

## Sunday

December 10, 2017



Mass Intentions

### Monday, 12/11

7:00 a.m. Helen Coddington by  
Bill, Pat & Will Hughes

### Tuesday, 12/12

7:00 a.m. George Weiss by family

### Wednesday, 12/13

7:00 a.m. Brian Ward by  
Mike & Barbara Gleason

### Thursday, 12/14

7:00 a.m. Clem Santy by the  
McDowell family

### Friday, 12/15

7:00 a.m. Delores Antoine by  
the Szulczewski family

### Saturday, 12/16

5:00 p.m. Deceased members of the  
Tagliatella and D'Ovidio  
families by Tony & Cathy  
D'Ovidio

### Sunday, 12/17

8:30 a.m. Marion Maier by  
Joe & Marion England  
10:30 a.m. Antonio & Giulia Troia by  
Santa & Salvatore

This week our Sanctuary lamp is lit in  
memory of **Mary Lou D'Andrea** by the  
**McDowell family**.

## Sacrificial Offerings 2017

### Sunday, December 3

Average needed from weekly offerings to  
cover expenses **\$7,000.00**

**Regular Collection: \$7,361.47**

**Children's: \$ 61.40**

**Over: \$ 361.47**

**Diocesan Collection: \$1,089.00**

### Poor Box Collection

Monies collected in the poor boxes located in the  
Church entryway are used for the needy in our parish.  
Your generosity is greatly appreciated. **Please be as  
generous as your means allow.**

### Gift Basket Raffle

The St. John's Music  
Ministry is raffling off a  
beautiful Christmas gift  
basket. The profits from  
this raffle will be used to help defray the  
cost of the instrumental musicians for both  
the Christmas and Easter Liturgies. **Tickets  
will be on sale following all the Masses  
this weekend.** The gift basket raffles are in  
lieu of our annual soup supper.



### Scrip Profit

The scrip profit for this period was \$973.

**OPLATEK Christmas Wafers** are  
available in the Church Sacristy and the  
Parish Office. The suggested offering is  
**\$3.00.**

This week our Chapel Candle is lit in  
memory of **the deceased members of the  
Marren family** by **Jeff Marren & family**.

### **St. John Food Pantry**

Our Food Pantry for those less fortunate is in need of the following food products: Dry pasta, cereals, tomato sauce, canned soups, canned meats, canned fruit and juice. Please note that all foods that are donated to St. John's will be brought to the FISH Food Pantry located on New Market Rd., Piscataway. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity.

### **Social Concerns**

Do you know a needy person or family? Could one of your neighbors benefit from assistance with food and/or other essentials? Please call the Pastoral Center, 732-968-2621, in confidence, and we will do whatever we can to help. Please continue to bring men's toiletries, tooth brushes, and large and medium thongs or slippers for the Ozanam Men's Shelter. Articles may be left in the vestibule. Thanks for not forgetting the "guys"

### **Giving Tree**

Our Angel Christmas Giving Tree is now up. Details for gifts and return dates are noted on the angels. Gifts may be left in the church vestibule or brought to the Parish Center during business hours. Be certain to note the dates for return so no child will be disappointed. May your expression of love bring you peace this blessed season!



### **Time, Talent and Treasure**



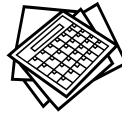
Fostering stewardship is a way of life. Everyone benefits from the sacrificial gift one makes of his/her time, talent and treasure. We gratefully acknowledge and salute:

**Jayne Lendach**  
for coordinating JFK's holiday gift program  
through our Scrip program.

Thank you for your participation!

### **Calendar Raffle**

The winner of \$100  
for Week 5, ticket #1593, is:  
**Ron & Donna Fojtlin.**



### **MARRIAGE BANNS II**



Thomas Grace  
&  
Courtney Ball

### **High School Youth Group**

The next Youth Group meeting will be **Sunday, 12/10, 7:00-8:30pm** in the **Parish Center**. Join us to decorate the Parish Center Christmas Tree! Bring a new ornament if you are able to help us refresh the decorations. If you have any questions about Youth Group please email [stjohnshsyg@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnshsyg@gmail.com).

### **Fourth Annual Casino Night**



On **February 10**, we will be hosting our Fourth Annual Casino Night. You or your business can support the event by being a donor, sponsoring a table, or donating a prize to the raffle. Contact the Parish Office at (732) 968-2621 to make a donation. Information on tickets for the event will be available in January.



