

+ MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sat., 12/24 **4:00 PM** John & Philomena Payne
 Anthony & Jean Di Maggio
 Joseph Goffredo
 Patricia Hazuda
 The People of the Parish

6:00 PM Rosa & Jorge Pedraza
 Anthony DeIntinis
 Adele Ciolino
 The People of the Parish

11:00 PM Bill Delaney
 Charles & Rose Sanzo
 Sylvester and Margaret Reidinger
 Agnes & Ben Welch
 The People of the Parish

Sun., 12/25 **8:00 AM** The Russin Family
 Peg Collins
 Martha Entenmann
 The People of the Parish

10:30 AM Thomas Strout
 dePierro & Lopardi Families
 William & Filomena Coppola
 The People of the Parish

Mon., 12/26 **8:30 AM** Michael Barnhart

Tues., 12/27 **8:30 AM** Chris Grau

Wed., 12/28 **8:30 AM** Elaine Albin

Thurs., 12/29 **8:30 AM** Barbara Henneberry

Sat., 12/31 **5:00 PM** Sheridan & De Nova Families
 Neil Sullivan
 John and Mercedes Pereira
 The People of the Parish

Sun., 1/1 **8:00 AM** Ted Wieder
 Mary Torsillo
 Margaret McBride

10:30 AM Marian Frank
 Tom Rafferty
 Ashley Cistaro



SUNDAY, December 25th, 2016
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD – CHRISTMAS

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Isaiah rejoices that God is bringing his exiled people home to Jerusalem. He calls out to the people to be glad because God will restore Jerusalem.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

Paul explains to the Hebrews that although God had spoken through the prophets, people could not always completely understand the message. Now God has spoken to us by sending Jesus, the son, a reflection of God's glory and forgiver of our sins.

Gospel: John 1:1-18

John describes how the Word came into the world in the form of Jesus. All those who accept Jesus become children of God by sharing in Jesus' love. No one has seen God, but through Jesus, God was revealed to us.

UP-COMING EVENTS

- December 26 – Office Closed
- January 8 – Baptism Anniversary Mass (10:30 am)
- January 8 – CCD classes resume
- January 14 – Bishop Serratelli visit at 5 pm Mass

GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

Our Weekly Collection	December 18th, 2016
Regular	\$ 3,692.00
Electronic	\$ 1,928.00
Total	\$ 5,260.00
Weekly Collection Goal	\$ 6,500.00
Week's surplus/(deficit)	(\$ 880.00)





SANCTUARY LAMP

In honor of the Lord's presence, our Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week, beginning December 25th, for **Joseph Breslauer**, brother of Gerald at the request of Noreen.



Congratulations! On Saturday, December 10th, our Second Grade Religious Ed. students received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Thank you Sr. Myla and Sr. Philomena for a job well done.

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY 12/25	MONDAY 12/26	TUESDAY 12/27	WEDNESDAY 12/28
8:00 AM MASS 10:30 AM MASS 	8:30 AM MASS Office Closed	8:30 AM MASS 12 NOON AA Meeting	8:30 AM MASS
THURSDAY 12/29	FRIDAY 12/30	SATURDAY 12/31	SUNDAY 1/1
8:30 AM Mass 3:00 PM Care One		4:15 pm Confessions 5:00 PM MASS	8:00 AM MASS 10:30 AM MASS 



PARISH PRAYER LIST

If you wish to place a name on the Prayer List, please call the Church Office (973-884-1986).

