

HOLY CHILD CHURCH



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2009

Sacrament of Reconciliation -- Confessions

Wednesday, December 16th – 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 19th – 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

MASSES:

CHRISTMAS EVE- Thursday, December 24th

Children's Carols 3:30 p.m. leading into
Children's Mass 4:00 p.m. in the Forum
Christmas Vigil Mass 4:00 p.m. in the Church
Carols 11:15 p.m. leading into Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY- Friday, December 25th

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m.
(No 6:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. Masses
on Christmas Day)

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Come to a Worldwide Marriage Encounter
Weekend and recharge your marriage The
next Weekend is February 12 – 14. **For more
information go to:** www.wwmearchny.org or call 718-317-
5881, or 1-877-NYS-WWME.

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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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**Catherine DeCesare
John Cipriano
Rosalia Fischetti
Gregory Sellitti
Edith Ferranto
Vincent Gatto
Anna Catinello**

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Fallen War Heroes

The death of a 21-year-old soldier this week in Iraq brings
the casualty total there to 4,358. The deaths of a 28-year-
old soldier and a 22-year-old Marine brings the casualty total
in Afghanistan to 921. Let us pray for their souls and for
their survivors who continue to bear the burden of The
Supreme Sacrifice.

Mass & Intentions for the Week



Scripture/Faith Sharing

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

SATURDAY VIGIL, DECEMBER 12, 2009

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009

6:30 AM People of Holy Child
8:00 AM St. Lucy
9:30 AM Lucy LiPari & Mary Compagnone
11:00 AM Celia DeVito
12:30 PM Josephine & Edward Klinkosz
5:30 PM Irene Evans

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2009

6:30 AM Ann Jacobick
9:00 AM Mr. & Mrs. George Mercurio
12:10 PM Alice Comiskey

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2009

6:30 AM For the Intention of Jude Joyce (Living)
9:00 AM James P. Crowley
12:10 PM Thomas J. Kelly

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2009

6:30 AM Anastasia (Anne) Murphy
9:00 AM Mr. J. L. Stasiak
12:10 PM Gregory & Jenny Manna

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2009

6:30 AM Anne Ricciardi & Aldo Scarrone
9:00 AM Larry & Lucy Di Bono & Margaret & Nick Bella
12:10 PM Josephine DiBella

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2009

6:30 AM Josephine Doto
9:00 AM Anthony Sclafani
12:10 PM Irene Agalio

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2009

9:00 AM Angela DeAngelillo
12:10 PM Margaret Luchino

SATURDAY VIGIL, DECEMBER 19, 2009

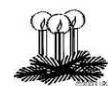
5:00 PM Jo Ann Bruno
7:00 PM Crumlish & O'Flaherty Families

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Readings for December 20, 2009

Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

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WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THIS WEEK'S DONATIONS:



Bread & Wine – In Memory of
Denise Ingrassia
Offered by Mom & Dad



Sanctuary Lamp – In Memory of
Yolanda Dvagich
Offered by the School Aides of I.S. 278



Adoration Chapel Candles – In Memory of
Eleanor Tripo & Carmela Vignola
Offered by Patricia & Carmine Tripo

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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:

Evelyn Maria Byrnes
Eve Marie Escribano
Thomas Charles Gottlieb

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Get Well Soon!

Helen Del Zoppo
Edward Simmonds
Melissa Marino
Phyllis Malozzi
John Ippoliti
Linda Cardinale
Therese Gregory
Jason D'Angelo
Anthony Parise
Roseann Esposito
Bill Magrino, Sr.
Helen Vigilante

Teresa Morandi
Anthony Dimesa
Pat Lavanco
Aloysius Mazzella
George Cesurano
Emma Cate DiMola
Stephanie Traicoff
Stephen Fitzgerald
Billy Sherwood, Jr.
Anthony Sutera
Alyssa Trivalone
James Naimoli

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Paul Morandi
Gerri Brady
Lenny Renzi
Lauren Verdi
Erika Balk
Mary Anthony
Jim Ursillo
Mary Caleca
Claire Geary
Roger Sledz
Nico Di Bono



ADVENT GIVING TREE

Just a reminder that the Giving Tree gifts are **due back this weekend.** Please return the gift-wrapped present, with the tag attached, to the lower level of the School Building either before or

after Mass.

