

ST. JOHN VIANNEY – MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, Dec. 16
5:00 PM – Healing for Patricia Lick

SUNDAY, Dec. 17
8:00 AM + (for healing) Henry Magnusen/ Massenzio Family
10:00 AM + Parents

SATURDAY, Dec. 23 4th Sun of Advent
5:00 PM – healing for Sheila Rhoades

SUNDAY, Dec. 24 4th Sun of Advent
10:00 AM – For the People of the Parish

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE – MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, Dec. 16
5:00 PM + Margaret Libonati / Elaine Keeler

SUNDAY, Dec. 17
9:00 AM + Family & Friends of the Cokinos/Sullivan Fam.
Nick & Kathy Cokinos
11:00 AM + Carol Angelucci / her Husband Jim

MONDAY, Dec. 18
7:30 PM + Chester Pajor & living & deceased member of the Little & Pajor family / his wife & children

TUESDAY, Dec. 19
8:00 AM + Lucy Cox / Mary Buda
7:00 PM – Rosary

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 20
8:00 AM + Daniel Carretta

THURSDAY, Dec. 21
8:00 AM + Evelyn Geary / Gerald Geary

FRIDAY, Dec. 22
8:00 AM + Rosario Talbo / Rosemary Wood

SATURDAY, Dec. 23 4th Sun of Advent
5:00 PM + Lucia O'Meara / Pat Snouffer

SUNDAY, Dec. 24 4th Sun of Advent
10:00 AM – Parish Family of STA

THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE MILITARY

USAF Airman James Perez
Cpl. Michael Koval, USMC
PFC Jonathan Cuervo, USMC
PFC Anthony Imperato, USMC
Let us keep them in our prayers.

In honor of the Military serving our country at home and abroad, we invite you to remain after the Recessional Song at all weekend Masses to recite three Hail Mary's for their safety.



OPLATKI
CHRISTMAS WAFERS
ARE AVAILABLE AS
YOU LEAVE MASS
THIS WEEKEND

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 17, 2017



Dear Parish Family:



Today we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, meaning rejoice, in Latin. We rejoice this Sunday, knowing that we are over halfway through this period of preparation and that Jesus' coming is so close that we can feel it in our very being. We will sing, "My soul rejoices in my God" in the responsorial psalm. Let us take a moment today to put all the Christmas planning and worries aside and reflect on the wonderful gift God gave us in Jesus.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Dec 23 – 5:00 pm at both Churches
Dec 24 10:00 am - both Churches (for 4th Sunday of Advent)

CHRISTMAS EVE (BOTH CHURCHES)

Dec. 24 – 5 pm and Midnight (12:00 am)

CHRISTMAS DAY (BOTH CHURCHES)

Dec. 25 – 10:00 am

NEW YEAR'S DAY – JAN 1ST 9:00 AM (BOTH CHURCHES)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

On Monday evenings during Advent the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated @ STA Church before and after the 7:30 pm Mass. Holy Hour begins at 6:30 pm.

Before and after Masses on Saturdays

You can also call the Rectory for an appointment at any time during the day.



PRAYER FOR LIFE: That we may prepare for the new heaven and new earth by fostering respect and protection for all human life, including the unborn, we pray.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Brennan McCoy, Veronica Janssen, Kathy Brennan, Bill Povalitis, Aaron Alonzo, Tony Cabrera, Adela Glusiec, Sal Giello, Sal D 'Arco, , Marie Claude Jerome & Family, Msgr. Brendan P. Madden, Kevin Wickert, Betty Klein, Fumiko Lutz, Patricia Carapola & Bob Carapola, Courtney Sanchelli, Danny Scillieri, Gail Brennan, Fr. Michael Burke, Fr. Ron Sordillo, Louis "Louie" Panetta, Rich Day, Vicki Cardinali, Richard Lavelle, Marion Coleson, Chris Osborne, Rose Kelly, Stephen Vecchiotti, Devon Carbery, Bishop emeritus Frank J. Rodimer, Vincent Ottani, Kathleen Peterson, Mrs. Karas, Linda Albecker, Ernie Sudo, Gloria Fetter, Penny Sorokach (nursing home), Brandon Wozniak, and Sheila Rhoades.

