

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY,	NOVEMBER 28
8:00 a.m.	Anne Spina
5:30 p.m.	Bernard Tozzi
SUNDAY,	NOVEMBER 29
7:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
8:30 a.m.	Jack Gilfillan
10:00 a.m.	Bridget and John Ginty
12:15 p.m.	Patricia Pidgeon
5:30 p.m.	Alex and Rose Jannicelli
MONDAY,	NOVEMBER 30
7:00 a.m.	Frank Dalbo
12:05 p.m.	Lester Bashant
TUESDAY,	DECEMBER 1
7:00 a.m.	The Palazzolo Family
12:05 p.m.	Sandra Jones
WEDNESDAY,	DECEMBER 2
7:00 a.m.	Tom Romano
12:05 p.m.	Adlyn Maurello
THURSDAY,	DECEMBER 3
7:00 a.m.	Charles Perkalis
12:05 p.m.	John Frank Porter
FRIDAY,	DECEMBER 4
7:00 a.m.	James, Elizabeth, and Mary Bernadette Beston
12:05 p.m.	Kathleen Geraghty
SATURDAY,	DECEMBER 5
8:00 a.m.	Ronald and Elena Galdieri
5:30 p.m.	Nettie and Eugene Tozzi
SUNDAY,	DECEMBER 6
7:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
8:30 a.m.	Charles Cook
10:00 a.m.	Maureen Collins
12:15 p.m.	Joseph Desmond
5:30 p.m.	Robert Kirby

The Rosary is prayed every weekday 15 minutes before the 12:05 Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration is held every Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel, Cedar Knolls.

The Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal is prayed every Monday immediately following the 12:05 p.m. Mass.

Perpetual Adoration is observed seven days-a-week, 24 hours daily at St. Margaret of Scotland in Morristown.

First Reading – *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

In today's opening reading from the Hebrew Scriptures, the prophet Jeremiah assures those Jews being exiled to Babylon that God has not abandoned them. Land, Temple, and Kingship will all be restored by the just God of all.

Second Reading– *1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2*

The following reading is from the conclusion of Paul's letter to the Church in Thessalonica. He encourages that early church, just as he would encourage our own parish family to continue to grow in the Christian faith.

Gospel – *Luke 21:25-28,34-36*

Today's Gospel passage is composed in a style of writing called apocalyptic, in which vivid symbolism and catastrophic events dominate. Since believers know that God's justice and peace must inevitably prevail, we must strive to behave justly and peaceably even in the sinful world of the present.

First Sunday of Advent

We invite you to prayerfully reflect on the readings for next Sunday, December 6, **Second Sunday of Advent**

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6,8-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6



FIRST WEEK IN ADVENT

Say: We light the first candle, the Candle of Prophecy, to remind us of all the years that people Hoped for the coming of the Messiah and longed for God's Kingdom to be established.

Read: Biblical prayer from the Advent Calendar for each day.

FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration will be held Friday, December 4, from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. You are invited to come and adore, to pray and meditate, and to find spiritual well being. The sign-up sheet for Adoration times will be by the doors of the rectory side of the church.



First Sunday of Advent



PLEASE REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR THE RECOVERY OF:

Pat and Bob Seely, Noelle Talarico, Lorraine McMahon, Judy Lynch, Romaine Rea, Agnes Hogan, Kathleen McCarthy Brennan, Tony Bersani, Mary Ascher, Rita Ventre, Helen Bitondo, Gladys Mageau, Becca Wishbow, Michael Garde, Joseph McGovern, Elsa McGlynn, Doris Lemieux, Patricia Barter-Varrichio, William Galligan, Doris Laurenti, Heidi Hertsgaard, Mary O'Connell, Janet Cloninger, Jerry Kwilos, Kathy Farrand, Robert Carduner, Sherry Rickely, Manuel and Delicia Calderon, Ariel Donnelly, Julie Ann Barlotta, Elaine Brady, Christy Lee Ascolese, Sabrina Sanchez, Miriam Frias, Jim Cavanaugh, Gabrielle Murtha, Jody Hartley, Doris Laurenti, Guy J. Palazzolo, Jane A. Mullins, Mary Breen, Elizabeth Gibson, Theresa O'Connell, Maria Svaglinac, Christopher Scully, Malcolm Sutherland Foggio, Charles Lieb McCloskey, Marie Valvano, Charlotte Resz, Linda Rosenberg, Sheila Hare, Thomas Greer, Albert J. Kelly, Jr., Lucy Garchatorina, Monica Turner, David Monahan, Alice Slattery, Brittany Somol, Eugene R. Fennimore, Julia Sillo, Amy Villoresi Cooney, Kenneth Donohue, Susan, Jaime Trent, Rick Baiter, Kathy Heregthy, Cheryl Collins, Dominick Vacca, Kyle Noonan, Edward Soboll, Hilda Egan, Jennifer Vickroy, infant Isla Dell'Aquila, Paul Albanese, Brenda Burns, Vincent Hogan, Vincent Farley, Virginia Brennan, Jeanne Detsis, Kathy Wurst, and Fr. Joe Casey

