

ST. JOHN VIANNEY – MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

5:00 PM + Sheila Rhoades 1 yr Anniversary
/ St. John Vianney Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:00AM + Mary Quinn/ Marianne & Matthew Cusa
10:00AM + Sal Ciuppa / Marlene & Steve Januszewski

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

5:00 PM + Jay Cuervo / Valentine Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:00AM + Johanna Schnackenburg
/Joe & Debbie Wickham
10:00AM + May & Jim Gilroy / Judy & Skip Diller

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE - MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

5:00 PM +Kimberly Lane / Silbernagel Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

9:00 AM + Joan King / Joan & George DeVito
11:00AM + Anthony Bello / Engineering Department

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

7:30 PM + Pat Baratta / McCartney Family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:00AM + Ryan DeVito / Ellen Schmidt
Rosary: 7:00pm Chapel

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

8:00AM + Beth Katzenstein / Jill & Tony Bonfiglio

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

8:00 AM + Barbara Spender / Susan & Sal Dispenzarie

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:00 AM + Joey Begley / Ellen Begley

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

5:00 PM + Carol Angelucci / her husband Al

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

9:00 AM + Ryan Scott DeVito / Ginny Dobbs
11:00AM + Lucia O'Meara / Pat Snouffer



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gaudete Sunday - December 16, 2018

Dear Parish Family:



Christmas is only nine days away now. Children – and the young at heart – can feel the excitement building. Gifts will soon be under the tree. We have been preparing for Christ's coming for two weeks. Retailers and radio stations have been preparing for Christmas for over a month. The nearness of the holy day is palpable and so today – Gaudete Sunday – we rejoice. We rejoice in God's gift to us, not to be found under a tree, but in a manger and in our hearts.

The Christmas Wafer (Oplatek): Christmas wafers (*Oplatek*) are in the vestibule. The Oplatek is a Central European Christian Christmas Tradition celebrated in Poland, Slovak and Lithuanian families during Wigilla (Christmas Eve Vigil). This custom of the breaking and passing of the thin wafer Oplatek bread at Christmas Eve meal reminds all of us our daily bread and Bread of Life who came into the world. The envelope that contains the Oplatek has a blessing that can be used as you gather around the table. There is a basket for a free will offering.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Anyone requesting a prayer shawl should fill out a form in the lobby of STA/SJV and leave the completed form in the basket. We will contact you with a time to pick up your shawl. For immediate need, please call Gabby Dyl at 973-713-0280. The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets at STA at 7:30 pm the first Thursday of the month. Next meeting: **Thursday, January 3.** For more information call Renee Ferreri: 518-321-5236.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK?

John the Baptist's response to the crowd (Who ever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.) recall Matthew's story of the Last Judgment ("I was hungry and you gave me food . . . naked and you clothed me"). Notice that Jesus takes it one step further. Now it is not just a random person, but Jesus specifically, whom we are helping in our plenty. But it was John who laid the groundwork. It was John who asked 3 times, "What should we do?" It was John who told them, even before Christ began his mission, how to act like a Christian.

***Knowing that God is in our midst, how can I
answer the question from the Gospel:
"What should I do?"***

From Joey our favorite Seminarian

SPIRITUAL JOY

Most human beings at one time or another battle a nagging sense of inadequacy. Pride is sin's approach to dealing with this. Proud people are preoccupied with self, seeing all others as competitors. The proud perpetually exalt themselves over others in hopes that this will provide a sense of worth and inner peace. Of course, it doesn't. Human history has proven this time and time again. Even the pagan Greek storytellers knew that hubris or pride was the precursor of tragedy. Pride always comes before the fall, as it did in the Garden of Eden.

Humility brings freedom from this frantic bondage. Trying at every turn to affirm, exalt, and protect oneself is an exhausting enterprise. Receiving one's dignity and self-worth as a gift from God relieves us from this stressful burden. Freed from the blinding compulsion to dominate, we can feel a sense of satisfaction when others recognize that God is God and honor him as such. We can even be free to recognize God in someone else and rejoice when others notice and honor God's goodness in this person.

