

DECEMBER 3, 2023

SAINT CECILIA CHURCH, FONDA NY
SACRED HEART CHURCH, TRIBES HILL NY

Deacon Joseph Cechnicki, Parish Life Coordinator
Father Juanito Asprec, Parochial Vicar
Father Nathaniel Resila, Parochial Vicar



BE WATCHFUL!
BE ALERT!

MARK 13:36

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

~Weddings-Baptisms-Funerals~

~Please contact the parish office~

~ To access our bulletin online go to: [www. parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com) ~

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StCecilia Church

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Sacred Heart Church

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SAINT CECILIA CHURCH

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E-mail: SCFonda@rcda.org

Sandi McCaslin, Administrative Assistant

Office hours:

Tuesday & Thursday, 9am to 2pm

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E-mail: usacredh@nycap.rr.com

Sandi McCaslin, Administrative Assistant

Office hours:

Monday & Wednesday, 9am to 2pm

COLLECTIONS & ATTENDANCE

OCT 25 & 26, 2023—WEEKEND TOTALS:

COLLECTIONS:	SH	SC
WEEKLY COLLECTION	713.00	786.00
OTHER	1580.00	125.00

PARISH TOTAL 2293.00 911.00
 OTHER- E-GIVING, VIA USPS, VOTIVES

MASS SCHEDULE

Sat. Dec 2, 4:00 pm (SH) - 1.) †In memory of Rich Pawloski, requested by Gary & Noreen Brownell and family.
 2.) †For the repose of the soul of Lynn Roy Goodspeed, requested by the Healy family.

Sun. Dec 3, 8:30 am (SC) - †For the repose of the soul of Jean Friers Palmateer, requested by Michele Furnare.

Mon. Dec. 4 thru Sun. Dec. 10, 2023

Mon. Dec 4 - No Mass

Tue. Dec 5, 8:00 am (SH) - In loving memory of Virginia Szykowski, requested by Katherine & Jason Downing.

Wed. Dec 6, 8:00 am (SC) - For the repose of the soul of Teresa Campochiaro, requested by John & Ann Mahon.

Thurs. Dec 7, 8:00 am (SH) - For the people of the parish.

Fri. Dec 8, 8:00 am (SC) - For the people of the parish.

Sat. Dec 9, 4:00 pm (SH) - 1.) †In memory of Frances Opalka, requested by her daughter Barbara.
 2.) †In loving memory of Val Krawiecki on the third anniversary of his passing, requested by Barbara, Steve, Jim, Anne and Sue.

Sun. Dec 10, 8:30 am (SC) - † Birthday remembrance for Emily Wray, requested by Jim Wray.

Lector/Eucharistic Ministers

Dec 2 (SH)	Mark Caffrey Theresa Kovian	Dec 9 (SH)	Chris Caffrey Tony Stellato
Dec 3 (SC)	James Wray Dave Marcais	Dec 10 (SC)	Ann Mahon Ken Stuff

Counters Schedule

Dec 4 (SH)	Katherine Downing Noreen Brownell	Dec 11 (SH)	The mystery is riveting
Dec 4 (SC)	Bette Papa Sandy Hayes	Dec 11 (SC)	Lorna Quinn Flo Stanton

Food Pantry

Dec 6 (SH)	Barb Bilins Wendy Hall
Dec 27 (SC)	Dianne Kierpiec Kathleen Harris Ann Mahon

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 3, 2023 –1st Sunday of Advent

Lately I've been listening to a science-based podcast on healthy daily living. The host frequently discusses the wide range of health benefits of sleep. So, each night I'm trying to get more, and better, slumber, and it's helping me feel energized. So, why in the world should we follow Christ's advice this week? "Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house will come ... lest he find you asleep." Isn't sleep, especially at midnight and cockcrow, a good thing?

Of course, it is. But the wakefulness the Lord calls us to is a deep, personal orientation to Him. A nightly vigil is therefore a metaphor for this, but it's not just that. We should give up real sleep in order to pray, too. This difficult practice is a time-tested way to foster wakefulness of heart. When we give up sleep to pray, it focuses us. We learn that life is not an endless series of days. You and I belong to the Lord — awake or asleep, in life and in death. Sooner or later, even our need for our physical sleep will pass away. And our attentiveness to God — that is, whether we are awaiting Him to meet us — will be all that matters.

