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Joyous Christmas



Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



MONDAY, December 26 St. Stephen

8:30 AM + Jan & Janina Grodzki.
r/o Frank & Regina

TUESDAY, December 27 St. John

8:30 AM + Robert Hague
r/o George & Barbara

WEDNESDAY, December 28

The Holy Innocents

8:30 AM + Elizabeth Mendel.
r/o Daughter Barbara

THURSDAY, December 29 St. Thomas Becket

8:30 AM + Conslavo & Carlino Families.
r/o Helen Consalvo

FRIDAY, December 30 Feast of the Holy Family

9:00 AM + Mike Rodomski.
r/o Maria & John Lewis
5:00 PM + Giuseppina Marzilli
r/o Antoinette Colalillo

SATURDAY, December 31 New Year's Eve

8:30 AM + Thuy Van Le
r/o Family
5:00 PM + Mark Lanner
r/o Mother & Family

SUNDAY, January 1 -New Year's Day

8:00 AM + Thuy Van Le.
r/o Family
9:30 AM + Harold Hobayan
r/o Vesce Family
11:00 AM + Regina Kurkowski
r/o Brother Stanley

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2011

*The light shines in the darkness.
And the darkness has not overcome it.*

- John 1:5

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.

Second Reading — God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being.

Gospel — The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

An old joke asks, "What time is Midnight Mass?" The answer is not really obvious, since Christmas is unique in having several distinct celebrations. The readings and prayers vary greatly from hour to hour. The Vigil Mass hinges on the family heritage of Jesus and his origins. The concept of "midnight" predates clock time, and really has to do with a celebration in the hours of darkness. Years ago, it was not possible to receive Communion without fasting for a full day, so the late hour of this Mass made it possible for the people to receive. The first Mass after sunrise, the Mass at Dawn, was once known as "The Shepherds' Mass," and later Masses set aside stories of Jesus' birth to focus on the key to the day's celebration: John the Evangelist's majestic theology of Christ's identity as the Word made flesh, dwelling among us. One feast, four separate Masses. Only monasteries manage the whole round. Parishioners typically take just one entry point into the mystery. Yet there is much to savor and celebrate in the coming of Christ into the world. Christmas is not a day, but a season. You still have two weeks to send those Christmas cards before you're officially late!

*Peace
on Earth*

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CHRIST IS IN OUR MIDST

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PARISHIONER PRAYER LIST

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING:

Betty and Cornelis Adriaanse, Helen Baluta, Catherine Barbati, Samuel Chiaravalli, Helen Consalvo, Bernadine Hnasko, Peter Jannone, Bronia Litowinska, Adeline Melesurgo, Betty Muskal, Donna Rabke, Lee Sarlo, Clara Vadimsky, Helen Wawrzyniak.

HOMEBOUND: Clementine Buono, Ed Chaya, Carmella Ciminelli, Andy Civiletti, Florence Colanduoni, Vicki Mitzen, Stasia Pavan, John & Ann Occhipinti, Genevieve Wawrzycki

NOTE: Please call the Parish Office (732) 356-0358 with the names of homebound, nursing home /assisted living or hospitalized parishioners. Please also notify the Parish Office when the status of a parishioner changes.

GOD'S GIFT FOR GIVING

Last Sunday Our Generous Stewards of St. Mary's Parish Contributed:

5:00 PM - \$ 938.00 9:30 AM - \$ 1100.00
8:00 AM - \$ 412.00 11:00 AM - \$ 853.00
Total \$3303.00

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

January Classes 7, 21, 28

No Classes January 14

2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal

Thank you to the parish families who made a pledge to the 2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal. Your gift expanded God's work and enriched the lives of our communities and our Catholic faithful.



Memorial Wall Candles

Renewal for the Memorial Wall Candles located in the Chapel are due in January. Renewal each year is \$100. Initial installation of a Memorial Candle is \$200. Please call the Parish Office at 732-356-0358 and let us know if you will be renewing your candle. If we do not hear from you, we can only assume that you do not wish to renew and we will then accommodate those on the waiting list.



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Weekend Schedule

December 31 - January 1, 2012

Saturday, December 31 New Year's Eve

5:00 pm Lector Diane Urbielewicz
Eucharistic Minister Walt Urbielewicz

Sunday, January 1, New Years Day

8:00 am Lector Carol McGinnis
Eucharistic Minister Ed Hagan
9:30 am Lector Tony Provenzano
Eucharistic Minister Jim DeMaio
11:00 am Lector Dorota Sokolnicki
Eucharistic Minister Frank Grodzki

OPLATKI (Christmas Wafers)

Are available in the Parish Office during the week and in the Counters' Room on the weekends. This is a tender, touching family celebration of love and forgiveness.

