## The People of God called to form the Christian Community of

# St. Mary's Church

December 18, 2016 Fourth Sunday of Advent



#### **Mission Statement**

We the Roman Catholic community of St. Mary's, united in the Eucharist and under the guidance of St. Mary of the Assumption, strengthen our faith by praising God, proclaiming His word, sharing His love with all people and serving those in need.

> St. Mary: Pray for Us

Rev. Stephen A. Carey, Pastor

Rev. Michael Barone, Parochial Vicar Rev. Patrick W. Donohue, In-Residence Deacon John L. Sylvester, Permanent Deacon Mr. Joel Condon, Director of Music Ministry Mrs. Kathleen Sylvester, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy/RCIA Dr. William J. Mascitello, Pastoral Associate for Catechetics Mr. Rudy Asistin, Business Administrator Mr. Ed Kostka, Director Maintenance and Facilities Beth Miloscia, Youth and Young Adult *Ministries* Coleen Rugani, Receptionist Dory Weiss, Parish Secretary Mrs. Mattea Truppe, Pastoral Council Chairperson Mrs. Janet Kaine, Parish Trustee

Mr. Michael Daly, Parish Trustee

Parish e-mail: *info@stmarysdumont.org* Parish Website: *www.stmarysdumont.org* 

Religious Education Office: 201-384-3062 e-mail: religioused@stmarysdumont.org

Director of Music: email: *music@stmarysdumont.org* 

#### Eucharistic Liturgy

Saturday Eve: 5:30 pm Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm Holydays (except Saturday): 7:00 am, 8:45 am, & 7:30 pm Weekdays: Monday - Friday 7:00 am & 8:45 am Saturday: 8:30 am Holiday: 9:00 am on Major Civil Holidays

#### **Religious Devotions**

**Miraculous Medal Novena:** Saturday following 8:30 am Mass.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** First Friday of the month, 8:00 am - 7:00 pm, in the lower church.

#### Sacrament of Penance

**Saturday:** 4:00 - 4:45 pm Private confessions at any time. Please call the parish office.

#### Sacrament of Marriage

Common policy of the Archdiocese of Newark asks that arrangements be made one year in advance. Engaged couples must call to make an appointment to speak to a priest.

#### Sacrament of Baptism

Parents should register for the Baptism Preparation Program at the rectory...even before the baby is born!

#### Catechumenate

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process by which adults (and children who have reached the age of reason) are prepared to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. If you, or someone you know, would like to inquire about becoming a Catholic, please call the parish office.

*Ministry to the Sick and Homebound* The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is available to be celebrated with anyone in need. Please do not wait until death is imminent to contact the parish regarding an ill family member. Eucharistic Ministers and others serve our community by visiting and bringing Communion to the sick and homebound. Please call the parish office if you wish such a visit.

*God's Plan for Giving - Tithing* Tithing is God's plan to support His Church. Full tithing means 10% of gross income to God. We ask half of this, or 5%, for your parish Church. The other 5% goes to your favorite charities.

280 Washington Avenue, Dumont, NJ 07628 Parish Office: 201-384-0557 Fax: 201-384-4986



Saturday Dec. 17 - Vigil 5:30PM Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Richards Sunday Dec. 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:00AM Justin and Ria Duenas (Living) 10:00AM Bill Cannon Mary C. Leonard 12 Noon Monday Dec. 19 - Late Advent Weekday Czeslaw Gryszko 7:00AM James and Michael Sullivan 8:45AM Tuesday Dec. 20 - Late Advent Weekday Norma O'Connor 7:00AM Ann and Henry Wolf 8:45AM Wednesday Dec. 21 - Late Advent Weekday 7:00AM **Brett Lyness** 8:45AM Ann Baranek Thursday Dec. 22 - Late Advent Weekday

7:00AM Parishioners of St. Mary's Angelo Aviles 8:45AM Friday Dec. 23 - Late Advent Weekday

7:00AM Susan Fitzpatrick Michael McCormack 8:45AM

Saturday Dec. 24 - Late Advent Weekday Theresa Ann Giacalone 8:30AM 4:00PM Gerard Reilly 6:30PM Angelo Aviles William O'Shea 12:00AM

- Sunday Dec. 25 - The Nativity of the Lord Sister Joseph Cremin 8:00AM 10:00AM Patrick Langford 12 Noon
  - William and Lorena Lo and Family (Living)

## In Loving Memory



The Bread and Wine offered at this week's Masses are given in memory of the deceased members of the Markert and Quigley Families requested by Anna MEMORIALS Markert.

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in praise of God and in memory of Gerard Reilly requested by his wife and family.

We ask your prayers for our recently deceased Anne Betterley and Chris Connelly.

