

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## DECEMBER 18, 2016

### A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners:

I hope and pray that this Holy Season of Advent has brought us all a little closer to Jesus. Tomorrow is "**Reconciliation Monday**" when there will be a priest in every confessional in every church throughout the Archdiocese of New York from 4:00pm to 8:00pm to hear Confessions. I pray that many will experience the healing rays of God's Mercy in this beautiful Sacrament of Reconciliation in order to come closer to the Heart of Jesus and experience His Love in a very profound way this Christmas. If you know of anyone who has been away for a while please encourage them to come home.

We come now to the Fourth and final Sunday of Advent as our Gospel shifts our focus from the preaching of John the Baptist to Mary and Joseph and the events surrounding the birth of Christ. All the yearning and waiting for centuries throughout the Old Testament comes to its fulfillment when Mary surrenders her will to the Will of God and gives her consent to becoming the Mother of His Divine Son. At that moment, the Eternal Word of God became Flesh and began to dwell among us in the womb of Mary.

Joseph, too, as we hear in today's Gospel, put his own plans aside and responded with complete trust and obedience to what God was asking of him through the angel who appeared to him in a dream. It was not easy for Joseph. He had no way of understanding how Mary, to whom he was engaged, could be with child other than the obvious human explanation that she must have been unfaithful to him. How hurt and betrayed he must have felt. However, Joseph put aside his own feelings and way of thinking and was willing to trust that there was more going on here than he could see or understand at that moment.

It is the attitude of Mary and Joseph that opened the way to the birth of Christ – their faith, their obedience, their trust in God no matter what the cost to them personally. They teach us that life is not all about me and my plans, but about God and His plans. When we put ourselves aside and seek to do the Will of God with an obedient and trusting faith, we begin to see that nothing is impossible for God, not even God becoming man. And, as St. John Paul II put it: "*We are left in awe of the mystery of a God who lowered Himself to take on our human condition, being born*

*as a defenseless baby lying in a manger, lowering Himself all the way to laying down His life for us on the Cross.*" There is no greater act of Love imaginable.

On a final note, as Christmas is almost here, I want to take this moment to thank you for your generous support of our parish. Like most families, we face the challenge of rising costs each year. I feel I must express to you my concern about the downward trend in our weekly collections compared to last year. I am sure many of you have noticed this as well. We will be relying heavily on the special gifts given at Christmas to sort of "catch up" a bit. We can only do the best we can, but please know that the most precious gift of all is your presence, your faith, your prayers, and your love. May God bless us all.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Fr. Matthew J. Furey



### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT THE ADVENT WREATH Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

O Lord, stir up Your might and come. Aid us with your powerful assistance so that, through your grace and merciful forgiveness, we may attain salvation which now is hindered by our sins; you who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit; one God forever and ever.

(Someone lights all the candles.)

### CHRISTMAS MASSES 2016

#### *Christmas Eve*

***Saturday, December 24 for Christmas***

4:00pm in the Church and School

6:00pm in the Church Only

11:00pm Mass-in place of Midnight  
(Choir sings at 10:30pm)

#### *Christmas Day*

***Sunday, December 25***

7:00am, 8:30am, 10:00am,  
11:30am, 1:00pm (Church and School)

