

Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 7, 2014



WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THIS WEEK'S DONATIONS

The Altar Candles burning in the Lower Church
for the week of December 7-13 in memory of:

BROTHER PETER STEWART, FSC

The Sanctuary Lamp burning in the Upper
Church for the week of December 7-13 in
memory of:

MARCHI and ROCCUZZO FAMILIES

The Sanctuary Lamp burning in the Lower
Church for the week of December 7-13 in
memory of:

BROTHER JOSEPH MURPHY, FSC

Sunday, December 7, Second Sunday of Advent

5:00 +John, Flo & John Joe Sullivan
8:30 Parishioners of St. John
10:00 (Sp) + Leopersia, Espifanio, Ramon,
Pedro, Agustin, Sergio and
Pedro Jose Rosario
11:30 + Brian McDonnell
1:00 (Sp) +Alex and Luis Ortiz and
Hector Brito

Monday, December 8, Feast of Immaculate Conception

9:00 + Fidelina Medina
12:15 + Julia Marchi & Joseph Rocuzzo
7:00 (Sp.) + Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday, December 9, Advent Weekday

9:00 + Maria Cruz
12:15 + William, Mary & Patrick Kennedy
7:00 (Sp.) + Rafael Francisco

Wednesday, December 10, Advent, Weekday

9:00 + Brother Joseph Murphy, FSC
12:15 + Robert McCarthy

Thursday, December 11, Advent Weekday

9:00 Intentions of Patrick J, Scanlon
12:15 + Dagoberto Estrada

Friday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe

9:00 + Brother Peter Stewart, FSC
12:15 + Helen Armstrong
7:00(Sp) Mass of Thanksgiving

Saturday, December 13, St. Lucy

12:15 + Patrick & Mary O'Keefe
5:00 + Anna Sweetnam

Sunday, December 14, Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 Parishioners of St. John
10:00 (Sp.) + Dulce Rosario & Napoleon
Cabral
11:30 + John, Jean & Bobby Tramontozzi
1:00(Sp.) + Agustina Morel vda. Medina

Celebrating the Advent Season

Special brochures *Prepare The Way! Advent Prayers and Customs* are available in the church describing in greater detail various *Advent* customs and traditions associated with this liturgical season. This pamphlet offers a helpful way for prayerful reflection and preparation in our busy lives along with taking the time to celebrate this sacred season.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Monday December 8th is the *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, a holy day of obligation. Masses will be celebrated at 9:00 am and 12:15 pm in English and 7:00 pm in Spanish. Also, the parish office will be closed in observance of the holy day.

The origin of this feast dates back to 7th century with the "*Feast of the Conception of Mary by St. Anne.*" In 1708, Pope Clement XI in his papal bull, *Commissi Nobis* established this solemnity for the entire church to observe and celebrate liturgically. *The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary* is the patronal feast day for the United States of America and recalls Mary's fidelity to God as an entire way of life to be emulated.

Remember to Check the Church Bulletin Boards

Notices and flyers of local area and Archdiocesan upcoming events and activities, that are often not included in our parish bulletin due to space limitation, are posted on the church bulletin boards. You may wish to take the time to read them; perhaps you may find something that may interest you.

Reconciliation Monday

"Prepare the Way of the Lord" Mark 1:3

St. John's Parish will be joining other parishes throughout the Archdiocese of New York with offering opportunities for individual confessions on Monday December 15th from 4:00 to 8:00 PM. Please spread the word, consider inviting and accompanying someone who has not celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for awhile to prepare for the celebration of Christmas by experiencing God's love, mercy, and forgiveness.

Final Call for Christmas Charity Drive Donations

"Whatever you did for one of these least ones, you did it for me." Matthew 25:40

Monday December 8th will be the last day that our parish will be accepting donations so that the Cardinal McCloskey Center will be able to distribute the gifts of new toys and new clothing to children, youth, and teenagers in time for Christmas. Many thanks to those who have responded to this request to help brighten the holidays for others.

Next Weekend's Second Collection Retirement Fund for Religious

The annual Archdiocesan collection for the *Retirement Fund for Religious* will be taken up at our parish Masses next weekend December 13-14. As Cardinal Dolan reminds us in his letter about this special collection:

"Most elderly religious worked for years for small stipends, leaving a substantial gap in retirement savings. With the ever-rising cost of healthcare and an increase in the number of those needing care, many religious communities now struggle to provide for their senior members. The *Retirement Fund for Religious* offers vital financial assistance to help meet day-to-day needs for prescription medications, nursing care, and more.

The annual collection is an opportunity for each of us to give thanks to the Lord for our senior religious, and so I ask simply that you give what you can. Please join me in supporting the *Retirement Fund for Religious* and in praying for God's continued blessing upon our elderly religious sisters, religious brothers, and religious order priests."

Parish Website

If you have digital photos from our recent parish events and would like to submit them for possible consideration to be posted on our parish website, www.churchofstjohnbx.org please send them to our parish e-mail address stjohnkingsbridge@yahoo.com

Year of Consecrated Life

Pope Francis has called for a special *Year of Consecrated Life* to begin on November 30, 2014, the First Sunday of Advent and will close on February 2, 2016, the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.

