
CORRECTION - CHRISTMAS FAIR

We apologize for excluding a contributor to the fair, Perfect Accent. Also the winner of our 50/50 drawing, Sheila Doyle generously donated the monies back to the parish. The fair raised a net profit of \$4014. Thank you to all, who helped make the fair a success.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS

The Christmas "OPLATEK" Wafers are presently available at the rectory. The Oplatek Wafer is part of a beautiful Polish tradition for Christmas and they come with complete information on how to use them. The price is \$3.00 per package.

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE MASS

This weekend envelopes can be placed in the collection baskets or dropped off at the rectory to have your intentions included in the Novena of Masses beginning the evening of December 24th. Envelopes are available in the vestibule.

MASS ATTENDANCE

	Sat. 5p.m.	8a.m.	9:30	11:00	12:30p.m	5p.m.	Total
Nov23rd	334	207	500	430	178	280	1929
Nov30th	326	212	495	300	270	291	1894
Dec. 7th	328	213	521	240	159	356	1817
Dec. 14th	280	217	591	321	231	241	1881

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Anyone wishing to donate for Christmas Flowers to decorate the church may use the envelope provided in your envelope packet. If you do not receive envelopes, there are envelopes available in the church vestibule. Please PRINT the name of the person you wish to have remembered clearly, so that it may be included in the bulletin after Christmas. The envelopes may be placed in any of the collections. A minimum suggested offering is \$20. This will also help to pay for the wreaths and trees purchased and other Christmas flower decorations. Thank you.

ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE

Respect for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death is one of the fundamental Christian traditions embraced by the Catholic Church. Abortion takes the life of an unborn baby in violation of the unborn child's Right to Life. As we prayerfully prepare for the arrival of Our Lord Jesus Christ as infant child, the St. Jude's Respect Life Committee ask the people of our parish to remember all unborn babies in your prayers. Four weeks after Christmas on Thursday, January 22nd, thousands of Long Islanders will travel to Washington D.C. for the 36th Annual March for Life. The parishes of Deanery 12, which includes St. Jude's, are organizing a March for Life bus. Please consider attending the 36th Annual March for Life.

There is a bus departing from the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island, Manorville at 5a.m. and return by 10p.m. A \$10.00 deposit is required to hold a seat.

For more information, please call Bill Doyle at 525-3336 or email stjuderespectlife@gmail.com

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## Advent Wreath

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Each day at home, the candles are lighted, perhaps before the evening meal -- one candle the first week, and then another each succeeding week until December 25th. The rose candle is usually lighted on the third Sunday of Advent. As the candles are lighted, a prayer may be said.

