

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 17, 2017**



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017**

5:30 P.M. John Renick  
Tom Norton  
David Louis Armentano  
Tom Karwacki  
Edmund Bakowski

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017**

7:30 A.M. Parishioners  
Bill Vogt  
10:00 A.M. Margaret Puzio  
Joseph Giordano  
12:00 NOON Rose Gerace  
Ernestine Petras  
Thomas Morano



**MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017**

8:00 A.M. Joan Hill  
Kay Quinn Janosek

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017**

8:00 A.M. Pablo Reynes

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2017**

8:00 A.M. Walter Knorr

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2017**

8:00 A.M. Michele & Carmela Garruto  
Marie Beggan

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2017**

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

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017**

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

**Pray daily for the safety of our servicemen and women serving their country.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Mary Carton Jacob Hicks Helen Lubertazza Evelyn Means  
Tom Guzowski Audrey Grace Higgins Ava Rae Nebbia  
Gary Ragusa Silverio Conte Alex Haines Helen Dacunto  
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 Sanclementi  
Sharon Acquaire Noah Lorencovitz Sandra Pacifico  
Sister Marie Louise George Link Amida Jaloudi  
Barbara Kincaid Carmela Caropreso Bitondo James Quinn  
**DECEASED:** Grace Vitulano Jessica Dunkerley

**WEEKLY OFFERING**

Sunday – \$4,970.50  
Thank you for your continued support.



**Dear friends in Christ,**

“Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice! The Lord is near.” The Scripture Readings of today remind us that true joy and happiness is to be

found only in God. Yes, indeed, Advent is a time of joyful anticipation and a time of preparation. It is a time to joyfully look forward to the coming of Christmas, to the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ into our lives and to prepare ourselves to receive the great gift that he offers us - the gift of the 'robe of salvation' that heals our poverty of spirit, our broken hearts, and our bondage to sinfulness.

Today's Gospel Reading presents to us John the Baptist as our model, whose life, despite his sacrifices and hardships was full of joy that is if we define joy as a state of bliss over having or expecting something or someone that we love. So, during this season of Advent we see John's role that is very similar to ours. On the one hand, we come after Jesus and are the beneficiaries of his being among us, sharers in the life he has brought. On the other hand, it is our role to go before him, clearing the way so that he may come into the lives of other people. This is our apostolic, our evangelizing responsibility.

The mission of a good Christian is to be a prophet and announce the Gospel with the same valor, resolution, and integrity that John the Baptist had. We need many more Christians like him: fearless in their faith and humble in their ministry, who know how to stand up for what is right while standing in the shadows and allowing God to be the one who shines forth.

Let us then make our preparation of Christmas a joyful waiting for the Lord who is coming to us, who has already come and is certain to come again. The place where Jesus is waiting to meet us is particularly in the Eucharist which is a celebration of joy. We also discover him in the person of the poor, and of those long suffering physical or moral imprisonment – even prisons of their own making. If we bring them joy this Christmas, we ourselves will find that joy for ourselves.

**St. Lucy**

**Feast Day: December 13**

Lucy was born into a rich noble Roman family in Syracuse, Italy in the year 283 A.D. At a very young age she lost her father, who was a Christian. Lucy's father left her a very large dowry. Her mother wanted her to marry a rich pagan man, but Lucy did not want to; she was a young Christian who had already started working in the service of God by helping the poor. Lucy asked her mother to distribute the dowry among the poor. Lucy asked her mother to distribute the dowry among the poor, but her mother did not agree. She also helped fellow Catholics hiding from their persecutors in the dark underground catacombs. She would wear a wreath of candles on her head to find her way in the dark, because her hands were already filled with food and drink for the people. Lucy was very well known for her beautiful eyes. Many people said that her eyes radiated her love for Christ.

