

# Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

545 Stratfield Road  
Fairfield, CT 06825-1872

Tel. (203) 333-9065

Fax: (203) 333-2562

Email: [info@olaffld.org](mailto:info@olaffld.org)

Website: <https://www.olaffld.org>

*“Ad Jesum per Mariam”  
To Jesus through Mary.*

## Clergy/Lay Leadership

Rev. Peter A. Cipriani, Pastor

Rev. Michael Flynn, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Marcel Saint Jean, In Residence

Deacon Raymond John Chervenak

Deacon Robert McLaughlin

Michael Cooney, Director of Music

## Masses (Schedules subject to change)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4 PM

Sunday Masses: 7:30 AM, 9 AM 10:30 AM  
and 12:00 PM (Subject to change)

Morning Daily Mass: (Mon.-Sat.) 7:30 AM

Evening Daily Mass: (Mon.-Fri.) 5:30 PM

Holy Days: See Bulletin for schedule

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:00-3:45 PM or by appointment.

Every Thursday: 7-8:00 PM

## Rosary/Divine Mercy Chaplet

7 AM Monday-Saturday, Rosary

8 AM First Saturday of each month, Rosary

3 PM Monday-Friday, Divine Mercy  
Chaplet and Rosary

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday of each month from 8 AM

Friday to 7:15 AM Saturday. To volunteer

contact Grand Knight, Michael Lauzon at  
(203) 817-7528.

