

DECEMBER 10, 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



**2ND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

“Prepare the way
of the Lord.”
- Mk 1:3

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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~Weddings-Baptisms-Funerals~

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Sandi McCaslin, Administrative Assistant

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Sandi McCaslin, Administrative Assistant

Office hours:

Monday & Wednesday, 9am to 2pm

COLLECTIONS & ATTENDANCE

DEC 2 & 3, 2023—WEEKEND TOTALS:

COLLECTIONS:	SH	SC
WEEKLY COLLECTION	1676.00	864.00
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	228.00	252.00
OTHER	170.00	203.00
PARISH TOTAL	2074.00	1319.00

AMASS SCHEDULE

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.

Mon. Dec. 11 thru Sun. Dec. 17, 2023

Mon. Dec 11 - No Mass

Tue. Dec 12, 8:00 am (SH) - † In memory of Carol O'Brien, requested by the Healy family.

Wed. Dec 13, 8:00 am (SC) - † In memory of Henry Vacek, requested by Pat & George Galeazza.

Thurs. Dec 14, 8:00 am (SH) - For the people of the parish.

Fri. Dec 15, 8:00 am (SC) - † In memory of Katherine Minney, requested by Pat & George Galeazza.

Sat. Dec 16, 4:00 pm (SH) - 1.) †In memory of Mary Winney, requested by Janice DeJulius.
 2.) Blessings for Kimberly & family, requested by her mom Barbara.

Sun. Dec 17, 8:30 am (SC) - 1.) † In memory of Alex & Betty Adesse, requested by their daughters.
 2.) † In loving memory of Karen Ford, requested by Joey and her family.

Lector/Eucharistic Ministers

Dec 9 (SH)	Chris Caffrey Tony Stellato	Dec 16 (SH)	Kathy Avery Cathy Parry
Dec 10 (SC)	Ann Mahon Ken Stuff	Dec 17 (SC)	James Wray Michele Furnare

Counters Schedule

Dec 11 (SH)	Noreen Brownell Deb Swarczewski	Dec 18 (SH)	Kathy Avery Barb Bilins
Dec 11 (SC)	Lorna Quinn Flo Stanton Sandy Hayes	Dec 18 (SC)	Bette Papa Sandy Hayes

Food Pantry

Dec 27 (SC)	Dianne Kierpiec Kathleen Harris Ann Mahon
Jan 3 (SH)	Jamie Lemiszki John Nigro

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 10, 2023 –2nd Sunday of Advent

We like to think we are totally free, but the bitter truth is we simply are not. Or better put, our freedom is limited on every side — by governments, corporate giants, physical and mental frailties, genetic shortcomings, and even the boundaries of time and space, and above all, the burden of our sins and pending deaths. In our day, we are perhaps particularly aware that we are not free to disconnect from the technocratic rulers of the air. If you doubt me, try not paying your internet bill and see what happens. We are not totally free.

It's nothing new, of course. In Jesus' day, everyone felt the crushing weight of the Roman Empire. You can say you're free all you want. But try not paying your taxes to Rome and see what happens.

Once we feel this burden in our own lives — however it comes — we are ready to hear the stunning announcement that commences Mark's gospel, "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." It's not a simple perfunctory introduction, but a dramatic announcement of new freedom. The word "gospel" was a political, even military, term. It meant: a great victory has been won and a new king is in charge. This Jesus — not the Roman emperor — is God's son, and he has defeated all that crushes human freedom. It's time to follow him and be truly free. This week let's refuse to submit our freedom to false rulers — especially that of sin. And let's rejoice that Christ is coming to make us perfectly free from all our oppressors. ~Father John Muir

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Our Lady of Guadalupe- December 12 - Patron Saint of The Americas & Mexico

The feast in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe goes back to the 16th century. Chronicles of that period tell us the story. A poor Indian named Cuauhtlatohuac was baptized and given the name Juan Diego. He was a 57-year-old widower, and lived in a small village near Mexico City. On Saturday morning December 9, 1531, he was on his way to a nearby barrio to attend Mass in honor of Our Lady.

Juan was walking by a hill called Tepeyac when he heard beautiful music like the warbling of birds. A radiant cloud appeared, and within it stood an Indian maiden dressed like an Aztec princess. The lady spoke to him in his own language and sent him to the bishop of Mexico, a Franciscan named Juan de Zumarraga. The bishop was to build a chapel in the place where the lady appeared.

Eventually the bishop told Juan to have the lady give him a sign. About this same time Juan's uncle became seriously ill. This led poor Juan to try to avoid the lady. Nevertheless the lady found Juan, assured him that his uncle would recover, and provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop in his cape or tilma.

On December 12, when Juan Diego opened his tilma in the bishop's presence, the roses fell to the ground, and the bishop sank to his knees. On the tilma where the roses had been appeared an image of Mary exactly as she had appeared at the hill of Tepeyac.

Mary's appearance to Juan Diego as one of his people is a powerful reminder that Mary—and the God who sent her—accept all peoples. In the context of the sometimes rude and cruel treatment of the Indians by the Spaniards, the apparition was a rebuke to the Spaniards and an event of vast significance for the indigenous population. While a number of them had converted before this incident, they now came in droves. According to a contemporary chronicler, nine million Indians became Catholic in a very short time. In these days when we hear so much about God's preferential option for the poor, Our Lady of Guadalupe cries out to us that God's love for and identification with the poor is an age-old truth that stems from the Gospel itself.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sacred Heart - Meet, Greet & Eat: Please join us after Mass on Saturday December 16 for the opportunity to officially meet Father Nathaniel Resila (Fr. Nate). If you would like to bring something to share your kindness is always appreciated.

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.

Giving Trees: Your Giving Tree unwrapped gifts and tags are due this weekend, if you have a gift that needs to come back please arrange to drop it off at your parish. Thank you for your generosity during this holy season.

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.

Advent Penance Service: There will be a communal Advent Penance Service with an opportunity for personal Confession on Tuesday December 12 @ 6 pm at St. Stanislaus Church. What a great joy to be able to celebrate the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ this Christmas with a pure and undivided heart! The gift of the sacrament of confession enables us to prepare our hearts and souls for the coming of our Heavenly King! Indeed, it will ensure we will truly have a Merry Christmas!

Memorial Contributions: Along with the Sanctuary Lamp and flowers for the altar you can now sponsor the altar wine and hosts in memory of a loved one. You can call your parish office or even put an envelope in the basket for your chosen sponsorship.

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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