

YOU ARE MY HOPE,
MY TRUST, O LORD.

- PSALM 71:5

Hope



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Nativity of Our Lord ~ Monroe Township, New Jersey

First Sunday of Advent – December 1, 2024

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday December 2nd

Advent Weekday

8:30 a.m. Grace Celenza by Celenza Family

Tuesday December 3rd

Advent Weekday

8:30 a.m. Angelo Peretto by Mr. & Mrs. Occhipinti & Family

Wednesday December 4th

St. John Damacene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

8:30 a.m. Strain & Logan Families by Karen & Gerard Logan

Thursday December 5th

Advent Weekday

9:00 a.m. William J. Guldin by Stephen Francione & Family

Friday December 6th

St. Nicholas, Bishop

8:30 a.m. Purgatorial

Saturday December 7th

St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

4:00 p.m. Lazzaro Pappagallo by Isabella Pappagallo & Family

Sunday December 8th

Second Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. Lottie Curro by Connie Triolo

9:00 a.m. Melinda Rosado by Edward Beadle

11:00 a.m. Thomas & Lorraine Bond by Patti Pentangelo

The Collection for the Weekend of November 24th will be published on the weekend of Dec. 8.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING!



CANDLE OFFERING

Sanctuary: Grace Celenza by Celenza Family

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:12—4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

First Friday: Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

First Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

“But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.” (LUKE 21:28)

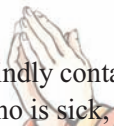
We celebrate Advent each year in preparation for the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await His second coming. What will you do differently this Advent season to grow in friendship and love with Jesus? How will you inspire others to do the same? Start by sharing your God story with others, especially those that are closest to you. Invite and accompany them on their faith journey this Advent

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this time receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Remembering in Prayer

Kindly contact the office if you know of a parishioner who is sick, having surgery or in need of pastoral care. We would like to remember them in our prayers and care for their spiritual needs.



Letter from Deacon John Shelton

First Sunday of Advent

As we begin both a new year of grace in the life of the Church and the blessed season of Advent this weekend, we are once again reminded of our need to be ‘prepared.’ While this is given special focus during Advent, it is clearly not reserved only for that time. As we prepare for the coming of Our Lord at his birth, we also ready ourselves to receive him each week, or more often, in the Eucharist. The other preparation we address is for the time that God calls us home to him, whenever or however it comes. So being ready becomes much more than an event. Realistically, it should become a daily way of life for each of us.

St. Paul encourages us to be ‘blameless in holiness before our God and Father.’ He also reminds us that we should conduct ourselves to please God and as we are conducting ourselves, to do so even more. The closer we are, the better prepared we will be when the time comes to meet him, regardless of when it happens. It is not an easy journey for us but the first step on our road to success is recognizing our need to change. Our personal Advent should last all year long so that we are always prepared and waiting in joyful hope. Let us put these next several weeks to effective use.

Wishing you a blessed Advent.

Deacon John

Initiation Ministry

LET US PRAY...

Together let us pray that Nativity of Our Lord Parish family will become ever more missionary in our efforts to share the Good News of Jesus.

Prayer for the Assembly –

the People of God at Nativity of Our Lord Parish

Heavenly Father, from age to age You have gathered a people to Yourself. You called the prophets to speak to Your chosen people and to fulfill Your covenant. You sent Jesus to proclaim Your Kingdom and to redeem us. Jesus sent His disciples to preach the Good News of our salvation.

Give us the grace to share our faith with others, to explore Your sacred word, to teach the truth of our Catholic doctrine, and to pray more fervently. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

For information about Initiation Ministry, contact **JoLynn Krempecki** jolynnkrempecki@msn.com or 732- 690-2610.

