

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 2022

### Monday, December 5

12:00pm (SPN) - Gerald "Jerry" Forcier by Jean Forcier

### Tuesday, December 6

12:00pm (SE) - Special Intention for Brittany Palmatter by Mr & Mrs Harold Bean

### Wednesday, December 7

#### Anticipated Mass for the Holy Day

4:30pm (SE) - John & Nancy Boisseau by the Estate

### Thursday, December 8

#### Feast of the Immaculate Conception

9:00am (SPN) - Pro Populo

12:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the McGlinchy & Reiss Families by Peer McGlinchy

### Friday, December 9

12:00pm (SPN) - Worthy Knight Gerald Raymond Forcier by Knights of Columbus Council # 255 of Plattsburgh

### Saturday, December 10

4:30pm (SE) - Pro Populo

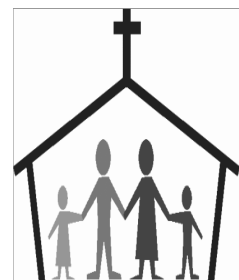
### Sunday, December 11

8:30am (SPN) - Peter C Kullman by Eric & Caitlyn Kelley  
10:30am (SJ) - Special Intention for Rose Mary Rogers by John O'Hara

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown  
(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro  
(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex  
(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

#### Readings for the Week of December 5

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9-14/Lk 5:17-26  
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-3, 10-13/Mt 18:12-14  
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10/Mt 11:28-30  
Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38  
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Mt 11:16-19  
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11



#### FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Family Sunday Event - Christmas  
**Dec 18** 11:30am - 12:30pm  
St Philip of Jesus parish hall  
Immediately Follows 10:30am Mass  
All are welcome

#### Upcoming Dates - Mark Your Calendar

January 22- Peace  
February 26- Lent  
March 26- Easter

#### Things to Ponder.....

**Guilt can be an overwhelming emotion!**

#### Last Weekend's Collection

**Saint Elizabeth — Attendance: 38**  
Envelopes: \$572.25; Plate: \$57.56  
Fuel: \$10.00; Christmas Flowers: \$87.00  
Total: \$726.81

**Saint Philip Neri — Attendance: 46**  
Envelopes: \$683.00; Plate: \$44.00  
Christmas Flowers: \$75.00  
Total: \$802.00  
Campaign for Human Development: \$5.00

**St Philip of Jesus — Attendance: 45**  
Envelopes: \$575.00; Plate: \$135.00  
Fuel: \$75.00; Christmas Flowers: \$130.00  
Total: \$915.00  
Campaign for Human Development: \$75.00

#### SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

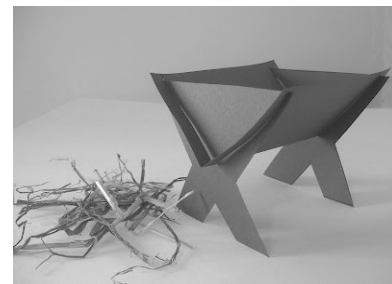
We have both the fuel collection and the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious next weekend. **Please see Fr Justin's REMINDER in the next column!**

#### BISHOPS FUND UPDATE

**E-Town:**  
Goal - \$4,903      So far - \$3,526 (71.92%)  
**Westport:**  
Goal - \$3,862      So far- \$2,440 (63.18%)  
**Willsboro:**  
Goal - \$11,590      So far- \$11,527 (\$63 short of 100%)

#### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

(For your planning purposes)



**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Saturday:**  
**4:00 PM** in Westport  
Christmas Eve  
**8:00 PM** in E-Town  
Christmas Night  
**Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday:**  
**9:00 AM** in Willsboro  
Christmas Day

#### A NORTH COUNTRY CHRISTMAS 10th Annual Craft Show, Morrisonville

**WHEN:** December 10, 2022  
**WHERE:** St. Alexander's Church  
**TIME:** 9 AM to 3 PM

Featuring the works of local vendors selling:  
Jewelry, Quilts, Homemade Holiday Crafts,  
Wood Crafts, Candles, Adirondack Items,  
& MUCH MORE!

