

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024 *Luke 1:26-38*
The Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary

- 8:30am Pete & Vilma (Barna) Gurski
Blessed Virgin Mary
- 12:10pm Leocadia Lebron (Happy Birthday in Heaven)
- 7:00pm Protection of the Unborn
- 8:00pm Protection of the Unborn

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024 *Matthew 18:12-14*
Our Lady of Loreto

- 8:30am Deceased Members of Apollo, Giuffre, Oliva,
& Vinci Families
Christopher, Sung & Isaac Sole (Living)
- 12:10pm George E. Ellard

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024 *Matthew 11:28-30*
St. Damasus I, Pope

- 12:10pm Charlie Sciarra
- 7:30pm Vocations

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024 *Luke 1:26-38*
Our Lady of Guadalupe

- 8:30am Regino & Pura Morales
Matthew Ernst
- 12:10pm Irma DiSorbo

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024 *Matthew 11:16-19*
St. Lucy, Martyr

- 8:30am Josephine & Stanley Wisniewski
St. Lucy
- 12:10pm Leocadia Lebron (5th Month in Heaven)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024 *Matthew 17:9a, 10-13*
St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Cross

- 8:30am Safety of Our Military
- 5:00pm Conrado & Isabel Mata
Rene & Eric Mata
James Lamar, Jr.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024 *Luke 21:25-28, 34-36*
Third Sunday of Advent

- 7:45am Anna & Michael Apollo (Living)
John Evangelista, Mary & John Arienzo
- 9:00am Parishioners of Holy Name of Mary
- 11:00am Lloyd Ippolito (19th Anniversary in Heaven)
- 1:00pm Needs of the Church



Readings for Third Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: **Zephaniah 3:14-18a** Thanks be to God, judgment is lifted! We who were once guilty are now celebrated.

2nd Reading: **Philippians 4:4-7** God is near! Be at peace and ask for what you need.

Gospel: **Luke 3:10-18** John doesn't only baptize. He gives out spiritual direction and practical advice.

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. 9

- 8:30 am Fr. Mike
- 12:10 pm Fr. Jeff
- 7:00 pm Fr. Mike
- 8:00 pm Fr. Gustavo

Wednesday, Dec. 11

- 12:10 pm Fr. Gustavo
- 7:30 pm Fr. Thomas

Friday, Dec. 13

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

Sunday, Dec. 15

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

Tuesday, Dec. 10

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

Thursday, Dec. 12

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

Saturday, Dec. 14

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





Blessed be the Holy Name of Mary!

Tomorrow is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Even though it is a Monday this year, it is always a holy day of obligation. The reason is that the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is the patronal feast day of the United States.

Thursday December 12 is the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. I would like to thank our parishioners who will be designing the beautiful flower arrangements for the sacred image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This takes hours of tender loving care. Thank you immensely. The beautiful towering replica image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be placed on the sanctuary for the feast day until the end of the Third Sunday of Advent.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is by far my favorite image of our Lady. Evidently the feast of St. Juan Deigo is not celebrated this year. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception which is normally celebrated on December 8 was moved to December 9 because December 8th is the 2nd Sunday of Advent. Don't worry! St. Juan Diego does not mind at all.

Almost 500 years ago, The Blessed Mother appeared to St. Juan Diego during a time when very few natives were converted. After the Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared, millions were baptized.

The greatest missionary of the apostles is arguably St. Paul. The greatest missionary outside of the apostles not including our Lady, is St. Francis Xavier. He was one of the earlier Jesuits who has baptized over 25,000 in various countries and continents. However, the greatest of all time missionaries of Jesus Christ is Our Lady.

If you need a miracle for someone to have a conversion or for someone who is going through a tremendously difficult affliction, go to Our Lady and she will lead the soul to her Son.

Pax et Bonum.

In Jesus and Mary,



DRAWING
\$10,000 Raffle
Sunday, December 8th
2:30pm-Cafeteria
Candy Canes & Sweets

The drawing for the winners of the \$10,000 raffle is Dec. 8th, at 2:30pm in the school cafeteria. Candy canes and sweets, along with coffee, tea and hot chocolate will be served. Raffle baskets and a 50/50 will help offset the expenses of the raffle. Looking forward to congratulating the winners and sharing some parish family friendship.

Winner need not be present.



All children are invited to attend the 11:00am Mass on Sunday, December 15th, for the start of our Monthly Family Mass. Children are welcome to sit on the steps of the altar during a special homily!

