

*Mass Intentions*

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024** *Matthew 21:23-27*  
 8:30am Seminarians Studying for the Priesthood  
 12:10pm Intentions of Anne Marie's Beloved Friends  
 & Their Families

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2024** *Matthew 1:1-17*  
 8:30am Joseph W. Murtha  
 12:10pm Ricardo Dabu Sambat

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024** *Matthew 1:18-25*  
 12:10pm Lt. Joseph Cavalieri (FDNY) (26th Anniversary)  
 7:30pm Protection of the Unborn

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024** *Luke 1:5-25*  
 8:30am Conversion of Hearts  
 12:10pm Tarky Lombardi

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2024** *Luke 1:26-38*  
 8:30am Antoinette Ferragamo (Birthday in Heaven)  
 Joseph M. Moscola  
 12:10pm Julia Troiano

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2024** *Luke 1:39-45*  
 8:30am Anne Marie Cueto  
 5:00pm Douglas Edwards  
 Roventini Family-Living & Deceased  
 Parishioners of Holy Name of Mary

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024** *Luke 1:39-45*  
*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
 7:45am Anna & Michael Apollo (Living)  
 9:00am Michael Abiuso  
 Luis Lizana  
 Joseph Moscola  
 11:00am Marie & John Andriano  
 Thomas Gilhooley  
 Rosario Parrino (4th Anniversary)  
 1:00pm Christian Glatz (Living)-Happy Birthday

*A Joyful Sunday. The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday. The word "gaudete" is derived from the Latin words "gaudium," joy, and "gaudeo," to rejoice or be glad. Gaudete Sunday occurs eight to thirteen days before Christmas, and the nearness of the feast is reason for great joy.*



**Readings for Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**1st Reading: Micah 5:1-4a** From the smallest clan, the least likely place, one will come who is peace.  
**2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10** Christ came into the world not to offer sacrifice but to do the will of God.  
**Gospel: Luke 1:39-45** Mary hoped in the fulfillment of God's word to her, and that word became flesh.  
**FOCUS: The Lord rejoices over us.**

*Eucharistic Adoration/Confession*

*Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays:*

*following the 12:10pm Mass-until 2pm*

*Thursdays: following the 12:10pm Mass-until 6pm*

*Confessions available weekdays, following 12:10pm Mass; Saturdays, 3:30-4:30pm; Sundays, 10:15-10:45am. Confessions in Spanish: Sundays, 12-12:45pm*

*Presider Schedule (Subject to change)*

**Monday, Dec. 16**

8:30 am Fr. Mike  
 12:10 pm Fr. Jeff

**Tuesday, Dec. 17**

8:30 am Fr. Mike  
 12:10 pm Fr. Jeff

**Wednesday, Dec. 18**

12:10 pm Fr. Gustavo  
 7:30 pm Fr. Jeff

**Thursday, Dec. 19**

8:30 am Fr. Jeff  
 12:10 pm Fr. Mike

**Friday, Dec. 20**

8:30 am Fr. Gustavo  
 12:10 pm Fr. Mike

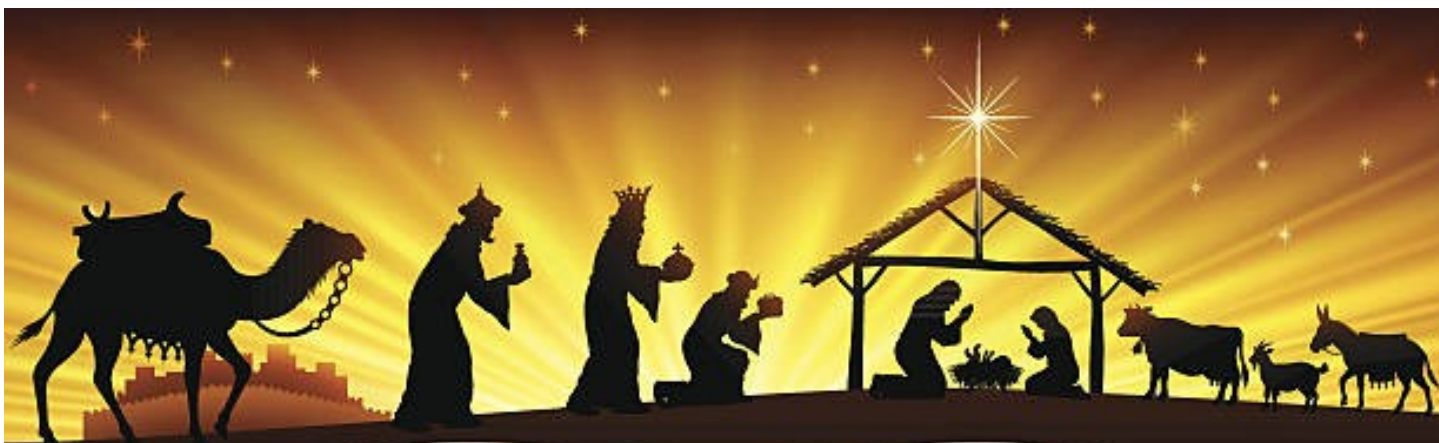
**Saturday, Dec. 21**

8:30 am Fr. Jeff  
 5:00 pm Fr. Mike

**Sunday, Dec. 22**

7:45 am Fr. Thomas  
 9:00 am Fr. Jeff  
 11:00 am Fr. Jeff  
 1:00 pm Fr. Gustavo