In his November 29th message for the *Year of Consecrated Life*, Pope Francis notes:

"The Year for Consecrated Life concerns not only consecrated persons, but the entire Church. Consequently, I ask the whole Christian people to be increasingly aware of the gift which is the presence of our many consecrated men and women, heirs of the great saints who have written the history of Christianity. What would the Church be without Saint Benedict and Saint Basil, without Saint Augustine and Saint Bernard, without Saint Francis and Saint Dominic, Saint Ignatius of Loyola and Saint Teresa of Avila, Saint Angelica Merici and Saint Vincent de Paul. The list could go on and on, up to Saint John Bosco and Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.

As Blessed Paul VI pointed out: "Without this concrete sign there would be a danger that the charity which animates the entire Church would grow cold, that the salvific paradox of the Gospel would be blunted, and that the "salt" of faith would lose its savor in a world undergoing secularization" (*Evangelica Testificatio*, 3).

So I invite every Christian community to experience this Year above all as a moment of thanksgiving to the Lord and grateful remembrance for all the gifts we continue to receive, thanks to the sanctity of founders and foundresses, and from the fidelity to their charism shown by so many consecrated men and women. I ask all of you to draw close to these men and women, to rejoice with them, to share their difficulties and to assist them, to whatever degree possible, in their ministries and works, for the latter are, in the end, those of the entire Church. Let them know the affection and the warmth which the entire Christian people feels for them."

Making All Things New: The Merger of our Kingsbridge Catholic Parishes

Next weekend, the parish administrators of both St. John and Visitation parishes will be exchanging places by celebrating weekend English Masses at the other site. Fr. John McCarthy will be here at St. John's Church while Fr. Michael Kerrigan will be at Visitation Church.

Beginning in early 2015, discussions and future planning involving both Visitation and St. John parishes will commence to implement this merger. What will emerge in shaping a new Catholic parish community in Kingsbridge has yet to be determined.

Your prayers, patience, and understanding during this time of major transition in the Archdiocese of New York are greatly appreciated and much needed.

HIS WORD TODAY
by Rev. William J. Reilly
Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2014

“Thus it is that John the Baptizer appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance which led to the forgiveness of sins...The theme of his preaching was: ‘One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie his sandal straps. I have baptized you in water; he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.’...So, beloved, while waiting for this, make every effort to be found without stain or defilement, and at peace in his sight.”

We hear the message of John the Baptist so frequently that it might fall on deaf ears. He called, yes, challenged his listeners to examine their lives, change their way of living and in the words of Peter to be without stain or defilement.

In the past there were few detergents. One brand or another was used for all laundry needs. We then became sensitive to retaining colors and not too harsh on fabrics. Special products were developed to remove stains and those tricky spots. They speak of the power found in products to achieve a perfect wash.

Although advent is a time of anticipation and waiting, our preparedness is of great importance. Four short weeks allow us to focus on the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the power the Spirit pours into our lives. Are we serious about advent? Do we need that power today? Am I committed to preparing the way of the Lord in my own life, at home, with those who enter the circle of my friends? Do I speak of my spiritual preparation and not just shopping for gifts? The gift of the Spirit of Jesus is the reason for our advent.

Together let us prepare the way of the Lord.

SU PALABRA HOY
por el Reverendo William J. Reilly
Segundo Domingo de Adviento
7 de diciembre de 2014

“Así se presentó Juan el Bautista en el desierto, proclamando un bautismo de conversión para el perdón de los pecados. Predicaba, diciendo: ‘Detrás de mí vendrá el que es más poderoso que yo, y yo ni siquiera soy digno de ponerme a sus pies para desatar la correa de sus sandalias. Yo los he bautizado a ustedes con agua, pero él los bautizará con el Espíritu Santo.’... Por eso, queridos hermanos, mientras esperan esto, procuren vivir de tal manera que él los encuentre en paz, sin mancha ni reproche.”

Escuchamos el mensaje de Juan el Bautista tan frecuentemente que pueda que su mensaje se pierda. El llamó, retó a sus oyentes a examinar sus vidas, cambiar su forma de vivir y según las palabras de San Pedro, a vivir sin mancha ni reproche.

En el pasado habían pocos detergentes para lavar. Una u otra marca se usaban para todas las necesidades de lavandería. Luego nos volvimos sensibles a retener colores, a detergentes para artículos delicados. Se desarrollaron productos especiales para remover manchas difíciles. Ellos hablan del poder que los productos que logran la lavada perfecta tienen.

A pesar de que el adviento es una época de anticipación y espera, el estar preparados de gran importancia. Cuatro cortas semanas nos permite enfocarnos en el bautismo en el Espíritu Santo y el poder que el Espíritu derrocha en nuestras vidas. ¿Tomamos el adviento con seriedad? ¿Necesitamos ese poder hoy? ¿Estoy comprometido a preparar el camino del Señor en mi propia vida, en el hogar, con aquellos que entran a mi círculo de amigos? ¿Hablo de mi preparación espiritual y no sólo de compras de regalos? El don del Espíritu de Jesús es la razón de nuestro adviento.

Preparemos juntos el camino del Señor.