

**THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH
DECEMBER 24TH—JANUARY 1ST**

Tuesday, December 26th

8:00 AM—Communion Service

Office Closed

Monday, January 1st

(not a Holy Day this year)

Mass—10:00 AM

Legend

Church (1) Padua Hall (2)
Religious Education (3) Ewald Center (4)

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF
DECEMBER 24TH—31ST**

Christmas Eve:

4:30—Joseph Cecil

r/b Dottie Cecil

6:30—Barbara & James Saunders

r/b James & Diana Johnson

12 Midnight—Parishioners

Christmas Day:

Alex Roper

r/b DiGuiseppa Family

Tuesday:

Lou Decolator

r/b Jim & Eileen Kleinheinz

Wednesday:

Mary Tropea

r/b Nina Teti

Thursday:

Michael Davis

r/b Shawn & Dianne Hunt

Friday:

Mary Woodburn (L)

r/b Weilmuenster Family

Saturday:

Thomas A. Rymer

r/b Gracie Rymer

Anna Green

r/b Marie Heaton

Sunday:

Parishioners

Nora Sandoval

r/b Sister Ann

“AND I WILL GIVE THEM REST”

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rose Byrd ,
Maria Denyer and all deceased members
and their families.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Please pray for all members of our parish serving
our country both here and overseas.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

The next Baptism class for parents registered in the parish
will be held on Saturday, February 3rd at 10:00 AM in the
Religious Education Center. Call the office by
Thursday, February 1st if you plan to attend.
Godparents are also welcome

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

“O” Antiphons

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Anthony's,

As I write, we sit 10 days out from the great
celebration of Christmas. As I have said many times, of all
the mysteries we have in the Catholic faith, the mystery of
the Incarnation is the most baffling.

When we think of the major mysteries we are asked
to accept on faith, what we naturally think of as the Trinity
(one God in three persons), the Eucharist with the doctrine
of Transubstantiation, the Virgin birth, and the power of
grace and how it interacts with “Free Will” without
destroying it. These I have accepted on faith with relative
ease. However, the mystery of the Incarnation I have
pondered for many years, and while I accept it on faith, it
still blows my mind. And yet I am so grateful to our Lord's
great mercy. He saw that we were trapped in an inescapa-
ble mess and come to our rescue as God, but even more
baffling, as **a man**.

The Church's way to heighten our awareness of this
great mystery is by the way of the O Antiphons. The O
Antiphons are also known as the Great Antiphons. These
Antiphons can be seen in St. Anthony's church hanging on
the pillars, put there by the Spiritual Life Committee. On the
seven days before Christmas the Church wants to “rev up”
our hearts and mind in a more immediate preparation for
the coming of the Christ. They are all part of the collective
Hopes of the people of the Old Testament. The Antiphons
are special because they emphasize a different title of
the soon-to-be-born King of Kings. They come from the
prophecies of the Prophet Isaiah. They are as follows:
O Wisdom, O Lord of Israel, O Root of Jesse, O Key of
David, O Radiant Dawn, O King of Nations, and
O Emmanuel. Taking the first letter of each antiphon (in
Latin) starting from the last to the first, ERO CRAS is
formed, which translates, “Tomorrow I will come.”

O Wisdom, Holy Word of God, you govern all creation
with your strong yet tender care: come and show your peo-
ple the way to salvation.

O Lord of Israel, Sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who
showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave
him the holy law on Sinai Mountain: Come, stretch out your
mighty hand to set us free.

O Root of Jesse, you have been raised up as a sign for
all peoples; Kings stand silent in your presence; the nations
bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep
you from coming to our aid.

O Key of David, royal power of Israel. Controlling at
your will the gates of heaven: come break down the prison
walls of death. For those who dwell in the darkness, and
the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into
freedom.

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of jus-
tice. Come shine on those who dwell in darkness and the
shadow of death.

O King of Nations, the only joy of the human heart; O
key stone of the mighty arch of man: come and save the
creatures you fashioned from the dust.