Parish Calendar

Dec. 1 (Sun)	Catechumenate and/or Mystagogy and/or Adult Confirmation C. 1 & 11
	Giving Tree Collection (box in Narthex)
Dec. 2 (Mon)	Giving Tree Collection (box in Narthex)
	K of C Meeting 6:30 pm Hall
	Inquiry or Adult Confirmation 6:00 pm—7:30 pm RR
Dec. 3 (Tue)	Giving Tree Collection (box in Narthex)
Dec. 4 (Wed)	Giving Tree Collection (box in Narthex)
	Lazarus Team Meeting 9:00am Cl.1
Dec. 5 (Thu)	Giving Tree Collection (box in Narthex)
	Choir Practice 7:30 pm Church
	Set-up for K of C Christmas Party Hall
Dec. 6 (Fri)	Giving Tree Collection (box in Narthex)
	First Friday & Adoration
	Purgatorial Mass 8:30 am Church
Dec. 7 (Sat)	Giving Tree Collection (box in Narthex)
	Children’s Liturgy 4:00 pm RR

A PRAYER FOR THE First Sunday of Advent

God of light and life,
give us hope as we wait
for your coming again.
When we are tempted
to be grateful to have found you
while others are lost,
send us out into the darkness
in search of those
who need you most.
Amen.



Ministries

St. Vincent DePaul – If you are experiencing financial hardship due to a temporary loss of employment, illness, or disability, the St. Vincent de Paul Society is available to aid with your everyday needs such as food, utility assistance, or agency referrals. Please dial the parish number 609-371-0499, then press 4, and leave a message with your name and phone number. Someone will return your call. All calls are handled in strict confidence.

Homebound Ministries - Eucharist Ministers bring communion to the homes of those who are unable to attend Mass due to illness or other circumstances. Please call **Marge Nadolny** at **609-409-6164** or email **margen21@comcast.net**.

Helping Hands: Help Wanted! Our Helping Hands Ministry needs volunteers! We help parishioners with small household tasks such as changing smoke detector batteries, lightbulbs, opening & closing vents, etc. If you are able to volunteer, please call **Esther Wolff** at **732-521-6019** for more information.

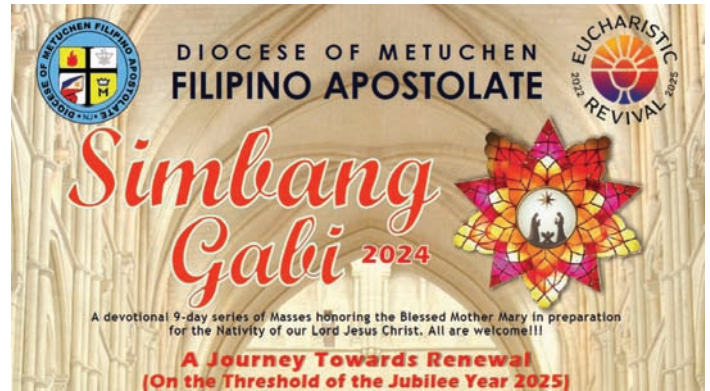
Highlights: Women of Nativity

Thanksgiving Luncheon



LAZARUS TEAM APPEAL

The Lazarus Team is comprised of parishioners who assist Father Nalaka in offering condolences to family members of the recently deceased. This includes meeting with family members to prepare the funeral liturgy by selecting the readings, the music, family participants, etc. Other Lazarus Team members assist Father by serving at the Mass. The Team is in need of new members. Depending on the response, volunteers may be asked to participate about once a month. Hands-on training will be provided. If you feel called to this ministry, please call **Mary Ann Munson** at **732-270-4028**.



(Masses start at **7:00 pm**, unless otherwise noted.)

Dec. 15 (Sun) CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART (South Plainfield) at 5:00 pm

Dec. 16 (Mon) ST. HELENA (Edison) ; **QUEENSHIP OF MARY** (Plainsboro)

Dec. 17 (Tue) ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE (Edison), **ST. MATTHIAS** at 6:30 pm (Somerset); **ST. CECILIA** (Monmouth Junction)

Dec. 18 (Wed) ST. AMBROSE (Old Bridge), **ST. BERNADETTE** (Parlin) ; **OUR LADY OF FATIMA** (Piscataway)

Dec. 19 (Thu) MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (Hillsborough); **ST. CECELIA** (Iselin)

Dec.20 (Fri) OUR LADY OF VICTORIES (Sayreville); **ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX** (Bridgewater) ; **NATIVITY OF THE LORD at 6 PM** (Monroe Township)

Dec. 21 (Sat) ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY (Kendall Park); **ST. BARTHOLOMEW** (East Brunswick) ; **ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY** at 5:30pm (Hackettstown)

Dec. 22 (Sun) ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST at 4:00 pm (Dunellen); **ST. JAMES** (Woodbridge); **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** at 4:00 pm (Sommerville)

Dec. 23 (Mon) CATHEDRAL OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI (Metuchen)

MISA de GALLO (*Dawn Masses*)

December 16 - 24 | 5:00 am | ST. LADISLAUS CHURCH (New Brunswick)

Nativity's Filipino-American Association will be hosting the 6th day of the Simbang Gabi on the **20th of December, Friday, at 6:00 pm**. We are inviting all our parishioners to join us for this solemn celebration, which will be followed by a simple gathering at our church basement. If you want to actively participate in our preparations, please contact **Carmille Agana** (**908-392-0152**).

