

# Nativity of Our Lord

43 Argyle Place • Orchard Park, New York 14127 • (716) 662-9339

[www.nativityofourlordop.com](http://www.nativityofourlordop.com)

Diocesan Website: [www.buffalodiocese.org](http://www.buffalodiocese.org)

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

## Eucharistic Liturgies

Saturday Vigils:..... 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Sunday:..... 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m., 12:00 noon and 1:15 p.m.,  
..... 6:30 p.m. Life Teen Mass (September - May)

Monday through Friday:..... 7:00 and 9:00 a.m.

Saturday..... 8:00 a.m. only

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: ..... 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. and 6:30 to 6:45 p.m.

Wednesday: ..... 7:25 a.m.

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Baptisms are celebrated as a community at Mass at 1:15 p.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of the month outside of Lent. Parents who wish to present a child for Baptism call for an appointment with one of the priests, to discuss the meaning of the Sacrament and the responsibilities being undertaken. The date and time for Baptism will be arranged at this meeting.

**Sacrament of Marriage:** Arrangements should be made six months in advance. Meet with a priest to express your intentions and freedom to marry. Once this is established a date and time may be secured. Attendance at a Pre-Cana Conference is required. All arrangements for a wedding must be completed one month before your wedding day.

**Sacrament of the Sick:** Please notify a priest for those seriously ill. Please make arrangements while your loved one is still conscious and can personally accept this eternal grace.

**Letters of Recommendation:** Letters of Recommendation to act as sponsors for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation are given to registered members of the parish who attend Mass and Communion regularly and either have raised or are raising their own children (if any) in the Faith.

**New Parishioners:** Formal registration in the parish is accepted at the Parish Office. Please introduce yourself to our parish priests at Mass on Sunday. If you are moving or there is a change in address, please notify the parish office.

**Adoration Chapel:** Open to public from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day. Rosary Hours - Monday at 10 a.m. and Wednesday at Noon. To schedule a holy hour, please call Patty Allman—667-7431.

## Our Mission to Others

[www.mklaymissionaries.org](http://www.mklaymissionaries.org)

[www.jesuitvolunteers.org](http://www.jesuitvolunteers.org) [www.cfcausa.org](http://www.cfcausa.org)

Check the above website for becoming a volunteer.

We are twinned with our sisters and brothers in Haiti in the parish of St. Michael's, Coq Chante. We are committed in support of St. Michael's Parish, clinic, school, water project and basic necessities for families. Their physical needs are an opportunity for us to give and in return receive the grace-filled prayers and blessings of the poor.

## Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday— 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Friday—8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, 1:00 to 4:00 pm. For appointments please call directly.

## Pastor

Rev. Bernard U. Nowak, ext. 145

## Deacons

Deacon Dennis Conroy, ext. 140

Deacon Gary P. Anelora, ext. 142

Deacon Sean Paul Fleming, Ext. 140

## Assistant Priest

Msgr. George Brennan, Rev. Peter Drilling &  
Rev. James Croglia

## Business Manager

Robert M. Joslyn, Sr., ext. 125

## Director of Life Teen

Patrick Murphy, (716) 508-0258

## Director of Music

Mr. Robert T. Kiersz, ext. 123

## Parish Outreach

Sr. Beth Hays S.S.M.N., 716-662-1302

## Faith Formation Office

S-4414 South Buffalo St. • 716-662-2169

**Director:** Mary Barone, ext. 126

[www.nativityofourlordop.com](http://www.nativityofourlordop.com) Faith Formation

## Nativity of Our Lord School

S-4414 South Buffalo St. • 716-662-7572

**Principal:** Miss Ruth Frost, ext. 122

[www.nativityschool.net](http://www.nativityschool.net)