The Second Advent candle is frequently called the Peace candle or the Bethlehem candle. It symbolizes the preparations being made to receive and cradle the Christ child. Bethlehem is a story about a humble couple on an unwanted journey, at an inconvenient time, to visit a tiny insignificant town just outside of Jerusalem. Yet God did not choose Jerusalem for the birthplace of the Messiah. God loved the world so much that He chose, a tiny insignificant town as the location for the birth of the one who literally changed the world. This is the first of many reminders that God loves even the insignificant of the world.

Jesus is our Peace! In the busyness of the season will you make room for Christ, or will you miss it? Do you think the Inn Keeper would have given up his room had he known who needed it?

Advent Parish Mission

An Evening of Recollection

presented by

Bishop Andrzej

Monday, December 16

7:00pm

Holy Name of Mary



In Celebration of the 750th Anniversary of St. Thomas' Death
St. Barnabas the Apostle Church presents
VENERATION OF THE MAJOR RELICS OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Saturday, December 14, 2024
St. Barnabas the Apostle Church
served by the Dominican Friars
2320 Bedford Ave., Bellmore

10AM Votive Mass of St. Thomas Aquinas
Celebrant: His Excellency Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski
Guest Homilist: Fr. Joseph-Mary Hertzog, O.P.
11AM - 12PM Veneration
12PM Preaching-St. Thomas: Theologian & Mystic
12:30PM - 1:30PM Confessions
12:30PM - 3PM Veneration

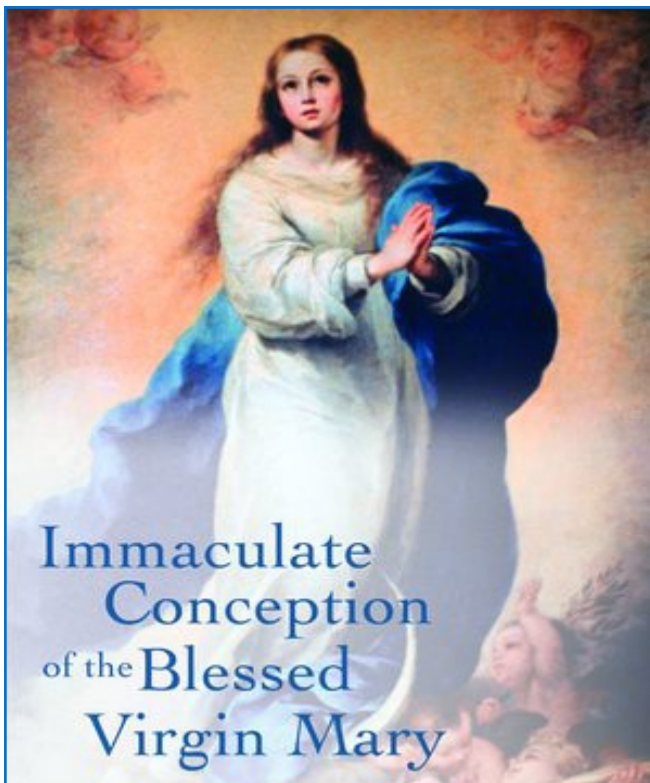
Free will offering will be taken.





All are invited to celebrate
Our Lady of Guadalupe,
 the Patroness of the Americas
at a special Spanish Mass on
Thursday, December 12, at 7:00 PM.

After Mass, join us in the school cafeteria for a joyful celebration of this special feast day.



The **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** will be celebrated on **Monday, December 9, 2024**. This is a Holy Day of Obligation and our Mass schedule for this Feast is the following: Monday, 8:30am, 12:10pm, 7:00pm and 8:00pm in Spanish.

The Parish Office will be closed.

ADVENT

COFFEE with JESUS
and RETREAT

Join Bishop Andrzej
 December 20, 2024
 at 10am
Coffee with Jesus Webinar

December 10 & 12
 at 7:30pm
Online Advent Retreat Reflections

All based on Advent Scripture Readings

To register, please call Suzanne
 516-744-6850 or
 Email westernvicariate@drvc.org.

