



# CHURCH OF SAINT ANN

311 CARR AVE, KEANSBURG, NJ 07734 (732) 787-0315

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 2021

## WELCOME

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

### CONFESSIONS

Saturday 1 - 2 PM  
and by appointment.

### MASS

**Saturday (Vigil)**  
5:00 PM (Live-Streamed)

**Sunday**  
9:00 AM, 6:00 PM

### CLERGY & STAFF

**Rev. Richard Vila**

Pastor

**Msgr. Jack Carroll**

Weekend Assistant

**Theresa Kelly**

Director of Religious Ed

**Corina Pauta**

Choir Director & Organist

**Dana Deliso**

Cantor

**Eileen Hoff**

Church Secretary

**John Roelsing**

Property Manager

### SISTERS OF MERCY

(732) 787-0546

**Sr. Carol Conly, R.S.M.**

Coordinator

**Sr. Sharon Kelly**

**Sr. Barbara McDermot**

**Sr. Kathleen O'Halloran**



## 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of Advent

"And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy." - Lk 1:43-44

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

LIVE-STREAMS CAN BE FOUND ON  [YouTube@CHURCHOFSTANNKEANSBURG.ORG](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC14344)



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# REFLECT

## FIRST READING

YOU, BETHLEHEM-EPHRATHAH  
TOO SMALL TO BE AMONG THE  
CLANS OF JUDAH,  
FROM YOU SHALL COME FORTH  
FOR ME  
ONE WHO IS TO BE RULER IN  
ISRAEL. (MI 5:1)

## SECOND READING

"THEN I SAID, 'AS IS WRITTEN OF  
ME IN THE SCROLL,  
BEHOLD, I COME TO DO YOUR  
WILL, O GOD.'" (HEB 10:7)

## GOSPEL READING

"BLESSED ARE YOU AMONG  
WOMEN, AND BLESSED IS THE  
FRUIT OF YOUR WOMB.  
AND HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN  
TO ME, THAT THE MOTHER OF MY  
LORD SHOULD COME TO  
ME?" (LK 1:42-43)



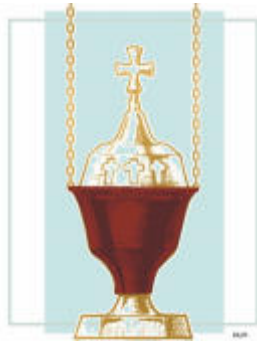
**Baptism Class** is held once a Month. Please call the Rectory for more information or to register for the class. Baptisms are held on the Second and Fourth Sunday, @ 10am.

*\*You need to be **registered and attend** our Parish in order to baptize @ St. Ann's.*

Every Tuesday and Thursday

**AA meetings** are held in the school gym from 10-11am all are welcome.

Anyone Interested in **Adult Catechism** Classes, please call Sr. Sharon @ 732-495-2454



## THE SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp is available for special intentions. The Lamp burns weekly for deceased members of a family or requests for a special intention. The donation is \$20. Please call the Rectory for further information. This week's Sanctuary Lamp burns for  
**Parishioners of St. Ann**

## MASS INTENTIONS

### MONDAY, 12-20

8:00 AM †

**James Pigott**

*rq by Loving Family*

### TUESDAY, 12-21

8:00 AM †

**Alice Barry**

*rq by Kate & the Girls*

**Purgatorial Society of St. Ann's**

### WEDNESDAY, 12-22

8:00 AM

**Thomas Sauickie Jr.**

*rq by Loving Family*

**Alice Barry**

*rq by Loving Husband*

### THURSDAY, 12-23

8:00 AM †

**Thomas Sauickie Jr**

*rq by Loving Family*

**Alice Barry & Shelia Manara Barry**

*rq by The Deegan Family*

### \*\*\*Christmas Schedule

### FRIDAY 12-24

4:00PM †

**Parishioners of St. Ann**

6:00PM

**Parishioners of St. Ann**

8:00PM

**Parishioners of St Ann**

### SATURDAY, 12-25

9:00 AM †

**Parishioners of St. Ann**

### SUNDAY, 12-26

9:00 AM †

**Mary Sauickie**

*rq by Loving Family*

**Chester Adamski**

*rq by Larry & Marion Adamski*

**Edward Gann**

*rq by The Wendland Family*



Text **Signup**

to (833)544-0934 to

receive text messages

from St. Ann.



