

89 OVERLOOK DRIVE
MASTIC BEACH, NY 11951
PHONE: 631-281-5743

Roman Catholic
Shrine Church of
St. Jude

WWW.STJUDEMB.ORG
RECTORY@STJUDEMB.ORG
FAX: 631-395-5786

“To the Greater Glory of God and the Salvation of Souls.”



Celebration of the Eucharist

SATURDAY EVENINGS
5:00pm Vigil Mass
7:30pm Spanish Mass
SUNDAY
8:00am English & Italian
9:30am Children's Choir
11:30am Adult Choir
5:00pm Youth Mass
MONDAY, TUESDAY,
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY
9:00am Mass
WEDNESDAY
9:00am Mass
Noon Mass
SATURDAY
8:30am Mass
HOLY DAYS AS
ANNOUNCED.

First Sunday of Advent - December 2nd 2012

Pastor
Rev. Gregory Yacyshyn

In Residence
Msgr. John Heinlein

Senior Priest
Rev. James Leone

Parish Office Hours

MONDAY, TUESDAY, &
THURSDAY
9:00am-5:00pm
WEDNESDAYS
9:00am-6:00pm
FRIDAYS
CLOSED
SATURDAYS
CLOSED
SUNDAYS
9:00am-12:00pm
CLOSED HOLIDAYS

Deacons
Thomas Gillen
Kenneth Geoghan
Mark Herrmann
Joseph Simeone

Useful Numbers

RECTORY
1-631-281-5743
PARISH OUTREACH
1-631-281-5634
RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION
1-631-281-2835
YOUTH MINISTRY
1-631-281-5743
NURSERY SCHOOL
1-631-395-3959
QUEEN OF APOSTLES
SCHOOL
1-631-878-1033
ST. VINCENT DEPAUL
1-631-219-3542

**Sacrament of
Anointing of
the Sick**
Available in danger of
death or whenever
there is a personal
need, call the rectory
for an appointment.

**Sacrament
of Penance/
Confession**
SATURDAYS
4:00-4:45pm
WEDNESDAYS
2:00-2:45pm
Also by appointment.

Parish Outreach
MON., - THURS.
9:00am-1:00pm
LAST MON. OF MONTH
5:00-7:00pm
CLOSED FRI., SAT., SUN.
& HOLIDAYS

**Sacrament of
Marriage**
Couples wishing to be
married should contact
the rectory at least one
year in advance to meet
with one of the priests
to make wedding
arrangements.
Pre-Cana is required
for all couples.

**Sacrament of
Baptism**
Celebrated on most
Sundays throughout
the year. Please contact
the rectory to set up
an appointment with
a member of the staff
to arrange for the
Baptismal preparation
session and to set a
date for Baptism.

Devotions

MIRACULOUS MEDAL
NOVENA
Mondays after the
9:00am Mass
ST. JUDE NOVENA
Thursdays after the
9:00am Mass
ADORATION OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT
Wednesdays
12:30pm-1:00pm
Benediction at 1:00pm
FIRST FRIDAY
8:00pm-9:00pm
Benediction at 9:00pm
THE HOLY ROSARY
Monday through Friday
at 8:30am; Saturdays
at 8:00am

Masses for the Week

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2012

5:00pm Parishioners of St. Jude

7:30pm Pedro Fortier & Aurelio Santiago †

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2012

8:00am Elizabeth Delprincipe †

9:30am Mary Agnes Stock †

11:30am Columbiettes †

5:00pm Chris Zaragoza †

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2012

9:00am Dorothy Boscarello †

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2012

9:00am Stephen Maroni †

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2012

9:00am Saint Jude Guild:

Marie Emmerich †, Kathleen

Ambrosio †, Alice Kehoe †,

Lorraine Borelli †, Intentions of

Banasiak Family Marie Emmerick †

12:00pm Patricia Ann Harrington †

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2012

9:00am James F. Andrews †

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2012

9:00am Anthony Urizzo †

7:30pm Ron Bona †

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2012

8:30am Parishioners of St. Jude

10:30am Delia Garvey †

5:00pm Maria Keller †

7:30pm Parishioners of St. Jude

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2012

8:00am Parishioners of St. Jude

9:30am Christine Suydam †

11:30am Mildred Pender †

5:00pm Carmen Pitaro †

† Denotes Mass is for deceased

FOR THE SICK: Lynn Allen, Nancy Bellissimo, Eileen Boyce, Domenico Buffa, John Cole, Anna Calendrillo, Anna Campagna, Danica Denning, JoAnn Dillman, Baby Elizah, Nora Getchell, Frances Gibilarco, Steve Heerbrandt, Jeffery Hughes, Dennis Knapp, Cookie Landau, Megan Malone, Carmela Quigley, Pakee Ristine, Eugene & Frank Russo, Joseph Stellato, Baby Stergios, Jennifer Tana, Richard Thomas, Catherine Timlin, Eileen Vincench