Once you are registered, you will be sent the ZOOM Webinar information prior to each session of this Advent series.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS PROGRAM

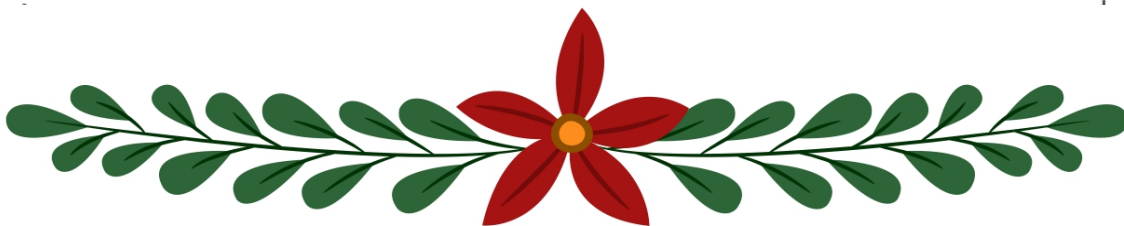
Christmas is just around the corner and the Outreach Staff and volunteers are gearing up for a very busy season. Once again, we will be collecting Gift Cards for people in our parish. Though Gift Cards may not seem very personal, they allow for a safe distribution and our clients will be able to make 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 1, 2024	\$13,530
Faith Direct (average of weekly donation)	\$ 1,883
TOTAL of weekly offering & Faith Direct/Other	\$15,413
Surplus	\$ 1,531

Thank you for your generous support of our parish.

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION

On December 8th, there will be a Diocesan collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little or no pay. Today, religious communities often do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders.

Msgr. Mulligan Memorial



Bread & Wine, Candles, or Flowers

In Loving Memory of Your Loved One!

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



*Sing We Now Of
Christmas!*

*Featuring the Choirs of
Holy Name of Mary*

*Sunday December 15th, 3:00pm
Holy Name of Mary Church*








St. Vincent de Paul Society Thanks You

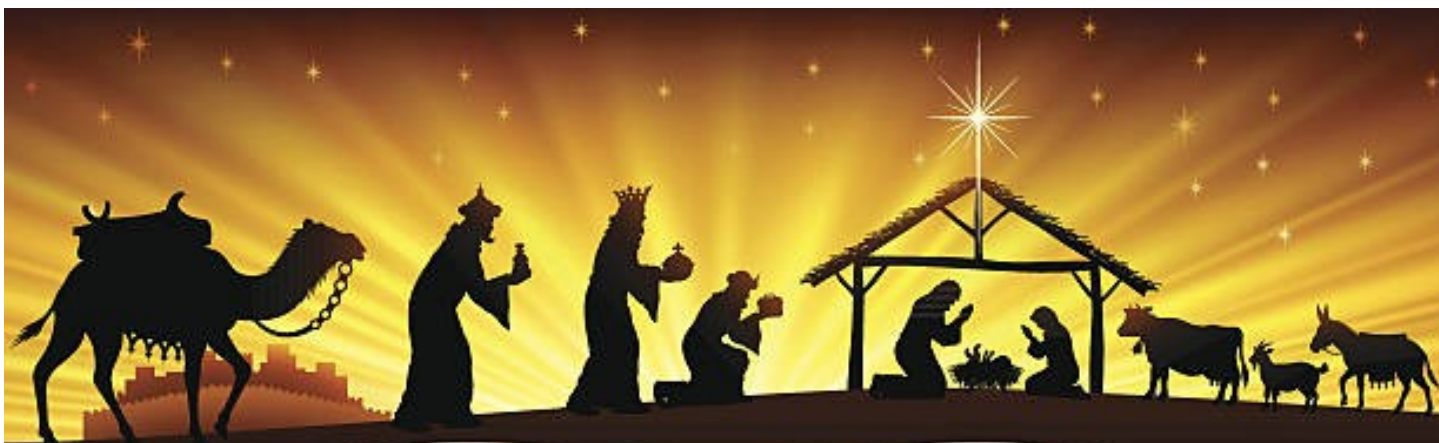


The Society of St. Vincent de Paul offers an abundance of gratitude for all the food donated to our pantry for our Thanksgiving Day distribution. We were able to feed over 100 families with turkeys and all the trimmings. It is through your generosity that helps us provide a happy holiday for people who are suffering by trying to make ends meet. Thank you for all you do for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.



ADVENT CALENDAR 2024

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



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)



Give the gift of a Catholic education this Christmas season!



- ★ Since 2005, more than \$34 million in scholarships provided
- ★ Approximately 25,000 students served
- ★ 35 Catholic elementary schools in network

"We are sincerely grateful, humbled and excited to commence this Catholic education journey with my daughter. Our hopes for her would not be possible if it were not for this award!"