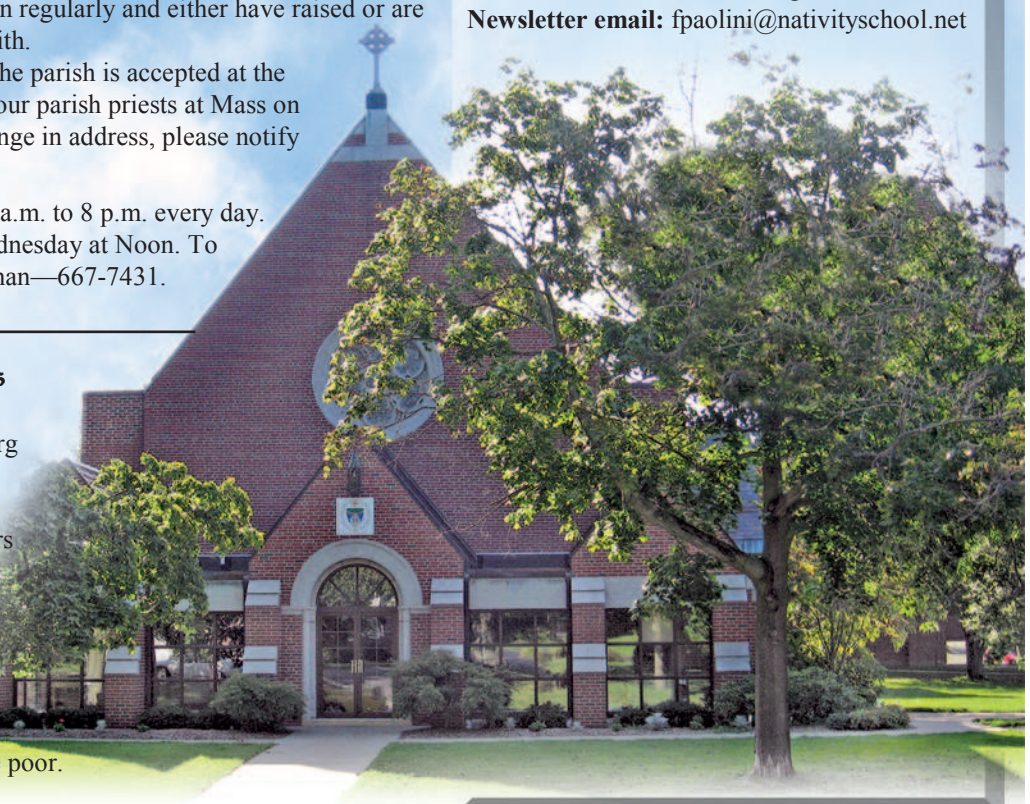
**School Hall:** 667-2132

**Msgr. Beasley Center:** 667-2132

**Cemetery Office:** 43 Argyle Place, 662-9339

**Facilities:** James Flading, ext. 117

**Newsletter email:** [fpaolini@nativityschool.net](mailto:fpaolini@nativityschool.net)



**PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT  
NOVEMBER, 2011**

Monthly Needs for November, (4 wks).....	\$94,000.00
“Sunday Collection” Week of 11/06.....	\$28,555.00
“Sunday Collection” Week of 11/13.....	\$19,248.00
“Sunday Collection” Week of 11/20.....	\$17,203.00
“Sunday Collection” Week of 11/27.....	\$19,849.00
Favorable<Unfavorable> for the month.....	<\$9,145.00>
Favorable<Unfavorable> for the year.....	<\$8,109.00>
Monthly Budget Needs for December, (4 wks).....	\$118,000.00

Fiscal year is September 1 to August 31

The following facts and figures represent this year compared to last year. The average weekly envelopes used in November were 738 compared to 796 last year. Total gross contributions received for November is \$88,602.07 compared to \$90,945.44 last year. The “Weekend/Monthly Collection” is \$84,855.07 versus \$86,357.44 last year. This year \$4,520.77 was loose cash not in envelopes compared to \$4,831.02 last year. The special collections were \$3,747.00 this year and \$4,588.00 last year. Special collections received this month included \$1,504.00 for Catholic University, \$1,911.00 for Human Development, \$182.00 for Christmas Flowers, \$10.00 for School and \$140.00 for Mission. Our heartfelt thanks to all parishioners for your support and generosity in our *Parish Stewardship in Faith* program; please remember your commitment to **Time, Talent and Treasure**.

**STEWARDSHIP**

By being a good steward in using and cultivating the gifts entrusted to me, I cooperate with God in co-creating and co-redeeming my part of the world.

God placed in me a loving trust when I was gifted with life and countless blessings. I am called to faithful stewardship of those gifts! As Christmas approaches let us be grateful for all God has done for us. A gift of our time and talent to family and community could be the most precious Christmas gift we might possibly give. Parents, consider giving your children the gift of time this Christmas? A 3X5 card hanging on the tree with “This entitles you to one Saturday morning in January to breakfast at McDonalds and anything else you would like to do that morning, Love, Mom or Dad”. Use some creativity and the best gift this Christmas to a spouse, child, or parent may be a little time.

In lovingly care for the people and things entrusted to me as faithful steward, I am responding to my baptismal call to live as Jesus did. God has given me an abundance of gifts as evidence of unconditional love. My stewardship of those gifts is my return of love to God.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

If you or someone you know is struggling with finances, domestic violence or child behavior issues, Catholic Charities is the place to start. Find help through a caring staff member who can help sort out the issues of one of our many neighborhood offices. For more information call 856-4494, or go to [www.ccnny.org](http://www.ccnny.org) go to Services, then Counseling and Support.

**DISCIPLES OF DIVINE MERCY**

Disciples of Divine Mercy will come and pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for your loved one who may be sick or dying. For more information call Terry at 662-2323 or Patricia at 662-4931.