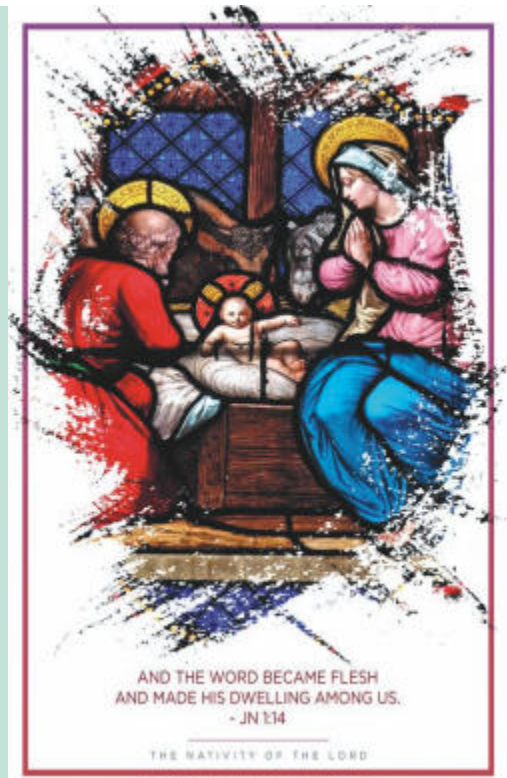
# WEEKLY PRAYER

## Readings for the week of December 19, 2021

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45  
Monday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38  
Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45  
Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56  
Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66  
Friday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79  
Saturday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/  
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14  
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14  
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or  
1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

## Observances for the week of December 19, 2021

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent  
Monday:  
Tuesday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church  
Wednesday:  
Thursday: St. John of Kanty, Priest  
Friday: Christmas Eve  
Saturday: The Nativity of the Lord  
Next Sunday: The Holy Family



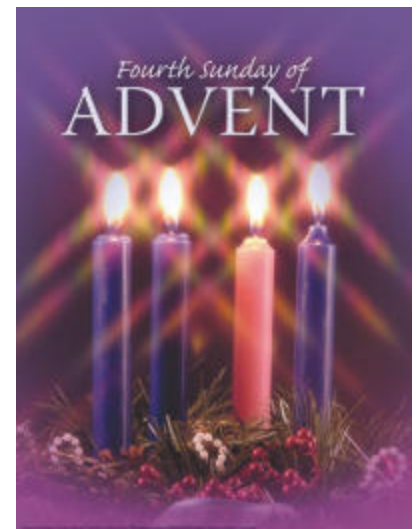
# GOSPEL MEDITATION

St. Augustine tells us that a “Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps.” As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life’s necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world’s ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes. Why doesn’t God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just

how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world’s ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God’s vessel so that God’s greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God’s fix for the world’s difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of

justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God’s instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.



### PASTOR'S NOTE

Shout for joy! When was the last time you ever felt like doing that? Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of joy. We can never predict what life will bring. As unsettling as that can often seem, life's unpredictability is also the very thing that allows it to be exciting and adventuresome! We know that life can be difficult, and it is unrealistic to expect it to be otherwise. God never promised an easy road. But, when a person truly falls in love with God and discovers the peacefulness and assurance of God's presence, then a depth of understanding will be brought to everything they do and experience. Nothing will be able to rob them of joy! When we realize that God, the King of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We celebrate the beauty and wonder of God's gift of joy today as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. There is a power and presence within us, our God, who has made us, who loves us and who will keep us. What more do we need? Rejoice!

