

**DECEMBER 18, 2016  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**MONDAY**

8:30 Special Intention of Ellen Ormond req. by Roland Mooney

**TUESDAY**

8:30 Dominic Carton req. by the Faherty Family  
Kathleen Nolan req. by Bill & Judy Bosworth

**WEDNESDAY – Saint Peter Canisius**

8:30 Barry Ward req. by Kathy Ward & Family  
Joseph Pietrucha req. by Anna & Simon

**THURSDAY**

8:30 Carol O'Brien req. by Alice Cunningham  
Josephine & Richard Drake req. by Diane Bond

**FRIDAY – Saint John of Kanty**

8:30 Special Intention for Anthony Donadeo req. by Dorothy and Al Piacentine

**SATURDAY – Christmas Eve**

8:30 William G. Geffken req. by his wife, Pat Geffken  
Eleanor & Bernard Beihl Sr. req. by Bernie & Joan Beihl  
4:00 Laura Jean Tilton (25<sup>th</sup> Anniv.) req. by All the Family  
Deceased members of the Connors Family req. by Family  
4:05 William Connors req. by Family  
6:00 Deceased members of the Stehr, Nolan & Hillenbrand Families req. by the children of the Family  
Jose Bonelli req. by the Stock Family  
8:00 Special Intention for Ana & Simon Levin req. by the Geronimo Families  
12:00 Anthony, Beverly & Samantha Stassi req. by Marie Stassi-Driscoll

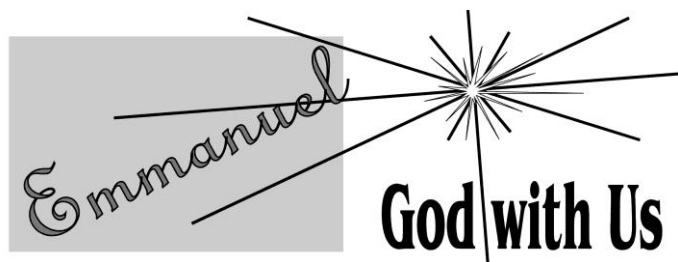
**DECEMBER 25, 2016**

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)**

9:00 John & Pearl Collins req. by Joan & Bernie Beihl  
John Ruiz req. by the Dunn Family  
10:30 Harold McGovern req. by the McGovern Family  
Henry (Bugs) Kedda req. by Dottie Maciejczyk  
12:00 People of the Parish

**PARISH FINANCES**

<b>Immaculate Conception</b>	<b>\$ 2,163</b>
<b>December 11, 2016</b>	<b>\$ 10,633</b>
<b>Diocesan Assessment</b>	<b>\$ 2,413</b>



**REFLECTION**

**Signs of Mercy and Love**

On his deathbed in 1963, Pope John XXIII is reported to have said: "Those who have lived as long as I have ... were enabled to compare different cultures and traditions, and know that the moment has come to discern the signs of the times, to seize the opportunity and to look far ahead." During his short pontificate, he had discerned the signs of the time and fearlessly called for an ecumenical council, a council that he hoped would renew and reform the Church.



Ahaz was told to ask for a sign, but out of fear of wearying the Lord, he refused. Yet a sign was given, a sign we know as incarnation, God who is with us, our Emmanuel. Mary would bear this Son and Joseph would protect and provide for Mary and the Child.

As we approach the Christmas mystery, we are to be a sign of God's presence to one another and to the world. Like St. Paul who was given "the grace of apostleship", we too are called to spread the good news of God's love and mercy revealed in Jesus. As members of the Body of Christ, we are to be a sign and sacrament of God's presence to all those in need.

One way we make present and manifest God's presence is by practicing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. This was the singular message of the now-sainted Pope John XXIII: "God is with us in the mystery of Jesus". He is the sign of divine mercy and love; he is the standard by which we discern the signs of our times.

Bishop Robert Morneau from "Give Us This Day"

<b>Mon.</b>	<b>7:30 PM Advent Penance Service</b>	<b>Church</b>
	<b>8:00 PM Knights of Columbus</b>	<b>McKenna Hall</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>9:00 AM Scripture Sharing</b>	<b>Library</b>
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>6:45 PM BINGO (non-smoking)</b>	<b>McKenna Hall</b>
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>8:30 PM AA</b>	<b>Cassidy Hall</b>
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>8:30 PM AA</b>	<b>McKenna Hall</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>	

**DOGMA TEAM**

Dogma Team meets on Mondays, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM in the Youth Room.

**CATHOLIC ACADEMY OF SUSSEX COUNTY NEWS**



A Note from the Principal: Susan M. Santore  
Pope John Middle XXIII School



Future business leaders are in abundance at Pope John XXIII Middle School. Thanks to the young entrepreneur program, TREP\$, our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students had the opportunity to showcase their creativity and experience real

business ownership with all the work and responsibility that goes along with it. Their efforts culminated at our TREP\$ Christmas Marketplace that took place, Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> in the old gym at Pope John High School. Over 90 middle school students participated and sold their products that they so diligently worked to plan and produce. Many of our young business owners have decided to donate their profits to charities that include, Toys for Tots, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, The American Red Cross, animal rescue organizations, The Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and many others. We are



very proud of their generosity. This is just one of many innovative educational programs available to our students at Pope John XXIII Middle School. For more information, please call us at 973-729-1967 to schedule a

tour or visit our website at [www.popejohnms.org](http://www.popejohnms.org).