Daily Prayers for Lighting the Advent Wreath

Fourth Week

*O Key of David, Jesus Christ,
the gates of heaven open at your command,
come and show us the way to salvation.*

~~~~~ OUTREACH CHRISTMAS ~~~~~

Christmas will be here before we know it and Outreach is again asking all our parishioners to help stuff stockings and provide a good holiday dinner for the less fortunate in our midst. We would appreciate donations of food, new clothing, gifts, new toys, and supermarket and department store gift certificates for distribution to the needy. If you prefer, individual or specific families can be adopted. Christmas stars will be hung on the tree in the church vestibule. These stars have the ages and gender of the children who will receive the gifts. Please be sure to pick one as you leave today and attach it to the gift you bring. Please leave the gifts and all donations at the Outreach office or in the rear of the Church after Mass. Outreach will NOT be distributing gifts after Dec. 23rd, so please make sure to drop off your gifts by Monday, Dec 22nd. Thank you for all your help.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE FOR 2008

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday, December 24, 12:30P.M. - 1:30PM
Saturday, Dec. 27, 4PM - 4:45 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

4 PM, 5:30 PM, 9:00 PM Spanish Mass
11:15 PM Christmas Vigil with Mass at Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

8 AM (Italian//English)
10:00 AM, 12:00 Noon
No evening Mass Christmas Day

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASSES

Wednesday, December 31
7:30AM, 12 Noon and 5:00 PM Vigil

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES

8:00 AM, 10 AM and 12:00 Noon
No Evening Mass on New Year's Day.

**New Years Day is a Holyday of
Obligation this year because it falls on a Thursday**

Faith Formation

* Christmas Recess-The Faith Formation Office will be closed and there will be no classes beginning Wednesday, December 24 thru Sunday, January 4th. Classes resume on Monday, January 5th, 2009. Theresa, Laura and Chris wish all our parishioners a very blessed holiday season....see you in 2009!

* January 10, 2009, Saturday 11:15am - 4:00pm Confirmation Prep 2 & RCIC2 Upper is their Confirmation retreat. Students will be measured for a Confirmation robe and should bring a sandwich and drink for lunch.

Parents, if you have a confirmation robe and do not need to order one, please notify the office at 281-2835.

RCIA SESSIONS

Our RCIA Sessions are open to all Parishioners. Come join us to learn more about our faith or perhaps as a refresher on the topics we have scheduled for January and February. We meet at the Parish Center on Monday evening at 7:30 PM. Our schedule follows:

Jan. 5: Morality-- Sin and Guilt- A look at Catholic mortality and the Ten Commandments

Jan 12: Morality—Decision making and Controversial Questions

Jan. 26 The Seven Sacraments—What are the Sacraments; focus on Baptism and Confirmation.

Feb. 2 the Eucharist I Meal—The real Presence and the Heart of the Church.

Feb 9 Eucharist II Sacrifice- The Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Feb. 23-Sacrament of Reconciliation- Tips for a better confession; Celebrating Reconciliation; Anointing of the Sick-Who may be anointed and why must I suffer?

Night of Prayer for Priests

WHEN: Monday, January 5, 2009 from 6:30pm-9pm
WHERE: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Chapel, Patchogue
WHAT: Confessions, Holy Mass Eucharistic Adoration, Prayers for Priests. All are welcomed to this special night. For information please call 475-4739

DOMINICAN VILLAGE

INDEPENDENT RETIREMENT COMMUNITY ASSISTED LIVING CARE RESPITE CARE

For more information call at 631-842-6091 or join us for an open house on Jan., 10th or, 25th or February 7th or 12th from 1-3pm.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Do you want to build God a house?

David did. He felt awkward living well in his own place. God gave him a break from his enemies. David could see well enough to count his blessings. Now he felt dumb that the ark of God was in a tent. Yet God tells Nathan to tell David, I don't want a house. I want *you*. I have plans for *you*. It's hard to get our imagination around this image. Of course, the One who creates the universe doesn't need a building. But then, does God need the tent? If we identify with David, something here throws off our expectations, our sense of how to respond.

What have you received that you didn't deserve? We admire saints like Francis and Ignatius, who exchanged their clothes with beggars to identify with the poor. Maybe we've thought of doing something like that. Ever identify with the other person in the story? What does it feel like to be the guy who received the new clothes? We can imagine gratitude was one feeling.

Surprise might be another. How about awkwardness? Why me? Do we know how to be grateful? Are we embarrassed by someone else's generosity?

Take a minute to dig into your memory and recall a gift you received, where all you could do was say thank you. Were you able to give up control of the situation?

The model for how to do this is described in Luke's Gospel. Here is a young woman who was clear sighted enough, and clear-hearted enough, to know she was being offered a gift and responsibility to live an open-ended gratefulness, no matter what God did next. She did not accept the gift blindly; she asked enough questions, and the angel gave her enough answers so she knew what the Giver could do. Then her response was simply, "Here am I let it be with me according to your word" (1:38).

DAN FINUCANE

Suffolk County Mammogram Van

The Suffolk Co Mammogram Van to visit Bellport Outlet #2, Station Rd., Bellport on **Thursday, January 15th 2009.** 9 AM-12PM & 1:15 PM - 2:30PM. Call 852-1300 to make your appointment. Van is staffed by certified medical professionals and is a public service.

From the Pastor

December 21, 2008

Fourth Sunday of Advent/ Christmas Day

“...in the air there’s the feeling of Christmas.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Jude,

As we approach the celebration of our dear Savior’s birth; and indeed, some will be reading this on Christmas Day, it is vitally important that we remember what this feast is really about. The above heading - a line from the song “Silver Bells” - speaks of the “feeling” of Christmas that we search for: beautifully decorated city streets, sidewalks and shops; pretty lights, content children, pristine snowfalls crunching beneath our feet (never turning to dirty slush) – a perfect Christmas town in which everyone is just so wonderfully happy.