FOR THE DECEASED: Steven Landau, Katherine F. Parisi, Lisa Marie Caldeira, Heriberto Soto Sr., William O'Sullivan, Jasmin Maria Gonzalez, Rita Mary Nelson

FOR THE MILITARY: John Abel, Matt Corica, Joseph Competello, Michael Cuervo, Kenneth Drumm, Jr., Daniel Edwards, Daniel Engo, Kyle Christopher Gray, Michael Hickey, Jeffrey Holmes, Steven Kay, Richard Kruger, Chris Manakides, John Maresca, Richard McLaughlin Joe Occhineri, Anthony Ochoa Jr., Katherine M. Onorato, Ramon Ortiz, Matthew Parenti, Rich Pinckney, Tory Pinckney, Gerard Posillico, John Redding, Jr., Eric Reilly, Vinnie Riveria, Randy Sanchez, Steven Schloesser, Carl Seaman, Don Skelton, Arlise A. Smith, Bobby Sosa, Timothy Weisner

Christmas Schedule

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16th

“Special Visitor” at the 9:30AM Mass!

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday, December 12th, 2–2:45PM

Saturday, December 15th, Noon–1PM

Saturday, December 15th, 4–4:45PM

Wednesday, December 19th, 2–2:45PM

Friday, December 21st, Noon–2PM

Saturday, December 22nd, Noon–1, 4–4:45pm

PENANCE SERVICE WITH CONFESSIONS

Monday, December 17th at 8PM

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES - Monday

SATURDAY: 4PM, 6PM & 7:30PM Spanish Mass

9:15PM Christmas Carols with Mass at 10PM***

Please Note Time Change

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES - Tuesday

SUNDAY: 9AM & 11:30AM

Please Note Times

NO evening Mass Christmas Day

NEW YEARS EVE MASS - Monday

5PM Vigil Mass & 7:30PM Spanish Mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS - Tuesday

8AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM

New Years Day there is no evening Mass.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6TH – EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Children's Pageant at the 9:30AM Mass

Important Parish News

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: Saturday, December 8th is the ‘Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary’ it is a Holy Day of Obligation. All Catholics are bound to attend Mass on that day. The Mass schedule is Friday, December 7th at 7:30PM for the Vigil Mass and Saturday, December 8th at 8:30AM & 10:30AM.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS: Once again, all children of the parish and their families are invited to gather for the Family Mass on December 16th at 9:30AM. We celebrate Mass and the children will receive a special treat!

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: (Confession) is offered on Wednesdays from 2-2:45PM, Saturdays from 4-4:45PM and during Advent from Noon–1PM on Saturdays.

First Friday

First Friday is December 7th. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 8:30PM (after Vigil Mass) and concludes with Benediction at 9:30PM. We encourage all our parishioners to participate in the Hour of Adoration.

Christmas Wafers-Oplatek

The price is \$3 per package. The Christmas “Oplatek” Wafers are available at the rectory. The Oplatek Wafers is part of a beautiful Polish tradition at Christmas and they come with complete information on how to use them.



aranatha!

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the central mystery of the Christian faith, was celebrated by the Apostles and the first Christians every Sunday from the very beginning of the Church. We can read about the earliest commemoration of the Lord's Day right in Sacred Scripture; particularly in the Acts of the Apostles and the epistles of St. Paul. It is very clear. However, the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord – Christmas ("Christ's Mass") – is another story.

It cannot be determined with any degree of certainty when the celebration of Advent was first introduced into the Church. The preparation for the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord was not held before the feast itself existed, and of this we find no evidence before the end of the fourth century, when, according to Duchesne [Christian Worship (London, 1904), 260], it was celebrated throughout the whole Church; by some on 25 December, by others on 6 January. There are some homilies extant, among them there is one of St. Caesarius, Bishop of Arles (502-542), in which we find mention of a preparation before the birthday of Christ; still, to judge from the context, no general law on the matter seems then to have been in existence.

