

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 2017

† MASS INTENTIONS †

| | | | |
|-------|-------|----------|---|
| Sat. | 12/23 | 4:00 PM | Mary and Thomas Ferko by M/M James Breznitsky |
| Sun. | 12/24 | 7:30 AM | Rose and John Iacurci by Joan and Stanley Wilczek |
| | | 10:30 AM | For the People |
| | | 4:00 PM | Christmas Eve Eleanor Lambert by the Myers Family |
| | | 10:00 PM | Christmas Eve Edward Chocolas by Tony and Don Marino |
| Mon. | 12/25 | 9:00 AM | Christmas Day Marie Balon by Ann Louise and Julius Ceriani |
| Tue. | 12/26 | 7:00 AM | Magdalene Kislán by Her Husband Bob |
| Wed. | 12/27 | 7:00 AM | John Gabuzda by His Parish Family |
| Thur. | 12/28 | 7:00 AM | Peter and Stella Amentler by Their Children Janet and John |
| Fri. | 12/29 | 7:00 AM | Elaine Gazick by the Capozzelli Family |
| Sat. | 12/30 | 4:00 PM | For the People |
| Sun. | 12/31 | 7:30 AM | Eleanor Lambert by Ann Marie Della Croce and Family |
| | | 10:30 AM | Louis Durange by Paul Thomas and Family |
| Mon. | 1/1 | 9:00 AM | Solemnity of Mary Leonard and Ann Swankoski by Mark and Teresa Swankoski |



Last Weekend:

Sunday \$3,690.13; Dues \$3,386.00; Care and Education of Priests \$13.00; Immaculate Conception \$58.00; Christmas Flowers \$51.00; Religious Retirement \$52.00; Poor Box \$234.27

CANDLES ON THE ALTAR are in Memory of Elizabeth Hrabovecky by her Daughter Joyce.



MEMORIAL DONATION of \$50.00 was made in Memory of Joanne Meneeley by Robert and Mary Ellen Meneeley.

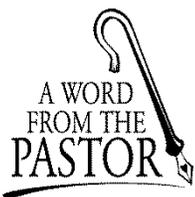
SECOND COLLECTION next weekend is for the Care and Education of Priests.

***** THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, DEC. 25TH AND MONDAY, JAN. 1ST.**

Next Monday, January 1, 2017, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Because this falls on a Monday, it is a **Holy Day of Observation, not a Holy Day of Obligation. Obligation to attend mass is lifted.**

FAITH FORMATION NEWS: There are no classes this weekend or next weekend. Classes resume January 7th. This will also be the Mass Attendance Card Check. Please have the students bring their cards to class.

We thank all our volunteers who help made our wonderful Happy Birthday, Jesus Celebration possible. We could not have provided the children with this wonderful program without them.



We hear in this week's Gospel about the angel Gabriel and Mary. Gabriel's job was to announce God's word. In this case he announced to Mary that she would conceive a child and name Him Jesus. Mary's job was to respond to that announcement. Here's the challenge for each of us this 4th Sunday of Advent: God is speaking His word to you through people around you. Will you stop all the running around for a moment and LISTEN to what He has to say? Just Stop! But don't STOP there...now you have to respond. As Mary responded to Gabriel and said, "YES," God wants you to do the same thing. How will you respond YES to God in these last few hours of Advent?



A VIEW FROM THE PEW, WAITING IN JOYFUL HOPE!

Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight. It seems Advent season gets lost in the secularization of Christmas. Are we waiting in the joyful false hope of a package arriving from Amazon? Or are we using this time to reflect and prepare spiritually, truly WAITING IN JOYFUL HOPE for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ!

ALL ALTAR SERVERS, EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS, LECTORS, MONEY COUNTERS, CHOIR, AND ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Your gift from the parish is available in the front sacristy. Your name is on your gift bag. Please pick up your gift at your earliest convenience.



DEAR PARISHIONERS, We would like to thank you for **your extraordinary generosity** to our Giving Tree recipients. You provided nearly 400 gifts to needy families in our Freeland community. The gifts were distributed last Saturday to very grateful men, women, and children. Each family was in awe of the beautifully-wrapped packages with their names and their loved ones' names printed on glittery stickers. Some were moved to tears while others could not find the words to express their thanks. It was a wonderful day for us to witness the true meaning of Christmas and we wanted to thank you for making it possible!

We have 4 giving projects each year. The "Forget-Me-Not" bags for our senior citizens are given out in June; our backpacks in August; our children's warm winter coats in November; and the Giving Tree gifts in December. A lot of planning and preparation goes into these projects. If you ever feel you would like to become involved in this ministry, please don't wait to be asked! Volunteer and we will surely use you!! Call Janet in the parish office (570-636-3035) for more information.

DIOCESAN APPEAL DONORS: M/M Randy Bell; M/M John Carr; M/M James Deitos; M/M Roy Deitrich; M/M John Herkalo; M/M Joseph Malloy; and Mr. Thomas McBrearty. We are only \$5,194.00 from our goal. Won't you please consider making a pledge and help us reach our goal?

Thoughts for Christmas



And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." LK 2:10-11 Rejoice the King has come! Let's keep this good news in our hearts, not only today as we gather with family and friends, but everyday throughout the New Year.



Today I want to tell you the story of an empty stocking. Once upon a midnight clear, there was a child's cry. A blazing star hung over a stable and wise men came with birthday gifts. We haven't forgotten that night down the centuries; we celebrate it with stars on Christmas trees, the sound of bells, and with gifts, especially with gifts. We forget no one, not adult nor child. All the stockings are filled - all that is, except one. And we have even forgotten to hang it up. The stocking for the child born in a manger. It's His birthday we are celebrating. Don't ever let us forget that. Let us ask ourselves what He would wish for most, and then let each put in his share: loving kindness, warm hearts and the outstretched hand of tolerance - all the shining gifts that make peace on earth.



"The Magic of Christmas is not in the presents, but in His presence."

A quote from an unknown author that needs no explanation. On behalf of the Liturgy Committee may everyone have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!