

OUR LITURGY

Today's reading from the Prophet Zephaniah is a joyful proclamation that the Lord God is with His people. The teachings of John the Baptist in today's Gospel outline moral living: share what you have, do not cheat others, do not accuse falsely. John speaks of Jesus when he says, "One mightier than I is coming."

ALTAR BREAD & WINE

Nancy Pantaelo  
Requested by  
Loving daughter Bea



OUR PRIEST-CELEBRANTS

This Week End	Mass	Next Week
Fr Tapel	5:00 pm	Fr Maffeo
Fr Tapel	7:00 am	Fr Thomas
Fr Boyle	9:00 am	Fr Tapel
Fr Thomas	10:30 am	Fr Boyle
Fr Maffeo	12:00 pm	Fr Thomas
Fr Thomas	5:00 pm	No Mass

IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO BRING UP THE GIFTS AT THE MASSES ON SATURDAY OR SUNDAY, PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE USHERS WHEN YOU ARRIVE FOR MASS.

Priest-Celebrant for Christmas

<u>Christmas Vigil</u>	4:00 Upper Church	Fr Maffeo
	4:00 Lower Church	Fr Tapel
	6:00 Upper Church	Fr Boyle
	10:30 PM Concelebrated Mass	



<u>Christmas Day</u>	7:00 AM	Fr Thomas
	9:00 AM	Fr Tapel
	10:30 AM	Fr Boyle
	12 Noon	Fr Maffeo



Baptisms

Danielle Angelina D'Amico

MASS INTENTIONS



Sunday, December 17, Third Sunday of Advent

- 7:00 Cornelius J Dunleavy requested by  
Loving Wife Anne
- 7:00 Kevin Flynn requested by Martin DeBobes
- 9:00 Deceased Members of the Knights of  
Columbus & Columbiettes
- 10:30 Margaret & Stephen Guarino requested by  
Louis & Genevieve Guido
- 10:30 Dominick Annecca requested by Lisa & Anthony Lupo
- 12:00 Helen Soyka requested by Peter Seitz
- 12:00 Charles P Van Rossem requested by John R Kelleher
- 5:00 Charles R Contato requested by Loving Family
- 5:00 Richard Young requested by Grace Stillman

Monday, December 18

- 7:00 Amato Giuseppa requested by Loving Family
- 7:00 Caroline Cavaliere requested by Loving Granddaughter
- 9:00 Caroline Cavaliere requested by Loving Granddaughter
- 9:00 Jean Figurito requested by The DaSilva Family

Tuesday, December 19

- 7:00 Joan Pinaud requested by Ed & Pat Quick
- 7:00 Amado Rolluda Jr requested by Al & Ella Villalon
- 8:45 Louis Monaco requested by Robert & Denise Affenita
- 8:45 Ludwig Liepold requested by Ann & John Weber

Wednesday, December 20

- 7:00 Elma Powell requested by Loving Family
- 7:00 Salvatore Ciardullo requested by Mitch & Yolanda
- 9:00 Irene Costello requested by Virginia Niemir
- 9:00 Rosemary Beck requested by Mary Stark

Thursday, December 21, St Peter Canisius

- 7:00 Carmen Rodriguez requested by Mr & Mrs Scandiffio
- 7:00 William Tuhey requested by Loving Wife
- 9:00 Warren Johnson requested by Peggy McGrann
- 9:00 Bess Chicella requested by Roseanne E Horn

Friday, December 22

- 7:00 Christine Palazzolo requested by Dave & Tami DaSilva
- 7:00 Charles Nichol森 & George McNiff requested by Margaret
- 9:00 Alois Hoffman requested by Loving Family
- 9:00 Steven Rossi requested by Lisa & Michael Innella

Saturday, December 23, St John of Kanty

- 8:00 Helen Greenfield requested by The Volkman Family
- 8:00 Harry Bartik requested by Loving Family
- Anticipated Mass for Sunday
- 5:00 James J Reilly requested by Loving Family
- 5:00 Paul Shadlich & Rita & Bill Hubbard requested by  
Loving Family

Sunday, December 24, 4th Sunday of Advent

- 7:00 George Harkins requested by Loving Wife & Family
- 9:00 William Bartoszak requested by Gill, Jane & Children
- 10:30 William J Kelleher requested by The Kelleher Family
- 12:00 Fogarty & McGrann Families requested by Loving Family

