

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY / ST. JOSEPH PARISH
Roman Catholic Church



Second Sunday Of Advent — December 9, 2018

Crèches, Mangers, and the Nativity

Many know that the devotional practice of erecting a nativity scene in churches, homes, and even public places became widely popular after the example of Saint Francis in the town of Greccio, in Italy. His biographies tell of how, in December 1223, after visiting Bethlehem some time before and recalling his ecstasy at standing in the very place where the Son of God, he built a living crib for all to ponder, but most especially for his own delight. Some of his brother friars say he received an apparition of the infant Christ while he was in prayer before the holy scene.

Other sources suggest that the crib scene also had a practical use in dissuading pilgrims from visiting the Holy Land which by then was under the control of the Turks whose Muslim religion not only disdained Christianity but also condemned the depiction of human and other living beings. Pilgrimages to the Holy Land had been long undertaken by devout men and women fascinated enough by their faith to want to be where the events of the Savior's life took place. The journals of Egeria, a Spanish woman who traveled to the Holy Land between 381 and 384 AD, record her joy in savoring a visit to Bethlehem to Bethlehem and the holy places during Epiphany (Christmas had not then been celebrated widely).

Francis's example of replicating the first Christmas night caught on naturally all over Italy. The Neapolitans turned it into an art form and many historical nativity scenes can be found in museums around the world. Locally two magnificent reproductions are displayed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art (at Christmas time) and at the Abby of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, Connecticut (displayed throughout the year). The

Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven has a showing of crèches from all over the world this month; it's well worth a visit.

Certainly making the adoration of the Nativity part of your Christmas "routine" will ground your belief more firmly in the truths taught by the Catholic Faith. Indeed, we might say that St. John Damascene (676-749 AD) long before Francis made the connection between the simple scenes that remind us of the reason for the season and the great mystery of the Incarnation that only comes after the mystery of the Holy Trinity. As a monk of the Monastery of Saint Sabas in Jerusalem, he wrote passionately against the iconoclasm ("the breaking of images") of the Emperor Leo and many in the Byzantine Empire who wished to deprive Christians of any use of images to represent the wonderful events of our faith. A kind of ancient Puritanism, the Iconoclasts believed any use of the imagination in representing the mysteries of our faith were dangerous. He reasoned that as the Father used the image of Jesus to show us His Fullness and love, so devout images could do the same for us.

While our appreciation of Nativity scenes may be understandably sentimental, the Incarnation can lead us toward a profound awareness of God's "genius" in our salvation. A dear friend of mine, Rosalind Moss, an Orthodox Jew who became a fundamentalist Christian and later a Catholic (she is now Mother Miriam of the Daughters of Mary, Israel's Hope), has spoken of her offense as a young person when every year she saw representations of the birth of Christ all over her native Brooklyn, for her a sin against the commandment to allow no graven images of the Divine. In amazing ways, through her Catholic Faith, she came to delight in the sight of Nativity scenes, like St. Francis!

The Feast of St. John of the Cross December 14

Our Bulletin Cover Image is of St. John of the Cross by Cesare Gennari.

Ordained a Carmelite priest in 1567 at age 25, John met Teresa of Avila and like her, vowed himself to the primitive Rule of the Carmelites. As partner with Teresa and in his own right, John engaged in the work of reform, and came to experience the price of reform: increasing opposition, misunderstanding, persecution, and imprisonment.

In his life and writings, John of the Cross has a crucial word for us today. We tend to be rich, soft, comfortable. We shrink even from words like self-denial, mortification, purification, asceticism, discipline. We run from the cross. John's message—like the gospel—is loud and clear: Don't—if you really want to live!

Source: franciscanmedia.org.



Source: catholiclife.blogspot.com

**Your Parish Office Is Open:
Monday-Friday: 9 am-3 pm
www.ststthomasjoseph.com**

Pastor: Rev. Rees Doughty
frdoughty@stt-stj.com

Parochial Vicar: Rev. John Kwaku Sah

Weekend Assistant: Rev. Robert Phelps
Deacons: Leonard Farmer, Anthony Ferraiuolo,
John Hanley, Joseph Lieby, John Pelella

Parish Office

845.534.2547 · office@stt-stj.com · FAX 845.534.1357

Faith Formation Office

845.534.9393 · reled@stt-stj.com

Faith Formation Coordinators:

Annamarie O'Connor and Mary Ellen Tiernan

RCIA/T

845.661.8586 · metiernan@stt-stj.com

Coordinator: Mary Ellen Tiernan

St. Thomas Church

340 Hudson St., Cornwall on Hudson, NY 12520

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am

Weekday: Monday-Saturday: 8:30 am

Confession

Saturday: 9-9:45 am (or by appointment)

Miraculous Medal Novena

Monday after 8:30 am Mass

Rosary: Monday-Saturday after 8:30 am Mass

St. Joseph Church

4 Saint Joseph's Pl., New Windsor, NY 12553

Sunday Mass

Sunday: 12:30 pm

Weekday: Wednesday, 6:30 pm Mass

Confession: Wednesday, 6-6:30 pm

Adoration: Wednesday, 5:30 pm



Advent Reconciliation Monday. Cardinal Dolan has designated Monday, December 17, as Reconciliation Monday for Advent. All parishes in the Archdiocese will have priests available to hear confessions, 4-8 pm. Confessions will be heard at St. Thomas, 4-8 pm.

