



Saturday December 9
 5:30 pm Larry Rea, Genevieve Argen, and Patricia Murphy

Sunday December 10 *Second Sunday of Advent*
 7:30 am Margriet and John Carrico, Sr. and Our Parishioners
 9:30 am Sergio and Noemi Wong and Christiane Donahue
 11:30 am Louis and Alfred Tuzzi and Frank Croker

Monday December 11
 6:45 am Jack and Jen Hanshumaker

Tuesday December 12 *Our Lady of Guadalupe*
 6:45 am Marie Dalton

Wednesday December 13 *St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr*
 6:45 am Rose Razzano

Thursday December 14 *St. John of the Cross*
 6:45 am Constance Ingrassia

Friday December 15
 6:45 am Our Parishioners

Saturday December 16
 8:00 am Patricia Carroll and George Murray
 4:30 pm Joan Pirolo, Josephine Lonisin, John O'Brien, and 60th Anniversary of James and Phyllis Bennett

Sunday December 17 *Third Sunday of Advent*
 7:30 am Rosemary Haas and Our Parishioners
 9:30 am Elsie Selvaratnam, Jo-Mary Vieira, and Abrielle Heeran
 11:30 am Dr. Rodolfo Narag, Diane Gironda and Julianne Law

Scripture Readings
December 17, 2017
Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
 Isaiah describes the joy and salvation which will accompany the coming of Christ. He compares the plants which spring from a garden to the justice that will spring from all nations.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 Paul reminds the Thessalonians to constantly ready themselves for Christ's arrival. He tells them to "avoid any semblance of evil" so that they may be found irreproachable when Jesus does arrive.

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28
 John explains that he is only a messenger to the people for one more powerful than himself. John stresses to them that they must make a path for the one so powerful that he is not fit to unfasten the strap of his sandal.

NEXT WEEKEND:

- * No 4:00 confession Saturday.
- * Saturday evening Mass will be held at 4:30.
- * Food Collection for Fr. English Food Pantry

DECEMBER 16/17 CELEBRANT SCHEDULE

4:30 pm*	Fr. Jared Brogan
7:30 am	Fr. Jared Brogan
9:30 am	Fr. Edward Seton Fittin, OSB
11:30 am	Fr. Jim Termyna

*Note time change

***The Advent candles are placed
 In loving memory of Michael Katzenberger,
 Jean Cecilia Girz, Diane Gironda, and
 Martin McCormack. The Advent wreath is in
 memory of Anna and Frank Musarra.***

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill, especially Arline Forte, Francis Forte, Sr. Bernadette Weller, Karen Lang, Mary Ann Armstrong, Michele Buck, Christa Fairclough, Pat Flannery, Pat Pongracz, Gus Mitchell, Jennie Iwasiuk, Edward Joyce, Sr., Ann Gerhardt, Sr. Joan Phillips, and Andrew Andresko.

STEWARDSHIP	
December 4, 2016 Collection & PP	\$ 9,038
MASS ATTENDANCE 706	
December 3, 2017 Sunday Collection	
Envelopes/Cash	\$ 9,850
Online Giving	<u>2,727</u>
Total	\$12,577
MASS ATTENDANCE 769	
Weekly Operating Expense	\$12,885

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday, December 11

Scripture Study	1:00 to
2:30 pm	
RCIA	7:30 pm
Holy Hour/Reconciliation	7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 12

Moms & Tots	9:30 to 11:00 am
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Thursday, December 14

Choir practice	7:00 pm
Women's Benediction & Ornament swap	7:00 pm

Saturday, December 16

Imperial Brass Orchestra concert	8:00 pm
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O Holy Night

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

Practices continue
 Thursday, December 14, and 21 (if needed) at 7:00
 pm in the parish center

RSVP Chris Wallace
973-691-1666; cwallace@mlschools.org



From the Desk of Fr. Jared

On this Second Sunday of Advent, the Collect (Opening Prayer) of the Mass speaks simultaneously of the urgency of our Advent journey and the need to experience a change of heart and perspective: "Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company." Ideally, we are in haste and experience an urgency to discover God and to discern the advent of Christ in our lives. If you are like me, however, you may be experiencing a haste and urgency for everything but God, at least on the surface. I do believe that we all have a desire for God whether we know it or not. What are we busy about and in haste about during these days? Are the things that are tiring us out really worth the time and energy, or could our time and energy be better spent on deeper, more meaningful pursuits? I am not a Grinch! I find such joy in this season. I am the first to listen to Christmas music in early December. I am the first to run out shopping. The question is, can we encounter Christ in all of these things?

Advent, as a time of wonder and longing. Our minds and thoughts should be expanded to trust more in the wonders that God can and will do for us. Sometimes we need to stop and discern that in quiet prayer. This week, on Monday evening, the vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (patroness of the Americas), I invite you to spend some quiet time (as much as you would like) before the Blessed Sacrament and/or consider taking advantage of the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Come and pray even if you do not plan on celebrating the Sacrament. There is something very powerful about praying before the Blessed Sacrament together that enriches our experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You'll be glad you did; what a great way to celebrate Advent!

