

**COVER SHEET**

CHURCH NAME: **ST. CECELIA CHURCH**

BULLETIN NUMBER: 511586.Dec19

BULLETIN FOR WEEK OF: **December 19, 2004**

NUMBER OF PAGES TRANSMITTED: **6**

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: **Special cover: Holiday Mass Schedule  
4-page (!!!) Insert: Christmas flower list**

CONTACT: **STEPHANIE: 732-283-2300**

**WELCOME!** You are invited to become a part of our parish family and an active member of parish life.

**REGISTRATION**

To enable us to better serve you, all parishioners are asked to register at the Parish Office. Family members over the age of 18 should register as individuals. To receive a letter of recommendation or a character reference you should be registered for at least three months.

**CHURCH ETIQUETTE**

Please remember to put all pagers and cell phones on **SILENT ALERT** before Mass begins. Please be sure to extinguish all cigarettes and use the ashtrays on either side of the plaza. Smoking is not permitted in the church.

**THANK YOU!**

**MEMORIALS**

The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** may be lighted for a week at a time in memory of a loved one or for a special intention. The **EUCCHARISTIC BREAD & WINE** may be provided for a week at a time in memory of a loved one or for a special intention. Please call the parish office for more information.

“Whatever you do, do from the heart, as for the Lord... knowing that you will receive from the Lord the due payment.”

**Sick Relatives and Friends...**

Helen Lanigan, John Ryan, John Carroll, John Wortman, Imelda Manalo, Victoria Stewart; Beth Kreckman, Terrance Stephen, Harold Speakman, Dorothy Glenn, Ann Marie Siwick, Mary Louise Bogert, Clara Suarez, Dr. Barbara Wheeler, Milly Margetis, John Boyle, Michael David McMahon, William Boley, Janet Schutt, Rose Gentile, Robert Baljak, John Farley, Karen Zaborny, Mary Ann Osmulski, Linda Obertz, Jean Barry, and all those in hospitals, sick at home and in nursing homes; may they always be assured of our prayers.

*Names may be placed on this list for a four-week period and will be removed after that time unless a call is received to request a continuation. Please keep in mind that we pray for all the sick every day in the General Intercessions of the Mass.*



**K of C COUNCIL 3639 CELEBRATES NEW YEAR'S EVE** with a bus trip to Caesar's in Atlantic City. \$32 per person includes a cocktail party at the Knights Hall at 5 PM, and the bus will leave at 6 PM sharp from the K of C parking lot. For more information call Bill Schmatz, 732-225-2078.

**J4F ADULT GROUP:** On behalf of the group, we wish all the members of our Parish family a very warm and merry Christmas. May God pour out his love to you and through you this Christmas. Our activities resume in January. Thank you to all members for a spectacular year and God bless you ~ Denise Valdes.

**GOLDEN KNIGHTS NEWS**

**ANNUAL DO-WOP NIGHT:** Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, from 7 PM to midnight in Lourdes Hall. \$27.50 per person includes buffet, beer, soda, set-ups (BYOB) and music by Jersey Gold. Tickets go on sale January 4<sup>th</sup> and will then be available Tuesday and Friday nights at St. Cecelia School gym from 7-9 PM. Contact Rich McLellan at 732-382-9106.

**YOUTH GROUP:** The youth group is concentrating on the spirit of Advent and Christmas while on retreat this weekend. Our theme is “Gifts in the Spirit” and our goal is to focus upon how we are gifts to one another in the spirit of Christ. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to be magical in his presence. Our next meeting is January 9, 2005. Anyone with questions regarding the ski trip is urged to call the youth ministry office as soon as possible. Merry Christmas.

**YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:** Hi, Gang! Let me welcome home those of you who are back from college; please stop in and say hello when you get a chance. Everyone should have received a letter with the new young adult ministry schedule. If you have not, please call me with your new address. Let me remind you that we are meeting at *Pizzeria Uno* on Route 1 South (between Woodbridge and Menlo Park Malls) on Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 8:30 PM. Merry Christmas.



**IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE...**

Let us remember all our departed brothers and sisters, especially *Vera E. Payesko*, asking God through our prayers to reward them as only He can with Light, Happiness and Eternal Peace.