You are invited to call the Parish Office with the names of any loved ones who you would like included in the prayers for the good health of the sick and homebound.

Please notify us when our prayers for recovery have been answered, so we may remove the person from the list.

We welcome into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism

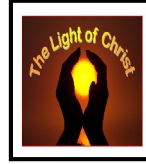


Grace Caroline Sweeney
Daughter of Peter and Susanne
Matthew August Santaiti
Son of Matthew and Catherine
Patrick James Donovan
Son of Sean and Colleen

Joined Together in Holy Matrimony "And the two of them become one body"



Sharon Ritter to Matthew Niemczyk



THE LIGHT OF CHRIST SHINES AT ASSUMPTION

We believe that Jesus Christ breathes His Spirit on us so that we can strive to become a more perfect expression of the Good News in all aspects of everyday life.

BABY SHOWER FOR MARY

This past Sunday, our 3rd grade Religious Education students hosted a Baby Shower for Mary. All third grade families donated a new, unwrapped baby item, such as, formula, diapers, clothing, toys and toiletries. All items were donated to *Several Sources Foundation*, a non-profit Christian organization based in Ramsey, New Jersey, that provides help, comfort, and information to pregnant teens, unwed mothers, homeless and abused women, and their babies.

Since no baby shower is complete without a party activity, the students used icing and novelty candies to decorate store bought gingerbread cookies. The cookies could be eaten after class or used as ornaments for their Christmas tree.

Special thanks to the following 3rd grade catechists for coordinating this service project: Deanna Peterson, Lorie Pezzuti, Eileen Scanlan, Janet Sullivan, and Barbara Walsh

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

This weekend, November 28 and 29, we will be taking a special collection for the Catholic Home Missions. The Catholic Home Missions collection serves Catholics in regions of our country where people and resources to serve the faithful are limited. These areas struggle to make do with few priests and Catholic institutions and limited financial resources. Please be as generous as possible when this collection is taken.

\$\$\$\$Financial Blessings\$\$\$\$

The collection for November 22 totaled \$17,033. Last year's totaled \$15,004. The collection for next weekend will be for Catholic Home Missions. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

Mass Attendance for November 21 and 22

5:30 p.m.	404
7:00 a.m.	130
8:30 a.m.	206
10:00 a.m.	459
12:15 p.m.	258
5:30 p.m.	<u>402</u>
TOTAL	1,859

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man." Luke 21:36

As Advent begins we are challenged to be vigilant and to use our time well as we look forward to the Coming of the Lord in the future. Here's a reflection I'd like to share with you.

Imagine your entire life's work came down to six minutes — that all of your hard education, experience and achievement turned on six minutes. Every year, the careers of hundreds of professional musicians and conservatory students depend on six minutes.

A young violinist, a graduate of a conservatory who is working as a section player for a small city orchestra, dreams of playing for the Boston Symphony, considered one of the world's great classical ensembles. Membership includes a six-figure salary and tenure for life. He has been given the opportunity to audition for the B.S.O. For eight months he's practiced the long list of excerpts provided by the orchestra, including passages from Brahms, Beethoven, and Schubert.

On the day of the audition, a B.S.O. official quietly ushers him onto the historic Symphony Hall stage. He tells himself he is ready as he makes his way up the stairs. On stage, he is seated, alone, on one side of a 33-foot screen. On the other side of the screen are the ten judges (all members of the orchestra) who vote by paper ballot whether or not the musician advances to the next round. Everything in the audition process — from the secret ballots to the screen — is driven by a single, guiding principal: All that matters is the music.