Christmas Vigil Masses

- 4:00 PM Upper & Lower Church
- 6:00 PM
- 10:30 PM

Christmas Day, December 25

- 7:00 AM
- 9:00 AM
- 10:30 AM
- 12:00 Noon

All Christmas Masses are offered for the Intentions of the People of the Parish

## FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

*“His future coming was proclaimed by all the prophets. The virgin mother bore him in her womb with love beyond all telling. John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came. In his love Christ has filled us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth...”* With these words from *Advent’s Second Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer*, we focus on the theme behind today’s readings and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent’s theme of **Joy and Expectation**. Last Sunday our readings tell us of John’s mission and how he was a voice crying out in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord, and now this Sunday tells us of how people came to John asking him, *“...what shall we do?”* Why, because they believed John was God’s prophet and they were hoping John could show them how to make their lives better, holier, and more in tune with God’s will. Notice John’s answer, he tells them how to do this by simply amend their lives as they live out their normal lives-**nothing neither impossible nor extraordinary**. To *tax collectors* he told them to collect only what was prescribed, *soldiers* not to extort or falsely accuse and to be satisfied with their wages and so on. If John was speaking to us today, he would tell *husbands and wives* to love each other, for parents to love and respect their children and vice versa. To *police officers* he would tell them to be the best public servants they could be and in enforcing the law to treat all fairly and equally. To *lawyers* he would tell them to seek justice for all, and to *merchants* to be fair in their dealings and not to seek excessive profits. To *priests, deacons, and religious* he would tell them to work hard for the Kingdom of God and to serve God’s people according to the model set by **Jesus the Good Shepherd**. And of course the list can go on and on.

John has given us a simple path to follow to get closer to a holier life, but he also tells the people 2000 years ago and us, **that he is not the one**. No, for the one who came, and who is coming into the world has shown us and will show us even greater things and a greater way than John ever could. No, John was not the cause of our joy, but his coming was a sign that the true cause of our joy was coming into the world, has come into the world and is coming in His full glory. And next Sunday we will prepare even more so for His 1<sup>st</sup> coming when our dear **Blessed Mother** will visit her cousin **Elizabeth** who will say, *“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”*

**This Thursday Night, December 21<sup>st</sup> we will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 7-8 PM**, so we can better prepare for the great celebration of Christmas. If it’s been a while since you have celebrated this sacrament, now would be a good time to take advantage of the moment. Also if you know someone who has been away from the celebration of the Mass for a long time, **give them the best Christmas gift ever-Jesus Christ Himself made present in the Sacrifice of the Mass. Invite them to come to Mass with you, share your faith with them, be just like John the Baptist and make Jesus known-yes, you can do it!**

Please see the bulletin for the Christmas Mass Schedule, and oh, by the way next Sunday Morning Masses do not fulfill your Christmas obligation to attend Mass, but the Christmas Eve Masses starting at 4PM do. So, you can’t kill two birds with one stone-so to speak. **PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO 5PM MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY!**

*Let us pray: Lord God may we, your people who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which his presence will bestow. Amen*

*Happy Advent Fr. Mike*





## REMEMBER OUR SICK

Paul Ahearn	Rosemarie Aiello	Michelle Altonji
Lucy Amato		Michael Ambrosio
Andrew Anderson	Anne Bannon	Bill Barry
Rose Bassett		Marie Behling
Rosemary Bello	Richard Berkhout	Christine Biancrossia
Richard Bossi		Oliver Bouchard
Mary Ellen Bowers	Hazel Boyce	Mr Michael Boyle Sr
Cynthia Caesar		Bill Cairns
Ashley Cirigliano	Dominick Costanza	Dylan Jack Cuevas
Richard Delamater		Ryan Delaney
Joseph DeMaio	Michael DePinto	Angelina DeSimone
Msr Donald Desmond		Pricilla DeStanfo
Brian Devereux	Barbara DiGirolomo	Nancy DiTrapani
Mary Dougherty		Kathy Errico
Richard Fahey	Kathleen Farrell	Angela Ferrante
Robert Filce		Margaret Fitzgerald
Flavio Gabrielli	Frances Gaeta	Frank Gaeta
Edward Gilvey		Virginia Giommetti
John Gracey	Pat Gracey	Sonny Grosso
Peter Harkins		Gary Hernandez
Catherine Hickey	Gregory Hionas	Tom Horvath
Jack Kelleher		Cecelia Keller
Stephen Kelly	Joseph Liguori	Nicholas Liguori
Paul Liguori		Betty Limov
Georgiana Lopez	Marie Mangan	Donna R Martinez
John McCullagh Sr		Howard Meeks
Sam Monteleone	Christopher Owen	Susan Percoco
Sylvia Persico		Grace C Peshkur
Joseph Poirot	Nicole Ramaglia	Joan Reilly
John Reynolds		Janet Rodgers
Joseph Sabourin	Dawn Saporito	Louise Schaaf
Barbara Seibel-Schoenfeld		Richard Shadwick
Darryll Smith	Frances Stagnitta	Anntonina Sturiano
Jesse Taylor	Lloyd Turnier	Joseph Vereline Jr

## PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

Please continue to remember them in your prayers.

