

Mass Intentions



Saturday, December 24, 2011—*Christmas Eve*

4:30 pm—Vigil Mass: Sacred Heart Church
Marco Cicerone, req. 4:30 pm Music Group
Patrick Cannon, req. Family

8:00 pm—Vigil Mass: St. Philip Neri Church

For the people of the parish
Richard Pickett, req. Family

Sunday, December 25, 2011—*Christmas Day*

9:00 am—Mass: St. Philip Neri Church

Deceased members of the Stock & Weredyk Families,
req. Family

12:00 noon—Mass: Sacred Heart Church

Gunter Olberg, req. M/M K. Kneis
Linda McLoughlin, req. Maria Dianich

Monday, December 26, 2011

No Mass Scheduled Today!

Tuesday, December 27, 2011

No Mass Scheduled Today!

Wednesday, December 28, 2011

No Mass Scheduled Today!

Thursday, December 29, 2011

No Mass Scheduled Today!

Friday, December 30, 2011

No Mass Scheduled Today!

Saturday, December 31, 2011—*New Year's Eve*

4:30 pm—Vigil Mass: Sacred Heart Church

Johanna Cileo, req. Lorene Barone
Anne Pindar, req. M/M L. Nickerson

Sunday, January 1, 2012—*Mary the Holy Mother of God*

9:00 am—Mass: St. Philip Neri Church

Michael Carr, req. Sarah Carr
Mary Cannon, req. Sarah Carr

12:00 noon—Mass: Sacred Heart Church

Angie Agostinello, req. Tony Agostinello
Elisa Perzan, req. M/M U. Perzan

Daily Readings for week of Dec. 26—Jan. 1, 2012

Monday, Dec. 26, 2011

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Matthew
10:17-22

Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2011

1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a and 2-8

Wednesday Dec. 28, 2011

1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18

Thursday, Dec. 29, 2011

1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35

Friday, Dec. 30, 2011

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Luke 2:22-40

Saturday, Dec. 31, 2011

1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18

Sunday, Jan. 1, 2011

Mary Holy Mother of God
Numbers 6:22-27; Hebrews 1:1-2;
Luke 2:16-21

All The Ends Of The Earth Have
Seen The Saving Power Of God.



Living the Paschal Mystery

“In the beginning was the Word.” And this Word who was with God from the beginning would come to dwell with us on earth so that we might encounter this Light and see diving glory. Through this birth of God in human flesh, we who accept the Light are empowered to be “born...of God.” His birth is our rebirth.

The Crèche



The first image of a crèche can be traced to the end of the 4th century. It is found on the wall of a burial chamber of a Christian family in Rome. The crèche, or manger/nativity scene, which we know today, is associated with St. Francis (12th century). One Christmas Eve he gathered with his friars and people from the small town of Greccio, not far from Assisi. There he created a life-size depiction of the manger scene of Christ' birth. We are told that Francis received a vision of the Christ child appearing to him in the crib of this scene.

As an image of the manger scene, the crèche serves as a picture of the great mystery of the Incarnation. In a way, it is the whole mystery of the Incarnation in one image: Christ became flesh (represented by the Christ child with his parents, Mary and Joseph) and was born into the world (the crib and the manger), to call people of every race and nation (the shepherds rubbing elbows with the magi), and to unite all creation (the ox, ass, and sheep) with heaven (the star or the angel).

The power of the crèche is in its ability to draw us into this scene depicting the mystery of the Incarnation: God, in human form, entering our world, coming among us as one of us in the most vulnerable form, that of a child. The crèche is such that we are able to enter into this scene, and to see ourselves with the shepherds and the magi. Its power and grace come from its ability to engage us and to connect to our lives, to our situations, to the joys and struggles we are experiencing whenever we enter into this holy scene.



The Bulletin went to press early because of the Christmas holiday. Collection amounts for last weekend will be in next weekend's bulletin.