# 2024 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

## **SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION**

Monday – Friday: following 12:10 PM Mass

Saturdays: 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Sundays: 10:15 AM – 10:45 AM

(In Spanish) Sundays: 12 PM – 12:45 PM

Friday, December 20, 2024: 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Christmas Eve: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

## **MASS SCHEDULE**

### **Tuesday, December 24, 2024-Christmas Eve**

4:00 PM, 6:00 PM, 9:00 PM Spanish Mass

Midnight Mass

### **Wednesday, December 25, 2024-Christmas Day**

7:45 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM (Spanish Mass)

### **Tuesday, December 31, 2024-New Year's Eve**

5:00 PM

### **Wednesday, January 1, 2025-New Year's Day**

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

7:45 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM (Spanish Mass)

*The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday, December 24 through Sunday, December 29.*



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

## Christmas 2024

**To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:**

**Merry Christmas to you and your families!**

Last Christmas, we celebrated the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that glorious and historic night when St. Francis of Assisi arranged the first Nativity creche scene in a small cave outside the Italian village of Greccio in Italy.

St. Francis was inspired to do this after visiting the historical place of Christ's birth on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land – the humble stable in a Bethlehem cave.

The large creche set in St. Peter's Square last year commemorated this 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary by having the figure of St. Francis of Assisi expressing adoration, awe and wonder across the Crib from Mary and Joseph.

Last September, we celebrated the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Francis receiving the gift of the "stigmata" – the mystical wounds of Christ in his hands, feet and side. In 2026, we will celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Francis' death.

There is always a powerful connection between the Manger Crib and the Golgotha Cross of our Savior. St. Francis of Assisi lived this connection so powerfully.

In *Admirabile Signum*, Pope Francis writes: "Indeed, the place where this first nativity scene was enacted expresses and evokes these sentiments...from the time of its Franciscan origins, the nativity scene has invited us to 'feel' and 'touch' the poverty that God's Son took upon himself in the Incarnation. Implicitly, it summons us to follow him along the path of humility, poverty and self-denial that leads from the manger of Bethlehem to the Cross. It asks us to meet him and serve him by showing mercy to those of our brothers and sisters in great need (cf. Matthew 25:31-46)." (3)

As we spiritually draw near to Bethlehem at the end of this year, we pray for those who suffer in the Holy Land and the Middle East, in Ukraine and all war-torn areas of the world.

We pray too for the persecuted Church around the world and we pray for religious liberty in our country and in all countries.

**St. Francis of Assisi understood the problems of the world and more than 800 years later, after he created the first creche, he is still close to the Church and to the world.**

**Many of you have seen the bronze statue of Atlas directly across from St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.**

**It was created by the sculptor Lee Lawrie and installed in 1937. The sculpture portrays the mythical ancient Greek Titan Atlas holding the burden of the heavens on his shoulder.**

**St. Francis of Assisi is no myth, but at times he has been compared with Atlas in how, through the centuries, he carried the burdens of the Church on his shoulders with his radical and pure Gospel witness.**

**In fact, Pope Innocent III, after meeting St. Francis, had a dream that St. Francis was holding up St. John Lateran Basilica, the visible sign and symbol of the universal Church, amidst the storms and earthquakes of history and crisis.**

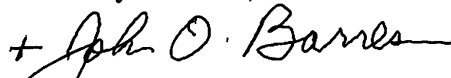
**Configured to Christ crucified and having lived daily with the stigmatic wounds of Christ, St. Francis helps to animate and inspire the mission of mercy of the Catholic Church through the centuries.**

**St. Francis of Assisi intercedes for each of us at every moment to help rebuild the Biblical and Eucharistic evangelizing mission of the Church that Jesus Himself founded on Long Island and beyond.**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!**

**May the Light and Love of the Christ Child animate and guide our global Catholic Missionary Spirit this Christmas and throughout the New Year.**

Sincerely in Christ,



**Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre**



Blessed be the Holy Name of Mary!

As we all know, going to confession is not easy. To confess one's sins to a priest, hence, to Jesus Christ is difficult. Fortunately, the Lord knows this and is tremendously patient with us. It is for this reason that it is a precept of the Church to confess at least once a year and not once a month or once a week. I certainly encourage people to go to confession regularly but as an obligation it is only required once a year.

