



Saturday November 26
 5:30 pm Robert Halm and Margaret Gurba

Sunday November 27 *First Sunday of Advent*
 7:30 am Rosemary Carroll Rebele
 9:00 am Antoinette Michael
 10:30 am Theresa Westerman and Elaine Foster
 12:00 pm Dr. Rodolfo Narag and Our Parishioners

Monday November 28
 6:45 am Les DiVite

Tuesday November 29
 6:45 am Our Parishioners

Wednesday November 30 *St Andrew, Apostle*
 6:45 am Noreen Fitzpatrick

Thursday December 1
 6:45 am Ron Gunther

Friday December 2
 6:45 am Mary Ann Fitzgerald

Saturday December 3 *St Francis Xavier, Priest*
 8:00 am Msgr. Thomas Brady
 5:30 pm Intention of Sr. Patricia Flynn -
 65th Jubilee as Sister of Charity

Sunday December 4 *Second Sunday of Advent*
 7:30 am Harriet Malvasi
 9:00 am Irene Phelan and our Parishioners
 10:30 am Theresa Westerman
 12:00 pm Dr. Rodolfo Narag and
 the Mother of Rustica Doria

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill, especially Kristin Petrasek, Connie Ingrassia, Christopher Fraclose, Kevin Cunniff, Arline Forte, Nancy Huber, Gene Caulfield, Saskia Kane, Joy Skubic, Edward Sotelo, Sr. Bernadette Weller, Robert Walsh, Jack Boyland, Christa Fairclough, Bob Noonan, Martha Jones, Ramona Colao, Frank Razzano, Louise Risely, Karen Lang, Benjamin LeFebvre, Lisa Gallagher, and Shannon Halm.

Daily Meditation booklets for Advent, *The Word Among Us*, are available in the vestibule

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday, November 28
 Scripture Study 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Tuesday, November 29
 Moms & Tots 9:30 - 11:00 am

Wednesday, November 30
 PRAYER GROUP IS ON BREAK UNTIL JANUARY

Thursday, December 1
 Choir Practice 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Saturday, December 3
 Breakfast with Santa 9:00 - 11:30 am

Scripture Readings December 4, 2016 Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

In this beautiful passage, a messianic prophecy, Isaiah exults in the coming of the Lord, who will bring justice and peace for all.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Paul reveals to us the necessity of living in peace and harmony. His words "Accept one another, then, as Christ accepted you, for the Glory of God" are as needed today as they were in Paul's own time.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptizer prepares the way for Jesus. Clothed in a garment of camel's hair, he baptizes the people in the Jordan River, but warns the Pharisees in ringing tones that they must give evidence that they mean to reform.

DECEMBER 3/4 CELEBRANT SCHEDULE

5:30 pm	Fr. Jared Brogan
7:30 am	Fr. Jared Brogan
9:00 am	Fr. Edward Seton Fittin
10:30 am	Fr. Jim Termyna
12:00 pm	Fr. Jared Brogan

ADVENT / CHRISTMAS 2016

Immaculate Conception, Tuesday, December 8

6:45 am, 12:00 pm, 7:30 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday, December 12 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Christmas Eve Masses, Saturday, December 24

4:00pm Fr. Jared Brogan
Children's Choir, Cantor, Instrumentalists

6:00pm Fr. Jared Brogan
Cantor, Instrumentalists

10:00pm Fr. Jared Brogan
Choir, Cantor, Instrumentalists

Caroling will begin 15 minutes before each Mass.

Christmas Day Masses, Sunday, December 25

7:30am Fr. Edward Seton Fittin *Cantor, organist*
9:30am Fr. Jim Termyna *Cantor, organist*
11:30am Fr. Jared Brogan *Cantor, organist*

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

Saturday, December 31 5:30 pm
Sunday, January 1 7:30, 9:00, 10:30, 12:00

From the Desk of Fr. Jared

What do we associate with Advent? We may think of the Advent wreath, candles, Advent calendar, Christmas preparations including shopping, decorating, cooking, and social events. On the contrary, when we think of Lent we see it as a penitential season. We see Lent as more of a spiritual time focused on prayer, penance, fasting, and almsgiving, but Advent has a penitential dimension too. It is the season in which we prepare for the coming of our savior. We speak of the threefold coming of Christ. The first being 2000 years ago, the second is his coming into our lives every day, and finally his coming at the end of time. There is no need of a savior unless we acknowledge that there is something to be saved from.

When we have become aware of our needs and struggles, we know that we can cling to nothing in ourselves. We are limited in how we can help ourselves. It is a humbling moment to recognize that. The moment we realize that fact we enter into the Advent spirit. We can prepare ourselves for the Lord's coming into our lives. We know where we need God in our life. Advent is the time to make room for God in those areas. I pray that this Advent will be a season of prayer, renewal, and reconciliation. This year we have the uncommon privilege of having four full weeks of Advent. Use this time well. Where in our life do we need "God with us" (Emmanuel)? From the Advent hymn, *Come, O Long-Expected Jesus*, we pray:

**Come, O long expected Jesus,
born to set your people free;
from our fears and sins release us:
Christ, in you our rest shall be.**

Peace,
Fr. Jared

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

St. Catherine's is in need of one person to join a team of volunteers to wash/iron purificators. Volunteers are only asked to wash/iron approximately once every 2 months. If you can help, please contact Eileen Atkinson at 973-627-8169, eileenatkinson@verizon.net

DANIEL RODRIGUEZ CONCERT

On **Saturday, December 17th at 8:00 pm**, Daniel Rodriguez will be performing at St. Catherine's for our *Celebrating the Joys and Blessings of the Season* concert. Price range is \$40 - \$75 and must be paid in full at time of purchase. Tickets are limited and first come, first served. To purchase, contact Whitney DuBose at 973-586-2777 or queendubose@aol.com



NEWS FROM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

UPCOMING DATES:

- December 10** – 2nd graders will make their First Reconciliation at 11:00 am
- December 12 -15** – last week of Religious Education classes before Christmas break.
- December 19** – Christmas Pageant practice 4:00-5:30
- December 20** – Christmas Pageant at 7:30 pm

First Reconciliation Preparation:



Once again we invite all of our parishioners to pray for our students who will celebrate their First Reconciliation on December 10th. After each Mass this weekend, prayer cards will be available with the name of a child. Please pray for them and their families at this special time.

