

#### PARISH INFORMATION

#### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturdays: Msgr. Ryan Hall - 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Also by appointment.

#### SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

The Church provides certain times and preparation for weddings. Please contact the Rectory at least six months in advance to begin the process.

#### REGISTRATION

Every family and person within the parish is encouraged to register with the Parish.

#### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m. A required Baptism preparation meeting for parents meets on the first Monday of the month at 8:00 p.m. Godparents are welcome. Please register in advance for the class and Baptism. Godparent Pre-Requisites: Godparents must be practicing Catholics in good standing, 16 years of age or older, Baptized and Confirmed Catholic.

#### ON BECOMING A CATHOLIC

Those seeking information about the Catholic Faith are invited to contact Fr. Valentine at the Rectory at (516) 621-2222.

## **CARE OF THE SICK**

Please notify the Rectory and Human Concerns Ministries if there is anyone seriously ill so that we can provide spiritual care.



## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Kathleen Capuano Mary Ann Cifarelli Rebekah Cole Kevin Cronin Paul Cronin Joseph V. Danbusky John Damiano Jessica Dawson Linda De Stio John Paul DiNonno James Dougherty Eric DuBois Members of Ferreira Family Noel Glen Stephen Grabher Roberta Greco Christine Kenney

Frank Krukowski Richard Malon Marilyn Manning Stuey Manzione John McCormack Justin Paradine Diana Pearce Karen Petrik Marion Prendergast Gregory Racaniello Jaxon Rivera Roy Rodrigues Angelo Santora Charles Strecker Clotida Vecchione Ronald Webb Anne Wright Mary Wybaillie



#### ...AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Anne Krukowski and Ilse Govoni



#### THE MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 18: 4th Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. Laura Nicholas

by Ann & John Nicholas

9:00 a.m. Mary & Carmin Dellavecchia

by Charles & Linda Dellavecchia

11:00 a.m. Francesco & Giuseppina Aversa

by The Family

Dr. Rodolfo Magpantay - 2nd Anniversary

by Dr. Esmeralda Magpantay

Tom McCormack

by The Lynn Family

Carol & Salvatore Sica

by The Scuderi Family

Peter Vanatta

by Larry & Lorraine Porto

12:30 p.m. People of the Parish

Monday, December 19: Late Advent Weekday

9:00 a.m. Dolores O'Hara

by Richard O'Hara

Tuesday, December 20: Late Advent Weekday

9:00 a.m. Edith Monteserrato

by Her Family

Wednesday, December 21: Late Advent Weekday

9:00 a.m. Alexander Levchuck.

Michael & Gertrude Hochla

by Janet

Thursday, December 22: Late Advent Weekday

9:00 a.m. Lucyan Wierzbicki - Happy Birthday in

Heaven

by Irene & Family

Friday, December 23: Late Advent Weekday

9:00 a.m. Cornelia Massimo

by Her Daughter

**Saturday, December 24:** Late Advent Weekday

4:00 p.m. Christmas Memorial

6:00 p.m. Christmas Memorial

7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass

10:00 p.m. People of the Parish

Sunday, December 25: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

7:30 a.m. Christmas Memorial

9:00 a.m. Christmas Memorial

11:00 a.m. People of the Parish

12:30 p.m. Christmas Memorial

## READINGS FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 18, 2022 4th Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18 Second Reading: Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

## FOCUS: God keeps his promises.

Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord reaffirms the promise of a savior for his people, a savior born under unusual circumstances who would clearly be God's chosen one. After many years had passed since that promise – years in which the Lord continued to guide and prepare his people – we hear of its fulfillment in Matthew's Gospel. In this final week of Advent, let us rejoice and praise God for he is faithful and keeps his promises.

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah prophesies that the Lord will give his people a sign: A virgin shall conceive and give birth to a son and will name him Emmanuel. Paul introduces himself to the Romans as one called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, specifically among the Gentiles. In the Gospel, Matthew recounts how the birth of Jesus Christ came to pass, in accordance with Isaiah's prophecy.

Readings for next week, Sunday December 25, 2022 Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18 or John 1:1-5, 9-14

From Liturgical Commission Publishing, Lansing, MI

## FOSTERING STEWARDSHIP AS A WAY OF LIFE

## PARISH SACRIFICIAL GIVING

As we wrap up the Advent season and come closer to Christmas day, use the remaining days of Advent to teach someone (perhaps a friend or child) the meaning of Christmas.