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED:



Carolyn Wright, Regina McCartney, Bill Braccone, Michael Adams, Joseph Wyso, Jim Fierro, Loretta Perrucci, Theodore Ciesla, Lewis Kansas, Margaret Babich, John Mahon, Elvira Budesheim, Robert Olivieri, Pauline Diliberto, Sam Carabello, Alex D'Arco, Gene Keeler, Joan Cartier, John Habuda, Timothy Egan, Michael Kaiser, Margaret Godar, Anna Annucci, Eugene Ambrosio, Rosa Bascietto, Elena Galfo, George Dick, Elizabeth Minardi, Leah Mary Cummings, Jack Straus, Eileen Carbery, Stasia Wargo, Wladyslaw Kowalski, Marjorie (Peggy) Zajdel, Evelyn Geary, Shirley Brown, Marge Endlicher, Gary Smitheman, Chris Hirsch, Joan France, Rev. Fr. William Michael

George (nephew of Nancy & Jim Zajdel), Esther Benard, Vincent Ginella, Marguerite Socci, Chris Woop, Antoinette Sterlaci, Mark Hale, Esther Punturieri, Lucy Cox, Claire Reilly, Joseph Romano, Fr. Bob Hooper, Madeline Mae Greischel, James Geary, Fr John Kenney C.S.P., John Zboraj, Helen Rogers, William Noriega, Gary Feiner and James Glenn Beury.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK? In what way do I witness the presence of Jesus in my life as I prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world 2,000 years ago?

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Anyone requesting a prayer shawl should fill out a form in the lobby of STA and leave the completed form in the basket. We will contact you with a time to pick up your shawl. For immediate need, please call Gabby Dyl at 973-713-0280. The Prayer Shawl ministry meets at STA at 7:30 pm the first Thursday of the month: next meeting is **Jan 4**, please join us. For more info. Call Renee Ferreri: 518-321-523.



FAMILY CONNECTION: In family life, we learn to trust other people for protection and care. This experience of trust within the family enables children to believe us when we testify about our faith in Jesus. John the Baptist was believed by those who heard him because he helped them to recognize Jesus in their midst. In our family life, we hope and pray that we lead one another to recognize Jesus' presence in our world.



Helping Hands is a combined parish community service group. If you are in need of any type of help, or if you know someone who needs help, please contact Gabrielle Dyl at 973-713-0280.

We are also searching for more volunteers! Open to all ages! This is a great way for the youth to get community service hours needed for Confirmation and Scouts.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE - ADOPT A FAMILY

Wrapping: This Sunday, December 17 after 11:00 Mass
DECORATING STA CHURCH for Christmas also after the 11:00 am Mass

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION (HOLY HOUR)

Eucharistic Adoration held in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at STA on Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. is a wonderful opportunity for quiet contemplation. Several parishioners who have attended these holy hours expressed their contentment with it. Although you may not be able to attend every Monday evening try to come at least sometimes.

Come to all who are weary

This is a long time Saint Thomas the Apostle tradition. After Mass, there is a short novena to St. Peregrine said for those suffering with cancer and HIV/AIDS. The Lord is always calling: "Come to all who are weary and I will refresh you". Come join us.

REJOICE: Be filled with joy. Pray constantly. Give God thanks because the Lord expects us to give thanks and praise in Christ Jesus. Jesus comes with good news to free us and to clothe us with salvation. With the bridal cloak to shield us, the church helps us witness to the bright divine light of the Lord in our lives. Each event in our life is part of the coming of the Lord; John the Baptizer announces Jesus' arrival. Will we receive him-with his cross- joyfully? *Text, Philip J. Sandstrom, STD © 1999, OCP.*

SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON TO BE HONORED IN CONVENT STATION

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth cordially invite you to join them for the Feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and the Seton Associate Commitment Ceremony.



Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, January 6, 2018, at Holy Family Chapel, Convent Station, NJ, at 11:00 a.m. The Mass will be followed by a light lunch in the study hall of the Academy of Saint Elizabeth. The Heritage Room at the Motherhouse will be open for a display of Mother Seton memorabilia. For more information call 973-290-5470. In case of inclement weather call (973) 290-5478. Snow date is January 13, 2018.



At St. Thomas the Apostle Church this past weekend we experienced the great talents of our Adult Choir, Children's Choir and the talented Fifth Grade students. Under the direction of Dr. Eric Stroud, our Director of Music, we were treated to the "Best Christmas Pageant Ever", as so many in attendance exclaimed.

Thanks also to the many youth volunteers who helped the Children in preparation for the pageant. Special kudos to Jeannie Stroud for all the time and effort in preparing the children with their costumes and set, and to the countless parents who assisted in the production.

We are truly blessed to have such talented parishioners who helped in making this pageant "The Best"!!!

WHAT ARE THE "O" ANTIPHONS?



Christmas carols, Advent wreaths, Christmas trees, Midnight Mass, and ginger cookies—whether they are family or Church customs, the many traditions associated with the Advent and Christmas seasons make these special times of the year for us. One of these ancient traditions is the **O Antiphons: seven responses, or antiphons, that are sung or recited to introduce the canticle of Mary (the Magnificat) at evening prayer from December 17 to December 23, the octave before Christmas.** These antiphons are based on Isaiah's prophecies and refer to the different ancient titles given to the Messiah:

- O Sapientia (O Wisdom) See Isaiah 11:2-3; 28:29.
- O Adonai (O Lord) See Isaiah 11:4-5; 33:22.
- O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse) See Isaiah 1:1; 11:10.
- O Clavis David (O Key of David) See Isaiah 9:6; 22:22.
- O Oriens (O Rising Sun) See Isaiah 9:1.
- O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations) See Isaiah 9:5; 2:4.
- O Emmanuel (God with us) See Isaiah 7:14.

