



**SUNDAY: DECEMBER 18  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

7:30 a.m. George Gildersleeve  
Stephen and Ronnie George  
Harry Marks  
9:30 a.m. Helen and James Finnegan  
April Southern  
11:30 a.m. John Caccaguida, Sr.  
Cornelio and Felomena Rodaje  
Margaret and Ernest Theroux  
Benjamin Maylor  
Maurice Pansini

**MONDAY: DECEMBER 19**

7:00 a.m. Thomas Heslin  
Dolly Kelly  
Kyle James Sheplak

**TUESDAY: DECEMBER 20**

7:00 a.m. Sproha Family

**WEDNESDAY: DECEMBER 21**

7:00 .m. Anna Comazzi

**THURSDAY: DECEMBER 22**

7:00 a.m. Dr. Bernard Covalesky

**FRIDAY: DECEMBER 23**

7:00 a.m. Robert T. Williams

**SATURDAY: DECEMBER 24  
VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS**

5:30 p.m. People of the Parish  
10:00 p.m. People of the Parish

**SUNDAY: DECEMBER 25  
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD  
CHRISTMAS**

7:30 a.m. People of the Parish  
9:30 a.m. People of the Parish  
11:30 a.m. People of the Parish

**SANCTUARY LIGHT**

Burns this week in memory of  
*Daniel Taravella*  
Req. by his wife, Rita

**PARISH SUPPORT**

Last weekend's collection: \$4,915.00  
Thank you for your continued support!

**BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE**

Our book of prayer is located in the vestibule of church. All names and special intentions are remembered in Masses and prayers each weekend.

**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S  
LITURGY SCHEDULE**

**Saint Mary's**

Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
(no morning mass)  
5:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve – Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>  
5:30 p.m. (Vigil)

New Year's Day – Sunday, January 1, 2010  
7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

**Saint Bernard's**

Christmas Eve – December 24<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day – December 25<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve – December 31<sup>st</sup>  
5:00 p.m.

New Year's Day - January 1, 2010  
9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

*Please note: The Sacrament of Penance will **not** be celebrated on Christmas Eve.*

**NATIVITY PLAY**

Parishioners and friends are invited and encouraged to attend our annual Nativity Play offered by students from our Religious Education Program. The presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m., in the church, on Monday evening December 19<sup>th</sup>.



**COMPANIONS OF PAULINE**

Meetings will be held the third Wednesday of the month from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. in Bermingham Hall. See Sr. Thomasine for more details.

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

John Holmes, Josephine Hricko, Margaret McKearney, Eileen Curylo, Carmella Cullen, Joan Shotmuller, Mary Mancin, John Skidmore, Nettie Yaros, Louise Jacobsen, Mary Burns, Sophie Gargiulo, Tina LePre, Wayne Tompkins, Scott Sullivan, Robert Kelly, Theresa Bell, Denise Bencel, Mary Narcise, Anthony Colicchio, Mike Suckey, Miguel Rivera, Barbara LaPallo, Benny Vecchia, Tom Daley, Brittany Bragg, and all the sick of the parish.

## FOOD PANTRY

Food donations are being accepted to replenish our food pantry for the needy in our community.

Volunteers are needed to help work the pantry. If you can help please call Ann Hartnett at 973-584-6012.



## PARISH COOKBOOKS

Copies of our Parish Cookbook are available after all masses this weekend at \$12 each. These cookbooks make a great Christmas present!

## ACTS YOUTH MINISTRY - BASEMENT CAFÉ

Basement Café meets on the first and third Sundays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in Bermingham Hall. For more information, please contact Deacon Tom Beirne at 973-366-5679.

*Annual Christmas Party will be held this evening at 6:30 p.m.. Please join us – bring a friend!*

### PARISH CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

*(Times are p.m. unless otherwise noted)*

**SUNDAY:** Basement Café Christmas Party – 6:30

*December 18* Confirmation classes and Grades 7 and 8 – 6:30

**MONDAY:** Mater Dei Prayer Group – 7:30

*December 19*

**TUESDAY:** Parish bus trip to Huntington Playhouse

*December 20*

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

### Sunday

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

### Monday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

### Tuesday

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

### Wednesday

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

### Thursday

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

### Friday

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

### Saturday

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79  
Vigil of Christmas: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25;  
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25



## A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2011

**“The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary”... “the Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; hence the holy offspring to be born will be called Son of God... Mary said, ‘I am the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say.’ With that the angel left her.”**

The words from Luke’s gospel are so well known. We recite them in prayer, we picture the scene in our minds. We live the most significant moment waiting Mary’s response.

The angel left, but let us spend a few minutes this final week before Christmas with Mary. We look at her now as an expectant mother, looking within and keeping a secret known only to her. She can’t keep it in. She goes rapidly to share her good news with her relative and to serve Elizabeth in her need as she is pregnant with John the Baptist. Luke provides the wonderful exchange and conversation of the mothers to be.

We too are expecting the Christ. We look within and discover our eagerness to give birth to Christ in our lives. Filled with expectant joy, we busy ourselves preparing by prayer, action and reflection to allow Christ to become present in our world today. The busyness which will surround us this final week will make sense when we pause to reflect upon the Christ within, the meaning of His coming, and the joy we have to bring Him to others.

As Gabriel awaited Mary’s reply, may we say ‘yes’ too to the invitation of bringing the Christ to others. The simple word JOY tells it all - Jesus Others Yourself.