### **Prayers for Our Service Members**

Please pray for the following parishioners who are currently serving in the Military:

**U.S. Navy Lt. Michael Bartilotti**  
**U.S. Army Pvt. Luke Harshaney**  
**U.S. Army Pvt. Raymond C. Pizzigoni**  
**U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Ed Sella**

If there are any other military members you would like to be included in our prayers, please contact the Parish Office.

### **Holy Hour For Religious Freedom & Persecuted Christians**

A Holy Hour for Religious Freedom will be held **every Sunday at 7:00 p.m.** in the Eucharistic Adoration chapel in the Our Lady of Fatima Parish Center at 50 Van Winkle Place in Piscataway. Participants are invited to silently pray the rosary and other special prayers for the intentions of Christians world-wide who are being persecuted for their faith.



### **Diocesan Office For Persons With Disabilities Christmas Party**

The Diocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities is preparing for its annual Christmas Party **on Saturday, 12/16, 1:30 pm-3:30 pm** at the **St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane**. We ask that you contact us ASAP to reserve a place for you and/or your group (children/young adults with special needs & their families/caregivers) at (732) 765-6432 or [catholicswithdisabilities@gmail.com](mailto:catholicswithdisabilities@gmail.com).

### **Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer**

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS:** Registration required; call 908-753-2091 or e-mail: [msmhope@msmhope.org](mailto:msmhope@msmhope.org)

**PRAYER IN MOTION SERIES:** Yoga, deep breathing and meditation bring the body, mind and soul together in a prayerful and balanced way. Bring your own mat, if you have one. *\$20-\$30/Session As You Are Able in Mercy Hall*

**Dec. 4 - Advent** \*Chair Yoga, House of Prayer

**COME TO THE STABLE:** An afternoon of prayer and celebration as we prepare for Christmas. Refreshments and the blessing of our Christmas tree add to the joy of the season! **Sun., Dec. 17 from 2-4 p.m.** Free Will Offering

### **Pilgrimage to Holy Land and Jordan**

St. Andrew's Parish, Avenel is sponsoring a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jordan from **February 26 -March 9, 2018**. The cost is **\$3,390.00 per person from Newark**. Stops will include: Petra, Jerash, Jericho, Dead Sea, Mt. Nebo, Mt. Carmel, Caesarea, Tiberius, Nazareth, Cana, Mt. Tabor, Bethlehem, Mount of Temptations, Garden of Gethsemane, Jerusalem, Wailing Wall, Upper Room, Holy Sepulcher, Ain Karim, and more. Daily Mass, most meals, superior hotels, professional guides and tour escort included. Contact: St. Andrew church, 244 Avenel Street, Avenel NJ, 732 634-4355 or [www.standrewparish.com](http://www.standrewparish.com). Arrangements by Inspirational Tours, Houston, TX.

**Readings for Sunday, 12/10:**

**First: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11;**

**Second: 2 Peter 3:8-14;**

**Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**



**Immaculate Conception Parish**

**Annual Christmas Concert**

Prepare your heart for the celebration of Our Savior's birth! **Immaculate Conception Parish** located at **316 Old Allerton Road, Annandale**, will hold its Annual Christmas Concert, featuring Fr. Alphonse Stephenson and The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea, on **Sunday, 12/10 at 3 p.m.** The concert will feature popular Christmas music, as well as selections from opera, classical music and Broadway. Information and advance tickets are available by calling (908) 735-7319.

**A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS**

**HIS WORD TODAY**

*by Rev. William J. Reilly*

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 10, 2017**

**"The Lord does not delay in keeping His promises, though some consider it 'delay.' Rather He shows you generous patience since He wants no one to perish but all to come to repentance... I send my messenger before you to prepare your way, a herald voice in the desert crying, 'Make ready the way of the Lord clear him a straight path.'"**

The letter of Peter and Isaiah's message in the gospel of Mark, provide a wonderful opportunity to begin this second week of advent. Somehow it is easy, or convenient, to forget or presume why Jesus came two thousand years ago. A lost people needed a savior, to bring them back to union with their creator. He came, revealed the Father's love for us and still invites us to respond to that love. Do I see my need today, and the needs of my family and our world?

Let's face it, our messed up world needs a savior, not a political leader or powerful military strength, but someone to free us from sin and all that divides us, the barriers which keep us from growing in holiness, in grace, or love of God and neighbor. Advent invites us to focus on our need from the Lord today. Advent, the great time of hope and expectation calls us to make ready, the way of the Lord, to have Him into our hearts and the hearts of others.

**'Come Lord Jesus.'**