

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 21, 2014



Sunday, December 21, Fourth Sunday
of Advent

5:00 +Rafael, Maria & Ralph Sanchez
8:30 Parishioners of St. John
10:00 (Sp) + Angela, Jose & Martin Delgado
11:30 + Mary and Joe O'Keeffe
1:00 (Sp) +Catalina & Candelaria Javier

Monday, December 22, Late Advent
Weekday

9:00 + Fr. Edward Fagan, OAR
12:15 + Paul B. Murray

Tuesday, December 23, Late Advent
Weekday

9:00 + Eileen Scanlon & Sr. Mary L.
Scanlon, RJM
12:15 + Fr. Edward Fagan, OAR, Brother
Peter Stewart, FSC & Brother
Joseph Murphy, FSC

7:00 (Sp.) + Alejandro & Benito Diaz
Wednesday, December 24, Late Advent,
Weekday

9:00 + William Stanton & Family
12:15 + Roma Sassone

Thursday, December 25, Christmas

Christmas Eve

12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass (Bi-Lingual)

Christmas Day

8:30 a.m. – English
10:00 a.m. – Spanish
11:30 a.m. – English
1:00 p.m. - Spanish

Friday, December 26, St. Stephen

9:00 + Mildred Blakely
12:15 + Thomas O'Keeffe
7:00(Sp) + Rafael Fontanet & Family

Saturday, December 27, St. John

12:15 + Patrick Nugent
5:00 + Collins and Duke Families

Sunday, December 28, Holy Family

8:30 + Clorinda De Maio
10:00 (Sp.) + Carmelo Montanez Rodriguez
11:30 + John, Jean & Bobby Tramontozzi

1:00(Sp.) Special Intention
**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THIS WEEK'S
DONATIONS**

The Altar Candles burning in the Upper Church
for the week of December 21-27 in memory of:

**FR. MICHAEL J. KENNY, OAR,
KEVIN G. and ROBERT KENNY**

The Altar Candles burning in the Lower Church
for the week of December 21-27 in memory of:

FR. EDWARD J. FAGAN, OAR

The Sanctuary Lamp burning in the Upper
Church for the week of December 21-27 in
memory of:

BROTHER PETER STEWART, FSC

The Sanctuary Lamp burning in the Lower
Church for the week of December 21-27 for:

SPECIAL INTENTION

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK.....



**Fr. Peter J. McCrann, SMM , Lindsey
Guzman, Alice Ann O'Donohue Mason,
Noreen Liddane,, Timothy Mahoney.**

A Special Christmas Request for Your Consideration

This is a time of the year in which the spirit of
generosity is evident in people's lives. As you know this
is the season to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the
greatest gift God gave to humanity. Also, it is a reminder
to both keep and spread the gift of our Catholic faith
along with serving the pastoral and spiritual needs of our
local community

The Church of St. John relies upon the free willing
offerings and donations of parishioners and visitors. We rely
upon the generosity of parishioners to support our parish in
our various pastoral activities, programs, building expenses,
charitable outreach, and administrative costs.

I would like to ask each household who come to our
parish to consider making a special gift of \$50 or \$100 to St.
John's Church for Christmas. These amounts represent one or
two dollars a week for the past year and offer a way to be
generous to your parish community during this holy season.
Whatever you are able to give to St. John's Parish will be
greatly appreciated.

Many thanks for your consideration of this special
Christmas request.

Fr. Mike Kerrigan

Christmas Mass Schedule
Catholic Community of Kingsbridge

Church of Saint John

3021 Kingsbridge Avenue

Thursday December 25th (Christmas Day)

12:00 am Christmas Midnight Mass
(Bi-lingual)

8:30 am English

10:00 am Spanish

11:30 am English

1:00 pm Spanish

Visitation Church

160 Van Cortlandt Park South

Wednesday December 24th (Christmas Eve)

5:00 pm

8:00 pm

Thursday December 25th (Christmas Day)

12:00 am Christmas Midnight Mass

10:30 am

12:30 pm

Christmas Midnight Mass

This year St. John's Parish will be celebrating the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with Midnight Mass, the main and solemn liturgical celebration of Christmas. Midnight Mass will begin at midnight, i.e. 12:00 am on December 25th.

The church will open at 11:00 pm, a musical prelude will held at 11:30 pm, and the parking lot at the school will be available that evening for the convenience of those who will be driving. Please plan on joining us with your families and friends for our parish celebration of Christmas Midnight Mass or at our parish Masses on Christmas Day remembering that greatest gift the God the Father gave to our world of His Son, Jesus is the reason for this holy season.

