

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 3, 2017**



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2017

5:30 P.M. Charles Pasquariello
Regina Sullivan
Bill Vogt

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017

7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Special Intentions
10:00 A.M. Dr. Thomas F. Killeen
Joseph Giordano
Tom Karwacki
12:00 P.M. Tom Norton
Harold Sbrocco
Mieczyslaw Zalaczkowski



MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017

8:00 A.M. Philip Barbero

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2017

8:00 A.M. Joseph Giordano
George Skea

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2017

8:00 A.M. Santo Algarotti
7:30 P.M. Eleanor Leppin

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017

9:00 A.M. John Bisaccio
7:30 P.M. Robert Dibartolomeo

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017

5:30 P.M. Tom Norton
Bill Vogt
Joseph Giordano
Tom Karwacki

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Ted Sagan
10:00 A.M. Sarah McMurray
Frank & Bella Oriole
Lou & Mary Carona
12:00 P.M. Peter Caporale
Jerry Salvatore
Bill Frasche
Michael Gurneak

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK: Mary Carton Jacob Hicks Helen Lubertazza
Nina Margossian Tom Guzowski Audrey Grace Higgins
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 Sanclimenti
Sharon Acquaire Noah Lorencovitz Sandra Pacifico
Sister Marie Louise Rosemary Pannone Evelyn Means
Barbara Kincaid Carmela Caropreso Bitondo George Link
James Quinn Harriet Pairo Ava Rae Nebbia Amida Jaloudi
DECEASED: Lorraine Diciani

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday – \$5,527.50 Thank you for your continued support.



Dear friends in Christ,

A bunch of navy men were returning from a long voyage in the seas and as the boat approached shore, the men were all looking for their wives and girlfriends on the shore ... eager to see them again! As the men looked over the crowd of women lined up, the air of excitement and expectancy grew. One man however was all alone as all the other men found their wives and girlfriends and they all embraced ... his wife wasn't there! Worried, he hurried home and found a light on in his house. As he entered he was relieved to see his wife, she quickly turned and said, "**HONEY, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!**" His response showed his disappointment however, "**The other men's wives and girlfriends were watching for them!**" The difference between waiting and watching was only too clear!

The Gospel Reading of today teaches us that we are to be '*watching*' for the return of Jesus, not just '*waiting*' for it. Those who watch for it will keep themselves alert and self-controlled; those simply waiting may slip into sloppy business with other things and let their priorities slip! Are we just killing time '*waiting*' for Jesus to return, or are we really making time productive while '*prayerfully watching*' for his return? We are to understand the days in which we live. We are to be on guard duty. We have to be alert at all times. We have to be watchful. So over these four weeks of Advent, let us watch with the Church for the Lord, that we may be better prepared to receive the Lord when he comes at Christmas, or indeed whenever he comes.

“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.” is the alarm sounding in the 1st Sunday of Advent. It means many different things, the most important of which is to seize the opportunities of the present moment, prepare for Christmas, prepare for death, yes, surely. But also, and more important, prepare for the Kingdom of God whenever it explodes into our lives. And, these are the words of someone who loves us, not of someone who is threatening us, but inviting us to happiness. We await the birth of Christ our Savior. He came to save us by showing us the way to happiness, to the God who loves us. We have nothing to fear from his words; they are words of hope, of promise, of dreams to be fulfilled, just like the true spirit of Christmas.

The key words placed before us are - **“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.”** When Jesus warns us to not be asleep when he returns in his glory, this does not mean that we can never sleep... What is being referred to here is a sleep of the soul: we must avoid falling asleep spiritually. First, we must be careful not to fall into one grave sin or another, which would cause us to die spiritually, and thus to sleep with the sleep of spiritual death. Then, we must take care not to doze off: we must keep our soul in spiritual joy and chase away the deathly sadness of desolation. Focusing on readiness, living in the presence of the Lord at every moment of our lives, is the legacy of Jesus Christ to his followers.



**St. Saint Francis Xavier
Feast Day: December 3**

Francis was born in the royal castle of Xavier, in the Kingdom of Navarre, on 7 April 1506 according to a family register. He was the youngest son of Juan de Jasso y Atondo, who became privy counsellor and finance minister to King John III of Navarre. His mother was Doña María de Azpilcueta y Aznárez, sole heiress of two noble Navarrese families. In 1525, Francis went to study in Paris, where he spent the next eleven years.

Jesus asked, "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" (Matthew 16:26a). These words were repeated to young Francis by his good friend, Ignatius of Loyola, but at age 24, Francis was busy teaching and enjoying Paris, and was not listening. Eventually, those words did sink in, and Francis decided to perform spiritual exercises under the direction of Ignatius. In 1534, he joined the newly formed Society of Jesus.