According to our present usage, Advent (Latin *ad-venio*, to come to) is a period beginning with the Sunday nearest to the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (30 November) and embracing four Sundays. The first Sunday may be as early as 27 November, and then Advent has twenty-eight days, or as late as 3 December, giving the season only twenty-one days. The popular idea that the four weeks of Advent symbolize the thousands of years of darkness in which the world was enveloped before the coming of Christ finds no specific confirmation in the Liturgy itself; but that the Liturgy projects the longing of the people of God for the promised Messiah to save us from the darkness of our sins can be of no doubt. As Cardinal Wiseman (1802-1865) says:

We are not dryly exhorted to profit by that blessed event, but we are daily made to sigh with the Fathers of old, "Send down the dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the Just One: let the earth be opened, and bud forth the Redeemer." The Collects on three of the four Sundays of that season begin with the words, "Lord, raise up thy power and come" – as though we feared our iniquities would prevent His being born.

With Advent the ecclesiastical year begins in the Western churches. During this time the faithful are admonished

- to prepare themselves worthily to celebrate the anniversary of the Lord's coming into the world as the incarnate God of love,
- thus to make their souls fitting abodes for the Redeemer coming in Holy Communion and through grace, and
- thereby to make themselves ready for His final coming as judge, at death and at the end of the world.

The official liturgical color for the season is violet (ideally a bluer purple in Advent, as opposed to the redder, or *roman purple* of Lent). An exception is made for the third Sunday (*Gaudete Sunday*), on which the vestments may be rose-colored or richer violet ones. Pope Innocent III (1198-1216) states that black was the color to be used during Advent, but violet had already come into use for this season by the end of the thirteenth century.

A term used by early Christians and so appropriate during Advent is **Maranatha** (either אֲתָא מָרַן: *maranâthâ'* or מָרַן אֲתָא: *maran 'athâ'*), which is an Aramaic word occurring twice in the New Testament (see *Aramaic of Jesus*) and also in the *Didache*, which is part of the Apostolic Fathers' collection. It is transliterated into Greek letters rather than translated, and is found at the end of Saint Paul's *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1 Cor 16:22). The NRSV translates it as: "Our Lord, come!" but notes that it could also be translated as: "Our Lord has come"; the NIV translates: "Come, O Lord"; the NAB notes:

As understood here ("O Lord, come!"), it is a prayer for the early return of Christ. If the Aramaic words are divided differently (Maran atha, "Our Lord has come"), it becomes a credal declaration. The former interpretation is supported by what appears to be a Greek equivalent of this acclamation in Book of Revelation 22:20 "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"

At certain times in the past *Maranatha* (or its Latin or vernacular equivalent) was used as an acclamation during Mass immediately after the Consecration; in the place in the *Roman Missal* where we currently employ one of three acclamations that follow the priest's saying or singing, "The mystery of faith." This could mean that we are both acknowledging our Lord's real Presence in the Eucharist, and also praying for His second coming in glory. And so we make this prayer our own in the hope that one day, we too shall joyfully behold our blessed Lord face-to-face.

Happy Advent!

Fr. Greg

Faith Formation

LEVEL 1: Parent Meeting scheduled for December 12th has been cancelled. The next meeting is February 27th at 8PM in the parish center main hall.

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS: To view a DVD presentation about Morality, you must have had a permission slip signed by your parent and returned to the 'Faith Formation Office' by November 28th. There are many unsigned. Parents, please come into the office during business hours to fill out a permission slip.

CONFIRMATION PREP 1 & 2 AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: Advent confession cards have been distributed. Please take your card with you in the confessional, have the priest sign it and then return it to the 'Faith Formation Office' so your attendance will be recorded. Confessions are every Saturday from Noon-1PM during Advent and from 4-4:45PM the rest of the year. Slips due back week of January 5th.

HOME STUDY PARENT MEETING On December 13 for Levels 1-6 at 7PM in the parish center main hall. Please come with your questions and concerns.

St. Vincent de Paul

As we begin Advent we are called to "await" in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives. Wherever you live in our parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell. Your gift to 'St. Vincent de Paul' will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God's love this Christmas.