**If you are nervous to go confession, or if you don't know exactly what to say, or if you simply find it very difficult to go to confession, just tell the priest in the confessional these words: "I am a friend of the Blessed Mother."** The priests of Holy Name of Mary will know what these words mean. The priest will make it as easy as possible for you.

I invite you to receive the sacrament of confession during Advent, most especially on the day before Christmas Day. **The "Holy Name of Mary Christmas Eve Special" is offering confessions from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.** Please, I beg you to take part in it. This is all that I want for Christmas. I don't want any gifts, gift certificates, or sweets. Instead, all I want for Christmas is for you to go to confession.

Beyond the Holy Name of Mary Christmas Eve Special, there is an open-door policy with confessions. Just ask any of the priests if you want to go to confession, we will gladly hear it. It doesn't matter if it is before Mass or after Mass. There is always time for confession.

Christmas is approaching! Please confess you sins! Remember what I want for Christmas.

Pax et Bonum.

In Jesus and Mary,





**Advent Parish Mission**

*An Evening of Recollection*

*presented by*

*Bishop Andrzej*

*Monday, December 16*

*7:00pm*

*Holy Name of Mary*

*Sing We Now Of  
Christmas!*

*Featuring the Choirs of  
Holy Name of Mary*

*Sunday December 15th, 3:00pm*

*Holy Name of Mary Church*



# \$10,000 Raffle

And the Winners Are...

#141 - Adriana Orejuela

#192 - Ramon Pena

#187 - Ben Pontrello

*Congratulations!*

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

Lieber Funeral Homes Inc.

Perry's Funeral Home

Flinch & Bruns Funeral Home Inc.

Thank you to all who participated in this event. Our church received \$10,000 to reduce our debt. Special thanks to all who volunteered to make this raffle a success. It would not have been possible without you!







# CHRISTMAS GIFTS PROGRAM

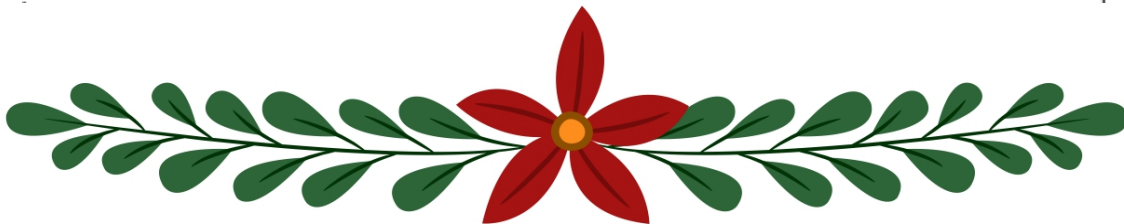
Christmas is just around the corner and the Outreach Staff and volunteers are gearing up for a very busy season. Once again, we will be collecting Gift Cards for people in our parish. Though Gift Cards may not seem very personal, they allow for a safe distribution and our clients will be able to make choices that will best suit their needs.

We hope that many of our parishioners will consider helping us by purchasing GIFT CARDS in ANY DENOMINATION. The most helpful stores are Target, Walmart, Old Navy and The Children's Place.

If you wish to participate in our gift program, please do the following:

1. Purchase Gift Card(s)
2. Place them in an envelope and write "Parish Outreach" on the front
3. Return them to: Parish Outreach Office: Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm  
Rectory Office: Mon-Thurs, 9am-4pm  
Box located in front of the Church near the "crying room"  
Collection baskets

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE LOOSE GIFT CARDS ANYWHERE IN THE CHURCH.** For more information, please call Parish Outreach at 516-825-0177. Thank you for your generosity year after year!





# “Prepare ye the way of the Lord”

How will you be preparing for the birth of Christ?

Why not pray the Rosary, via ZOOM, with fellow parishioners during the Advent Season? You will be creating a prayerful blanket for Baby Jesus.

**The Rosary will be prayed, via ZOOM, on the following Mondays at 7:00 pm:**

**December 2, 2024**

**December 9, 2024**

~~**December 16, 2024**~~ cancelled

**December 23, 2024**



## ZOOM Information:

**Meeting ID: 9661795749**

**Passcode: Rosary**

### *Financial Information*

Weekly budget amount to meet parish expenses	\$13,882
Weekly offering of December 8, 2024	\$10,948
Faith Direct (average of weekly donation)	\$ 1,686
TOTAL of weekly offering & Faith Direct/Other	\$12,634
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>\$ 1,248</b>

### *Msgr. Mulligan Memorial*



#### **Bread & Wine**

*In Loving Memory of  
our mother, Ann Ferragamo  
Love, Grace & Mary*

There are many available dates to remember a loved one with the **Msgr. Mulligan Memorial of Bread & Wine, Candles, or Flowers**. These intentions begin on a Sunday and end on the following Saturday. Your loved one will be remembered at every Mass throughout the week. Please stop in at the Parish Office if you would like to schedule your special intention.