CPL Deborah Alfieri	PFC Matthew Altonji
Tech SGT Louis Barletta	2LT Stephen Bartoszak
PFC Justin Browne	SGT Michael Bruno
CPL Glenn Clacher	SPC Thomas E. Corcoran
SGT Ryan Delaney	TSGT Timothy Dermody
LTCOL Kurt Diehl	SGT Stephen Gene DiGirolamo
LT John Kenneth DiNero	SSGT Tony Elliott
LT Kelly Fletcher	PFC Adam Franciosa
CPT Evan Gotkin	PVT2 Edward Johnston
SGT John W Keohane	SSGT Steven Knight
CPL Andrew Kochman	PVT Thomas B McGinn
SGT Patrick McNally	PFC William Meyer
SGT Glenn Miller	2LT Heather Miras
SGT Daniel Montville	SSGT Brian Moran
CPT Gregory Mueller	LCPL Thomas Napolitano
LCPL Michael Napolitano	Pvt Todd Nelson
LCPL James Neubauer	LCPL Anthony Notaroberta
PVT James Notaroberta	SGT Brian O'Leary
SGT Brian Pacella	N/Seal Paul Padro
ENS3 Lucy Padro	CPT Michael Parisi
2LT Anthony Parisi	MAJ Paul E Pinaud
CTR2 Matthew Pistritto	SGT Edwin Rivera, II
PFC William R Rodgers	LCPL Anthony M Sbrocco
SSGT Jason Schiavo	LCPL W.Mason Shehan
SPC James Stanek	SSGT Nick Vicale
SGT John Thomas Vogt	SGT Randolph Weaver
2LT John Wolven	

*If you would like to include a soldier from your family who is serving, place their name and rank and branch of service on the cut -out and put it in the collection basket.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** To keep our prayer list current, we will keep names on the sick list for **two months**. We ask families to return the bulletin cut-out

### REMEMBERING THE SICK

Please include the following in the bulletin sick list:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of person who is ill:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Person making this request:                      Relationship to ill person

Your Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please place in collection basket or return to Church Office)  
(Friends can be placed on the silent prayer list only)

### REMEMBERING OUR TROOPS

Please include the following soldier in your prayers :

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name, Rank and Branch of Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
Person making this request:                      Relationship to Soldier

Your Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please place in collection basket or return to Church Office)  
(Friends can be placed on the silent prayer list only)

## REMEMBER OUR DEAD

Rocco Cammarota, Timothy Truesdell, Rose Forlano, Leonito Tapel, for our deceased soldiers and all of our deceased relatives and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

**Religious Education**

[reled@stjoronk.org](mailto:reled@stjoronk.org)

Monday & Thursday 9 am to 4 pm

Tuesday & Wednesday

10 am to 3:30 pm

The office is **closed** on Fridays.



Our **Level 1** students returned their Angel ornament this weekend. On this paper ornament they wrote what their gift for baby Jesus is. The ornaments were placed on the trees which are on the altar.

Our Students in Sunday school will celebrate Christmas today with a Pageant, depicting the Nativity.

**Level 5** Reconciliation on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Follow the instructions you received on your reminder notice.

This will be the last week of classes before the Christmas break.

**“That’s Entertainment”** Yes we have the Entertainment Books on sale again. You may contact our office at 981-1805 if you wish to buy one. They are only \$20.00 and make great Christmas gifts.

**St Joseph’s School**

[school@stjoronk.org](mailto:school@stjoronk.org)



This week our students shopped at our Scholastic book fair. The fair was a great success. The children found many new books that they could read during the Christmas vacation. Our school also was able to add new books to our library.

Congratulations to the students in our Pre-kindergarten program. Their Christmas story performance was excellent. Thank you to the teachers and aides in those classes who worked so hard with the children.

Our "Fun with Santa" luncheon was on Friday, Dec. 15 during school hours. Children in grades Nursery thru Grade 3 shared lunch and snack with each other. We then had a visit from Santa himself, who took pictures with the children and gave gifts to all.

The children in grades Nursery thru 8 have been working on several Advent projects. They are donating small change to fill and Advent offering card for the Diocesan Respect Life Office. They are also collecting teddy bears for the Suffolk County Police Department for abused children. We have also adopted six children in two less fortunate families and providing Christmas gifts for them, without our help these children would not have anything for Christmas.

Congratulations to our Prestige Fundraiser winners, 1st place - Liam Donegan, 2nd place- Kayla Scharf, 3rd place - Alexis Grenier. All students won a gift certificate to Toys R Us. Great job!

Each day we feature one class in grades K thru 8. That class gathers around the Advent wreath in the morning during prayer time. They light the candles as our school begins with prayer. This is a great way to have our children come together as a prayer community.