## Novenas

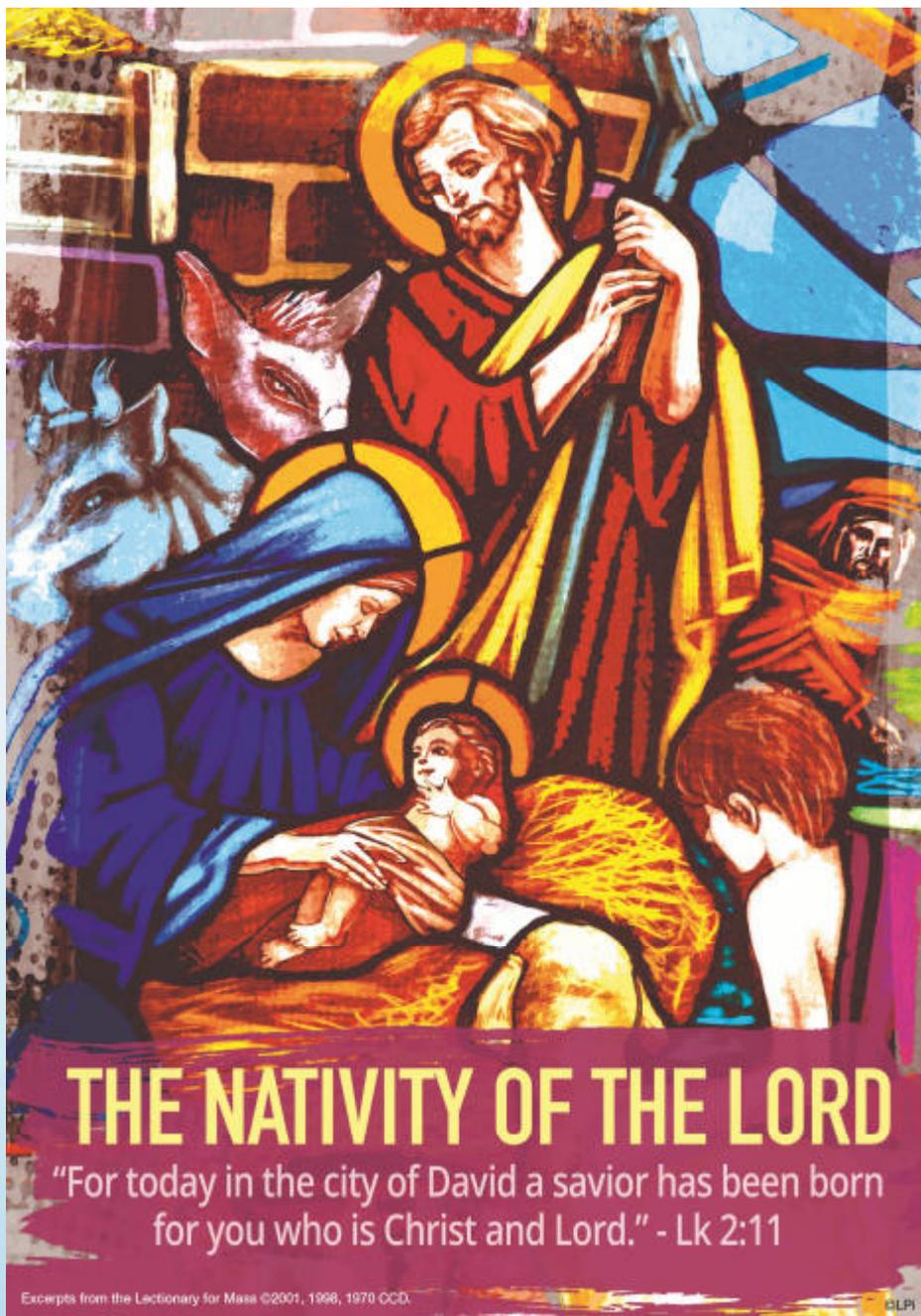
Miraculous Medal-8 AM. Monday

Saint Joseph-8 AM. Wednesday

Divine Mercy-8 AM. Friday

## Parish Membership

Our parish family invites all of its members to participate fully in our spiritual and social life. Every family moving into the parish is requested to register at the Rectory or go to our website for a registration form. If you move to another parish, or change your address, notify the Rectory.



## Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Anyone interested in becoming a Roman Catholic becomes a part of this process, as can any adult Catholic who has not received all the Sacraments of initiation. For further information contact the Faith Formation office.

## Sacrament of Baptism

This Sacrament is celebrated on Sundays at 1:00 PM. It is required that parents participate in a Pre-Baptismal class. Classes are held on the third Saturday of the month. Registration is required by calling the parish office.

## Sacrament of Marriage

Please contact the parish office as soon as possible so as to ensure a proper time and adequate preparation for this Sacrament. Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounters are required.

## Anointing of the Sick Ministry to the Sick and Elderly

This Sacrament of healing expresses the love of God and our Church for our sick, our shut-ins and the elderly, unable to come to Church. For the dying, please contact the Rectory immediately. For the confined, the elderly and our shut-ins, whether at home, or in the hospital, please inform the Rectory.

## From The Pastor's Desk

### - Super Men And Women Christmas -



When I was a child, Superman had so impressed his superhuman super cool status upon me.

Often I would put together a make shift bed sheet cape and jump from the top of my stairs to the bottom into a pile of pillows, I was flying after all just like superman.

We love the idea of superheroes like Superman, who initially seem normal, working their desk jobs from 9 to 5 at the Daily Planet or making multi-million dollar deals each week somewhere in the heart of Gotham, that is until danger strikes and then ducking into a closet, phone booth or cave removes normal clothing to display the superhero uniform...that big "S" or Bat indicating that evil is about to be pummeled, peace restored and the day and lives saved, and we could not be more thrilled!

Perhaps on a subconscious level we know that the help we truly need is not necessarily or always to be found amongst us ordinary mortals. These other worldly supermen if you will give us what we lack and truly desire: a sense of security, self confidence, courage and hope...a no longer being afraid of life and others whatever our personal villains and demons may be.

And having been rescued, made safe we can then truly be happy for happiness is what we all most desire...not anxiety, fear, addiction, illness, depression, mediocrity, laziness, hatred or any other negative element that drains us of life and of our humanity.

Superman then is really the desire for Christmas...a desire we have for ourselves...for as much as we want to be rescued from all that terrifies and depresses us, don't we much more want to be heroes ourselves...supermen and superwomen who save days and lives rather than destroy and corrupt them.

So yes Virginia in case you are wondering, there is a Superman: one whose superhero impact and status is felt and sought after day after day...He is no Clark Kent though, rather His name is Jesus Christ.

Let's examine some comparisons and contrasts between Jesus and Superman.

1. Like Superman from the Planet Kryptonite...Jesus breaks into our world and time...an outsider from a totally non earth place, we call Heaven. This eruption into our world is so impressive and intense that how we keep time is altered: we keep it from BC to AD.

Both battle for truth and justice, for Jesus tells us: I am the Truth, the Way and the Life. Superman battles his fiercest adversary time and again, Lex Luther...while Christ is in a constant struggle with Lucifer...Superman is motivated by his love of Lois Lane...his beloved...Christ is motivated by His love for His Beloved Bride the Church.

