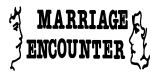




Thank you for your generosity toward the Retirement Fund for the Religious. We are grateful for your support.



Because of uncertainty of assignments in the light of the reducing number of priests, the daily Mass schedule is contracting. 2010 Weekday Masses will be offered Monday through Friday at 6:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. The Mass of the day on Saturdays will be offered at 9:00 a.m. Funeral Masses will be scheduled at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and Noon. Saturday weddings, not yet scheduled, will be scheduled at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.



Come to a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and recharge your marriage 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.

Readings for December 27, 2009

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52



Scripture/Faith Sharing

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



Shirley E. McFarland
Rev. John P. O'Brien
Antonio Rocchio
Sabatino Napolitano
Diane Grasso
Joseph LaMassa
Joseph Fumarola
Eleanor Schroeder
Antoinette Nobile

Fallen War Heroes

The deaths of two 29-year-old soldiers and a 23-year-old Marine brings the casualty total in the war in Iraq to 4,361. Let us remember all their fallen comrades-in-arms in the War on Terror as we pray for them and their surviving families and friends during the holiday season.

Mass Intentions for the Week

CHILDREN'S MASS

Next Sunday, December 27th there will be a Children's Mass at 12:30 p.m. All are welcome to come.



SATURDAY VIGIL, DECEMBER 19, 2009

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2009

6:30 AM People of Holy Child
8:00 AM Santisi & Sisko Families
9:30 AM Rosaria, Albert, Ralph & Vito Pece
11:00 AM Chieco & Di Maria Families
12:30 PM Michael Giangrande
5:30 PM Neil Bifalco

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2009

6:30 AM Joseph Raiola
9:00 AM Robert Hamilton
12:10 PM Mary Compagnone & Angelina Broccoli

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2009

6:30 AM William C. Leverock
9:00 AM Stephen Egan
12:10 PM Priore & Raspente Families

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2009

6:30 AM Salvatore Di Re & Antonio Berlingieri
9:00 AM Arthur F. Yovino
12:10 PM Antonio Lorenzo

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2009, CHRISTMAS EVE

6:30 AM Angelo & Antoinette Tegano
9:00 AM Elaine Passante & Anna & Salvatore Lacagnino
12:10 PM John Miskevich

**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**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2009, CHRISTMAS DAY

6:30 AM **NO MASS**
8:00 AM Jennifer Marcello-Murphy
9:30 AM John Amirante
11:00 AM Gaetano Mangano
12:30 PM James Molinelli
5:30 PM **NO MASS**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2009

9:00 AM Catherine Noto
12:10 PM Martin T. Cavanagh

SATURDAY VIGIL, DECEMBER 26, 2009

5:00 PM John P. McGoorty
7:00 PM Agnes Messina

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THIS WEEK'S DONATIONS:



Bread & Wine – In Memory of
Stephanie Hare
Offered by the Hare Family



Sanctuary Lamp – In Memory of
Neil McNeil & Camille Tortorella
Offered by the McNeil Family



Adoration Chapel Candles – In Memory of
Cutrona & McNeil Families
Offered by John & Denise Cutrona

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.



BAPTISM

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

Nicholas Thomas Cioffi
Sean Joseph LaRoy



Get Well Soon!

Joseph Castronuovo
Edward Simmonds
Melissa Marino
Phyllis Malozzi
John Ippoliti
Linda Cardinale
Therese Gregory
Jason D'Angelo
Anthony Parise
Roseann Esposito
Bill Magrino, Sr.
James Naimoli

Teresa Morandi
Anthony Dimesa
Helen Del Zoppo
Aloysius Mazzella
George Cesurano
Emma Cate DiMola
Stephanie Traicoff
Alyssa Trivalone
Billy Sherwood, Jr.
Anthony Sutera
Helen Vigilante

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

HEALING MASS- Our next Healing Mass will be celebrated on **Wednesday, December 23rd at 7:45 p.m.**



MONTHLY ANOINTING OF THE SICK

On the **last Saturday of every month**, the **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** will be administered for all of our parishioners who are ill or infirm. **Who may be anointed?** Those preparing for surgery, chemotherapy treatments, and the elderly weakened by old age, sick children, if they have sufficient use of reason to be strengthened by this sacrament. Is there someone sick in your family? Bring them to the Anointing Mass on **Saturday, December 26th at 12:10 p.m.**



In observance of Christmas the Rectory Office will be closed, Thursday, December 24th, Friday, December 25th. The office will re-open on Saturday, December 26th at 9 a.m. and at 1 p.m. on Monday, December 29th.



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2009

Sacrament of Reconciliation -- Confessions
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)**



NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE:

Sacrament of Reconciliation -- Confessions
Saturday, December 26th – 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

MASSES:

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Thursday, December 31st, 2009
5:00 p.m.

