

**MASS INTENTIONS**



**Saturday December 20, 2014**

**Vigil for Sunday - Youth Mass**

5:30pm Tony Procino

**Sunday December 21, 2014 –Fourth Sunday in Advent**

7:30am All Parishioners of SFX

9:30am Salvatore Picone

11:15am Marianne Lenna

12:30pm Frank Ramunno

**Monday December 22, 2014**

7:30am Angelo and Antonio Busani

9:00am John Musto, Sr., Genovina Musto and Deceased Members of their families

**Tuesday December 23, 2014**

7:30am Elizabeth C. Hefter (2nd Anniversary)

9:00am Giordano Fronk and Yolanda Fronk

10:00am SFX School Christmas Mass

**Wednesday December 24, 2014**

7:30am Thomas Vasti, Sr.

9:00am Intentions of the DeSantis Family (Living)

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

4:00pm Intentions of the SFX Religious Education Program Volunteers (Living)

5:30pm Joseph Luna

12:00 Midnight All Parishioners of SFX

**Thursday December 25, 2014-CHRISTMAS DAY**

7:30am Joseph V. Davi

9:30am Vito Tetro

11:15am DiGiambattista and DeBellis Family

12:30pm Jessie, Joseph and Angelina Delia

**Friday December 26, 2014**

7:30am Carmen and John Rios and Gloria Vegliante

9:00am Michael Fragola

**Saturday December 27, 2014**

7:30am Raymunda Valderama

9:00am Vincenza Lopane

**Vigil for Sunday**

5:30pm Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Segreti and Louise Segreti

**Sunday December 28, 2014-HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY**

7:30am All Parishioners of SFX

9:30am Frank Ramunno

11:15am Anthony Rocchio

12:30pm Jessie, Joseph and Angelina Delia

**Weekly Collection (Parish Pay included)**

December 14: \$6,693

**Second Collection (Retired Religious): \$1,394**

Thank you for your generosity. May God Bless you.

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

**Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, 2014**

4:00pm-Vigil Mass

5:30pm-Vigil Mass

12:00 Midnight Mass



**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Thursday, December 25, 2014**

7:30am, 9:30am, 11:15am and 12:30pm

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

**Wednesday, December 31, 2014**

5:30pm-Vigil

**Thursday, January 1, 2015**

7:30am, 9:30am, 11:15am and 12:30pm



**Altar Bread and Wine donated this week in Loving Memory of Thomas Dillulio by Joseph and Teri Presta**

**The Sanctuary Lamp donated this week in Loving Memory of Thomas Dillulio by Joseph and Teri Presta**



**Newly Baptized:** We welcome into our Parish Family: **Alexander Paul Li** son of Raymond and Michelle



**Francis Xavier School:** On Tuesday, December 23rd, Fr. Matthew will celebrate Christmas Mass for the children. Parents are cordially invited to attend. On behalf of Fr. Matthew, the faculty and staff, we wish all our families a Blessed Christmas. School resumes on Monday, January 5th, 2015. For updated information please visit the school website at [sfxschool.net](http://sfxschool.net).



**Religious Education—Learning to live our Catholic faith 24/7:** *Our wishes for a very blessed Christmas to all the families of the parish with love from the volunteers of the SFX Religious Education Program.*  
**Classes will resume on:** Sunday, January 4th, 2015.

**Christmas at St. Francis Xavier:** A reminder that Christmas Flowers and Decorations can be memorialized in honor of loved ones. Each \$25 donation can be memorialized with up to three names. The Christmas Flower envelopes are available in the vestibule of the Church and included with your Church envelopes. You can leave these envelopes at the Rectory or drop them in the collection basket.



**The Lighter Side of Christmas:** Please join us for a fun evening of favorite Christmas Carols by our Choir members, Saturday, December 27th at 6:30pm immediately following the 5:30pm Mass.

**Next week's readings (Holy Family Sunday):** Genesis Chapter 15:1-6; Chapter 21:1-3; Sirach Chapter 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 105:3-4,5-6,8-9 (7a,8a); Psalm 128:1-2,3,4-5 (1); Hebrews Chapter 11:8,11-12,17-19; Colossians Chapter 3:12-21; and Luke Chapter 2:22-40



Dear Parishioners,

We come to the Fourth Sunday of Advent, with Christmas only three days away. We have been hearing from the Prophet Isaiah throughout Advent as he articulates the hope and the longing of the People of Israel for God's promise of a Savior to be fulfilled. For centuries they patiently waited for the coming of Christ. And today our beautiful gospel for this final Sunday of Advent brings us to that moment when all the yearning and waiting throughout the Old Testament comes to its fulfillment when God sent the Angel Gabriel to a humble virgin named Mary to ask her to become the Mother of His Divine Son. And Mary responds with complete trust and obedience to the Will of God: "Let it be done to me according to your word." At that moment the Eternal Word of the Father became Flesh and began to dwell among us in the womb of the Virgin Mary.

Isn't it amazing that the Almighty God made His plan for our salvation depend on the consent of a poor and humble peasant girl from a tiny town called Nazareth? How much God respects our freedom and thirsts for our Faith. It was Mary's Faith, even more so than her being the Mother of the Son of God, that made her truly blessed. As St. Augustine put it: "Mary, full of faith, conceived Christ in her heart before she conceived Him in her womb." The attitude of Mary (and Joseph) teach us that life is not all about me and my plans, but about God and His plans. When we put ourselves aside and seek to do the Will of God in all things, we begin to see that nothing is impossible for God - not even sending His only Son into the world, not in a display of glory and power, but as a tiny, defenseless baby lying in a manger among the animals wrapped in the rags of the poorest of the poor.