At this time of the year, we can long so much for the world of sentimentality – that elusive place which exists in song, story and on screen where everyone is fed and has a lovely Christmas dinner, Santa satisfies every wish list, the Grinch is converted, Tiny Tim is cured, your brother-in-law pays you back the money he owes you, and no tree has a scraggly side that needs to be put against the wall. We want those warm, fuzzy feelings of how we think life should be, but so often is not. I believe it was the author W.H. Auden who said to the effect that, “Christmas is the one day a year when we try to love everyone in our family ---- unsuccessfully.”

If we play into a media version of Christmas (which goes back at least to the Victorian era), we will believe that we have the power, in and of ourselves, to make the ‘Christmas magic’ happen so easily, cozy and blissful, with our family gatherings looking like a Currier and Ives print. (Realistically, it’s a lot of work for Mom.) We know that it really won’t happen as we dream, yet we try so hard to for everything to be just so, because that is how God made us.

Christmas- Christ’s Mass – is about Perfection himself entering our fallen, broken world so that sinful man can be reconciled with God. This year the opportunity is placed again at our feet to accept the Christ Child’s invitation to love; love Him in himself and love Him in our neighbor. We want the Prince of Peace to bring peace to our world and for all mankind to live in harmony. It is much more than mere feelings which pass, but a deep conviction that Jesus Christ is the one who can satisfy the deepest hunger of the human heart and soul and came that we might share in His divine life.

The trappings of Christmas: trees, presents, cards, lights, etc., are great for lifting the spirits. I always enjoy the pretty lights that bring joy to the gloom of winter. These things, though, will not satisfy, but only leave us wanting more, if the reason for the season is not given the homage He is due.

Remember, Jesus wasn’t born in a Holiday Inn, but in a filthy stable, for love of us and for our salvation. Let us return that love by keeping Him at the center of our lives and letting our trappings and preparations flow from Him. If we haven’t been regulars at attending Mass and the sacraments, now is the time to come back. The Infant in the manger reaches out to us. Let us accept His offer that promises much more than good feelings, but the promise of life everlasting. May He find room in the inn that is your heart and mine, and may we share His love with all we meet.

Blessed and Merry Christmas!

-Fr. Greg

Christmas 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

“The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.” These powerful words of John’s Gospel are fulfilled once again for us on this Christmas Day, 2008. In our parishes and around the world, the whole Church comes to worship “in spirit and truth” the Son of God made man, the Son of Mary who “took from His mother our nature but not our fault”. The world rejoices because all humankind now can see the salvation of our God. No one is excluded. All are called to the manger of salvation.

St. Leo the Great teaches us, “Our Savior was born today. Let us be glad. For there is no place for sadness when we keep the birthday of the Life, which destroys the fear of mortality and brings us to the joy of promised eternity. No one is kept from sharing in this happiness. There is for all one common measure of joy because as our Lord the destroyer of sin and death finds none free from charge, so has He come to free us all!”

My prayer for all of you, my brothers and sisters who share this life of Christ with me, is that He will dwell within your hearts with such sweet love that you will always know His joy. My prayer for all our brothers and sisters of every faith and no faith, is that they who are never excluded from God’s loving care, made manifest in the birth of His Son, may know the gift of life and peace that only the life-giving Spirit of God can and does give to those who seek Him “in spirit and in truth”.

In a year of many changes that bring new uncertainties along with promises of hope, you and I are called to be bearers of Christ into the world as was Mary that first Christmas night. You and I are called to show Him to the world, as she did, by our words and deeds, by the witness of our lives. He who is the Prince of Peace teaches us to be peacemakers. He who is meek and humble of heart teaches us to be merciful and kind, to thirst for justice and to accept suffering in imitation of Him who was born in Bethlehem as the Savior of all humankind.

He invites us to become one with him in a world that is wracked by violence and a nation that is searching to find the right path. We must be the people of peace who point to the Son of God as “the way, the truth and the life”. Here on Long Island, may we who welcome Him Who excludes no one be the hearts and the hands to care for the poor in our midst, to welcome the newcomer as our neighbor, to turn our backs on racism and hatred so that we might open our arms to our brothers and sisters of every race, every nation and every people. May we be the ones who rejoice at the birth of this Child born in a manger and insist on the protection of every child in every mother’s womb. And may we give daily witness by our lives of our deep and abiding joy that God has given us the greatest gift of all in the birth of Jesus “whose nature is goodness, whose will is power, whose work is mercy”. (St. Leo the Great)

To all of you with great joy in my heart do I gladly offer you my prayers on this Christmas Day and I extend to you, your families and loved ones my Christmas Blessing in this season and throughout the New Year.



Bishop of Rockville Centre

St. Jude's

*New Year's Eve 2009
Masquerade Ball*

*Wednesday
December 31, 2008
7:30pm*



Parish Center Ball Room

*Menu Catered by
Ladakin's on Mill Pond*

Still only \$45 per person

Raffle tickets \$10.00 each
Prizes to win \$1,000,
a Hi-definition TV, or a handheld GPS
navigation system

Tickets available after all Masses

Masquerade Masks are available for purchase
After 9:30 & 11:00 Mass
Price range \$5.00 to \$9.00

Tickets and raffles can also be purchased at
Roma Funeral Home, the Rectory or at www.StJudeMB.org