## **Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary**

Sunday Offering ~ December 11 \$5,923.00\* Same Week Last Year \$7,779.00\*

Mass Attendance for ~ December 11 594 Same Week Last Year 503

\*Does not include Faith Direct

2022 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL			
St. Mary's Parish Assessed Goal	\$66,300.00		
Amount Raised to Date	\$25,690.00		
Number of Gifts and/or Pledges	87		
Percentage of Goal	38.75%		

## **†** Celebrants for the Weekend of **†** December 24/25, 2022

Date	Location	Mass Time	Celebrants*	Lector
December 24th	Hall	4:00 p.m. (Choir)	Fr. Valentine	Virginia Eyerman - L
	Church	6:00 p.m.	Fr. Valentine	Paul Ditrano - L Dina Ditrano - EM
	Church	10:00 p.m.	Fr. Valentine	Phyllisann Kalenka - L
December 25th	Church	7:30 a.m.	Fr. Valentine	John Dussel - L Anne Dussel - EM
	Church	9:00 a.m.	Fr. Lauder	Nora Toal - L
	Church	11:00 a.m. (Choir)	Fr. Valentine	Volunteers Needed
	Hall	12:30 p.m.	Fr. Valentine	Volunteers Needed

\* Subject to last minute changes.



## The Pastor's Page

Dear Friends:

This past May I mentioned a visit to Chartres Cathedral (about 50 miles southwest of Paris), and the magnificent labyrinth in its nave. It served as a spiritual pilgrimage for faithful Catholics when actual pilgrimage to the Holy Land was impossible. The design of the maze is imbued with dozens of overlapping meanings: the journey of human life, man's place in the universe, the zodiac, the phases of the moon, etc. Moreover, the six-lobed rosette at the center is a symbol of the six levels of existence: mineral, vegetable, animal, human, angelic, and divine. Moreover, by connecting the inner points of each lobe to those opposite it, we form a 13-point invisible star representing Christ and the 12 apostles. Unlike its pagan

counterpart, the maze is not meant to entrap or frustrate the traveler. On the contrary, everything is intended to guide the pilgrim through the twists and turns of life, culminating in the everlasting joy of heaven. For those of us not blessed with a keen sense of direction, the question

becomes whether we are willing to accept directions when we become lost.

The figure of the labyrinth came to mind when thinking about the Gospel for the 4th Sunday of Advent, Year A. This year, we hear the account of Jesus' birth from the perspective of St. Joseph. St. Matthew points out that Joseph was "just" (δίκαιος) man; that is, he abounds in the natural virtues, which is why he wants to obey the Law of Moses regarding marriage, but not in such a way that brings shame upon his wife Mary. If we apply the "pilgrimage" metaphor to Joseph, we might say that, despite having a sharp sense of direction, he finds himself, despite his best efforts, lost. How does he get back on track when the natural virtues take him only so far? The good news is that Joseph is much like his Old Testament namesake, the son of Jacob, who was blessed by a

series of dreams that helped him understand the ways of God. The angel reveals to Joseph in a way that he could never have otherwise known, that his wife was with child according to a divine plan, one that was foretold through the prophet Isaiah: "The virgin shall conceive..." But on a wider scale, the angel reveals the mission of the child Jesus, whose name means "The LORD is salvation": Jesus will save the people from their sins. For his part, Joseph's only imperfection is that of having a limited understanding of God's will. The wounds of the human race, by contrast, are far more excessive, our disorientation more profound. We cry out for more than simply a set of directions. We are in need of one who is the Way to God. Pope Benedict XVI points out that Christ accompanies us on our earthly pilgrimage while

healing our soul and strengthening our will in order to find our way back to God.

Man is a relational being. And if his first, fundamental relationship is disturbed—his relationship with God—then nothing else can be truly in order...if you are not healed there, then however many good things you may find, you are not truly healed.

In an age that finds the idea that acknowledging one's sinfulness anathema, the story of St. Joseph and the angel acts as a healing remedy. The human condition is marked by limitation, from simple ignorance to wickedness, but Christ does not abandon us. He helps us find the way.

Faithfully, Fr. Valentine

Fr. Valentire

## Religious Education at St Mary's - 12/18/2022

## Sharing the Mass 🕇

Thank you to all of the families who attended our special grade level masses these past 2 weeks! It's been so lovely seeing you in the pews and we hope you continue to be with us!

¡Gracias a todas las familias que asistieron a nuestras misas de grado especial en las últimas 2 semanas! ¡Ha sido tan encantador verte en los bancos y esperamos que sigas estando con nosotros!

## Kid's Corner

## Isaiah 7 Cross-Word

Find the words that fit into the spaces in today's first reading, and then fit them into the puzzle. A=Across and D=Down.

