

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

December 25, 2016



The time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. *Luke 2:6b-7*

ANNOUNCED MASSES

If you wish to bring up the gifts for a Mass being said for your loved one(s), please see the Usher before Mass.

Saturday, December 24 – Vigil of Christmas

- 4:00 PM All the People of the Parish
- 6:00 PM *St. Joseph's* – All the People of the Parish
- 8:00 PM All the People of the Parish

Sunday, December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

- 10:00 AM All the People of the Parish

Monday, December 26 – Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

- 8:15 AM Josephine Pidala

Tuesday, December 27 – Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

- 8:15 AM Helen, Frances and John Zuvic

Wednesday, December 28 – The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

- 8:15 AM Mike and Mary Hannigan

Thursday, December 29 – Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

- 8:15 AM Josephine Pidala

Friday, December 30 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

- 8:15 AM Dimon and Robert Nicolosi and the Cirillo Family

Saturday, December 31 – Saint Sylvester I, Pope

- 8:15 AM Josie Pidala

Vigil (Sunday) Mass – December 31

- 5:00 PM Jon Rose

Sunday, January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

- 8:30 AM All the People of the Parish
- 10:15 AM *St. Joseph's* – All the People of the Parish
- 12:00 PM Edith Budney

MEMORIALS

The **Sanctuary Candle** this week is burning in loving memory of Deceased Members of the Immorlica and Rizzo Families donated by Peter and Teresa Hardin. The candle will burn from December 25th through 31st.

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Adult Choir rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm in the choir loft. New members are welcome at all weekend Masses. If you would like to sing, please come to a rehearsal or call Jeffrey V. Lutz at 228-5612.

GRAYMOOR PRAYER GROUP

Increase your time in prayer. The Graymoor Prayer Group, following the Medjugorje prayer format, meets Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 pm at the Spiritual Life Building 6th floor Chapel. The prayer facilitator is Diana Roda: (845) 424-4175.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERLINE

Call in your intercessions.
Marian Shrine (Divine Mercy), Stockbridge
800-804-3823

PLEASE PRAY

For the sick and suffering, especially

Lucy Abbatine	Wesley Ann McGovern
Lucas Boesch	Merna Mendelson
Robert Broughal	Todd Morris
The Brusco Family	Joseph Nowakowski
Kathleen Clements	Brian O'Keeffe
Carmine Comberiata	Inelda O'Keeffe
Joseph C. Etta	Neilan Pierce
Christopher Hartly	Vivian Pisanelli
Joseph Hoda	Phillip Rossignol
Parker Jane Holloway	Melissa Castro-Santos
Joey Hyatt, Jr.	Miguel Santos
Elizabeth M. Hynes	Sally Singh
Geoff Lyons	Ralph Torres
Kathleen Manganello	Connie Tuomey
Mary Marion	Frank Volkmann
Paula Martino	Lidia Watrud

and for all our dearly departed, that the fighting among nations cease, that vengeance end and lasting peace begin, and for all of our prayers in our book of petitions.

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

- Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18
- Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:36-40
- Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Ps 128:1-5; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
- Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
- Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 18, 2016

REGULAR WEEKLY COLLECTION – \$6,604

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS ATTENDANCE

	Adults	Children	Total
Saturday, 5:00 pm	100	2	102
Sunday, 8:30 am	115	42	157
St. Joseph's Chapel Sunday, 10:15 am	43	7	50
Sunday, 12:00 pm	99	21	120
Total	357	72	429

SUNDAY TV MASS FOR THE HOMEBOUND: WRNN Channel 48 at 8:00 am

Every Sunday morning, Heart of the Nation televises Catholic Mass at 8:00 am on WRNN channel 48. Please share the time and channel information with friends or family members who are unable to get to church because of age, illness, or other struggles.

Prayer intentions from viewers, uplifting homilies, a Prayer for Spiritual Communion during distribution of the Holy Eucharist, and closed-captioning make Heart of the Nation's Sunday Mass on TV and online a time of spiritual comfort and belonging for the homebound. To watch the Mass online, please visit www.heartofthenation.org.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Loretto Council #536

EPIPHANY DINNER

Saturday • January 7th • After the 5:00 pm Mass
See to the right for details

PHILIPSTOWN FOOD PANTRY DELIVERY

Sunday • January 29th

The Knights of Columbus will be collecting food and other items, including diapers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, cleaners and paper towels, for the Philipstown Food Pantry the weekend of January 28th and 29th.

Please leave donations in the cry room during that weekend. Thank you for your generosity!

Grand Knight – Paul Grandetti

To join, email our Membership Director, John Hackney:
johnhackney@hotmail.com.

IN SOLIDARITY WITH OUR PRIESTS

We support our Catholic Church, families, community and our country.

OUR LADY OF LORETTO PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

"Handing on the Faith"

845-265-3718 ★ ollfaithformation@gmail.com

Classes will not be held on Wednesday, December 28th due to the Christmas holiday.
Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 4th.