Francis was ordained a priest in 1537, and went to Lisbon. From there, he sailed to the East Indies and landed at Goa, on the west coast of India. For the next 10 years brought the faith to Hindus, Malaysians, and the Japanese. Wherever he went, he lived with the poorest people, sharing their food and rough accommodations. He spent many hours ministering to the sick and the poor, particularly to lepers. Very often he had no time to sleep or read the breviary but, as we know from his letters, he was filled always with joy.

Francis went through the islands of Malaysia, then up to Japan. He learned enough Japanese to preach, to instruct, to baptize, and to establish missions. From Japan he had dreams of going to China, but he died before he reached the Chinese mainland.

St. Francis Xavier's remains are enshrined in the Church of Good Jesus in Goa. He was beatified by [Pope Paul V](#) on 25 October 1619 and [canonized](#) by [Pope Gregory XV](#) on 12 March 1622. He is considered to be one of the greatest evangelists and missionaries since Saint Paul. He is the patron saint of missionaries, navigators and sailors.

"Give me the children until they are seven and anyone may have them afterward".

Saint Francis Xavier

2017 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

In Giving, We Receive

As you plan to celebrate the joy of the Christmas season by giving gifts to your friends and loved ones, there is one gift that you can give to tens of thousands of people. It does not require ten thousand name tags or ten thousand bows. All that's needed is a completed pledge card to the Bishop's Annual Appeal or an on-line gift at www.2017appeal.org. Say "Merry Christmas" to so many of your brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Paterson who need some hope and joy in their lives by participating in the Bishop's Annual Appeal today. May God bless you for your generosity!

HOLY DAY

Friday, December 8 is a holy day of obligation – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mother. Mass will be celebrated on Thursday evening at 7:30PM, Friday 9AM and 7:30 PM.

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.

CHRISTMAS YOUTH CHOIR

The Christmas Youth Choir will be starting rehearsals in December. This choir is for anyone ages 6-14 who would like to sing at the 4:00 Mass on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals will be on Sunday mornings before Mass, 9:15-9:45am, starting December 3. Please see our Music Director, Dania Emusov, if you are interested in joining! If you have any questions, email: Dania_Music@yahoo.com

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

Since tickets may win more than once, each \$10.00 donation gives you 90 chances to win.

Every day is a chance to win a great prize.

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. Check the special days for bigger prize money!

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](tel:973-628-7917)
eareid@optonline.net

St. Catherine of Siena, Mountain Lakes, is hosting the Imperial Brass Orchestra Sat, Dec 16 at 8:00 pm for a "Celebrating the Joys and Blessings of the Season" concert. Tickets are \$30 and include a wine and cheese reception following the concert. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Whitney at [973-586-2777](tel:973-586-2777) or queendubose@aol.com

ADVENT: THE LOST SEASON

Advent is short, half the time of Lent, and it is often swallowed up by the Christmas preparation frenzy of buying, decorating, cooking, in addition to working in the everyday "to do" schedule. Jesus seems to slip into that manger unnoticed. Suddenly, there He is on Christmas day, and we try to recover the peace and promise of His birth, but mostly we are just tired. The Emmaus group invites you to spend two evenings in Advent reading some of the Advent and Christmas bible stories, reflecting on them, talking about them, praying with them. We will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 5 and Wed. Dec. 13 at 7:30 in the chapel. Take a breath, relax, let the peace of His promise refresh your soul. Come be with us.

Reboot! Live! With Chris Stefanick

Internationally known speaker, author and tv host Chris Stefanick will be at St. Catherine of Bologna Parish in Ringwood on December 12th from 7:00-9:30pm.

Reboot! Live! Is the fun, inspiring and practical experience for all (ages 12 and up), of applying the beauty and genius of the Gospel to every aspect of your life, from prayer and spirituality, to work, dating, marriage, parenting, health and more! Do not miss the opportunity to hear one of the most sought-after voices of our time!

Come! Be energized during this Advent season! Invite someone!

Chris speaks to over 50,000 teens, young adults, parents and grandparents every year.

Tickets are available at www.reallifecatholic.com/reboot for \$20 and or call Kathy Ranft 973-962-9152 or Marion Tuttle 973-962-7221.



The New Jersey Right To Life Respect Life Raffle 2017 results are as follows:

- **1st ticket:** Volvo
- # 074390
- A. Barkman
- Venice, Florida
- **2nd ticket:** \$1,000 ShopRite Gift Card
- # 18743
- Eric Franzon
- **3rd ticket:** \$750. ShopRite Gift card
- #33864
- Rosa Murillo
- Morris Plains, NJ
- **4th ticket:** \$500 ShopRite Gift card
- #15543
- Janelle Quito
-

Congratulations to the winners! Thank you so much for your support!

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Let Us Share Our Thoughtfulness with Others!

9th Grade Service Project

Our ninth graders will be collecting toys for the children of Paterson from now until December 14.

Toys for Tots for the children of Paterson

Please donate a toy in its original package. The value of the toy can be between \$5.00 and \$10.00. Any kind of gift will be appreciated.

PLEASE help our ninth graders help others by donating!
PLEASE bring donations to our Religious Education classes!