The violinist's audition starts out strong — but then, about halfway through Mozart's *Concerto No. 4*, he makes a minor mistake, flubbing a note or two. His self-confidence vanishes. He is thinking too much. He knows it. He's through. His six minutes are over.

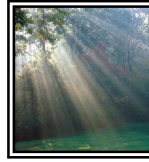
The B.S.O. staffer thanks him, telling him he played wonderfully. But he knows better and immediately leaves Symphony Hall, saying nothing as he passes a cellist about to face her own six minutes.

The young violinist is disappointed, but not defeated. He returns home, determined to continue working and practicing for another six minutes next fall. [From "Six Minutes To Shine" by Geoff Edgers, *The Boston Globe Magazine*, September 4, 2005]

We prepare for the coming of the Lord by persevering in prayer and charity each day. As Advent begins we ask the Lord to open our eyes wide in faith so that we may always be vigilant and make the best use of our time before He comes. And He is coming!

In Christ's Peace,
Father John

"Let us pray so to live that no crisis-hour will find us unprepared." (C. Allbright)



**FROM THE
ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

SPIRITUALITY

Sin shines the spotlight on divisions. It is easier to see the divisions, the evil, in our lives than it is to see God's loving hand working toward our eventual coming together in him. Perhaps an example of what I mean is a person dying of a terminal disease—certainly a dramatic instance of evil, of that seeming division of body and soul. I can begin to hate my body as my enemy because of what is happening to it, or I can embrace its suffering, its dying as the beginning of my final integration. The way people react to death is the way they have reacted to life, to those moments of living which have often included a little dying, a little letting-go that worked a further wholeness, a further loving.

Emily Dickinson's poem that concluded with, "Instead of getting to heaven at last, I'm going all along!" is a poem about the real division between a false piety and true faith, between external shell and inner heart; and trying to keep body and soul separate in my mind leads precisely to that, a false piety acted out by the body that is not really in touch with who I am inside. My advice in a nutshell:

- 1> Strive to integrate your life as you journey to the Father.
- 2> Love your body as your soul.
- 3> Love yourself as God loves you.
- 4> Love others and the world around you as an integrated person.
- 5> Embrace your sexuality, your femaleness and maleness.
- 6> Let God embrace you.
- 7> Surrender to the work of God within you.
- 8> Embrace your life here as the beginning of your life in Heaven.

Love, Fr. Dennis

NOVEMBER 29 – DAY OF PRAYER FOR MARRIAGE

The Catholic Bishops of New Jersey have chosen Sunday, November 29 as "A Day for Prayer for Marriage."

A Prayer for Marriage

O loving God, you have made the bond of marriage a holy mystery, a symbol of Christ's love for the Church.

Hear our prayer for all couples who have entered into the holy vocation of marriage.

With faith in you, and in each other, may their lives always bear witness to the reality of your love.

May their marriages and families promote your Kingdom of truth and love, of justice and peace, of compassion and forgiveness, as they serve one another and you.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

First Sunday of Advent

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



BE PREPARED: The expectation of the birth of a child often can reignite the ardor of a flagging love relationship. So, too, in Advent if our hearts are weary or drowsy, our preparation for the celebration of the Christ, who has already been born as one of us, can spark our love once again, not only toward the one who came as a child in our midst, but to all God's beloved children.

Adults: What one habit do I possess which disrupts the harmony of my family? How can I change it?

Children: Can I remember one way I have hurt a friend? Am I willing to say that I am sorry?

A Family Perspective: As you gather as a family, recall the tradition of making New Year's resolutions in preparation for the new calendar year. Observe that today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is the beginning of the new Church year. During the season of Advent, our Gospel readings ask us to consider what is most important to us as we prepare for Jesus' coming, at his birth and at the end of time. Read today's Gospel, Luke 21:25-28,34-36. Jesus describes signs that may disturb many people, but he says that these should not disturb his disciples. Why? (Because these signs indicate that redemption is near.) What does Jesus say that his disciples should do? (Be vigilant and pray for strength.) At this start of the new Church year, consider as a family what "Advent resolutions" your family might make to help you stay focused so that you will be prepared to receive the salvation we celebrate at Jesus' birth and anticipate at Jesus' second coming.



www.usccb.org/yearfor_priests USCCB

Year for Priests Web page is the official jubilee page of the U.S. Bishops which offers information on events, prayers for priests and papal announcements.