St. Catherine's Annual Christmas Pageant:

What better way for our children to learn the story of our Savior's birth than to be part of it?



This year's pageant will take place on **Tuesday, December 20th at 7:30 pm**. All 1st through 4th graders are invited to participate. Please contact the Religious Education Office at 973-334-5257 or religiouseducation@stcatherine-ml.org **no later than December 4th** to sign up. Children must attend the practice on Monday, December 19 from 4:00-5:30.

We also welcome older children and adults to assist. **Grades 7 through 10** are invited to come **December 6 at 6:30** to make decorations for the Christmas Pageant. Parents are needed to help at the practice and on the night of the pageant. Please contact us if you can help.



O Holy Night

**CHILDREN – Join us and sing with the choir
at the 4 pm Christmas Eve Mass!**

Practices will be
Thursday, December 1, 8, and 15 at 7:00 pm
in the parish center
RSVP Chris Wallace
973-691-1666; cwallace@mlschools.org

GIVING TREE



Please return your gifts **no later than NEXT WEEKEND, December 4**. If you took a tag and cannot fulfill the request, it is important that you return the tag. Please place items on the stage in the gym. Straight and Narrow gifts **should not** be wrapped. St. Agnes gifts **should** be wrapped. Please tape the gift tag to your gifts for both groups.



Advent Wreath Candles, Poinsettia Plants & Decorations

This year, as in the past, we would like to continue our beautiful custom of memorializing the Christmas flowers and decorations for the church. If you would like to make a donation for a poinsettia plant or a wreath for Christmas, you may do so by using the envelopes in the church vestibule or in your envelope packet. This year you will again also have an opportunity to make a donation toward the candles on our Advent Wreath. The cost is \$100 per candle. You will be able to remember a loved one (living or deceased) or give thanks for a special blessing in this way during the Season of Advent - November 27 through December 24. Your intention will be listed in the Bulletin. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to make a donation towards the candles.

FRANCISCAN MYSTERY PLAYERS NEED YOU!

The Franciscan Mystery Players are recruiting student performers (grades 9-12) to participate in their Lenten presentation "*The Way of the Cross*" which will be performed at approximately 10 churches throughout Northern New Jersey. The group is also seeking additional adult advisors. Rehearsals begin in January at St. Catherine of Siena. Time commitment is most Friday and Sunday evenings from January through Good Friday. It is an excellent way to grow closer to God while having fun with a great group of teens! No experience is necessary. Please contact Anne Marie Pikor at [973-876-3440](tel:973-876-3440) for more information and any questions regarding earning Confirmation hours. (www.mysteryplay.org)

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

The Compassionate Friends, a self-help group for bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents, will be meeting on **Thursday, Dec. 8th at 7:30 pm** at St. Christopher Church, 1050 Littleton Rd. (Rt. 202), Parsippany in room 101. Program is the 20th annual candle-lighting service in memory of our children. Please bring a picture of your child(ren). For more information, call Lily Capriglione at 973-568-4164.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

"Breakfast with Santa" will be held at St. Catherine's this **Saturday, December 3 from 9:00 to 11:30 am**. Please sign-up through the Religious Education office. religiuoseducation@stcatherine-ml.org, 973-334-5257.



YOUTH NIGHT

"Back-to-Back Christmas Fun"

All 9th through 12th graders are invited to bake cookies and sing Christmas carols

(Join us for 1 or both nights)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1 at 7:30 PM

Come bake cookies with your friends.

MEET IN THE GYM AT ST. CATHERINE'S

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 6:15 PM – 7:30 PM

Join us for Christmas caroling with the residents of Merry Heart Senior Center.
MEET AT MERRY HEART
(199 Powerville Rd, Boonton)

EMAIL Gail at youthministry@stcatherine-ml.org if you are interested.

ANNUAL WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT EXCHANGE 7:00 pm, Thursday, December 15

Call your friends, grab your mother, invite you sister and your daughter, it's time once again for our annual Christmas Gathering! We will start the evening off with Benediction at 7 pm in the church and then it's off to the parish center for refreshments (BYOB), carols and, of course, our traditional ornament "SWAP". Bring a wrapped ornament limited to \$10 and partake in a game of laughter and "swapping". To sign up or to volunteer to help with refreshments, please contact Barbara at 973-263-1758; jbuck973@aol.com or Whitney at 973-586-2777; queendubose@aol.com. We look forward to seeing everyone!

DIOCESAN CHRISTMAS CONCERT

All are invited to join Bishop Serratelli and the faithful of the diocese for our annual Christmas Concert, "*Christmas Flourish*", on **Sunday, December 4 at 4:00 pm** at St. Peter the Apostle Church in Parsippany. It will be an exciting afternoon of music for the Advent and Christmas seasons with our Diocesan Choir, Diocesan Children's Choir, and the Gramercy Brass Quintet.