**LITURGY**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14**

Ahaz receives from Isaiah a prophecy that he will be successful in war and is urged to ask for a sign that the prophecy is true. The sign is "The virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel."

**Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7**

Paul greets the Romans by pointing out that Jesus is the Christ who was promised to them in Scripture. He, Paul, is the apostle favored with the task of spreading the name of Christ to all.

**Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24**

In a brief, straightforward, simple narrative, Matthew recounts the events leading to Jesus' birth. He details the appearance of the angel in a dream to Joseph and stresses that "All this happened to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophets."

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas)**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 52:7-10

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 1:1-6

**Gospel:** John 1:1-18

**KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Those serving in the military especially: Richard Fox, John Garlasco, Brian McCarthy, Lt. Daniel Faherty, Joseph Venutolo, Cpl. Marc Vero, Sgt. Jeremy Overstreet, Kevin Michael Kiefer, Michael Krapels, Robert Stumpe, USMC, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Curcio, Staff Sgt. Lena Webb, Spc. Samuel Nolan, US Army, Lt. Jamie Curcio, Navy Reserve, 1<sup>ST</sup> Lt. Christopher Tantillo; Cpl. Conor J. Brady, USMC, LCpl. Marc Stanziale, USMC. 1<sup>ST</sup> Lt. Joseph Brunone, US Nat'l Guard, Brandon Adams, USAF. Please continue to pray for all our servicemen and women.

She will have a son  
and name him  
Emmanuel

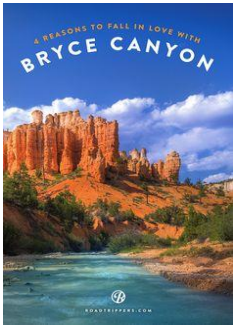


Jesus

## U.S. NATIONAL PARKS TOUR-

MAY 23-June 5, 2017

**ONLY 6 SEATS LEFT!**



Join us on a comfortably-paced, in-depth tour of 6 of the U.S. National Parks, Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons, The Arches, the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, and Monument Park, a tribal park. The grand finale of the trip will be a night in Las Vegas!

*For more information, call the parish office or Judy and Bill Bosworth, 973-729-4629.*

## THE BIRTH HAVEN GIVING TREE

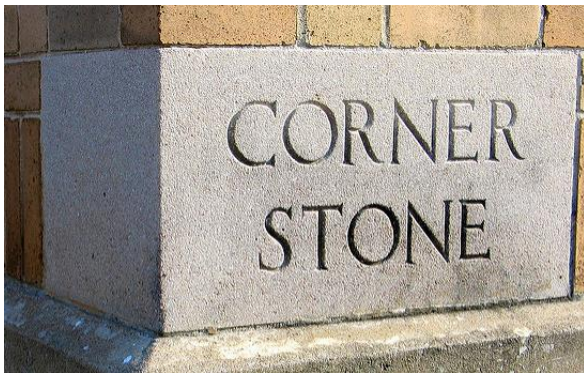


We will once again be collecting donations to benefit Birth Haven, a shelter for homeless expectant mothers in Newton. The Birth Haven Giving Tree will be up in the vestibule for the weekends of December 17-18, 24-25, and Dec. 31/Jan.1.

Items on their "most needed" wish list include baby laundry detergent, bouncy seats, bottle warmers, Boppy pillows, car seat/stroller combos, breast pumps, and gift cards for gas, Babies 'R' Us, Wal-Mart, and

ShopRite. Diapers are not needed at the moment as they just received a large delivery of those, but monetary donations would be most helpful to cover operating costs such as staff salaries, shelter utilities, groceries, life skills classes and toiletries for clients. For cash donations, please visit their website at [www.BirthHaven.org](http://www.BirthHaven.org). Thank you so much for your generosity to these expectant mothers in difficult circumstances who have chosen life for their babies.

## ***The Coming of Cornerstone April 2017***



***The Gift of Cornerstone April 2017***

## WE'VE BEEN ASKED TO ANNOUNCE

### **Fr. Angelus Croce Retires**

After serving the community for many years and being the Chaplain for the Salesian Sisters for over twenty years, Fr. Angelus Croce is retiring to Nazareth Village in Chester. A simple reception will take place at Sacred Heart Center from 1:30-3:00 PM on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. Please RSVP by email at [crocetirement@gmail.com](mailto:crocetirement@gmail.com) or leave a message at (201) 396-1102. Please come and wish Fr. Angelus a happy retirement.

