

**DECEMBER 17, 2017
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

MONDAY

8:30 Robert Kirpitch req. by Paul & Carolyn Monteleone
Joseph Beebe req. by Mrs. Susan Santore

TUESDAY

8:30 Deacon Edward Maron req. by Earnest &
Geraldine McCooley

WEDNESDAY

8:30 Dorothy Roberts req. by Sylvia & Jim Riordan
Anthony Egan req. by Mrs. Susan Santore

THURSDAY – Saint Peter Canisius

8:30 Martha Wetzel req. by the Loyas Family
Special Intention of Romeo Ferrer req. by Ray
Ferrer

FRIDAY

8:30 Barry Ward req. by Kathy Ward & Family
Deceased members of the Karpilo & Best Families

SATURDAY – Saint John Kanty

8:30 Deceased members of McGauley Family
5:30 Claire Schiemer req. by Barbara Potilena
Joseph Beebe req. by Judge & Mrs. N. Peter
Conforti

**DECEMBER 24, 2017
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

7:45 Edwin Taylor req. by his son, Robert
Eleanor & Bernard Beihl, Sr. req. by Bernie & Joan
Beihl
9:00 Peter Cofrancesco req. by the Gang Family
10:30 Harold McGovern req. by the Harold McGovern
Family
People of the Parish
12:00 Laura Jean Tilton req. by Mom & Dad

**DECEMBER 24, 2017
CHRISTMAS EVE**

4:00 Nettie Azzolina req. by her daughter, Ann
4:05 William Connors req. by his family
6:00 Deceased members of the Stehr, Nolan &
Hillenbrand Families req. by their children
8:00 Richard Redshaw req. by Ellen Ormond
12:00 Anthony, Beverly, & Samantha Stassi req. by
Marie Stassi-Driscoll

PARISH FINANCES

December 10, 2017	\$ 11,282
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 3,928
Immaculate Conception	\$ 1,470
Christmas Concert	\$ 917
Next week's second collection is for our Diocesan Newspaper, The Beacon.	



GAUDETE

This Sunday, the third in Advent, is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday, the Latin for Rejoice! The pink candle of the Advent Wreath is lit reminding us that Christmas is very near. Even as we busily go about our preparations for this great feast, we sense a feeling of joy and expectation. Soon, we will celebrate the reason for our joy: the birth of Christ.

That sense of joy is alive in our parish family. The **Adopt a Family Program** continues to inspire our parishioners to sponsor a needy family, and provide for them the basic necessities. In one weekend, all 170 families - 704 people - were taken care of.

Many volunteers came forward to help in this endeavor: team members, confirmation students, and others who stopped by to lend a helping hand. There is something truly joyful in the air when people get together and pool their energies for such a worthy cause. In a world marred by war and violence, it is heartwarming to see so many people reach out to the poor and needy. They enter into the joy of this Sunday that we call in Latin "Gaudete" or "Rejoice."

Once again we had the **Christ in Christmas and Tree Lighting** events. This year we had more families than ever in McKenna Hall. 160 children, independent of their parents, siblings and grandparents were in attendance. Each year the number grows. The primary purpose of the event is to teach children the true meaning of Christmas, 'to give of your time to help someone in need.' The children were given pre-prepared unstuffed bear kits with the exact amount of fluff and asked make the 15" bear. The bears were then taken to a table where they were blessed, and later distributed to the Samaritan Inn for their Christmas party every year. The rest went to homeless shelters throughout Sussex and Morris Counties.

To add to the joy of this season, we had our **Christmas Concert** last Sunday. Once again our choirs rose to the occasion providing us with beautiful songs and carols. All present entered into the joy this holy time. As these timeless carols were sung, people were reminded of the God who gave us such a wonderful gift – the gift of his only Son. It is because of him that our hearts are lighter, and we are inspired to reach out to the poor and needy because this is something he would have done.

My dear friends, this is Gaudete Sunday. Let us rejoice!!

Sincerely,
Rev. David McDonnell

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH - 12/17/17 to 12/23/17

Mon 7:30 PM RCIA	St. Lucy Church
7:30 PM Penance Service	Church
8:00 PM Knights of Columbus	McKenna Hall
Tues. 9:15 AM Scripture Class	Library
Thur. 6:45 PM BINGO (non-smoking)	McKenna Hall
Fri. 8:30 PM AA	Cassidy Hall
Sat. After 8:30 Mass – Legion of Mary	St. Benedict
8:00 PM AA	McKenna Hall

LITURGY

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

Isaiah describes the joy and salvation which will accompany the coming of Christ. He compares the plants which spring from a garden to the justice that will spring from all nations.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul reminds the Thessalonians to constantly ready themselves for Christ's arrival. He tells them to "avoid any semblance of evil" so that they may be found irreproachable when Jesus does arrive.