**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES**

The annual Catholic Relief Services (CRS) or Bishop’s Overseas Appeal will be held in all the parishes of our Diocese the weekend of January 28/29.

It is Catholic Relief Services, established by the American Bishops, that has responded across the world in re-establishing life support systems, providing emergency medical care and the technical know-how to rebuild. It responds with short-term help for an emergency, and long-term help to combat the cause of the emergency.

In the midst of our own challenging times, there are still others who suffer to the very brink of death. Our continued support of Catholic Relief Services can and does save lives and helps create a quality of life, which may be otherwise impossible.

Please be generous in your response to the Catholic Relief Services collection. You do make a difference when and where it counts. This is the premier relief agency in the world. Please place in the second collection basket.

**SCRIPTURE STUDY RESUMES...**

...for six Wednesdays: Topic: Mark: Getting to Know Jesus. Appropriate as the Sunday literature brings us to the gospel of Mark. Place—Theology Room 104 first floor of school building. Enter by school lot entrance, no steps. January 18 & 25, 7-8pm, Feb. 1st—break; resume February 8 & 15 from 7-8pm; Feb. 22nd from 8-9 pm and February 29th from 7-8pm.

Beginning March 1st on Thursdays, 7pm in the cafeteria, we will study and reflect on the Biblical aspects and meanings in the Mass. More info to follow in next newsletter.

**A SPECIAL NOTE**

Dear Parishioners of Nativity Parish:

Sincerest best wishes for a most blessed Christmas and a New Year of peace and joy. Please know that you are in my prayers, especially at the altar. May the Word made flesh live always in your hearts and minds. Sincerely, Fr. Milby

**BLESSINGS**

Together, Msgr. George Brennan, Father Peter Drilling, Fr. Jim Croglio, Deacon Dennis Conroy, Deacon Gary Andelora, Deacon Sean Flemming, join me in extending our gratitude to God for the praying community of the Nativity. Together we wish all and each of you the blessings and joy the patience and hopefulness of the Advent-Christmas seasons.

**WON'T YOU PLEASE TAKE AN HOUR OF YOUR TIME TO START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT AND HELP SAVE A LIFE?**

The Red Cross bloodmobile will be in the Nativity school cafeteria on Monday, January 16 from 1:30 until 6:30 pm. We are looking for at least 50 donors to help us reach our goal. Please plan to join us on January 16. Call Jim Feldmann at 662-2400 for details.

**OUR CONDOLENCES**

Father Bernard, Msgr. Brennan, Fr. Peter, Fr. Jim, Deacon Dennis, Deacon Gary, Deacon Sean Paul and the Parish community would like to express deep and profound condolences to the family of: Helene Willis, Helen Splatt, Hanna Moran, Marie Plisk Foley, Donald McKenna and Mary Ann McGee.

## BLESSINGS FOR CHRISTMAS

Blessing of Christmas Manger or Nativity scene:

Sign of the Cross, then

Leader A: Praised be Jesus Christ, who dwells among us, now and forever. R. Amen

Leader B: When we look upon these figures, the Christmas gospel comes alive and we are moved to rejoice in the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God.

Leader A: God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love; when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives He brings joy and peace, justice, mercy and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to Him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. R. amen

Leader B: May Christ our God enlighten our hearts and minds, now and forever. R. amen

House Blessing: (from Dec. 26-Jan. 8)

Sign of the Cross, then

Leader A: Blessed are you, O Lord God of all creation, by the guidance of a star you led the Magi to your Son and by the light of faith you bring us to know Him as Lord, the Messiah you have sent. (Using chalk over a doorway mark as follows: 20+C+M+B+12 [current year and initials of names of the Magi]).

Leader: May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek to serve Christ in everyone we meet.

Leader: Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. R. amen

Leader: May Christ Jesus dwell with us, keep us from all harm, and make us one in mind and heart, now and forever. R. amen

**SAVE THESE TWO DATES IN YOUR  
CALENDAR NOW!!  
LENTEN FISH FRY'S COMING TO NATIVITY  
MARCH 2, 2012 & MARCH 30, 2012  
DINE-IN OR TAKE-OUT  
4-7 PM  
WATCH FOR MORE INFO NEXT MONTH**

### **39TH MARCH FOR LIFE PILGRIMAGE JANUARY 22-23, 2012**

Join the Office of Pro-Life Activities from the Buffalo Diocese and hundreds of Catholics, as well as all people of good will, who will gather together to pray and publicly intercede on behalf of the unborn, their parents, families, our communities, our nation and its leaders. We hope that this prayerful presence may open hearts, minds, souls to the fullness of the Gospel of Life in our lives and laws, healing the wounds of abortion. Seminarians, religious, and youth all seek sponsorships to attend this event and need your support.