Lucy's mother became very ill, and tried many treatments, but they all failed. Lucy asked her mother to accompany her to Saint Agatha's shrine where they both prayed all night. They both fell asleep near St. Agatha's tomb. St. Agatha had appeared to Lucy

in a dream and gave her the good news that her mother was healed. Lucy's mother really was cured, and, understanding that a miracle had happened, she finally agreed with Lucy's request to distribute their wealth among the poor.

The Pagan man who wanted to marry Lucy was furious that she had refused him, so when he heard about the miracle, he decided to destroy Lucy's life denouncing her as a Christian to the Governor of Syracuse, Sicily. The governor sent his guards to forcibly take Lucy to a brothel house and then insult her in public. When the soldiers came to take her, Lucy was filled with the Holy Spirit, and the soldiers could not move her. When the Governor asked how she could stay strong, she claimed that it was the power of Jesus her Lord and God. Finally, the soldiers tortured Lucy to death. The torture included the removal of her eyes. She died as a martyr in 304 A.D.

Lucy's eyes were taken out by men, but according to tradition, and because of her great faith, God restored them. St. Lucy is the patron saint of the blind and those with eye problems. Many miracles have been attributed to her intercession.

May we have the courage to witness to Christ the way young St. Lucy did; and may we all radiate our love of Christ by sharing our gifts and good fortune with others.

#### **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. So, in your conversations, you may want to bring this topic up because you never know whose ears that this story falls upon, might be the lifesaving ones. But, above all, prayers are priceless. Thank you and God bless you.

#### **GIVING TREE**

Gifts for the residents of Lakeland Nursing Home and Wanaque Center will be **delivered to them on Friday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Please place your gifts under the tree in the Narthex by **Thursday** or drop off at the rectory. Please remember to mark your gift with your own tag noting Man or Woman.

Thank you for your generosity in this season of giving and sharing the love for the ill and infirmed.

#### **THANK YOU FROM THE LADIES GUILD**

The Ladies Guild would like to say "thank you" to all the members who set up the Christmas sale items in the Narthex and who helped during the sale.

A "big thank you" goes to all the parishioner who stopped by before and after the Masses and supported the sale.



### *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: [cshah@optonline.net](mailto:cshah@optonline.net) 973-699-1909

Lisa Egan: [LEgan@capezio.com](mailto:LEgan@capezio.com), 973-650-6560

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

Packages of 10 calendar raffle tickets are now available after  
all weekend masses or during the week in the rectory.

All proceeds from this fundraiser will support the needs of St.

Francis of Assisi Parish.

A winner will be chosen for each day from December 25th  
through March 24th. Please return all raffle stubs and unsold  
calendars to the rectory by Friday, December 23rd. If you  
need more raffle tickets, please stop by the rectory or contact  
Erika Reid via the information below.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Erika Reid

Calendar Raffle Chairperson

973-628-7917

[eareid@optonline.net](mailto:eareid@optonline.net)

#### **CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE**

##### **Communal Reconciliation Service**

Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>: 7:30 PM

##### **Individual Reconciliation**

Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>: 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>: 4:30 – 5:00 PM

#### **CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - 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 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Masses are:

4PM – Children's Mass

6PM and 10PM – Christmas Eve Masses

## FAITH RENEWAL MINISTRY

Hello to all! My name is Maribel. My son and I have been parishioners of St. Francis for over 8 years now. And I'm writing to introduce to you all our New Faith Renewal ministry started by my brother Frank, our music director Dania, and I a few months ago.

About two years ago, my brother invited me to go into the city to something called Catholic Underground. At first I was a little skeptical because I didn't know what to expect and it just sounded to religious to me. But he had gone a few years back raved about what a great experience it was, so I figured I'd give it a shot. Boy was I glad I did! Catholic Underground is hosted once a month by a group of Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. On their website they describe "Catholic Underground" as being a direct response to a call that began with Pope John Paul II, and was continued by Popes Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. JPII said that because the Gospel lives in conversation with culture, we must be fearless in crossing the cultural threshold of the communication and information revolution now taking place." In other words, sometimes we have to change with the times and meet people where they are.