Bread & Wine or Candles = \$50.00

Flowers = \$125.00

For anyone who believes they have a Sexual Abuse Claim against an Additional Debtor (parish) arising prior to December 3, 2024, the claim form to submit and related information can be found at <https://dm.epiq11.com/case/drvc/info> under the “Proof of Claim Form” heading. The deadline for filing claims is January 13, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. prevailing Eastern time.

*HNM School Registration*

Join in the Spirit at Holy Name of Mary School, an AdvancEd Accredited School. To register your child for Nursery (full day, age 3), Pre-K (full day, age 4), Kindergarten (full day, age 5) or Grade 1 through 8, contact our School Office to make an appointment at 516-825-4009, or visit [www.hnomschool.org](http://www.hnomschool.org) for registration materials and details. Before and after school care is available for all registered students. Follow Holy Name of Mary School on Instagram and Facebook @ hnomschoolvalleystream.

*Baptism Schedule*

Baptisms in English are scheduled on the second and fourth Sunday of every month at 3pm. Baptisms in Spanish are scheduled on the second Saturday of every month at 12 noon. Please call the Parish Office for available dates. Baby's birth certificate and signed sponsor forms from godparents are required.

*Remember In Prayer*

**All Those Who Are Sick**

*Father of Goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need...*

Mary Alfano, Gertrude Aniello, Annie Bottone  
 Angela Hope Conroy, Mark Cowie, Anthony Ippolito  
 Conchetta Lango, Kevin Lynch, Nial Pace  
 Jane Pope, Francine Raimondi, James Ross, Daryl Ruiz  
 Mary Ryder, Ruperto Tan, Elena Tate

*(Names will remain on the sick list for **four weeks only**. If you would like to have the name listed again, please notify the Parish Office.)*

**All Those Who Have Died**

*Please remember in prayer all the recently deceased, of our Parish. We also pray for all the souls in Purgatory.*

Thomas W. Gilhooley, Tarky Lombardi  
 Joseph Moscola, Derek Reed  
 All parishioners who have died in 2024

*Eucharistic Minister Schedule*

**Saturday, December 21, 2024**

**5:00pm**

*HOST* } P. Zolzer, B. We

**Sunday, December 22, 2024**

**7:45am**

*HOST* } K. Paul, A. Paul

**9:00am**

*HOST* } T. Barry, J. Barry

**11:00am**

*HOST* } M. Alexis, L. Gangemi



*St. Vincent de Paul Message*

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise..." Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please share your abundance by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.



**Pantry needs:** Paper towel, toilet tissue, cereal, rice, beans, canned vegetables/fruit, pancake mix/syrup, oatmeal, coffee, tea, condiments, muffin/cake mix, Mac and cheese, instant or canned potatoes, **jelly, peanut butter**

*If you or someone you know needs assistance, call SVdP or Parish Outreach at 516-825-0177.*

*Welcome to our Church*

If you and your family recently moved to Valley Stream and wish to become registered parishioners of Holy Name of Mary Church, (or maybe you attend Mass regularly and have never registered), please visit the Parish Office to fill out a short registration form. Using our envelope system is the only way to have all your donations recorded.

*Loose checks are not recorded, they must be placed in your registered parishioner envelope.*



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

### Navidad 2024

**Al pueblo de Dios de la Diócesis del Rockville Centre:**

**¡Feliz Navidad para ustedes y sus familias!**

**La Navidad pasada, celebramos el 800 aniversario de esa noche gloriosa e histórica cuando San Francisco de Asís realizó la primera escena del Pesebre en una pequeña cueva a las afueras del pueblo italiano de Greccio en Italia.**

**San Francisco se sintió inspirado para hacer esto después de visitar el lugar histórico del nacimiento de Cristo en una peregrinación a la Tierra Santa, el humilde establo en una cueva de Belén.**

**El gran Pesebre que se puso en la Plaza de San Pedro el año pasado conmemoró este 800 aniversario al incluir la figura de San Francisco de Asís expresando adoración, asombro y sobrecogimiento frente a la cuna del Pesebre, con Mary y Joseph.**

**En septiembre pasado, celebramos también el 800 aniversario de cuando San Francisco recibiera el regalo de los "estigmas", las heridas místicas de Cristo en sus manos, pies y costado. En el 2026, celebraremos el 800 aniversario de la muerte de San Francisco.**

**Siempre hay una conexión muy fuerte entre la cuna del Pesebre y la cruz del Gólgota de nuestro Salvador. San Francisco de Asís vivió esta conexión muy intensamente.**