Jor-el sends his only son to live amongst humans whereas God the Father not only sends His only Son to live amongst us, but to actually be one of us: And the Word of the Father was Made Flesh and dwelt among us.

And then there are the contrasts:

1. Superman goes from a condition of weakness to power...Christ goes from all mighty power to incredible weakness and dependency...from a King's throne in a perfectly beautiful Heaven to a baby's crib in a smelly and terribly cold cave...changing His kingly robe and scepter for a diaper and rattle. This isn't a man getting strong, this is a God becoming weak.

2. Superman changes circumstances and situations...in other words...he deals with influencing externals...Jesus changes internals...as in our hearts, minds and souls, that is where He most prefers to work and make His home, despite circumstances in the world either remaining the same or worsening.

We have no other accounting that we are responsible for other than what we allow in our heart and from that heart we allow out to either positively impact the world or positively destroy it and others with our selfishness.

And if Superman the Clark Kent version seems a little too far-fetched for us...well, there is an amazing story of another real life Christ like Superman...Chris Waddell who reminds us when confronted by the trials and tribulations of life: "It's not what happens to you, it's what you do with what happens to you."

Chris Waddell was a champion skier until he suffered a skiing accident in 1988 that left him paralyzed. According to Chris: "I was a ski racer...that's how I saw myself", well, ski racer turned out to be nothing more than a name tag. His accident forced him to take a better look at who he was inside and he learned that he possessed a powerful will of iron: "If I hadn't had the accident, I never would have been the best at anything." And notice that his circumstance of being paralyzed remained the same, what changed was what was in his heart, mind and soul.

One of my favorite Chris Waddell stories is his wheel chair climb up Mount Kilimanjaro...19,340 feet, but after making it 18,500 feet he realized that in order to finish, he needed help. "I felt like a total failure, he admitted, but then I realized accepting help is what keeps human beings connected to one another."

Christmas is about accepting help from Christ so that He can enlist our help, that with Mary and Joseph we can help care for the infant Christ by being more attentive to the needs of others, so that we might inspire others as real life superheroes like Chris Waddell do day in and day out.

And if you are looking for a closet or phonebooth to duck into to change into your superheroness, or better yet your God-ness, than try the Confessional, try this Church or any Church each and every Sunday, and emerging from these places, these gyms if you will that will provide us with that heroic strength...you can then be that rescuer...that hero...that Saint we are all called to be...not once a year but every day!

**The Nativity of the Lord/  
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
December 25, 2021/December 26, 2021**

**Parish Office Hours:**

Monday-Thursday, 9 AM to 4 PM  
Friday, 9 AM to 12 PM

**Assumption Catholic School**

Mrs. Stacy Clements, Principal - (203) 334-6271  
Grades: Pre-K 3 through 8 Hours: 8:40 AM - 3 PM  
Before and After School Programs Available  
(Before School program begins at 7:00 AM and After School program ends 5:30 PM)

**Faith Formation**

Mr. Frank Macari, Director - (203) 367-1108  
Email address: Our.lady.assumption@snet.net  
Tuesday Classes For Grades 1-5 from 4-5 PM  
For Grades 6-8 from 7-8 PM  
Office of Faith Formation Hours: Weekdays 10 AM - 3 PM  
and Tuesdays 10 AM-5:30 PM (during school year)

**Parish Finance Council**

Our parish Finance Council is a consultative body of lay persons established to advise the pastor in matters pertaining to the financial affairs of the church. The chairman is Ron Fiske, (203) 330-0375.

**Parish Activities**

**American Heritage Girls Troop #4862:** Monthly (except summer), 3rd Saturdays, 2:30 PM, parish center. For girls ages 5-18. Jillian Plomin at jplomin@gmail.com.

**Altar Society of St. Joseph the Worker:** Monthly, 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month following 7:30 AM Mass. Cleans and beautifies the Sanctuary and chapels in the church.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** Friday, 8:00 PM, parish hall.  
**Narcotics Anonymous** Wednesday 7:30 PM, parish hall.

**Bible Study:** Thursdays, 9:15 AM and 7 PM, parish center. Study sessions will be posted in our bulletin. Currently suspended.

**Choir: Adults:** Wednesday, 7 PM in the church.  
**Resurrection Choir:** Sings at funeral Masses.  
Contact Michael Cooney, Director of Music, at (203) 572-2213 or email music@olaffld.org for details. Currently suspended

**Knights of Columbus:** Monthly, 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7 PM parish hall. Grand Knight Michael Lauzon at (203) 817-7528 or email mplauzon@aol.com.