Lunch Available At Padre's Cafe  
Bake Sale & Home Made Chocolates  
**COME JOIN US!**

#### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...



This **Second week of Advent** once again we focus on preparation. This is a great time to take a step back and consider how and why we prepare. Preparing to celebrate Christmas Day itself takes time. There's gift-buying, Christmas Card writing, cookie-making, decorating, and the list goes on. While we prepare for family gatherings, we can also be preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus. Advent gives us a special opportunity to take time to rest, focus on our relationships with Jesus and with those around us. We can make time for Christ even during this busy time of year. There are many ways to make room for Jesus during Advent. They can be small or big. First, let God guide you in prayer and discern what He is calling you to do. This doesn't need to add more stress to your busy life but should help you peel away anything unnecessary this season. Then you can have more room for the things that benefit your soul. Whether it's changing your perspective or just starting your day with prayer. **We light the second candle** on the wreath which also is purple, represents **Faith**. It's sometimes called the "**Bethlehem Candle**" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. As we continue our journey through this season of advent may we ignite our faith life through our sincere preparation to receive our King.

With Love and Prayers....  Fr. J.T.

#### REMINDERS:

...**December 8<sup>th</sup>** is the Solemnity of the **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** and it's a **HOLY DAY** of Obligation. Please try to attend one of the Masses scheduled in each Church.

...**Next weekend** please drop your donations/envelopes for the Retirement Fund for the Religious along with the first Collection since the second collection will be taken for the Fuel expenses of our parishes. Thank you for your Support.

#### THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION Readings: Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

*Repent, the Kingdom of God is at hand...* why did people in today's Gospel go out to see John the Baptist in the desert? He warns the people to be prepared, and he challenges the Pharisees who presume to be in good standing with God. He warns us as well. Our waiting for Christ is not to be a passive hanging around. Rather we need to repent, turn around, and make changes in our life. If John the Baptist were addressing us today (and he is!), what changes would he call us to make? What is keeping us from meeting Christ when he comes? At the same time, how can we be like John the Baptist today? Can we clear a path for others to come to meet Jesus this week? Can we show others the way? (from the Diocesan Office of Evangelization)

**Don't forget to patronize and thank our advertisers!**

#### ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify us.  
Body of Christ, save us.  
Blood of Christ, inebriate us.  
Water from the side of Christ, wash us.  
Passion of Christ, strengthen us.  
O good Jesus, hear us.  
Within your wounds, hide us.  
Let us never be separated from you.  
From the malignant enemy, defend us.  
In the hour of our death, call us,  
And bid us come to you,  
That with your saints we may praise you  
Forever and ever. Amen.



#### HERE ARE A FEW IDEAS TO HELP IF YOU ARE WONDERING HOW TO PREPARE

##### Spiritually

- **Focus on daily prayer.** Through prayer, you can discover where God is asking you to make room for Him in your life. It could mean letting some things go or adding new practices to grow in your faith.
- **Visit the sacrament of Reconciliation.** This is a time to rekindle your relationship with Christ, so it's always nice to start with a blank slate.
- **Start an Advent devotion.** There are many available online or in books. Even though this is the second week, it's never too late to start.
- **Spend more time in silence.** This time of the year is filled with bright lights, giant inflatable lawn creatures, and lots of people out and about. You can cultivate a time and space for silence in your life. Maybe you wake up an extra ten minutes to read the Bible without distraction.

##### Giving

- **Give of your time and talents.** If there's an organization that you've been meaning to help, it's likely that they could use extra hands around the holidays like in a Thrift Shop, Pregnancy center etc.
- **Participate in your parish giving.** Does your parish have an annual sock drive or a Christmas tree where you can out pick tags for gifts to give to a family in need, or something similar?
- **You can also donate** in a monetary way. You can spend less on gifts and put that money towards worthy causes in our parishes that you seem fit with a good conscience.
- **Put away your smartphone** and give your family members the gift of your time. Take part in things they are interested in doing.