For Parishioners: there will be boxes in the Narthex.
Thank you St. Francis Community for your help and support!

GIVING TREE

It's that time of year again when we think about giving to the ill and infirmed residents of Lakeland Nursing Home and Wanaque Center. We ask our parishioners to be generous in donating gifts of toiletry items. Please mark your gift with your own tag noting Man or Woman.

The Giving Tree is set up in the Narthex for you to place your gifts under.

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

LAKELAND NURSING HOME SCHEDULE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

Frank & Sandy Polglaze

LECTORS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017

5:30 P.M. Pat Demarest

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

7:30 A.M. Jay Markot

10:00 A.M. Lynn Magnini

12 NOON Armando Haro

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017

5:30 P.M. Karen Cisco & Lynn Magnini

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

7:30 A.M. Sue Raoul

10:00 A.M. Melissa & Jackie Rivera

12 NOON Linda O'Connell & John Arendas

ALTAR SERVERS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

7:30 A.M. Danielle Reid

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

12 NOON Angelique Salcedo

John Karlo & Joseph Villacis

< KID'S > KORNER

Gospel Today

First Sunday of Advent | Mark 13:33-37

Cycle B

BE AWARE & KEEP WATCH!

Always be ready for the day and hour when God comes again. No one knows when, not even Jesus or the Angels in Heaven.

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FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

ARRIVAL OR COMING OF CHRIST

BLESS THIS WREATH

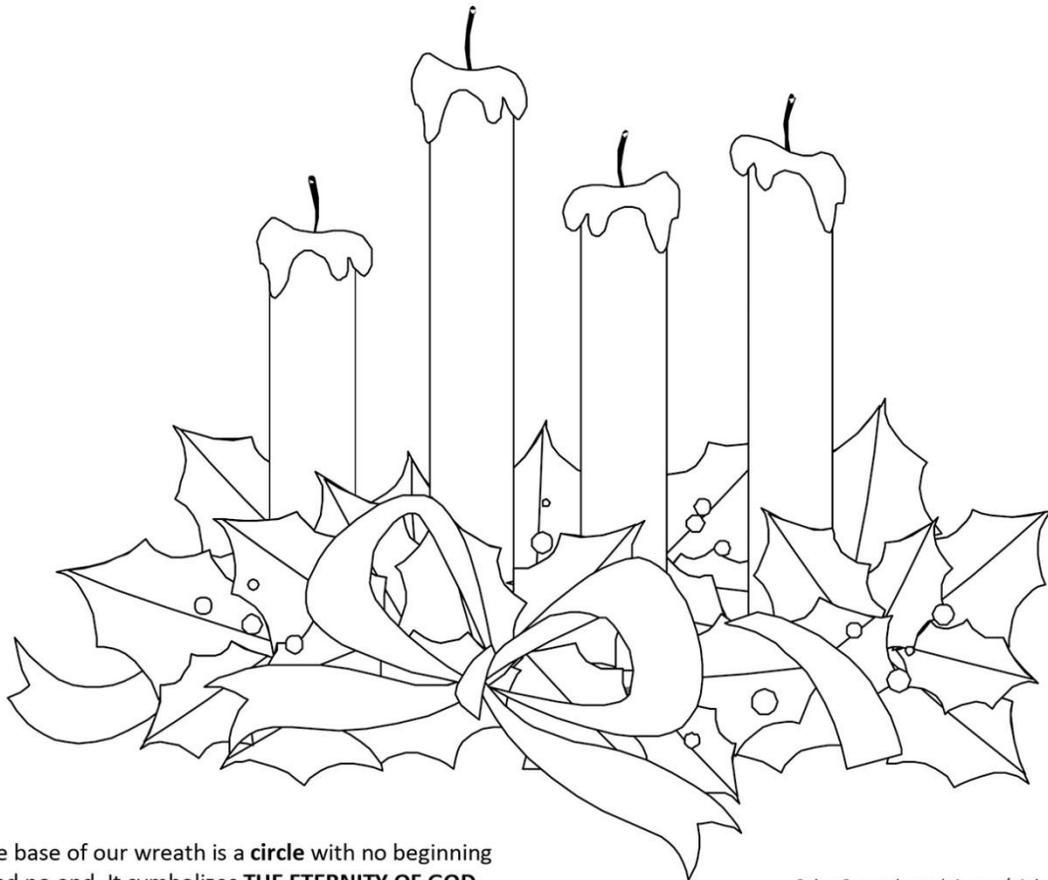
Prayer said by Father or head of household

“O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessings upon this wreath and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.”

WEEK 1, evening lighting prayer

Prayer said by Father or head of household

“O Lord, stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, and come, that by Thy protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Through Christ our Lord, Amen”. Youngest child lights 1 purple candle.



The base of our wreath is a **circle** with no beginning and no end. It symbolizes **THE ETERNITY OF GOD**.

We decorate the base with **EVERGREENS** which represent **CONTINUOUS LIFE**.

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