From the Church Office

The parish office will be closed from Friday, December 30th through Monday, January 2nd for the New Year's Holiday. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 3rd. *Happy New Year!*

DECEMBER 24/25, 2011
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



Happy 1st Anniversary Fr. Michael

We are proud to call you our Pastor!

YOU ARE:

A man who teaches the word of God, the word of truth that gives the people power...
The power of love...the love of God!

A man who not only embraces all of us,
but touches the heart within us.

We are blessed when in your presence.

A man who teaches us the meaning of laughter,
and the joy of sharing our talents with others.

A man whose singing brings light into dark places,
and dancing fills our hearts and souls with joy.

A man whose smile actually means "I love you"
and sincere eyes that say "I'm praying for you"

A man whose lesson from the pulpit make you jump up and
say "I can take on the world today, so bring it on"!

A man who everyone has heard of, and most people know,
who many people want,
but we have been blessed to be given!

We thank God everyday you chose to come to our parish...

We are so proud to call you:

"Our Pastor, Our Friend and Our Family Member!"

Liturgy Schedule

Lector/2 Blood/Body

December 31/January 1

4:30 PM	Weredyk	Kneis/Laing/Lamport
9:00 AM	Thorington	Riedl/Traver/Brody
12:00 NOON	Dianich	Fey/Bergleitner/O'Connor

January 7/8, 2012

4:30 PM	Cannon	Manzanero/Butler/vonBrockdorff
9:00 AM	Riedl	Clark/Lane/Thorington
12:00 NOON	P.Wenner	Gibbons/Bergleitner/Corrao

Altar Server Schedule

December 31/January 1

4:30 PM	B. Champlin	S. German
12:00 NOON	E. Wenner	J. Strauss/M. Fallon

January 7/8, 2012

4:30 PM or 9:00 AM	(if you attend this Mass please step forward to serve)	
12:00 NOON	C. Larson	C. Larson/M. Wenner



Please note that there will be **NO** daily Mass Monday, December 26th thru Friday, December 30th.



Thank you to everyone who helped make our annual Children's Christmas Pageant a success! Thank you Anna Lecluse, Josie Macaluso, and Tatiana Larson for helping our students try on their costumes and for costume alterations. Thank you to Ann Manzanero, Lillian Miccio and helpers for constructing the angel wings. Thank you to Emily Wenner for being an excellent narrator and Christian Larson for being our photographer. Thank you to Marlena Nickerson and her choir for their excellent music. Thank you to Catherine Snyder and Tara Leas for helping with the children in the pageant. And lastly thank you to all our children and parents for their cooperation with practices.

Sincerely,
Ellen Marando
Faith Formation Coordinator



On January 22nd, Fr. Michael will lead a group of our youth and other parishioners on a trip to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life. The bus will leave Stamford a little after 1 pm and, after a stop for dinner, will arrive at a Knights of Columbus Hall in Maryland around 9:30 pm. Those attending will camp in the hall, and the Knights will provide an evening snack, breakfast, and a bag lunch. In the morning, there's a choice of a number of activities, which in the past have included a youth rally, Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, lobbying legislators, and touring monuments and museums. The March starts after noon, and is about a mile long. There is a quick stop afterward at a church for refreshments, and a stop for dinner on the way home; ETA in Stamford is around midnight.

The cost will be about \$70 per person, although we have been able to cover most of it with a bake sale. For more information, contact Paul or Janet Wenner at 652-4055.

Bishop's Annual Christmas Mass Schedule

The annual 2011 Christmas Mass celebrated by Bishop Hubbard will air as follows:

- On WXXA-TV, FOX 23, at 6:30 am on Christmas Day
- For Time Warner cable subscribers in the Oneonta area, on Channel 23 at 10 am on Christmas Day

Christmas Tree Blessing

Holy God,

We celebrate the birth of your Son with great joy.

He rescued us from the darkness of sin

By making the tree of the cross

The means of our salvation.

May the splendor of this tree

Remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ,

That we may always rejoice

In the new life that shines in our hearts.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*Light the Christmas tree, Sing Christmas hymns and carols.
Keep the feast. Christ is born!*