

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We begin our Advent Season today, a brief one this year, just three weeks and one day, December 24th. Many Americans are preparing for the secular aspects of Christmas – presents, holiday decorations and parties. But we also are to prepare spiritually for Christ’s coming. The first half of Advent concentrates on the second coming of Christ at the end of time. We are challenged to put our lives in order so that we are always prepared to meet Jesus. The second half of this brief season speaks of the coming of the Messiah, or the Christ, in time, the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about son of David who is to be humanity’s savior. For us, we also might use this brief time to train our minds during this season to meet Christ in the present, to see Christ in the daily events of our lives and also to long for the encounter in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation.

Please see the rest of the bulletin for the Christmas Mass schedule.

Friday, December 8th, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary and a Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics. This is a special day in the life of our Church in which we celebrate the fact that Mary, the Mother of the Son of God, was herself conceived in a perfect state, devoid of original sin. In other words, Mary was not conceived in that condition of being separated from the life of the Trinity, a condition in which we were all conceived. The redemptive grace of Jesus’ cross and the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to her at her conception. For us, we received this grace of redemption and the gift of the Holy Spirit at our Baptism. On this day, we also celebrate the fact that Mary remained in this state of holiness all of her earthly life. God further gave Mary a special grace which she had to use and cooperate with all of her life. He did this to provide a fitting mother for His Divine Son, to recreate humanity that fell with the sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve, and to provide us an example of what is possible with God’s grace. In the Immaculate Conception, we celebrate the fact that Mary said yes to God all of her life. She is an example of what a disciple should be – a willingness to always do God’s will. We also have her as a mother who prays for us and comforts us.

Masses for the Holy Day will be at 10:00 a.m. on Friday at Sacred Heart and at 6:00 p.m. on Friday at St. John Baptist.

Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!

May God bless you this week!

Fr. Kitsmiller

Associate Administrator

Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist

MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sun., 12/3	9:30 a.m.	Cesidio Capoccia by Maria Capoccia & Family
Fri., 12/8	6:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception	Mary Elizabeth Pishitelli by Barbara Chellis
Sun., 12/10	9:30 a.m.	Lucertini, Agriesti, & West Families by the Family
Sun., 12/10	SH 11:00 a.m.	Lawrence Benintend by Jeffrey Squeo

Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:

Blessed Sacrament: **George J. Paesano**
by Kenneth & Barbara Miller

Marian Lights: **Joyce Tisone**
by Carl Tisone

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sun., 12/3	4:30 p.m.	San Giovanni Dance Group Practice (Marrapese Hall)
Mon., 12/4	6:00 p.m.	Italian Village Men’s Faith Sharing Group (Marrapese Hall) SJB Women’s Faith Group (Classroom)

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister
Sun., 12/3 9:30 a.m.	Adolfo Gastaldo, Ed Pagnanelli	Andrea Myers, Pat Rossetti, Margaret Panico-Harn, Judy Pishitelli & Claudio Pasian
	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers
Sun., 12/10 9:30 a.m.	John Snoad, Samantha Fallucco	Leslie Pasian, Pat Rossetti, Pete Tamburro, Judy Pishitelli & Bob Contino

Please remember in your prayers those who are sick or suffering, especially those who are in Hospitals, Nursing Facilities or Homebound.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR KNOWN ILL AND ELDERLY IN YOUR PRAYERS**

MOTHER ANGELINE McCrory: Marie Tarantelli

FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE: Joe Agriesti

****If you know of any additions or corrections, please call the parish office. Due to privacy laws, we depend on your input.**

The Rosary before Mass on Sunday: We begin the Rosary around 9:00-9:05 a.m., and it takes about 15-20 minutes to pray the Rosary. If you would like information on how to lead the Rosary, please contact the Men’s Faith Sharing group. Leaders for December are:

- December 3 Robert Contino, OFS
- December 10 Claudio Pasian
- December 17 Margaret Contino, OFS
- December 24
- December 31 Gary Bosco

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN’S

November 26, 2017

Number of Envelopes Used – 29

In Envelopes:	\$1,855.00	Loose Money	\$308.00
Regular Collection			\$ 2,163.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment			-\$ (129.78)
			\$ 2,033.22
Votives			\$ 48.00
Saint Anthony Bread			\$ 5.00
50/50 Drawing			\$ 10.00
			\$ 63.00

? \$? \$? HOW IS ST. JOHN’S DOING? \$? \$?

Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/17-6/30/18)

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Week:	\$ 2,885.00	\$ 2,163.00	-\$ (722.00)	-25%
FYTD:	\$63,470.00	\$56,240.00	-\$ (7,230.00)	-11%

SJB Collection Counters
for Monday, December 4, 2017
 Maruja Paule, Donna Veri and Darlene Rauch

SJB Collection Counters
for Monday, December 11, 2017
 Carl Tisone, Nick Perschetti, & Gus Gastaldo



Office Hours:

The Parish Office hours are **Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

AROUND US

First Sunday of Advent: For Catholics, the new Liturgical Year commences with the first Sunday of Advent. In this new liturgical year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord. This time of prayer and path of penance that is so powerful, rich and intense, endeavors to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was incarnated for us. In fact, the entire Liturgy of the Advent Season will spur us to an awakening in our Christian life and will put us in a “vigilant” disposition, to wait for Our Lord Jesus who is coming:

“Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, “the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob”, is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes.”

~ catholicculture.org

The Beauty of the Advent Wreath: The Advent Wreath is a long-standing Christmas tradition, adding beauty and light to the season. However, it is easy to let slip the true meaning of Christmas it is meant to call to mind. The wreath is a circle, without beginning or end, symbolizing our participation in God’s plan of salvation, and our hope to share eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven. The traditional wreath is made from fresh, natural materials, because Christ came to give us new life through His passion, death and resurrection. There are three purple or white (depending on tradition) candles, symbolizing penance, preparation and sacrifice. The pink (or rose) colored candle symbolizes the same ideas, but it highlights the third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday), when we rejoice because our preparation is now halfway finished. The light itself represents Christ. Some modern adaptations include a white candle in the middle of the wreath which also represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. The progression of lighting candles shows our increasing readiness to meet our Lord.

From an article by Fr. William Saunders

2017 Liturgical Calendar & Mass Readings

December 3 – First Sunday of Advent

Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

December 4 – Advent Weekday

Saint John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11

December 5 – Advent Weekday

Is 11:1-10/Lk 10-21-24

December 6 – Advent Weekday

Saint Nicholas, Bishop

Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37

December 7 –

Saint Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

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

December 8 –

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

December 9 – Advent Weekday

Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35–10:1, 5a, 6-8

December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

* Pray for our Priests and seminarians

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

December 24th

Christmas Eve Vigil (SJB) 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Vigil (SH) 5:30 p.m.

December 25th

Christmas Day (SJB) 10:00 a.m.

January 1st

New Year’s Day (SH) 10:00 a.m.

The Altar Guild

Will Sponsor a

Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, December 10, 2017

In Marrapese Hall

From 10:30 a.m. until Noon

Breakfast will include
 Pancakes, Scrambled eggs
 Bacon, Sausage,
 Orange juice and coffee
\$7.50 per person

Tickets will be on sale after Mass in Sala Hall

**Also, join us in Welcoming Fr. Robert Kitsmiller
 To Saint John the Baptist
 Please invite your entire family to enjoy time
 visiting with Father Kitsmiller.**



Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man.

~ Pope Francis



Watch, therefore;
 you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming,
 whether in the evening, or at midnight,
 or at cockcrow, or in the morning.

May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.

Mark 13:35