

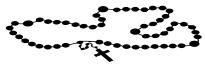
HOLY CHILD CHURCH



Boy Scout Troop 132 would like to thank Holy Child parishioners for their generosity in their Annual Food Drive. With your help, they distributed 150 food baskets, as well as 200 turkeys to three parishes on the Island and bought food in bulk to re-stock the St. Edward Food Pantry as well as other organizations. Additionally, 50 \$25 Pathmark gift certificates were distributed and several local families received a turkey with all the trimmings. Thanks again for your generosity.



“And this is my prayer: that your love increase ever more...said that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ...” Come to a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and recharge your marriage/holy orders. The next Weekend is February 12 – 14. For more information go to: www.wmearchny.org or call 718-317-5881, or 1-877-NYS-WWME.



Holy Child Rosary Makers

Holy Child Rosary Makers meet every Thursday in the Rectory after the 9 a.m. Mass. All are welcome.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

On Sunday, December 13th at 7:30 p.m. in the Rectory the 4 mysteries of the Rosary and the Fatima Prayers will be recited.



Ultreya are held the Second Thursday of each month in the Rectory at 8:00 p.m. Ultreya is open to anyone who has made a Cursillo Weekend. For information about upcoming weekends call Carol at 718-356-4742.



Anthony Marra
Helen Auteri
Claudia Cupo
Rev. John E. Mercer

Fallen in Battle

Let us pray for the servicemen aged **22, 25, 34, 19** reported to have died on active duty this past week. Their deaths bring the total of service-personnel casualties to **918** in the Afghan War. Let us also pray for their families who will continue to bear the burden of their Supreme Sacrifice.



Scripture/Faith Sharing

Sessions are on Mondays after the 9 A.M. Mass in the Forum.

Mass for the Intentions Week



CHILDREN'S MASS Next Sunday, December 13th there will be a Children's Mass at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome to come.



SATURDAY VIGIL, DECEMBER 5, 2009

5:00 PM Buro Family
7:00 PM Marian & Salvatore DeGrado

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2009

6:30 AM People of Holy Child
8:00 AM Rae Roe
9:30 AM Frank Coppola
11:00 AM Rose Randazzo Manghise
12:30 PM Salvatore Testa
5:30 PM Leon Olszewski

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2009

6:30 AM Rocco Maccahriullo
9:00 AM Mr. & Mrs. Frank Franchi
12:10 PM Vincenzo Verga

7:00 PM Vigil Mass Immaculate Conception

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2009

6:30 AM Patricia McGuire
9:00 AM Anna Lacagnino
12:10 PM Philip Diteodoro
3:45 PM and 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009

6:30 AM Giuseppina & Giovanni Scala
9:00 AM Ralph Paragallo
12:10 PM Ana Montalvo

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2009

6:30 AM Fred & Tillie Goodby
9:00 AM Rose Lomanto
12:10 PM Jeremiah Fitzgerald

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2009

6:30 AM Bridget & Thomas Horan
9:00 AM Robert Mancari
12:10 PM Thomas Montemarano

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009

9:00 AM Albert Palumbo
12:10 PM Anthony Pochini




SATURDAY VIGIL, DECEMBER 12, 2009

5:00 PM Joan Carney, John Latona & Dennis Meehan
7:00 PM Michelle Henrique

Readings for December 13, 2009

Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THIS WEEK'S DONATIONS:

-  **Bread & Wine** – In Memory of
Martin Cianciaruso
Offered by Dan & Loretta Schirripa
-  **Sanctuary Lamp** – In Memory of
Louis Grasso
Offered by Mr. & Mrs. John Schirripa
-  **Adoration Chapel Candles** – In Memory of
Mrs. Nieves Posa
Offered by the Posa Family
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ARRANGEMENTS FOR BAPTISM

To preserve a more devout and reverent celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism, only six families will be accommodated each week. Please make arrangements with the Church at least a month beforehand.