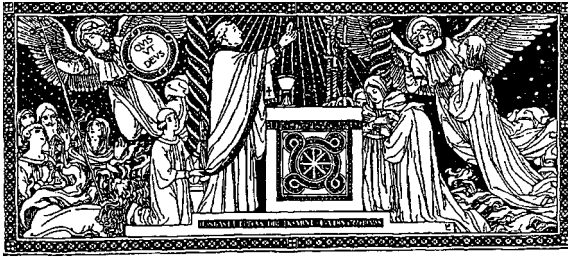


The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, after the 9:15 AM Mass. Benediction will be at 7 PM

**Nocturnal Adoration** is on **First Fridays** from 8 to 9 PM.

**Advent Spiritual Development**

Father Jay's three-week Advent scripture study of the Nativity Narratives concluded last Tuesday night with a discussion of the Gospel of Luke and one final evening of food and fellowship before Christmas! Many thanks to all who brought such a wonderful variety and abundance of foods to share each and every week, and to those who stepped forward to lend a hand “behind the scenes” getting things ready and cleaning up afterward - especially all those great guys who willingly took on KP detail! The free-will offerings collected totaled \$145 and have been given to Sister Joan Marie for use in the Social Concerns Ministry.



## MASS INTENTIONS

**MONDAY, December 20th: Late Advent Weekday**

- 7:00 AM Intentions of Evelyn Zember  
req Norman & Marie  
9:15 AM John Guthlein req Wife  
\*1:00 PM Richard Campbell req Marie Campbell

**TUESDAY, December 21st: St. Peter Canisius**

- 7:00 AM Sharon Iorillo req Family  
9:15 AM Joseph La Rouche req M/M R. La Rouche

**WEDNESDAY, December 22nd: Late Advent Weekday**

- 7:00 AM James Weeks req Weeks Family  
9:15 AM Alfred B. Weber req Wife

**THURSDAY, December 23rd: St. John of Kanty**

- 7:00 AM Rose D'Angelo req Family  
9:15 AM Bertha Wonski req M/M Michael Wonski

**FRIDAY, December 24th: Late Advent Weekday**

- 7:00 AM NO MASS  
9:15 AM Agnes Teehan req Patrick & Family  
\*\* 2:00 PM NO MASS

### VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS

- 4:00 PM Intentions of the Celebrant  
5:30 PM Intentions of the Celebrant  
(11:30 PM Lessons & Carols; Las Posadas)  
Midnight Intentions of the Celebrant

**SATURDAY, December 25th:  
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

- 8:00 AM NO MASS  
8:30 AM Intentions of the Celebrant  
\*8:45 AM Intentions of the Celebrant  
10:00 AM Intentions of the Celebrant  
\*\*10:30 AM Intentions of the Celebrant  
11:30 AM Intentions of the Celebrant  
4:30 PM NO MASS

**SUNDAY, December 26th:**

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, & JOSEPH**

- 7:00 AM Living & Deceased Members of the Parish  
8:30 AM Helen Messina req Philip Messina  
10:00 AM John Ferullo req Wife Ann  
11:30 AM Frank Sherman, Sr., req Wife Catherine  
5:00 PM Frank Mackie req Family

\*MASS CELEBRATED AT VETERANS HOME

\*\*MASS CELEBRATED AT ROOSEVELT CARE CENTER

### NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE:

**VETERANS HOME: Monday, December 27th**

1:00 PM NO MASS

**ROOSEVELT CARE CENTER: Friday, December 31st**

2:00 PM NO MASS



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** will burn this week  
**IN MEMORY OF NICHOLAS & CHRISTINE LYKIN**  
requested by Family



The **EUCCHARISTIC BREAD & WINE** this week is  
**IN MEMORY OF**  
**M/M FRANCOIS ETIENNE JEANNOUTE**  
requested by Paula Beuns

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zeph 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

Friday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79

Saturday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89;

Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14; Ps 128 ;

Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



Last Sunday our faithful stewards gave: \$13,641.95

*Last year at this time: \$13,786.00*

Retirement Fund for Religious: \$3,158.24

*Last year: \$3,954.00*

Young People's envelopes (December 8<sup>th</sup>): \$26.75

Young People's envelopes (December 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>): \$254.32

Bishop's Annual Appeal (to 12/10/04): \$71,844.37

This is 74.22% of our goal.