2012 Offering Envelope Packets

are now available in the downstairs Meeting Room. Please come and pick up your envelopes. If you can not find your family's envelopes, please call the Parish Office at 732-356-0358. If you can also help us by delivering the packet to those who may be sick or unable, we thank you .

New Year's Schedule

New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31
5:00 pm
New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1
8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:00 am (Polish)

KOLENDA

The traditional blessing of homes will begin after Christmas. If you would like to have your home blessed, please provide the following information and place in the collection basket.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE : _____

PLEASE CALL IN THE DAYTIME _____

PLEASE CALL IN THE EVENING _____



Dear Parishioners,

Our childhood anticipation of Christmas day is an experience we remember for lifetime. The excitement builds day by day, heightened and lengthened by such projects as Advent calendars, Jesse trees, tree trimming, shopping for gifts, baking Christmas goodies.

Who hasn't had difficulty falling to sleep on at least one Christmas Eve?

The remarkable work of the Holy Spirit in those who awaited Christ's birth should cause us to marvel and rejoice. Our purpose in doing so, however, is that each of us would have the same expectancy that the Holy Spirit would work in our lives. We can know by personal experience what Joseph and Mary, Simeon and Anna knew: When the Spirit touches people, lives change.

How wonderful was the fulfillment of God's promises to his people. Unlike gifts that please or disappoint, and inevitably fade, Jesus brought the greatest gift - his wonderful love for us. This gift is still available to us, centuries later. As we wait for Christ's return in glory, we can ask the Holy Spirit to bring us to the fullness of life in Christ.

I write this letter to you, my dear Parishioners, to share with you this wonderful news of our salvation - God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.(1 J 4:9)

As we sit down around the family tables and break the Christmas Wafer at Christmas Eve I wish that we all as a Parish Family experience our Lord's special presence and his peace.

"Glory to God on the highest and peace to his people on earth".

On behalf of our Trustees and parish staff, I wish You "Glad tidings", many blessings from above - especially good health, safe trips and joyful company of friends.

Have a Merry and blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Leon



Drodzy Parafianie,

"Cicha noc, święta noc" - śpiewa tej nocy cała kula ziemską, a cudowna pieśń płynie przez świat skapaną w powodzi światła. To nasza ziemia jeszcze raz sławi przybycie Największego z gości. W tę noc obchodzi się pamiątkę tej najświętszej Nocy, która była jednocześnie radosną jutrzenką ludzkości, kiedy to Przedwieczny i Nieśmiertelny narodził się z Maryi dziewicy w ubogiej betlejemskiej stajni. Spełniły się słowa największego izraelskiego proroka, Izajasza: **"Dziecię się nam narodziło, Syn został nam dany.... Nazwano Go imieniem: Przedziwny Doradca, Bóg Mocny, Odwieczny Ojciec, Księżę Pokoju" (Iz9,5)**. Tej Nocy przed blisko dwoma tysiącami lat narodziło się Boże Dziecię, Syn Boży został nam dany. Bóg oddał się w ręce człowieka w postaci dzieciątka spoczywającego w ramionach Matki. Syn Boży stał się człowiekiem, aby człowiek jak najbardziej upodobił się do Boga.

Bracia i Siostry, w ten wielki dzień Dzieciątka Jezus obchodzi cały świat. Przychodzi do każdego domu i do każdej duszy. Czy znajdzie u nas mieszkanie, czy zostanie przyjęte? Niestety, w wielu domach znajdzie zamknięte drzwi, a na nich słowa napisane niewidzialnymi dla człowieka literami: Tu nie ma miejsca dla Jezusa Chrystusa.

"Chociażby Chrystus tysiąc razy rodził się w Betlejem, a nie urodził się w Tobie, jesteś zgubiony na wieki" (Silesius).

"Bądź świadomy, że dla Chrystusa jesteś kimś i On ma się stać Kimś dla Ciebie" (P.Fievez). Dla Chrystusa każdy jest w cenie, dlatego przyszedł On do nas. Nie bał się ani stajni ani krzyża.

Niedawno zasiadaliśmy do stołu wigilijnego i łamiąc się Oplątkiem składaliśmy sobie życzenia.

W tym duchu Bożonarodzeniowej Radości chciałbym dołączyć się wraz z najlepszymi życzeniami.

Niech Dzieciątka Jezus darzy dobrym zdrowiem, pokojem ducha, radością serca oraz obfitymi łaskami i błogosławieństwem, a Jego Niepokalana Matka niech będzie Nieustającą Pomocą na ścieżkach naszego życia.

Niech Pokój Chrystusowy, który obwieszczali Aniołowie będzie również Waszym udziałem.

Ks. Leon

INFORMATION SHEET

Church name & address: St. Mary of Czestochowa # 511246
201 Vosseller Avenue
Bound Brook, NJ 08805

Contact person:
Diane Urbielewicz

Phone number:
732-356-0358
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