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# Mass Intentions for the Week

***The Second Sunday of Advent***

December 9, 2012

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8**

*Vigil of the Second Sunday of Advent*

4:00 PM Dr. Anthony Broccoli—Memorial

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9**

*The Second Sunday of Advent*

7:30 AM Emily Devlin—54th Anniversary

9:00 AM Dr. James Hagerty—6th Anniversary

10:30 AM Augustine Manocchia, Sr.—7th Anniversary

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 10**

*Advent Weekday*

7:30 AM Hak-Jin Pyun—Memorial

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11**

*Advent Weekday/St. Damasus I, Pope*

7:30 AM *Pro Populo*

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12**

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

7:30 AM Monsignor John W. Lolio—Memorial

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13**

*St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr*

7:30 AM Margaret Devlin—Memorial

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14**

*St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church*

7:30 AM Alexander Auld—Memorial

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15**

*Advent Weekday*

8:30 AM Michael Monteleone—Birthday Remembrance

*Vigil of the Third Sunday of Advent*

4:00 PM Theresa M. Lolio—Memorial

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16**

*The Third Sunday of Advent*

7:30 AM Pat & Marie Raimondo—Memorial

9:00 AM Albert Edward Hyde—Memorial

10:30 AM Jeannine Light—2nd Anniversary





Dear Parishioners:

Advent moves quickly if you don't stop to truly prepare the way of the Lord. The hectic pace of our world and the speed with which our culture celebrates Christmas can distract us from truly preparing with prayer and patience. So try this week to take a break from "the holiday" preparations like shopping, card writing and decorating and instead spend some time in prayer, coming to Daily Mass, praying the Rosary or reading the powerful scriptures of the Advent Season. It's Advent catch the spirit while you still can!

Of course one of the hallmarks of this joyful season is giving to those less fortunate than ourselves. This weekend our OLM Youth Group is collecting toiletry items for McAuley House after all Masses. These simple items for personal care are greatly needed by those who can little afford them but have great need for them. I am grateful to the Youth Group for coordinating this great effort to reach out to the needy in this season.

Many people have commented on the new look of the bulletin. Yes, if you haven't noticed it has changed in appearance and in size. It is now fully color and has more pages. I hope this change will enhance its use for the parish as not only a means of finding information but also as a catechetical tool. In this Year of Faith, I hope to use the bulletin as a resource to deepen our knowledge and enliven our understanding of the faith.

You will notice a new column called appropriately enough, "The Catechism Corner." This will be a weekly column dedicated to a particular topic of our faith. Each column will offer some insight and understanding on some aspect of the Catholic Faith and provide a reference to the Catechism of the Catholic Church for further study. I hope every family and household owns a copy of the Catechism as it is a valuable reference tool and important way to learn more about our Catholic Faith. As the column reminds us each week, check it out in the Catechism!

I hope you like the new hymnals that arrived last week. I thank Brother Roger for his leadership in choosing the hymnal and coordinating the order. It isn't easy to do as there are all kinds of hymnals to choose from and each offers something useful. The Worship Hymnal is the updated version of the one that has long been used at Our Lady of Mercy so it should prove to be an easy transition.

You will notice listed in the inside cover are the revised translation of the Mass parts. This will replace the use of the large cards that were placed in the pews last December. It also contains the Order of Mass and the readings of each Sunday. We are currently in Cycle C of the readings and you can find them located toward the back of the hymnal.

While no hymnal is perfect nor does every hymnal contain all the desired hymns we might wish,

this Fourth Edition of the Worship Hymnal provides what we need for our worship at OLM.

Speaking of hymns, please take note that next Sunday at 5:00pm our Adult and Children's Choirs along with the Handbell Choir are having a Service of Advent Lessons and Carols. They have been practicing hard and it should be a delightful celebration of song and scripture.

Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message.

Not only will the choirs be singing but there will also be congregational singing. It is a great way to rejoice in the Advent season. In the spirit of the season a free-will offering for Bishop Tobin's Keep the Heat On Fund will be taken up. So please mark your calendars and be sure to join us.

Have you taken the time this Advent to stop, pause and pray? It's never too late to patiently prepare for the Lord's coming. Remember we are called to "*prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths!*" God Bless. Have a great week. Go Pats!

*Father Healey*

## The Catechism Corner

Last week we began looking at the Act of Contrition phrase by phrase to hopefully come to a better understanding of sin in our life and also of the forgiveness of the Lord offered to us in the Sacrament of Confession. We began by looking at "O, my God, I am heartily sorry..." This week we'll look at what exactly we are sorry for--by praying "for having offended Thee."