This is a great time of year to focus more on others in need. Just as God gave us the greatest gift in sending His only son, we can make a gift of ourselves to serve others. The most important thing to do as you prepare is to focus on love. As you check things off your to-do list, you can contemplate the Christmas miracle and let it inspire you to love God and the people around you more.



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 11 2022

**Monday, December 12**

*No Scheduled Mass*

**Tuesday, December 13 – St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr**

12:00pm (SE) - Colleen Bryant by Nancy & Paul Kullman

**Wednesday, December 14**

*No Scheduled Mass*

**Thursday, December 15**

12:00pm (SPJ) - Living & Deceased Members of the Dickerson Family by Maura Dickerson

**Friday, December 16**

12:00pm (SPN) - Thanks and Praise for our Providential God's Love & Mercy

**Saturday, December 17**

4:30pm (SE) - Jeanne Clark (Luppy) by Donna & Heather

**Sunday, December 18**

8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo

10:30am (SJ) - Deceased Members of the Carver Family by John & Susan Carver

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown  
(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro  
(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex  
(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

### Readings for the Week of December 12

Monday: Zec 2:14-17 **or** Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18-19  
Lk 1:26-38 **or** 1:39-47

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9-14/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13/Lk 7:24-30

Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Jn 5:33-36

Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

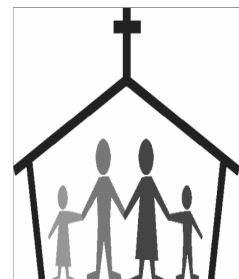
Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-6/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

### FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Family Sunday Event - Christmas  
**Dec 18** 11:30am - 12:30pm  
St Philip of Jesus parish hall  
Immediately Follows 10:30am Mass  
All are welcome

### Upcoming Dates - Mark Your Calendar

January 22- Peace  
February 26- Lent  
March 26- Easter



### PEACE IN THE WOMB PRO-LIFE CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Monday, December 19, 2022  
Anytime between 10 am—2 pm  
66 Brinkerhoff St., Plattsburgh, NY



### Last Weekend's Collection

**Saint Elizabeth – Attendance: 32**  
Envelopes: \$477.25; Plate: \$27.15  
Christmas Flowers: \$110.00  
Total: \$614.40  
**Immaculate Conception: \$10.00**  
Retirement Fund for Religious: \$10.00

**Saint Philip Neri – Attendance: 35**  
Envelopes: \$335.00; Plate: \$121.00  
Christmas Flowers: \$50.00  
Total: \$506.00  
**Immaculate Conception: \$10.00**

**St Philip of Jesus – Attendance: 37**  
Envelopes: \$1,550.00; Plate: \$65.50  
Fuel: \$225.00; Christmas Flowers: \$115.50  
Donation: \$25.00  
Total: \$1,980.50

**Immaculate Conception: \$35.00**  
Retirement Fund for Religious: \$100.00  
Holy Christmas: \$50.00; Solemnity of Mary: \$10.00

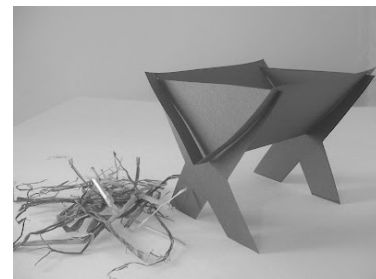
### THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

**Readings: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11**

Today is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means "Rejoice!" We are rejoicing because the Lord is near. In today's gospel, we hear of John the Baptist's question. He is in prison, in darkness, and perhaps is wondering whether Jesus is truly the one. Jesus' answer is to look at the signs: He is making all things new: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed. The poor have the good news proclaimed to them. In our day and age, there are times we may wonder. There is still so much darkness in our world. Can we, in the midst of this darkness, see the miracles of Christ's love around us? Can we, like John the Baptist, prepare the way for the Lord? Can we proclaim the good news of salvation to the poor? (from the Diocesan Office of Evangelization)

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

(For your planning purposes)



**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Saturday:**  
4:00 PM in Westport  
Christmas Eve

8:00 PM in E-Town  
Christmas Night

**Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday:**  
9:00 AM in Willsboro  
Christmas Day

### HELPING HANDS ARE NEEDED

Would you like to take part in getting St. Philip of Jesus Church in Willsboro ready for Christmas?

