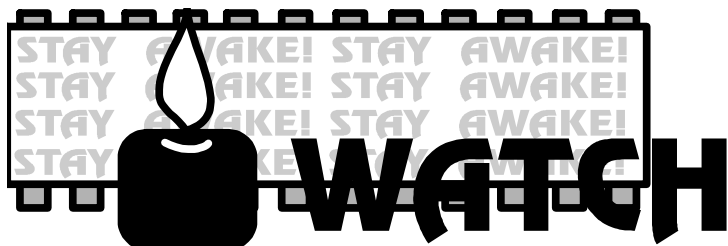


First Sunday of Advent



December 3, 2017

Sat. December 2, 2017

5:00 pm –Dorothy Andidero, Martin Quinn,
Dominick Carelli

Sun. December 3, 2017

9:00 am – Margaret “Peggy”Ippolito, Bridget Brewer,
The Kennelty Family

11:00 am – Maria Roque, Lou Mari,Sr., Nika Dushaj

12:00 pm - Pageant Rehearsal

12:00 pm – Children’s Christmas Choir practice

2:00 pm – Advent Wreath Making

Mon. December 4, 2017

6:30 – 8:00 pm – Religious Education

Tues. December 5, 2017

6:30 – 8:00 pm – Religious Education

Wed. December 6, 2017

12:00 – Senior Luncheon

6:30 – 8:00 pm – Religious Education

Thurs. December 7, 2017

7:00 pm – AA

7:15 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Fri. December 8, 2017

9:00 am – Raymond Foos, Johanna Schmidt,
Fr. Pat

7:00 pm – Eileen Exiner

Sat. December 9, 2017

5:00 pm – Marie McClure, Nancy Wood,
Madeline and Paula Pesce

Sun. December 10, 2017

9:00 am – Rose Giudice, Ann Marie Donegan,
Bridget Brewer

11:00 am – Mary McCormack, Jon VanTassel

12:00 pm - Pageant Rehearsal

12:00 pm – Children’s Christmas Choir practice

THE ADVENT WREATH

The custom of using Advent wreaths in homes has increased during the past couple of decades, although they have been used in churches in Europe for many generations. The wreath's symbolism of the Advent of Light into the world by Our Lord's birth is clear.



The gradual lighting of the wreath, one candle each week of Advent, combined with the liturgical colors of the candles (purple is the penitential color used during Advent and Lent; rose is used only on Gaudete Sunday in Advent and Laetare Sunday in Lent) help to symbolize not only our expectation and joyful hope in Our Lord's first coming (Advent), but also in his Second Coming. During this season we prepare our hearts and our homes to celebrate His birth into our world, of course, but especially to receive Him in preparation for our redemption....

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

This Friday, December 8th is the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a Holy Day of Obligation. All Catholics are expected to worship with their community on Holy Days of Obligation. We will be celebrating Mass at **9:00 am and 7:00 pm.**

PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY

We are searching for volunteers to donate homemade no-sew fleece, crocheted or knit prayer blankets, suitable for either men, women, children or with a unisex theme. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you choose your materials, and then while making your blanket, pray for whoever may be receiving this precious gift. When it is complete, please bring it to the church office. Father Sean will give the blanket a final blessing before it is distributed. If you have any questions, you can contact Anna at the church office.

OPLATKI

A limited supply of this traditional Polish Christmas wafer (already blessed) will be available in the sacristy and Church office for those who would like it. First come, first served!

GIVING TREE

All gifts must be **wrapped** with the **Angel tag securely attached** and returned by **next Sunday, December 10th.**



TREASURER’S REPORT

November 25th & 26th – \$6,352.40
Collection \$5,962.00 - \$Online - \$390.40
Thank you

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Our Children's Christmas Pageant will take place on Christmas Eve at the 6:00 p.m. Mass. There is rehearsal this Sunday Dec. 3rd at 12:00 noon in the church. Subsequent rehearsal dates are Dec. 10th and 17th at 12 noon. All children are invited to participate. Parent volunteers are also needed. If you have any questions or are unable to attend a rehearsal, please call Rebecca Suchy at 778-2820



CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS



Feeding the Community

We are still accepting donations for Christmas baskets. Please drop food off in the kitchen no later than the weekend of **December 9th & 10th**. Baskets will be packed for distribution the following weekend. We are still in need of the following:

Hams, baked beans; gravy mix, stuffing; canned peas, corn, green beans; canned fruit; tomato/meat sauce.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS CHOIR



Once again, a **children's choir** will provide the music for our **6 PM Christmas Eve Mass and Pageant**. **Youth grades 3 – 12 are invited to sing with us.** The first rehearsal will be held this **Sunday, December 3rd**,

with subsequent rehearsals on the 10th and 17th immediately following the 11 am Mass.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Parishioners are invited to remember deceased loved ones with a donation toward the Christmas Flowers and environmental decor used in our Church. Please submit the names of those you want to remember by putting your donation envelope in the collection basket by **December 10th**. The usual donation is **ten dollars** for each name. **The names will be placed on our Altar in special remembrance throughout the Christmas Season.**



Please turn off all CELL PHONES before Mass!

CONDOLENCES

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Anthony and Theresa Assande and their family upon the death of his mother, Antoinette. Please keep them in your prayers.

WHY JESUS IS BETTER THAN SANTA CLAUS

Santa lives at the North Pole...
JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh...
JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year...
JESUS is ever present.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies...
JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited...
JESUS stand at your door and knocks, and then enters you heart invited.

You have to wait in line to see Santa...
JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap...
JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?"...
JESUS knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly...
JESUS has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO...
JESUS offers health, help and hope.

Santa says "You better not cry"...
JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."

Santa's little helpers make toys...
JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle but...JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.

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