O Emmanuel, king and law giver, desire of the nations,
savior of all people: come and set us free, Lord our God.

Happy “O”ing the rest of your way through Advent.

Peace, In Christ Jesus, Fr. Stack

FAITH FORMATION

Wishing all our children and their families a holy and happy Christmas. See you on January 3rd (Wednesday) and 7th (Sunday).

"GIFT"

The next high school "GIFT" meeting will be Saturday, January 13th. We will join with the Life Teen group for Mass at 5:30, pot luck dinner and fellowship.

Contact Deacon Eric with questions.

All Are Welcome!

UPCOMING MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Masses

(Christmas Mass Obligation)

Sunday, December 24th—Christmas Eve
4:30 PM and 6:30 PM

Midnight Mass (Carols begin at 11:30 PM)
Monday, December 25th—Christmas Day
10:00 AM

New Years Day, January 1st

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

(Holy Day, no obligation when it falls on a Monday)
10:00 AM

*Faith
Hope
Love*

2018 Offertory Envelopes are available for pick-up outside of Padua Hall.

Please call the office if you did not receive envelopes and would like to.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Give your children the best gift possible; the abiding love between their parents. Learn how to encourage it by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) weekend. The next weekends are April 20-22, 2018, November 2-4, 2018 in Gaithersburg, MD and August 3-5, 2018 in Hanover, MD. Call **301-541-7007** or go to welovematrimony.org to sign up.

It's not too early to sign-up!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Vicki Baxter, John Bell, Sam "Bo" Bradley, Marlene Bradshaw, Ralph Carrello, Bill Carroll, Helga Cuevas, Luis Cuevas, Jean Davis, Sig Degitz, Luke Engler, Jo Finch, Anthony Fowler, Taylan Fowler, Louise Floren, John P. Flynn, Noah Christopher Haas, Marie Heaton, Maslynn Holmes, Cory Honoker, Roza Ivanac, Kayla Johnston, Shirley Kallal, William Kallal, Rick Kollinger, Brian Lloyd, Donna Lynch, Mark Mann, Walter Matziet, Kelly McCarley, Jennifer Melanab, Margie Edwards Morgan, Joanne Nielsen, Mary Ogle, William Owens, Doris Pettko, Darley Phillips, Payton Phillips, Ray Pyles, Jonathan Rieger, Carolyn Ritch, Joel Rivera, Grayson David Rodriguez, Wayne Romanek, Geri Rosen, Kristy Salek, Bunny Tate, Betty Theurer, Susan Vilcheck, Pat Waak, Shannon Wink, Richard Walton.

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,

MARY AND JOSEPH: DECEMBER 31ST

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

Abram shows us the Lord keeps His promises, for his offspring were indeed many, like the stars in heaven. We, too, must trust in the Lord, so like Abram, our families might prosper.

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

By faith Abraham and Sarah were blessed with Isaac, and through him, many descendants because they trusted in God's promise and believed in what they could not see. We see that faith, trust and prayer bring forth God's miracles in our lives.

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Jesus was brought to Jerusalem to be consecrated according to the law of Moses. A man named Simeon had learned he would not die until he had seen God's anointed. Upon seeing Jesus, he immediately declared he had witnessed "the glory of your people of Israel." The prophetess Anna also gave thanks and spoke of Jesus to all who would listen. Both recognized the power of Jesus, although he was still an infant.

GOSPEL QUESTION

When have you followed Mary's example and said:
"Let it be done to me as you say?"

CONTRIBUTIONS

As always, we are most grateful for your generous contributions to our parish.

December 17th weekly collection—\$10,140.50

CARDINAL HICKEY OPEN HOUSE

January 28th, from 12:30 to 2 PM, Cardinal Hickey Academy will hold their open house! Get more information on how to start a faith based education for your children. We are now enrolling Pre K—8th grades. If you can't wait until then, visit our website at www.cardinalhickeyacademy.org or email us at development@cardinalhickeyacademy.org.