



# The Nativity of the LORD ~December 25, 2016~ Christmas



*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ~ John 1:5*

## Weekly Mass Intentions

### Saturday December 24 ~Christmas Eve~

8:00am † Unborn babies in wombs & their families *By: Deacon Jim Stahlnecker*  
 4:00pm- † Dolores Elizabeth Zukowski & Margaret Harden *Offered by: Zukowski Family*  
 6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions  
 8:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions  
 12:00am- † Mrs. Helen Valentine *By: son, Thomas Valentine*

### Sunday December 25 ~Christmas Day~

8:30am- † NO MASS  
 10:00am- † Dolores Elizabeth Zukowski *By: Victoria & Wilfredo Garay*  
 11:30am- † Parish Community Intentions  
 1:30pm- † NO MASS  
 6:00pm- † NO MASS

### Monday December 26

8:00am- † NO MASS  
 12:05pm- † NO MASS

### Tuesday December 27

8:00am- † *Offered by:*  
 12:05pm- † Dominick Negri *Offered by: Family*

### Wednesday December 28

8:00am - † *Offered by:*  
 12:05pm- † Anthony & Lena DePalo *Offered by: granddaughter, Theresa Contardo*

### Thursday December 29

8:00am- † Kenel Mayala *By: sister, Mireille Mayala*  
 12:05pm- † Susan Avilla *Offered by: Family*

### Friday December 30

8:00am- † *Offered by:*  
 12:05pm- † Dominick & Teresina Micillo *Offered by: granddaughter, Theresa Contardo*

### Saturday December 31

8:00am- † *Offered by:*  
 5:00pm- † Cabot & Perez Families & Mr. & Mrs. Manguel *Offered by: Hilda Cabot*

### Sunday January 1, 2017

8:30am- † *Offered by:*  
 10:00am- † Mrs. Helen Valentine *By: son, Thomas Valentine*



**Mass Intentions**



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

**Christmas is a beautiful feast** that celebrates God's love for us and how God uses simple, ordinary persons to be the instruments through whom God does great things for us.

It can be incredibly difficult for us as Christians to appreciate the truth that we proclaim so boldly at Christmas. God took flesh in Jesus of Nazareth. This is an incredible profession of faith! God is completely other than us; beyond our ability to comprehend fully or to understand completely. Yet, as Christians we proclaim that our God took flesh in Jesus of Nazareth. God became fully human - shared fully in our humanity. We do not believe in a God who is distant from us. We do not believe in a God who is indifferent to us. We believe in a God who is radically intimate with us and who desires such radical intimacy with us because of God's concern for us collectively as God's family and for each of us individually. There is no one reading this bulletin essay today who is not loved by God as he or she is. How remarkable is the love of God for us as a people! How more remarkable is God's love for us individually!

To enter fully into our humanity, God chose to do so through a teenage peasant from a village of no importance in a country whose glory had long since faded. This teenage peasant, Mary, had sufficient faith in God that she could say "Yes" to what God asked of her even though she could never have understood all that her "Yes" would demand of her. This young woman who was of absolutely no importance or significance in her world literally changed the course of human history by her cooperation with God. Incredible! Even more incredible is that we, too, can be instruments of God's saving love, God's saving grace, in our world if we simply say "Yes" to a life lived in faithfulness to the teaching and example of Mary's son, Jesus. We can, in fact, incarnate Jesus anew in our world through the witness of our lives. Amazing!

In this Christmas season, offer thanks to God each day for the love that God has for you and pray for the grace to follow the example of Mary and say, "Yes," to God.

*Fr. Mark Hallinan, S.J*

## Weekly Memorials

**Bread & Wine** ~ †  
**Tabernacle Candle** ~ † *Henry Lawrence Sr. Henry Lawrence, Jr. & Frank McLaren*  
*Offered by: Loving Family*  
**Memorial Candle** ~ † *MaryAnn Fair*  
*Offered by: Loving Family*



*"For unto you is born ... a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."*

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

*Luke 2:11*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

These readings are found complete on our parish web page ([www.olmcsi.org](http://www.olmcsi.org)). Click on "USCCB Daily Readings."

### **TODAY: Christmas**

Reflect over one of these Gospels:  
Luke 2:1-14; Luke 2:15-20;  
John 1:1-18

### **Next Sun: Mary, Mother of God**

Numbers 6:22-27  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 2:16-21



**MONDAY – DECEMBER 26 – RECTORY IS CLOSED. THERE WILL BE NO MASSES THAT DAY.**

**NORMAL WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE -DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup> and JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**FEAST OF THREE KINGS** – Sunday, January 8, 2017, there will be a distribution of toys for children 14 years of age and younger in the school gym at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** – Friday, January 6, after the 12:05 p.m. Mass. Adoration will conclude at 1:30 p.m.

**PRAYER OF POPE FRANCIS to the HOLY FAMILY** - Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love, to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division:  
may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,  
and its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. *Amen.*

**CHRISTMAS REFLECTION:** ...Christmas celebrates the dawn of the Light of the World. The powers of darkness are overcome by his coming to share our life. The long reign of sin is ended and grace has been poured out upon the earth. The Sun of Justice has arisen, and evil is vanquished.

Perhaps the hardest thing to remember about Christmas is this. It celebrates the incarnation, not just the nativity. The incarnation is an on-going process of salvation, while the nativity is the once-for-all-historical event of Bethlehem. We do not really celebrate Christ's 'birthday,' remembering something that happened long ago. We celebrate the stupendous fact of the incarnation, God entering our world so thoroughly that nothing has been the same since. And God continues to take flesh in our midst, in the men and women and children who form his body today. And the birth we celebrate is not just the past historical event but Christ's continuing birth in his members, accomplished by the power of the Spirit through the waters of baptism.

...What we celebrate is our redemption in Christ and the transformation of all creation by the presence of the divine in our midst. *Liturgy Training Publications*

### **PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR:**

Gracious God, in your wisdom you created all things and called them good.

We have come from celebrating the birth of your Son and we recognize the promise that his life brings to all people.

Thank you for the blessings you have provided us this past year; for your constant love and mercy.

This past year has been a difficult one with many challenges to overcome.

We have witnessed injustice, war, poverty, hunger and fear.

We acknowledge that these things exist in the world and we pray and strive for a world which would overcome the divisions between us.

As we stand on the door of a New Year we ask for your blessing once again.

Allow us to join our light to yours in a dark world.

May our light shine to all people of your goodness and mercy.

May peace be proclaimed to the nations. May the captives be set free and the hungry fed.

Bless the work of your people we pray O God, that your Kingdom may come, that your justice be done.

In Jesus' name we pray. *Amen. Church of St. Andrew, Presbyterian*

**NEW WORLD PREP CHARTER SCHOOL – OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHARTER SCHOOL** – Save the date for their Open House – Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. – 26 Sharpe Avenue. NWP is a small, public college preparatory middle school serving 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Founded to respond to the academic, social and emotional needs of non-English speaking households, as well as students from throughout the North Shore Community. Visit: [www.newworldprep.org](http://www.newworldprep.org) or call 718-705-8990. Admission is by lottery. There is no cost to attend the school.

**WEEKLY OFFERING:** December 18<sup>th</sup>: \$5,258. *Thank you!!*

---

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!** - The Priests and Office Staff wish to extend their Christmas greetings to all parishioners. May the gift of Jesus Christ fill your hearts and homes with joy and peace this Christmas Season. And a warm welcome to all who have come to worship with us this Christmas. Christmas presents all of us with the opportunity to renew friendships, to celebrate with family and to give thanks to our God who has blessed us so richly. Welcome home and have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!