The first part of the evening is Eucharistic adoration and simple praise. This creates a time for each person to personally encounter Jesus. The church is darkened and lit by candles which create a beautiful ambiance along with beautiful contemporary christian music that helps us to enter into the Lord's presence in the Eucharist. And the second part is the "underground" or the "new evangelization" where the Franciscan Friars introduce us to many talented Catholic artists.

The first time I went I felt something I had never felt before in all my years of growing up as a Catholic. While sitting there in the darkened church listening to the music, praying and meditating, I just started crying uncontrollably. It's as if everything I was holding deep down inside of me just came pouring out. I literally felt as if I left all my burdens at Jesus' feet. When I left there, I felt renewed spiritually and it felt amazing. It was then that I realized I wanted to be a part of it and I wanted to share that feeling with everyone at our parish.

Some of you may not be familiar with what eucharistic adoration is. Mother Teresa said "Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on earth. It will make your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in Heaven. A Holy Hour of adoration helps bring everlasting peace to your soul and in your family. It brings us personal peace and strength. It brings us a greater love for Jesus, for each other, and for the poor. Every holy hour deepens our union with Him and bears much fruit." In a deeper sense, it involves "the Mystery of Christ truly present before us". During this time we remain silent in His presence and open ourselves to His abundant graces. By worshiping the Eucharistic, we become closer to what God wants us to be! Through our Adoration, Jesus calls us to have a personal relationship with him.

Through this "friendship" with Christ, we are inspired and strengthened to take on life's challenges and to carry our daily cross with a new attitude.

We started this ministry so we can share that same peace and sense of spiritual renewal we received, with others. Our goal is to inspire and bring people of all ages closer to Christ. We do our Faith Renewal Holy Hour and Mass every third Saturday of the month. It will be posted in the bulletin along with any changes to the schedule. The holy hour begins at 4:30 during which time will be confessions and the mass at the usual

5:30pm time slot. Our goal is that through this ministry we can bring some new things to our parish well. Some things we have in mind in the near future are organizing a live stations of the cross during Lent, maybe find some local musicians to come and put on a show, doing some charity events and much more. If you have questions or ideas you'd like to share please don't hesitate to reach out. I have just started a facebook page, that you can find @stfrancisfaithrenewal or you can email us at [stfrancisfaithrenewal@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancisfaithrenewal@gmail.com).

Please join us every third Saturday of the month for our Faith Renewal Holy Hour and Mass. Jesus is inviting us to spend time with him. He says "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened. Come to me and I will refresh you". How can we say no to that invitation?



## LAKELAND NURSING HOME SCHEDULE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

John Minnett & Hatima Omolon

### LECTORS

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2017

5:30 P.M. Ted Luciani

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

7:30 A.M. Erika Reid  
10:00 A.M. Chris Marren  
12 NOON Henry Mendoza  
4:00 P.M. Erika Reid  
6:00 P.M. Lynn Magnini  
10:00 P.M. Chris Marren

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2017

7:30 A.M. Jay Markot  
10:00 A.M. Judy Moran  
12 NOON Hatima Omolon

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2017

5:30 P.M. Frank & Sandy Polglaze

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

7:30 A.M. Sue Raoul & Hatima Omolon  
10:00 A.M. Melissa & Linda O'Connell  
12 NOON Matt Kampff & John Arendas  
4:00 P.M. Martha Bisaccio & Maria Invernon  
6:00 P.M. Karen Cisco & Lynn Magnini  
10:00 P.M. Jackie & Annie Rivera

### ALTAR SERVERS

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2017

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

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

7:30 A.M. Danielle Reid  
10:00 A.M. Kelly Frisina & Jonathan Hogue  
12 NOON Aaron Manalili & Tim Kenny  
4:00 P.M. Danielle & Elizabeth Reid  
6:00 P.M. Scott & Steven Bracken  
10:00 P.M. Christopher Marren & Sebastian Wojtowicz

# < KID'S > KORNER

## Gospel Today

Third Sunday of Advent | John 1:6-8, 19-28

Cycle B

### BE AWARE, PREPARE, REJOICE!

John the Baptist denies being the Christ. He is sent to testify to the light, the coming of Christ, light of the world.