**En *Admirabile Signum*, el Papa Francisco escribe: "De hecho, el lugar donde se representó esta primera escena de la natividad expresa y evoca estos sentimientos ... desde la época de sus orígenes franciscanos, la escena de la natividad nos ha invitado a 'sentir' y 'tocar' la pobreza que el Hijo de Dios asumió en sí mismo con la Encarnación. Implícitamente, nos convoca a seguirlo por el camino de la humildad, la pobreza y la abnegación que conduce del pesebre de Belén a la cruz. Nos pide que lo encontremos y lo sirvamos mostrando misericordia a nuestros hermanos y hermanas más necesitados (cf. Mateo 25: 31-46)". (3)**

**A medida que nos acercamos espiritualmente a Belén al finalizar este año, recemos por aquellos que sufren en Tierra Santa y Oriente Medio, en Ucrania y en todas las áreas devastadas por la guerra en el mundo.**



DIocese of Rockville Centre  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

**Oremos también por la iglesia perseguida en todo el mundo y recemos por la libertad religiosa en nuestro país y en todos los países.**

**San Francisco de Asís entendió los problemas del mundo y después de más de 800 años de haber creado el primer pesebre, todavía está cerca de la Iglesia y del mundo.**

**Muchos de ustedes han visto la estatua de bronce de Atlas que está justo en frente a la Catedral de San Patricio en la ciudad de Nueva York.**

**Fue creada por el escultor Lee Lawrie e instalada en 1937. La escultura retrata al mítico antiguo Titán griego Atlas, que sostiene la carga de los cielos sobre sus hombros.**

**San Francisco de Asís no es un mito, pero a veces se le ha comparado con Atlas en cómo, a través de los siglos, llevó la carga de la Iglesia sobre sus hombros con su testimonio de evangelio radical y puro.**

**De hecho, el Papa Inocencio III, después de encontrarse con San Francisco, soñó que San Francisco estaba sosteniendo la Basílica de San Juan de Letrán, el signo y símbolo visible de la Iglesia Universal, en medio de las tormentas y terremotos de la historia y de las crisis.**

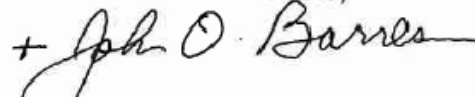
**Configurado con Cristo crucificado y habiendo vivido diariamente con las heridas estigmáticas de Cristo, San Francisco ayuda a animar y a inspirar la misión de misericordia de la Iglesia Católica a través de los siglos.**

**San Francisco de Asís intercede por cada uno de nosotros en cada momento para que ayudemos a reconstruir la misión evangelizadora, Bíblica y Eucarística, de la Iglesia que Jesús mismo fundó en Long Island y más allá.**

**¡Feliz Navidad y Año Nuevo para ustedes y sus familias!**

**Que la luz y el amor del Niño Jesús animen y guíen nuestro Espíritu Misionero católico global esta Navidad y durante todo el Año Nuevo.**

Afectuosamente en Cristo,



Su Excelencia Reverendísima John O. Barres  
Obispo de Rockville Centre



¡Bendito sea el Santísimo Nombre de María!

Como todos sabemos, confesarse no es fácil. Confesar los pecados a un sacerdote, es decir, a Jesucristo, es difícil. Afortunadamente, el Señor lo sabe y es tremendamente paciente con nosotros. Por eso es un precepto de la Iglesia confesarse al menos una vez al año y no una vez al mes o una vez a la semana. Ciertamente animo a la gente a confesarse regularmente, pero como obligación sólo se exige una vez al año.

Si te pone nervioso confesarte, o si no sabes exactamente qué decir, o si simplemente te resulta muy difícil confesarte, simplemente dile al sacerdote en el confesionario estas palabras: "Soy amigo de la Santísima Madre". Los sacerdotes del Santo Nombre de María sabrán lo que significan estas palabras. El sacerdote te lo hará lo más fácil posible.

Te invito a recibir el sacramento de la confesión durante el Adviento, muy especialmente el día antes del día de Navidad. El "Especial de Nochebuena del Santo Nombre de María" ofrece confesiones de 11:00 a 15:00 horas. Por favor, les ruego que participen. Esto es todo lo que quiero para Navidad. No quiero regalos, certificados de regalo ni dulces. En cambio, todo lo que quiero para Navidad es que se confiesen.

Además del Especial de Nochebuena del Santo Nombre de María, hay una política de puertas abiertas con las confesiones. Simplemente pregunten a cualquiera de los sacerdotes si quieren confesarse, con gusto lo escucharemos. No importa si es antes o después de la Misa. Siempre hay tiempo para la confesión.

¡Se acerca la Navidad! ¡Por favor, confiesen sus pecados! Recuerden lo que quiero para Navidad.

