

THIS IS THE TIME TO EMBRACE THE LIGHT

*There are those of us who sadly recall the taking of several American hostages in Lebanon in the late 1980s. Perhaps the best known of these was Terry Anderson, an Associated Press journalist who was kidnapped in 1985 and imprisoned for nearly seven years.*

*During his days of confinement, he was mostly blindfolded and held in chains and it became apparent that he was losing his ability to think. One day, he was given a Bible by his captors and he eagerly began to read. This was like a gift from Heaven.*

*Terry Anderson, though raised a Catholic, had not been practicing his faith for years. Now without the blindfold, he began to read the Bible and this gave him much time to think about his wasted life and sordid past: losing his first wife and daughter. He felt the need to confess his many mistakes that he had made.*

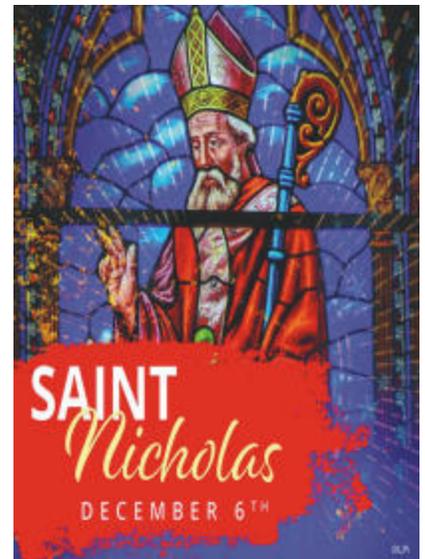
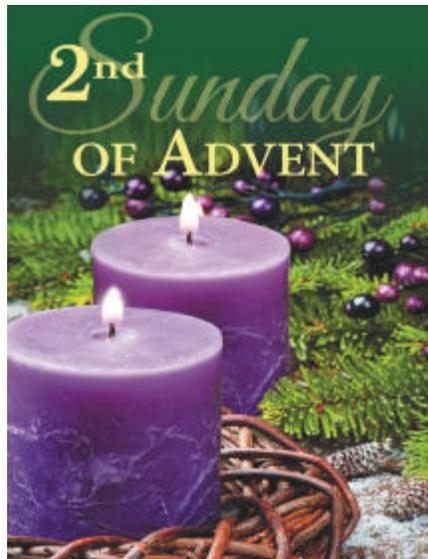
*He then became aware of another prisoner, Fr. Lawrence Jenko, living next to him and he was allowed to see him. It was 25 years since he had made a confession. He felt much relieved in confessing his bad marriage, affairs with women, and bouts of drinking. When he had finished, both men were in tears and Fr. Jenko proclaimed, "In the name of a gentle and loving God, you are forgiven."*

*This was the turning point in Anderson's life. He now knew what repentance was: he left the darkness of his past and now faced the light, knowing that the voice of God, through the words of absolution, freed him from his past. It is a deep awareness of the need we have for God's cleansing presence in our lives.*

*And this could be our story as well. We all continue to fail, but God's love and mercy reach out to us every day. We all have shortcomings in life: perhaps a bad marriage, drug or alcohol addiction, doubts which smother us, human arrogance and our everyday conduct.*

*Repentance can be likened to leaving the darkness of our souls and facing the light. John the Baptist calls each one of us to stop in the midst of our frantic preparation for Christmas to hear the message of Advent. Let us hear that message and the voice of Jesus. This is the time to examine the way we live and our relationship with God. We may also uncover obstacles which keep us from living our faith to the fullest. Those obstacles may be blocking the light: the path leading to Jesus, that Babe in the manger. Follow His words and let us embrace the light of love, encouragement, and forgiveness.*

*Submitted by John Macko, Blessed Sacrament*



# READINGS AND REFLECTION

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## BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

3127 James Street  
Syracuse, New York 13206

(315) 437-3394

[bscoffice@bscstvsyr.org](mailto:bscoffice@bscstvsyr.org)

### MASS TIMES

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.

Saturday 5:15 p.m.

Sunday 7:30 and 9:15 a.m.

### CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 4:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m.

and by appointment

### OFFICE HOURS

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH

342 Vine Street  
Syracuse, New York 13203

(315) 479-6689

[stvoffice@bscstvsyr.org](mailto:stvoffice@bscstvsyr.org)

### MASS TIMES

Monday-Wednesday 12:00 p.m.

Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

### CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 3:00 p.m.-3:45 p.m.

and by appointment

### OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri: 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

First Reading: Baruch 5: 1 - 9

Responsorial Psalm: 126:1 -2, 2-3, 4-5, 6

Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1 - 6

*Reflection: In today's Responsorial Psalm, we responded, "The Lord has great things for us; we are filled with joy." This psalm goes on saying, "When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing." This is the message Israelites back in freedom from Babylonian exile and slavery. The people of Israel were taken into exile and made slaves in Babylon after the destruction of their city and their adorned temple. They were enslaved for 70 years. The reason for their captivity was their sinful life against the goodness of God who had brought them from Egyptian slavery into the Promised Land. After 70 years of slavery, God forgave their sins, smoothed the hearts of Babylonians who allowed the remnants to return in their country to rebuild. The returning of Israelite remnants from Babylonian exile and slavery back home into freedom is the act of great victory and joy. The same joyful message of freedom is shared by the prophet Baruch in today's First Reading when the prophet invites Israelites into joy, "Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name." In today's Second Reading, Paul writes to the Philippians, "Brothers and sisters: I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now." As an apostle of God, Paul is filled with joy when he sees that Philippians embracing the gospel of Christ and remain faithful to it since it is the gospel of life and freedom. John the Baptist is seen, in today's Gospel Reading going throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. In his powerful message, he shouts out, "A voice of one crying out in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." As we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent, we are nourished with Holy Scriptures which tells us that the Advent Season is the season of joyful preparation to receive God's grace which enable us to live as children of God. They invite us to remain faithful to God who has invited people of all times and places to abandon lives of sin and embrace his holiness. Living in the house of the LORD will always make us free and joyful. The children of Israel both in today's psalm and in the First Reading experience that joy and freedom as they abandon sinful ways and entrust themselves in the ways of God. Paul is joyful to the Philippians who have remained faithful to the Gospel of Christ. John the Baptist is making it his life mission to invite the people of his time from sin to the holiness of God as they prepare themselves to the First Coming of Jesus. This Advent Season invites us to the spirit of penance which make us to make that U-turn from slavery of sin to the freedom of God's holiness. We are God's own children. Yes, we are. Yes! Amen!*

*Fr. Severine.*

Holy Hour: Every Thursday 6PM - 7PM. Blessed Sacrament Church.

## MASS INTENTIONS—BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

- Saturday, December 4, 5:15PM: Ethel and Walter Stone—Family
- Sunday, December 5, 7:30AM: Helen and Lawrence Haney and Dennis Kuss—Mary Kay and Chuck BeGell
- Sunday, December 5, 9:15AM: People of the Parish
- Monday, December 6, 8AM: Peg Quinn—Sandy Kane
- Tuesday, December 7, 8AM: Harold Thompson—Betty and Joe Metallo
- Wednesday, December 8, 9AM: Janet Barry—Mary Rougeau
- Thursday, December 9, 8AM: Carl J. Dantonello—Steve and Alice Heffron
- Friday, December 10, 8AM: Margaret Quinn—The Szuba Family
- Saturday, December 11, 5:15PM: Ethel and Walter Stone, and Morina and Stagnitta Families —Family
- Sunday, December 12, 7:30AM: Carmella Pietrantonì—Family People of the Parish
- Sunday, December 12, 9:15AM: Carmella Sweeney—Joe Majewski and Family

**NOTE: The Mass time on December 8 is at 9AM.**



We pray for:  
 Kara Horvath,  
 Alex Helwig,  
 Elizabeth Bucher, Carl Price, Anika Johnson, Anna Ciccarella, Kathleen Naughton, Abby, Sarah, Pat Laun, Gerard Zutant, Mike, Mary, Larry, Kimberly Penny, Karen Ballog, Shari Rustay, Ann Folger, Sonny McCarthy, Missy DiPaulo Angotti, Margie McKeon, Carolyn Armstrong, Susan Moro Campbell, Terri Close, Ann Cook, Mary Extale, John Fortino, Mary Anne Garrett, Mary Gersbacher, John Gersbacher, Elizabeth Gilbert, Mary Griffin, Mary Ingalls, Yang Juan, Cole Malone, Grace McNamara, Giavanna Regulbuto, Jean Suits, and Elizabeth Walrath.



Children's Liturgy of the Word is back during the 9:15 a.m. Mass at Blessed Sacrament. Each week we will share readings and engaging activities that are great for children in Kindergarten through 4th grade. The Covid protocols are: hand sanitizing upon entering and leaving the chapel; sitting 3 feet apart; and all in attendance must wear a mask.



We pray for those who have died, especially Steven O'Donnell, Richard Cappotto, and all our loved ones, may they come to enjoy perfect happiness and peace in heaven.



Recently baptized at Blessed Sacrament "in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" were Landon O'Donnell, Lane O'Donnell and Joseph Hughes. May they grow in our faith with the assistance and love of family and friends.