Please pray for our Second Graders who will receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation on Sunday, January 8th.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

At Our Lady of Loretto • Every Monday • 7:00-8:00 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament remains as it is with individual prayer time, but specific groups are being identified for certain Mondays so they can come together to focus in prayer for a specific intention...

- Dec 26 – Respect Life Committee
- Jan 2 – The unborn and persecuted Christians
- Jan 9 – Archbishop Dolan and all bishops
- Jan 16 – Children of the Parish

Epiphany Dinner by the Knights of Columbus

Saturday, January 7th ★ After the 5:00 pm Mass
In the Parish Hall

Menu

Roast Pork, Roasted Potatoes, Vegetables,
Salad, Bread

Coffee, Tea and Dessert

Ticket Price

Age 0-5: Free ★ 6 to 11: \$10 ★ 12 and over: \$15
Sign-up sheet in the back of the Church/Chapel

"Today the darkness begins to grow shorter and the light to lengthen, as the hours of night become fewer... Realize that the true Light is now here and, through the rays of the Gospel, is illumining the whole earth."
– Saint Gregory of Nyssa

SERVE THE CHURCH

Consider becoming an Altar Server, Lector or Eucharistic Minister

We especially need help at the following Masses:

Altar Servers (4th Grade and up)

Our Lady of Loretto Church: Sundays • 12 Noon
St. Joseph's Chapel: Sundays • 10:15 am

Lectors

Our Lady of Loretto Church: Saturdays • 5:00 pm

Eucharistic Ministers

Our Lady of Loretto Church: Saturdays • 5:00 pm,
Sundays • 12:00 pm
St. Joseph's Chapel: Sundays • 10:15 am

If interested, please contact Anna McFadden at anna.mcfadden@gmail.com or call 845-265-2385.

REGIONAL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2017-18

Starting December 1st, NEW students and ALL rising Kindergarteners may apply to our Regional Catholic Elementary Schools and learn about Financial Assistance in one of three ways:

1. Online, via www.ApplyCatholicSchoolsNY.org
2. Over the phone, by calling our bilingual number at 646-794-2885
3. In person, at any of these participating schools:

Holy Trinity School

20 Springside Ave • Poughkeepsie • (845) 471-0520

St. Denis–St. Columba School

849 Route 82 • Hopewell Junction • (845) 227-7777

St. Mary School

106 Jackson Street • Fishkill • (845) 896-9561

St. Mary's School

2 Convent Ave • Wappingers Falls • (845) 297-7500

St. Peter School

12 Fr Cody Plaza • Hyde Park • (845) 471-6600

St. Columbanus School

122 Oregon Rd • Cortlandt Manor • (914) 739-1200

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School

1375 East Main Street • Shrub Oak • (914) 528-3563

St. Patrick School

117 Moseman Rd • Yorktown Heights • (914) 962-2211

If you haven't had a chance to visit, we invite you to experience a Catholic school in action by attending an open house event or by scheduling a private tour.

Upcoming TOURING TUESDAY open house dates are:

January 10th, 2017, January 31st, 2017,
February 14th, 2017, March 14th, 2017 and April 4th,
2017 from 9 to 11 am or by appointment

Founded in faith and focused on the future!

CATHOLIC NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

God wants us to strive to be the best person we can be despite temptations surrounding us. Creating resolutions gives us time to think about our lives and what we can and should change. If we stay the same, we will not grow. We are expected to grow in grace. Pray to God for guidance concerning your resolutions and future endeavors.

Here are some great Catholic New Year Resolutions.

Pray daily – This can include any type or form of prayer.

Attend Mass not only on Sundays, but during the week as well.

Adore Jesus present in the Holy Eucharist as often as possible. (Our Lady of Loretto Parish has Eucharistic Adoration every Monday, 7:00-8:00 pm)

Pray the Rosary daily or weekly.

Confession – Try to go to confession once per month.

Be kind to people daily, even when you do not feel like it. Respect others.

Do good deeds as often as possible, even when you do not feel like it.

Be active in the Church community.

OUR OUTDOOR NATIVITY

The *Child of Bethlehem* was donated in loving memory of Dorothy and Thomas Barca and Florence and Otto Isler by the Isler family.

Our Lady was donated in loving memory of Susanna Kitson by the Kitson family.

Saint Joseph was donated in loving memory of Herbert Granville by the Kitson family.

The *Angel of Bethlehem* was donated in loving memory of Peter Monaster by the Monaster family.

Two Wise Men and a *Shepherd* were donated in loving memory of Betsy Moss Bradley by Mr. and Mrs. William Moss.

One Wise Man was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Keenan.

One Shepherd was donated in loving memory of Carmella Lucio by Lucio Petrocelli.

One Shepherd was donated by Mr. and Mrs. John Merante.