PRAYERS NEEDED

Prayer to Saint Raphael Angel of the Sick

May the Angel, Raphael, physician in care of our health, come down from heaven to cure all who are sick, especially, Gail Egan, Dona Van, Irene Dekker, Rocco Martone, Susan McSulla, Erin Cox, Roxanne Klein, Rachel Brzostowski, Alex Garfinkel, Jack Gumersall, Jean Burge, Ben Spitzer, Patricia Baio, Judy Grasso, Joseph Percoco, Bob Lapin, Daniel Paglia, Kyle O'Brien, Mark Berkowitz, Alan Kohler, Stefanie Appel, Anthony Michael LaSpina, Peyton Zitelli, Joseph Bach, William DeGrosky, Marcia Kirincich, Ida Kelly, Margie Benefico, Ralph Valentino, Christopher Plaxe, Chang-Chang Chen, Sienna Ferrugio, Kendra Bramble, Nancy Willans, Jane Zegarski, Andrew Bergman, Joan Lent, Ethel Illuzzi, Gil Peterson, Jim Frederick, Sebastian Quinn, John Oscovitch, Rosemary Hill, Linda Gearty, Megan Szaloczy, George Loveland, Dorothy May, Niula Naughton, Norma Scinto, Justin Brown, Erika Gruisc, Fred Seelmann, Mimi Mutty, Dana Pierce, John Mulhall, Emil Schneider, Phyllis Wyks, Fr. John Pierce OFM, Robert Kanaley, Msgr. Leo Carey, Anita Nurge, Carla Fresco, Mary Pat Kelly, Dwight Bellinger, Ree Feller, Susan Katsekas, Lois Grablutz, Rudy Gottschalk, Austin McBride, Sharon Acquaire, Mary Zegarski, Sam Frisoli, Connie Bravo, Richard Laudino Frank Laudino and Arthur Shanahan. Be with us, O Archangel, called the Medicine of God; drive away diseases of the body and bring good health to our minds.



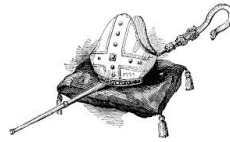
A PRAYER FOR OUR TROOPS

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them, and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need, and bring them home safely. May their sacrifices bring about a lasting and just peace to those lands. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Savior. Amen. St. Ann pray for our men and women in the service.

HOPE HOUSE items needed for January: peanut butter, pasta, spaghetti sauce, juice, canned whole kernel corn, baking mixes, mustard, ketchup, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, toothpaste, deodorant.



...that after the 8:30 AM daily Mass we pray the Rosary? All are welcome, please join us!



The Bishop is Coming!

On Saturday, January 14th, 2017 Bishop Arthur Serratelli will visit St. Ann Church and preside at the 5 pm Mass. Let's give a warm welcome to the Bishop, and show our great and loving parish community.

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Grateful Appreciation to all who supported the Christmas Giving Tree. 455 angels were placed on the tree, and every angel was taken and returned with a gift.

Thank you to Lauren Nelson who organized this project for more than 20 years. You really have it down to a science! Thank you to the Confirmation Class for cutting out the Angles, and coming in on Sunday to separate the gifts. God Bless each of you. Happy Christmas!

Sr. Frances

ALL SAINTS ACADEMY CORNER

Christmas Blessings from All Saints Academy



The students and families and the faculty and staff of All Saints Academy wish our parishioners a very blessed and joyous Christmas. May the wondrous birth of Jesus, the Christ-Child, bring peace and love to

all. We are blessed by your presence in the life of our school, and we continue to pray for a New Year filled with hope and joy.

The Student Council Association is sponsoring Pictures with Santa on Wednesday, December 21st, 9-11:30 a.m. at All Saints Academy. Cost is \$5 per print. No appointment needed. Prints will be mounted in cardboard frames and ready for pick up by Friday 12/23. Please visit the website at www.allsaintspar.org for the form which can be faxed at 973-334-0622. For information please call 973-334-4704.

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BAPTISM ANNIVERSARY MASS

The Community of Saint Ann will celebrate an Anniversary Mass for all those baptized during 2016 on The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 10:30 AM. All are welcome to a reception in the Church atrium immediately following the Mass.



The Nativity of the Lord

I wish all members of our parish a blessed Christmas. You will be remembered at all the Masses celebrated on this Solemnity of Christmas. I also **thank you for your generosity and goodness during my first six months here at St. Ann.** You answered the call to help with our many parish fundraisers and more. I appreciate your support of our parish.

I know the Christmas and New Year's holidays are busy times for many people; returning and exchanging gifts, preparing food for holiday dinners, increased house cleaning for guests, etc. I ask you to take a few minutes out of your day each day to spend time giving thanks to God for the many gifts he gives us. On that first Christmas, Mary and Joseph were not concerned about having enough Christmas gifts under the Christmas tree. Rather, they were concerned about bringing the Son of God into this world. Yes, it's all well and good to put cookies and milk out for Santa Claus on Christmas Eve (and carrots for the reindeer), but please do not forget the "reason for the season," and celebrate the Nativity of the Lord.

An Overview of Christmas Time

Advent leads us to the joy of Christmas Time. **For Catholics, Christmas is more than just one day; it is an entire period of liturgical time.** The duration of Christmas Time demonstrates how sacred the memorial of Christ's birth and the early manifestations of the Savior of the World are to believers. Next to the yearly celebration of the Paschal Mystery during the Sacred Paschal Triduum and Easter Time, these are the days the Church holds most sacred.