May I challenge us this week and this Advent to intentionally give up at least one hour of sleep each week for prayer? Stay up later, wake up in the middle of the night, or an hour earlier, and pray. Will we be a bit more tired the next day? Yes. But we'll be amazed at the spiritual wakefulness that results, too.

~Father John Muir

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Weekly Mass: We record the 4 pm Saturday Mass at Sacred Heart. Please join us virtually for weekly Mass on Sacred Heart's YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs - FDzyfvHZZ9y8UIC4gAw?view_as=subscriberg



Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - December 8 -

Patron Saint of Brazil & United States

In Luke 1:28 the angel Gabriel, speaking on God's behalf, addresses Mary as "full of grace" or "highly favored". In that context, this phrase means that Mary is receiving all the special divine help necessary for the task ahead. However, the Church grows in understanding with the help of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit led the Church, especially non-theologians, to the insight that Mary had to be the most perfect work of God next to the Incarnation. Or rather, Mary's intimate association with the Incarnation called for the special involvement of God in Mary's whole life.

The logic of piety helped God's people to believe that Mary was full of grace and free of sin from the first moment of her existence. Moreover, this great privilege of Mary is the highlight of all that God has done in Jesus. Rightly understood, the incomparable holiness of Mary shows forth the incomparable goodness of God.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Families Needed For Advent Season: Families are needed for each weekend of Advent Season to lead the prayer for the lighting of the Advent Candle. There are signup sheets in the vestibules. If you have already volunteered for a weekend, please sign up on the sheet.

Memorial Angel Ornaments: Purchase an Angel Ornament in Memory of a Loved One. Ornaments will be displayed on our Memory Tree in the church during Advent. Your loved one's name will be added to our prayer list and a Mass will be offered for those on the Memory Tree. Personalized Ornaments are \$10. each. Please include payment with form (checks made payable to your parish) and drop them off in the designated box in your parish vestibule.

Candle Lighting Service: On Sunday, Dec 10, 2023 at 6:45pm a World Wide Candle Lighting Service will be held at Our Lady of Hop Catholic Church, Reid St, Fort Plain. You are invited to join us in this beautiful, ecumenical tribute to our children, grandchildren or siblings who have died, at any age or for any reason. There will be a memorial table available to display pictures, poems and other mementos. Refreshments will be served following the service. To make a reservation, please call by Dec. 1.

Doris Dutcher @ 518-993-4612

Diocesan Women's Conference: The conference will be held on Saturday, December 9th at St. Pius X Church at 23 Crumitie Rd. Loudonville. The Theme is "Awakening our hearts to share God's love". Check-in Time and Continental Breakfast is at 8:30 AM. The Event runs from 8:30 AM to 4 PM and will include great speakers like Fr. Chris Alar, MIC; Mary DeTurris Poust; Anne Costa. The Conference includes: Presentations, Reconciliation, Adoration with worship music by the Sisters of Life, Rosary, Mass with Bishop Scharffenberger, box lunch, and beverages. Please Register at: <https://www.rcda.org/UnleashingLove>

Giving Trees: Our Giving Trees sponsored by the Secular Franciscan Fraternity, will benefit families served by Catholic Charities. Please make your selections from tags on the tree and bring the unwrapped gifts (including your tag) to church by Sunday, December 10. Thank you for your generosity during this holy season.

Blue Envelopes for Saint Mary's Institute: Please consider a contribution to continue to provide academic excellence with an emphasis on Catholic values. St. Mary's is the only Catholic school in Fulton & Montgomery Counties. St. Mary's Blue Envelopes are located in the vestibule.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: To acknowledge the need for the future as a network of parishes in the Amsterdam area, the sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated each Saturday at St. Mary's Church in Amsterdam with Fr. Juanito, Fr. Nate and Fr. Bob available to hear confessions. Confessions will be heard from 3:00pm to 3:30pm each Saturday and all the parishioners are welcome to take advantage of this opportunity. The network includes St. Cecilia's from Fonda, Sacred Heart from Tribes Hill, St. Stephen's from Hagaman and St. Mary's, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, and St. Stanislaus' from Amsterdam.

Silent Holy Night: You are cordially invited to attend "Silent Holy Night" a Program of Music & Readings for the Christmas Season presented by singers from the parishes of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Mary's & St. Stanislaus under the direction of Rachele Cotugno on Sunday December 17, 2023 at 3:00PM at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 39 St. John Street, Amsterdam.

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Dec 8 - Immaculate Conception

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