NEW YEAR'S DAY,

Friday, January 1, 2010
8:00 a.m. Low Mass, 10 a.m. & 12:10 p.m.

Attention Lectors and Eucharist Ministers

Sign-up sheets are available for both Christmas and New Year's Mass schedules in the Altar Servers' Room. Please sign up as soon as possible. Thank you.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Has death taken someone away from you?

On Monday 4 January at 2:30 p.m. there will be occasion for anyone suffering from a recent death of a family member or friend to get together in the Rectory Conference Room to share the bereavement experience. In this we hope to see that "friendship doubles our joy and divides our grief." Mrs. Lea Laccadito will be the coordinator in these difficult post-holiday months.

This 2:30 p.m. Monday meeting is for starters and may be scheduled differently in the future for the convenience of participants.

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"Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light"

O Little Town of Bethlehem - Phillips Brooks 1835 -1893

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.

That very flame came to Holy Child Church on Friday Evening 4 December courtesy of the Boy Scouts of America. A full report of this wondrous evolution was given in last week's bulletin.

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.

From Midnight Mass until the conclusion of the Christmas Season, the lampstand with this flame will be placed where the Advent Wreath stood for the past four weeks.

Fr. Travers invites you to enjoy the photos of this operation on the poster in the Lobby.

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St. Vincent de Paul Society

The monthly meeting of the **St. Vincent DePaul Society** will be **next Sunday, December 27th, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.** The meeting will be held in the Rectory.

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St. Edward Food Pantry

The **St. Vincent de Paul Society** will be collecting for **St. Edward Food Pantry next weekend.** Thank you for your generosity.

* * * * *

"Faithful friends who are dear to us

Gather near to us once more." - Ralph Blane

Father Joseph Tran, who served at Holy Child, has asked for help in bringing Christmas happiness to the children in the communities he ministers to. Should you wish to send him a donation or just a friendly greeting, he may be reached at:

St. Lawrence O'Toole Church
494 New Britain Avenue
Hartford, Ct. 06106
Josephtran@catholic.org

* * * * *

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!

* * * * *

Thank You!

From Church & Friary of St. Francis of Assisi

Dear Mrs. Phyllis Ballarino and Prayerful Mantle Knitters: Thank you very much for the hand-knitted scarves for St. Francis Breadline. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

St. Francis Breadline is living proof that the message preached by St. Francis of Assisi more than 700 years ago is still relevant. He taught us to feed the hungry, to catch those in danger of falling through the cracks of a society that look down on them and those who cannot escape the poverty that traps them in lives of constant hardship.

The Breadline assures poor men and women that no matter how bad life gets, we will be there to help them start their day with a generous sandwich and a hot cup of coffee and a small snack. During the winter months we add handmade scarves and hats from generous crafters such as yourselves (with 104 woolen scarves and 35 woolen hats)

We thank God for friends like you who have taken the message of St. Francis to heart.

Thank you again and best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas Season

Fr. Michael J. Carnavale, OFM,
Director, St. Francis Breadline

The Pastor

Advent IV

On behalf of the clergy, religious, staff, Trustees of the Parish, Parish Council, faculties of our Pre-School and School of Religion, and heads of all Ministries, may I extend to the congregation, guests and visitors sincere wishes for divine benediction upon the celebration of the upcoming High Holy Days.

Today we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Our daily Advent Eucharists and our Advent Liturgy of the Hours with Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m. daily and with Evening Prayer on four Friday evenings at 7:00 have prepared us for the upcoming celebrations of Christmastide.

Our preparation, not to be neglected, is that of how we will approach our Christmas Eve Vigil Mass on Thursday 24 December 2009 in the Forum and in the Church proper – both at 4:00 p.m.

- 1.) The doors to the Church and Forum will open at 3:00 p.m.
- 2.) A person must be seated in a seat in person in the Church or the Forum in order to save one (1) seat next to their seat where they are seated.

Unattended coats, jackets, hats, scarves, etc. have no power to reserve seats – unless they are put on one (1) seat next to the person present who is attending to that single reservation. Unattended garments will be removed to the Lost & Found Department by the ushers.

- 3.) The extra seat may remain unoccupied but reserved until 3:45 p.m.
- 4.) At 3:45 p.m. sharp, fifteen minutes before the Masses in Church and Forum, all seats that are not yet occupied in person by an individual will be available to anyone present in need of a seat. The ushers will minister to this need with their usual helpfulness.

Hopefully, this manner of proceeding will preserve the dignity and gentility of all who are assembling in the Holy Child worship spaces to celebrate the joy of Bethlehem where the Holy Family humbly sought out a place for themselves.

Grace builds on nature. Let us strive to be Ladies & Gentlemen of the first degree so as to be properly disposed to celebrate our identity as Brothers and Sisters in the Lord during the Holy Eucharist! Overall, let us remember that the children are watching our behavior. May no one scandalize our little ones with any lack of charity in this regard.

Father Travers