**Outreach**

[sjpo@verizon.net](mailto:sjpo@verizon.net)

*Heartfelt thanks to all the generous parishioners who offered gifts of hope and love to those who came to the Outreach office this season. These gifts came wrapped as food, clothing, toys and prayers. May God continue to bless you.*

**Book Rack  
Advent and You**

Do you want to learn more about Advent? Then you might want to check out the pamphlets in our bookrack in the vestibule of the Church.



We will finish decorating the Church for Christmas on Saturday, December 23rd at 9:30AM & Sunday, December 24th from 1:15 to 2:30. All are welcome

**St. Vincent de Paul**

During the past year, you have brought comfort and peace to many of our parishioners by your support of the St Vincent de Paul Society. May the peace and joy of this Holy Season be yours. **“The Poor Boxes are the bread boxes of the poor.”**





## RESPECT LIFE

While singing that popular Christmas song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" may seem like an endurance contest, there is a very interesting story (anonymous) behind it. In England, in the period of 1558 until 1829, Catholics were not permitted to practice their faith openly. So, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written and sung in England, as a sort of catechism for young Catholics.

The hidden meaning of the song's gifts was intended to help the children remember lessons of their faith. Instead of referring to an earthly suitor, the "true love" mentioned in the song refers to God Himself.

The 'me' who receives the presents is symbolic of every baptized person; the 'partridge in a pear tree' is Jesus Christ, symbolically presented as the mother partridge, feigning injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings.

### The meanings of the other symbols are:

- Two Turtledoves* – the Old and New Testaments of the Bible
- Three French Hens* – the gifts of faith, hope and charity
- Four Calling Birds* – the four gospels, written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
- Five Golden Rings* – the first five books of the Old Testament
- Six Geese a'Laying* – the six days of Creation
- Seven Swans a'Swimming* – the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, piety, knowledge, fear of the Lord)
- Eight Maids a'Milking* – the eight Beatitudes
- Nine Ladies Dancing* – the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit
- Ten Lords a'Leaping* - the Ten Commandments
- Eleven Pipers Playing* – the eleven faithful Apostles
- Twelve Drummers Dancing* – the twelve points of belief of the Apostles' Creed

### A Christmas Wish

*May all the days of all the years that God may have in store  
Be filled with joy and peace to bless you more and more.  
May the happiness of Christmas be in your heart to stay  
And to brighten all your moments,  
long after Christmas Day!*

*-Virginia Luers*

**PREGNANCY CRISIS HOTLINE** -We are here to help you. Please call 981-6888.

## Weekly Offering

Sunday, December 10, 2006 Offerings	\$18,524
Same collection last year	17,792
Number of envelopes	620
Poor Box last weekend	\$410
Fuel Oil Collection YTD	\$6461
Same time last year 2005	7210
Feast of the Immaculate Conception	\$4513
Same Collection last year	6260

*Thank you for your generous response to the appeal for increased giving.*

*God Bless You Always, Fr Mike*



*You can never truly enjoy Christmas until you can look up into the Father's face and tell him you have received his Christmas gift.*

*--John R. Rice*

## Mark Your Calendars

- Dec 17* Sunday School Christmas Pageant  
10:15-11:15 AM School Auditorium
- Dec 21* Reconciliation from 7-8 PM



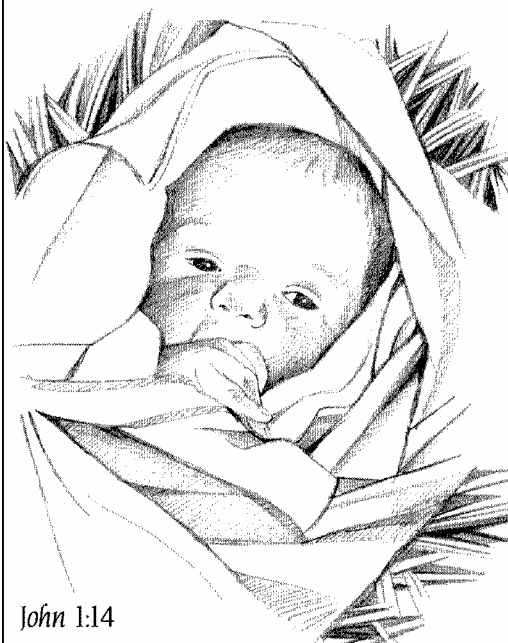
- Jan 1* Solemnity of Mary 8 AM & 12 Noon Mass
- Jan 3* Blessing of Throats



Peace On Earth • Peace On Earth • Peace On Earth

# CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2006

*The Word became flesh and  
made his dwelling among us.*



John 1:14

## ***Christmas Eve***

Sunday, December 24th

4:00 PM (Upper Church & Lower Church)