To make your reservation or to become a generous sponsor call or email the pro-life office. Prayerfully consider making a donation so that we can ensure the right to life is not just afforded for some, but for all, born and unborn. For more details and information visit [www.buffalodiocese.org/prolife](http://www.buffalodiocese.org/prolife) or call 847-2205.

## OUTREACH

Dear Parishioners:

As we begin a new year, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all the support you give to my Outreach programs throughout the year. Your generosity, especially at Christmas time is amazing, as you choose to purchase gifts for the needy. Your response to the 3 food drives we sponsor during the year is another way that you reach out to those in need, and the bags of groceries left in church take care of our own food pantry here at Nativity. An ongoing request that has come to my attention is a shortage of sheets, blankets and towels. Any time you are replacing these items in your home, please keep us in mind. You always seem to answer my call and I am deeply grateful. May you be blessed with the same goodness you share with others, Sincerely, Sister Beth

Eucharist at home: If you hear of anyone who is not able to get to church and would like to receive Communion, please call the Outreach Office. Please, also let us know when someone is in the hospital.

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

A sincere thank you to everyone who donated to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul on Thanksgiving Day. This collection is the main source of funding for the Nativity of Our Lord conference. Without your generosity we could not help members of the community who struggle to pay for their rent, utilities and prescriptions. Several clients this year were single mothers who cannot work because they are the sole caregivers for children with chronic illnesses.

Your continued support is so appreciated. It's wonderful when (1) donate clothing to the bin behind the school (2) call 882-3360 ext. 4 to schedule pick up of donated bedding, appliances, and furniture, (3) place a cash donation in the Poor Box mounted on the wall at the back of the church, or (4) attend the 7 pm monthly meeting (December 28th or January 25th) in the Msgr. Holbel Center. Call Myra at 662-1932 if you have any questions.

## APPRECIATION TO OUR CONFIRMATION CATECHISTS

On December 10, 2011, 60 of our young people were confirmed by Bishop Edward U. Kmiec. It was a beautiful liturgy reflecting the joy of Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, as well as the work of the Holy Spirit in the confirmande. However, these young people stood in front of their parish community to affirm their faith through the efforts of a dedicated and faith-filled team of catechists. To these selfless parishioners, we offer our deepest gratitude. They include: Daniel Blake, Carm Daeing, John DaPolito, Stella Dortch, Ann Grisanti, Darren Longboat, Diane Melerski, Jennifer Ouweleen, Jane Reukauf, and our substitute facilitator, Joseph Murphy. As Hillary Clinton once wrote, "it takes a village to raise a child," so to it takes a team of catechists through the elementary, junior high, and high school years to raise a true disciple of Jesus Christ who willingly follows in His footsteps in worship and service to the parish, the local and global communities. Inspiring faith and leading by example is the priceless gift given by our catechists to our teens. For that, our parish is fortunate in the generosity of time and talents of its members.

*Pray for our Troops*



## BENEDICT XVI WORLD YOUTH DAYS

“Today I would like to return my thoughts and my heart to the extraordinary days I spent in Madrid for the 26th World Youth Day. As you know it was a stirring ecclesial event; about two million young people from all the continents lived with joy an overwhelming experience of brotherhood, of encounter with the Lord, of sharing and of growth in faith: a true cascade of light. I thank God for this precious gift, which promises hope for the Church’s future: young people with a strong and sincere desire to root their life in Christ, to keep firm in faith, to walk together in the Church...

I cannot of course describe in a few words the most intense moments that we experienced. I am thinking of the unrestrained enthusiasm with which the young people received me on the first day in the Plaza de Cibeles, of their words of expectation, their strong desire to turn to the deepest truth and to be rooted in it, that truth which God has granted us to know in Christ.

At the imposing Monastery of El Escorial, rich in history, spirituality and culture, I met the young women religious and young university professors. I reminded the former, the young women religious, of the beauty of their vocation lived with fidelity and of the importance of their apostolic service and their prophetic witness. Moreover, the impression of their enthusiasm, of their young faith, full of courage for the future and of the readiness to serve humanity in this way lives on within me.

I reminded the professors that they should be true formators of the new generations, guiding them in their search for truth not only with words but also with their life, knowing that the Truth is Christ himself. In finding Christ we find the truth. In the evening, during the celebration of the Way of the Cross, a variegated multitude of young people relived the scenes of Christ’s passion and death with intense involvement: the Cross of Christ gives far more than it demands; it gives everything because it leads us to God...

Dear friends, the Madrid Meeting was a wonderful expression of faith for Spain and for the world first of all. For the multitude of youth, who came from every corner of the earth it was a special opportunity to reflect, to take part in dialogue, to exchange positive experiences with each other and above all, to pray together and renew the commitment to root their own life in Christ, a faithful Friend.

