

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday December 19, 2015
Vigil for Sunday
 5:30pm Josephine Cinque

Sunday December 20, 2015—Fourth Sunday of Advent
 7:30am All Parishioners of SFX
 9:30am Nora Carney
 11:15am Anthony Saraco
 12:30pm Tony Procino
 6:00pm Simbang Gabi-Filipino Christmas Novena Mass
 Reception in Lower Rectory

Monday December 21, 2015
 7:30am John Schettino
 9:00am Genovina and John Musto and Families

Tuesday December 22, 2015
 7:30AM Angelo and Antonio Busani
 9:00am Michael Fragola
 7:00pm Simbang Gabi-Filipino Christmas Novena Mass
 Reception in Lower Rectory

Wednesday December 23, 2015
 7:30am Elizabeth Hefter
 9:00am Giordano and Yolanda Fronk
 10:00am SFX School Christmas Mass

Thursday December 24, 2015
 7:30am Thomas Vasti, Sr.
 9:00am Edward Ramoni

CHRISTMAS EVE
 4:00pm Intentions of SFX Religious Ed Volunteers (Living)
 5:30pm Joseph Luna
 12:00 Midnight All Parishioners of SFX

Friday December 25, 2015—CHRISTMAS DAY
 7:30am Beto Ore
 9:30am DiGiambattista and DeBellis Families
 11:15am Vito Tetro
 12:30pm Jessie, Joseph and Angelina Delia

Saturday December 26, 2015
 7:30am Louise Starace
 9:00am Davide Chiappa

Vigil for Sunday
 5:30pm Viola Dascoli

Sunday December 27, 2015—HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY
 7:30am All Parishioners of SFX
 9:30am Anthony Iuso, Cristina, Antonia, Angelo Gesmundo
 11:15am Pietro Provenzano, Deceased & Living Family Members
 12:30pm Jessie, Joseph and Angelina Delia

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, 2015

4:00pm-Vigil Mass
 5:30pm-Vigil Mass
 12:00 Midnight Mass



CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday, December 25, 2015

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

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Thursday, December 31, 2015

5:30pm-Vigil

Friday, January 1, 2016

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



Bread and Wine is Donated this week in loving memory of Vito and Beatrice Tetro by Mary Tetro



Altar Flowers are donated this week in loving memory of Elizabeth Hefter by Elizabeth Russo



Sanctuary Lamp is lit this week in loving memory of Thomas Vasti, Sr. by Rosemarie and Tom Vasti



St. Francis Xavier School: On Wednesday, December 23rd, Fr. Matthew and Fr. Reiman will celebrate Christmas Mass for the children before they leave for Christmas vacation. Parents are also invited to attend the Mass.

School will resume on Monday, January 4, 2016. On behalf of the school family, we wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year! Visit sfxschool.net.



Religious Education—Learning to live our Catholic faith 24/7: Be the love and light of Jesus—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 3th, 2016

UPK “Wednesdays With Jesus”: How beautiful it is to see our four-year old children in UPK learning about the birth of Jesus—the Son of God and how we invite Him into our hearts. Classes will resume Wednesday, January 6th, 2016.



Christmas at St. Francis Xavier: As we prepare our Church for the Christmas Season, Christmas Flowers and Decorations can be memorialized in honor of a loved one. The 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. Each \$25 donation can be memorialized with up to three names.

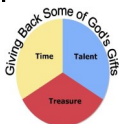
Fourth Sunday of Advent- O Lord, stir up your might and come. Aid us with powerful assistance so that, through your grace and merciful forgiveness, we may attain salvation which now is hindered by our sins; you who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit; God forever and ever.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



Next Week's Readings (Holy Family of Jesus): 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 84:2-3,5-6,9-10; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52

Weekly Collection (Parish Pay Included) 2015:
 Third Sunday of Advent—December 13: \$5,759
 Second Collection (Retired Religious): \$1,277
 Immaculate Conception: \$1,505

Weekly Collection (Parish Pay Included) 2014:
 Third Sunday of Advent—December 14: \$6,693
 Second Collection (Retired Religious): \$1,394
 Immaculate Conception: \$1,101





Dear Parishioners,

What a blessed "Reconciliation Monday" we had here this week. So many came to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We were supposed to be hearing Confession from 4:00pm until 8:00pm, but we had a steady stream of Penitents until well after 9:00pm. The Grace of God was so beautifully at work at the beginning of this Holy Year of Mercy, and hopefully will continue throughout this Year and beyond.