**Parish Nurses:** Monthly, 2nd Wednesday, Sept. to June, at 7 PM St. Vincent Medical Center

**Blood pressure screening:** Currently suspended

**Sisters in Faith:** Monthly, 2nd Monday, 7 - 9 PM, parish hall, except July & August. Ministry for women of Assumption Church. Mary Garbe at marygarbe@gmail.com.



**Friday 12/24 Christmas Eve**

4:00 p.m. Christopher Robles  
5:30 p.m. For the Intentions of our Christmas Flower Offerings  
7:00 p.m. Special Intention  
11:00 p.m. Carol Masciola

**Saturday. 12/25 Christmas Day**

7:30 a.m. Anna, William & Eugene Yarkosky  
9:00 a.m. Deacon Kevin Moore  
10:30 a.m. Jose Fraga  
12:00 p.m. Dr. Edward McPadden

**Sunday, December 26th**

7:30 a.m. Luisa Marie Vaz & Family  
9:00 a.m. Krystyn Waupotitsch  
10:30 a.m. Barbara K. McLaughlin  
12:00 p.m. JoAnn Tomis

**Weekday Masses**

Mon. 12/27 7:30 a.m. Maryon Turko  
5:30 p.m. Andrew Prucinsky  
Tues. 12/28 7:30 a.m. Betty Lichtenberg  
5:30 p.m. Rose Pucci  
Wed. 12/29 7:30 a.m. Clarence Lichtenberg  
5:30 p.m. Birthday blessings for Vince Haralson  
Thurs. 12/30 7:30 a.m. Robert Raiselis  
5:30 p.m. Luisa Marie Vaz & Family  
Fri. 12/31 7:30 a.m. Simone Opalak  
5:30 p.m. Francisco & Maria Garcia  
Sat. 1/1 7:30 a.m. Luisa Marie Vaz & Family

**Saturday, January 1st**

4:00 p.m. Elizabeth Snowden

**Sunday, January 2nd**

7:30 a.m. John P. McCauley, Sr.  
9:00 a.m. Sal Sciarretta  
10:30 a.m. John Becker  
12:00 p.m. James DiStefano



*Our Sanctuary Light  
Will burn this week in  
Loving Memory of  
Emery Wach*



*Our Devotional Light  
Will burn this week for in  
Loving Memory of  
Francisco & Maria Garcia*

<b>December 8</b>	
<u>2021</u>	
Holy Day Offertory:	\$1,286.00
Online Giving:	\$ 68.00
<b>December 11/12</b>	
<u>2021</u>	
Weekend Offertory:	\$5,540.00
Online Giving:	\$2,463.00
2nd Collection (Retired Religious Fund)	\$1,587.00
Due to the early submission required for this bulletin, the offertory and second collection for December 18 and 19 will appear in our next bulletin.	
There is no second collection for Sunday, January 2nd	
<b>Thank You</b>	

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

- |                   |                 |                    |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Mary Alberico     | Nicholas DeMaio | Noah Martinez      |
| Paul Alvarez      | Michael Devaney | Kaitlin McLaughlin |
| Josephine Amiot   | Larry DiPalma   | Norma Mc Nerney    |
| Christopher Amiot | Tricia Duffy    | Rita Meyers        |
| Lorraine Artale   | Dolores Kuczo   | Frank Minardi      |
| Ellie Art         | Diane & Anthony | Meghan Moore       |
| Rita Bellavance   | Gilbertie       | Leroy Moye         |
| Carol Bertanza    | Charles Gordon  | Al Panico          |
| Michael Black     | Holly Graham    | Craig Renzulli     |
| Gene Bullard      | Leanne Gransden | Gerry Ressigie     |
| Eleanor Bruckmann | Amy Hanson      | John Salgado       |
| Francisca Campos  | John Howley     | Donna Schmidt      |
| Letitia Ciccio    | Clare Kelleher  | David Van Vlack    |
| Brian Coleman     | Harold Liskov   | Patty Vitola       |
| Lucille Costello  | Jamie Mack      | K.J. Webb          |

**DONATE Online**

We realize many of our parishioners are still not be able to attend Mass regularly, please consider making your offertory through Online Giving. Please visit our website and click on the Tab "Donate" and create an account.