**THERE WILL BE NO 5:30PM MASS ON  
CHRISTMAS DAY**

**(December 26, 9am Morning Mass Only)**

**SCHEDULE FOR  
ADVENT CONFESSIONS 2016**

**Saturday, December 17– 3:00 to 5:00pm**

**Monday, December 19 – 4:00 to 8:00pm**

**Reconciliation Monday  
(Blessed Sacrament will be exposed)**

**Friday, December 23 – 12:00 Noon to 1pm**

**PARISH CALENDAR**

**Sunday, December 18**

CYO – 2 to 4pm in the gym

**Monday, December 19 Reconciliation Monday  
Confessions 4pm to 8pm**

Rel. Ed. Grade 6 – 4:30pm in the school

CYO Basketball- 5pm in the gym

Rel. Ed. – Grade 7 – 7:00pm in the school

Hispanic RCIA – 7:00pm rectory

**Novena –Canceled**

**Tuesday, December 20**

Rel. Ed. – Grades 3-5 – 4:30pm in the school

CYO Basketball- 5pm in the gym

Rel. Ed. – Grade 8 – 7:00pm

**Wednesday, December 21**

CYO Basketball- 5pm in the gym

Hispanic Prayer Group – 8pm in the cafeteria

**Thursday, December 22**

**Last Day of School for Christmas Vacation**

**Saturday, December 24**

**SEE CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY**

**A CHRISTMAS PAGEANT  
TONIGHT**

**DECEMBER 18<sup>ST</sup>, 2016 7:00PM**



The children of Sacred Heart Parish will lead us in word and song to recount the story of the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Please come and join the children and re-discover the real joy of Christmas!  
**All are Welcome!**

**Christmas Blessings from the Catholic Schools Corner!!** Warm wishes to you and yours this holiday season. May you be filled with peace, love and joy. **The Gift of a Catholic Education** This Christmas, give the gift of a Catholic education. Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of New York are Christ-centered, academically excellent, and welcoming communities that teach students to be life- long learners and leaders energized by fidelity to Christ, the Church, and one another. To locate a faith-based Pre-K, Kindergarten or elementary school program near you, visit [www.CatholicSchoolsNY.org](http://www.CatholicSchoolsNY.org) or call 646-794-2885 to speak with a Catholic School representative.

**SISTERS OF LIFE**

**38 Montebello Rd., Suffern**

**December 22, 2016**

**7:00pm to 8:30pm**

The Sister of Life here in Suffern Cordially invite all the parishioners of Sacred Heart to a Christmas Caroling Open House. Come enjoy some hot chocolate, cookies and Christmas Cheer.

**SHARING WHAT WE HAVE IN JESUS' NAME**

**December 11 Collection – \$15,090.**

**Last Year's Collection - \$16,458.**

**Immaculate Conception Collection – \$5,148.**

**Last Year's Collection - \$4,074.**

**\*ANNOUNCEMENT\***

Starting January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 the current 6:00pm Saturday Evening Vigil Mass will be changed to **5:30pm**. **All those who have attained a Mass for 6:00pm will be notified.**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO  
THE VINCENT CROTTY FOUNDATION**

For the third year in a row the Vincent Crotty Foundation has generously donated food and money to the parish and the St. Vincent de Paul Society to feed and care for the less fortunate in our parish and community.

**GOOD COUNCIL HOMES  
THANK YOU ALL!**

Good Council Homes wishes to thank everyone at Sacred Heart who donated to the Baby Bottle Campaign this fall. \$1,737.49 was donated. As always the generosity of the parishioners of Sacred Heart does so much to help those in need. Thank you!

**ST. ANTHONY'S CEMETERY**

St. Anthony's Cemetery is pleased to announce that our cemetery expansion is completed. We will begin selling pre-need graves on Monday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, by Appointment Only. No Walk-Ins Please. Contact the Office to schedule your appointment (845-623-2138) Ext.7 Mon.-Fri. 9am to 3:30pm. Or visit the website at [www.stanthonyscatholiccemetery.com](http://www.stanthonyscatholiccemetery.com)

**VINCENT LINGUANTI SONS OF ITALY**

We thank the Sons of Italy here in Rockland County for their generous donation of food to feed the needy among us this Christmas! God Bless us one and all!

**ANUNCIOS**

El Grupo de Oración en Español tiene lugar habitualmente los miércoles, a las 8 de la noche en el cafetería.

Los próximos bautizos en español tendrán lugar el 10 de enero 2017 a la 1pm. Contactar en el 357-0035.