But what about John's stark call to repentance? How this be Good News? Because repentance is all about humility and humility is all about freedom. And freedom leads to inner peace and joy, joy in the presence of the Bridegroom.

*Below is Joey's mailing address
if you would like to write to him:*

Joey Mactal

**Mount St. Mary Seminary
16300 Old Emmitsburg Road
Emmitsburg, MD 21727**

(Note Make sure you include Seminary)

'TIS (ALMOST) THE SEASON:

Join us for THE BEST ADVENT EVER, a free email program from Dynamic Catholic that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during the busy holiday season. Each day of Advent, you will receive an email with . . .

- Short inspirational videos from Allen Hunt, Matthew Kelly, and the Dynamic Catholic team.
- Practical tips for you everyday life.
- Real-life stories to encourage you in your faith journey.

To sign up, visit

BestAdventEver.com/Christmas18

Interested in: Pine Dining Room table, 6 chairs and hutch contact Scott Bishoff, 18 Ruskin Road, Oak Ridge, 973-214-9141

"TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON, A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE UNDER HEAVEN."
ECCLESIASTES 3:11

"A TIME TO BE HEALED"

Prayers for the sick: Brennan McCoy, Kathy Brennen, Aaron Alonzo, Sal D'Arco, Msgr. Brendan P. Madden, Kevin Wickert, Betty Klein, Fumiko Lutz, Patricia Carapola & Bob Carapola, Courtney Sanchelli, Danny Scillieri, Gail Brennan, Fr. Ron Sordillo, Louis "Louie" Panetta, Rich Day, Richard Lavelle, Marion Coleson, Chris Osborne, Rose Kelly, Stephen Vecchiotti, Devon Carbery, Vincent Ottani, Mrs. Karas, Ernie Sudo, Penny Sorokach (nursing home), Brandon Wozniak, Darlene Kolakovic, Sophia Wolters, Fr. Dan Kelly, Fr. Joseph Farias, Helen Turosky, David Diller, Joe Endlicher.

"A TIME TO MOURN"

Prayers for the deceased: Carolyn Wright, Regina McCartney, Joseph Wyso, Loretta Perrucci, Theodore Ciesla, Lewis Kansas, Elvira Budesheim, Pauline Diliberto, Sam Carabello, Alex D'Arco, Joan Cartier, Timothy Egan, Michael Kaiser, Anna Annuzzi, Leah Mary Cummings, Eileen Carbery, Marjorie (Peggy) Zajdel, Marge Endlicher, Chris Hirsch, Joan France, Esther Benard, Vincent Ginella, Marguerite Socci, Antoinette Sterlaci, Mark Hale, Esther Punturieri, Lucy Cox, Claire Reilly, Joseph Romano, Madeline Mae Greischel, James Geary, John Zboraj, Sr., Helen Rogers, William Noriega, Gary Feiner, J. Glenn Beury, Shelia Rhoades, and Fred Wallenburg, Anthony E. Rosciszewski, Leonard Falchek, Alice Rose Witty, Peter A. Kelly, Stephen Eltringham, Richard Hanratty, Maria Aranzullo, Susan Menke. Rev. Msgr. Martin Rauscher, Bill Povalitis, Sal Romano, Ann Marie Dwornikoski, Margaret Niven, Joan King, Anthony Bello, Natasha Culic, Patricia Galgano, Katherine "Kitty" Bowers, Lena Ferrara, Msgr. Charles Russo, Patricia A. Otto, Michael Halczli Sr., Kathleen Mitchell and Ryan Scott DeVito, Silvia G. Wickert, Helen Carabillo, Rita DeVito, Lucy Fitzsimmons, Johanna Schnackenberg, James Bottcher, John Ryan, Vicki Cardinali, Steve Corman, Frank Codiroli, Jay Cuervo, Patrica Gott, Kenneth Schumann, Thomas Ingram, , Jerry Busko, Angelina DeLucia, Fr. Leo Carey, Leonard Den Bleyker and Bishop Frank J. Rodimer.

