org).

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Dr. Mary Ellen Hubbard will be offering a series on Saint John Paul II’s encyclical letter, *The Gospel of Life*, beginning today. The group will meet from 9:45 to 11:00am in the parish office. If interested, please speak with Mary Ellen or with Nancy Smith about ordering the text (which is also available online for free).

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In the spirit of Christmas, we are continuing our tradition of a GIVING TREE. We are supporting both the local Elks Lodge and Catholic Charities Community Services of Orange County in their efforts to provide winter outerwear items for needy children and teens in our community. A donation of \$10 or more would be greatly appreciated; every \$50 will sponsor one child. Doves will be on the Christmas tree in the narthex for your convenience. They may be returned in the attached envelope, in the collection basket or at the parish office, by Monday, December 15. Checks may be made payable to St. Mary’s. Thank you for your support!

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We’d like to invite boys and girls in grades 3 and up to become **altar servers**. Training with some of our more experienced servers will take place on three Saturdays in December (6, 13, and 20) from 12:00 to 1:00pm in the church. We are also looking for new **lectors**; there’s no minimum age, so if you’d like to serve the parish in proclaiming the Scriptures at Mass, training will be on Saturday, December 13 at 1:00pm. Adults age 18 and up are invited to become **special ministers of Holy Communion**. Training will take place on Saturday, December 13 at 11:00am. If you’d like to be a lector or special minister, but cannot make it on December 13, just let me know, and we’ll find a mutually agreeable time. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Faithfully your priest,  
Fr. George Hafemann

There is an **ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST** today from 8:00 to 11:30am in the church hall. All are welcome!

There will be **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** this Friday, December 5 beginning at 12:00pm and concluding with benediction at 8:00pm. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. At least two adorers should be present at all times.



Monday, December 8 is the **SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**, our parish feast day and a holy day of obligation. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am and 7:30pm.

Donations of **non-perishable food items** for the **CHRISTMAS BASKETS** may be left in the containers in the narthex. Turkeys, hams and chickens will be collected on Wednesday, December 17 from 5:00 to 6:00pm; baskets will be distributed on Saturday, December 20 from 12:00 to 2:00pm.

Perhaps your family (or a group of coworkers, friends, business, etc.) is looking for a way to give back this year. Would you consider **ADOPTING A FAMILY**? All you need to do is contact Ali Curtis, CCCSOC's director of community outreach; she may be reached by phone at 562-4733, or by e-mail at [alice.curtis@archny.org](mailto:alice.curtis@archny.org).

All parishioners are invited to attend **St. Mary's Little Lambs' ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION AND CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** on Friday, December 19 in the church hall. The auction opens at 9:00, with winners called at 10:30am. The Pageant will begin at 11:00am; a reception of milk and cookies will follow. We are hoping for a visit from St. Nick following the pageant. If you know of a jolly gentleman who would be willing to volunteer, please call 858-4208 or email [littlelambs@stmarysportjervis.com](mailto:littlelambs@stmarysportjervis.com). Little Lambs is also looking for substitute teachers. Prior professional experience in education or childcare is preferred, but we also value the volunteer experience of catechists, scout leaders, VBS volunteers, etc. All substitutes will have to complete the Archdiocese's Safe Environment program as well as New York state background check and fingerprinting. We'd also like to thank everyone who came out to support our recent Burger King fundraiser. We raised \$228! These funds will go towards upgrading our fire alarm system to meet state standards as we continue to move forward toward becoming a state-licensed facility. Thank you for your support!

The collection for November 22/23 was \$6,057.  
Thank you for your continued generosity.

## ANNOUNCED MASSES

### Monday, December 1

9:00am Norine Miller, by Pauline Kreckel  
Thomas Osowick, by Jack and Doreen Reilly

### Tuesday, December 2

9:00am Thomas Osowick, by Bob and Nancy Dunn

### Thursday, December 4 (John Damascene, priest and doctor of the Church)

9:00am June Livingston, by the Livingston family

### Friday, December 5

9:00am Steve Westfall, by Catherine Westfall  
Jerome May, by the Cahill family

### Saturday, December 6 (Nicholas, bishop)

4:00pm the parishioners of St. Mary's

### Sunday, December 7

8:30am Frank A. Scales, by wife and family  
11:30am Arthur and Helen Murphy, by Helen Marinaro

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Ida Lissner, Joann Wilcox, Jonathan Saletto, Marion Rohner, Nick Moscatiello, Andrea Fedoruk, Richard Samek, Betty Brennan, Joe Brennan, Angela Portella, Mike Castle, Walter Szpakowicz, Danielle Scibek, Pauline Portella, John McKean, Katie Onofry, John Launt, Theresa Fuller, David Drasba, Jeremiah Stasilli, Daniel Bonet, Maureen Hildrbrandt, Joseph Portella, Catherine Simons, Mary Platania, Vada Glass, Donald Wolff, Michael Barnes, William Linclon, Joseph Livingston, Jeff Sauschuck, Bernard Clune, Amanda Evelech, Anna Onuschak, Joseph Kham, Patsy Soletro, Sue Dennington, Andrew Witkowski, Thomas Scott, Jackie Mundy, Makara Craig, Barbara Nachand, Betty Corcoran, and Joe Brennan.

Please join us for **CHRISTMAS CAROLING** on Thursday, December 11 at 4:15pm. We'll meet at Bon Secours Community Hospital and sing for the residents of St. Joseph's Place. Then we'll move on to Water's Edge, followed by pizza in the parish center meeting room. Finally, we'll visit some of our local neighborhoods. We expect to be done by 7:45pm. All are invited!



Parishioners may sign up to receive notices from the parish via e-mail or text through **FLOCKNOTES**. You can even choose what notices you'd like to receive. There are two ways to sign up:

1. Visit [flocknote.com/stmaryspj](http://flocknote.com/stmaryspj), and follow the instructions.
2. Text **smj** to 84576.

### Liturgical Ministers for December 6/7, 2014

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	M. VAN STARREX	M. REEVES, D. SIMMONS	A. COLLADO, R. COLLADO, K. HAIGHT
8:30AM	T. ROMBOUSEK	J. TAYLOR, T. CALVARIO, W. CARMODY, E. DECKER	J. KLOTZ, S. KLOTZ, D. KLOTZ
11:30AM	M. ESLING	J. SNELLINGER, D. KAVANAGH, D. LIVINGSTON	B. & A. BIRKENSTOCK, S. MASCI