DID YOU KNOW? ...That the Church did not start to celebrate Advent until the sixth century? At that time the four weeks prior to Christmas were established as a penitential season.

That Advent is no longer a season of penance? The revision of the Roman code of canon law in 1927 eliminated the practice of Advent fasting. In 1969, the reform of the Roman calendar confirmed Advent as a season of joyful expectation. That the color used during Advent is different from that of Lent? The purple-violet of Lent symbolizes repentance. The purple-magenta of Advent symbolizes royalty.

FACILITATORS NEEDED FOR SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN:

On most weekends throughout the year, Service of the Word for Children is presented at the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturdays, then again at the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays. After the opening prayer, children in Pre-K through 4-5th grades are invited in front of the altar for a blessing and are then led into the community room by two adults who present them with the Gospel and the psalm of the day in child friendly language, engage them in conversation, lead them in prayer, and then direct them back to their parents following the Prayers of the Faithful. In order to maintain and continue this faith filled experience, more adult facilitators are needed. Please consider volunteering for as little as one weekend per month. Please contact Linda Macios at Linda.Macios@assumptionparish.org.

CATHOLIC 101: *What does it mean that Jesus is the Son of God?* The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains that in the Old Testament, the title "son of God" with a lowercase 's') was given to "angels, the Chosen people, the children of Israel and their kings." At the time this title would have referred to an adopted-child relationship with God, and the phrase would not have made the people of Jesus' time think he was more than human. We have come to understand a different and more unique meaning, however, and we capitalize the 'S' in Son to show this. Simon Peter responded to Jesus' question about who he is by saying "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God." A cornerstone of our Catholic faith is how we define the "Son of God" as Jesus the Messiah.

A SWEET SAINT: St. Nicholas Day is celebrated each year on Dec. 6 (his feast day). Tradition holds that kids who leave their shoes out on the hearth or by the door before they go to sleep on Dec. 5 will wake up with their shoes filled with candy or small treats, which means St. Nicholas has been there! Including St. Nicholas in your family Advent traditions is a great way to learn more about one of our greatest saints and emphasize giving over receiving.

Nicholas (died 343 A.D.) came from a wealthy family, with parents who always were generous to the poor. When they died, Nicholas gave their money away to help people in need. He became a priest and was soon made a bishop. He was known for caring for children in trouble, healing the sick, feeding the hungry and saving sailors from storms. He often performed secret acts of kindness, such as leaving coins in the shoes of those who left them out for him. After he died, stories of his goodness spread to many countries. He became known as Nicholas the Wonderworker.



“But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom” (Isaiah 11:1)

On Sunday, November 22, our 7th grade Religious Education Families came together to participate in an old Advent tradition: The Jesse Tree. During the middle ages, when many people couldn't read, religious art helped nurture their faith. Stained glass windows told Bible stories in bright colors. A favorite subject of these windows was the "family tree of Jesus," featuring portraits of his ancestors, based on the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Inspired by the prophecy of Isaiah about King David's father, Jesse, these pictures were called "Jesse Trees." During Family Night, we told stories of key ancestors in faith and colored ornaments to make them look like medieval windows. In a beautiful gathering in the church, we decorated our Jesse Tree with the ornaments. On display in the Community Room for much of Advent, you will find our beautiful rendition of the Jesse Tree. Take some time to look at the symbols which depict key members of Jesus' family tree, which is our own family tree of faith. Let our Jesse tree help us focus on the Advent season and the process of "waiting in joyful hope" for the coming of Christmas.