*"Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works,  
to be generous, ready to share"(1 Tim 6:17-19).*

## Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Have you noticed the tropes that our cantor has used for the *Lamb of God* litany during Advent? *Emmanuel, Wisdom from on high; Rod of Jesse's stem, etc...* they are based on the "O Antiphons", the seven antiphons that are recited (or chanted) preceding the *Magnificat* during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours and which are mentioned as early as the fifth century. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, December 17<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>. The importance of "O Antiphons" is twofold: Each one highlights a title for the Messiah: *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom), *O Adonai* (O Lord), *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse), *O Clavis David* (O Key of David), *O Oriens* (O Rising Sun), *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations), and *O Emmanuel*. Also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah.

***O Sapientia (Wisdom from on high):*** "O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation." Isaiah had prophesied, "The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord." (11:2-3), and "Wonderful is His counsel and great is His wisdom." (28:29).

***O Adonai (Great Lord of might):*** "O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free." Isaiah had prophesied, "But He shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips." (11:4-5); and "Indeed the Lord will be there with us, majestic; yes the Lord our judge, the Lord our lawgiver, the Lord our king, he it is who will save us." (33:22).

***O Radix Jesse (Rod of Jesse's stem):*** "O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid." Isaiah had prophesied, "But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom." (11:1), and "On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious." (11:10). Remember also that Jesse was the father of King David, and Micah had prophesied that the Messiah would be of the house and lineage of David and be born in David's city, Bethlehem (Micah 5:1).

***O Clavis David (Key of David):*** "O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of Heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom." Isaiah had prophesied, "I will place the Key of the House of David on His shoulder; when he opens, no one will shut, when he shuts, no one will open." (22:22), and "His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over His kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever." (9:6).

***O Oriens (Dayspring from on high):*** "O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death." Isaiah had prophesied, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown." (9:1).

***O Rex Gentium (Desire of nations):*** "O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust." Isaiah had prophesied, "For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace." (9:5), and "He shall judge between the nations, and impose terms on many peoples. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again." (2:4).

***O Emmanuel:*** "O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God." Isaiah had prophesied, "The Lord himself will give you this sign: the Virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." (7:14). Remember "Emmanuel" means "God is with us."

According to Professor Robert Greenberg of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, the Benedictine monks arranged these antiphons with a definite purpose. If one starts with the last title and takes the first letter of each one - **E**mmanuel, **R**ex, **O**riens, **C**lavis, **R**adix, **A**donai, **S**apientia - the Latin words **ero cras** are formed, meaning, "Tomorrow, I will come." Therefore, the Lord Jesus, whose coming we have prepared for in Advent and whom we have addressed in these seven Messianic titles, now speaks to us, "Tomorrow, I will come." So the "O Antiphons" not only bring intensity to our Advent preparation, but bring it to a joyful conclusion. As we enter the Octave before Christmas, why not use the "O Antiphons" as part of your daily meditation on the wonderful feast we will soon celebrate - the Nativity of the King of peace, our Lord Jesus Christ!

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## The Advent Wreath

During this fourth week of Advent we pray: "O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Who livest and reignest forever. AMEN." We light all of the candles of the wreath.



**SOCIAL CONCERNS**

**TURKEY COLLECTION TIME:** Our Food Pantry is still accepting donations of turkeys. Please call the Social Ministry Office, 732-283-0150 ext 21, before dropping them off so we can be sure they are refrigerated.

**GIVING TREES** gifts were due back last weekend. If you have not returned your gifts, please do so ASAP so that we may distribute them in time for Christmas. Please call the Social Ministry Office, 732-283-0150 ext 21, if you have any questions.

**FURNITURE NEEDED:** Full-size bed and kitchen set needed. If you can help, please call Lisa (home: 732-331-7010; work: 732-815-3999).