I am sure that they are returning home firmly resolved to be the leaven in the mass, bringing the hope that is born from faith. For my part, I continue to accompany them with my prayers, so that they will be faithful to the commitments they have taken on. I entrust the fruits of this Day to the motherly intercession of Mary.

And I would now like to announce the themes of the upcoming World Youth Days. The theme for the Day next year, which will be celebrated in the individual dioceses will be: “Rejoice in the Lord always”, from the Letter to the Philippians (4:4); whereas for the World Youth Day 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, the theme will be Jesus’ mandate: “Go and make disciples of all nations!” (cf. Mt 28:19). From this moment I entrust the preparation for these very important events to the prayers of all. Many thanks.



Please welcome the following new members to our Nativity of Our Lord Parish Community: Cathy Everts.

### EXCERPTS FROM POPE BENEDICT XVI'S SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS SERIES: “CHRISTMAS”

“Presence” Advent, this powerful liturgical season that we are beginning, invites us to pause in silence to understand a presence. It is an invitation to understand that the individual events of the day are hints that God is giving us, signs of the attention he has for each one of us. Homily at First Vespers of Advent, November 28, 2009

“Waiting” The questions is: Is the humanity of our time still waiting for a Savior? One has the feeling that many consider God as foreign to their own interests. Apparently, they do not need him. They live as though he did not exist and, worse still, as though he were an “obstacle” to remove in order to fulfill themselves. Even among believers—we are sure of it—some let themselves be attracted by enticing dreams and distracted by misleading doctrines that suggest deceptive shortcuts to happiness. Yet, despite its contradictions, worries and tragedies, and perhaps precisely because of them, humanity today seeks a path of renewal, of salvation, it seeks a Savior and awaits, sometimes unconsciously, the coming of the Savior who renews the world and our life, the coming of Christ, the one true Redeemer of man and of the whole of man. Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience December 20, 2006

“Preparation” Christmas is a privileged opportunity to meditate on the meaning and value of our existence. The approach of this Solemnity helps us on the one hand to reflect on the drama of history in which people, injured by sin, are perennially in search of happiness and of a fulfilling sense of life and death; and on the other, it urges us to meditate on the merciful kindness of God who came to man to communicate to him directly the Truth that saves, and to enable him to partake in his friendship and his life. Therefore let us prepare ourselves for Christmas with humility and simplicity, making ourselves ready to receive as a gift the light, joy and peace that shine from this mystery. General Audience December 17, 2008

“Sign” God’s sign is his humility. God’s sign is that he makes himself small; he becomes a child; he lets us touch him and he asks for our love. How we would prefer a different sign, an imposing, irresistible sign of God’s power and greatness! But his sign summons us to faith and love, and thus it gives us hope: this is what God is like. He has power, he is Goodness itself. He invites us to become like him. Yes indeed, we become like God if we allow ourselves to be shaped by this sign; if we ourselves learn humility and hence true greatness; if we renounce violence and use only the weapons of truth and love. Homily at Mass for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, December 24, 2009.

“Changing” Only if people change will the world change; and in order to change, people need the light that comes from God, the light which so unexpectedly [on the night of Christmas] entered into our night. Homily at Mass for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, December 25, 2008.

## FAITH FORMATION

- Jan. 4: Children's Connection Grades 1-6, 4:15-5:15 or 5:45-6:45  
Jan 5: Y.E.S. Grades 7&8 & L.O.F.T. Grade 9—7:00-8:15 pm  
Jan. 9: Children's Connection Grades 1-6, 4:15-5:15 or 5:45-6:45  
Jan. 11: Children's Connection Grades 1-6, 4:15-5:15 or 5:45-6:45  
Jan. 12: Y.E.S. Grades 7&8 & L.O.F.T. Grade 9—7:00-8:15 pm  
Jan. 18: Children's Connection Grades 1-6, 4:15-5:15 or 5:45-6:45  
Jan. 19: Y.E.S. Grades 7&8 & L.O.F.T. Grade 9—7:00-8:15 pm  
Jan. 23: Children's Connection Grades 1-6, 4:15-5:15 or 5:45-6:45  
Jan. 25: Children's Connection Grades 1-6, 4:15-5:15 or 5:45-6:45  
Jan. 26: Y.E.S. Grades 7&8 & L.O.F.T. Grade 9—7:00-8:15 pm  
Jan. 30: Children's Connection Grades 1-6, 4:15-5:15 or 5:45-6:45

## NATIVITY SCHOOL NEWS

Basketball season is underway. We have 4 basketball teams who play other catholic schools in the area. Our Annual Joe DeMarco Tournament will be February 2-12. Come and watch the games.

School will resume after Christmas break on January 3.