Open Call for Assumption's Live Reenactment of the Nativity Story on Christmas Eve

Children of the parish: Join us on **Thursday, December 24 at 3:00 p.m.** at Assumption Church as we reenact the nativity story just prior to the 3:30 p.m. children's Christmas Eve Liturgy. Children are needed to volunteer for the various parts for this special parish-wide event. **To sign-up: please Email us at Christmas@assumptionparish.org.** We are still in need of sheep, angels, and shepherds. Look for the red flyer at the doors of the church for more information about this special event.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

It's that time of year again, and Assumption's Youth Ministry would like to invite you to attend the annual "Breakfast with Santa" on Sunday, December 6. A delicious pancake and sausage breakfast will be served from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the school cafeteria. Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves will also be there to take pictures with the kids and give out Christmas treats!! The cost is \$5 per person or \$20 for a family. Tickets will be sold in the Community Room the weekend of November 28 and 29 after the 5:30 p.m. Mass Saturday and after the 8:30, 10:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Masses on Sunday. Tickets can also be purchased at the door. We hope to see you there!



GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRY

Help Wanted: With our expansion of home cases and nursing home visitations. We would like to add some volunteers to our list. No amount of time you have to offer is too little. To sign-up or for further information, please call Audrey Geraghty at 973-538-3134 who will be the coordinator until further notice. Thanks again for all you do!

ASSUMPTION SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Assumption School is happy to welcome new students at any time when space is available. Pre-registration forms for the 2010-2011 school year will be available on December 1. Please call the school at 973-538-0590, or stop by the School Office for further information. If you would like to visit the school, please call to set-up an appointment. Visit our website at Assumptionnj.org.



ASSUMPTION'S GIVING TREE 2009

Last Christmas, your generous gift-giving brightened the over 1,400 holidays for people. This year's kick-off consider helping out again.



IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

TAG PICK-UP DATES: This weekend!

- ❖ Take a tag **ONLY** if you are positive that you can return the gift by **December 6th**.
- ❖ Three gift ideas are listed on the tag, but only one should be purchased.
- ❖ Wrap the gift and attach the self-stick label provided.
- ❖ Call Chris Dario @ 973-540-9065 if you have any questions.

If you would prefer to make a donation, envelopes for the "Giving Tree" are available on the tables by the doors of the church.

RETURN DATES FOR GIFTS

November 28 and 29 and December 5 and 6

- ❖ Please do not leave unattended gifts in Church or Community Room.
- ❖ If you are unable to drop-off gifts after Masses on weekends, please drop them off at the Parish Office.

Volunteer "elves" are needed to sort and package the gifts after all Masses. Please contact Dawn Young at 973-539-9530 to volunteer.



ASSUMPTION CHRISTMAS CONCERT FOR VOLUNTEERS

Father John and Father Dennis have invited all Assumption volunteers to attend a Christmas Concert and refreshments on December 5 at 7:00 in the Church. Invitations have been mailed out, however, if you have not received yours, please still plan on attending, and call the Parish Office with your acceptance. It is our Fathers' way of saying "Thank you for all you do for Assumption Church!!"



First Sunday of Advent

Poems from the Pew, From a Child's View

Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things.
Life is not made up of how much a person has.
Luke 12: 15

I Can't Wait for Christmas

I can't wait for Christmas. It's practically here.
I've been so polite now for almost a year!
Yes, Advent's arrived, and what that means to me,
is it's time now to think of the gifts 'neath the tree!
So I sat down and wrote out a long list of things
that I had been hoping old Santa would bring.

"Dear Santa," I wrote, "My list's long, I'll admit,
but there's twenty-three things that I simply must get!
I need new pajamas, five sweaters, some pants,
and that Playstation thing that judges each dance.
To that, add an X-box and ten X-box games.
(Cause playing my old games just won't be the same!)

Oh yes, bring a camera with five MegaPixels,
and the new dancing Elmo that swirls and does trixels.
And Santa, you know what I must have this year?
An iPod with iTunes that play in each ear.
But above all these things, tell your most trusted elf,
that I must have a cell phone like everyone else!"

When Dad took one look at my long Christmas list,
he said, "There's one thing that you've most clearly missed.
In Advent we think, not of things we'll receive,
but of Mary's great 'Yes' and the things we believe.
It's not time to dwell on your gifts Christmas morn,
but instead on the stable where Jesus was born."

So I sent off to Santa a letter most strange.
"Dear Santa," I wrote, "My long list has now changed.
I don't need the toys or the games or the pants,
or the camera, the phone, or that thing about dance.
For Christmas this year, all I want to receive
is Jesus' great love and the grace to believe."

November 29, 2009