### Clean and pre-decorate prep

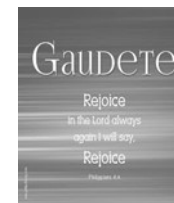
December 20 and December 21 at 1pm

### Decorate

December 22 and December 23 at 1pm



### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...



For much of the Church's history, the Third Sunday of Advent is known as "Gaudete" Sunday. The traditions surrounding this Sunday go back as far as the fourth or fifth century, as does the season of Advent itself. Advent, our preparation for Christmas, was originally a forty-day penitential season like Lent. In fact, since it used to begin on 12 November (just after the Memorial of St. Martin of Tours), it was called "St Martin's Lent." "Gaudete Sunday" was the Advent counterpart to "Laetare Sunday," which marks the mid-point in Lent. On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation. Liturgically, the colors lighten as well. The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." This celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await His coming not with fear but with tremendous joy. We read in the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians, which reflects this joy: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

With Love and Prayers....  Fr. J.T.

### REMINDERS:

...Willsboro has reached the goal for Bishop's Fund this year. On behalf of the Bishop, I thank you all who have made the generous contribution.

...Apart from our regular confession schedule, on 20<sup>th</sup> Tuesday you'll have the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Penance from 4-5 pm in Willsboro and 6-7 pm in E-Town inclusive of Westport Parish. A word of gratitude to Fr. Howard who will be helping out that day. Please mark your calendar and be sure to receive this Sacrament in preparation to celebrate Christmas.

...Usually, 75% of the Christmas collection goes towards the caring for the retired priests of our diocese and the parish keeping the rest. But Since Christmas is on Sunday this year, there will be **two collections** the first is for the upkeep of parish and the second to that cause. Please be kind enough to use our parish envelope for our first collection. Thanks



### ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify us.  
Body of Christ, save us.  
Blood of Christ, inebriate us.  
Water from the side of Christ, wash us.  
Passion of Christ, strengthen us.  
O good Jesus, hear us.  
Within your wounds, hide us.  
Let us never be separated from you.  
From the malignant enemy, defend us.  
In the hour of our death, call us,  
And bid us come to you,  
That with your saints we may praise you  
Forever and ever. Amen.



### 5 WAYS TO FIND PEACE & JOY THIS ADVENT

#### 1. Make a morning offering.

Find time for at least 10 minutes of adoration, Scripture reading, solitude and listening to God. Begin your day in God, with His Word in your mind and in your heart.

#### 2. Make short acts of adoration, thanksgiving, and praise throughout the day.

Call to mind the first Christmas when false expectations and meaningless busyness try to steal away your moments. If we can go to Mass and adoration all the better, but if we can't, we can spiritually unite ourselves and receive spiritual communions throughout the day by offering up prayers of desire and praise.

#### 3. Go to confession.

God's Mercy, grace and strength is amazing and through this Sacrament you can get rid of all the unnecessary burdens of sins and make room for Christ's peace to dwell in our hearts.

#### 4. Ask Mary and Joseph for help...

...to know and love the Father's will, and His Son, Jesus, as they did. Recognizing God in His hiddenness -- in our family members and in our trials -- while keeping and treasuring all these things in our hearts.

#### 5. Be happy!

A spiritual director once told that the greatest gift we can give our children is for the family to be happy despite the burdens and challenges. Ask the Holy Spirit's help to choose to enjoy, love, and treasure those God has given you to love, in each moment He has given you to live! We can do this by being mindful of the great and unfathomable love of Jesus and all the gifts we had been given.