Our D.A.R.E. Graduation will take place on January 25th at 12:00 noon.

Catholic School's Week is January 29-February 3. Watch for coming activities.

## SAVE THE DATE

Nativity Beer & Wine event Saturday, March 10, 2012. We are looking for volunteers to help plan the event! Please contact if you can help: Pam Weislo 601-8306 or email pweislo@amgen.com. Need help with food service, wine and beer service, silent auction, decorating!



## THE REAL MEANING OF "THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS"

I'm sure you have all heard the Christmas carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," with its haunting melody. The carol dates back to the 16th century and its precise author is unknown. It has generally been assumed to consist of twelve nonsense verses built around a pretty melody.

The carol is akin to the apocalyptic literature of Scripture that used obscure symbols to hide its true meaning from the enemy in time of persecution as in 16th century England.

When Henry VIII was rebuffed by Rome in his bid to divorce Catherine of Aragon to marry Anne Boleyn, he declared himself head of the Church in England replacing the Pope and demanded that all swear an oath of allegiance to him as such. St. Thomas More, the Chancellor of the Realm, the equivalent of the Prime Minister today, refused the oath supporting the elimination of the Pope's authority and Henry had him publicly beheaded. Catholic convents and monasteries were closed and looted. The situation was worse under his son, Edward VI, and better during the short reign of Catherine's daughter, Mary Tudor. She was succeeded by her half-sister Elizabeth I, an ardent Protestant, the daughter of Anne Boleyn. The practice of the Catholic faith was banned. Priests were exiled and forbidden under pain of death from returning or performing the sacraments. It was a desperate, dreadful time.

But many priests risked their lives to come back and minister to the flock and many lay Catholics likewise risked their lives and fortunes to hear Mass and have their children baptized. Wealthy families built hiding places, called priests' holes, in their homes to hide priests in case their homes were raided by the secret police.

The story is told of one priest who was almost caught in a surprise raid. He had just time to squeeze into his hole before the police broke in on the family. The police had obviously received a tip because they went right to the fireplace where the priest's hole was located. But try as they might, they couldn't find the entrance. Then in their frustration they ordered a fire to be lit to drive out the priest. When he didn't emerge, because to do so would subject the host family to prison or death, they ordered more logs on the fire. Eventually all were driven from the room by the intense heat and the police left in disgust. The family rushed to get the priest out of the hole but he was already dead, baked alive. He gave his life under cruel circumstances to save those whom he had come to serve. And he was only one of many.

With this as a background we can see the need for secrecy and deception. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written to educate the faithful in the doctrines of the faith and yet not be obvious to the persecutors. The numbers are simply a mnemonic to help Catholics remember some basic facts. Recall the words of the song. "On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: twelve drummers drumming, eleven pipers piping, ten lords a leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight maids a milking, seven swans a swimming, six geese a laying, five golden rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree."

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" celebrates the official Christmas season which starts liturgically on Christmas Day and ends twelve days later on the Feast of the Epiphany. "My true love" refers to God, "me" is the individual Catholic. The "twelve drummers drumming" are the twelve basic beliefs of the Catholic Church as outlined in the Apostles Creed. The "eleven pipers piping" are the eleven Apostles who remained faithful after the treachery of Judas. The "ten lords a leaping" are the Ten Commandments. The "nine ladies dancing" are the nine choirs of angels which in those days of class distinction were thought important. The "eight maids a milking" are the Eight Beatitudes. The "seven swans a swimming" are the Seven Sacraments. The "six geese a laying" are the Precepts of the Church or the six days of creation. The "five golden rings" are the first five books of the Old Testament called the Torah which are generally considered the most sacred and important of all the Old Testament. The "four calling birds" are the Four Gospels. The "three French hens" are the Three Persons in God or the three gifts of the Wise Men. The "two turtle doves" represent the two natures in Jesus: human and divine or the two Testaments, Old and New. The "Partridge" is the *piece de resistance*, Jesus himself, and the "pear tree" is the Cross.

## MAKING PLANS FOR CHRIST'S MASS

**Saturday, December 24:** 3pm in Church & 3pm in the gym  
5pm in Church & 5pm in the gym  
7:45 and 10:00 pm in Church  
**Sunday, December 25:** 9:00, 10:30 am & 12:00 noon

*Pray the rosary daily*

## ANNOUNCED INTENTIONS OF THE CELEBRANT

### Sunday, January 1 Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

- 7:30 a.m. Mary Collins by Ann Collins
- 9:00 a.m. Alan M. Arena Jr. by his Family
- 10:30 a.m. Antonia Swieczkowski by Joan Cullen
- 12:00 p.m. Brian McNulty by the Barone Family
- 1:15 p.m. For Parishioners by Fr. Bernard
- 6:30 p.m. Mary A. Hobar by Karen Bijak

