



# 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." - Jn 1:26-27



**SATURDAY, December 12**

- 4:00PM † Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Scaringe by Son
- † Loretta Miller by Arthur Fealey
- † Susan Groark by Her Husband
- † Barbara Zupan by Dottie & Warren Roberts

**SUNDAY, December 13**

- 8:00AM † Hugh Margaret Hopkins by Memole Family
- 10:30AM † Brian Dunn by The Family
- † Mick Pupello by The Family
- † Florence Gavigan by Jane & Steve DiGiovanni

12:30PM (Latin) Joseph Sweeney (Living) by The Family

**MONDAY, December 14**

- 7:00AM † Mary Garwood by A Friend

**WEDNESDAY, December 16**

- 7:00AM † Anne Maloy by The Family

**FRIDAY, December 18**

- 7:00 AM † Gigi Rosselli by Husband

**SATURDAY, December 19**

- 4:00PM † James Patterson by The Family
- † Thomas Fox by Ken & Mittie Shannon
- † William Fealey by Arthur Fealey
- † Beth Barker by Bob Mackin
- † William P. Barker(23 Ann) by Rich & Anne Martin

**SUNDAY, December 20**

- 6:00AM RORATE MASS
- 8:00AM † William Toomey Jr. by Joe & Jerry Teresi
- 10:30AM † Raymond J. Barry Jr. by The Kiernozeck Family
- † Jack Graber, Sr by Jack & Karen Graber
- 12:30PM (Latin) Olivia Sweeney (Living) by The Family

**RORATE MASS**

Fr. Flannery will celebrate the traditional Advent "Rorate Mass" on Saturday, December 19th 2020 at 6:00 in the morning at Historic St. Mary's Church. The Rorate Mass is an annual devotion, wherein the Votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary is offered just before dawn and exclusively by candlelight. The interplay of light and darkness speak to the meaning of Advent as the coming of the Light into the world. Jesus, of course, is the light, and Our Lady is the dawn that precedes His coming.

**WHATSOEVER YOU DO FOR THESE LEAST ONES**

Jesus says in the Gospel "Amen, I say to you, whatsoever you did to the least of these my brethren, you did for me." As part of priestly formation, the seminarians at Cathedral seminary collect clothes and money for the homeless of New York City. One of our parishioners is a student at Cathedral seminary and is asking for our support. The seminary has asked him to collect adult sized hats and sweatshirts in sizes: Medium, Large, XL, and XXL. If you wish to make a donation please place the new clothes (or used clothes in excellent condition) in the large box in the vestibule. If you wish, you may also support the drive with a monetary donation by making a check out to the *Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn* with *Cathedral Seminary Midnight Run* listed in the subject line. Please place checks in the collection basket during mass. The drive officially ends Monday, Dec. 14.



**REASONS TO BE JOYFUL**

"In my God is the joy of my soul," Isaiah says. All of our readings today are filled with good news, with reasons to be joyful. Let's look at what this joy is all about.

Isaiah's joy is found in being anointed by God and being sent to bring glad tidings to

those who don't often get glad tidings or good news – the poor, brokenhearted, captives and prisoners. The good news is that salvation is a gift from God who is always faithful.

Paul's message: Be a real community with mutual solicitude – watch out for each other. Have a spirit of forgiveness. Stay away from evil. Live a holy life as God wants you to. God who calls you is faithful and will help you to accomplish all this. We need God's help to live in this holy way, to be faithful as God is holy.

Next we have John, God's anointed, who comes to bring a message of hope and liberty. John knows who he is and who he isn't. He announces and gives witness to Jesus. He seems to know what he is about but doesn't take much pride in who he is as he seems to take courage and answers the questions of his interrogators calmly. He even tells them that there is someone far more important than he, and they do not recognize him.

This Sunday happiness and joy are dominant in our readings. Joy is an essential dimension to our faith and to our life as Christians. We are saved and redeemed! The whole world is suffering. People are starving around the world and suffering from violence, terrorism, and death. We might ask how can we feel joy when the world is so sad?

Today's message is one of joy. How can we keep our heart joyful so that we can carry on in our circumstances?

Take some time to think of what gives you joy. Whatever it is that gives you joy, stop and think about it. Appreciate it. Then, think of the ever-faithful God who is behind that joy that you experience. Just like John in the gospel reading, you are a witness to the world of Christ who is to come. Be joyful and thank God.