Lighthouse Catholic Featured CD

DON'T JUST TRY... TRAIN! — BY MATTHEW KELLY Sometimes in a moment of inspiration we resolve to run a spiritual marathon. We go out and try our hardest, but we fail and become discouraged. We are capable of almost anything we approach with the "little-by-little" attitude. In this audio program, Matthew Kelly emphasizes the importance of spiritual training and places it in the context of our everyday lives.

Outreach Online

Outreach can now accept online donations by way of **WWW.GOFUNDME.COM/STJUDEOUTREACH**.

Outreach Christmas

Christmas will be here before you know it, Outreach is again asking all our parishioners to help stuff stockings and provide a good holiday dinner for those in our community. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE PERISHABLE ITEMS IN OUTREACH FOOD BASKET IN THE CHURCH. We would greatly appreciate donations of food, new clothing, new toys, and supermarket and department store gift cards. Please take a star from our "Giving Tree" in the Church vestibule, and return your gift not wrapped (you may include wrapping paper separately) by Wednesday, December 12th, as we will be distributing December 15th.

Long Island Catholic Collection

The collection for 'Long Island Catholic' subscription is this weekend December 1st & 2nd. Continuing a 50- year tradition of excellence in Catholic journalism, the new 'Long Island Catholic' is mailed 10 times per year. In order to receive the new magazine, a minimum contribution of \$20 is required. Contributions of less than \$20 will not entitle one to receive a magazine but are most welcome to help 'The Long Island Catholic' to continue its mission. Thank you. Please fill in the required information and place your donation envelope in the parish collection basket or mail the envelope to: Long Island Catholic/P.O. Box 9000/Roosevelt, NY/ 11575-9000.

Christians of the Holy Land

Next weekend, Saturday, December 8th and Sunday, December 9th the 'Christians of the Holy Land' will visit us once again to sell their olive wood hand carvings from the Holy Land. Our work is to raise awareness amongst the faithful, about the Christian character of the Holy Land, and it's two components: (i) the living presence Christian Palestinians (ii) the mystical locations of Jesus. We put a positive spin on our existence. No second collection is taken. Instead we make available an assortment of religious items from the Holy Land. Money raised is for our work, the artisans in the Holy Land and our local Christian TV station there! Please note, we comply with all federal and state laws for our work, including the state of New York.

Rosary Altar Society

Our Christmas party (Members Only) will be held next Monday, December 3rd at 7:45PM in the main hall of the parish center. We will be having "covered dish" so we are asking Rosarians to contact one of the Rosarian officers to let us know what your contribution will be. We will also be holding a "grab bag" if you wish to participate the minimum price is \$10 (new item). Also, please bring a canned good to donate to our "Adopt-A-Family" food basket. NOTE: DO NOT forget that religious classes will be in session. Party goers will be allowed in AFTER classes are dismissed.

Christmas Tree Lighting

We will have our 'Annual Christmas Tree Lighting' sponsored by the 'J.V. Kavanaugh Council of the Knights of Columbus' on Tuesday, December 4th at 6PM in front of the Parish Center. All parishioners and our friends in the community are invited to attend in keeping Christ in Christmas. All are welcome for light refreshment in the parish center immediately following.

Christmas Flowers

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

Blood Drive & Hurricane Sandy Relief

On Thursday, December 13th from 3-9PM at the 'J.V. Kavanaugh Council Hall' located at 176 Madison Street in Mastic. Blood donors are needed to help replenish our community blood supply. All blood donors will receive a free pasta dinner, sponsored by the 'J.V. Kavanaugh Council'. For any questions please contact kavcolumbiettepati@yahoo.com. Blood donor eligibility criteria: You must have a valid picture ID, Minimum weight 110lbs, Between 16 (with parental permission) and 75 years of age. For more information regarding medical please call 1-800-688-0900.

Christmas Show

Father Charles and Laurie Mangano will present a spirit-filled Christmas benefit show entitled *"The Heart of Christmas"* this Thursday, December 6th at 'The Theatre at Westbury' at 7PM. The proceeds of this show will benefit 'A Mental Health Residential Program for Children' under the auspices of 'Catholic Charities'. The show will feature the June Claire Dancers, the Diocesan Men and Boys Choir of Rockville Centre and Creative Ministries. Tickets are \$75/\$65 per person. Please call Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000 or Myrtha at 631-337-1804 or visit the 'Cure' of Ars' Rectory located at 2323 Merrick Ave in Merrick on Wednesday's from 10AM-1PM & 5-7PM for tickets and more details.

