

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2016
LITURGY SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

Saturday, December 17
5:00 p.m. – Ronald Cooke req. by Aunt Geri

Sunday, December 18
8:30 a.m. – Bill Lenahan req. by his wife, Eleanor Lenahan
10:00 a.m. – Stephan McCabe req. by McGovern family

Monday, December 19
12:00 p.m. – Loretta Joyce

Tuesday, December 20
12:00 p.m. – Pam Miller

Wednesday, December 21
12:00 a.m. – John & Dorothy Ryzner

Thursday, December 22
12:00p.m. –Janet Sautter

Friday, December 23
12:00 p.m. – Kevin McGuire req. by his wife Kelly & daughters, Caitlin & Tess

Saturday, December 24
Vigil of Christmas
4:00 p.m. – For the People of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
6:30 p.m. – For the People of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
11:30 p.m. – Christmas Caroling
Midnight Mass – For the People of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

Sunday, December 25
The Nativity of the Lord
8:30 a.m. – For the People of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
10:00 a.m. – For the People of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish



Bill Lenahan
Requested by: Eleanor Lenahan

Collection for December 10&11: \$3,148.00
Parish Pay Electronic Giving: \$ 2,529.34(November)
Collection from last year: \$ 3,366.00
Retired Religious: \$2,246.00
Ongoing Renovation: Funds Collected \$23,655.80
Total Cost: (\$23,127.35)
Net: \$528.45

PARISH PAY: Have you thought about automating your giving? No more writing checks! You decide the amount and the frequency. Sign up today for automatic contributions to Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish. Go to the Parish Pay link at www.sacredheartrockaway.org or call 866-727-4741.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

IN THE MILITARY

Major Mike Cherry
LCpl. Aleksandr Killeen,
Airman 1st Cl. Andrew Mistkowski,
1st Lt. Nicholas DelCore, Air Force
Captain Jessica L. Rotile Rudo
Kenneth Rudo, Warrant Officer,1

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Irene Schreiber, Doug Bansch, Maria Acevedo, TJ Schoudel, Capt. Adam Cowan, USA,

Julio Soto, Ellen Forbes, Ben Marvilla, Michelle Monslave, Amelia Marie Cayea, Mary Therese Loftus, Sharon Bauer, Mary Davenport, Jose Prado, Arlene Berlin, M. J. Simon, Robert Nielsen, Marge Vogel, Efrain Gonzalez, Amanda Villarubia, Mary Skelly, John Skutka, William McBurney, Anne Riordan, D.M. Lynch, Linda Hoffman,, Mike Izzo, Ethel Gorman, Edward Frame, Adam Hayward, Ronnie Abrams, Carol Centonze, James Boyle.

PARISH POLICY – PLEASE NOTE – All Catholic families living within the parish boundaries are encouraged to register as members. Registration as a parish member has many benefits, and in particular, facilitates any arrangements for baptisms, marriages, sponsors, etc. **Please contact the Rectory at 973-627-0422**

First Friday Communion Calls: A priest will be making “First Friday” visits to those who are homebound. These visits will be made by one of our priests who will distribute Holy Communion. He will also be available for the sacraments of penance and anointing of the sick. Please call the rectory at 972-627-0422 to register your name for this monthly visit by one of our priests

For St. Cecilia Cemetery information, please email Diane Boykow at StCeciliaCemetery@gmail.com

Food Certificates: Food certificates will be available after the Masses and in the rectory to purchase. Thank you for participating in this worthwhile program. If you have not, please give it a try!

We’ve changed envelope companies: If you haven’t received your most recent set of envelopes, please contact the rectory at 973-627-0422.

OPLATEK AVAILABLE – Oplatek, the traditional bread used for the Christmas Eve Vigil Supper, can be found at the side altar in the church. Your donation may be placed in the basket located next to the oplatek.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS – An advent penance service for both Sacred Heart and Saint Cecilia parishioners will take place on Monday, December 19th in Saint Cecilia Church beginning at 7 o’clock in the evening. A number of priests will be available for confession. Adults and children should approach the sacrament of penance prior to the celebration of the feast of Our Lord’s Nativity so that we may welcome the Christ Child into our grace-filled hearts.

ALL MINISTERS: Copies of the schedule are available in the sacristy. Any questions/concerns please contact the appropriate group leader.