Pax et Bonum.

En Jesús y María,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Father Jeff Yildirmaz".

*Inscripción en la escuela HNM*

Únase al Espíritu en Holy Name of Mary School, una escuela acreditada por AdvancEd. Para inscribir a su hijo en la guardería (día completo, 3 años), pre jardín de infantes (día completo, 4 años), jardín de infantes (día completo, 5 años) o de 1st a 8th grado, comuníquese con la oficina de nuestra escuela para programar una cita al 516-825-4009, o visite [www.hnomschool.org](http://www.hnomschool.org) para obtener los materiales y detalles de inscripción. El cuidado antes y después de la escuela está disponible para todos los estudiantes registrados. Siga a Holy Name of Mary School en Instagram y Facebook @ hnomschoolvalleystream.

*Bienvenidos a nuestra parroquia*

Si usted y su familia se mudaron recientemente a Valley Stream y desean convertirse en feligreses registrados de la Iglesia Holy Name of Mary, (o tal vez asiste a misa regularmente y nunca se registró), visite la Oficina Parroquial para completar un breve formulario de registro. Usar nuestro sistema de sobres es la única manera de registrar todas sus donaciones. Los cheques sueltos no se registran, deben colocarse en su sobre de feligrés registrado.

*OCLA (RCLA) / Divine Mercy*

**OCIA** es para adultos que estén interesados en recibir los Sacramentos de Iniciación: Bautismo, Primera Comunión y Confirmación. Las reuniones semanales en español comenzarán el domingo 8 de septiembre, de 10:30 a.m. a 12:30 p.m. Las reuniones se realizan en el sótano de la escuela, sala numero 5.

**LA DIVINA MISERICORDIA**

¡Únase a nosotros en oración por la Divina Misericordia! Nos reunimos todos los miércoles, de 7p.m. a 9p.m., en la Capilla del Convento.

**EL GRUPO de ORACION**

El grupo de Oracion Carismatico te invita todos los viernes de 7:00 p.m. a 9:30 p.m., a orar en lamunidad en la iglesia.

*Adoración y Confesión*

Nuestras vidas cambian cuando cambian nuestros hábitos. Adoptar el hábito de la Adoración Eucarística cambiará todos los aspectos de tu vida. Al pasar tiempo en la presencia de Jesús en la Eucaristía, nos volvemos más como Él.

**Adoración al Santísimo Sacramento:**

En ingles Lunes, martes, miércoles, viernes; después de la Misa de las 12:10 p.m., hasta las 2:00 p.m. Jueves; después de la Misa de las 12:10 p.m. hasta las 6:00 p.m.

**Sacramento de la Confesión:**

En inglés: después de la misa de las 12:10 p.m., de lunes a viernes; sábados: de 3:30 p.m. a 4:30 p.m.; domingos: de 10:15 a.m. a 10:45 a.m.; en español: domingos: de 12 p.m. a 12:45 p.m.

**PROGRAMA DE REGALOS DE NAVIDAD**

Estamos recolectando tarjetas de regalo para las personas necesitadas de nuestra parroquia. Las tarjetas de regalo más útiles son las de Target, Walmart, Old Navy, Children's Place. Si desea participar en este programa, compre una tarjeta de regalo de cualquier denominación, colóquela en un sobre marcado "Parish Outreach" y devuélvala a la Oficina de Extensión, la Oficina de la Rectoría o colóquela en la canasta de recolección. No deje tarjetas sueltas en ningún lugar de la Iglesia. Gracias por participar en este programa.

**FELICITACIONES A LOS GANADORES de LA RIFA de \$10,000:**

#141 - Adriana Orejuela  
#192 - Ramon Pena  
#187 - Ben Pontrello

Un agradecimiento especial a nuestros patrocinadores Lieber Funeral Homes Inc.  
Perry's Funeral Home  
Flinch & Bruns Funeral Home Inc.

Gracias a todos los que participaron en este evento. Nuestra iglesia recibió \$10,000 para reducir nuestra deuda. Un agradecimiento especial a todos los que se ofrecieron como voluntarios para hacer que esta rifa fuera un éxito. ¡No hubiera sido posible sin ustedes!



# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2024

Holy Name of Mary Roman Catholic Church

## One Minute Meditations

### St. John of the Cross

Born in Castile, Spain, St. Juan de Yepes lived in poverty. St. John embraced poverty and suffering throughout his life. In 1563, he entered the Carmelite Order. He befriended St. Teresa of Ávila, who encouraged and supported him in his efforts at reform. He faced opposition and he was imprisoned in a tower. From this experience came the mystical poetry and inspired writings on the interior life that made him a Doctor of the Church.



