

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 17

5:00 p.m. +**Charles C. Guerriere**
By Jim and Eileen Mattison

Sunday, December 18

8:00 a.m. **Parishioners of St. Theodore Church**
10:30 a.m. +**Vito and Marietta Masellis**
By Angela Gross

Monday, December 19

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

Tuesday, December 20

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

Wednesday, December 21

8:45 a.m. +**Ludwik Tomiczek**
By Thomas and Ann Scarince

Thursday, December 22

8:45 a.m. +**Deacon John P. Mayer**
By The Altar Rosary Society

Friday, December 23 NO MASS

Saturday, December 24

5:00 p.m. **Christmas Mass Remembrance**
Midnight **Christmas Mass Remembrance**

Sunday, December 25

9:00 a.m. **Christmas Mass Remembrance**
11:00 a.m. **Christmas Mass Remembrance**



Confessions

12/17 @ 4 p.m. and every weekday
and Sundays 30" before Mass

Masses

Christmas Eve, 5 p.m. & Midnight
Christmas Day, 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
New Year's Eve, 5 p.m.
New Year's Day, 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.



Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the

Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this

is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: ". . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.



Christmas Mass Remembrance

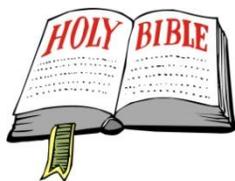
To honor your loved ones, living or deceased, in a very special way, pick up an envelope in the Narthex

(or the one that was mailed to you). Four Masses will be celebrated on Christmas for those mentioned in the *Mass Remembrance Book*. **Your envelope will be placed on the altar.**



Sanctuary Candle burns in Loving memory of **Paul J. Boccolini, III**
Request of Mom, Dad & Brother

Sanctuary Candle burns in Loving memory of **Elizabeth, Thomas and Louis DeBari**
Request of Sam and Marietta Tridente



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS HIS WORD TODAY
by Rev. William J. Reilly
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2016

“Greetings from Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart to proclaim the gospel of God which he promised long ago... the gospel concerning his Son who was descended from David... Through him we have been favored with apostleship, that we may spread his name and bring to obedient faith all the Gentiles among whom are you who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ.”

Not a Christmas card, but the beginning of a special inspired letter which Paul sent to the Roman community. He knew who he was, no identity problem. He knew his role as both servant and apostle. His greeting is directed to us, and like the many cards we receive and send, we realize we are servants and apostles too. We are to spread His name because we have been invited to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We have the same mission to bring others to the Lord. It might be someone in my family who has wavered in the practice of the faith. It might be someone weighed down with a hurt or problem, asking us to help lift them in this time of need. It might be that person next to us, curious because I belong to Christ, and they only need

our simple invitation. Our response can be a Christmas card and gift for them. ‘Come Lord Jesus.’

St. Theodore Bible Study every Tuesday-6:30



Stephen, Anthony Vitale, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Michael Dante, Keira H., Maryann Vaughan, Robert Dicheck, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Paine,

Maryann Vaughan, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney, Mary D., Kerry Kraft, Patty Mahoney, Cheyann Miller, Cathy Moncello, Louise C., Peter S., Helen Dicheck, Mary Supple

Church & Rel. Ed Schedule

Bible Study: Every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 17, 6 p.m.: Visiting Choir performing Christmas music
Dec. 18, 11:30: Brunch with Santa
Dec. 26; No Rel Ed
Dec. 26: Parish & Re. Ed. Offices closed

Our Offering

December 11: \$2,205.25 2015: \$2,878.



Saint Theodore Church 855 Route 57
P.O. Box 146, Port Murray, NJ 07865
908-689-8318 Father Damian, ext. 4
Parish Office, ext. 1, Rel. Ed., ext. 2
www.sttheodorenj.com
sttheodorenj@gmail.com
sttheodorereled@gmail.com