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 **BAPTISM**


We are happy to welcome the following newly baptized members into our Holy Child Family:

- Thomas James Geosits**
 - Olivia Ruth Klink**
 - Thomas George Volpe**
- * * * * *

 **Get Well Soon!**

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Melissa Marino | Teresa Morandi | Paul Morandi |
| Edward Simmonds | Anthony Dimesa | Gerri Brady |
| Helen Del Zoppo | Pat Lavanco | Lenny Renzi |
| Phyllis Malozzi | Aloysius Mazzella | Lauren Verdi |
| John Ippoliti | George Cesurano | Erika Balk |
| Linda Cardinale | Emma Cate DiMola | Mary Anthony |
| Therese Gregory | Stephanie Traicoff | Jim Ursillo |
| Jason D'Angelo | Stephen Fitzgerald | Mary Caleca |
| Anthony Parise | Billy Sherwood, Jr. | Claire Geary |
| Roseann Esposito | Anthony Sutera | Roger Sledz |
| Bill Magrino, Sr. | Alyssa Trivalone | Nico Di Bono |
| Helen Vigilante | James Naimoli | |
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Beyond Renew

 Our third season of "To Live in Christ" is drawing to a close. **All small groups are invited to join together at the 7 p.m. Mass in the Church on December 7th the Vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.** Coffee and cake will be served in the Forum following the Mass. Anyone interested in small groups or former Renew participants are invited to come for coffee and fellowship after the Mass.



Advent Vespers

*Evening Prayer
Hymn
Reflection
"O" Antiphons
Magnificat*

Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

December 11th- 18th

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Holy Child Christmas Pageant

SUN 20 DEC. 2:30 p.m.–Performance for whole parish

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WIDOWS & WIDOWERS CLUB



There will be no formal meeting of the Widows & Widowers Club in December. The next meeting will be in January.

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ADVENT GIVING TREE

Our Giving Tree is displayed in the Church vestibule. The tree, as in past years, is decorated with gift tags. Each tag lists an item for a needy child or adult. Please select a tag, purchase the item listed and return it gift-wrapped and the tag attached.



Just a reminder that the Giving Tree gifts are due back next weekend. **Please return the gift to the lower level of the School building either before or after Mass. NO GIFTS CAN BE LEFT IN THE SCHOOL BEFORE, OR AFTER THAT WEEKEND BECAUSE THERE IS NO ROOM TO STORE THEM.**

Once again we would like to thank you for your wonderful support.

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ATTENTION: USHERS

There will be an Ushers' Meeting on Thursday, December 17, 2009 at 7:30 pm in the School Building for all ushers to discuss Christmas preparations including Masses and other Christmas events. Sign-up sheets are available in the Ushers' Room.



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The Divine Mercy Perpetual Adoration Chapel

You are invited to become an adorer of our Lord Jesus Christ, present in the most Blessed Sacrament. Sign up for one hour a week. Hours most in need of an adorer are:
Mon. 3 a.m. & 4 a.m.; Wed. 1 a.m. & Sat. 10 a.m.

“[They] ...Decided to Follow Jesus”

We are grateful to our Director of Religious Education, Marie Ferro, for all the extra effort she, her staff, faculty members and volunteers put into the bi-annual Family Catechesis. It came to pass on Sunday 22 November with a series of engaging presentations and activities bracketed by Sunday Mass and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The title of the day revealed its theme: Journey With Jesus. We are also grateful to all who attended and participated. They can surely testify to the worthwhile nature of the event. They, like the singer of the song, I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*, committed themselves to an action that shows that, for them and for all who truly journey with Jesus, there's "no turning back".

*I Have Decided To Follow Jesus
Attr. S. Sundar Singh

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St. Francis Catholic Singles (formerly SGSP)

Join them for their Singles Christmas Party – dinner, drinks, deejay, raffles and more on **Thursday, December 10** from 7-10 p.m. at the St. Francis Friary, 500 Todt Hill Road, SI., NY. They will meet in the Friary chapel for a brief Christmas reflection at 7 p.m. followed by festivities beginning at 7:30 sharp.

Advance purchase is necessary; no tickets sold at the door. Cost: \$25; make checks out to "CASH" and mail to SFCS, 64 Nautilus Street, SI 10305 as soon as possible. Any checks postmarked after Mon. Dec 7th will be returned. Include your full name, telephone number, and email address.

Please support their charity project by bringing a new, unwrapped, non-violent toy for a child 3-14 years old. For more information, see the website at www.sgspci.org, email info@sgspci.org or call 718-815-7255.

Across the Miles from Fr. Tran

We received an e-mail from Father Joseph Tran

Dear Friends,
The goal the Archdiocese [of Hartford CT] set up for me is to stabilize and reorganize the community. It is in the progress. I will plan for the next step for its development. I am now looking for the Christmas gifts for the children in three communities: Brazilian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. And I remember that every year Holy Child gives out a lot. May I ask help from Holy Child? How can I do that?

