

THE PARISH OF SAINT EUGENE

DECEMBER 11, 2016 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10	
5:00 PM	Angelina Mastracchio (decd)
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11	
8:00 AM	Kathleen Slota Agostino (decd) <i>req. by The Ahern Family</i>
10:00 AM	Jack Davis (decd) <i>req. by Clare Davis</i>
12:00 PM	Pat White (decd) <i>req. by Betty Madden</i>
6:00 PM	Helen Durkin (decd) <i>req. by Brian & Amy Losco & Family</i>
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12	
6:45 AM	Concettina Tarasiewicz (decd)
9:00 AM	Joseph Prestipino (decd) <i>req. by Maria Prestipino</i>
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13	
6:45 AM	John Courtney (decd) <i>req. by Bernadette & Michael Ruane</i>
9:00 AM	Annie & James Ferry (decd)
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14	
6:45 AM	Barbara Joyce (decd) <i>req. by Margaret Schmuckler</i>
9:00 AM	Aniello Esposito (decd) <i>req. by Ida Mareschi</i>
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15	
6:45 AM	Jim & Maureen Grossman (living) Special Intention <i>req. by Father Fernan</i>
9:00 AM	Joseph Paparella <i>Mario & Charlotte Paparella</i>
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16	
6:45 AM	Eugene Fernan Sr. (decd) <i>req. by Father Fernan</i>
9:00 AM	Helen Durkin (decd) <i>req. by Deirdre Keller</i>
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17	
9:00 AM	Mary Ellen, Martin & Harold T. Murphy (decd) <i>req. by Helen Durkin</i>
5:00 PM	Bernard Madden (decd) <i>req. by Phyllis Drewd</i>



Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 The desert will bloom.
Psalm 146 "Lord, come and save us."
James 5:7-10 Be patient like a farmer waiting for spring.
Matthew 11:2-11 In prison, John received word of the coming of Christ.

Our beautiful reading from Isaiah today continues the theme of the messianic kingdom that we heard about last week. The coming of the Lord is cause for joy and gladness. Saint James takes up the theme and tells us that we must have patience, just like the farmer who waits for the fruit of the earth. In the Gospel we hear Jesus affirm John's message of repentance before the reign of God. Let us listen to these Holy Scriptures and rejoice in the coming of our God.

MEMORIAL CANDLES & BREAD & WINE

Interested in memorializing the Sanctuary Candle by the Tabernacle or for the Virgin Mary, Our Blessed Lady? These candles, which burn continuously, could burn for your specific intentions. If you are interested in having a loved one remembered or a special intention placed before God, please contact the rectory. An offering of \$15.00 a week is requested.

TABERNACLE CANDLE

SPECIAL INTENTION FOR CARLA BUGLIONE
REQ. BY MOM



BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE

IN MEMORY OF THE ROMAN FAMILY

BREAD AND WINE

IN MEMORY OF CARL WILLIAMS
REQ. BY RICHARD ENOCH

SOCIETIES AND ACTIVITIES

Adoration Chapel	Natalie Philpin	793-4757
	Patricia Finan	961-0146
Altar Guild	Jennie Sepe	776-9847
Bereavement Group	Sr. Florence Mallon	337-1660 ext.120
Boy Scouts	Donna Ragusa	472-7567
Religious Education	G.Mastrangelo	961-2590
C.Y.O.	Joan DeLuca	497-9798
Catholic Daughters	Martina Parisi	400-3634
	Dolores Tenzer	262-8146
Cheerleaders	Lori Fox	325-0333
Couples for Christ	Dino Paolo Waga	917-882-2995
Girl Scouts	Jerilin Carota	968-5526
H. S. A.	Nancy Arzola	274-0016
Holy Name	Frank Giacoio	793-5392
Legion of Mary	Josephine Bitetti	337-1372
Living Rosary	Natalie Philpin	793-4757
Organist & Adult Choir	Jerry Celestino	961-2590
Parish Council	Father Fernan	961-2590
Serra Club	George Alessi	779-8719
Senior Club	Jennie Sepe	776-9847
St. Vincent DePaul	Walter Whitmore	779-1826

PARISH SUPPORT

As evidence of their gratitude for God's generosity to them in their lives, our people returned to His Holy Church the following offerings:

December 4	2016	2015
Weekly Collection.....	\$11,201	\$10,745

"As stewards we are accountable to God for our time, talent and treasure. We return to the Lord, the giver of all our gifts, a truly grateful and meaningful first share of our time, talent and treasure.

