

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 27, 2022



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First: Isaiah 2:1-5

Second: Romans 13:11-14

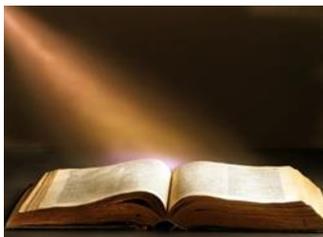
Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

FOCUS: *As we enter into Advent, we watch for and eagerly await the dawn that breaks over the horizon.*

The promise of Advent is the promise of a candle in a dark room – of the dawn breaking over the horizon. It is the promise that the darkness cannot stand in the presence of the light. In this holy season, we must be watchers, searching for Christ's light, eagerly awaiting the dawn. Are we awake? Are we prepared?

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

Isaiah prophesies the nations streaming toward the mountain of the Lord's house and all nations being instructed in God's ways. Paul warns the Romans that salvation is near, and the day is at hand, so they should put on the armor of light. In the Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples to stay awake for the coming of the Son of Man.



MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Jim Botti, Monsignor William Reynolds and the Ryan, Borst & Costello families

10 a.m.: Peg Boyle, Dorothy Magrino and Jean Bergen

TREASURER'S REPORT

November 13-20: Totaled \$ 5,463.75

Envelopes: \$ 2,959.00 – Online: \$ 2,504.75

THANK YOU!

HOLIDAY CONCERT



Kick off the season once again with holiday music performed by the **Pine Bush Community Band**, a full-sized concert band that is dedicated to sharing music with the public.

This musical tradition will return at 7 p.m. this **Monday, November 28**. It's free, so invite friends and neighbors.

PAGEANT PRACTICE ...

Traditions add warmth to Christmas celebrations, evoking smiles and sweet memories.

A St. Paul's tradition is the annual **Christmas Eve Pageant**. Because of a conflict with first grade religious education classes, practice will be held on **three consecutive Mondays** beginning at 6:30 p.m. December 5 and lasting no more than an hour.

All youngsters are welcome and should meet Mrs. Rebecca Suchy, the Pageant coordinator, in Deacon John Hall. If you have any questions, call her at 845-699-7181.

Remember, the greater the participation, the grander the pageantry!



... AND THE CHOIR, TOO

Continuing the tradition further, those in Grades 3-12 interested in lending their voices to the **Youth Choir** on Christmas Eve should meet Mrs. Debbe Garry in the church after Mass Sunday, **December 4**, for signup and warmup, with rehearsals the next two Sundays.

VIRTUAL GIVING TREE RETURNS

The "angels" have flown in: From the Orange County Department of Social Services, from St. Simon Stock, a sister Carmelite parish in the Bronx, and from Access Supports for Living, which works with struggling families.

And now is the time to choose your child or family from the virtual **Giving Tree**. Reach out to **EITHER** Therese Quinn (845-313-0256; eat@frontiernet.net) **OR** Mary McCabe (914-420-0842; mmmk94@frontiernet.net). **NOT BOTH!** You will be given all the information needed to find Christmas gifts that are sure to please.

Wrapped gifts identified with the angel number must be returned to Deacon John Hall no later than **December 18**.



THIS WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. Saturday: 110

10 a.m. Sunday: 152



A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

The air was filled with gratitude last Saturday night at the return of the **Senior Thanksgiving Dinner**. The 78 dinner guests were grateful to be able to gather once again while sipping wine and savoring a sumptuous meal prepared by Rick & Julie Dzurilla and their team of about 14 volunteers. For the kitchen crew, it was a labor of love performed with joy.

A selection of hors d'oeuvres – including a charcuterie board and French onion canapes - welcomed the revelers – just the tip of the gastronomic iceberg. A traditional turkey dinner followed with all the expected trimmings – and not even a lump in the mashed potatoes, one satiated parishioner reported!

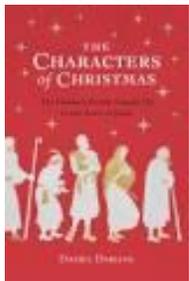
With 14 enthusiastic and professionally-attired Youth Ministry volunteers, each table had dedicated servers to enhance the dining experience.

“They were tremendous and their work was appreciated by the team as well as the seniors,” says Rick. “Now we can rest until our next event, perhaps the January dinner!”



REAWAKEN THE AWE THIS ADVENT

How about preparing for Christmas by getting a fresh look at the Christmas narrative during Advent! Join other members of the parish by slowing down, engaging your imagination, and sharing your faith as you enter into the lives of the men and women who played a part in Jesus' birth. Break free of the familiar, and you will discover something you never knew about the story you've always heard.



Although it is not necessary to read the book to participate, we will

be centering our discussion on the Gospel narrative as presented in the book “The Characters of Christmas” by Daniel Darling, available on Amazon for \$12.59 and other booksellers.

Sessions will be during the weeks of Advent on Tuesday mornings (10-11:15 a.m.) and Thursday evenings (6:30-7:45 p.m.) on ZOOM. If interested, please contact the church office (845-361-3107) or Deacon Carl (carlloc@yahoo.com).

IN THE LOOP

 **GivingTuesday**, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, is an international movement that reimagines a world build on humanity and generosity. Charitable giving is particularly apropos at the beginning of the Christmas season.

 **Confessions** will be heard at 3:30 p.m. the **first three Saturdays of Advent**, beginning with December 3.

 Thursday, December 8, is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** and a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be celebrated at St. Paul's at 9 a.m. There will be no vigil Mass.

 Parishioners are invited to remember deceased loved ones with a donation toward the **Christmas flowers** and church decorations. Please submit the names by **December 16**. There are envelopes in the church vestibules, and the usual donation is \$10 per name.

 The **Hooked & Happy** group will meet at 6:30 p.m. this Friday, **December 2**, in the hall.