Now we come to the Fourth and Last Sunday of Advent, as our Gospel shifts the focus of our patient waiting for the birth of Christ from the preaching of John the Baptist to Mary. All the yearning and waiting for centuries throughout the Old Testament comes to its fulfillment as God, through the Angel Gabriel, asks a humble virgin of a tiny town called Nazareth to be the Mother of His Divine Son. And Mary responds with complete trust and surrender to the Will of God: "Let it be done to me according to your word." And so in today's gospel of the Visitation, Mary's cousin, Elizabeth, inspired by the Holy Spirit, exalts Mary upon her arrival with the words: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. How does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

Mary was truly blessed to be the Mother of the Lord, but what made her most pleasing to God was her Faith and her Trust, as Elizabeth went on to say: "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." As St. Augustine put it: "Mary, full of faith, conceived Christ in her heart before she conceived Him in her womb." Mary's Faith enabled her to say "Yes" to God, and at that moment The Eternal Word of the Father became flesh in her womb and began to dwell among us. And, as St. John Paul II put it: "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 expounded further on this mystery of the Incarnation so beautifully in his homily at Midnight Mass several years ago when he said: "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 experience His Love, His Mercy, and His Peace this Christmas. If anyone here with us for Christmas Mass has been away from our Parish or from the Church, we welcome you home and hope you will remain with us. May the warmth, light, and peace that descended upon the world at the birth of Christ that first Christmas descend upon you and your families this Christmas and remain with you forever.

On behalf of Fr. Reiman, Fr. Hippolytus, and myself, I want to wish all of you a very Blessed and Merry Christmas. And I thank you from the depths of my heart for your faith, your love, your prayers, and your support. Know that we love you and are here to serve you. May God bless us all.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Matthew J. Furey



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.
With love and gratitude,
All of us at the Rectory*



Please remember the following

members of our parish community in your prayers:

William Ahearn, Dennis Aiello, Edwardo Alicea, Mary Annunzio, Judith Arriaga, Betty Barbagallo, Nettie Bianchini, Joe Blandino, Nellie Calderon, Louis Campisi, Flavia Chiappa, Marie Ciacco, Theodore Civetta, Jenny Cioffi, Lorean Clavin, Lorraine Capozzi, Angelo Caruso, Brenda Colon, Mary Cozzocrea, Joanne Cunneen, Richard Daum, Carlann Defede, Antoinette DeLillo, Baby Colin Depriest, Al & Dot DeSantis, Patrick Dolan, Baby Max D'Onofrio, Carmella Emily DonVito, Mario Esguerra, Cheryl Espinoza, John Esposito, Esther Finn, Carmen Flores, Billy Fischer, Rosemarie Flatley, Luis Paz Florencio, Sr., Peter Frenna, Donald Gallagher, Maritza Garcia, Brian Gillick, Alexis Marie Gonzalez, Cora Gonzales, John Hastings, Charlotte Hayes, Kerry White Hemmer, Laura Liefrieri Hernandez, Gloria Irizarry, Frances Jenkins, Felix Jaiman, Emily Koch (6-yr. old), Janet Kreage, Rosemarie Leo, Margaret Leonard, Ann Kittle, Angela Liefrieri, Gloria Lisanti, Lucy Lorusso, Barbara Lyne, Andy Massa, Vincent (Jimmy) Mastrogiovanni, Paul McAllister, Theresa McDermott, Jennie Miraglia, Maria Mayo, Maria Mazzella, Marjorie Morales, John Mullane, Brianan Murtagh, John Muzzillo, Michael Nichols, Paige O'Donnell, Kerry O'Keeffe, Rosa Maria Ortiz, Louie Paone, Ralph Palumbo, Sylvia Pankovcin, Virginia Parchen, Richard Quartarone, Barbara R. and Mollie R, Giselle Ramos, Thomas J. Reardon, Blake Rosenn, Angela Rizzo, Alejandra Rosario, Rosa Russo, Gloria Santaniello, Maureen Dean Schmidt, Theresa Smith, Niko Stravrianopoulos (3-yr. old), Marie Swain, Paul Teehan, Frank Toapha, Justina Torres, Patricia Trainor, Lori Mayer Tricoli, Dominick Villara, Christopher Vitale, Kathy Vitale, George Walsh, 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 Piragnoli, 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 Cardello



Pray for those who have died: Thomas J. Hefter, Sr.