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

John explains that he is only a messenger to the people for one more powerful than himself. John stresses to them that they must make a path for the one so powerful that he is not fit to unfasten the strap of his sandal.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

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, 1ST Lt. Christopher Tantillo; LCpl. Marc Stanziale, USMC. 1st Lt. Joseph Brunone, US Nat'l Guard, Brandon Adams, Private William Maloney. Please continue to pray for all our servicemen and women. *Please let us know when your loved one has returned. Thank you.*



MUSIC MINISTRY

The Adult Choir practice takes place on Tuesdays at 7:30 PM in the Choir loft.



Contemporary Choir - Saturdays, 4:30 PM in St. Cecilia Room.

Children's Choir practice takes place on Thursdays at 2:45 PM in the St. Cecilia Room.

Vocal- Instrumental Group - contact our Music Director, Krzysztof Kowalewski at the parish office. *New and existing members are invited.*

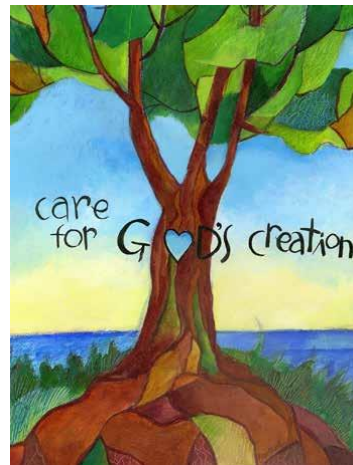
SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

ALL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Please volunteer to serve at one of our Christmas Masses by signing up on the special sheet in the church vestibule.

CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

A NEW MINISTRY AT OUR LADY OF THE LAKE



Join us on Mondays from 4:00 to 5:00 PM in the Parish Library beginning January 8th, 2018.

We will gather to pray and work in thanksgiving for the goodness of creation. We join our voices, as St. Francis of Assisi did in his Cantic of the Sun, and as Pope Francis echoed in his encyclical on the environment. "Praised

be you, O Lord, for the beauty and goodness of the created world!" We thank God for the gift of creation and show our appreciation through our care. If you are interested in working with us to Care for God's Creation let us know at LaudatoSLOLL@gmail.com

SCRIPTURE CLASS

Scripture class takes place on Tuesday mornings following 8:30 morning Mass. We meet every Tuesday in the Parish Library. Bring a friend as we all journey in our faith together, it will be an hour well spent!

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

The Diocese of Paterson is sponsoring a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat January 26 to 28. This is a safe place to renew, rebuild, and redeem hearts broken by abortion. For more information, please call (973) 377-1004 ext. 425 or RVPaterson@gmail.com.

WE'VE BEEN ASKED TO ANNOUNCE

U.S. Sisters Against Human Trafficking

Give a gift to support the work of U.S. Sisters Against Human Trafficking, P.O. Box 25241. Philadelphia, PA 19119. Visit: sistersagainstrafficking.org.

Catholic Teens Christmas Celebration

High School Teens, 7th & 8th graders are invited to this event at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, 209 US Highway 206, Branchville. Join us for an evening of music, food, fun and prayer. Sunday, December 17th, 6:00 to 8:00PM. Highlights – Live music by Singer/Songwriter Dan Ferrari, Inspirational talks by Stephanie Twedt, Dinner and Desserts, Campfire and Games.

Recovery Mass

The Shrine of Saint Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Rd., Stirling, NJ, hosts a monthly Recovery Mass on the second Saturday of each month from 12:00 to 1:30 PM. Following Mass, there is an Intercessory Prayer Session in the chapel where you can pray in community for loved ones still enslaved by addictions, and give thanks for those who have found recovery.

YOUR COATS CAN HELP!

Last year the Sparta Food Pantry gave away hundreds of coats to the clients of the food pantry. It was incredible! We give coats, hats, gloves, and scarves from November through March, or as long as it is cold outside! So... Let's Do it Again! If you have any coats, gloves, hats, scarves that you can offer to someone who does not, please bring them to the Sparta Food Pantry at the First Presbyterian Church on Main Street, Sparta. We will be collecting gently coats, hats, gloves, scarves, through March 2018. This is a great way to help so many people this winter.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE

Would you like to know more about our parish? Go to www.ourladyofthelake.org. We have the same information as before, but in a new format. We hope you will like it. You can see the Sunday Bulletin – the current week and archived issues from the beginning of the year. You can find the schedules for Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers under 'Liturgy'. Need to register in the parish? The Registration form is there under "New Members". How to sign your child up for Religious Education. And, of course, if you have any questions or have trouble finding anything, please call the parish office at (973) 729-6107.



ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE



In preparation for the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we will have confessions available every Monday during Advent from 7:30 to 8:30 PM.

Our Advent Communal Penance Service will take place on Monday, December 18th

beginning at 7:30 PM. There will be additional priests available for confessions. Please take this opportunity to prepare for Christmas.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



"Mrs. Darlene O'Neill's grade 2 Sunday morning Religious Ed class seen here holding candy canes attached to notes of Christmas cheer they made in class that will go on the ADOPT A FAMILY bags for the needy. Truly a fun activity focusing on the true spirit of Christmas."



"Mrs. Carolyn Stenderowicz' grade 8 Sunday morning Religious Ed class seen here having wrapped presents for ADOPT A FAMILY that will go to the needy, displaying remarkable generosity on the part of our young people."

HOLY LAND OLIVE WOOD CARVINGS

Rosary beads, crucifixes, nativity sets and much more made from olive wood in the Holy Land, will be available on December 16/17 when we will have a vendor in Cassidy Hall with holy items made by Christians in the Holy Land. These items make great Christmas presents.

SPECIAL NOTICE

The last Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve. The Saturday Vigil Mass on December 23rd, and the morning Masses on Sunday, December 24th (Christmas Eve) 7:45, 9:00, 10:30 & 12:00, will fulfill the Sunday obligation. The late afternoon and evening Masses (4:00, 4:05, 6:00, 8:00 and Midnight, will be Christmas Masses, as well as the 9:00, 10:30 and 12:00 on December 25th (Christmas Day).

Christmas Schedule



Sunday – Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 PM, 4:05 PM (overflow in McKenna Hall)
6:00 PM, 8:00 PM, 12:00 Midnight

Monday – Dec. 25 – Christmas Masses

There will NOT be a 7:45 Mass

9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 Noon

Sunday – Dec. 31 – Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

7:45 AM, 9:00, 10:30, 12:00

January 1, 2018 – New Year's Day Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

(not a holy day of obligation this year)

8:30 AM, 7:00 PM

OPŁATKI AVAILABLE TODAY

Knights of Columbus, Marquette Council 588 once again have kindly donated Opłatki to Our Lady of the Lake Parish for our parishioners. Opłatki is a wafer which usually has scenes of the Nativity pressed into it and is traditionally consumed at the Christmas Eve meal. It is a wafer that has been blessed (not consecrated) and usually the head of the household in Polish, Slavic, and Czech households will break off a piece and give it to each member of the family and guests while offering them good wishes for the coming year. The Opłatki will be available on the weekend of December 16th & 17th in the vestibule of the Church.

Our Lady of the Lake R.C. Church *294 Sparta Ave., Sparta, New Jersey 07871*

Parish Mission Statement

Our Lady of the Lake is a Roman Catholic Community founded in tradition and based on our faith in Jesus Christ. With the help of the Holy Spirit we share the message of God's love with all. Through our ministries and school, we strive to address spiritual, social and educational needs. We are nourished by the Eucharist, enlightened by the Word and guided by our devotion to Mary, Our Lady of the Lake.

Rev. David McDonnell	Pastor
Rev. Marcin Bradtke	Associate Pastor
Rev. Mr. Krzysztof Ślimak	Deacon
Mr. James McGovern	Deacon
Mr. Anthony (Sonny) Curcio	Deacon
Elizabeth Heldak	Director of Religious Education
Allison Ognibene	Youth Grp/Confirmation Coordinator
Krzysztof Kowalewski	Music Director
Denise Aldana	Social Ministries
Ellen Ormond	Secretary/Bookkeeper
Joanna Mattos	Secretary

Sunday Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday 5:30 P.M.
Sunday 7:45, 9:00, 10:30 A.M. and 12:00 Noon

Weekday Masses

8:30 A.M.

Holy Day Masses

8:30, 9:30 A.M. (except August 15th), 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 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Parish Membership

Our Parish Family invites all its members to participate fully. If you move to another Parish, or change your address, please notify us.

Please see our website for more information.

New Parishioners – Welcome!

Won't you please register at the Parish Office, Monday-Friday 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Parish Office & Rectory	(973) 729-6107	Fax (973) 729-7203
Religious Education Office (on weekdays)	(973) 729-6107	
E-Mail	info@ourladyofthelake.org	
Web Site	www.ourladyofthelake.org	
School Offices		
Rev. George A. Brown (Pre-K to Gr. 4)	(973) 729-9174	
Pope John XXIII Middle School (Gr. 5 to 7)	(973) 729-1967	
Pope John XXIII High School (Gr. 8 to 12)	(973) 729-6125	