Eucharistic Ministers Needed
for The Gardens At Monroe

1) We are in need of additional Eucharistic Ministers to visit Catholic residents at the Gardens (next door to church) to distribute Holy Communion each Sunday. EMs arrive at about 10AM and visit the residents (list provided each week) in their rooms. This takes about 30-40 minutes. We have a few teams so that an EM would visit residents about every third or fourth Sunday. I will arrange for you to shadow an EM currently doing this for training.

2) We also need EMs to lead a Eucharistic Service at the Gardens about once each month. This involves bringing some materials (missal, communion, Prayer of the Faithful) and reading most of the prayers of the mass and distributing Communion to residents gathered in the Activities Room at the Gardens. Again, I will arrange for you to shadow and EM currently doing this.

3) Lastly, I need someone to replace me to do the quarterly schedule of EM assignments, recruit new EMs and be the contact person for the Gardens and EMs when needed. I have been doing this for nearly 30 years and it's time I handed this off to another parishioner.

If interested in assisting in this ministry in any of these roles, please contact **Deacon John Shelton** at email: **spmcucc@aol.com** and put "GARDENS" as the subject.



ADVENT CANDLES

Orders are being accepted for Advent Candles and Advent Wreaths. Please complete the form below and leave it in the parish office or place it in an envelope for the collection basket at Mass. Please include your payment with your order. Orders may be picked up in the parish office.

Name: _____	
Tel. No. _____	Cell No. _____
Amount \$23.00	Check # _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Candle Sets	\$5.00 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Candles & Wreath	\$20.00 _____



CHRISTMAS 2024 SCHEDULE

SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION



SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION

PARISH PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

1:00PM & 7:00PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

4:00pm and midnight

Masses are all live streamed

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

8:00AM and 10:00AM

Masses are all live streamed

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

4:00PM

Mass will be live streamed

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

9:00AM

Mass will be live streamed



THE GIVING TREE

This year our Parish is again providing Christmas Gifts to many needy families in our local area, our Diocese and in Perth Amboy as well as homebound senior citizens through our giving tree program. We will start collecting gift cards next weekend, **November 23/24th through December 10th**. Gift cards to Shop Rite, Stop and Shop, Target, Walmart, Kohls, Amazon, etc are greatly appreciated. Please make sure to mark the amount on the gift cards. We still have some families and children who need Christmas Gifts. If you are interested in adopting a family or a child for Christmas this year or helping with the program, please contact **Karen Kuech** at **Kuechs@comcast.net** or **Linda Schilling** at **LMS652@gmail.com** for more information.



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD FEAST DAY CELEBRATION
SUNDAY DECEMBER 8TH IN FR. CONGDON HALL

A children tableau of the Nativity will take place following the 11:00 mass with the feast starting immediately afterwards. The feast will include food, games and music.

As is our tradition, we would like to display a variety of nativity scenes on tables around the perimeter of the hall. This is a way for you to share a part of your family with our church family (you do not have to bring in the whole nativity and creche, part of it is welcomed.) From the tiniest nativity scene to more elaborate all are appreciated. If you would like to participate, please bring to Fr. Congdon Hall on Dec. 7 before the 4:00 mass or any time before 11:00 on Sunday.

If you would like to bring your favorite cookies to share, please follow the same instructions as for the nativity scenes above. Cookies may be a favorite recipe or store bought.

So mark your calendar and come celebrate our beautiful feast day.

Any questions contact **Donna Maguire at 732-690-2019.**



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Please print all names as you want them to appear on the place cards.



NO REFUNDS AFTER DECEMBER 15, 2024

Name _____ Phone# _____

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Name _____ Phone# _____

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Add Additional Names on back **NEED ONE E-MAIL ADDRESS**

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