### Close to the Infant Jesus

"You are nowhere but close to the Infant Jesus, trembling with cold in the stable of Bethlehem...Therefore, I beg you to love the crib of the Child of Bethlehem...stay close to him and be sure that Jesus is in the midst of your hearts more than you could believe or imagine." St. Padre Pio

*"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory"* (John 1:14).



## The best gifts come on Christmas

Christmas brings a joy that goes beyond presents—it's a season rich with the gifts God offers: love, hope, family, and the promise of Heaven. These gifts touch every heart, young and old, and hold profound meaning.

**The gift of love.** God chose to come into the world as a baby, sharing in our human experience. His love surpasses anything we could imagine. He invites us to embrace His love and let it transform us.

**The gift of hope.** Although we have moments of sin and can turn from God, the Child born on that first Christmas offers freedom from sin and the hope of a brighter future. This hope

renews us and promises a better path forward.

**The gift of family.** Family provides strength, comfort, and support. Baptism welcomes us into Christ's divine family, where we are bound by an unbreakable connection. *"See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God"* (1 John 3:1).

**The gift of Heaven.** The most awesome gift is Heaven itself. Without Jesus' miraculous birth, Heaven would be out of reach. He bridged the gap between Heaven and Earth, offering the promise of eternal joy. This Christmas, we can cherish the enduring gifts of love, hope, family, and Heaven that make the season truly meaningful.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics display nativity scenes?

The tradition of displaying nativity scenes began with St. Francis of Assisi, who was awed that God humbled Himself to be born in humility and poverty. To illustrate, he displayed a manger scene in a cave near the Franciscans' chapel —



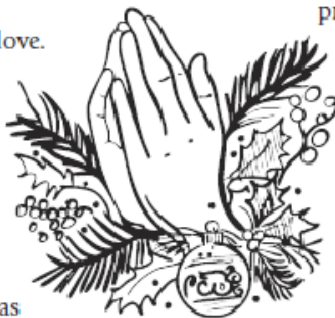
complete with donkey and ox. He celebrated Christmas Mass and, according to an eyewitness, the wax figure of the Christ Child came alive. This pious tradition continues, reminding us that "the

*Word became flesh and dwelt among us"* (John 1:14).

## Two Advent practices for a joyful Christmas

Each Advent, God invites us to deepen our friendship with Him and draw closer to His love. The key to a joyful Christmas lies in responding to this invitation by dedicating daily time to God and helping those in need.

**Do the one thing needful:** Pope Francis encourages us to “waste time” with God through prayer, even for just 15–20 minutes. This could be offering daily prayers for a special intention, meditating on the Christmas Story a verse at a time, or simply being peacefully



present to Him, who is always present to us. Continue spending time with Him after the season ends.

**Go in haste to love:** Just as Mary went “with haste” (Luke 1:39) to serve her cousin Elizabeth, we, too, are called to act quickly in love. While no one can do everything, everyone can do something. When we serve others even in small ways, we receive a greater gift in return (Matthew 25:40).

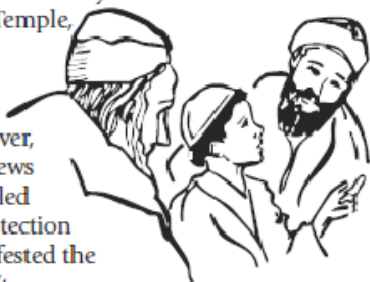
Embrace these practices for a deeper, more joyful Christmas open to God’s love.

### from Scripture

### Luke 2:41-52, Love and obedience

The Feast of the Holy Family (December 29) includes the story of finding Jesus in the Temple, a story of love and obedience. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover, as was the custom for Jews of that time. They traveled in a large group for protection against bandits who infested the hill country. So it wasn’t surprising that His parents didn’t miss Jesus as they started the return trip. Upon discovering Him missing, they hurried back to Jerusalem.

On the third day of searching, they found Jesus in the Temple. He was



questioning the priests and amazing them with His understanding.

However, Mary asked how He could have caused His parents so much worry and Jesus replied, “Did you not know I must be in my Father’s house?”

Though they were puzzled by His answer, Mary and Joseph took Jesus back to Nazareth. He remained there in obedience to His parents until it was time for His public ministry. We learn from this story to obey not only God but also those in valid authority over us.

### Q & A How do I use an Advent Wreath?

The Advent Wreath is a circle of evergreen branches, symbolizing God’s eternal and unending love. It includes three purple (violet) candles and one pink (rose) candle. On the first Sunday of Advent, and each night that week, the first purple candle, known as the Prophet’s Candle, is lit to symbolize hope. On the second Sunday and throughout that week, light both the first and second purple candles.



The second candle, called the Bethlehem Candle, represents faith. The pink candle, lit during the third week, symbolizes joy and marks Gaudete Sunday. During the fourth week of Advent, all three purple candles and the pink candle are lit. The fourth candle, known as the Angel’s Candle, represents peace.

