

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 24, 2017**



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2017

5:30 P.M. Tom Norton
Joseph Giordano
Tom Karwacki
Gerald (Rusty) Shirhall
Susan O'Keefe – 4th Anniversary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Santo Algaretti
10:00 A.M. Joseph & Gea Giavannone
12:00 P.M. Walter Donnelly
4:00 P.M. Parishioners
6:00 P.M. Parishioners
10:00 P.M. Parishioners

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2017

7:30 A.M. Parishioners
10:00 A.M. Parishioners
12 NOON Parishioners

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2017

8:00 A.M. Thomas Vetter
Thanksgiving – Tindoc Family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2017

8:00 A.M. Robert Sokol
Intentions for Rev. David McDonnell

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2017

8:00 A.M. Rocco Florio

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2017

5:30 P.M. Rocco Florio
Tom Norton
Peter Shirhall
Tom Karwacki
Mary & Bill DiMiceli

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017

7:30 A.M. Parishioners
10:00 A.M. Oliva Glorioso
Dorothy & Frank Orofino
Shirley & Roy Parian
Rocco Tarulli
John Shutte
12:00 P.M. Tom Karwacki
Gerald Cervino

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK: Mary Carton Jacob Hicks Helen Lubertazza
Tom Guzowski Audrey Grace Higgins Ava Rae Nebbia
Gary Ragusa Silverio Conte Alex Haines Evelyn Means
Baby Michael Soojian Jan Hongo Susan Nichols-Boggio
Baby Ryder Sasso Carmela Fusco Frank Morici
Frances De Maria Dorothea King Jerome Foray
Gabe Bellantoni Manuel Esguerra Eileen McPartland
Rosemary Liebman Cenelia Soto Frank Sanclimenti
Sharon Acquire Noah Lorencovitz Sandra Pacifico
Sister Marie Louise George Link Amida Jaloudi
Barbara Kincaid Carmela Bitondo James Quinn
Larry Perry

DECEASED: Helen Dacunto

CHURCH MEMORIALS

Church Altar Candle in memory of Mary & Joseph Purcella requested by Family.

Church Tabernacle Candle in memory of Richard & Antoinette Assidio requested by Kathy Assisio.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday - \$5,844.50

Thank you for your continued support.



Dear Friends in Christ:

Today is the 4th and the last Sunday of Advent before Christmas, and all four candles are lit in the Advent wreath. Indeed, we are at the threshold of Christmas and the birth of Baby Jesus is now imminent. In a few hours we will be celebrating the memory of that great event.

Throughout Advent, we have heard of God's promise to send a Liberator - a Savior into the world; today, we catch a glimpse of how that is to be accomplished and to some extent, we can associate with the greatest joy of the Blessed Virgin Mary who awaited the coming of Baby Jesus into the world.

Today, we are standing right at the front door of Christmas and before we enter, Mary has been presented to us, this last Sunday of Advent to be our model. Let us follow her example of faith & holiness, humility & simplicity, obedience & surrender to the will of God, as we await the coming of our Saviour into the world and into our lives.

Obviously, God's choice of Mary to be the Mother of His Son was special. So was her response, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Mary freely accepted the fact that she had been chosen to be the mother of the Messiah and surrendered herself to the will of God. Mary listened and humbly answered the invitation, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

Just as God had freely chosen to give, Mary had also freely chosen to accept. And with her simple 'Fiat', her unhesitating 'Yes', Mary changed the course of salvation history forever. God becomes one of us. God is present among us.

But God has also chosen all of us for something special. For this, like Mary, we are also favoured. What has been our response to God's choice of us? Consequently, like Mary, we are challenged to use our freedom and respond with our 'yes' to God's call. Merry Christmas my Friends.

**JOHN OF KANTY (or CANTIUS)
FEAST DAY – DECEMBER 23**

John of Kanty was born near Oswiecim in Poland on June 23, 1390. He came from a family that lived in the country, but they were fairly well off. He was sent to the university in the big city of Kraków, Poland, where he did well.