Hospitality and Fellowship (coffee and donut hour) is returning to Blessed Sacrament beginning Sunday, December 5th after the 9:15AM Mass in the back of church. (free will offering) Please join us!

The BSC Faith Formation programs offer congratulations to Barbara and Craig Frappier, recipients of the Immaculata Award for Blessed Sacrament. Craig currently shares his faith with our Confirmation students - he takes great pride in his service to our country and shares his stories and deep faith generously with the students. Barbara is devoted to different areas of the parish, including Faith Formation for younger students - just one of the many ways where she shines. Both have been Eucharistic Ministers over the years, making various ministries a major part of their faith-filled lives. They are humble servants who are so deserving of this recognition, and we are grateful to God for the many blessings He has bestowed on dedicated Blessed Sacrament members such as the Frappiers.



Sponsoring the altar flowers at Blessed Sacrament is a beautiful way to honor loved ones or in thanksgiving for life's blessings. To make a donation for Christmas flowers, complete the form below (please print clearly) and return to the rectory via the collection basket, regular mail, or deliver to the rectory (place in envelope and mark 'Christmas Flowers' with a \$10 donation) by December 19. Checks may be made payable to Blessed Sacrament Altar and Rosary (note 'Christmas Flowers' if using a check).

I/We wish to make a donation for Christmas flowers: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of / for: \_\_\_\_\_

Remembered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_; Contact (phone / email): \_\_\_\_\_

## MASS INTENTIONS—ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH

Saturday, Dec. 4, 4pm—Edward & Frances Herron, req. by Annmarie & Mark Kinnan

Sunday, Dec. 5, 10:30am - Mark Warner, req. by St. Vincent's Coffee Hour

Monday, Dec. 6, 12pm - Martin Herron req. by Annmarie & Mark Kinnan

Tuesday Dec. 7, 12pm - Noel Kennedy Herron Williams, req. by Marty & Ernie DiStasio

Wed'day, Dec. 8, 12pm Jerry & JoAnn Griffin, req. by Brigid Lindsley

Saturday, Dec. 11, 4pm - Anne Martin, req. by Ronnie Richardson

Sunday, Dec. 12, 10:30 am—Sandra Zeck, req. by John & Carm Fitzgerald

ALTAR SERVERS: 12/11 and 12/12—4PM- Adult Servers; 9:30AM- Youth Servers

LECTORS: 12/11 and 12/12—4:00pm- Kathy Deaver; 10:30am - Ray Shandorf

GREETERS -12/12—10:30AM - Chris Knapp



We ask your prayers for the spiritual comfort and restoration of health for:

Sandra Betts, Desiree Landers, Madeline Duda, Anne Marie Drury, Roseanne Vrolyk, Catherine O'Donnell, Nora Libertone, Charles Pontius, Hannah Sloan, Linda James, Theresa Santillo, Kristen Berg (granddaughter of John and Carm Fitzgerald), Kara Horvath and Marian Brooks. Please pray for the Scullen family and for the repose of the soul of our faithful parishioners, Nancy Egerbrecht and Paul Delaney. Please include in your prayers John Baird, husband of 1963 alum Pauline (Dardino).

Delivery of Christmas flowers to the homebound and nursing home parishioners will take place on Saturday, December 11 at 10 AM. Anyone willing and able to help, please contact John and Carm Fitzgerald at 315-476-8262. It's not too late to donate to our Christmas Poinsettia Outreach Program. Envelopes are still available in the church pews.

As "We Wait in Joyful Hope" for the coming of Christ, consider sharing that hope and your love with others. Please take a star from the Giving Tree located in the front of the church. All gifts are to be wrapped and returned by 12/12.

MEMORIALIZE YOUR LOVED ONES DURING CHRISTMASTIME—In the pews you will find envelopes for donating to the flowers and decorations that will beautify our church this Christmas. We will be praying for your loved ones in a special way at all Christmas Masses. Their names will appear in the December 25/26 bulletin together with your name. Thank you for your support!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY ON A VERY SUCCESSFUL APPLE PIE FUNDRAISER! 84 Pies were prepared. Thanks to the following members of ARS's Apple Pie Brigade who worked hard and contributed to success of this event: Cathy Adamitis, Jackie Aloï, Mary Burr, Cheryl Dalto and her family members Anycia Young and Aalyah Dalto, Gloria and Kevin Egan, Nancy Gorman, Pat Holliday, Chris & Tom Knapp, Harriet Manning, Kathy Morse, Sister Joana, Chris Vieau and Sandy Vieau. If you didn't purchase one this year, consider next year. Delicious!