**Annual Collection Letters**

Annual collection letters have been sent to our parishioners. Kindly read our "year in review" and prayerfully consider an Annual Gift to our church. No gift is too small and all are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

**Holiday Office Closure**



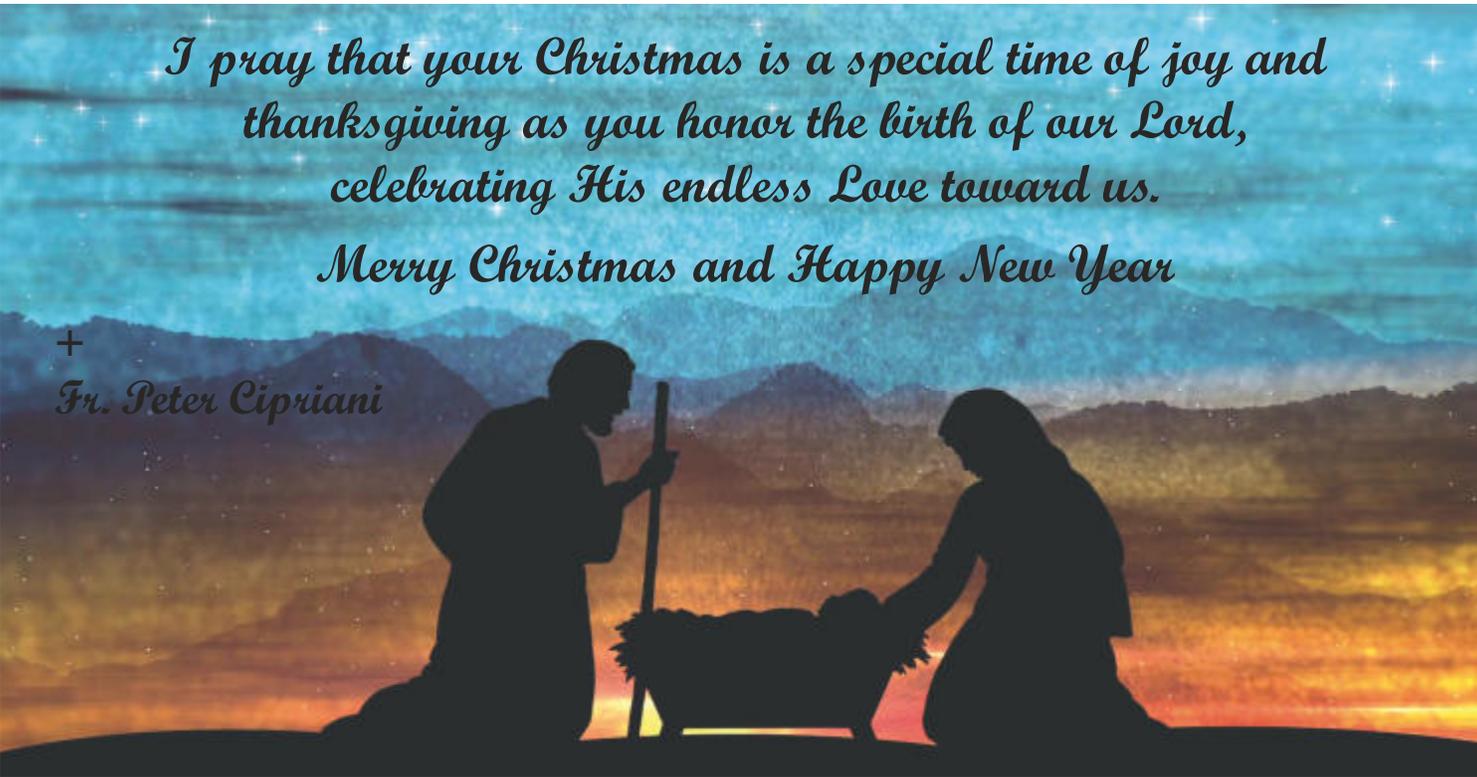
The Parish Office is currently closed for regular business **until December 31st and will reopen on Monday, January 3rd**. If you should have an emergency, please call the rectory and follow the instructions for emergencies.

**2022 Calendars**

Our 2022 Assumption calendars are available in the entry way of the parish hall. This special edition appointment calendar features monthly vocation intercessions and beautiful religious art. Please take a calendar to use and enjoy year round.