John was ordained priest, and appointed as a professor in the University. He was falsely accused there by jealous university rivals, and lost his position. At age 41, he was assigned as a parish priest at Olkusz, Bohemia. He was not comfortable with this kind of responsibility, which was so different from teaching, but did his best. At first, his parishioners did not accept him, but in the end he won their hearts.

After several years in his parish, John returned to his beloved University and taught Scripture there for the rest of his life. He became increasingly famous for his teaching, his humble and austere way of living and his spontaneous generosity. He made four pilgrimages to Rome, carrying his own luggage on his back. When he was warned to take care of his health, he said that the early desert fathers lived long lives in conditions "that had nothing to recommend them but the presence of God".

John was a gifted communicator, and this gift helped him become a fine teacher. Perhaps his best lesson for us, especially in these days of instant communication, can be found in his favorite sayings to his pupils: 'Fight all false opinions, but let your weapons be patience, sweetness and love. Roughness is bad for your own soul and spoils the best cause.'

At the time of his death, St. John Kanty was so well loved that his veneration began immediately. For years, his doctoral gown was worn by graduates receiving advanced degrees at the University. He was beatified and named patron of Poland and Lithuania in 1737 by Pope Clement XII. Ninety-one years after his beatification, he was [canonized](#) on July 16, 1767 by [Pope Clement XIII](#)

ADORATION CHAPEL

Exciting news, our beautiful chapel will become an Adoration Chapel in the New Year. We hope to offer this opportunity for quiet time in the presence of the Lord in January. Check future bulletins for more specific information. **Come let us adore Him.**

KIDNEY NEEDED

There is a parishioner in our parish who needs, most of all, your prayers, but who is in need of a kidney. Sometimes just knowing of a need or talking about it, brings amazing results. But, above all, prayers are priceless. Thank you and God bless you.

Msgr. Re Rocco will be here to celebrate the 6 PM Mass on Christmas Eve

So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this Child.

Luke 2:16-17

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24th - Fourth Sunday of Advent - Masses are the usual Sunday Schedule – 7:30AM – 10AM and 12 Noon.

No Mass of Christmas may be celebrated on December 24th before four o'clock in the afternoon.

Sunday, December 24th **Christmas Eve Masses** are:

4PM – Children's Mass

6PM and 10PM – Christmas Eve Masses

Christmas Day

7:30 AM – 10:00 AM – 12 NOON

NEW YEAR'S DAY

January 1, 2018 falls on a Monday, therefore the Day of Obligation has been suspended. However, Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 AM and 7:30 PM for those who wish to attend Mass.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

2017 Goal: \$16,600.00

Pledged to Date: \$22,718.00

of Donors to Date: 127

Thank you to all who pledged to the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal.

What is the feast of Christmas all about? What are its messages?

-Christmas is an event of love, it is a feast of love: John in his

Gospel says, **"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him, will not perish, but will have eternal life."**

Christmas is God's self-gift laid in human hands, in the person of Jesus Christ for the salvation of mankind and it really tells how magnanimously God loves us and cares for us.



-Christmas is an event of joy, it is a feast of joy: The angel said to the shepherds, **"Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is the Messiah, the Lord."**

-Christmas is an event of peace, it is a feast of peace: And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: **"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."** . That peace is the shalom of God – life experienced in all its fullness, richness, and completeness in accord with the will of God.

But lastly, the real meaning of Christmas actually is 'Emmanuel,' God-with-us –God revealing Himself to us; God bringing us forgiveness, healing, comfort, moral strength, guidance. Each one of us has, deep down in our soul, an incredible hunger: a hunger to be in the presence of God.