6:00 PM & 10:30PM

*We do not have a Mass at Midnight*

## ***Christmas Day***

Monday, December 25th

7:00AM - 9:00AM - 10:30AM - 12:00 Noon

*We have no evening Mass on Christmas Day*

## ***Feast of the Holy Family***

Saturday, December 30th 5PM

Sunday, December 31st

7:00, 9:00, 10:30AM - 12 Noon & 5:00 PM

## ***New Year's Day***

### ***Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God***

Monday, January 1, 2006

8:00 AM & 12 Noon

## ***Epiphany of the Lord***

Vigil Mass Saturday, January 6, 5:00 PM

Sunday, January 7, 2006

7:00AM - 9:00AM - 10:30 AM

12:00 Noon - 5:00 PM

## ***Confessions For Christmas***

Weekdays - Monday, Wednesday, Friday

after the 7:00AM and 9:00AM Masses

And

Thursday, December 14th

at the 7:30 PM Penance Service

And

Thursday, December 21st 7:00-8:00 PM

Peace On Earth • Peace On Earth • PEACE ON EARTH • PEACE ON EARTH

Peace On Earth • Peace On Earth • PEACE ON EARTH • PEACE ON EARTH

Peace On Earth • Peace On Earth • PEACE ON EARTH • PEACE ON EARTH

# REMEMBERING FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES



Help Us Grow  
the  
Tree Of Life  
At  
St Joseph's

Throughout the ages, trees have symbolized life. The Tree of Life at St Joseph's represents our parish's commitment to life by providing for the spiritual, educational and social needs of our parish. The beautiful sculptures, leaves and stones render a tale of support, friendship, remembrance and dedication.

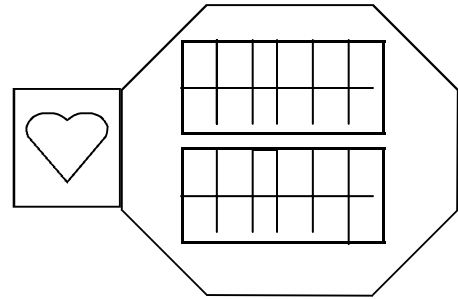
Occupying a prominent position in our Baptistry, and All Saints Shrine, the Tree of Life commemorates our support of St Joseph's Parish. Leaves and stones may be engraved to honor benefactors, highlight or memorialize people or events with special significance in life, or express the sentiments of donors.

### The Leaves

Each inscribed leaf on The Tree of Life represents a gift of \$1,000 or more. Inscriptions may recognize a valued friend and supporter of St Joseph's Church, celebrate a significant event in your family, or memorialize a loved one.

### The Stones

Each inscribed stone permanently recognizes a contribution of \$5,000 or more given by an individual benefactor, foundation or corporation.



### Bricks For The Future

Bricks For the Future welcome our parishioners and friends alike as they enter St Joseph's Church each day. Some stop to read the inscriptions, others to say a prayer in memory. As we hear The Word proclaimed inside the Church building, outside on the step we are witnesses to that faith.

The growth of the Bricks for the Future program at St Joseph's Church through your gift, allows you to have a significant and meaningful part in developing and sharing our Community of faith and love in Jesus. Your contribution helps St Joseph sustain our parish plant and buildings to keep them from deteriorating now and in the future as major projects arise.

Your tax deductible gift gives you the opportunity to share with others those special persons and meaningful events that touch, shape and illuminate your life.

Each brick in the walk represents a gift of \$1,800. Brick inscription allows up to 4 rows of characters, symbols and spaces as shown above (approx 28). If you wish to have a special symbol (shamrock, cross, heart) on the tab of the brick, please contact the rectory.

	Single	Annual	Semi Annual	Quarterly	Monthly
Tree of Life Leaf	\$1000	\$334	\$167	\$84	\$28
Tree of Life Stone	\$5000	\$1667	\$834	\$417	\$139
Brick For the Future	\$1800	\$600	\$300	\$150	\$50

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Upon receipt of your down payment we will send you a form for the exact wording of the inscription. For your convenience we will mail you a statement according to your payment schedule.*



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND  
**The Calendar Club**

**ST. JOSEPH'S 2007 CALENDAR CLUB  
 OFFICIAL REGISTRATION FORM**

*YOUR \$25.00 DONATION MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM. THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK!!  
 YOUR 2007 CALENDAR WILL BE MAILED TO YOU WHEN ALL RETURNS ARE RECEIVED.*

MAIL ALL DONATIONS TO: St Joseph Church  
 45 CHURCH STREET  
 RONKONKOMA, NY 11779-3300

*IN ORDER TO KICK OFF THE DRAWING IN JANUARY OF 2007, WE ASK YOU TO RETURN  
 YOUR REQUEST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT NO LATER THAN 12/31/06.*

*NOTE: If more than 1000 calendars are sold, prizes will be increased proportionately.*

**MEMBERS NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER OF CALENDARS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **X \$25 = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**5 FOR \$100 TOTAL ENCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_



COME TO CELEBRATE WITH US THE **50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY** OF THE

**DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE**

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE to**

**Rome, Italy**

November 4 - 12, 2007



**Hosted by Bishop William Murphy, S.T.D., L.H.D**

**Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre**

**Dear Friends,**

It is my pleasure on behalf of Bishop Murphy to invite you to participate in the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Diocese of Rockville Centre by joining Bishop Murphy and myself on a pilgrimage to Rome, the eternal city so rich in Christian history and tradition.