RETIRED RELIGIOUS COLLECTION

The second collection today is for our retired religious. As always, thank you for your generosity especially during these difficult economic times.

ADVENT DAY OF RECONCILIATION

Monday, December 19th4PM – 8PM

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve.....5:00 PM
12:00 AM Midnight Mass
Christmas Day.....8:00 AM
10:00 AM
12:00 Noon

There is no 6:00 PM on Christmas Day.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Please let us remember all those who are in need of a meal or food on the table. There are many who are struggling in our own community. Please remember those who are in need. We are in need of non-perishable food items. (Cereal, soup, pasta, etc.) Please place these items in the baskets at the entrances of the church.

We serve our people as well as the *Sharing Community* in Getty Square. If you are able to cook but not deliver, please contact either Walter Whitmore (914) 779-1826 or David Fabi at hotfabi@optonline.net.

"For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that."

ADORATION CHAPEL

The Adoration Chapel, located in the vestibule, is open daily Mon-Fri from 7am to 4pm, unless noted on schedule. We are asking specifically for prayers for Vocations. Please come and make a visit with the Lord. For more information call George Alessi, 779-8719.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS

Please contact Martina Parisi at (914) 400-3634 to learn more about the Catholic Daughters. All women of the parish are welcome.

LEGION OF MARY

We meet every Tuesday morning immediately after 9AM Mass or Tuesday evening at 7:00PM. For more information please contact Josephine Bitetti at (914) 337-1372.

ROSARY AND DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Recitation of the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet after the 9AM weekday Masses.

BOX TOPS-BOTTLE CAPS-SODA FLIP TOPS

The school would like to thank all those who have taken the time to collect box tops, plastic bottle caps, aluminum can flip tops and yogurt cup lids. The school only collects BOX TOPS at this time. Any box tops can be put in a special box in the school hallway by the church door.

SAINT EUGENE SENIORS

Reminder: December's meeting will take place Wednesday, December 14th at Buon Amici. There is a trip planned for the Westchester Broadway Theater for April 28, 2017 for Mamma Mia. For more information call Jennie Sepe at (914) 776-9847.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers the ill of our parish especially Helen Sheedy, Nicholas Gardini, Andrew Moraitis, Michael Tomanelli, Elise Gelpi, Liam Frawley, Angelo Bavaro, John Hopkin, Deborah Mahon, Vincenzo Tramontozzi, Joseph Kelly, Anna Lisa Miranda, Grisha Balaj, Julia Duffy, Eileen Brasiel, John McGarry, Serette Bernadin, Franzgermain Bernadin, Lisette Abraham, Baby Abigail Raine, Joan Pinto, Celia Torres, Frank Azaltovic, Frankie Delosso, Mary Ann R. Encarnacion Fr. Terence Lee, Francis Bowen, Ann Fama, Phil Smyth, Cora Lucy Sannella, John Duby, Tom Tucker, Shirley Smith, Lucille Mallon, Ann McMahan, Brian Dosing, Anthony Battista, Sr. John Agnes Clancy, Andrea Dworken and those recently called home to God, especially Claire Patricia Robinson and Jean Como. Eternal rest grant unto them O, Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.

If you know of parishioners who are ill and would like to be visited by a priest, please contact the rectory at 961-2590.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY

Janelle Amador, Jose Luis Petrovich, Matthew Valentinetti, Brian Mulhern, John Kollinger, Kevin Brodeur, David Daliso, Logan Wilson, Matthew Fishwick and Kevin Jones. If you have family members or friends you would like to put on our Military Prayer list please notify the Parish Office at 961-2590.