Some modern-minded people dismiss the idea that our sins are "offenses" to the Lord. God is so far beyond us that our sins become insignificant in His eyes. Does God really care if we steal that last parking spot from the person waiting for it--whether we're at the mall or at Church?? Does it matter to God if we insult the cashier at the local coffee shop by our condescending attitude?? God has bigger and better things to do than to worry about how I get along with the neighbor on the other side of the back fence and whether or not I secretly dump my leaves in their yard. Such thinking leads us astray from the truth because everything that we do matters in the eyes of the Lord. Since Jesus assures time and time again in the Gospel of the Father's love then how can we think that what we do doesn't matter to Him?? In truth, every sin from the slightest to the most grave is an offense against God and an offense against the person He has called each one of us to become. "Sin is an offense against God: 'Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight.' (Psalm 51:4) Sin sets itself against God's love for us and turns our hearts away from it." You see, we don't change God's "feelings" towards us, for He cannot love any one of us any more than He already does. What we do when we sin is close off ourselves to His love--and we close off ourselves to ourselves as well and even to each other. "Sin is [also] an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience; it is a failure in genuine love for God and neighbor caused by a perverse attachments to certain goods. It wounds the nature of man and injures human solidarity." That's how offensive sin truly is. It brings this rupturing and disordering each and every time we choose to sin. The Lord desires over and over again to bring us back to Himself--to convert and soften our hearts to His Love and to open our minds to His Truth. "O, my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee..." Knowledge of the offense helps us to grow in contrition and growth in contrition always means a growth in grace. Next week we'll consider how God converts us and brings us back to Himself using that contrition and awareness of the offense against Him. In the meantime, it might be helpful to avoid those "offenses" to the Lord, by **checking it out** in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1849-1850

## Weekly Collection

### WEEK OF DECEMBER 2, 2012

Weekly.....\$16,643.48  
Building & Grounds.....\$3,953.00  
Annual Collection (to date).....\$48,977.00

*If you have been away on vacation or visiting another parish, we kindly ask you to please make up your missed budget envelopes. We depend solely upon your weekly support to meet our weekly parish expenses.*

***Thank you for your generosity!***

### Upcoming Second Collections

This Week.....Retired Religious Fund

***Please remember Our Lady of Mercy  
Church in your will or estate.***

## THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH

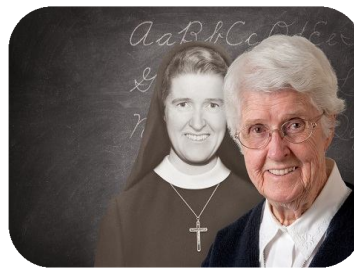
Monday — 9:00 am — Mass at Greenwich Bay Manor  
Tuesday — 7:00 pm — Legion of Mary

***The Marian Altar Flowers this week are in  
memory of Kevin Durnin***



### Retirement Fund for Religious

Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests spent years working in Catholic schools, hospitals, and social-service agencies, often for little, if any, pay. Their sacrifices now leave a profound gap in retirement savings and now leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious supports more than 34,000 religious past age 70 in the United States. Please give to those who have given a lifetime and donate to the **Retirement Fund for Religious** collection. Your gift to today's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide prescription medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.



***Give to those who have given a lifetime.***

## 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year C



**A**s we celebrate this second Sunday of the new liturgical year, we note that this is a C year in the three-year cycle of Sunday readings. In C years, we concentrate on the Gospel of Luke. In A years, we read Matthew, and in B years, we delve into Mark.

A gentile convert to Christianity, Luke was a friend and disciple to Paul and possibly a physician. He was a sophisticated literary stylist who produced not only this Gospel but its companion volume, the Acts of the Apostles, as well.

More than the other evangelists, Luke presents Christ as a universal figure, one who accepts all kinds of outcasts from shepherds to Samaritans and one whose genealogy can be traced all the way back to Adam.

It is from Luke's Gospel that we receive our fondest images of the events surrounding the nativity.