Blessing of the Christ Child

Next weekend, the Third Sunday of Advent, *Gaudete Sunday*, you are invited to bring the baby Jesus figurine from your home nativity to be blessed at Mass. Pope Benedict XVI spoke, "The blessing of the "Bambinelli" (baby Jesus figurines) reminds us that the crib is a school of life where we can learn the secret of true joy. This does not consist in having many things but in feeling loved by the Lord, in giving oneself as a gift for others and in loving one another. Let us look at the crib. Our Lady and St. Joseph do not seem to be a very fortunate family; their first child was born in the midst of great hardship; yet they are full of deep joy, because they love each other, they

help each other and, especially, they are certain that God, who made himself present in the little Jesus, is at work in their story. And the shepherds? What did they have to rejoice about? That Newborn Infant was not to change their condition of poverty and marginalization. But faith helped them recognize the "babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" as a "sign" of the fulfillment of God's promises for all human beings, "with whom he is pleased" (Lk 2: 12, 14).

Peace,
Fr. Jared

ANNUAL PARISH CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On **Saturday, December 16 at 8:00 pm**, the Imperial Brass Orchestra will be performing at St. Catherine's for our *Celebrating the Joys and Blessings of the Season* concert. Tickets are only \$30, which includes admission and a wine and cheese reception following the concert. Tickets can be purchased at the door or by contacting Whitney at 973-586-2777 or queendubose@aol.com.

ADVENT / CHRISTMAS 2017

**Sacrament of Reconciliation
with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**
Monday, December 11 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Blessing of Baby Jesus
December 16 and 17 at all Masses

Christmas Eve Masses, Sunday, December 24
4:00pm Fr. Jared Brogan
Children's Choir, Cantor, Instrumentalists
6:00pm Fr. Edward Seton Fittin, OSB
Cantor, Instrumentalists
10:00pm Fr. Jared Brogan
Choir, Cantor, Instrumentalists
 Christmas carols will be sung before each Mass.

Christmas Day Masses, Monday, December 25
7:30am Fr. Jim Termyna *Cantor, organist*
9:30am Fr. Jared Brogan *Cantor, organist*
11:30am Fr. Jared Brogan *Cantor, organist*

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God
Monday, January 1 10:00 am Fr. Jared Brogan

CHRISTMAS IS COMING: SAVE THE DATES!

Thursday, December 14, 7:00 pm
Annual Women's Benediction and Ornament Exchange
Saturday, December 16, 8:00 pm
Imperial Brass Orchestra Concert
Tuesday, December 19, 7:30 pm
Children's Christmas Pageant



**NEWS FROM
THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE**

UPCOMING DATES:

December 18 – Christmas Pageant Practice 4:00-5:00
December 19 – Christmas Pageant – 7:30 pm
December 20 – **January 7** – No class, Christmas break
January 8, 2018 – Religious Education classes resume



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 19 at 7:30 pm**. All 1st through 4th graders are invited to participate. Please contact the Religious Education Office at 973-334-5257 or religionseducation@stcatherine-ml.org to sign up. Children must attend the practice on Monday, December 18 from 4:00-5:00.

Our annual Breakfast with Santa was a jolly success! A special thank you to Jerry Napolitano and the Knights of Columbus for providing breakfast; to our very own Santa, Rich Westerman; and to all those who helped.



COMMUNITY SOUP KITCHEN

A food safety course for St. Catherine's soup kitchen volunteers interested in being cleared to help prepare food is being offered at the Soup Kitchen from 2-3pm on Tuesday, January 9. If interested, please call Carol Kennedy 973-402-1503.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

The Compassionate Friends, a self-help group for bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents, will be meeting on **Thursday, Dec. 14th at 7:30 pm** at St. Christopher Church, 1050 Littleton Rd. (Rt. 202), Parsippany in room 101. Program is the annual candle-lighting service in memory of our children. Please bring a picture of your child. For more information, call Lily Capriglione at 973-568-4164.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

sponsored by the Diocese of Paterson.

Friday, January 26-Sunday, January 28

Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild, and redeem hearts broken by abortion. The weekend retreat offers a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release, and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing. For more information, call 973-377-1004 xt 425 or email RVPaterson@gmail.com

GIVING TREE



Our parish family has once again responded to the Giving Tree appeal with outstanding generosity. Together with Kim Sgro's group, "Nana's Gift", St. Catherine's was able to provide much appreciated gifts for St. Agnes' and St. Anthony's Parish children. Thank you for helping make Christmas more joyful for those less fortunate! A special thank you to Joni Cabassa and her committee who sorted and bagged all the gifts.

IMPORTANT NOTE: *If you have gifts that have not yet been returned, please find an alternate charity or contact St. Agnes in Paterson or St. Anthony in Passaic directly. We can no longer accept them.*

**ANNUAL WOMEN'S
CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT EXCHANGE**

7:00 pm, Thursday, December 14

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". You're invited to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Save the Date!

St. Catherine of Siena

WINTER CARNIVAL

Games for all ages!

Treats * Fun * Entertainment

Saturday, January 20th 3:00 - 5:00 pm

In the parish center. Family Mass to follow.

SAVE THE DATE:

WOMEN'S ANNUAL RETREAT

Friday, March 9 - Sunday, March 11

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)