McGann-Mercy Theatre Company

This week, December 6th through the 8th, the 'McGann-Mercy Theatre Company' will present its adaptation of the Pulitzer Prize winning dramatic comedy, *You Can't Take it With You*. On Thursday, December 6th at 7:30PM; Friday, December 7th at 8PM; Saturday, December 8th at 2PM & 7:30PM in the 'McGann-Mercy High School Auditorium'. Tickets are \$8 per ticket and can be purchased at the door. Take some time for yourself, relax and enjoy the show! For more information, contact 631.727.5900, ext. 10.

Irish Christmas Show

On Saturday, December 15th at 2PM, Andy Cooney's *"Classic Irish Christmas Show"* to benefit 'Hope House Ministries' will be held at 'St. Joseph's College' in Patchogue. Andy and his band will be joined by *"America's Irish Colleen"* Deidre Reilly, 'The Darrah Carr Dance Troupe' and Emcee Mike McCormack. Reserved seat admission tickets are \$35 per person, and may be purchased through 'Hope House Ministries.' If any further information is needed, please contact the event coordinator, Janet Brennan at 631-928-2377 ext 22.

McGann-Mercy Christmas Raffle & Chinese Auction!

On Sunday, December 16th, 'McGann-Mercy' will be holding its Annual Christmas Raffle and Chinese Auction between 2-5PM at the 'McGann-Mercy High School Auditorium'. Be part of this exciting event and take a chance in the Christmas raffle and try to be one of ten winners, including the grand prize winner of \$20,000! In addition, over 100 fabulous gift baskets and gift certificates, generously donated by Mercy families and local merchants, make up our Chinese Auction. For more information on the event or to purchase a Holiday Raffle, please call the Development Office at 631.727.5900, ext. 34 or go to our website www.mcgann-mercydhs.org.

Remembrance Envelopes

The Christmas Remembrance Envelopes for the Christmas Novena Masses is included in your weekly mailed envelope packet. Extra envelopes are available in the back of the Church. The Novena of Masses begins December 24th. Please remember to get your intention envelopes in early to have your loved ones remembered.

Franciscan Friar of the Renewal

Fr. Anthony Baetzold, CFR and 'Capuchin Franciscan Friars', Fr. Michael Marigliano, OFM Cap. And Fr. Michael Sevigny OFM Cap. Will be leading several upcoming spring and fall pilgrimages to Holy sites around the world: "Footsteps of John Paul II-Poland/Prague", "Franciscan Italy", "Great Women of Faith" -Paris/Lourdes/Lisieux, "Paris/Lisieux Retreat", "Holy Land-The Living Rosary", "Medugorje-Journey to Peace", "Fatima" & "World Youth Day" Madrid and Fatima. Proceeds benefit the work of the Franciscans. For more information contact 'Franciscan Spirit Tours' toll free at 800-631-1128 or info@FranciscanSpiritTours.com. Mention you were referred by the bulletin and the parish will receive a contribution.

Mass Attendance

	SATURDAY		SUNDAY			Total	
	5pm	7:30	8am	9:30	11:30		
Nov. 4	302	135	203	396	465	176	1677
Nov. 11	341	120	244	334	400	210	1649
Nov. 18	355	175	205	365	540	245	1885
Nov. 25	297	155	217	327	445	250	1691

Weekly Collections

November 18th	\$9,801.55
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	\$1,237.00
Thanksgiving — St. Vincent de Paul	\$1,817.00
November 25th	\$9,869.58

Catholic Ministries Appeal

2012 Goal	\$56,200.00
Pledges as of 11/27/12	\$64,330.00
Number of Donors	204
Payments as of 11/27/12	\$59,310.00
We have reached goal! Thank you to all who gave.	