This very special opportunity will provide a full week in Rome to celebrate our faith and to give thanks for the many blessings God has showered on our Diocese in the past fifty years.

Our pilgrimage will be centered on the four marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. During our seven days in Rome we will travel by comfortable coach buses to the four major basilicas. At St. Peter's Basilica we will learn more about the Church as one. At St. Mary Major we will deepen our appreciation of the Church as holy. At St. John Lateran, which is the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Rome, we will see how the Church is catholic or universal.

And at St. Paul outside the Walls, which has the Popes pictured around the ceiling in the interior and a magnificent mosaic on the facade, we will explore the Church as apostolic. These four presentations will enrich our understanding of the Church as we celebrate the Church of the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

We will stay in a comfortable first class hotel near the Vatican. We have the privilege of participating in the Papal Audience on Wednesday, November 7th. We will also be present for the Papal Blessing by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI at noon on Sunday, November 11th.

Saint Agnes is the patroness of our Diocese and so we will celebrate Mass at the Church of Saint Agnes in the Piazza Navona in the center of Rome and we will visit the catacombs at St. Agnes outside the Walls on the Via Nomentana.

In addition to these wonderful opportunities we will have time to enjoy the great restaurants of Rome, both together and on our own. We will have the leisure to shop for those we left at home. And we will have free time to explore and to relax. It is a time to pray and to celebrate, to enjoy the company of friends and to thank God for the gift of our Catholic faith. We will return to New York on Monday, November 12th.

Will you join us? It promises to be a wonderful experience.

Sincerely,

Fr. Jim McNamara

**Pilgrimage Details.... Your Diocesan Pilgrimage Includes:**

Round-trip air from New York, JFK Airport to Rome

● 7 nights at 4-star [Hotel Cicerone](#) in Rome

● **Meals:**

7 Buffet breakfasts (at your hotel)

3 Dinners at local restaurants

2 Dinners with wine and music

1 "Farewell Lunch" with wine outside of Rome

● Transportation by air-conditioned motor coach

● Tour escort/manager throughout your stay

● Guided tours and admission fees as per itinerary

● Hotel taxes and service charges

● Papal Audience

● Mass daily

● Baggage handling

● [Flight bag & portfolio of all travel documents](#)

**Your price does not include:** Meals not listed above, Airport

taxes collected with final payment, but is subject to change until tickets are issued (approx \$250-\$290). Travel Insurance optional but strongly suggested at \$129 - \$169. Tips to your guide & driver (suggested \$6 per person per day). Items of a personal nature.

## Sample Day-by-Day Itinerary:

**Day 1: Nov 4, Sunday New York - Italy** Depart JFK for our overnight flights to Rome. Dinner and breakfast are served on board.

**Day 2: Nov 5, Monday Arrive Rome** Upon arrival your escort will warmly greet you this morning and welcome you to Italy. Transfer to your hotel and enjoy a free afternoon. Your tour escort can suggest sights or walks for you to enjoy. Mass at a nearby church. Following Mass enjoy a "Welcome Dinner" at a local restaurant with wine and music. Return to hotel for overnight.

**Day 3: Nov 6, Tuesday St Mary Major & Ancient Rome** After a relaxing breakfast at our hotel, we board our bus for Mass at Saint Mary Major. St. Mary Major is one of the oldest shrines dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, which contains a relic from the manger of the infant Jesus. At St. Mary Major, we will learn about one of the marks of the Church, the Church as holy. We will take an afternoon sightseeing tour of Ancient Rome, including the Forum and Coliseum, its real name was the Flavian Amphitheatre, after the emperors who built it in the first century after Christ. We will drive by the Forum and enter into the Coliseum. The last stop on our tour will be the Church of St. Peter in Chains, featuring Michelangelo's famous statue of Moses. Before dinner, you'll have some time at leisure, to explore your own paths, to shop, or just to sit in one of the outside cafes and watch the world go by. Dinner and overnight.