HOUSE		1		2	3		7
VIRGIN		Ш		-	ľ		
HIGH		Ш	4		Ш		5
SHEOL	6	П		Т	П	$\Box$	
CHILD	_	+			Н		
THE		ш		7	Н		_
DAVID HEAVEN	_		_	Ľ	Ш		L
NAME	8	9					
DEEP	_	П		10	П	11	$\top$
IMMANUEL		Н		Н		+	
GOD		Н	_	-	-	Н	
MAN	12	11	- 1	1			

8A LORD sp	ooke to Ahaz, "As	sk a sign of the
LORD your1	1D; let it be	7A as
2A or _	9D as	<u>5D</u> ." But
Ahaz said, "I will	not ask, and I w	ill not put the
LORD to the test.	." And he said, "	Hear then, O
3D of _	<u>7D</u> ! Is it	too little for you
to weary4D,	that you weary i	my God
also? Therefore t	he Lord himself	will 🔊
give you this sign	: the	10A
shall be with	12A, and be	ar a
son, and shall	1D him	
	64	

## Reminder: Family Meetings Reunión con las familias

1<sup>st</sup> Grade/para el 1º grado

→ **Jan 17** at 7pm

(this is a change from last week's bulletin)

The Religious Education Office will be closed until January 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will see you that evening for classes and in the meantime...
We wish all of you a safe and Merry Christmas!





La Oficina de Educación Religiosa permanecerá cerrada **hasta el 3 de enero**. Nos vemos esa nochepara las clases y mientras tanto... iLes deseamos a todos una Navidad segura y Feliz!

## Jesus' Birthday is almost here!

Now there is only a week left until Christmas!

In today's Gospel reading God gave St. Joseph a special job. He told him to take care of Mary and the

baby Jesus. St. Joseph thought he was just an ordinary person and didn't expect to have such an important responsibility, but he did what God asked.

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God has given us a

responsibility too. We have to love Jesus as much as we can. How can you love

as we can. How can you love and honour Jesus at Christmas time? If your family has a nativity scene you can pray to Jesus while you look at it. Right now you have a few days left to get ready for Jesus' birthday. Ask St. Joseph to help you prepare for Jesus' coming.

# Sessons & Carols for Advent & Christmas





## St. Mary's Choir

Paul Eschenauer (Choir Master and Organist)
Dennis Brosnan, Meredith Brosnan, Susan Challender,
Jen Chapman, Eng Cortes, Pat DeCicco-Goldstein, Tom
Eyerman, Catherine Lau, Sandie McLaughlin, Alissa Palen,
Lucia Piccoli, Jean Marie Stavola, Fr. Tim Valentine

Special thank you to Ft. Valentine on guitar and Jessica Palen on flute.



Lectors (L to R)
Virginia Eyerman, Phyllisann Kalenka,
Celina D'Souza, Jason Ferreira,
Lora Lofaro, Barbara Betkowski













## St Mary's Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 24th Christmas Eve

4:00 pm (Choir) - Msgr. Ryan Hall 6:00 pm - Church 10:00 pm - Church

Sunday, December 25th Christmas Day

7:30 am - 9:00 am - Church 11:00 am (Choir) - Church 12:30 pm - Msgr. Ryan Hall

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, December 31 5:00 pm - Msgr. R. Hall Sunday, January 1 7:30 am, 9:00 am & 11:00 am - Church 12:30 pm - Msgr. Ryan Hall





## Christmas Flowers and Greens

St. Mary's has the custom of a Flower Fund to provide flowers for the altar and sanctuary in the church and Msgr. Ryan Hall at Christmas. If you wish to make a donation to our Christmas Flowers and Greens in memory of a loved one, please return your envelope that you will receive in the mail to the Rectory or place it in the collection basket. There are extra envelopes at the doors of the Church and Hall.

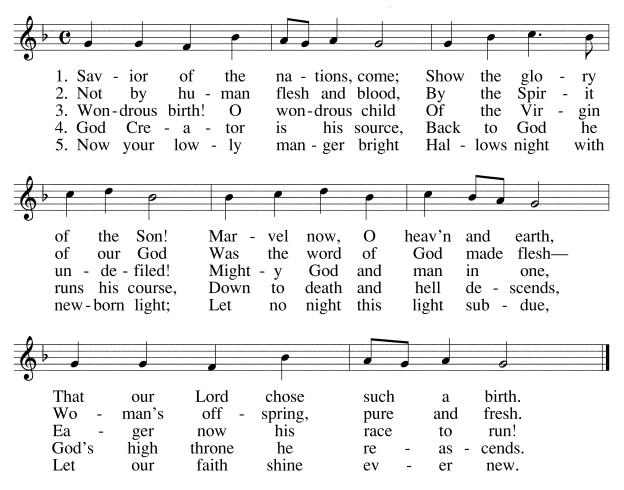


## Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel



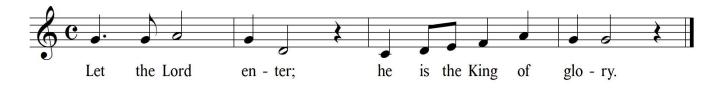
St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protector against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan. and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

