

December 24, 2017

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

MASS INTENTIONS

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**

Monday, December 25

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

11:00 **Christmas Mass Remembrance**

Tuesday, December 26

8:45 a.m. **Christmas Mass Remembrance**

Wednesday, December 27

8:45 a.m. +**Edward and Anna Durnin**
By Mary Rupell

Thursday, December 28 NO MASS

Friday, December 29

8:45 a.m. +**Daniel McDonald**
By The Scarince Family

Saturday, December 30

5:00 p.m. **Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church**

Sunday, December 31

8:00 a.m. +**Anna and Patrick Kane**
By Susan Reynolds

10:30 a.m. +**Henry Kuruc, Gregory and Maria Karkoszka**

By The Kuruc Family

5 p.m. **Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church**



*At this dark solstice filled
with frost and fire
Your passion's ancient
wounds must bleed anew.
So many nights the angel of
my house*

*has fed such urgent comfort through a dream,
whispered 'your lord is coming, he is close'
that I have drowsed half-faithful for a time
bathed in pure tones of promise and remorse:
'tomorrow I shall wake to welcome him.'*

The primary focus and fascination of a child at Christmas, is not the gifts under the tree - anymore than it is for adults. The primary fascination of Christmas is the play of warm light in the cold darkness. Think of candles burning

on a windowsill or the lights of the Christmas tree.

The play of light in the darkness is a core life tension basic to the human heart, the human soul. Just close your eyes and you immediately know why human consciousness, that's you and me, has been described as a tiny raft of light floating on a vast inner sea of darkness.

Could this be why Christmas appeals to us so powerfully? Could this be why Christmas awakens the child in us? It is the reflection of the frost and fire within the human heart. It is the realization of the ancient promise of the Prophet Isaiah:

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone."

St Luke points to the shepherds, the very first human beings to hear the Christmas Gospel: *"Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and watching during the night over their flock."*

All shepherds who watch in the night know that the miracle of Christmas is about discovering new life where we did not expect life to be. The Christmas Gospel tells us something totally unexpected about this vast experience of darkness in our lives.

"And here you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Do not be afraid, I bring you news of great joy. Today in the town of David a savior has been born to you."

With the shepherds we are asked to watch in this Christmas night ... this night, which symbolizes the darkness around us and within us ... and we are watching with these Gospel shepherds when, in our hearts, there is more wonder than familiarity, more childlike trust than cynicism, more love than indifference, more forgiveness than bitterness, and more focus on others than on ourselves.

Jesus is born again tonight in our watching; he is born helpless and vulnerable and he looks at each of us quietly even as we look back at Him

and he judges us in that way in which vulnerability forever judges false strength, transparency judges duplicity, innocence judges over-sophistication, and a new born baby, gently and disarmingly, calls forth what's best in us. Let us pray for one another this Christmas ... let us pray, once more, for the grace and the courage to return to the crib of Bethlehem.

Have a blessed and wonderful Christmas!

Our Sanctuary Candle burns this week in
Loving memory of
Thomas, Elizabeth and Louis DeBari
By Sam and Marietta Tridente



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.



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

Tricky Tray Event

REVISED STATEMENT

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| Sales: | \$17,514. |
| <u>New Expense: School Rental</u> | 249. |
| Expenses | \$1712. |
| Profit | \$15,808. |

Thank you to those who have donated towards the purchase of our sanctuary Christmas trees. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. A thank you also goes to Stone Hedge Farm for the discount they granted us.

Our Weekly Offering

Sunday collection needed to meet weekly expenses: \$3,637.
December 17: \$2,409.05

December Calendar

- 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

The Knights of Columbus will be cleaning our Parish Center floor and needs help. If you are able to give them a hand in helping our church, please mark your calendar: **Saturday, January 20 at 9 a.m.**

I thank you in advance for your continued willingness to help.

--Father Damian