### ECUMENICAL CHOIR CONCERT

The Keeseville-Peru Ecumenical Choir will be performing two concerts to celebrate its 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The first concert will be Saturday, Dec 17, at St. John the Baptist Church in Keeseville at 7:30pm. The second concert will be Sunday, Dec 18, at St. Augustine's Church in Peru at 7:30pm. The choir is directed by Jeanette Woodruff. The accompanist for the choir is Steve Collier and the organist is Steve Woodruff. Admission is free.

Don't forget to patronize and thank our advertisers!



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18 2022

### Monday, December 19

12:00pm (SPN) - In Thanks for Our Lady Mary's Loving Goodness & Care for All

### Tuesday, December 20

12:00pm (SE) - John & Nancy Boisseau by the Estate

### Wednesday, December 21

No Scheduled Mass

### Thursday, December 22

12:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Carver Family by John & Susan Carver

### Friday, December 23

12:00pm (SPN) - Bob Jerdo by the Hoskins Family

### Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00pm (SPN) - Intention of the Celebrant

8:00pm (SE) - Intention of the Celebrant

### Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day

9:00am (SPJ) - Intention of the Celebrant

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown  
(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro  
(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex  
(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

### Readings for the Week of December 19

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-6, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-6/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21  
Lk 1:39-45

Thursday: 1Sm 1:24-28/1 SM 2:1, 4-8/Lk 1:46-56

Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14/Lk 1:57-66

Saturday Evening Mass (SPN): Is 6:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts: 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Saturday Night Mass (SE): Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13  
Ti 2: 11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Next Sunday: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98: 1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6  
Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

### FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Family Sunday Event - Christmas

Dec 18 11:30am - 12:30pm

St Philip of Jesus parish hall

Immediately Follows 10:30am Mass

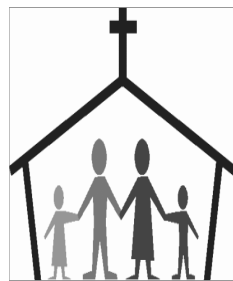
All are welcome

### Upcoming Dates - Mark Your Calendar

January 22- Peace

February 26- Lent

March 26- Easter



### PEACE IN THE WOMB PRO-LIFE CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Monday, December 19, 2022

Anytime between 10 am—2 pm  
66 Brinkerhoff St., Plattsburgh, NY



### Last Weekend's Collection

**Saint Elizabeth - Attendance: 26**  
Envelopes: \$745.25; Plate: \$75.00  
Christmas Flowers: \$60.00; Fuel: \$225.00  
Total: \$1,105.25  
**Immaculate Conception: \$122.25**  
Retirement Fund for Religious: \$168.00

**Saint Philip Neri - Attendance: 45**  
Envelopes: \$352.00; Plate: \$83.00  
Christmas Flowers: \$40.00; Fuel: \$205.00  
Total: \$506.00  
**Immaculate Conception: \$141.00**  
Retirement Fund for Religious: \$260.00

**St Philip of Jesus - Attendance: 46**  
Envelopes: \$1,010.00; Plate: \$133.00  
Fuel: \$465.00; Christmas Flowers: \$20.00  
Total: \$1,628.00  
**Immaculate Conception: \$155.00**  
Retirement Fund for Religious: \$847.00  
Holy Christmas: \$1,000.00

### SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

There will be two collections next weekend—please see info in Fr JT's reminders in the next column.

### THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

Readings: **Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24**

*Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her.* Joseph trusted God enough to take Mary into his home and become the foster father and protector of Jesus. As we prepare for Christmas, can we do the same? Can we bring Mary and Jesus in our home, in our lives and protect them there? Can we see Christ in all those we meet, and be a guardian of Christ present in them? And can we, as Christ is borne in us, be the presence of Christ to one another. Have a blessed Christmas. (from the Diocesan Office of Evangelization)

### HELPING HANDS ARE NEEDED

Would you like to take part in getting St. Philip of Jesus Church in Willsboro ready for Christmas?