"A TIME FOR PEACE"

For national and world leaders and those

currently serving in the armed forces especially:

SGT Michael Koval, USMC, PFC Jonathan Cuervo, USMC, PFC Anthony Imperato, USMC, Michael Guarino, US Army, PFC Sebastian Geary, USMC, USAF Airman James Perez, Sgt. Antoino Lettizia, USMC, OSSR Anthony S. Gambuti, US Navy

In honor of the Military serving our country at home and abroad, we invite you to remain after the Recessional Song at all weekend Masses to recite three (3) Hail Mary's for their safety.

FAMILY CONNECTION: The theme of the season of Advent is sometimes described as a period of waiting for the birth of Jesus. However, today's Gospel reading suggests something different. John the Baptist did not tell the crowds to wait for the Messiah. He told them to prepare for the Messiah through acts of repentance. If Advent is a time of waiting, it is not the sitting in the doctor's office kind of waiting. It is a busy time of preparation, more like the waiting we might do when preparing for dinner guests. Our challenge is to not make this season a frenzied time, but rather a time of joyful anticipation and making ready for God who comes to dwell among us and changes our lives with the gift of salvation.

PROJECT RACHEL: is a process that leads people to healing and reconciliation after an abortion experience. To talk to someone about beginning this journey, please call 973-777-8818, ext. 272. All calls are confidential.

Helping Hands is a combined parish community service group. If you are in need of any type of help, or if you know someone who needs help, please contact Gabrielle Dyl at 973-713-0280.



READINGS FOR THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Sunday

Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Monday

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

Thursday

Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

Friday

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45

FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE NEEDS: Since 1930 the Benedictine monks of St. Paul's Abbey Christmas Tree Plantation located on Route 206 one mile south of Newton, plant and cultivate trees that will mature into full-grown trees. At St. Paul's Abbey there are thousands of Christmas trees ready to choose 'n' cut 7 days of the week now until December 23, 9 AM to 4 PM.

You can get your Christmas Tree and support the Benedictine monks at the same time.

BAPTISM

At SJV: the last Sunday of the month either during the 10:00 am Mass **or at 11:15 am.** (Note the change in time)

At STA: the First Sunday of the month - either during the 11:00 a.m. Mass **or at 12:15 pm.** (Note the change in time.)

Couples desiring to have their child baptized should be active parishioners, attending Mass regularly. Parents must attend a Baptism Preparation Meeting.

The next meeting will take place at Saint Thomas the Apostle on Monday evening **January 14, 2019 at 7:00 pm.** (Future dates: March 11, May 13, July 8, September 9, November 11) To make baptismal arrangements contact the parish office by email: terry@ststthomasjohn.org or call Saint John Vianney at 973-697-6550 / Saint Thomas the Apostle at 973-208-0090.

Knights of Columbus ~ Council Meetings

St. John Vianney Council #12649 meets at Saint John Vianney Church Hall the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Joseph Lamb Council #5510 meets on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at Wiegand Farm – Department for Persons with Disabilities' meeting room. Both meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

MARRIAGES

Prior to your booking of the reception, please call the Parish Office 1 year in advance of the wedding date to allow for proper pre-marital preparation.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday Evening: 4:00 to 4:45 PM.

By request: contact the parish office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Saint John Vianney/Saint Thomas the Apostle
debbie@ststthomasjohn.org

Grades K-8: Saturday mornings 8:30 – 9:45AM

September – April at White Rock Elementary School.

Combined Confirmation Classes (9th & 10th Grade)

September – April, Alternating weeks on Sunday mornings at Saint Thomas beginning with 9:00AM Mass until 11:30am.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP: A parishioner is one who belongs to the parish family. As such, he/she is registered and is committed through participation in the life of the parish. Marriages to be administered and Sponsor Certificates, recommendations, etc. to be issued by the office, the person requesting such must be registered and an active member of Saint John Vianney Parish or Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish community. We request that you register at the rectory when you move into our community so that we may be of service to you.