*This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.*

### **Pope Benedict XVI's Advent Message**

Today the Church begins a new liturgical year, a path that is further enriched by the Year of Faith, 50 years since the opening of the Second Vatican Council. The first Time of this journey is Advent, composed, in the Roman Rite, of the four weeks that precede the Birth of the Lord, that is, the mystery of the Incarnation. The word "Advent" means "coming" or "presence." In the ancient world, it signified the coming of the king or the emperor into one of the provinces; in the language of Christians, it referred to the coming of God, to His presence in the world; a mystery that



involves the whole of the cosmos and of history, but that recognizes two culminating moments: the first and the second coming of Jesus Christ. The first is the Incarnation itself; the second is the glorious return at the end of time. These two moments, chronologically distant – and it is not given to us to know how far apart they are – touch us deeply, because by His death and resurrection Jesus has already accomplished that transformation of humanity and of the cosmos that is the final goal of creation. But before that end, it is necessary that all His enemies should be put under His feet (cfr. 1 Cor 15,25; Ps 110,1). This saving plan of God, which is always taking place, continually requires the free adherence and collaboration of man; and the Church, which is like the Betrothed, the promised bride of the crucified and risen Lamb of God (cfr. Rev 21,9), lives by leaning upon the memory of her Lord and awaiting His return: a wait consisting in a vigilant and active hope. It is to this that the Word of God recalls us today, tracing out a line of conduct to pursue in order to be ready for the coming of the Lord. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus says to the disciples: "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life . . . Be vigilant at all times and pray." So: simplicity and prayer. And the apostle Paul adds the invitation to "increase and abound in love" among ourselves and towards everyone, to strengthen our hearts and to be blameless in holiness (cfr. 1 Thess 3, 12-13). In the midst of the turmoil of the world, or the desert of indifference and materialism, Christians accept the salvation of God and witness to it by a different way of life, as a city set on a hill. "In those days," the prophet Jeremiah proclaims, "Jerusalem shall dwell safely; this is the name they shall call her: 'The Lord our justice'" (Jer 33,16). The community of believers is a sign of the love of God, of His justice that is *already* present in history, but *not yet* fully realized, and that therefore should always be awaited, invoked, and sought after with patience and courage. The Virgin Mary perfectly embodies the spirit of Advent, which consists of listening to God, a profound desire to do His will, and joyful service to others. Let us be guided by her, so that God who is coming may not find us closed or distracted, but might extend to each of us a small part of His kingdom of love, of justice, and of peace.

—*Angelus Message, December 2, 2012*



Grade 9 Class —Mondays at 7:00pm  
Grades 7 & 8 Classes —Tuesdays at 7:00pm  
Grades 1-6—Tuesdays & Wednesdays  
at 4:00pm

All RE Classes meet his week at regular time and day. The RE Students in Grades 7, 8, & 9 are asked to bring a personal care item to class this week for the Youth Group's McAuley House Outreach for the holiday.



**Sunday, December 16th at 5:00PM**  
**Our Lady of Mercy Church**

The Our Lady of Mercy Choir, Choristers and Handbell Choir are to perform seasonal music under the direction of Brother Roger Chingas, FSC. Please join us on *Gaudete* Sunday as we rejoice together with prayer and joyful song. A free-will offering will be taken up for the Diocese of Providence's Keep the Heat Fund for those who need heating assistance in these winter months.

### **THE PAMPHLET RACK**

Our pamphlet rack is an excellent resource for your Advent reading material. Stop by and see what's available!



### **THE ADVENT SHARING TREE.**

The Advent Sharing Tree located in the front foyer of the church is available to those wishing to contribute to this year's Christmas Outreach Program. The regular Advent Sharing Tree envelopes are available to anyone wishing to make any monetary donation that will be applied to the food baskets as well as shopping gift cards. These envelopes can be returned to the rectory or simply dropped in the weekly collection basket at mass. ***New this year*** - There are colored envelopes on the tree which can be taken for anyone who wishes to purchase a particular gift item requested by individuals at the Jeanne Jugan Residence. ***These items should be wrapped and returned by Wednesday Dec. 19 to Mercy House. The information tag found in the envelope should be secured to the outside of the gift.*** Thank you for your gift of a "Sharing SPIRIT"



### **ADVENT TOILETRY DRIVE** **FOR MCAULEY HOUSE**

**After all Masses this weekend!**

***Members of our OLM Youth Group are collecting toiletries for McAuley House next week at all Masses.*** All items will be packaged in Christmas bags and given to those most in need for the holidays. Needed items are: deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper, razors, shaving cream, powder, combs/hair brushes, toothbrushes/toothpaste, soap/body wash, washcloths, and hand/body lotions.

***Youth Group Meeting next Sunday, December 16th following Lessons & Carols at 6:00pm in the OLM School Cafeteria.*** We will gather to assemble the McAuley House gift bags and celebrate a Yankee Swap. Please bring a Yankee Swap gift item (\$10 value). Refreshments will be served!