

## MASS INTENTIONS

### 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

### Monday, December 18

8:45 a.m. +**Vito and Marietta Masellis**  
By Angela Gross

### Tuesday, December 19

8:45 a.m. +**Paul J. Boccolini III**  
By Mon, Dad and Ejvind

### Wednesday, December 20

8:45 a.m. +**Sal and Jeanette Urbano**  
By Susan Reynolds

### Thursday, December 21 NO MASS

### Friday, December 22

8:45 a.m. **In Thanksgiving of Saint Anthony**  
By Angela Gross

### Saturday, December 23

5:00 p.m. +**Rose Howe & Charles J. Mallon**  
By Barbara Mallon

### Sunday, December 24

8:00 a.m. **Christmas Mass Remembrance**

10:30 a.m. **Christmas Mass Remembrance**

5 p.m. **Christmas Mass Remembrance**

12 Midnight **Christmas Mass Remembrance**



Today's readings are brimful of joy and hope. Israel radiates as a joyful bride coming to her bridegroom adorned for a lavish, oriental wedding. Paul's words to the Thessalonians continue the

theme of hope and joy in a community that lives by the life of Christ. And St John, in the gospel, pictures the work of John the Baptist, who came to witness to God's light upon this earth. This is not a joyousness without responsibility. It's a joy that is found when people find and carry out their true mission in life. Isaiah speaks of one anointed and sent to bring good news to the oppressed – words that were adopted by Jesus to describe his own life's purpose – just as they should also be

made real in the life of every Christian. Those privileged to share in Jesus' spiritual life must also share in his concerns and desires.

*Two key ideas in today's readings go well together:*

1. The spiritual joy that marks the Christian faith, that we are waiting for the coming of the Lord, and our entry into a life of eternal communion with God. The other is the willingness to bear our share of the Christian work-load, to do our bit, in our time, to realise the goals of Jesus in our world. I'd like to hear a homily focussed on one of these, without totally forgetting the other. In these times of economic austerity and budget cuts that are endlessly debated, is no harm to be reminded of the blessings in our lives, our reasons to be joyful. Mention, for example, the love we enjoy with our family and friends, the pleasure of meeting new people, of awakening some dormant talent by taking a course of adult education; the solidarity we feel in our local community when people willingly help their neighbours in their needs; the consolation to be found in prayer. Many examples can be named, to illustrate God's blessing in our lives: reasons to be joyful. Like the northern Irish writer C.S. Lewis, we too can be "surprised by joy," and re-discover gladness and meaning in life.

2. Our advent-mission to help the needy, if we are to carry on "the project of Jesus" – the commitment he always showed to people on the margins. Practical examples of his "good news for the poor" can be pointed out, according to the life-situation of the worshippers. Our homilist must try to persuade those whose lives are peaceful and prosperous not to be afraid to let the pain of the needy come through to them and touch them. The sort of carefree joy that lets us shut our eyes to the seamier side of life, and "pass by on the other side," is not the authentic joy announced in today's reading. Care for our neglected neighbours may stand in a certain tension with our personal sense of joy, but the two can and should be blended into the lifestyle of anybody who wants to build their life on Jesus.



Stephen, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Keira Hedges, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saks, Anna Saks, 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*



**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**

**Sunday collection needed to meet weekly expenses: **\$3,637.****  
 December 10: \$1,880  
 December 3: \$1,918.45

**December Calendar**

12/18, 6:15pm: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade report to the church  
 12/23: 5 pm Mass (Sunday Obligation)  
 12/24: 8 & 10:30 Masses (Sunday Obligation)  
 12/24: 5 pm: Christmas Vigil Mass & Children's Christmas Pageant  
 12/24: Midnight: Christmas Vigil Mass  
 12/25: 9 am & 11 am: Christmas Masses  
 12/31: 5 pm: New Year's Eve Vigil Mass  
 1/1/18: 9 am & 11 am: New Year's Masses



**Tricky Tray Event**

<b>Sales:</b>	<b>\$17,514.</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
iPad Prize	\$335.
Stamps, Supplies, tickets, table cloths	547.
Food for Concession Stand	330.
Dinner for Volunteers Workers	251.
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$1463.</b>
<b>Profit</b>	<b>\$16,051.</b>

**Looking for the Perfect Christmas Gift?**

Why not give yourselves a Marriage Encounter Weekend. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage.  
 The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held January 26 & 27. Early registration is advisable. Phone 732-904-9636 for registration and information & [www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org](http://www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org) for more information.