

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Mission is a Smashing Success:

I am happy to report that our Mission in honor of our Blessed Lady under the title of the Immaculate Conception was a great success. On Sunday night 50 youngsters of our parish formed a living rosary by placing a rose before a statue of the Blessed Mother as each Hail Mary was said by the congregation.

The children are the true flowers of our parish and seeing them in their beautiful innocence place a rose before the Blessed Virgin was a special treat!

On Monday night we gathered in even larger numbers for solemn Vespers and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. This was an intricately sung and sumptuously presented homage to the Sacrament that unites us as a parish. No Eucharist, no parish!

The Mission culminated with a concelebrated multi-ethnic Mass to a full church! After the third stirring sermon by our Mission preacher, Fr. Jack Connor and our Holy Communion together, we went to the school hall where desserts from all over the world awaited us. In addition, the display of Madonnas from around the world was an overwhelming experience of the place of Mary in so many far flung places represented by members of our community: Poland, Korea, Brazil, Italy, Ireland, Columbia, Spain, Portugal, Malta, Vietnam, Mexico, Ecuador, Germany, the Czech Republic, etc. Explanation culled through careful research accompanied the display. We look forward to our next Mission and Feast Day for even bigger and better things!

Maestro Casanave Gives a Riveting Performance:

The night before our Mission, a beautiful Steinway Grand Piano that was on loan, was played to perfection by Gustavo Casanave in a fund raising Concert for our School. Maestro Casanave was born in Uruguay and studied at the Berkley Institute in Boston. His world famous skills and talents were shown to spectacular lengths by his two hour improvisations combining the best of Classical and Jazz idioms. The audience sat spellbound by the pyrotechnics of his blazing performance. Bravo to all who planned this unique event!

Bring your Bambino to Church:

Following a custom begun by the Pope in Rome a number of years ago, we are encouraging all parishioners to bring the 'Baby Jesus' from their

crèches for a special blessing at all the masses on the last Sunday of Advent: December 20th. At the end of each of the liturgies, these figurines will be blessed giving this custom an 'ecclesial' quality that brings out the importance of keeping Christ in Christmas!

Greeting People at Christmas:

Every year the old war horse is trotted out about whether we can wish each other a Merry Christmas or have to say the more politically correct Happy Holidays.

I'd like to suggest two approaches: firstly I see nothing wrong with wishing people a Merry Christmas especially since a lot of those we meet are Christians and even Catholics! To see two Christians greet each other with Happy Holidays strikes me as false and too PC!

Secondly, when we are in an interfaith gathering (at work, etc) one can go back to the original meaning of Happy Holidays. This is a shortened form of the greeting: Happy Holy Days! Why is this distinction important? Because to greet a person at work with the more neutral (and anti-religious) holidays is a blotch on his or her tradition as well. We all need to celebrate the sacred in our lives: that is why we use the word Holy in its full meaning.

Lets not let a small group of small minded anti-religious bigots dictate how the great Religions of our city celebrate this season. So Merry Christmas and a Happy Holy Day to you!

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY – December 14th

7:00 a.m. Giovanna & Joseph Camenzuli
9:00 a.m. Bruno Cavazzini (4th Anniv.)
12 Noon Juan Antonio Soria

TUESDAY – December 15th

7:00 a.m. Giacomo Roderigo
9:00 a.m. Thomas Barmonde
12 Noon Florence Truncale

WEDNESDAY - December 16th

7:00a.m. Deceased members of Vidaic & Jelenkovic Families, Asija Bailo
9:00 a.m. Grace & Vincent Trupper
12 Noon Frank Bonino

THURSDAY- December 17th

7:00 a.m. Vito Zupo
9:00 a.m. Joseph V. DeCato (Birth. Remb.)

12 Noon Penso, Lusina, Lettich, Radoslovich & Schuck Families

FRIDAY - December 18th

7:00 a.m. Joseph Sivak (Birth. Remb.)
9:00 a.m. Eugene M. Roberts
12 Noon Catherine Modesti

SATURDAY - December 19th

7:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners
9:00 a.m. Lazzaro Hernandez (Birth. Remb.)
12:00 Noon Frank & Elvira Candido
5:00 p.m. **Purgatorial Society**

SUNDAY - December 20th

7:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners
9:00 a.m. Rachela & Giuseppe DiRico
10:30 a.m. Camilleri Family
11:45 a.m. **Spanish-** Hercilia Lastre, Carmen Matos, Evangelina Ferraro, Estanislao Lastre
1:00 p.m. William F. Kelly (Birth. Remb.)

Lower Church:

9:00 a.m. **Italian** – Nicola D’Alessandro

THE BREAD AND WINE are donated this week in loving memory of Giovanna & Joseph Camenzuli requested by their daughter Virginia Camenzuli.

THE CANDLES ON THE ALTAR are donated this week in loving memory of Timothy Dorsey requested by Domenica Dorsey.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP is burning this week in loving memory of Grace McDougall Trupper requested by the CCD Family.

PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS



Please pray for the recently deceased:

Silvia Cronley
Catherine Hermann
John Naccarato
Escolastica Ramon Urena

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine on them forever. +

CHOIR NEWS

The choir is seeking men and women who like to sing. Come join them for practice on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the choir loft. Enter the church through the front side doors.



CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR’S SCHEDULE

MASSES:

Feast of Christmas: (Christmas Eve – Thursday, December 24th)

Family Mass 5:00 p.m.
Lessons & Carols 11:25 p.m.
Mass 12:00 Midnight

Christmas Day: Friday, December 25th (Holy Day of Obligation)

Upper Church: 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. (English)
11:45 a.m. (Spanish)
Lower Church: 9:00 a.m. (Italian)

****PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO 1:00 p.m. Mass****

NEW YEAR’S SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 31st- (New Year’s Eve)

Mass: 7:00 p.m.

FEAST OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD – NEW YEAR’S DAY - Friday, January 1, 2010

Upper Church: 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. (English)
11:45 a.m. (Spanish)
Lower Church: 9:00 a.m. (Italian)

****PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO 1:00 p.m. Mass****

“KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS”

The Holy Name Society has a limited supply of “Keep Christ In Christmas” bumper stickers. They will be available (Free) following the 9:00 a.m. Mass on December 20th in front of the school hall.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COLLECTION

Bishop DiMarzio has announced that the Catholic Charities Collection will take place on Christmas Day, December 25th. Please return the special Catholic Charities envelope that is included in your monthly envelope set. Envelopes have been placed around the church for all those who do not receive the monthly envelopes.

CHRISTMAS PLANTS AND DECORATIONS

Envelopes have been placed around the church for those wishing to donate flowers/plants in memory of a deceased loved one or as a gift to the church for the holiday season. The donation is \$25.00. Please return the envelope as soon as possible to permit the printing of the names in time for Christmas. All those who participated in the sanctuary Christmas decorations, either in memory of a deceased loved one or as a gift to the church will be remembered at the Masses on Christmas day.

PARISH CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

“My Christmas Gift to the Parish” collection will be taken up in our parish the weekend of December 19th & 20th. This collection is very important for the upkeep of the parish. We depend a great deal on the contributions received at Christmas and Easter.

I understand that this is a busy time for everyone. I don't want to ask for a set amount of contribution because circumstances vary from person to person. However, it would be appreciated if each person, especially each wage earner, would give a gift to the church as generous as you would give to one who is very close to you...One whom you love and cherish.

***Please note: a special envelope for this collection is included in your monthly envelopes. If you do not receive envelopes, we have placed additional envelopes around the church for your convenience.**

TREE LIGHTING / CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Next Sunday, December 20th at 6:30 p.m., our parish family will gather in the church to sing Christmas carols. We will then process to the Crib for the blessing and sing our way up to the rectory for the tree lighting. A special visitor then awaits us in the school hall. Refreshments for all!!! Please come and join in the festivities.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS YOUTH PROGRAM CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a Christmas party for all the current registrants of the Youth Program on Friday, December 18th. There will be food, games and fun for all. Parents are invited and welcome.

Children, who have not yet registered, can still sign up from 7:00-8:00 p.m. only. All new registrants must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please bring \$4.00 for admission and your appetite.

MARCH 12-14, 2010 YOUTH RETREAT (AGES 15-30) AT IMMAC

Our parish is pleased to announce that on March 12th, 13th & 14th, we will be hosting a **Youth 2000 NY Retreat** weekend. This is a beautiful and unique opportunity for the youth of our parish and surrounding parishes, and they are invited and strongly encouraged to attend the weekend. They will join young people from around the metropolitan area to pray, talk and socialize. Registration forms are available in the back of the Church and in the rectory. Please call Kitty Prager at 917-714-7360 for more information.

Youth 2000 is organized by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. They have held monthly prayer festivals that have touched the lives of thousands of young people in the Metropolitan area. Their simple life style, love of Christ, and service to the poor present to the young people a powerful and much-needed witness of Christ living in today's world. YOUTH 2000 was invited by the World Youth day committee to lead Eucharistic Adoration at the World Youth Days in Manila in 1995, Paris in 1997, Rome in 2000 and again in Toronto in 2002. YOUTH 2000 Prayer Festivals occur almost every week somewhere in the US. At present, YOUTH 2000 is active in the US, England, Ireland, Germany, Australia, Panama, the West Indies, and hopes to expand into other countries in Europe and in Africa. One may also visit the Youth2000NY website: <http://www.youth2000ny.com/MajorEvent2009/ME09.htm>.

TOY DRIVE

The Immaculate Conception Columbian Squire Circle #4411 will be collecting **NEW** toys from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the school hall on Sunday, **December 13th & 20th**.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

The Knights of Columbus Immaculate Conception Council #11449, invite you to join them for a Family New Year's Eve Party in the school hall on December 31st from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Admission is \$10.00 for adults and children are free. Bring your own food. Beer and wine will be available for purchase. Table reservations and tickets will be available in the school hall on Sunday, December 13th & 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tickets will also be available at the door.