### Monday, January 2

- 7:00 a.m. James Sullivan by Hike Karam
- 9:00 a.m. Sibby Graffeo by Barbara Morgan

### Tuesday, January 3

- 7:00 a.m. Clifford Franklin by Jim & Mary Campagna
- 9:00 a.m. Edward Cosgrove by his Family

### Wednesday, January 4

- 7:00 a.m. M. Dutch Dalluge by Paula & Jim DeCarlo
- 9:00 a.m. Don Quinlan by Joe & Donna Mahoney

### Thursday, January 5

- 7:00 a.m. Rose Rawski by Peter Liberatore
- 9:00 a.m. Special Intention by Millie Sweeney

### Friday, January 6

- 7:00 a.m. Joseph Palczynski by his Wife & Family
- 9:00 a.m. Helen Ruth by Joan & Family

### Saturday, January 7

- 8:00 a.m. Jo Ann Molik by her daughter Kathleen
- 4:30 p.m. George Holl by Don & Florence Webber
- 7:00 p.m. Elmer Breidenstein by Ray & Peggy Napierala

### Sunday, January 8

- 7:30 a.m. Anne & Joseph Sullivan by Joe & Donna Mahoney
- 9:00 a.m. Eleanor Nowakowski by her Family
- 10:30 a.m. Frank Breese by Rosemarie Breese
- 12:00 p.m. Stephen Soroka by his Wife & Family
- 1:15 p.m. For Parishioners by Fr. Bernard
- 6:30 p.m. Thomas Violanti by the Violanti/Krenitsky Family

### Monday, January 9

- 7:00 a.m. Evelyn & Anthony Zajac by Jan Duffy & Family
- 9:00 a.m. Catherine Certo by the Hellinger Family

### Tuesday, January 10

- 7:00 a.m. Paul & Katherine Huldaj by Pat & Rich Kriese
- 9:00 a.m. Shirley Wood by Lee & Nancy Hartung

### Wednesday, January 11

- 7:00 a.m. Graham Smith by Charles Price
- 9:00 a.m. Marie Baker by Mary Ann Pietrzak

### Thursday, January 12

- 7:00 a.m. Jacqueline Cunningham by the Hovagimian Family
- 9:00 a.m. Judge William Ostrowski by Ben & Clare Andrews

### Friday, January 13

- 7:00 a.m. William Murphy by Hike Karam
- 9:00 a.m. Carol Reimers by her Mom & Dad

### Saturday, January 14

- 8:00 a.m. Raymond Rappold by Al & Lisa Ricotta
- 4:30 p.m. John E. Leach Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Justicia-Linde & Faye
- 7:00 p.m. Vita LoVerde by Mr. & Mrs. Philip Scheeler

### Sunday, January 15

- 7:30 a.m. Frances Opoka by Hugh & Dottie Gardner
- 9:00 a.m. For Parishioners by Fr. Bernard
- 10:30 a.m. Terence J. Young by Richard & Jean Frederick
- 12:00 p.m. Emilio Speranza by his Wife & Family
- 1:15 p.m. Florence Gay by Lorraine & Silvio Russo
- 6:30 p.m. Leo F. Stankard Jr. by Mr. & Mrs. Philip Scheeler

### Monday, January 16

- 7:00 a.m. Sara Rose Livecchi by Fran Speranza
- 9:00 a.m. Evelyn Ellis by Mary Williams

### Tuesday, January 17

- 7:00 a.m. Carl & Maria Streit by their Estate
- 9:00 a.m. Mercedes Cherry by Molly & Alan Blatt

### Wednesday, January 18

- 7:00 a.m. Deceased Members of Gerald J. Coughlin Family by the Estate
- 9:00 a.m. Joe Kupka by Mary Ann

### Thursday, January 19

- 7:00 a.m. Dorothy Sikora by Clem & Evelyn Denzel
- 9:00 a.m. Martha Pack by Barbara Tschopp

### Friday, January 20

- 7:00 a.m. Loretta Stevens by Amherst Dental
- 9:00 a.m. John Hellinger by his Children & Grandchildren

### Saturday, January 21

- 8:00 a.m. Mildred Zarcone by Anthony Zuppa
- 4:30 p.m. Flora Avoli by Margaret Whitcher
- 7:00 p.m. For Parishioners by Fr. Bernard

### Sunday, January 22

- 7:30 a.m. Agnes Tracy by Joe & Donna Mahoney
- 9:00 a.m. Lucille Sturtzer by Alma Germain
- 10:30 a.m. Frank Hruby Sr. by his daughter Rosemarie Breese
- 12:00 p.m. Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Metz by their Estate
- 1:15 p.m. Fanny & Rico Tribuzzi by their Family
- 6:30 p.m. Kathleen Jones by Joe & Doreen Murphy