Scripture Readings

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2012 *Saint Francis*
Xavier, Priest IS 2:1-5/MT 8:5-11

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2012 *Advent Weekday*
IS 11:1-10/LK 10:21-24

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2012 *Advent Weekday* IS 25:6-10A/MT 15:29-37

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2012 *Advent Weekday* IS 26:1-6/MT 7:21, 24-27

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2012 *Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*
IS 29:17-24/MT 9:27-31

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2012 *The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, white Patronal Feastday of the United States of America*
GN 3:9-15, 20/EPH 1:3-6, 11-12/LK 1:26-38

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2012 *Second Sunday of Advent* BAR 5:1-9/PHIL 1:4-6, 8-11/LK 3:1-6

Altar Bread and Wine

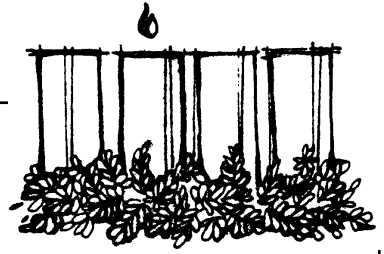
The altar bread and wine for the week of December 3rd is donated:

In loving memory of Emilo & Marie Lunghi

Wedding Banns

III. Richard Hope Jr./Jenna Schnick

I. & II. John Intrieri/Gina Esposito



The Advent Wreath

A Rite for the Beginning of Advent at Home

THE FIRST DAY THE WREATH IS IN THE HOME, THE LEADER MAY SAY: "As our nights grow longer and our days grow short, we look on these earthly signs—light and green branches—and remember God's promise to our world: Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come. Listen to the words of Isaiah the prophet: *The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land as dark as death a light has dawned. You have increased their joy and given them gladness; They rejoice in your presence as those who rejoice at harvest, as warriors exult when dividing spoil.*" —Is. 9:1-2

THEN ALL PRAY: "O God, rejoicing, we remember the promise of your Son. As the light from this candle, may the bless of Christ come upon us, brightening our way and guiding us by his truth. May Christ our Savior bring life into the darkness of our world, and to us, as we wait for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen"

Then the first candle is lit.

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

Daily Prayers for Lighting the Advent Wreath

FIRST WEEK: O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, desire of every nation, Savior of all peoples, come and dwell among us.

What do Advent wreath candles signify?

Most Advent wreaths have three purple candles and one rose to echo the liturgical colors of the Church's Advent celebrations. Whether the wreath is being used at home or in a church, the lighting of the candles should follow the pattern established by the Sundays of Advent.

Just as the vestments at Mass are purple during the first two weeks of Advent, the

first two candles of the wreath to be lit (one for each week) should be purple. On the third Sunday of Advent, the Church celebrates Gaudete Sunday or Rejoice Sunday, named after the first word of the day's traditional entrance verse (Philippians 4:4-5). The priest wears rose vestments at Mass as a sign of our brightening hope and joy. At that point, at home or at church, we light the rose candle in our wreath to reflect the action in the liturgy. The fourth week of Advent sees the lighting of the last purple candle.

Some churches and families have begun to add a fifth candle to their Advent practices, placing a white candle in the center of their wreath. They light this at Christmas, again echoing the Church's liturgical color for the season and rejoicing in Christ our Lord, whose birth brings light and our life to our world.

We Wait For Jesus Christ our Lord!

dear Padre

December 2, 2012

Does the United States have a patron saint?

I was just reading that Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patron saint of Mexico. Who is the patron saint of the United States?

Erin

Dear Erin,

In 1846 the bishops of the United States decreed that the Blessed Virgin Mary conceived without sin would be the patron of the United States. That decision was approved by Pope Pius IX in 1847. The move by the American bishops was somewhat prophetic, because it predated Pope Pius's 1854 declaration of the Immaculate Conception as an infallible teaching.

Unlike the Solemnities of Mary the Holy Mother of God (January 1), Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15), and All Saints (November 1), the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception remains a holy day of obligation even when it falls on a Monday or Saturday.

This year the Immaculate Conception, which is celebrated on December 8, falls on a Saturday. Saturday-evening Masses that include the Sunday readings don't "count" as Saturday Masses, so attending normal Saturday-evening Mass does not meet your obligation for our nation's patronal feast day.

Therefore, next week you'll need to adjust your schedule to include a daytime Mass on Saturday, and if you can't attend Mass on Sunday you'll need to go back for Saturday-evening Mass.

Fr. Matthew Allman, CSsR
sundaybulletins@liguori.org

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Roman Catholic Church
of
St. Jude

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CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

485950: St. Jude R.C. Church
89 Overlook Drive
Mastic Beach, NY 11951

PHONE

631-772-4611 - Designer Maureen Getchell
631-281-5743 - Rectory ask for Cynthia Lacey

CONTACT PERSON

MJ Kress

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

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