

DECEMBER 24, 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



GLORY
TO GOD
IN THE
HIGHEST
AND ON
EARTH
PEACE TO
THOSE
ON WHOM
HIS FAVOR
RESTS.

LUKE 2:14



† Altar wine at **Sacred Heart** for the month of **January** has been donated in loving memory of **Louie & Ann Stellato** at the request of **Tony & Lorrie Stellato**

† Altar hosts at **Sacred Heart** for the month of **January** has been donated in loving memory of **Peter & Virginia Szykowski** at the request of **Lorrie & Tony Stellato**.

The Sanctuary Lamp at Sacred Heart will burn this week for prayers of healing for Evan Wieczenski, given by Lorrie & Tony Stellato.



The Sanctuary Lamp at Saint Cecilia will burn this week for John Connery, given by Andrea

MASS SCHEDULE

Sat. Dec 23, 4:00 pm (SH) - 1.) †For the repose of the soul of John "Jack" Boggie, requested by Robert & Helen Streeter
2.) †For the repose of the soul of Joseph Pepe, requested by Cathy & Ron Parry.

Sun. Dec 24, 8:30 am (SC) - † In memory of Winfield Wray, requested by Jim Wray.

Sun. Dec 24, 4:00 pm (SH) - Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord Jesus.

Sun. Dec 24, 6:00 pm (SC) - Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord Jesus.

Mon. Dec 25, 8:30am (SC) - † In memory of Ralph & Sadie Mancini, requested their children.

Mon. Dec 25, 10:00 am (SH) - Nativity of the Lord Jesus.

Tue. Dec. 26 thru Mon. Jan. 1, 2023

Tue. Dec 26, 8:00 am (SH) - For the people of the parish.

Wed. Dec 27, 8:00 am (SC) - † Birthday remembrance for Katherine Winney, requested by Pat & George Galeazza.

Thurs. Dec 28, 8:00 am (SH) - For all in need of healing.

Fri. Dec 29, 8:00 am (SC) - For the people of the parish.

Sat. Dec 30, 4:00 pm (SH) - †In loving memory of Donald Thum, requested by his wife Loretto, his son DJ, daughter Chrissy, and his grandchildren.

Sun. Dec 31, 8:30 am (SC) - † In loving memory of Bailey Alexandria Field, requested by Mom, Dad and Sammy.

Mon. Jan 1, 4:00 pm (SH) - Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord Jesus.

Mon. Jan 1, 6:00 pm (SC) - For the sick, infirm, and bereaved of St. Cecilia's, requested by St. Cecilia's Christian Service.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 25, 2023 – The Nativity of the Lord

"She gave birth to her firstborn son." The pain of childbirth is something that boggles my mind. I'm sure I couldn't handle it. I can't even watch scenes in movies in which a woman gives birth. I understand it's a beautiful part of nature, but there's still something awful about it and the attendant suffering.

Which is why it's worth pondering an often neglected and currently unpopular part of the Church's theology around the birth of Christ, his was miraculous because it caused no pain to his mother. Even her physical virginity remains intact. Of course, we modern scientific people scoff at such an idea.

Without obsessing over the obstetrical details, we discover a glorious illumination in the symbolic meaning of this birth that we moderns find so embarrassing. God comes into the world in an utterly non-violent way. He himself will suffer his own bloodshed but will never shed that of others. He is so peaceful and non-violent that he will even rise from the dead without breaking the seal of the tomb. All of humanity, in the Church, will give birth to him in the Church free from the terrible pain due to original sin. How badly we need the truth of this miraculous birth today!

Let's delight in this great mystery and miracle of Jesus's birth. He is the Prince of Peace and always nonviolent. We need not fear him, ever.
 ~Father John Muir

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Lector/Eucharistic Ministers

Dec 23 (SH)	Theresa Kovian Katherine Downing	Dec 30 (SH)	Katherine Downing Kathy Avery
Dec 24 (SC)	Kathy Marcais Bill Quinn	Dec 31 (SC)	Dianne Kierpiec Dave Marcais

Counters Schedule

Dec 26 (SH)	Deb Swarczewski Katherine Downing	Jan 2 (SH)	Barb Bilins Kathy Avery
Dec 26 (SC)	Lorna Quinn Flo Stanton	Jan 2 (SC)	Bette Papa Sandy Hayes

Food Pantry

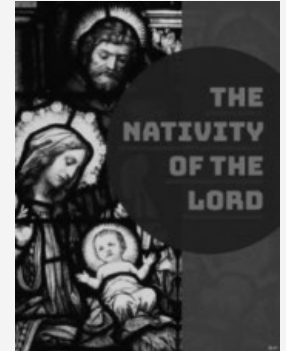
Dec 27 (SC)	Dianne Kierpiec Kathleen Harris Ann Mahon	
Jan 3 (SH)	Jamie Lemiszki John Nigro	

On this day, the Church focuses especially on the newborn Child, God become human, who embodies for us all the hope and peace we seek. We need no other special saint today to lead us to Christ in the manger, although his mother Mary and Joseph, caring for his foster-son, help round out the scene.

But if we were to select a patron for today, perhaps it might be appropriate for us to imagine an anonymous shepherd, summoned to the birthplace by a wondrous and even disturbing vision in the night, a summons from an angelic choir, promising peace and goodwill. A shepherd willing to seek out something that might just be too unbelievable to chase after, and yet compelling enough to leave behind the flocks in the field and search for a mystery.

On the day of the Lord's birth, let's let an unnamed, "non-celebrity" at the edge of the crowd model for us the way to discover Christ in our own hearts—somewhere between skepticism and wonder, between mystery and faith. And like Mary and the shepherds, let's treasure that discovery in our hearts.

The precise dating in the Scripture readings for today sounds like a textbook on creationism. If we focus on the time frame, however, we miss the point. It lays out the story of a love affair: creation, the deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt, the rise of Israel under David. It climaxes with the birth of Jesus. Some scholars insist that from the beginning God intended to enter the world as one of us, the beloved people. Praise God!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. Wine and hosts will be \$20 each per month. You can stop by your parish office or even put the information in the collection basket for your chosen sponsorship.

Memorial of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs: Holy Mass at Sacred Heart Church on Dec. 28 - 8:00am. Special prayers for all victims of Abortion, Starvation and Wars.

Wintery Gathering: With the Ice Cream Social being quite successful, Sacred Heart is thinking a social during the winter months might be in order. A toasty gathering in February may take a bit of the chill off.

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

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.

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Upcoming Second Collections:
Dec 25 - Christmas
Jan 6/7 - Fuel/Heat



COLLECTIONS & ATTENDANCE		
<i>DEC 16 & 17, 2023—WEEKEND TOTALS:</i>		
COLLECTIONS:	SH	SC
WEEKLY COLLECTION	750.00	553.00
CEMETERY	N/A	270.00
FUNDRAISING	472.00	N/A
OTHER	90.00	175.00
<hr/>		
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