Consider meditating on Scripture as you light the candles. Week 1 (hope) - Isaiah 9:2-7, week 2 (faith) - Micah 5:2-5a, week 3 (joy) - Luke 2:8-14, and week 4 (peace) - Luke 1:26-38.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**December 1 - First Sunday in Advent.** We anticipate Christ’s birth and His coming on the Last Day. Catholics everywhere light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

**December 4 - St. John Damascene (749).** A Doctor of the Church and the last of the Greek Fathers, St. John was born in Muslim-ruled Syria and was counselor to the caliph. He is known for his writings in favor of the use of sacred images for devotion.

**December 9 - Immaculate**

**Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** We commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne’s womb without original sin, preparing Mary to be the Mother of God. Pope Pius IX declared this doctrine in 1854. This year, it’s still considered a holy day of obligation and Mass attendance is required.

**December 28 - Feast of the Holy Innocents (1st century).** Today, we remember the infants massacred by King Herod’s soldiers (Matthew 2:16-18). We also pray for the safety of unborn children.








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# ADVENT CALENDAR 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p><b>December 1</b></p> <p>Buy or make an Advent wreath. Light the first violet candle for <i>Hope!</i></p> 	<p><b>December 2</b></p> <p>Decide how to prepare for Jesus' birth during Advent: deeper prayer, penance, acts of charity, fasting.</p>	<p><b>December 3</b></p> <p>Display the stable for the Nativity Scene. Add figures gradually throughout the weeks of Advent.</p> 	<p><b>December 4</b></p> <p>Make a playlist of music appropriate for Advent that anticipates Christ's birth. Listen to it and meditate until Christmas.</p>	<p><b>December 5</b></p> <p>Plan to go to Confession and experience God's mercy. Find an examination of conscience at <a href="http://usccb.org">usccb.org</a>.</p>	<p><b>December 6</b> <b>St. Nicholas of Myra</b></p> <p>Perform a simple act of kindness for someone today in honor of this generous saint.</p>	<p><b>December 7</b></p> <p>Prepare heart and soul to welcome Christ. Make an examination of conscience and go to Confession.</p>
<p><b>December 8</b> <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b></p> <p>Light a second violet candle for <i>Faith</i> and meditate on <i>Mark 1:1-8</i>.</p> 	<p><b>December 9</b> <b>Immaculate Conception of Mary</b></p> <p>Pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. Ask Mary, who received Christ perfectly, to help you welcome Him.</p>	<p><b>December 10</b></p> <p>Set out an empty box. Add gently used clothes, starting today. When it's full, bring it to a clothing drive or SVdP poor box.</p>	<p><b>December 11</b></p> <p>Singing is praying twice! Play some Advent hymns to get into the season and sing along.</p>	<p><b>December 12</b> <b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b></p> <p>To honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, place a rose in a vase in your home and pray a Hail Mary.</p>	<p><b>December 13</b></p> <p>Offer a small sacrifice out of love for Jesus, who offered Himself up for love of you.</p>	<p><b>December 14</b></p> <p>In prayer, forgive someone who has hurt you. Ask for the grace to let go and move on.</p>
<p><b>December 15</b> <b>Gaudete Sunday</b></p> <p>Light 2 violet candles and the rose colored one for <i>Joy</i>. Pray with <i>John 1:6-9, 19-28</i>.</p> 	<p><b>December 16</b></p> <p>Set a timer or other reminder to help you pray every morning and evening. Continue even after Advent.</p>	<p><b>December 17</b></p> <p>Listen to music appropriate for Advent that anticipates Christ's birth and meditate until Christmas.</p>	<p><b>December 18</b></p> <p>Put a lamp or battery operated candle in the window to welcome the Christ Child. Light it each night until Christmas.</p>	<p><b>December 19</b></p> <p>Spend time before the Blessed Sacrament today to ready your heart for the arrival of the King.</p>	<p><b>December 20</b></p> <p>Eat a simple meatless meal and donate the money you saved to the poor box at Church.</p>	<p><b>December 21</b></p> <p>Reflect on how your relationship with Christ grew this Advent. Thank Him for the graces you received.</p>
<p><b>December 22</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b></p> <p>Straighten up the house and make any final preparations. <i>The King is coming!</i></p> 	<p><b>December 23</b> <b>Rejoice!</b></p> <p>"Come, Lord Jesus, take our distracted hearts and make them watchful. Awaken within us the desire to pray and the need to love." - Pope Francis</p>	<p><b>December 24</b> <b>Rejoice!</b></p> <p>Pick one way you can simplify your lifestyle to make more room for God.</p>	<p><b>December 25</b> <b>Rejoice!</b></p> <p>Place the Christ Child in the manger. Go to Mass today and rejoice!</p> 