*May God bless you for what you share with us so that we may continue to minister to others. Peace and blessings to you all at Christmas!*



**CONFESSION SCHEDULE:**

January 3rd: 3:55 PM Class 3-1  
6:45 PM Class 7-1  
8:30 PM Class 8-4

Parents/Guardians are welcome to go to confession after the designated class. **PLEASE NOTE:** the class will be dismissed from the church.

**REMINDER TO ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS:** There are no classes on December 20<sup>th</sup> and December 27<sup>th</sup>. Classes resume on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Have a very blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year!

**LIVING LITURGY:** Our Student of the Week is Jessica Fernandez, Grade 6: "This week I lived my Faith by helping others with things they have problems with and communicating with the handicapped girl at my school. AMEN."

**FAMILIES OF NAZARETH FAITH-SHARING GROUP:** "Through various gifts, God gives us reliance on Himself. The beauty of the world surrounding us, the goodness that we experience from others, even our own value and abilities are nothing other than different forms of His presence in our lives. Our hearts, however, are made to rest in Him, not in His gifts. Every gift is meant to lead us to the transforming union with God's love." Contact bzmak@comcast.net for more information.

*They shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."*  
- Matthew 1:23



**A MESSAGE OF THANKS HAS BEEN RECEIVED** from Rev. Monsignor Richard Behl, Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies for the Diocese of Metuchen: *I am grateful to you and your fellow parishioners for your kindness on World Mission Sunday. Your parish offering of \$3059.89 will be used to help the Church's missionaries be the heart, the hands, and the voice of Christ to the suffering poor during 2005. May Our Lord give to you, your families, and your parish as you have given to others so that His good news may be offered worldwide.*



*"I will not ask! I will not tempt the Lord!" So spoke Ahaz, who had been invited by the Lord himself to request a sign. Ahaz's reluctance to name a sign was not because he was afraid of God, however, but because he was afraid of commitment: to choose a sign meant choosing faith. Joseph, too, had to make a*

*decision, since his betrothed would bear a child that was not his. Joseph did not ask for a sign either, but when one was given to him he accepted it willingly. He was not afraid to make the commitment to Mary - and to us. Because of his faith, St. Paul was able to receive the grace of apostleship from Jesus, "...descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead." As we enter the final days of Advent, let us pray for the grace to commit ourselves to our faith wholeheartedly.*

**Stewardship Spotlight** shines on:

**THE HOLIDAY STEWARDSHIP EFFORTS OF OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES:**

**GRADE SIX:** Mrs. Nikki Honkisz's class made a Christmas basket to present to the residents of St. Joseph Nursing Home in Woodbridge, where they also brought Christmas joy through caroling.

**GRADE EIGHT:** Under the guidance of Mrs. Adele Rackley and Mrs. Joanne Kull, Danielle Bemis, Nina Esteves, Rachel Spock, and Christy Thompson made angel ornaments and stockings to be given to those who are homebound.

**GRADES THREE, SEVEN & EIGHT:** Thank you for the class presentations at our Christmas assemblies. You used your talents to praise Baby Jesus and to help spread God's message - God bless you for your efforts!

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If you'd like to share your time and talent with this or any of our parish's many opportunities for stewardship - or there's an idea that you'd like to present - please fill out and return this coupon to the Parish Office or call the office and leave your name and number.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail/ALT. PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me about: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE...

...events taking place on our Parish campus - the school, the church, or the hall.

<b>Monday, December 20, 2004</b>		
7 PM	Benediction	Church
<b>Tuesday, December 21, 2004</b>		
10 AM	Legion of Mary	Conference room
11 AM	Bingo	Lourdes Hall
<b>Wednesday, December 22, 2004</b>		
12 Noon	School dismissal	
7-9 PM	AA, AI-Anon, STEP	Rms 103, 105, Fatima Hall
7:30-9:15 PM	Adult Choir	Church
<b>Thursday, December 23, 2004</b>		
11:30 AM	School dismissal (NO LATCHKEY)	
6-9 PM	Boy Scouts	Rms 101 & 105
7:30-9 PM	Faith Sharing Through Scripture (Bible Study)	Rm 103
<b>Friday, December 24, 2004</b>		
	Christmas Eve	
	Parish office closed; school closed	
<b>Saturday, December 25, 2004</b>		
	Christmas Day	
<b>Sunday, December 26, 2004</b>		
4:15 pm	Chaplet of Divine Mercy	Church

Please note that meetings may be subject to change or cancellation.