**CONGRATULATIONS, JAMES AGNEW**

Congratulations to our parishioner, Deacon Candidate James Agnew, who was installed into the Ministry of Acolyte this weekend by Bishop Scharfenberger. Please keep James in your prayers as he continues his formation

**BE A PRAYER PARTNER TO POPE FRANCIS**

For those who have made the commitment to pray every day for the monthly intentions of Our Holy Father, Pope Francis: - for December he asks that we pray for: **For a Life of Prayer** We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

**OUTREACH APPEAL FOR CHRISTMAS**

Fall is in the air with cool days, chilly nights and color bursting forth. At the Outreach Center we are preparing for the Christmas Holidays. Out of an abundance of concern for all, we are changing how we do the holidays. We will not be putting Christmas gift requests on a giving tree in Church. We are asking if you could provide gift cards to either Target or Walmart so that our parents can purchase gifts for the children. You can place the gift card(s) in an envelope marked Outreach and place it in the collection basket, or mail it to the Parish Office, again, marked Outreach. If you wish, the Center is open on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 – 11:30 AM if you would like to drop it off. In order to give our parents time to shop, we would like to have the cards to distribute as soon as possible. Thank you for considering this request as we continue to serve those who are less fortunate than we, especially our children.

**CHRISTMAS MASSES**

Christmas will be here before we know it. Because of the ongoing Corona Virus and the need to limit the amount of people in church at any one time, we need to plan ahead. St. Mary's will keep the following Mass schedule this year: Christmas Eve Masses will be celebrated at 2:00pm, 4:30pm, and 7:30pm. The Traditional Latin Mass will be celebrated at Midnight. On Christmas Day, Mass will be celebrated at 8:00am and 10:30am. We are requiring everyone to pre-register for the Mass that they plan to attend. We apologize for this inconvenience, but we wouldn't want to turn people away in the event that more showed up than we are permitted to accommodate. When your letter arrives in the mail, you can fill out the slip and drop it off in the collection basket, or you can put it in the mail to the parish office. If you have already made your reservation either by phone or email, then it is not necessary to duplicate the RSVP by filling out the slip. If you do not want to wait for the letter to make your RSVP, please email Holly at [holly.hayes@rcda.org](mailto:holly.hayes@rcda.org) or call (518)462-4254 to make your mass reservation. Thank you for understanding. It is our hope that as many people as possible will be able to celebrate the birthday of our Savior at Historic St. Mary's and that all will come together safely. God bless you and your loved ones .

**PANDEMIC GOT YOU DOWN?**

If you have not already done so, we would recommend checking Rev. Tom Konopka's on-going series "Managing Stress and Anxiety during Difficult Times" on the diocesan website. His most recent series touches on a lot of our worries and anxieties during these strange times. To find the full series go to: <https://www.rcda.org/coronavirus>

**IRA DISTRIBUTIONS**

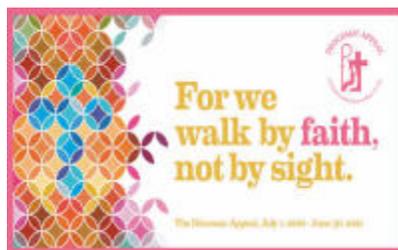
This is the time of year when many people take distributions from their IRA accounts, often with an eye to making donations to charitable institutions, Please keep St Mary's in mind if you are making such contributions.

**BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL— HAS OPENINGS**

Blessed Sacrament School has immediate openings available for their 5 day in-person learning for grades Nursery through 8 Full day program 7:15am-3pm.—Aftercare to 5:25 Free breakfast & lunch—financial aid— call 518-438-5854.

**PARISH FINANCES**

**Thank you to all who continue to make their donations. It is a HUGE help. Please do what you can to assist the parish financially during this pandemic crisis. Over the past 6 months our collections are down significantly. Please do whatever you can to assist. Even though some cannot meet on a weekly basis at church, the bills must be paid and payroll must be met. Your contributions may be sent to the parish office or you may participate by using our "on-line" giving program (located on our parish website: [www.histstmarys.org](http://www.histstmarys.org)). Your help is greatly appreciated!**

**THIS YEAR'S BISHOP'S APPEAL IS DIFFERENT**

What stays the same is our participation. Every parish continues to have a target goal (an assessment). Therefore we count on your generous participation to help us meet our goal. Every bit of your donation will help St. Mary's since we must make up the difference at the end of the campaign. Please do your best to give what you did in past years. If you can do more— please do so, since a number of our parishioners have suffered financial loss and difficulties because of the pandemic. Parishioners should have received an appeal request. **We need your help—our goal is over \$143,000 and so far our donations total \$44,460.**

**MASS INTENTION REQUESTS**

Due to the CoVid Pandemic and the precautions we must take until the pandemic is over PLEASE do not come to the rectory to schedule mass intentions. Instead—please call the parish office or email Holly at [holly.hayes@rcda.org](mailto:holly.hayes@rcda.org) to schedule your intentions. If you are in need of a mass card immediately, please call the office so that Holly can have the card ready for you to pick up. Thanks you for your understanding and cooperation.

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**A NOTE FROM HOLLY RE: CHRISTMAS MASS RSVP'S**

**Thank you to everyone who has been emailing, calling or sending in their Christmas Mass RSVP forms. I am receiving them but due to the sheer volume I am unable to respond to each parishioners to confirm receipt. I assure you that I will be in touch if there is a problem of concern with your RSVP form**

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