## EVANGELIZATION PRAYER

St. Vincent de Paul, Holy patron saint of our parish, which was founded as a visible beacon to those seeking respite, solace and care, intercede in the name of those in need. Implore His divine assistance in the continuation of the mission of this church to spread His loving message, provide relief to the needy and console the troubled. Our dedicated saint, Apostle of charity, instill in us your same commitment to carry out your mission in whatever capacity the Lord instructs. Help us to be an inviting and welcoming parish open to all seeking a spiritual home and zealous in our outreach. May your caring spirit always remain in our hearts, on our lips, and in our actions. Amen.



Please join your parish family members and enjoy their fellowship at Coffee Hour. Thank you to all who volunteered to make it possible. We are still in need of volunteers for Donut Pick Up and to Host the Coffee Hour after the 10:30 Sunday Mass. Please call the rectory at 315-479-6689.

Finance Committee will meet on Monday, December 6 at 11 a.m.  
Altar Rosary Society will hold their annual Christmas party on Tuesday, December 7 at 5:30 p.m. at Tony's Family Restaurant on Burnett Avenue.  
Legion of Mary will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 12:30pm in the church hall.



Congratulations to Tom Knapp who won \$430.00 in the November 50/50 raffle. Remember, for just \$5.00 you could be the next winner. The December drawing will be Sunday December 26th. Thank you for your continued support!



Looking for a stocking stuffer? Consider a 50/50 raffle ticket. For more information, contact Bob James at 315-471-0818.



## Christmas Masses

Friday, December 24: 4:00PM (BSC); 5:15PM (SVC) and 7:00PM (BSC)  
Saturday, December 25: 12:00AM (BSC); 9:15AM (BSC) and 10:30AM (SVC)

Note: No Mass on Saturday evening on Christmas Day. Masses on  
Sunday, December 26: 7:30AM (BSC); 9:15AM (BSC) and 10:30AM (SVC)



We look forward to once again gathering to celebrate the Immaculata Award at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, December 5th at 2:30 p.m.

## Immaculata Award 2021 Recipients

Blessed Sacrament: Barbara and Craig Frappier

St. Vincent de Paul: Mary Burr and Christine Knapp (twin sisters)

We congratulate our award recipients, and we are grateful for their exemplary spirit of Christian giving of their talents to the wellbeing of our parishes. We are proud of each one of you and congratulations.

Fr. Severine



SOLEMNITY OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: You are all welcome to celebrate Solemnity of Immaculate Conception this Wednesday with the celebration of holy Mass: four Masses will be said in our linked parishes: 7:30AM - Blessed Sacrament; 9AM (BS School Mass); 12:00 Noon - St. Vincent; 6PM - Blessed Sacrament



**BLESSING OF BAMBINELLI**—During all the Masses next weekend (Third Sunday of Advent) our parish priests will confer the blessing of Bambinelli (baby Jesus figurines from your home mangers). We encourage children in the families to carry those baby Jesus figurines from your home mangers and bring them to church for special blessing.

**A Family Perspective for the Second Sunday of Advent**—At this time of the year we are very conscious of our family as we make preparations for Christmas. Today's gospel warns us not to be consumed by all the consumer activity. This Advent appreciates the gift of people in your life. The best gift this season might be your appreciation of others. On the Second Sunday of Advent, the Candle of Peace is lit.

**ADVENT CONFESSIONS:** Remaining Wednesdays—December 8th and 15th from 5PM to 6PM. "The Light is on for You" is on Monday, December 20 from 4P - 7P (corrected date from Wed., Dec. .22 to Mon., Dec. 20).

## SUPPORTING AGING & AILING RELIGIOUS

All or most of us are beneficiaries of our loving religious sisters, brothers and priests who worked tirelessly to share the love of Christ in our Catholic schools, parishes, parishes and other ministries. A big number of them are now old and infirm in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The cost to care for our ailing benefactors is very high. We are invited to spiritually and financially support our own in their times of great need. The second collection this weekend (2nd Sunday of Advent) will be for their support. Let's be generous.

Join us for a Live Nativity at Assumption Church—Christmas Carols! Live Animals! - Sunday, December 19th at 2 PM—812 N Salina St, Syracuse. All are welcome to come experience the wonder of Christmas with a living nativity just like Saint Francis of Assisi did in 1223 when he celebrated the first Christmas crèche at Greccio, Italy.

The Knights of Columbus Council meets the First Monday of each month in the Blessed Sacrament school cafeteria at 7PM For more information, call (315) 395-6918.

The seminarians of the Diocese of Syracuse cordially invite you to join them for the Solemn Celebration of Advent Lessons & Carols at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, December 19 at 2pm.

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