We can bring these responses into our own prayers, as simple reminders throughout the day of the one whose coming we are joyfully expecting, as introductions to our own prayers of praise of Jesus, or as words of thanksgiving for God's faithfulness throughout the ages and our lives. Regardless of how you incorporate these ancient words into your Advent prayer life, let them speak to you, and maybe they will become part of your family traditions.

YOU DID IT FOR ME



The mission of Catholic Relief Services is to assist impoverished and disadvantaged people overseas, working in the spirit of Catholic social teaching to promote the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the human person. Although our mission is rooted in the Catholic faith, our operations serve people based solely on need, regardless of their race, religion or ethnicity. Within the United States, CRS engages Catholics to live their faith in solidarity with the poor and suffering people of the world. Learn more the mission and work of CRS and its guiding principles.

PROJECT RACHEL: is a process that leads people to healing and reconciliation after an abortion experience. To talk to someone about beginning this journey, please call 973-777-8818, ext. 272. All calls are confidential.

CHOOSE LIFE "The Word became flesh and dwelled among us," St. John's Gospel states. Perhaps if we could look at each unborn child as a word from God, we would be less likely to destroy those children who each have a unique message to share with the world.



Readings for Third Week of Advent

Monday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jdgs. 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

"The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and release to prisoners. To announce a year of favor from the Lord and a day of vindication by our God."

Remember when Jesus read this passage in His synagogue in Nazareth? St. Luke tells us He said 'Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearings.' We often associate this passage at the time of ordination or confirmation. Today it is directed to me and tells me what to expect when the longed for Savior comes. He was 'anointed', the name Christ means the anointed one. He had a mission, He was sent. He had a message 'good news.' He looked for the lowly, the hurting, those bound by addictions and desperation. He came to free and form missionary disciples.

The mission of Jesus is our mission, the mission of the entire church. We are comfortable, but consider fellow Christians throughout the world suffering from poverty, political oppression. Consider missionaries serving the most pitiable people, like Doctors with Borders, the Catholic Near East Welfare Society Workers, and Medical Mission Sisters bringing Isaiah's prompting to fulfillment.

Yes, the spirit of the Lord is upon all of us as we begin week three of Advent. Jesus has gifted us with His mission.

'Come Lord Jesus.'

BAPTISMS

At SJV: the last Sunday of the month either during the 10:30 am Mass **or at 11:45 am.** (Note the change in time)

At STA: the First Sunday of the month - either during the 11:00 a.m. Mass **or at 12:15 pm.** (Note the change in time.)

Couples desiring to have their child baptized **should be active parishioners, attending Mass regularly. Parents must attend a Baptism Preparation Meeting.**

The next meeting will take place at Saint Thomas the Apostle on Monday evening at 7 pm January 8, 2018, March 19 - (CONFIRMATION is March 12 so the class had to be pushed back a week.) May 14 and July 9. To make baptismal arrangements contact the parish office by email: terry@ststthomasjohn.org or call Saint John Vianney at 973-697-6550 / Saint Thomas the Apostle at 973-208-0090.

Knights of Columbus ~ Council Meetings

St. John Vianney Council #12649 meets at Saint John Vianney Church Hall the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Joseph Lamb Council #5510 meets on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at Wiegand Farm - Department for Persons with Disabilities' meeting room. Both meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

MARRIAGES

Prior to your booking of the reception, please call the Parish Office 1 year in advance of the wedding date to allow for proper pre-marital preparation.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday Evening: 4:00 to 4:45 PM.

By request: contact the parish office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

**Saint John Vianney/Saint Thomas the Apostle
Director of Rel. Ed. - debbie@ststthomasjohn.org
CLASSES START: SATURDAY, SEPT 16, 2017**

Grades K-8: Saturday mornings 8:30 - 9:45AM

September - April at White Rock Elementary School.

Combined Confirmation Classes (9th & 10th Grade)

September - April, Bi-Monthly on Sunday mornings at Saint Thomas - Grade 9 - 10:30 AM - Noon Grade 10 - 8:45 AM - 10:15 AM

PARISH MEMBERSHIP: A parishioner is one who belongs to the parish family. As such, he/she is registered and is committed through participation in the life of the parish community by attending mass regularly and by financially supporting your parish. In order for Baptism and Marriages to be administered and Sponsor Certificates, recommendations, etc. to be issued by the office, the person requesting such must be registered and an active member of Saint John Vianney Parish or Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish community. We request that you register at the rectory when you move into our community so that we may be of service to you.