My dear parishioners,

We have arrived at the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the celebration of the Lord's Day. Next Sunday we will celebrate the feast of our salvation, the Nativity of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Of the four Evangelists only Luke and Matthew tell the story of the birth of the Savior. In today's Gospel we hear Saint Matthew's version of this event and of the prominent role Saint Joseph plays within it. Joseph is the quiet man, the obedient man who is faith-filled and open to the bidding of God. Like his spouse, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Joseph places his life in God's hands even though he is unsure of what will be. Saint Joseph is a loving husband who goes to great lengths to protect his wife and the child who will be born to them. He is the protector of this Holy Family, its guardian and strength. We are at the threshold of the feast which commemorates God's Gift-giving to us, the birth of our Savior. We are continually reminded in the Sacred Scriptures of the generosity of God and the blessings which He continually bestows upon us. In one verse of today's Responsorial Psalm we find the words, "He shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a reward from God his savior." This "he" is the servant of God, that is, all those who place their trust in the Lord. We, you and me, are hopefully in this group. As we seek to be in God's company so He blesses us for He is the "King of Glory."

This year Christmas falls on a Sunday and presents a situation where the regular Sunday offering could be overlooked by some, a concern of many pastors who need the regular weekly offering for parish expenses. Here in our parish I am always grateful for the manner in which our parishioners respond so generously with "special gifts" to the parish at Christmas and Easter. I share this because I want to reinforce and encourage your generosity to the Church in appreciation to God for sending us the very best gift, His Son Christ the Lord.

With next Sunday being the last Sunday of the year let me remind you that your financial gift to our Church is a charitable donation to a non-profit corporation which is beneficial to you in tax reporting. Your donation of cash, stocks or other financial instruments are greatly appreciated and can bring blessings to us for years to come. I say THANK YOU to all of you who support the Church with such love and generosity. I pray that the Lord will reward you for your fidelity in this life and in the life to come!

See you in church for Christmas!

Father Zig

NEW STABLE – A new outdoor stable to house the Nativity statues has been built by Joseph Maulbeck. The outdoor crèche is a wonderful witness of our faith in "the Word made Flesh." our thanks to Joe for building and positioning the crèche in front of the church for us. May God bless him!

THANK YOU – Many thanks to a parishioner who wishes to remain anonymous for their donation of \$1,000 for the church renovation fund. May Christ the Savior richly bless them for the generosity shown to His Church.

From Fr. Marcin

ADVENT – time of prayer and reflection...

- Our Gospel today focuses on the preparation made by Joseph for the first Christmas. It was a most difficult preparation for him.
- What gave Joseph the strength to endure all the trials his vocation brought him? It was obviously his life of prayer that gave him the strength to be obedient to God's call to him. He was a just man, a man of honor as our Gospel today tells us. He had to have been a man of deep faith to fulfill his high calling.
- Marriage and virginity are two signs of the love of God for us and we see both of these united in the first couple of the New Testament, Mary and Joseph. Joseph is a model of chastity. The chastity of Joseph and Mary is a challenge to our times when the sanctity of marriage and fidelity to one's spouse for life are no longer respected.

St. Joseph is Patron of the Church. He had to make preparations for the first Christmas, to submit to God's plan in faith. As we prepare for Christmas we can turn to Joseph asking his help so that we can prepare our hearts in faith to be worthy mangers to receive Jesus

Reflection:

Do not be afraid. What fears and anxieties keep me from living my call to be a missionary disciple? How can I help others live their calls without fear?

God is with us. How am I aware of God's presence in my daily life? How do I make God present to others?

He did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him. How do I discern God's plan for my life? What steps can I take to help me follow the Lord more closely?

Advent prayer:

Come quickly, we pray, Lord Jesus,
and do not delay,
that those who trust in your compassion
may find solace and relief in your coming.
Who live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Thank You for supporting senior religious. A sister from Indiana writes, "Because of your kindness, our elderly sisters will have the comfort, security, and joy of living out their remaining years here at home. You truly honor them and their many years of service by your generosity." Religious across the United States offer sincere thanks for your generosity to last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

St. Cecilia's Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Vigil Masses, Saturday, December 24th

4:30 p.m. – Children's Mass

7:00 p.m. – Holy Mass

9:30 p.m. – Christmas Caroling

10:00 p.m. – Holy Mass

Christmas Day Masses, Sunday, December 25th

8:00, 9:15, 10:45 a.m. & 12:15 p.m. – Holy Mass

3:00 p.m. – Vietnamese Mass

New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31st

4:30 & 7:00 p.m. – Holy Mass

New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1st

8:00, 9:15, 10:45 a.m. & 12:15 p.m. – Holy Mass

3:00 p.m. – Vietnamese Mass

Kindergarten received an Elf on the Shelf from Santa today!! We named him Mike!!