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THIRD WEEK OF  
**ADVENT**  
ARRIVAL OR COMING OF CHRIST

## GAUDETE SUNDAY

### The Rose Candle

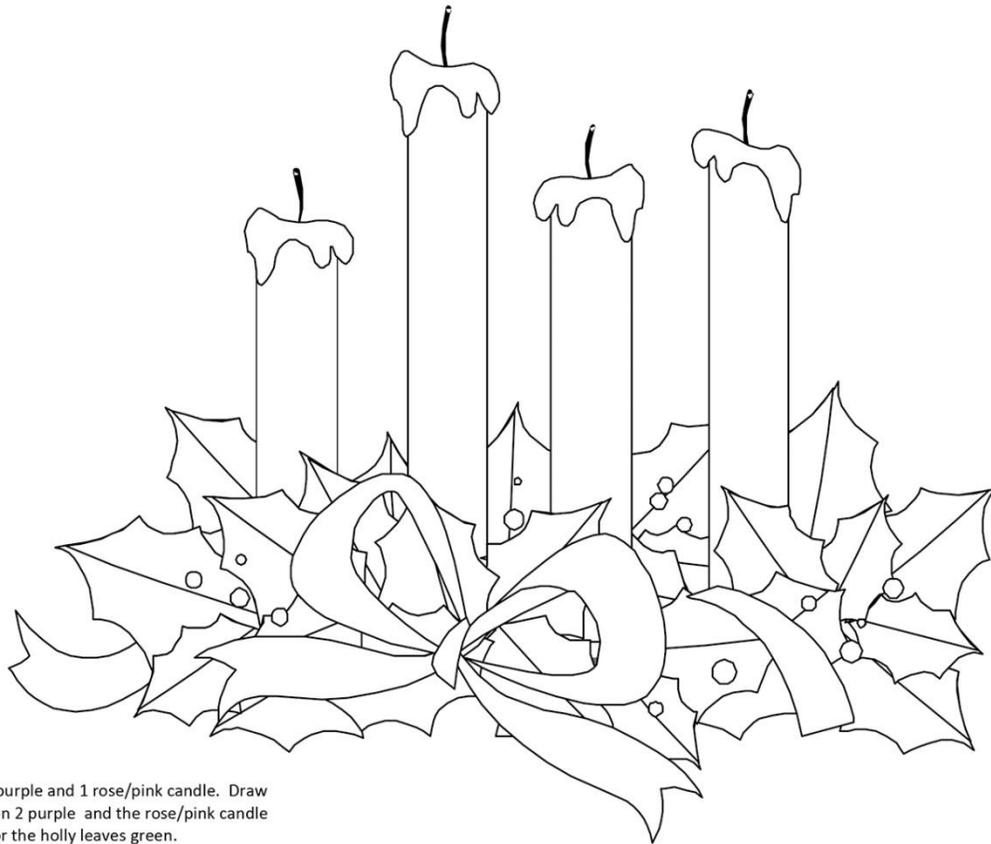
The rose/pink candle represents hope and joy. Rejoice! We are halfway through Advent and Christmas is near. Christ, light of the world, is coming soon.

### WEEK 3, evening lighting prayer

*Prayer said by Father or head of household*

"O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Through Christ our Lord, Amen".

Mother lights the first & second purple and the rose/pink candle.



Color 3 purple and 1 rose/pink candle. Draw flames on 2 purple and the rose/pink candle and color the holly leaves green.