

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/RCLIA*
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.



Saturday 5:30PM	Dec. 17 - Vigil Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Richards
Sunday 8:00AM 10:00AM 12 Noon	Dec. 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent Justin and Ria Duenas (Living) Bill Cannon Mary C. Leonard
Monday 7:00AM 8:45AM	Dec. 19 - Late Advent Weekday Czeslaw Gryszko James and Michael Sullivan
Tuesday 7:00AM 8:45AM	Dec. 20 - Late Advent Weekday Norma O'Connor Ann and Henry Wolf
Wednesday 7:00AM 8:45AM	Dec. 21 - Late Advent Weekday Brett Lyness Ann Baranek
Thursday 7:00AM 8:45AM	Dec. 22 - Late Advent Weekday Parishioners of St. Mary's Angelo Aviles
Friday 7:00AM 8:45AM	Dec. 23 - Late Advent Weekday Susan Fitzpatrick Michael McCormack
Saturday 8:30AM 4:00PM 6:30PM 12:00AM	Dec. 24 - Late Advent Weekday Theresa Ann Giacalone Gerard Reilly Angelo Aviles William O'Shea
Sunday 8:00AM 10:00AM 12 Noon	Dec. 25 - The Nativity of the Lord Sister Joseph Cremin Patrick Langford 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 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.

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 12:00 Noon

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

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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.

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.

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.

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, 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 Day

- 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



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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!

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 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

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

All: 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 prays:

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.

All: Amen.