**CRISIS PREGNANCY HOTLINE  
GOOD COUNSEL HOMES**

For Pregnancy emergencies call Any time of day:  
1-800-723-8331 [www.goodcounselhomes.org](http://www.goodcounselhomes.org)

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

We welcome into the Roman Catholic Faith and our Parish Community, the following children who were recently baptized at Sacred Heart:

**SOFIA ADELAY MORENO**

Daughter of Juan and Brenda

**JAMIE HERNADEZ**

Daughter of Antonio and Norma

**ALEXA EUNICE HERNANDEZ DURAN**

Daughter of Jose and Maria



We pray for all those serving in the **Armed Forces** and for those who are ill and have asked us to pray for them: Larry Adler, Keith Alanis, Daniel Albarelli, Frank Paul Allegretti, Jenna Applebaum, Peter Boano, Harris Brownstein, Lisa Eckert Brownstein, Annette Burbridge, Dolores Cangelose, Frank Calfa, Comerford Family, Teresa & Tom Consolo, Lorraine Cortez, Robert Cosenza, Joe Davey, Lilla DiBerardino, Anthony DeFrancesco III, Matthew DeMayo, Cledha Desir, Mary Discini, Florence Downey, John Duffy, Nicholas Eckert, Peter Eckert, Jamie Erwin, Denise Ferrara, Stefanie Gaudelli, Tia Gardner, Arlene Gentile, Debra Gravina, John Grasso, Sarah Hyman, Domenic & Anthony Iannaccone, Susan Jarkiewicz, Adrienne Kelly, Mary Kierman, Jon Kip, Anthony Kulik, Jay Leone, Fred Lemoine, Elizabeth Lempka, Laura Mack, Thomas Mathai, Barbara Mazza, Jeanne Matera, Richard McCarthy, Debra McGovern, Catherine McMenamin, Ken Meyer, Florence Mohan, Fr. Louis Molinelli, Estella Morales, Betty O'Brien, Jennifer O'Hara, Fr. Jack Oldfield, Stacey Olayan, Tina Osika, Joseph Pasculli, Patricia Plotkin, Adolf Radeljic, Maura Reynolds, Etta Rooney, Mary Russo, Virginia Ryan, Daniel Sammarone, Nicholas Salzman, Eleanor Scelza, Erica Scully, Ruth Schwetz, Jean Simons, Claudia Spano, Claudia Spallanzani, Kate Stack, Maureen Starke, Barbara Veraldo Strano, Margaret Szaro, James P. Toner, Phyllis Varacalli, Carol Van Vandt, Millie Vazquez Peter Veraldo and Irene Wanamaker.

**ALTAR MEMORIALS**

**DECEMBER 18, 2016**

**Altar Candles in Memory of  
RALPH MASCIA SR.**

**Sanctuary Candle in Memory of  
ROBERT COLBATH**

**BOOSTER CLUB WINNER  
WEEK 9- FRANK & GERALDINE MESSINA**



**SCHEDULE OF MASSES**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17**

9:00am – Rosemarie & Gloria Iozzi

**SATURDAY, VIGIL MASS FOR SUNDAY**

6:00pm – Robert Colbath

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

7:00am – Frances Rappel

8:30am – Parish Memorial Society

10:00am – Christopher Nigro

11:30am – Daniel Greeley & Andrew Statham

1:00pm – Richard Doran

5:30pm – All Parishioners

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 19**

7:00am – Paula Panico

9:00am – Richard Doran

7:15pm – **Novena**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20**

7:00am – Dianne Messina

9:00am – Gratius Scerri

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21**

7:00am – Charles & Florence Marsalisi

9:00am – McCourt, Bugdin & Cummings Family

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22**

7:00am – Joseph P. Holahan

9:00am – Eileen T. Foster

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23**

7:00am – Ralph Sepulveda

9:00am – The Cangelose Family

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24**

9:00am – Deacon Joseph & Thomas Witt

**SATURDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE**

**4:00PM –CHURCH – All Parishioners**

**4:00PM –SCHOOL – All Parishioners**

**6:00pm – All Parishioners**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**7:00am – All Parishioners**

**8:30am – All Parishioners**

**10:00am – All Parishioners**

**11:30am – Church and School – All Parishioners**

**1:00pm – Church and School – All Parishioners**

**NO 5:30PM MASS**



Let us pray for our deceased parishioners, friends, benefactors, relatives, priests, religious and especially **Sharon Fisher, Felix Maillaro.**