## This Week

#### Sunday – Dec. 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30AM Feeding at Missionaries of Charity Soup Kitchen, Newark 8:30AM PACT Saints Session LC/School 11:00AM Confirmation Retreat Team Library 1:00PM Young Adult Meeting YRm 6:30PM JWalk Meeting YRm

#### Monday - Dec. 19

After 8:45AM Mass Rosary LC 6:00PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00PM PACT Angels Session UC/School 7:30PM Advent Penance Service at St. Mary's

#### Tuesday – Dec. 20

After 8:45AM Mass Rosary LC 3:30PM PACT Angels Session UC/School 3:45PM Children's Choir Rehearsal School 5:30PM Basketball SH 6:30PM Schola Cantorum Rehearsal UC 6:30PM Church Decorating UC 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal UC

#### Wednesday - Dec. 21

After 8:45AM Mass Rosary LC 6:30PM Church Decorating 7:00PM OLPH Novena LC 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal UC

#### Thursday – Dec. 22

After 8:45AM Mass Rosary LC 5:30PM Basketball SH 6:30PM Church Decorating UC 7:30PM Yoga (Linda) SFC

Friday – Dec. 23 After 8:45AM Mass Rosary LC

Saturday – Dec. 24 After 8:30AM Mass Rosary LC Christmas Eve Masses: 4:00PM. 6:30PM, and 12:00 Midnight

#### Sunday – Dec. 25 **Christmas Day** Masses: 8:00AM, 10:00AM, and 12:00Noon

## Advent Penance Service - Dec. 19th

Let Every Heart Prepare-Advent Communal Penance Service. Join us with the parishes of St. John's and Ascension at 7:30 p.m. here at St. Mary's. This service will be a communal service with opportunity for individual confessions with priests of all parishes.

## From the Pastor © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc

With all the rushing around and all the worry about making sure that everything is done; all the gifts are brought, all the cards are sent and all the decorations are in place, it's sometimes hard to remember what Christmas is all about. I'm grateful to the Knights of Columbus for the banner on our front lawn that reminds us to "Keep Christ In Christmas" but, even for a priest, making this a reality is not always easy.

What I needed to remind me what Christmas is all about I found on Friday evening when the children of our parish hosted their Christmas Pageant as part of our annual Simbang Gabi celebration. Parents beamed as their little ones got their turn to shine. Little faces shown with wonder and awe as they told a story that has been told so many times before.

Christmas is all about children. Christmas is time for the child in each of us as we remember a simple story of faith, hope, and love; the faith of a virgin who trusted the word of an angel, the hope of parents who brought forth a child into poverty, the love of a God who gave his Son to be our Savior.

Christmas is all about one special child, an infant born in a manger. And Christmas is all about the child in each one of us called to look with wonder upon the new born king. May the joy and wonder of Christmas be yours this day and each day throughout the coming year.

## Fr. Carey

(Check page 6 for a "Christmas Story".)

#### **Parish Office Hours**

During the days of the Christmas season, the parish office *will be closed* as follows:

Friday, Dec. 23, Monday, Dec. 26, Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 and Monday, Jan. 2, 2017 \*~ \*~ \*~ \*~ \* ~ \* ~ \*~ \*



#### Volunteers Needed

Many hands make light work... We will be decorating our church for Christmas on Tues., Dec. 20, Volunteers ... and Wed., Dec. 21 beginning at 6:30pm. Please come and give us a hand.



#### CHRISTMAS MASSES

Saturday, December 24 **Christmas Eve** 4:00 PM Mass with Children's Choir 6:30 PM Mass 11:30 PM - Celebration of Carols 12:00 AM Midnight Mass with Adult Choir

#### Sunday, December 25 **Christmas Dav** 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 12:00 Noon

#### MASSES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

Saturday, December 31 Vigil Mass 5:30 PM

Sunday, January 1 7:45 AM, 10:00 AM, and 12:00 Noon



## Good Deeds for Baby Jesus



All children of the parish are invited to put a piece of straw in the crib for Baby Jesus each time they do a good deed, so Jesus will have a soft bed for Christmas! The crib will be in the fover of the church.

## **Christmas Flowers**

**PLEASE** don't forget to use your envelope marked for *FLOWERS* - it takes a *LOT* of flowers to make our church extra-special for Christmas!



### **Giving Tree - Thank You!**



Thank you to all parishioners **GivinG** who took and returned the Giving Tree tags. Due to your generosity we were able to send

98% of the gifts to the Nurturing Place.

Special thank you to all the elves who helped sort the gifts.

Josie Parrella

## Serving in the Military

We ask God to keep in his care all those who are serving overseas in our armed forces. They are listed below and we ask your prayers for them.