In the words of Saint John Paul II: "We are left in awe of the mystery of a God who lowered Himself to take on our human condition, being born as a defenseless baby lying in a manger, lowering Himself all the way to laying down His life for us on the Cross." Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI put it so beautifully: "God is so great that He can become small. God is so powerful that He can make himself vulnerable and come to us as a defenseless child, so that we can love Him. God is so good that He can give up His Divine splendor and come down to a stable, so that we might find Him."

How much we need to find Him in this troubled world of ours. As Cardinal Dolan put it: "We long for that 'Silent Night,' when the piercing cold became warm with love and the darkness radiant with angelic light, and a baby was born to bring peace and eternal life." May this warmth, light, and peace that descended upon the world at the birth of Christ that first Christmas, descend upon our world once again this Christmas, and upon you and your families and remain with you forever. May God bless us all.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Fr. Matthew J. Furey



### FAMILY PRAYER : Fourth Sunday of Advent- The Advent Wreath

Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent:

O Lord, stir up your might and come. Aid us with powerful assistance so that, through your grace and merciful forgiveness, we may attain salvation which now is hindered by our sins; you who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit; God forever and ever. (Someone lights all the candles.)



*Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you:*

*you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:7-14*

*A Blessed Christmas to all. Please take home one per family as a Christmas gift from your parish "Dynamic Catholic" by Matthew Kelly, a splendid book to rekindle and deepen your faith.*

*With love and gratitude,  
All your priests and staff at the Rectory*

#### Please remember the following

members of our parish community in your prayers:



Our Parish  
Prayer List

William Ahearn, Dennis Aiello, Edwardo Alicea, Mary Annunzio, Judith Arriaga, Betty Barbagallo, Nettie Bianchini, Joe Blandino, Maryanne Cataldo, Louis Campisi, Flavia Chiappa, Marie Ciacco, Theodore Civetta, Jenny Cioffi, Loreen Clavin, Lorraine Capozzi, Angelo Caruso, Brenda Colon, Joanne Cunneen, Richard Daum, Carlann Defede, Antoinette DeLillo, Baby Colin Depriest, Alfred DeSantis, John Dinelli, Patrick Dolan, Baby Max D'Onofrio, Carmella Emily DonVito, Mario Esguerra, Cheryl Espinoza, John Esposito, Esther Finn, Carmen Flores, Billy Fischer, Luis Paz Florencio, Sr., Peter Frenna, Donald Gallagher, Alexis Marie Gonzalez, Cora Gonzales, John Hastings, Charlotte Hayes, Kerry White Hemmer, Laura Liferi Hernandez, Gloria Irizarry, Frances Jenkins, Felix Jaiman, Emily Koch (6-yr. old), Rosemarie Leo, Margaret Leonard, Ann Kittle, Angela Liferi, Gloria Lisanti, Lucy Lorusso, Barbara Lyne, Andy Massa, Vincent (Jimmy) Mastrogiovanni, Paul McAllister, Joseph Milone, Jennie Miraglia, Maria Mazzella, John Mullane, Brianan Murtagh, John Muzzillo, Michael Nichols, Paige O'Donnell, Teresa O'Hara, Kerry O'Keefe, Rosa Maria Ortiz, Louie Paone, Ralph Palumbo, Sylvia Pankovcin, Virginia Parchen, Richard Quartarone, Giselle Ramos, Thomas J. Reardon, Blake Rosenn, Angela Rizzo, Alejandra Rosario, Rosa Russo, Gloria Santaniello, Anthony Saraco, Theresa Smith, Niko Stravrianopoulos (3-yr. old), Marie Swain, Juliana Szanto, Paul Teehan, Frank Toapha, Justina Torres, Patricia Trainor, Lori Mayer Tricoli, Diana Vicinanza, Dominick Villara, Gelacio Villaviza, Christopher Vitale, Kathy Vitale, George Walsh, Rev. Arthur Welton, Gary Wieler, Jonathan Wilson (12-year old), Ottilia Zangrandi, Madelyn Ziesel



In your prayers please remember all the men and women serving in our

Armed Forces, especially: Zachary Pragnoli, Nick Visconti, Christopher C. Cannata, Carlos E. Blanco, Emmanuel Martinez, Lt. Michael Tafone, Cpl. Christopher Antony, Cpt. Brian Pascuzzi, Master Sgt. Janelle Amador, Anthony Thomas Candito, Sgt. Troy Mastin, 1st Lt. Nicholas Cardiello



Pray for those who have died: William Thomas, Filippo Ferron, and Mary Rice

## St. Francis Xavier Christmas Schedule 2014



### CONFESSIONS

*Monday, December 15, 2014 - Reconciliation Monday*

*4:00pm to 8:00pm*

*Saturday, December 20, 2014*

*4:00pm to 5:00pm*

### CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE - Wednesday, December 24, 2014

*4:00pm - Vigil Mass*

*5:30pm - Vigil Mass*

*12:00 Midnight Mass*

### CHRISTMAS DAY - Thursday, December 25, 2014

*7:30am, 9:30am, 11:15am*

*And 12:30pm*

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY (Mother of God) - Wednesday, December 31, 2014

*5:30pm - Vigil Mass*

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY (Mother of God) - Thursday, January 1, 2015

*7:30am, 9:30am, 11:15am*

*And 12:30pm*