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



Holy Child Christmas Pageant

SUN 20 DEC. 2:30 p.m.–Performance for whole parish
FRI 18 DEC. 4:30 p.m.–Dress Rehearsal

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Winners of the Holy Child Christmas Pageant
Poster Contest

1st Prize Winners

Elena Barb
Anthony D'Ambrosio
Ava LaGressa
Gianna Pittari
Christina Romano
Liam Sawyer
Caitlyn Sawyer
Gabriella Valdez

Our first prize winner have their colorings (blown up to poster size) hung at the doorways of the Church this weekend. The colorings were expanded so as to advertise the Christmas Pageant which will be performed for the whole parish next Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in the Church. Please come and attend this performance, or if you cannot make the Main Performance, then you may come to the Dress Rehearsal: Friday, December 18th at 4:30 p.m.

2nd Prize Winners:

Thomas Avallone
Kelliann D'Ambrosio
Austin Ginocchio
Richard Ginocchio
Anthony LaGressa
Natalie Mucciola
Kelly Romano
Nichole Romano

Fr. Ed will give out the prizes to all the winning children at the 12:30 p.m. Children's Mass on December 29th – the Feast of the Holy Family.

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Advent Vespers

Evening Prayer
Hymn
Reflection
"O" Antiphons
Magnificat

Friday 7:00 p.m. December 18th

“Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light

O Little Town of Bethlehem - Phillips Brooks 1835 -1893

The ten folks who once again joined me for the second of our lovely Friday Evening Advent Prayers Services had a surprising treat. Late in the week I was contacted by Rosemarie Mangano Cavanagh who proposed that Holy Child Church participate in an unusual program sponsored by The Boy Scouts of America. Her grandson, *Vincent Mangano*, a second class Boy Scout with S.I. Troop 4, was appointed by his Scout Leader to accept delivery of the *Bethlehem Peace Light* at JFK Airport on 4 December 2009.

In the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem there is an oil lamp that has been burning continuously for centuries. This is the *Bethlehem Peace Light* flame. All the Christian nations in the world take turns contributing oil for this lamp. This is the 23rd year that the Bethlehem Peace Light has been flown from the Grotto Manger to Austria whence it is disseminated to many nations. This year Boy Scouts of America is 100 years old. To celebrate, the Scouts wish to give a special present to American communities.

With this in mind, on Friday evening 4 December, *Vincent Mangano*, St. Mark's Troop #4, came to our church accompanied by his mother, Frances, his grandmother, Mrs. Cavanagh, and his sister, Julianna. The other scouts were *Christopher O'Donnell*, St. Mark's Troop #4, accompanied by his father, Brian, and *Robert Scopelliti*, Holy Child Troop 132. Mr. Stanley Mangano, Scoutmaster and past altar server of Holy Child and Eagle Scout, oversaw the proceedings. An immediate benefit was that the usual attendance enjoyed a two fold increase.

At the conclusion of Vespers, the Boy Scouts came forward with the lit lantern – the type that you would see around farmhouses and ranches in the olden days. One of the boys lit a taper from it and illuminated one of our church candles prepared for the moment.

This special flame burns right under the hanging sanctuary lamp. You are invited to light your lantern with that very flame and take it to your home which will be that much brighter for having this unique Light of Christ in the midst.

Not only will all the candles in church be burning from this flame on Christmas Eve but it will be used to illuminate our Candlelight Service at Midnight Mass.

Parish Outing to the Brooklyn Museum

The exhibition **James Tissot: “The Life of Christ”** includes 124 watercolors from the set owned by the Brooklyn Museum. It is the first time in over 20 years that any of these works have been on view at the museum.

James Tissot (1836-1902) made expeditions to the Middle East to record the landscape, architecture, costumes and customs of the Holy Land and its people. Tissot painted his works with considerable historical exactitude. This exhibition depicts detailed scenes from the New Testament, from before the birth of Jesus through the Resurrection.

Beyond Renew is planning a bus trip to this exhibition on **Wednesday 30 December**. The bus will leave Holy Child at 9:30 a.m. and return at 1:30 p.m. Admission and Transportation is \$15. The museum has a nice restaurant for us to buy our own lunch. Sign up in the rectory with a check made out to Holy Child as soon as possible! I hope to go to the Gallery too!

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e-mail from Father Joseph Tran

Josephtran@catholic.org

Fr. Travers:

Thank you very much for your concern and generosity. I received your personal check of \$500 to help the children this Christmas. I made the announcement this Sunday right after I received it. The children had wide open eyes with wonder when I told them about Holy Child on Staten Island.

Fr. Travers, There are about 576 families; 325 families here are newcomers with 4 years, 3, or 2 years living in this country. Recently, number of them are out of work. They live without relatives; and friends visit and deliver food to their home. I found the same worry that every child should have gift this Christmas.