The Catholic Daughters of America Court Rita #264 will be holding their **Annual Christmas Bake Sale** after all Masses on December 15/16 in the upper school building. Lots of delicious treats available for purchase plus a Gift Basket Raffle to support the Juniors!



STAR Youth Group Activities:

- * **Annual Poinsettia Sale** will take place after all Masses, December 8/9. Cost is \$10/plant.
- * Let the Star Youth Group members help you with your **Christmas shopping** by **babysitting** your children! Members will be available on Saturday, December 15, 3-8 pm in the St. Thomas gym.
- * **Lessons in Carols!** Join us on Sunday, December 16, 3-4 pm at St. Thomas Church.
- * For information about joining STAR Youth Group, email Noelle at nojo1201@hvc.rr.com.

OFFERTORY

December 1/2: \$8,944.49

Maintenance/Capital Projects: \$3,074.20

Online Giving (Nov 26-Dec 2): \$1,359.60

Shrines: \$149.00; **Poor Box:** \$21.80

Envelopes for Christmas Flowers can be placed in the First Offertory.

We thank you for your generosity and continued support of the parish! Please consider Online Giving for your donations. It is safe and secure and you decide when your gift is made, for how much, and for which collection. Visit the "News/Events" tab at ststthomasjoseph.com, and click on "My Own Church" for more information.



Thank You For Your Christmas Giving Tree Gifts! St. Thomas/St. Joseph Parish in conjunction with Catholic Charities of Orange County helped many needy local children and adults! Purchased items and donations of wrapping paper need to be returned by Sunday, Dec. 9 for delivery on Monday, Dec. 10.

Stay Involved By Staying Informed! Visit

ststthomasjoseph.com, the Parish website, for information about joining: STAR Youth Group; Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas; Knights of Columbus, Council 7460; Catholic Daughters of Americas, Court Rita #264; and our Mothers' Prayer Group.

Another great way to stay informed is to sign up for **Flocknotes** using your cell number or email at ststthomasjoseph.com.



ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY / ST. JOSEPH PARISH

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve:

4:00 pm (vigil)- St. Thomas
4:30 pm (vigil) - St. Joseph
6:30 pm (vigil) - St. Thomas
9:00 pm (night) - St. Thomas



Christmas Day:

8:00 am - St. Thomas
10:00 am - St. Thomas
12:00 noon - St. Thomas

Mass Intentions For 2019

* Up to two separate intentions will be accepted at the Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30 pm and at the Sunday 9 am Mass. The Sunday 11 am Mass intention will only be designated "Pro Populo".
* The Offering for an announced intention is \$15; \$10 for an unannounced intention. All intentions are scheduled through the Parish Office and are subject to the Pastor's approval.

Operation Archangel. To be involved in our new parish safety plan, Archangel, for medical, fire, and public safety emergencies, contact Pete at Peter.mcGovern@aol.com or leave a message with the Parish Office.

Our **Food Pantry** is running low on paper towels and decaf coffee. Thank you for your support!

The Catholic Faith. On Demand! Visit the website, formed.org, and enter our parish code: FHHFCV to gain FREE access to thousands of movies, video programs, audios, and ebooks.



ADVENT

The word Advent is from the Latin adventus for "coming" and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas. Advent always contains four Sundays, beginning on the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, (November 30) and continuing until December 24. It blends together a penitential spirit, very similar to Lent, a liturgical theme of preparation for the Second and Final Coming of the Lord, called the Parousia, and a joyful theme of getting ready for the Bethlehem event.

Since the 900s Advent has been considered the beginning of the Church year. This does not mean that Advent is the most important time of the year. Easter has always had this honor.

The traditional color of Advent is purple or violet which symbolizes the penitential spirit. Religious traditions associated with Advent express all these themes.

Source: <http://www.ewtn.com/advent>



MASS INTENTIONS

Mon, Dec 10

8:30 am +Joan Sullivan by Peter Costella

Tues, Dec 11

8:30 am +John and Winnie Horan by family

Wed, Dec 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30 am +Maureen Terwilliger by Dawn and Walt Wiemer

6:30 pm +Kathleen Kane & Frances Carroll by Kathy Kissel

Thurs, Dec 13: St. Lucy

8:30 am +Peter Rudden by Donna and Bill Peck

Fri, Dec 14: St. John of the Cross

8:30 am +Anne Sacco by Susan Zenan

Sat, Dec 15

8:30 am +Dec. Mbrs. of Colone family by Brandt family

4:30 pm +Fr. Robert Hilfiker by Kathy Kissel;
+Thomas and Bridget McManus by family

Sun, Dec 16: Third Sunday of Advent

7:30 am +Molly Art by Jeanette and Kevin Jacobson

9:00 am Pro Populo

11:00 am +Jim Rose by Beth Rose

12:30 pm +Ann Greehy by Ursula Slattery

ALL Masses

are celebrated at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church, except for the Sunday, 12:30 pm Mass and the Wednesday, 6:30 pm Mass, which are celebrated at St. Joseph Church.

Pro Populo (For the Intentions of the People of the Parish)