Wayne Lawton...Michael Bianco...Kyle Zownir Alicia Newball..Anthony Hacket, Jr. Donald Dickson...Anthony Dunkin Christopher Lynch...Brian Collins Bobby Dellner...Patrick Booth Tyler Thompson...Michael Whitford James R. Melady...Ryan Shireman Joshua M LaBazzetta...Aidan Nugent Alvin Joseph Garabiles...Christopher Cookson Christopher Minayn...Christopher Kishbach Major David Christopher Pierson Charles Bennett...James Markert Christopher Smaldone

If you have a relative serving in the military, please call the parish office so that we can add his/her name and offer a prayer for him/her.

We will be starting a new sick list beginning January, 2017. If you would like our parish to continue to pray for family, friends or loved ones who are ill and in need of prayer, please call the parish office -201-384-0557

## <u>Pray for Our Sick</u>

Peter Ramzi..John Ramzi..Rose O'Shea..Joan Polis Lyla McMahon...Joe Markert...Patricia Harrigan Tom Phelan..Hailey van Weathering..Pat Barclay Rita Crowley..Sandy Tolentino..Agnes Leonard Rosemarie, William and Mildred Dellner..Kathy R. Teagan Davis...George DiCostanzo...Lucy Buonarota Emily Del Vecchio...Dan and Jean Pope...James B. Wilberta Schreiber...Maureen Kostka...Dian Ang Peggy Dunshee.. Patricia Victory...Kristi Carbonaro Rob Lockett...Mary McGuire...Nikki Marinas Tina and Her Baby...Tricia Rankin...Riley Rose Rachel Reynolds...Mary Fitzgerald...Sean Hayes Alvin Joseph Garabiles...Nick & Diane Kowatch Maureen Spulka...Richard King...Frank Uvenio Evelyn Paulsen..Erin Pizzi..Thomas Folchi..Mary M. Jeffrey Newman...Leo Newman...Stefano Piccinich Joan Mascarelli...Patrick Manley

#### <u>Rosary Linen Schedule for</u> <u>December and January</u>

Dec. 11	Pat Barclay	Dec. 18	Eleanor King
Dec. 25	Sue Schettino		
Jan. 1	Eleanor King	Jan. 8	Mary Boyle
Jan. 15	<b>Diane Gerrity</b>	Jan. 22	Sue Schettino
Jan. 29	Eileen Maloney		

## <u>God's Plan for Giving:</u>

"The measure of your free-will offering shall be in proportion to the blessing the Lord, your God, has bestowed on you." (Deuteronomy 16:10)

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Collection on Dec. 10 - 11\$ 9,735.00Same Weekend 2015\$10,013.50

Treasure from our children: \$14.00

Here are some of the good deeds that the children of St. Mary's did as a way of showing their love of God and of our parish. We hope that they will always know how important what they do for God and for us truly is. Even though they are still young, they can give us a wonderful example to follow.

"Sitting with a friend who was lonely."
"I helped put laundry away."
"I play nise with my cosing."
"I sorted the laundry."
"I talked with parents about lesson."
"I helped someone." "I said my prayers."
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#### <u>Stewardship Prayer</u>

Dear Lord,

O Divine Giver of all gifts, grant us the daily graces we need to follow closely in the footsteps of Jesus in the way we live out our lives and make use of our gifts.

Daily, may we renew with You our small part of the world by allowing Your will to be accomplished in and through us.

Help us to trust in Your love for us and to grow in our fidelity and relationship with You.

We thank You for the trust You place in us as stewards of our personal gifts. May the Holy Spirit guide us in placing our time, talent and treasure at the service of each other so that together we may faithfully witness the Christian message and thus become your holy people. Amen.

## **Offerings Still Available**

#### **Bread & Wine:**

Jan. 8 & 29; Mar. 5 & 19; Apr. 9; May 14 & 21; June 4 & 11; Jul. 2 & 9; Aug. 6, 13, & 20; Sept. 3 & Sept. 17, & 24; Oct. 1 & 15; Nov. 5; Dec. 17.

#### Sanctuary Lamp:

Feb. 19; Mar. 12 & 19; May 7, 14 & 21; June 11; Jul. 9, 16, 23, & 30; Aug. 6, 13, & 20 & 27; Sept. 24; Oct. 15 & 22; Nov. 19; Dec. 3.

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



#### PACT/Religious Education Program

### <u> Remember our PACT – MAP</u>

Mass Attendance Program has begun! *Sign-in books in the vestibule (in the back of the upper church)* 

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## St. Nicholas Project Update



St. Nicholas is on his way! We delivered our PACT-St. Nicholas project donations last Friday. The staff and clients are always grateful for the generosity of the parishioners of St. Mary's! For more information visit oasisnj.org.