~ THF 24-25 Scholarship Recipient

To make a tax deductible donation, please mail your check to Tomorrow's Hope Foundation II, Inc. at the address below with "Church Bulletin" in the memo OR scan the QR code to donate online:



www.tomorrowshopefoundation.org
 50 Charles Lindbergh Blvd., Suite 500
 Uniondale, NY 11553
 516-745-7611

The mission of Tomorrow's Hope Foundation is to ensure the excellence as well as the continuance of Catholic elementary schools on Long Island by increasing awareness and by providing scholarship and program funding for the needs of students and schools.

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 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, bear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need...

Annie Bottone, Rose Branda, Angela Hope Conroy
 Mark Cowie, Anthony Ippolito, Conchetta Lango
 Alice Lynch, Kevin Lynch, Nial Pace, Jane Pope
 James Ross, Daryl Ruiz, Mary Ryder, Marie Saide
 Mary Lou Shannon, 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.

Sheila M. D'Orsa, Thomas W. Gilhooley
 Tarky Lombardi
 All parishioners who have died in 2024

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.

Eucharistic Minister Schedule

Saturday, December 14, 2024

5:00pm

HOST} M. Garcia, R. Garcia

Sunday, December 15, 2024

7:45am

HOST} J. Peralta, P. Jung

9:00am

HOST} F. Bohorquez, N. Bohorquez

11:00am

HOST} C. Giugliano, A. Calisi



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.



¡Bendito sea el Santísimo Nombre de María!

Mañana es la Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción. Aunque este año es Lunes, siempre es un día de precepto. La razón es que la Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción es la fiesta patronal de los Estados Unidos.

El Jueves 12 de Diciembre es la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Me gustaría agradecer a nuestros feligreses que estarán diseñando los hermosos arreglos florales para la sagrada imagen de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Esto requiere horas de cuidado lleno de amor. Muchas gracias de corazón. La hermosa imagen réplica y elevada de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe será colocada en el santuario para la fiesta y permanecerá hasta el final del Tercer Domingo de Adviento.

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe es mi imagen favorita de nuestra Madre. Evidentemente, este año no se celebra la fiesta de San Juan Diego. La Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción, que normalmente se celebra el 8 de diciembre, se trasladó al 9 de diciembre porque el 8 de diciembre es el Segundo Domingo de Adviento. ¡No se preocupen! San Juan Diego no se molesta en absoluto.

Hace casi 500 años, la Santísima Virgen se apareció a San Juan Diego en un tiempo en que muy pocos nativos se habían convertido. Después de la aparición de la Imagen de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, millones fueron bautizados.

El mayor misionero entre los apóstoles es, sin duda, San Pablo. El mayor misionero fuera de los apóstoles, sin incluir a nuestra Señora, es San Francisco Javier. Fue uno de los primeros jesuitas y bautizó a más de 25,000 personas en diversos países y continentes. Sin embargo, la más grande de todos los tiempos entre los misioneros de Jesucristo es Nuestra Señora.

Si necesitas un milagro para que alguien se convierta o para alguien que está pasando por una tremenda aflicción, acuda a Nuestra Señora, y ella guiará esa alma a su Hijo.

Pax et Bonum.

En Jesús y María,

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 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 la unidad 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 inglés: 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.

EL SORTEO DE LA RIFA DE \$10,000

El sorteo de los ganadores de la rifa de \$10,000 se realizará el 8 de diciembre a las 2:30 p. m. en la cafetería de la escuela. Se servirán bastones de caramelo y dulces, junto con café, té y chocolate caliente. Las canastas de la rifa y una proporción 50/50 ayudarán a compensar los gastos de la rifa. Esperamos felicitar a los ganadores y compartir un poco de amistad familiar en la parroquia. El ganador no necesita estar presente.

COLECCION de RETIRO RELIGIOSO

Su donación al Fondo de Jubilación para Religiosos este fin de semana ayuda a proporcionar medicamentos, atención de enfermería y más a los religiosos mayores. Por favor apoye esta valiosa colecta en nombre de los hombres y mujeres religiosos que han dedicado sus vidas a servirnos.

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).

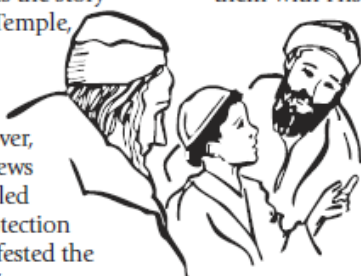
Embrace these practices for a deeper, more joyful Christmas open to God’s love.

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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