### Monday, January 23

- 7:00 a.m. Joseph Liberatore by Roger & Carla Olson
- 9:00 a.m. Frank Honer by Alice Leahy

### Tuesday, January 24

- 7:00 a.m. Daniel Harrigan by Brian & Leslie Shields
- 9:00 a.m. Tom Gardner by his Mom & Dad

### Wednesday, January 25

- 7:00 a.m. Susan A. Gominiak by her Family
- 9:00 a.m. Loretta E. Burns by Jack & Maureen Burns

### Thursday, January 26

- 7:00 a.m. Anne E. Rebmam by her Family
- 9:00 a.m. Carol Reimers by the Terrance Devine Family

### Friday, January 27

- 7:00 a.m. Bob Lebling by Millie & Peter Lopus
- 9:00 a.m. Candelor Certo by the Hellinger Family

### Saturday, January 28

- 8:00 a.m. G. William Coppola by Jeff & Claudia Lisinski
- 4:30 p.m. Joanne Sacca by Elvira
- 7:00 p.m. Elinor Lindner by her Friends & Family

### Sunday, January 29

- 7:30 a.m. Bruce Schmitt by Connie Couell
- 9:00 a.m. Special Intention of Dr. Susan Ribes & Gerry Ribes by Stella Young
- 10:30 a.m. Thomas Dosch by the Nativity Choir
- 12:00 p.m. John Lyons by Dr. & Mrs. John Reilly
- 1:15 p.m. For Parishioners by Fr. Bernard
- 6:30 p.m. Mary Caito by Kathy & Pat Cook

### Monday, January 30

- 7:00 a.m. Katherine Obrochta by her Family
- 9:00 a.m. Mary Jane Nehill by Tom & Charlotte Downing

### Tuesday, January 31

- 7:00 a.m. Lillian Corcoran by Mr. & Mrs. John May
- 9:00 a.m. Frank & Doris Grisanti by the Grisanti Family

**ADS**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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14127  
Permit No. 31

Nativity of Our Lord  
43 Argyle Place  
Orchard Park, NY 14127  
Return Service Requested



• They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

*Mt 2:10-11*

### COMPANIONS WITH THE SUFFERING CHRIST

Anna Caserta, Ilka Puig, Dolores Kaitnowski, Cheryl Dusel, Carol Doyle, James Burns, Kenneth Schwandt, Clem Denzel, Michael Webster, Dorothy Stanley, Joseph Bono, Jason Borguzewski, Isabella Searone, Joey Stack, Dawn Tomaski, Maxine Paoletti, Grace Cosentino, Michelle Sylves Berry, James Ryan, Brandon Vegra, Mary Mahoney, Zachary DeVole, Sylvia Davies, Teresa Coppola, Jim Lasker, Maria Evancho, Gifford Walker, Janet Smith, Linda Smith, Dorothy Mazurchuk, Ruth Schwandt, Marjie Prebble, Dale Smith, Norman Klas, Burton Kopaskie, Peter Tomasulo, Regina Moser, Linda Weyand, Delphine Wojtan, Ruth Klizek, Ellie Kalinowski, Richard Ireland, Christine Kukla, Marcia Jurkowski, Marcia McCarthy, Aady Bookner, Ellen Grudza, Daniel Kowalewski, Fred Raska, Julie Raska, Nancy Dowrey, Laura Merrit, Rachel Reusch, Anne Waligur, Renee Srader, Shari Bauda, Dorothy Kowalewski, Alice Leahy, Kristin LaJoie, Greg Weiss, Michael Melerski, Corey Lelonek, Frances Saraceno, Andrew Pawlak, Maureen Burns, Dora Kowalewski, Tom Ferris, Lucy & Marino Monaco, Frank & Margaret Spano, James Kisicki, Lindsey & Kelsey Kaitnowski, Jack & Family, Connie Reinhardt, Mary Cirelli, Ed Warren, Wanda, Dan Rojek, Christian Scherr, Garrett Weeks, Helen Hilliker, Catherine Smardz, Stephan Bilowus, Ann Marie Gensler, Cathy Washington, Winifred Casciano, Geraldine Wiess, Rose Lally, Donna Bene, Jim Zitnik, Paige Ingrando, Jeanne O'Neill, Dorothy Aubrecht, Bill Heuer, Cathy Hays, Donovan Benzin, Thom Sylves, Brayden Grant, Gina Fitzgerald, Mary Mahoney, Dorothy Moran, Karen Prackajlo, Randy Zentz, Norma Wilson, Sean J. Hanley, Jr., Melissa Addeo, Michael Bueme, Stephen Warner, Margaret Warner, Deacon Edward Meyer, Beverly Rick, Lorraine Ball.