**Center of Mercy Reconciliation**

As a Center of Mercy parish in the Diocese of Bridgeport, we offer the **Sacrament of Reconciliation each week on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:00 PM**. As Catholics we have the gift of Confession to restore our relationship with God and share in His glory. This is a wonderful opportunity to set aside our sinful ways and to draw nearer to the Lord. **In addition, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** will be offered during this time as well, as long as there will be people present during this time to adore our Lord.



*I pray that your Christmas is a special time of joy and thanksgiving as you honor the birth of our Lord, celebrating His endless Love toward us.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*

+  
*Fr. Peter Cipriani*



**Saturday, January 1st** is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Since the Feast Day falls on a Saturday, it is **NOT** a Holy Day of Obligation. The feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Calling Mary "Mother of God" is the highest honor we can give to her.



**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Will take place on **First Friday, January 7th**, following the 7:30 AM Mass and will conclude on **Saturday, January 8th**, prior to the 7:30 AM Mass. **Due to Masses on Friday at 9:00 AM, and 5:30 PM the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed from 8:45 to 10:00 AM and 5:15 PM to 6:00 PM.** All are welcome to spend an hour with Jesus.

**Convalidation of Marriage**

Like other couples in your parish or family, you may be wondering if your marriage is fully recognized by the Catholic Church. Catholic Church law ordinarily requires baptized Roman Catholics to marry before a priest or deacon.

Catholics who exchange marriage vows in the presence of only ministers from other religious traditions or authorized civic officials (i.e., Justice of the Peace) are not considered validly married in the eyes of the Catholic Church, which offers Marriage in the unique form of a Sacrament called Holy Matrimony: a sacrament similar in scope and power to that of Holy Communion/Eucharist. In fact, Holy Matrimony is meant to signify (a sacrament is a visible sign indicating a greater invisible and/or supernatural reality) the enduring and unbreakable love for Jesus Christ the Bridegroom for His Bride the Church.

If you feel as though you are in a position where Convalidation is possible, please call the Rectory to discuss the process involved. Couples who are not in a recognized Catholic Marriage should not receive Holy Communion and are not qualified to be Catholic godparent until the Convalidation process is complete.

Regardless of what happened in the past, the Catholic Church invites you to bring new meaning to your lives by embracing the vocation of marriage and dedicating your family's mission to sharing God's love.



**Newly Baptized:**  
*On Thursday, December 23rd we welcomed*  
**Charlotte Patricia Finueane**  
*into the Roman Catholic Faith, through the*  
*saving waters of Baptism.*

**Assumption Church Giving Tree**

Thank You, once again, to all who contributed to our Giving Tree this year. The gifts were distributed to various agencies, and organizations, many people will now have a brighter Christmas due to your generosity.

A special thank you to all who made the giving tree possible: from those who planned and organized this event, to those who printed the tags and sorted the gifts. God bless you all for making Christmas that much brighter for those less fortunate.



We wish to thank all of those who made contributions to our Christmas Flowers collection in memory or honor of your loved ones. Names of contributors and those being remembered will be listed in our January 2nd bulletin. If your envelopes were received after the December 13th deadline, an addendum listing will be published in January.



We all recall Veterans Day which we celebrated on November 11th. It is now Christmas when the world rejoices in the wonder and birth of our Lord and allows us to remember our family and friends. The Christmas Season also gives us another time to acknowledge our Military. We ask you to set some time aside to say "thank you" to our serviceman and women. Pray for their safety and happiness as they serve and protect us.

We are honored to list below our Parish family members serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>CAPT John J. Adams,</i><br><i>U.S. Army</i>                    | <i>CAPT Mark Evan Long,</i><br><i>U.S. Air Force</i>   |
| <i>COL Thomas M. Armas,</i><br><i>U.S. Marine Corps</i>           | <i>SGT Allan McDaniel III,</i><br><i>U.S. Army</i>     |
| <i>CAPT Jeffery Boda,</i><br><i>U.S. Coast Guard</i>              | <i>Specialist Amanda McDaniel,</i><br><i>U.S. Army</i> |
| <i>2ND LT Matthew R. Coppola,</i><br><i>U.S. Army</i>             | <i>MAJOR Thomas C. Opalak,</i><br><i>U.S. Army</i>     |
| <i>STAFF SGT Christopher DeSiena,</i><br><i>U.S. Marine Corps</i> | <i>CAPT Andrew Vimini,</i><br><i>U.S. Army</i>         |