The *Sheep of Bethlehem* were donated for the Necaise family intentions by John and Barbara Necaise.

The *Ox* was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Smith for their grandchildren's intentions.

The *Donkey* was donated by the Knights of Columbus, Loretto Council #536.

THANK YOU FOR THE COATS!

The Knights of Loretto Council would like to say thank you to all of those who donated coats to our Coat Drive. The coats will be distributed to Putnam County Services and other organizations in our area.

IN A WORLD TORN BY CONFLICT, NONVIOLENCE IS A CHRISTIAN REQUIREMENT, POPE SAYS

Vatican City, December 12th, 2016 – The Catholic News Agency and EWTN News reported that Pope Francis said that when it comes to the many conflicts splintering different parts of the world, the Christian response must be one of nonviolence, which isn't passive, but active and has roots in a strong family life. "To be true followers of Jesus today also includes embracing his teaching about nonviolence," the Pope said. Citing the havoc wrought by the wars and conflicts that marked the last century, Francis again pointed to the fact that today "we find ourselves engaged in a horrifying world war fought piecemeal." While it's not easy to tell whether or not the world is presently more violent than in the past, what is obvious is that the "piecemeal violence" seen on various levels in the modern era leads to great suffering through war, terrorism, organized crime, human trafficking and environmental degradation.

Jesus himself embraced a nonviolent response to the conflicts of his time, he said, pointing to his frequent insistence to love one's enemies and to turn the other cheek, as well as his actions in stopping the accusers of the woman caught in adultery from stoning her, and in telling Peter to put away his sword the night before he died. "The true battlefield, where violence and peace meet, is the human heart," he said, quoting the Gospel passage in Mark that reads: "it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come."

However, Jesus' response is to walk the path of nonviolence up to the point of the cross, "whereby he became our peace and put an end to hostility." Quoting his predecessor, retired pontiff Benedict XVI, Francis said the teaching of nonviolence is a realistic response to the world's conflicts "because it takes into account that in the world there is too much violence, too much injustice, and therefore that this situation cannot be overcome except by countering it with more love, with more goodness." "For Christians, nonviolence is not merely tactical behavior but a person's way of being, the attitude of one who is so convinced of God's love and power, that he or she is not afraid to tackle evil with the weapons of love and truth alone." Jesus' command to love one's enemies "is rightly considered the magna carta of Christian nonviolence," he said, explaining that it doesn't mean succumbing to evil, but rather responding to evil with good.

If the strategy of nonviolence is to grow, it must begin in the family, the Pope said, explaining that the family "is the indispensable crucible" in which all members of the family "learn to communicate and to show generous concern for one another, and in which frictions and even conflicts have to be resolved not by force but by dialogue, respect, concern for the good of the other, mercy and forgiveness." "From within families, the joy of love spills out into the world and radiates to the whole of society."

*The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph is December 30th, 2016.*

THE HOLY FAMILY, AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL FAMILIES

Through God's mysterious design, it was in that family that the Son of God spent long years of a hidden life. It is therefore the prototype and example for all Christian families. It was unique in the world. Its life was passed in anonymity and silence in a little town in Palestine. It underwent trials of poverty, persecution and exile. It glorified God in an incomparably exalted and pure way. And it will not fail to help Christian families – indeed, all the families in the world – to be faithful to their day-to-day duties, to bear the cares and tribulations of life, to be open and generous to the needs of others, and to fulfill with joy the plan of God in their regard.

Saint John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio*

Prayer for the Feast of the Holy Family

Dear Lord, bless our family. Be so kind as to give us the unity, peace, and mutual love that You found in Your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

Saint Joseph, bless the father of our family. Obtain for him the strength, the wisdom, and the prudence he needs to support and direct those under his care.

Mother Mary, bless the mother of our family. Help her to be pure and kind, gentle and self-sacrificing. For the more she resembles you, the better will our family be.

Lord Jesus, bless the children of our family. Help them to be obedient and devoted to their parents. Make them more and more like You. Let them grow, as You did, in wisdom and age and grace before God and man.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make our family and home more and more like Yours, until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with You. Amen.

FAMILY TRADITIONS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Next Sunday, January 1st, 2017

What a perfect way to begin the New Year – with the Mother of Our Lord! We have listed below a few family traditions for this special feast day that you may want to try out at home.

Collect Images of Mary

This feast day celebrates the maternity of Mary. To honor her, you could display a statue of Mary or a picture of her with the infant Jesus and place a candle before it. Some families have a tradition of collecting images of Our Lady – folk art, icons, reproductions of classical paintings. On this day you might begin a scrapbook of such pictures or a display of Marian art on one wall in your house.

Keep the TV Off

On this day and other major feasts, many devout families make it a rule to keep the TV off.

Petitions for the New Year

After going to Mass as a family, share special petitions for the New Year at home.