**Day 4: Nov 7, Wednesday Mass at St. Peter's Basilica & Papal Audience at the Vatican** Wake up in Eternal City, one of the greatest centers of Western Civilization and the first truly cosmopolitan city on earth! It is also the spiritual capital for all the Catholics around the world. Today is truly a day we will have in our minds for many years to come. This morning we will celebrate Mass early in St. Peter's Basilica where we will grow in knowledge of the Church as one. After breakfast we will go to Vatican City to attend the weekly Papal Audience given by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI. Following the audience, we will visit the largest church in Christendom, St. Peter's Basilica, (due to our hotel proximity to St. Peter's most of us have already visited). St. Peter's is built on the site where St. Peter was martyred. Unsurpassed in beauty, a monument to the long history of the Catholic Church, to which pilgrims come from around the world, St. Peter's is the grandest of the world's churches. Marvel at the Pieta and Bernini's amazing bronze canopy. After the Papal Audience enjoy a free afternoon for lunch, further exploration of St. Peter's, shopping, or rest. Dinner and overnight in Rome.

**Day 5: Nov 8, Thursday FREE DAY** Time at leisure, to explore on our own paths, to shop, or just to relax or take one of the optional day trips.

**Day 6: Nov 9, Friday Vatican Museum, The Basilica of St. John in Lateran & The Catacombs of St. Callistus** After breakfast we visit the Vatican Museums, where we see a group of most impressive edifices with hundreds of galleries filled with art treasures. See awe-inspiring relics and works of art donated throughout centuries as tributes of faith. We'll cover The Tapestry Gallery, The Raphael Rooms and the most overwhelming Sistine Chapel, Michelangelo's masterpiece and restored mural of the Last Judgment. Following free time for lunch we continue on to the Basilica of St. John in Lateran, which is the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Rome, and is the former residence of the popes, prior to their return to Rome in 1377. It is here that St. Francis persuaded Pope Innocent III to give permission to begin the Franciscan Order. We will celebrate Mass here on the actual feast of the dedication of St. John in Lateran Basilica and will explore the Church as catholic or universal. We will go to the Catacombs of St. Callistus on the Old Appian way followed by dinner at Cecilia Metella.

**Day 7: Nov 10, Saturday St. Paul Outside the Walls & Catacombs of St. Agnes** We will have the morning free to shop or visit favorite places we don't want to miss. In the afternoon we will board our coach to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls which houses the remains of St. Paul the Apostle, affectionately known as the Apostle of the Gentiles. Here we celebrate Mass and hear a talk on the Church as apostolic. This afternoon we depart for the catacombs of St. Agnes outside the Walls on the Via Nomentana, where the early Christians hid themselves to escape persecution. You will be free for dinner to explore the many wonderful restaurants in Rome. Overnight at your hotel.

**Day 8: Nov 11, Sunday Rome** Saint Agnes is the patroness of our Diocese and so we will celebrate Mass at the Church of Saint Agnes in the Piazza Navona. At noon we will gather at St. Peter's Square, as thousands do every Sunday, to be present for the Papal Blessing by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI. Following the Audience we will have a special lunch outside of Rome, in the area of Castelgandolfo, today's summer residence of the Pope. While on route we will drive by Albano, Genzano, Nemi, Rocca di Papa, Grottaferrata and Frascati, going along the Via dei Laghi. Return to Rome to pack and to say goodbye to this beautiful city.

**Day 9: Nov 12, Monday Rome - USA** Depart for our return flights to JFK. We fondly say, *Arrivederci Roma!*





# Thank You! THANK YOU!

To all our volunteers who helped to make Breakfast with St Nicholas a huge success.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO



Boy Scout Troop 272

&

Venturing Crew 272

for all their hard work.



**Gala  
New Years Eve  
Celebration**



**St. Regis  
Knights  
of  
Columbus**

**December 31st at 8PM**

**Where else can you go for New Years Eve for \$55.00 per person ?**

**The Menu includes:**

**Fresh Ham, Roasted Turkey, Stuffed Eye Round Roast,  
Stuffed loin of Pork, Salad and all side dishes.**

**Desert, Coffee & Tea**

**Open Bar**

**Only 100 tickets will be sold. For individual or Table Reservations  
call Joe Matera at 585-1615.**

# For the Young at Heart



## YOUTH IN MINISTRY

Every Sunday at 5:00 PM, St. Joseph's Parish offers a modern, upbeat, worship experience designed especially for youth and their families.

**Everyone in grades 7-12 is invited to participate.**

We're looking for: Lectors Ushers Musicians/Singers Altar Servers  
Eucharistic Ministers (Eucharistic ministers must be over 18)

**Youth  
Worship  
Service**

For more information about joining *Youth in Ministry*, contact [YIM@StJoRonk.org](mailto:YIM@StJoRonk.org)

## Venturing Events

Alternate Sundays in Carew Hall after 5:00 PM Mass

## Pius XII Faith Discussion Groups

Share with your peers how our faith applies in your daily life. Usually on alternate Sundays

Join  
Us!