BULLETIN E-MAIL ADDRESS: stceceliabulletin@yahoo.com.

Deadline for information is Monday evenings by 9 PM; thank you for your cooperation.

## THE SACRAMENTS

**BAPTISM:** Please contact the Parish Office for all information and to make arrangements. Pre-Baptismal Preparation Class is required.

**MARRIAGE:** Make arrangements *one year* in advance of the proposed wedding date. One party must be a parishioner. Participation in a Pre-Marriage Preparation Program is required; call the Parish Office.

**MINISTRY TO THE SICK OR HOMEBOUND:** Urgent sick calls at any time; contact the Parish Office. Regular communion calls to the sick, aged or homebound should be arranged in advance through the Social Concerns Office.

## EDUCATION

**ST. CECELIA'S SCHOOL**

Phone: 732-283-2824

MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITED



Served by the Religious Teachers Filippini, the mission of St. Cecelia School is to form the heart, mind and spirit of its students according to Gospel values, ever aware of the unique, God-given gifts within each child.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Phone: 732-283-2816

## OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: 8:30 AM-8:30 PM

Tuesday through Thursday: 8:30 AM-2:30 PM

Friday: 8:30 AM-1:30 PM

CLASSES for grammar school students are held on

Mondays at 3:00, 5:45 & 7:25 PM.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS for the continuing religious education of adults are held periodically throughout the year.

R.C.I.A.: For information about becoming a Roman Catholic, contact the Parish Office.

## DEVOTIONS

NOVENA to St. Jude and Our Lady of the

Miraculous Medal after 8 AM Mass on Saturday

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY Sunday 4:15 PM.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after 11:30

AM Mass; Benediction at 2PM.

NOCTURNAL ADORATION every First Friday from 8 to 9 PM.

## SOCIETIES/ORGANIZATIONS

BIBLE STUDY (Faith Sharing Through Scripture):

Thursdays 7:30 PM, Faculty Room

CELEBRATE LIFE COMMITTEE:

New members always welcome.

FAMILIES OF NAZARETH MOVEMENT:

Mondays, 7:15-8:15 PM in the Conference room.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY:

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the 8:30 AM Mass, Room 101

J4F - *Just 4 Fun*:

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays in Room 101; ages 21-35

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> Thursdays; Membership: call Dan Neroda

732-283-0290

LEGION OF MARY:

Tuesdays at 10 AM in the Church Conf. Rm.

ROSARY/ALTAR SOCIETY:

1<sup>st</sup> Monday after the 1st Sunday after

7 PM Mass

SENIOR CITIZENS:

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month,

12:30 PM in Lourdes Hall

GIFT SHOP HOURS:

Phone 732-283-1775

Tues/Weds/Thurs 10 AM to 2 PM

Saturday 2 PM to 6 PM

Sunday 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Monday and Friday CLOSED

## Holiday Bulletin Deadlines:

Information for Holy Family Sunday (December 26<sup>th</sup>), was due by **Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you to all who remembered! Information for Epiphany (January 2<sup>nd</sup>) is due by **Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**.

**DID YOU NOTICE** that the Christmas Mass Schedule is printed on the bulletin cover this week? *This is the accurate schedule.* Admission to the 4 PM Mass on Christmas Eve is by ticket only, and tickets were distributed after Masses last weekend. No further tickets are available; however, if you find that you have taken more than you need, please return them to the parish office by noon on Christmas Eve. Thank you.



## The Music of Christmas at St. Cecelia's

### CHRISTMAS EVE

4 PM: Organist & Cantor

5:30 PM: Contemporary Ensemble

11:30 PM/Midnight: Adult Choir

### CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30, 10, & 11:30 AM: Organist & Cantor

## Parish Office Schedule for the Holiday Week:

Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: Office closes at noon

Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup>: Office closed, day and evening

Tuesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>: Office reopens

Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup>: No evening office hours

Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>: Office closed

Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>: Office reopens