I made a head count this Sunday and I got the number: Infants up to 3 years old: 18 boys, 35 girls; 4 - 6 years old: 37 boys, 35 girls; 7 – 10 year olds: 34 boys, 28 girls.

I hope that with the help from you and the people of Holy Child, my children will have joy and happiness this Christmas.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Joseph Tran

St. Lawrence O'Toole Church
494 New Britain Avenue
Hartford, Ct. 06106

The Pageant of the Christ

Sister Anne Edward, S.N.D. had posted on the corkboard in her homeroom the saying, “Youth is Our Greatest Resource” and how right she was.

Our Sunday congregation has no way of knowing of the current daily reality of just how much the funeral traffic is escalating in our parish. The pillars of our community are now being called more than one at a time to (please God) their glory and the mission must devolve to the younger generations. In order for it to do so, it must be deliberately transmitted and modeled. If not, the Catholic enterprise as we have known it will be compromised or just cease to exist in this locale.

Our elders took it as their sacred responsibility to transmit the faith to us, the upcoming generations, with utmost seriousness. Yesterday it was a matter of course, today it has become an emergency. The younger generations are not equipped to carry on the Faith as did the generations of old. We can only do

the best we can in passing on The Faith and our Sacred Traditions by participating in or, at least supporting, the current means by which this is done.

If we do not manage to pass on the tradition of our Faith to our youngsters with the same seriousness of purpose and urgent passion that our elders passed it on to us, we will have failed our Lord in our parish, our church our world. Perhaps our failure will compromise the degree of our own salvation.

Many generous souls fill the faculty ranks in our School of Religion and many parents, grandparents and godparents bring their children to class and to church regularly. And then there is the private practice of the faith in the family setting, known to its members and God alone.

When I was pursuing a degree in Education I took a course entitled Methods and Materials. It sought to make prospective teachers aware of the various means of giving lessons. One of them, rarely used, is that of role playing. Used rarely perhaps because it requires a lot of preparation on the part of the teacher and a lot of discipline on the part of the students. It is a most effective method for it allows the students to learn "by doing" under the keen direction of the teacher.

Before I go further, let me emphasize the words **work** and **discipline** for whenever we hear the word **play** we automatically assume that it is of a frivolous nature and "kid's stuff". Not so when it comes to the methods and materials needed for really effective educational role playing.

We are very, very fortunate to have a man on staff who understands the seriousness of purpose of pedagogical role playing and the long range effectiveness it has in the educational mission...in our case religious education, faith development. He is Father Ed Cipot. Not only does Father Ed teach two classes in our School of Religion, he takes it upon himself to provide a rich "elective" for boys and girls who wish to learn about the Lord Jesus through Christmas and Lenten presentations in the church. I myself was so engaged as a player when we put on the Advent Wreath skits during last year's Advent Friday Evening Prayer Services.

I must bring to your attention the many hours that Father Ed has already spent with our children this Fall in preparing them to present to the parish what they have learned about the Infancy Narratives of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and the Sacred Tradition of the prophetic "O" Antiphons.

We should never tire of hearing the good news of the birth of our Saviour nor should we eschew the opportunity to learn something about our religious practices over the past 2,000 years – some elements of which we may be still unaware of.

That is why the hard work and expense of preparing the Holy Child Christmas Pageant must be brought to your attention along with the cooperative sacrifices made by the children and their parents in making it happen to share with you.

Indifference to this wonderful effort, which promises to be world class in quality, will discourage the efforts of our young people so willing to sacrifice themselves in this effective process of learning and living out this episode of the "Good News".

Father Ed, the children in the cast, Miss Anne Lukasiewicz and the children in the chorus have labored long and hard to make a presentation to the parish that is worthwhile and something that we should all be proud of. I know it will not have the charm of just being cute, our young folks are being stretched to semi-pro capacity in the discipline which teaches them and will teach those who gather in their audience.

The living legacy of our Faith, our Greatest Resource, will stand before our eyes in our church on Sunday the 20th of December at 2:30 p.m. Attendance is a supportive investment in the future of the Faith, a reinforcement of our own faith, and the opportunity to enjoy a truly delightful matinee. I look forward to sharing the pleasure with you soon.

Father Travers

p.s. For parents with children and those unable to attend on Sunday, there is the Dress Rehearsal on Friday the 18th at 4:30 p.m. Granted it will not be as polished as the main performance but it is better than nothing.