## Table Tennis Clinics

Learn to play "ping-pong" or improve your current skills.

**Watch this space for our  
January schedule of events.**

Fr Renee will  
show you  
how!

Plans in progress :

## Karaoke Workshop

Karaoke is fun for everyone, even those who don't usually sing.

## Auto Painting 101

Learn by doing – We'll paint one of the parish trucks.

## CPR Course

Learn skills that could save a life.

## Café Construction Project

Build new equipment for Café De Notre Dame, our Crew's contribution to the Family Festival.

**E-mail: [Crew272@StJoRonk.org](mailto:Crew272@StJoRonk.org)**

**Phone: Advisor Mike Keller (631) 467-6468**



## Sport for all Seasons ST JOSEPH CYO

Travel Soccer:

Gene ☎ 467-0541

Intramural Soccer:

Beth ☎ 737-6299

Track

Karen ☎ 588-8636

Chairman: Henry

Baseball:

Gene ☎ 588-1879

Girls Basketball:

Christine ☎ 275-8321

Boys Basketball:

Frank ☎ 585-6921

Melchiona ☎ 467-6091



St Joseph's  
Play Group



Calling all babies, toddlers and pre schoolers -

Come meet new friends at the St Joseph's Playgroup!  
Bring your Mom, Dad, Grandparents or caregiver to Father Carew Hall on Thursday's at 9:30 AM. There you'll meet other St Joseph's families and spend an hour of fun with other children from birth to age 5. For more information please call Sally Miller at 737-5120. Hope to see you there!

*Christ was one child Who knew  
more than His parents --  
yet He obeyed them.*



## Courtesy Announcements

You are invited to join the **Pro-Life Community** in celebrating **The Feast of the Holy Innocents, December 28th at 7:30 PM** Mass at the **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church**, Crown Acres Road, Centereach. Monsignor Curley, will be the main celebrant. Hospitality will follow in the Parish Center Hall. For more information call 585-8760.



**Retrouvaille** You can help your marriage now - Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue? Or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it make it worse? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriage. The program has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing ALL types of marital difficulties. For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, or to register for the upcoming weekend beginning on Friday, January 12th, please call 1-800-470-2230 and you will be connected directly to Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille.

**Smithtown Central School District Adult Basic Education Program**—Free Classes ! All Welcome! Learn English, Earn your GED (High School Equivalency Diploma, Prepare for Citizenship, Gain Basic Computer Skills (Seniors & ESL Students) & Receive Career Counseling! For more info call 382-2181 or [www.smithtown.k12.ny.us](http://www.smithtown.k12.ny.us)

**St John's Bohemian Singles** - 55 & Up meets on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of every month in the lower level of our church. Coffee & cake is served. If you are interested in a very active group that offers a full calendar of social events every month. Please call Mary Ann at 563-8982. Admission is \$4.00. (St John Nepomocene Church)

**Professional Therapy & Counseling** provided by NYS licensed psychologists are available to our parish. You may be seen at any of the other 70 participating parishes. This program, under the direction of Dr George Giuliani, has been conducted in the diocese for the past 34 years for the convenience of parishioners. It is provided by the Catholic Counseling Center, a propriety professional corporation, which is independent of and not controlled or supervised by the parish or diocese. Most insurance policies are honored. For confidential information and appointment, call Dr Giuliani at 243-1550.

### **Cenacle Retreats -**

- \* **Christ Lights Our Darkness** - (for those who have lost a loved on through suicide)  
Sunday, December 17, 1:30 to 5:00 PM

**Pilgrimage to Sicily & Southern Italy; Spirit & Spirituality** with St Joseph's College faculty members from May 31 to June 10, 2007. For a detailed brochure call Sister Grace at 654-0199 or e-mail [growland@sjcny.edu](mailto:growland@sjcny.edu).

**St Catherine of Sienna School in Franklin Square** is celebrating it's 50th Anniversary. To mark this historic event they are inviting alumni and past faculty from all graduating classes to attend a grand reunion on Saturday, April 21st. For more information you can call Diane Shanahan at 1-800-424-3367 Ext 422 or email them at [alumni@siennaspirit.org](mailto:alumni@siennaspirit.org)

### **We're Looking For...**

**BOX TOPS** - from cereals for Educational purposes are always welcomed. Please drop them in the collection.

**DEPOSIT BOTTLES AND CANS**- Please place them in the baskets that are located on the school side of the Church on weekends or behind the rectory during the week.

**CELL PHONES** - Please bring your no longer used or needed cell phones and deposit them at the Scrip table in the Church lobby.

**INKJET CARTRIDGES** - Drop them off (in a plastic baggie) when you come to mass. We will send them to a company who reuses them and gives the parish a bounty for each. One note, to clear confusion, if it is larger than a fist, it is