Papal Words to Ponder

“With eyes set on Christmas, which is approaching, the Church invites us to give witness that Jesus is not a figure from the past. He is the word of God who today continues illuminating the path of man. His actions, the sacraments, are the manifestations of the tenderness, of the consolation, of the love of the Father for each human being.”

— Pope

Francis, December 14, 2014 Angelus Address

Did You Know?

Originally the birth of Jesus was celebrated as part of the feast of the Epiphany. Around 330 AD, the Church in Rome designated December 25th for the celebration of Christmas. This was done primarily as a way for Christians to counteract the Roman feast of the “*Birthday of the Sun*” which took place on December 25th. Also, this date coincided with the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year for daylight. Liturgically, it is a helpful way to highlight Jesus as the true light coming into the world as described in the Prologue of the Gospel of John (1:4-5, 9)

The tradition of celebrating a Christmas midnight Mass originated in the pious belief that Christ was born at that hour. Similar to the Gospel injunction in which no one knows the day or hour of the Lord's return, neither do we know the exact date or hour of Jesus' birth.

Christmas Charity Drive

Once again, many thanks to all who gave gifts of new toys and clothing for children, youth, teenagers and families as part of our Christmas Charity Drive. The Cardinal McCloskey Center was overwhelmed by our parish's generous response when the items were delivered on December 9th.

Also, another 6 bags of donations were received at last weekend's Masses after our parish Christmas Charity Drive had concluded. These gifts were brought to Visitation Parish for their collection to assist the Sisters of Charity outreach to families in need. The generous spirit of the Kingsbridge Catholic Community shines forth as a joyful sign of hope in this holy season.

Still Looking For Religious Christmas Cards

If so, please stop by the parish office. Boxes of assorted religious Christmas are available at the cost of \$5.00. Using religious Christmas cards is a helpful way for us as Catholics to “keep Christ in Christmas.”

HIS WORD TODAY
by Rev. William J. Reilly

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2014

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; hence, the holy offspring to be born will be called Son of God... To him who is able to strengthen you in the gospel which I proclaim when I preach Jesus Christ, the gospel which reveals the mystery hidden for many ages... to him, the God who alone is wise, may glory be given through Jesus Christ unto endless ages. Amen.”

Gabriel's response to Mary's question of how this can happen, reveals the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in her life and in the lives of believers. We sometimes forget the existence of this gift and power in our lives. As we bring the season of advent to its climax with the birth of Christ, we ask that He be born anew, with new power in our lives. We not only recall the Bethlehem event, but live the Bethlehem experience today.

The concluding words of praise, the doxology or hymn of glory taken from the letter to the Romans, becomes a Christmas gift and greeting for all of us, as we are called to preach the Good News, glad tidings, the gospel, no longer hidden but made manifest in the Child of Bethlehem and in enthusiastic believers today. May the Word of God, and the Word which became flesh, take root in our lives.

Christmas Flowers

Specially marked envelopes are available in the church for those who wish to donate with the upcoming decoration of both the upper and lower church for Christmas with flowers and poinsettias.

SU PALABRA HOY
por el Reverendo William J. Reilly

Cuarto Domingo de Adviento
21 de diciembre de 2014

“El Espíritu Santo descenderá sobre ti y el poder del Altísimo te cubrirá con su sombra. Por eso el niño será Santo y será llamado Hijo de Dios... que tiene el poder de afianzarlos, según la Buena Noticia que yo anuncio, proclamando a Jesucristo, y revelando un misterio que fue guardado en secreto desde la eternidad... a Dios, el único sabio, por Jesucristo, sea la gloria eternamente Amén.”

La respuesta de San Gabriel a la pregunta de María de cómo es esto posible, revela el poder y la presencia del Espíritu Santo en su vida y en la vida de los creyentes. A veces olvidamos la existencia de este don y su poder en nuestras vidas. A medida que llegamos al climax de la época de adviento con el nacimiento de Cristo, pedimos que nazca El de nuevo, con nuevo poder en nuestras vidas. Nosotros no sólo recordamos el evento de Belén, sino que vivimos la experiencia de Belén hoy.

Las finales palabras de alabanza, la doxología o himno de gloria tomado de la carta a los romanos, se convierte en un don y saludo para todos nosotros, al ser llamados a predicar las Buenas Nuevas, buenas noticias, el evangelio, ya no más escondido sino manifestado en el Niño de Belén, y en los entusiastas creyentes de hoy. Que la Palabra de Dios, y la Palabra que se convirtió en carne tome raíz en nuestras vidas.