Christmas Time runs from Evening Prayer 1 of Christmas through the Sunday after Epiphany, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. However, in 2017, since the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord is celebrated on Sunday, January 8th, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is transferred to the following Monday, January 9th. During these days, we celebrate all that we prepared for during Advent. The lights in the church are bright to reflect the brightness of the Lord's glory shining throughout the world. Through his birth, life, Death, and Resurrection, he once and for all overcame the darkness.

Christmas Time concludes with the celebration of another manifestation feast: the Baptism of the Lord. During the event of Jesus' baptism, proclaimed this year from Matthew's account of the Gospel, the Spirit of God descends on Jesus, and a voice from heaven identifies him as "my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). Jesus' identity as the Son of God and Messiah is made known in this event. Moreover, just as Jesus' baptism marks the beginning of his public ministry, our Baptism marks the beginning of our life in the world as his disciples.

Peace,
Fr. David



St. Ann's Social Seniors invites all to celebrate the **Feast of St. Joseph** on **March 28th, 11:30 am to 3:30 pm** at **Li Greci's Staaten, in Staten Island.** Featuring the M&M Boys, Steve Maglio and Chris Monty, Sinatra singer and comedian duo, and dancing to the Gondolier Show Band. **Cost is \$54.00, departure from St. Ann Church at 9:15 pm and return at 5:30 pm. Please call Grace Jensen at (973) 335-1506 for discount prices, menu and reservations.** We hope to see you there!

San Giuseppe vecchiarello, cosa avete nel cestello?...

St. Ann's Social Seniors meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 11 AM at the Parsippany Community Center on 1130 Knoll Road in Lake Hiawatha. Parsippany residents 60 and older are welcome. For information, call Emilio Prisco at 973-887-6655. Come join the fun!



Thank you all for welcoming me in your parish and for all the gifts, laughs and good advice!

I pray the coming year brings to you,
St. Ann community, my new family,
joy, love and many blessings.
Merry Christmas! Buon Natale!

Love, Claudette

YOGA for the New Year

Begin the New Year with St. Ann's yoga class! 8-week classes for all levels, inspiring rejuvenation, relaxation and balance. The instructor is Ellen Fahy, graduate of the American Yoga Academy with a Yoga Alliance 500 Hour Certificate. Thursday classes are January 5, 12, 29, 26, February 2, 9, 16, 23, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM. Cost of the 8 week session is \$40. To register, call Ellen at 973-960-5811 or email ellenmfahy@gmail.com. Please bring a mat and towel to class.

ORIGIN OF "THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS" – An Underground Catechism by Fr. Hal Stockert, Fishnet

You're all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" I think. To most it's a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But **it had a quite serious purpose when it was written.** It is a good deal more than just a repetitious melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts. **Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law - private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic.**

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as **one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith** - a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in *writing* indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged...

The song's gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor; it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. **In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..."** The other symbols mean the following:

- 2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments
- 3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
- 4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or Evangelists
- 5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
- 6 Geese a-laying = the Six days of Creation

- 7 Swans a-swimming = the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit / the Seven Sacraments
- 8 Maids a-milking = the Eight Beatitudes
- 9 Ladies Dancing = the Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 Lords a-leaping = the Ten Commandments
- 11 Pipers Piping = the Eleven Faithful Apostles
- 12 Drummers Drumming = the Twelve Points of Doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – December 31st 2016/ January 1st 2017

MINISTRY	5:00 P.M.	8:00 A.M.	10:30 A.M.
Ministers of Holy Communion	I. & T. Campos, Hubner, Deacon, Goddard, Marchese	Capuzzi, Herdin, Deacon	Gonzalez, Santo, Beneduce, Deacon, Montanaro, Philipps
Lectors	1. Mary Gerepka 2. Austin McBride	1. Dennis Bissig 2. Kathy Iradi	1. Joe Pisauro 2. Mary-Ann Lewis
Altar Servers	D. and S. Spada, K. Goddard	K. and S. Tkach, A. Pierro	A. and B. Hiltz, M. Cohen
Hospitality	Como, Trypuc		Puchalski, Maquieira
Troy Hills Nursing Home	Jan. 16th: Mass G. Bissig, N. Beneduce, D. Cecala, M. Urbanik		Jan. 23rd Prayer Service: V. Blazovic, L. Conte, J. Rigoli, S. Carmeli, F. & M. La Spina