## The Fourth Sunday of Advent, year A, page 33 in the Missal Processional Savior of the Nations Come



Text: Veni, Redemptor gentium; ascr. to St. Ambrose, 340-397; tr. sts. 1-3a, William Reynolds, 1812-1876; sts. 3b-5, Martin L. Seltz, 1909-1967, alt. Tune: NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND, 77 77; Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524

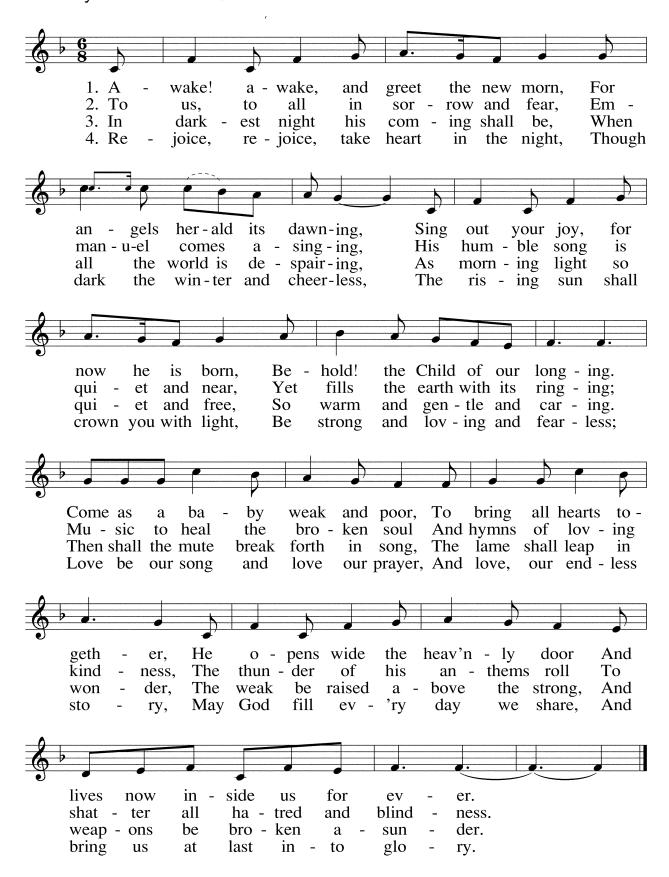
## Responsorial Psalm



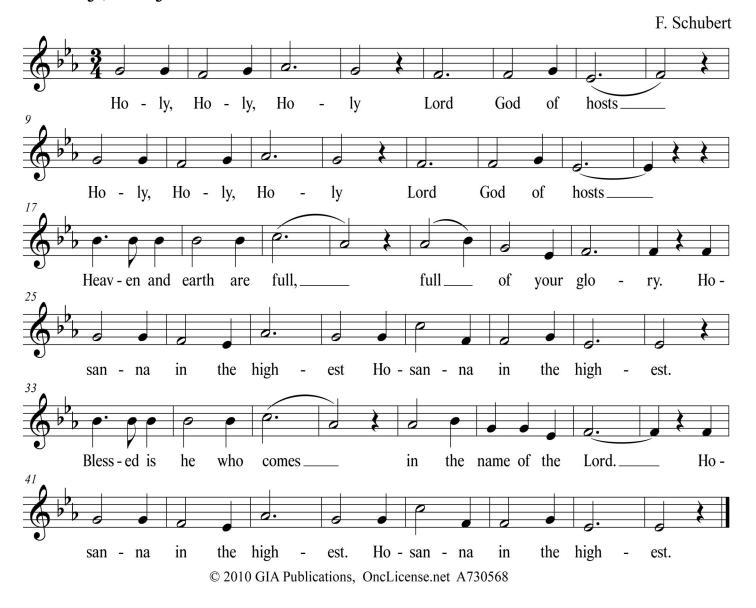


## Offertory

## Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn



## Holy, Holy



## Acclamation Savior Us Savior of the World

## Great Amen



Music: Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert, 1797-1828, adapt. by Richard Proulx, © 1985, 1989, GIA Publications, Inc.

## Communion

## Christ, Be Our Light

Refrain: Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness. Christ be our light!

Shine in your Church, gathered today.

Onelicense.net 730568A