CATHOLIC WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS

Catholic Widows and Widowers of Yonkers will hold their next meeting on Thursday, December 15th at 1PM at St. Ann's Church, Fr. Anthony Hall, 31 College Ave, Yonkers, NY 10704. New members welcome. For more information call (914) 423-5331.

2017 CALENDARS

A special THANK YOU to Flynn Memorial Funeral Home for the beautiful calendars which were donated to the parish which available around the church. Let us pray for them all during the year.

Dear Parishioners:



- Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday; The season of Advent originated as a fast of forty days in preparation for Christmas, commencing on the day after the feast of St. Martin (12 November), whence it was often called "St. Martin's Lent"—a name by which it was known as early as the fifth century. In the ninth century, the duration of



Advent was reduced to four weeks, and Advent preserved most of the characteristics of a penitential season which made it a kind of counterpart to Lent. Gaudete Sunday is a counterpart to *Laetare Sunday*, and provides a similar break about midway through a season which is otherwise of a penitential character, and signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming. The spirit of the Liturgy all through Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the feast of Christmas as well as for the second coming of Christ, and the penitential exercises suitable to that spirit are thus on Gaudete Sunday suspended, as were, for a while in order to symbolize that joy and gladness in the promised Redemption. On Gaudete Sunday, rose-colored

vestments may be worn instead of violet or purple (or instead of Sarum blue, in the Anglican and some Lutheran traditions), which is otherwise prescribed for every day in the season of Advent. In churches that have an *Advent wreath*, the rose colored candle is lit in addition to two of the violet candles, which represent the first two Sundays of Advent. Despite the otherwise somber readings of the season of Advent, which has as a secondary theme the need for penitence, the readings on the third Sunday emphasize the joyous anticipation of the Lord's coming. – from the USCCB. *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Let your forbearance be known to all, for the Lord is near at hand; have no anxiety about anything, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. Lord, you have blessed your land; you have turned away the captivity of Jacob. Philippians 4:4-6; Psalm 85 (84)*

- Christmas Pageant: Next Sunday, December 18th at 4:00 PM in the Church, we will have Christmas caroling followed by the Christmas Pageant. We are looking for children to be angels and shepherds in our living crèche. Children of all ages are welcomed to join us.
- Advent Day of Reconciliation: On Monday, December 19th in all of the parishes in the Archdiocese of New York, it will be the fifth annual Day of Reconciliation (Penance). The schedule is from 4:00-8:00 pm in the church. Penance is a great way to prepare ourselves as we await the birth of our Lord.
- Queen's Daughters Day Care Center: We will be collecting pajamas and socks for a group of children who attend this organization. We are looking for items for children ages 2 -5 years old. These are children who are in desperate need. The mission statement for the organization is as follows; *we are a high quality, professional early childhood program caring for children from ages 18 months through 5 years old, whose parents work or are in job-related training programs. Within a challenging, supportive and positive environment, children are encouraged to explore their world through developmentally appropriate activities. We nurture and enhance the child's total development; intellectual, social, emotional and physical. Children grow in self-esteem, respect of others and conflict resolution skills. Our Pre-K and Kindergarten classes utilize computers, have weekly homework and follow NYS academic guidelines.* Please remember all of God's Children in this most blessed time of year.
- Christmas Toy Drive: We will again this year conduct our Christmas New Toy Drive. Please remember those who are less fortunate than us. The Toy Box is near the Baptismal Font. The toys will be distributed to Saint Peters in Yonkers.
- Saint Eugene Holy Name Society: This Sunday, the Holy Name Society Mass will be at 10:00 am. The monthly meeting will follow directly after the Mass. The society will be discussing how to act on our Catholic values when considering the topic of immigration. All parishioners are welcome to attend the discussion. We meet in a classroom in the school. If there are any men who are interested in joining the Holy Name Society please see one of the members after the Mass. Thank you.
- Saint Eugene School: The school will be again this year collecting toiletries for seniors as their service project. There will be a bin located in the long hallway of the school for donations.
- Letters to God: If any child would like to write a letter to God for Christmas please have them write the letters and put them into an envelope marked "Letters for God" and place them in the Mailbox on the table marked "Letters to God." All the letters will be presented to *Our Lord* on Christmas Eve at the 5:00 PM Mass.
- Religious Education: Inclement Weather: Just a reminder, if there is any form of winter weather that should occur on the Wednesday afternoons or evenings which may interfere with Religious Education, please watch News 12, or News 12 Interactive on the web. *Thank you.*

May God bless you always: Gina Mastrangelo, Parish Administrator

Beloved of God,

I received the following letter dated December 1, 2016, early this week...