As we celebrate the incarnation of the Word of God this Christmas, we must make a conscious effort, both to remember that Jesus is always with us, especially in the Eucharist, and to share our joy in His presence with others. So let's go home to the heart of Christmas and embrace Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Christmas asks all of us a tough question. If Jesus were to come today, how would he come? As a matter of fact, he is already there standing and knocking at the door. Do we close the doors of our hearts to Jesus, who is looking for a place to be reborn in our lives?



**CALENDAR RAFFLE SWEEPSTAKES TIME
90 CHANCES TO WIN WITH EACH TICKET
PRIZES TOTAL \$4000**

"Calendar Raffle tickets are still available until after the Noon Mass on Christmas Eve. Do you need some last minute stocking stuffers? This is your answer! See Erika in the Narthex."

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

CCD Classes resume as follows:

10th Grade – January 7th – Retreat – 12 Noon Mass to follow at school till 5:00 PM. – In Church Confirmation Practice – Parent, Student & Sponsor.

Confirmation – Thursday, January 11th at 7:30 PM.

9th Grade – January 21st – 6:45 PM in School

6th, 7th, 8th Grades – January 7th – 6:45 PM in School

1st – 5th Grades – January 8th – 4:15PM in School

Assumption College for Sisters...not just for Sisters!

Assumption College for Sisters, Denville, is proud to announce its theology and philosophy courses for the Spring semester January 9-May 9, 2018 along with two new offerings:

Th 102 Sacred Scripture II 3 credits
Thursday 9:00 a.m. -11:45 a.m.
Sister Theresa Kelly, FMA

Th 205 Mystery of God 3 credits
Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Sister Theresa Kelly, FMA

Th 207 Mary and the Scriptures 3 credits
Thursday 12:30 p.m. 3:15 p.m.
Sister Theresa Kelly, FMA

Ph 203 Philosophy of the Human Person 3 credits
Tuesday 12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m.
Craig Davis, M.A., J.D.

En 203 Special Topics in English: Women in Literature 3 credits
Mon. 2:00-3:15 p.m.
Sister Margaret McCann, SC, PhD
Thurs. 12:45-2:00 p.m.

Ps 202_O Developmental Psychology (Online) 3 credits
Stephanie Melick Pre-requisite: acsOCO
Online Course Orientation
\$510/course for credit \$255/course for audit

For registration call or e-mail by December 18:

973-957-0188 Ext. 106
academicdean@acs350.org

Holiday Shopping Got You Crazy?

In the true spirit of Christmas
Do Something Extraordinary
For Someone You Are Extraordinarily Grateful For...
Women's Cornerstone...
Take a moment to reflect on
how grateful you are to have

The Lord,

Your GOD in your life,
Then think about this...

How often do you take time out of your busy schedule to reconnect with yourself and God?

Women's Cornerstone March 2&3, 2018

St. Mary's Church, Pompton Lakes

Say "YES" to yourself and to Him...

Register Now!

For more information contact

Cyndi Shah: cnshah@optonline.net 973-699-1909

Lisa Egan: LEgan@capezio.com, 973-650-6560

"And this will be a sign for you: you will find an Infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Luke 2:12

**LAKELAND NURSING HOME SCHEDULE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Maria Invernon & John Minnett

LECTORS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2017

5:30 P.M. Giovanna Vollaro

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017

7:30 A.M. Jay Markot

10:00 A.M. John McMurray

12 NOON Linda O'Connell

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2017

5:30 P.M. Martha Bisaccio & Pat Demarest

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017

7:30 A.M. Sue Raoul & Hatima Omolon

10:00 A.M. Melissa & Jackie Rivera

12 NOON Barbara Garruto & John Arendas

ALTAR SERVERS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2017

5:30 P.M. Sean Moebius & Peter Sutula

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017

7:30 A.M. Elizabeth Reid

10:00 A.M. Christopher Marren & Sebastian Wojtowicz

12 NOON Tim Kenny & Aaron Manalili



On behalf of Deacon Jose, and the entire Parish Staff, I extend to You and Your Families a blessed and joyous Christmas.



Fr. Greg
Pastor