Hope that everyone is in good health. Best regards to all,
Josephtran@catholic.org

Fr. Travers sent Fr. Tran a personal donation. If you wish to do the same, you may send it to:

Fr. Joseph Tran
St. Lawrence O'Toole Church
494 New Britain Avenue
Hartford, Ct. 06106
* * * * *

MONTH THREE - Developing Baby

Your baby is quite active in the womb now – although his/her mother won't feel him/her for another couple of months. If his/her mother's womb had a window, you could watch your spiritually adopted baby squint, swallow and move his/her tongue. He/she can make a tight fist if you touch his/her palm. He/she is breathing fluid, which he continues until birth. He/she obtains the oxygen his/her body needs through the umbilical cord. The baby you are praying for weighs one ounce. Pray that your spiritually adopted baby's parents will have strong support from their friends and relatives during pregnancy and after he/she is born.



Words & Music

I was happy to join with Kerry Balk, Joe Buro, Martha Capek, Lidia & Richard Larkin, Michael Marceda, Carmela & Frank Montella, Tom Murphy and Jo & John Schirippa in changing out the missalettes on Black Friday. At this season which is the end / beginning of the Church Year, the change-out crew gets hit with double duty. Not only do the missalettes have to change, the Music Issue, or hymnbook, makes its annual swap. After all the binders were gathered from the pews and racks, the old publications were removed leaving empty binders ready for two-fold substitution. You will notice, as did I, that the cover on the new music edition echoes the colors of the majestic stained glass bands that flank our golden tabernacle in the church. But I digress.

I want to thank the crew for doing this work that is seemingly menial yet really of the essence. Without their efforts one would not have reference to the scripture selections and prayers of the day at Mass nor would one have access to the song selections appointed for the liturgy.

While it is optimal to listen attentively to the Word of God as proclaimed by the Lector, Deacon, Priest, *sometimes and for some people* it is of help to follow along in the text. But that really is not intended to be standard practice. More and more, as difficult as it is to achieve, *we must learn to listen*. We are called to the experience of hearing the Word of God and we shouldn't

settle for being proof readers. After all, the Mass is now in the vernacular. Perhaps, as a help in training oneself to listen with the ears only, one could close the eyes during the readings and thus be able to focus attention, undistracted by what the eyes might be seeing, on the sounds.

Opposite of this goal of just listening is the use all should make of the Music Issue to help us sing together. Every segment of the congregation has its part to play ... or sing. There are times for everyone – clergy, choir and congregation – to sing together in unison as we already do so well with the ordinary parts of the Mass.

The very word psalm means song and on Sundays we are assisted in singing the response by the Music Ministry. The missalette should be in hand of those who are uncertain of the day's psalm tune or refrain. Those who "catch it" at first hearing do not need such aid. But there it is to help those of us who do need it to respond musically to the sung stanzas of the song known as psalm.

Not everyone can sing. Not everyone is comfortable singing. That does not mean that the Hymnbook should not be in hand to allow one to follow along with the poetic verses which are the lyrics of the hymns. If one does not sing, one here can understand the words that are being sung by others, as one follows along with the eyes – for the wording and structure of these verses can be complex and not readily apprehended just by ear. The songs are not selected by happenstance. The lyrics of the hymns of the day echo the theme of the day. They contribute to our experience of how divine mystery communicates itself to us through the liturgical medium. And who knows? ...maybe after the fourth verse going into the fifth (if you are at Mass where I preside) you might find yourself beginning to quietly croak out the melody along with the rest of us.

A crass consideration about the use of the missalette and Music Issue is that they should be used so that we can get our money's worth out of them. After all, they are purchased to facilitate our participation in the Mass.

So, again I thank the crew that brought us up to date in **word** (missalette) and **music** (hymnbook). Their physical tasks were squarely at the service of the Ministry of the Word of God – for the missalette contains the Scripture selections; at the service of the Ministry of Prayer – for the missalette contains not only our liturgical prayers, but a short variety of devotional prayers for personal expression as the Spirit moves; and yet again at the service of Prayer Ministry... in the Music Issue.. for as is said, "To sing is to pray twice"; and finally, at the service of the Congregation. Let me express my prayerful gratitude to them twice over – for me and for you – not just by saying but by singing, "Thank You!"

Love and Joy come to you in this New Year of Grace,

Father Travers

p.s. Some folks like to have a missalette at home for reference, reading or reflection. Extra copies of the current missalette are available in the Gift Shop for a dollar apiece. Music Issues are also there available for those who might wish to practice their singing at home. Unfortunately, the Music Issue is not waterproofed for use in the shower.