“Dear Father,

Your Christmas season’s outdoor displays contradict the message of Advent. During this season we are expected to prepare for Christmas. The hymns ask that Christ come into our minds and hearts.

Unfortunately Advent is the shopping time for presents. “Keep Christ in Christmas” is contradicted by your Santa on his sled full of gifts.

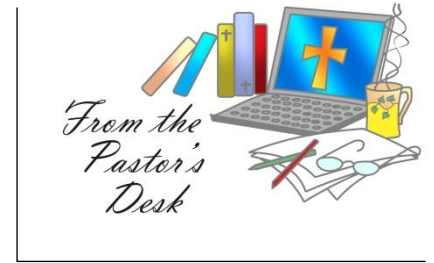
This is the first time we have seen the Christmas crèche complete with the three Kings on Catholic church property early in Advent. It’s a cheap representation, certainly not in good taste!

Please take down these cheap displays and help get everyone into the spirit of Advent.

Thank you,

(Name withheld by Father Fernan)

P.S. We also speak for many of our neighbors. We are embarrassed by your poor taste.”



Priests receive negative letters at times. When I receive them, it’s been my practice to first see if they are signed. If they are unsigned, they are not read but are immediately discarded in the trash, because a person has a right to know their accuser. The above letter was signed, but the return address was not included and I could not find any records of the signers in the membership of the parish or the White Pages. If I had, I would have reached out to them personally. But as the letter raises a few points which may interest you, I have decided to address below.

- The writers were only partially accurate in saying that during the season of Advent “we are expected to prepare for Christmas.” There are two parts to Advent. The Second Theme which pertains to recalling the first coming of Christ at Christmas begins December 17th. The majority of Advent has been set aside by Holy Mother Church to have us prepare for the Second Coming of Christ at the End of Time (see the book of Revelation). True preparation during this part of Advent should be in going to Confession and worshipping the Almighty at the Saturday/Sunday Holy Mass.
- So if the Second Theme does not begin until December 17th, should the Nativity Scene be put out before then? In most instances, it is appropriate that the set-up date correspond with the beginning of the Second Theme.
- So, why is our scene out so early? The Nativity Scene the parish had for last Christmas has a limited number of figures, each no larger than 18 inches, in a Stable that was too small for it. I have spent many months looking for a new scene that would be noticeable from the road as well as within the parishes’ budget. One of the most well-known manufactures of Nativity Scenes is Fontanini. Figures that would range from 36-48 inches (large enough to be seen) would range from \$1,500.00 to \$4,000.00 apiece. So, in my search for a scene that would be seen, that which is in place was chosen because of the size and prominent colors of the figurines, which can be easily seen and recognized.
- Why are the “Kings” or Magi “on Catholic property early in Advent?” The installation of this set is accomplished by driving supports into the ground that hold each figure in place. If the ground were frozen, as it most likely would be in January, the placing of the Magi or “Kings” would be almost impossible.
- Why is there a “Santa on his sled full of gifts” on church property? Bishop Tobin of the Diocese of Providence wrote on December 5, 2016... *“Is there really a Santa Claus? It’s hard to believe, but some people actually wonder if there really is a Santa Claus. But you bet there is and his feast day is December 6th, the feast of St. Nicholas. St. Nicholas was a famous bishop who lived in Asia Minor in the 4th century. He valiantly defended the faith against heresy, and he took care of the poor, often giving them special gifts. Thus the origin of Santa Claus, who today is honored with many names and traditions around the world. So, yes, Virginia there is a Santa Claus and we follow his example when we live our faith, take care of the poor, and give gifts to those we love.”*

Jesus, Our Blessed Lord said, *“I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you should also love one another. This is how all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”* (John 13:34)

God love you... Father Fernan