

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 9

5:00 p.m. + **Virginia Moss**
By Brian and Gerry Moss

Sunday, December 10

8:00 a.m. **Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church**
10:30 a.m. **In Honor of Saint Philomena**
By Mary Kovacs

Monday, December 11

8:45 a.m. + **Thomas R. Mattison**
By Jim and Eileen Mattison

Tuesday, December 12

8:45 a.m. **In Honor of the Madonna of Health**
By Angela Gross

Wednesday, December 13

8:45 a.m. + **William and Jesse Reynolds**
By Susan Reynolds

Thursday, December 14 NO MASS

Friday, December 15

8:45 a.m. + **Meghan O'Malley**
By Family
6:30 p.m. **The Altar Rosary Society**

Saturday, December 16

5:00 p.m. + **Sabino and Antonietta Antinolfi**
By Daughter

Sunday, December 17

8:00 a.m. + **Nicholas DeSanto**
By Michael, Desiree Dillon and Children
10:30 a.m. + **Donald J. Cook**
By Rose and Lance Smith

In Palestine Christians gather today in Jerusalem for the celebration of holy Mass. In Rome they proceed to the stational church "Holy Cross at Jerusalem" which serves to give the atmosphere of the Holy City.

Why "Jerusalem"? Excavations of ancient sites often reveal a number of strata. When enemies destroyed a city, a new one would rise on the same location, so that today there are several layers of remains, one city, as it were, above the other. Our Jerusalem likewise has four strata. The bottommost layer is the Jerusalem of the Jews, that venerable land where the Lord Jesus began His mission of redemption, where He suffered and died. This is the historical Jerusalem so dear to us Christians. Anyone making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land enters that

ancient city with holy awe. That Jerusalem, however, lies buried deep.

For us another has been built upon it, the Jerusalem of Christians, God's kingdom on earth, the holy Church.

This city still stands; it is the one which the divine King will enter at Christmas. Now we understand why we will hear so much about Jerusalem during the coming week.



We should now

clean and adorn our city, improving its streets and avenues through which the Savior will make His entrance. As a motto we should take the words of the precursor, St. John the Baptist: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths; let every valley be filled, every hill be leveled." Holy Mother Church's message today is that the Savior is coming to the Jerusalem of the Christians, to the Church.

Above the second stratum there arises a third, the heavenly Jerusalem at the end of time. Already now the Church sings of this Jerusalem. For during Advent we await the Savior who will appear on the Last Day to take all into "the new Jerusalem coming down from heaven." Finally, there may be recognized a fourth Jerusalem, our souls in sanctifying grace. This city too must be adorned and prepared, for the King will want to enter. That is our present task. On Epiphany, the climax to the current season, the Church will cry out: "Arise, shine, O Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee." That is the goal. Today we must prepare for the great King's visit to our city. The whole coming week must be devoted to it. The Church prays: "Awaken our hearts to prepare the way for Your only-begotten Son that we may serve Him with purified hearts."

In the time of the Roman Empire, rulers rode from city to city for the purpose of official visitations. Their appearance, called *epiphany* or *parousia*, was a great event, one preceded by

months of preparation. Something analogous takes place in the Jerusalem of our souls. From a high watchtower we see the Lord coming afar off. Suddenly John the Baptist appears; he hurries into the city to announce the King's approach. God condescends to manifest Himself to us in grace; but He demands the proper reception.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace* by Pius Parsch



Christmas Schedule

Confessions: Every Day, 30 minutes before the start of Mass (this includes the Sunday Masses); Saturday @ 4p.m.

All other times by appointment

MASSES: Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. and 12 midnight

Christmas Day: 9 a.m. - 11:00 am.

New Year's Eve: 5 p.m.

New Year's Day: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Our Weekly Offering

(Deficit 7/1/17-12/3/17: \$27,732.60)

Sunday collection needed to meet weekly expenses: \$3,637.

December 3: \$1,918.45 [-\$1,718.55]

December Calendar

Bible Study every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

12/10: Hospitality Sunday after 8 & 10:30

Masses; **Brunch with Santa:** 11:30

12/13, 6:30: Trustee & Pastoral Council Meeting

12/18, 6:15pm: 8th Grade report to the church

12/23: 5 pm Mass (Sunday Obligation)

12/24: 8 & 10:30 Masses (Sunday Obligation)

12/24: 5 pm Children's Christmas Pageant & Vigil Mass

12/24: Midnight: Christmas Vigil Mass

12/25: 9 am & 11 am: Christmas Masses

12/31: 5 p.m.: New Year's Eve Vigil Mass

1/1/18: 9 am & 11 am: New Year's Masses

Trustee and Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2017: The topic of *electronic giving* was evaluated with a banking representative and plans were discuss concerning moving forward with this. Future Fundraisers also were discussed. The members decided to cancel our *Book Sale* fundraiser due to lack of storage space.



Stephen, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Keira Hedges, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney,

Kerry Kraft, Peter S., Mary Supple, Mary Rupell, Patty Mahoney, Susan Reynolds, Millie B., Robert Dicheck, Christian, Tara, Zoe, Teagan, Eric Harding, Kathy & Bob Y., Irma Marquart, Dolores Staiano, Gerard Schnaars



It is never too late to remember your Parish in your giving, now and throughout the New Year.

"They opened their bags

and offered Him their gifts of gold, incense and myrrh." *Matthew 2:11*

Make a Gift of Christmas Mass

Remembrance (six Masses),

Christmas Gift to My Church and Christmas Flower Gift.

Envelopes are also available in the Narthex for your intentions and contributions

Parishioners, Tricky Tray Workers, THANK YOU!

Team work pays off and again this year it did! The Team worked very hard for many months and without them we wouldn't be able to have this fundraiser. And, of course, without the generosity of our parishioners there would be no baskets to auction. We received very favorable comments from those attending and a good time was had by all. God bless you for your donations of time, talent and treasure.