The Assumption Council of the Knights of Columbus requests new names be submitted in the **offertory collection or calling Fred Coseglia at 203-371-8181, indicating branch of service and rank.**

Michael P. Lauzon, Grand Knight  
 Fred J. Coseglia, Past Grand Knight  
 Assumption Council #11077

## *Twass the Night before Christmas*

Twass the night before Christmas, and all through the town,  
St. Joseph was searching, walking up roads and down;  
Our Lady was waiting, so meek and so mild,  
While Joseph was seeking a place for the Child;

The children were nestled, each snug in their beds,  
The grown-ups wouldn't bother, there's no room they said;  
When even the innkeeper sent them away,  
Joseph was wondering, where they would stay;  
He thought of the caves in the side of the hills,  
Lets go there said Mary, it's silent and still;

The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,  
Made pathways of light for their tired feet to go;  
And there in a cave, in a cradle of hay,  
Our Savior was born on that first Christmas Day!

The Father was watching in heaven above,  
He sent for His angels, His couriers of love;  
More rapid than eagles God's bright angels came;  
Rejoicing and eager as each heard his name;

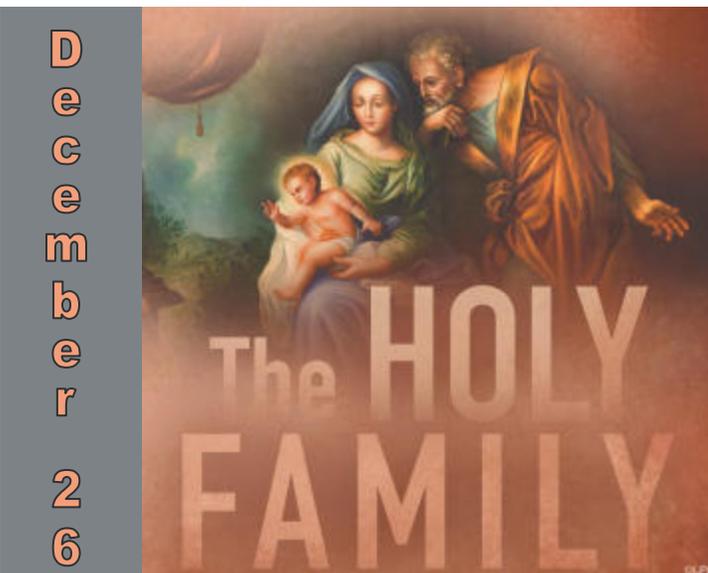
Come Power, Come Cherubs, Come Virtues,  
Come Raphael, Come Thrones and Dominions,  
Come Michael and Gabriel;  
Now fly to the Earth, where My poor people live,  
Announce the glad tiding My Son comes to give;

The Shepherds were watching their flocks on this night,  
And saw in the heavens an unearthly light;  
The Angels assured them, they'd nothing to fear,  
It's Christmas they said, the Savior is here!

They hastened to find Him, and stood at the door,  
Till Mary invited them in to adore;  
He was swaddled in bands from His head to His feet,  
Never did the Shepherds see a baby so sweet!

He spoke not a word, but the shepherds all knew,  
He was telling them secrets and blessing them too;  
Then softly they left Him, The Babe in the hay,  
And rejoiced with great joy on that first Christmas Day;

Mary heard them exclaim as they walked up the hill,  
Glory to God in the Highest, Peace to men of good will!  
By: Sister St. Thomas, B.N.D. de N



### Readings for the Week

Sunday:	Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14/Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Luke 2:41-52 or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28/Psalm 84: 2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 John 3:1-2, 21-24/Luke 2:41-52
Monday:	1 John 1:1-4/Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/ John 20:1a, 2-8
Tuesday:	1 John 1:5—2:2/Psalm 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/ Matthew 2:13-18
Wednesday:	1 John 2:3-11/Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/ Luke 2:22-35
Thursday:	1 John 2:12-17/Psalm 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/ Luke 2:36-40
Friday:	1 John 2:18-21/Psalm 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/ John 1:1-18
Saturday:	Numbers 6:22-27/Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/ Galatians 4:4-7/Luke 2:16-21
Next Sunday:	Isaiah 60:1-6/Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6/Matthew 2:1-12

### Communion Antiphon

**"Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" - Psalm 27:1a**

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too. ©LPI

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