



# Advent 2018

Shine in our Darkness  
Show us the Way



**Giving Tree** As part of the Advent spiritual journey we invite you to participate in the Giving Tree. This year, with your support and generosity, we will provide gifts to families through the Dumont Department of Human Services and The Nurturing Place (formerly The York Street Project) in Jersey City. Gift tags will be available November 18, 25, Dec 2. . Gifts should be returned by December 10th Questions? Call Josie Parrella at 201-387-0786.

PACT Program St. Nicholas Project. Once again our PACT/Religious Education families will be providing some necessities and gift items for the families of Oasis Shelter for Women and Children in Paterson. Gift tags are being distributed to parents at our November sessions and need to be returned to the Religious Education Office by **St. Nicholas Day, Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**.



**Advent Wreath Making** –Sunday Dec 2, 2018 9am - 12 p.m. in the Spiritual Formation Center. Registration recommended. Cost: \$5 - \$10. See bulletin for further details



**Christmas Wreath and Grave Blanket orders** will be distributed by J-Walk, our youth group the weekend of Dec. 1-2 after all masses.

## Tuesday, December 6 – Feast of St. Nicholas



A fourth century bishop from Turkey, Nicholas is the inspiration for Santa Claus. Known for his acts of charity, he often left gifts of food or money in the dark of night. Celebrate this day in your family by having your children leave a shoe outside the door, to be filled with treats in memory of St. Nicholas and consider how your family can give to children in need. The Parish Giving Tree and PACT St. Nicholas Project are two good ways! \* **Our PACT St. Nicholas Project gift items are due 12/6 in the Religious Education Office (in the school).**



**Saturday, December 1st**  
First Penance 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Please keep our young candidates in your prayer as they prepare to meet with our forgiving Lord in his Sacrament of Reconciliation.



**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 foyer of the church.



**Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**The Feast of the Immaculate Conception** a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses at 8:30am and 12 noon. Mass at 5:30pm on that day will be for the **Second Sunday of Advent**



**Wednesday, December 12**  
**Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe**  
Join us for a special liturgy in Spanish and English to celebrate this feast of the Patroness of the Americas in the **Upper Church at 7:30 p.m.**



**Monday, December 10th**  
**Advent Communal Penance Service.** Join with the parishes of St. Johns 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.

## Help us Decorate Wreaths!

**Tuesday December 11<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. we will meet in the lower church to prepare wreaths for the church.



## Friday, December 21

**Simbang Gabi Mass** at 7 p.m. in the upper church followed by social in Szelest Hall.

**Church Decorating:** Wednesday, December 19 and Thursday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m.. On Wednesday we will do the "heavy" stuff, trees and wreaths. Many hands make light work!!!

## Christmas Eve

**4:00 p.m. Mass – Children's Choir/Handbells**  
**6:30 p.m. Mass – Contemporary Festival Choir**  
**11:30 p.m. – Carol Service**  
**12:00 Midnight – Mass Christmas Day**  
Masses at 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. - 12:00 Noon  
**Blessing of Outside Christmas Creche following the 10 a.m. Mass.**