### Clean and pre-decorate prep

December 20 and December 21 at 1pm

### Decorate

December 22 and December 23 at 1pm



### ELIZABETHTOWN THRIFT SHOP

Once again, St. Elizabeth's Parish is blessed to have received the monthly donation from the thrift shop. The amount this month is \$1,636.07. As always, we extend heartfelt gratitude to those who make this possible. God Bless!



Don't forget to patronize and thank our advertisers!

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...



Advent is the season in which faithful eagerly anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth. Reading, prayer, and reflection are ways we can cultivate a sense of holy anticipation this Advent. On this final week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance, as we wait to celebrate the birth of our Savior. This final candle, sometimes called the "Angel's Candle," symbolizing **Peace**. Therefore, this fourth Advent Sunday we are reminded that Jesus offers us peace in every season, and nothing is impossible with him! This week we focus our hearts on the "Lord of peace" who came down from heaven in the form of a baby. God knows that we are in a constant battle against fear! Fear wants to cripple us, to push us to react rather than carefully respond with faith, and fear steals our joy. God has given us the gift of peace so we can live joy-filled lives! Over this Advent, let us take the effort to pray sincerely that God's unexplainable peace would be evident in our hearts and homes. God's peace is something we need to grab tightly onto more than ever. May God's spirit transform our days leading up to Christmas that we may receive the King of Peace joyfully.

With Love and Prayers....  Fr. J.T.

### REMINDERS:

**This Tuesday**, we will have the opportunity to receive the **Sacrament of Penance** in **Willsboro from 4-5 pm** and in **Elizabethtown from 6-7 pm** comprised of Westport Parish as well. Please try to receive this Sacrament in preparation for Christmas. Fr. Howard will be available to hear the confessions.

There will be **two collections** next weekend with Christmas being on a Sunday. We'll have the regular weekend collection first for our parishes with parish weekly envelopes. The second collection will benefit our retired priests in our diocese through the Holy Christmas envelopes. Thank you.

### SEEKING A SUMMER YOUTH CAMP DIRECTOR

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking an energetic and dedicated individual for the position of Summer Youth Camp Director at the Guggenheim Center. Located at, 1468 County Route 18, Saranac Lake, NY, Summer Camp Guggenheim has been a "home away from home" for young people ages 12 to 18 years old since 1972. Hike, Swim, Praise, and a whole lot more! Summer camp Guggenheim is a high energy camp filled with exciting activities & opportunities for campers to experience their faith & joyfully celebrate it.

To apply please visit: [www.rcdonny.org/information/employment](http://www.rcdonny.org/information/employment)

Questions or inquiries contact:  
Tom Semeraro, Director of Youth Ministry  
315-393-2920 ext. 1415  
[www.rcdonny.org/youth](http://www.rcdonny.org/youth)

### ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify us.  
Body of Christ, save us.  
Blood of Christ, inebriate us.  
Water from the side of Christ, wash us.  
Passion of Christ, strengthen us.  
O good Jesus, hear us.  
Within your wounds, hide us.  
Let us never be separated from you.  
From the malignant enemy, defend us.  
In the hour of our death, call us,  
And bid us come to you,  
That with your saints we may praise you  
Forever and ever. Amen.

### HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO SAY, "MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT... ...OF YOUR PEACE?"

There is a tendency in human nature and especially in our society today to make everything selfish, to focus inward on the all-important "me," while overlooking the way our behavior and attitudes affect those around us. It is so easy to forget that focusing on others is an important way of focusing on God, and some of our best opportunities to serve God well are found in serving our neighbor well. This beautiful prayer by St. Francis of Assisi perfectly articulates a truly Catholic spirit of love—to serve, not to be served:

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

We have a responsibility to take our effect on others seriously, and not to abuse our power to hurt but help another person. Because one response prompts another, even the smallest of actions can have a huge effect. We've all experienced having a day made or ruined because of one simple interaction with another person, having one quick word or gesture change everything. Our lives are full of opportunities to make a difference in someone else's life—whether positive or negative, and rather than simply avoiding harm, our goal should be to actively choose love and be a true "instrument of God's peace."