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Our next meeting will be December 18th from 6:30-8:30pm.

If you have any questions or would like to be added to our email list, please email Beth Miloscia at youthmin@stmarysdumont.org. You can also follow us on twitter @stmarys\_jwalk.

## <u>Statue of St. Patrick</u>

We have purchased a statue of St. Patrick which will be placed in our church (over by the Sacred Heart Mosaic). The cost of the statue was \$2,000. Donations to help cover the cost will be accepted at the rectory office. If you would like to make a donation, please stop by the parish office or mail a check payable to St. Mary's. Just mark St. Patrick on the check. We will dedicate the statue at our annual St. Patrick's Mass in March.

## Living Stone Update as of Dec. 13, 2016

Goal: \$649,793.00 Total Pledge Amount: \$316, 043.00 Total Amount Received: \$80,484.47

#### **Transfiguration Academy**

The following Transfiguration Academy students in grades 4-8 have made the Principal's List for the first trimester:

Kyle Esteban (Grade 4) Cynthia Jacob (Grade 6) Aleena Kuriakose (Grade 6) Layla Libanan (Grade 6)

Congratulations! These students received all A+ grades.

The students, faculty and staff wish everyone a healthy and blessed Christmas. The school and school office will close at 12 noon on Thursday, December 22 and will remain closed until Tuesday, January 3 for the Christmas recess.

Transfiguration Academy is located at 10 Bradley Avenue in Bergenfield. For more information or to schedule a tour of the school please

call (201)384-3627 or

Email principal@transfigurationacademy.org. Please visit our website at

transfigurationacademy.org and

follow us on Facebook.

## **Knights of Columbus**

**New Year's Eve**—presented by the Twin-Boro Columbian Club. The party is on! December 31st 8pm-1am. The evening's entertainment will be provided by the Shadows After Dark band. Appetizers will consist of antipasto, stuffed mushrooms, bacon wrapped scallops, homemade mozzarella, and shrimp cocktail. Main course will be served buffet style consisting of lobster ravioli, beef brisket, shrimp scampi, and veal rollatine. All beverages, dessert, coffee, and tea also included. Only \$90 per person.

Reservations and **<u>advance payment required</u>**. To make a reservation call or text 516-220-9333 or email us at kofc1345reservations@gmail.com for further details.

**Murder Mystery Dinner**—Friday January 13th. Stay tuned for more details.

**Other Upcoming Events**—Friday Jan. 20-Pasta/ Meatball Social; Saturday Jan. 28th—Fr. Murray Scholarship Dinner/Dance.

<u>We Welcome the Newest Members of</u> <u>Our Parish Community</u>

Jasmine Isabel Feigle Mason Joseph Gabriel Lucas Meneses



# I recently received an E-mail with a story about a tablecloth. This amazing story has been floating around for years. It's a true story, submitted by Pastor Rob Reid, and it reminds us that Christmas miracles still happen. *Fr. Carey*

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve.

They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc., and on December 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On December 19 a terrible tempest - a driving rainstorm - hit the area and lasted for two days.

On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high.

The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity, so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory coloured, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colours and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later.

She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area.

Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials 'EBG' were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria.

The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten "The Tablecloth". The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. He was captured, sent to prison and she never saw her husband or her home again.

The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home. That was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return.

One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighbourhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike?

He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again in all the 35 years between.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.



# **Blessing of a Christmas Tree**

When the tree has been prepared the household gathers around it. All make the sign of the Cross.

Leader: Blessed be the name of the Lord. All: Now and for ever.

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing.

This tree is a blessing to our home. It reminds us of all that is beautiful, all that is filled with the gentleness and the promise of God. It stands in our midst as a tree of light that we might promise such beauty to one another and to our world. It stands like that tree of paradise that God made into the tree of life, the cross of Jesus.

*Then the scripture is read:* Listen to the words of Psalm 96

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea and what fills it resound, Let the plains be joyful and all that is in them. Then let all the trees of the forest rejoice before the Lord who comes, who comes to govern the earth, to govern the world with justice and the peoples with faithfulness.

The Word of the Lord

<u>All</u>: Thanks be to God.

After a time of silence, all join in prayers of intercession and in the Lord's Prayer. Then the leader invites:

Let us now pray for God's blessing upon all who gather around this tree. *After a short silence the leader prayers:* 

God of all creation, we praise you for this tree which brings beauty and memories and the promise of life to our home. May your blessing be upon all who gather around this tree, all who keep the Christmas festival by its lights. We wait for the coming of the Christ, the days of everlasting justice and of peace. You are our God, living and reigning, for ever and ever.

<u>All</u>: Amen.