### **Sacred Heart Spirituality Center**

Sacred Heart Spirituality Center in Newton is hosting our Women's Weekend Retreat, January 6-8, 2017. The theme for this retreat is "Listen to my Voice." Come and spend some get-away time with Our Lord, listening to Him speak of His great love for you! Register now by downloading a registration form at our website – [www.sacredheartspiritualitycenter.org](http://www.sacredheartspiritualitycenter.org). For further information, please call (973) 383-2620 or email [shretreatcenter@gmail.com](mailto:shretreatcenter@gmail.com)

## SOCIAL MINISTRIES

### **OLL LEGACY COOKBOOKS ON SALE**



Our Lady of the Lake Legacy Cookbooks have been published and are available for purchase every Sunday after Mass. They are \$25 each and make great Christmas gifts. They may also be purchased at the Sparta Book Club and the Parish Office. Please support this important fundraiser. Thank you.

### **CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**



On Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> after the 5:30 Mass we celebrated a Parish Tree Lighting. The VERY tall tree in front of the Parish Office was adorned with lights and a sparkling star, and after having our fill of Chili, donuts, Hot Chocolate and Hot Cider, we sang Christmas songs and had a countdown for the lighting. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus and the Committee who planned and decorated our Church and Parish Office.

# Our Lady of the Lake Church

294 Sparta Avenue

Sparta, New Jersey 07871

Phone: 973-729-6107 Fax: 973-729-7203

Web Site: [www.ourladyofthelake.org](http://www.ourladyofthelake.org)

## Parish Staff

Rev. David McDonnell *Pastor*

Rev. Marcin Bradtke *Associate Pastor*

Mr. Anthony (Sonny) Curcio *Deacon*

Mr. James McGovern *Deacon*

Elizabeth Heldak *Director of Religious Education*

Laurie DiCianni *Confirmation Coord.-Youth Minister*

Krzysztof Kowalewski *Music Director*

Ellen Ormond *Secretary/Bookkeeper*

Joanna Mattos *Secretary*

Denise Aldana *Social Ministries*

## Sunday Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday 5:30 P.M.

Sunday 7:45, 9:00, 10:30 A.M. and 12 Noon

5:00 P.M. (except June, July, and August)

Weekday Masses 8:30 A.M.

## Holy Day Masses

8:30, 9:30 A.M. (except August 15<sup>th</sup>), and 7:00 P.M.

## Confessions

Saturday 4:00 to 5:00 and at 6:30 P.M.

## Novena

Miraculous Medal Devotions: Saturday 8:30 A.M.

## Eucharist Adoration:

Thursday 9:00 to 7:00 P.M.

For information on Baptisms, Marriages, Religious Education, Youth Ministry, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Visitation of the Sick, Parish Membership, please call the parish office at (973) 729-6107.

## New Parishioners - Welcome!

Won't you please register at the Parish Office

Monday - Friday, 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Or find our registration form on our webpage

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

## FINANCE

### AMAZON.COM TO HELP OUR PARISH

If you're shopping online please keep in mind that if you make purchases through Amazon.com, you can help our parish by using the link on our website

([www.ourladyofthelake.org](http://www.ourladyofthelake.org)). The church gets a little money back for every dollar that people spend on Amazon using our link. To find the link, click on the "Getting Involved" button and you will see the Amazon.com link at the bottom of the drop-down menu.

## PARISHPAY - AUTOMATED GIVING

ParishPay is an automated giving program. Those who wish can make their church donations by automatic deduction or by credit card. To enroll: a) call 1-866-727-4741, or b) use the website, ([www.parishpay.com](http://www.parishpay.com)) through the link on the parish website. Please keep in mind that signing up for ParishPay does not register you with the parish if you are just joining our parish; please come into the office to register.

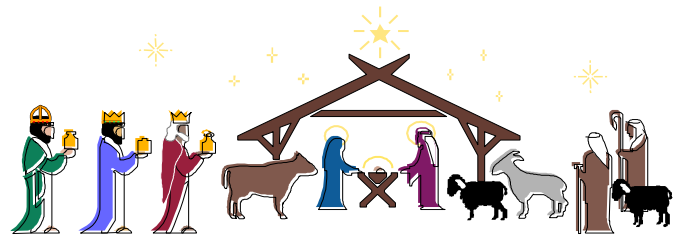
## ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE



**Our Advent Penance Service  
will be on  
Monday, December 19, 2016  
at 7:30 PM.**

There will be confessions on the  
Mondays of Advent  
from 7:30 to 8:30 PM.

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



<b>Monday December 19</b>	<b>Penance Service</b> 7:30 PM
<b>Saturday December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 8:30 AM 4:00 PM (overflow in McKenna Hall @ 4:05) 6 PM, 8 PM & Midnight
<b>Sunday December 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b> 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM & Noon
<b>Saturday December 31</b>	<b>New Year's Eve</b> Regular Morning Mass - 8:30 AM 5:30 PM Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday January 1, 2017</b>	<b>Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God (New Year's Day)</b> 7:45 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM and 12:00 Noon. There will be NO 5:00 PM Mass