Fr. Richard



## PRAYER REQUESTS

If you or a loved one are need of some extra prayers please contact the Rectory @ 732-787-0315 to have your name added to the Prayer List.

Rita and Nicholas Nabel  
Stephen Verducci  
Elanor Delia  
Baby Porpora  
Terry Barry  
Michael Palmisano

### Parish Confessions

On Wednesday, December 22nd St. Ann's will have a Parish Penance Service @ 6pm

This is also known as confession. In the Roman Catholic Church people go to confession to say sorry for the wrong (sin) in their lives and to experience God's healing through forgiveness. Confession also permits reconciliation with the Church, which is wounded by the sins people commit.

### "Winter Weather Worries"

Winter is coming and that means ice and snow may make it difficult for some people to get to Church. But parish bills keep growing during the winter, including increased heating cost and snow removal expenses. You can make sure your parish support doesn't stop just when we need it the most. Check out our simple, safe and secure online giving program at WeShare@4LPi.com or go to WeConnect Parish App. We have a number of families that are currently giving online. Please consider joining that growing number of dedicated givers! We are most grateful to all those who make every effort to give consistently whether electronically or through the weekly offering basket. It really helps us plan and meet our budget.

### Stewardship Ties

*There is a lot of imagery around Christmas that has to do with adoption — or, more specifically, with a child being loved by another as if they belonged to that person and loved in such a profound way that in time, they do come to belong to that person.*

*We see this with Joseph and the infant Jesus. Joseph is not Jesus' biological father. But through a series of actions, and through his faithfulness in small, everyday matters, Joseph becomes the foster father of Jesus.*

*Perhaps we are parents who have adopted children, or we ourselves were adopted. We have also seen how, through a series of actions of love and sacrifice, someone can become the parent of a person who is not their "blood." A lot of times these families celebrate the day of the adoption. I've heard it called a "gotcha day," and it's marked joyously, like a birthday.*

*Most of us are not descended from the Israelites, God's Chosen People. But through a series of extraordinary actions of love and sacrifice, God has made Himself our parent, too. And through our own actions, and through faithfulness in small and everyday matters, we are His children.*

*But in this family, instead of blood ties, we have stewardship ties. It's not about who we look like, it's about how we treat one another. How we take care of one another.*

*So this Christmas, let's think about how we will celebrate our adoption. As much as it is Jesus' birthday, it's also our "gotcha day" — the day we received the gift of eternal family.*

### Christmas Through a Child's Eyes

*Every year I'd wait for the season  
Only Christmas time can bring I thought I understood the reason  
For all the parties and Caroling  
Every year I'd search for the meaning  
Every time I'd dress the tree  
Each new ornament and garland  
Each decoration was all I'd see  
and that's all Christmas meant to me  
Then someone told me Christmas is for children  
And I left that behind too long ago  
But now I see Christmas through a child's eyes  
through the Christ Child's eyes*



*Now every time we ring in the season  
And play a Christmas melody  
I know that the moment I hear it  
It'll bring Christmas back to me*

## Thank You!

Thank you to all who donated to the wonderful array of Poinsettias to decorate our beautiful Church!

We would like to also give a big thank you to all the hard working volunteers who took time out of their busy holiday schedules to help clean and decorate for the Christmas Season. Fr. Richard, Monsignor & the Rectory Staff are truly blessed to be surrounded with such wonderful Volunteers, not just the Holiday Season but everyday!



### Baby Jesus' Wish List

*Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your god-daughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?*

*If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.*

*But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."*

*Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.*



## Christmas

Today marks the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. We have lighted four candles these past four weeks and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends. Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world.

Let us pray...

God,  
you became human through the obedience of a simple young woman named Mary. Mary is our model of faith. May we be faithful to your word as Mary was. Give us the courage to face each day with the yes that Mary gave to you. We ask this through the incarnate God, who comes to us again during this Christmas season.

Amen.

### Advent Wreath

Question: What's the story behind the Advent wreath?

Answer: Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreathes adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn't falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God's love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we're roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ's coming at Christmas.



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