### ECUMENICAL CHOIR CONCERT LAST CHANCE—SUNDAY 7:30pm

The Keeseville-Peru Ecumenical Choir will be performing two concerts to celebrate its 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The first concert will be Saturday, Dec 17, at St. John the Baptist Church in Keeseville at 7:30pm. The second concert will be Sunday, Dec 18, at St. Augustine's Church in Peru at 7:30pm. The choir is directed by Jeanette Woodruff. The accompanist for the choir is Steve Collier and the organist is Steve Woodruff. Admission is free.



# The NATIVITY of our LORD JESUS CHRIST

December 25, 2022

Monday, December 26

No Scheduled Mass

Tuesday, December 27 – St John, Apostle & Evangelist

12:00pm (SE) - John & Nancy Boisseau by the Estate

Preceded by Holy Hour at 11:00 am

Wednesday, December 28 – The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

12:00pm (SPN) - Russ Paquette by the Hoskins Family

Thursday, December 29

12:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Perkett Family

by Richard & Margaret Smith

Friday, December 30

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

12:00pm (SPN) - Russ Paquette by Helen MacDougal

Saturday, December 31

4:30pm (SE) - Pro Populo

Sunday, January 1

8:30am (SPN) - Peter C Kullman by Bill & Laurie Kelley

10:30am (SPJ) - Special Intention for Rose Mary Rogers

by John O'Hara

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown

(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro

(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex

(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

### Readings for the Week of December 26

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17/Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-5, 7-8/Mt 2:13-18

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-3, 5-6/Lk 2:22-35

Friday: Sir 5:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21/Ps 128:1-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-13/Jn 1:1-18

Next Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21



### FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

St Philip of Jesus parish hall  
Immediately Follows 10:30am Mass  
All are welcome

### Upcoming Dates - Mark Your Calendar

January 22 - Peace February 26 - Lent  
March 26 - Easter



### Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth – Attendance: 22

Envelopes: \$1,042.25; Plate: \$150.00

Christmas Flowers: \$10.00; Fuel: \$110.00

Total: \$1,105.25

Immaculate Conception: \$122.25

Retirement Fund for Religious: \$15.00

Immaculate Conception: \$10.00; Holy Christmas: \$50.00

Saint Philip Neri – Attendance: 34

Envelopes: \$1,192.00; Plate: \$126.00

Fuel: \$10.00

Total: \$1,328.00

Retirement Fund for Religious: \$20.00

St Philip of Jesus – Attendance: 52

Envelopes: \$670.00; Plate: \$78.00

Fuel: \$140.00

Total: \$888.00

Immaculate Conception: \$15.00

Retirement Fund for Religious: \$25.00

Holy Christmas: \$75.00

### ~~~~~ HOW CAN YOU SPREAD CHRISTMAS HOPE & LOVE? ~~~~~

**Pray for peace.** Pray for the comfort and healing of innocent people in war-torn countries. Think of those missing loved ones who are feeling lonely this time of year. Pray for our Armed Forces who will not be able to spend Christmas with their families. Pray for any personal intentions you may have for your family or community.

**Smile and observe patience.** People are rushing, pushing, shoving to get things done. Smiles are contagious so start the trend. Ease some tension on a check-out line or anywhere else you may be frequenting this time of year.

**Pay someone a heartfelt compliment.** You never know who may need some cheering up. Compliments are easy to give and so appreciated.

**Donate to a cause that is important to you.** It can be as simple as dropping spare change for a cause you believe that would make a difference. Or consider making an extra donation towards your parish for its future and daily maintenance.

**Brighten the day for a friend in need.** You can send cards, make something, or bake a treat for neighbors and friends.

**Contribute to a campaign or food drive.** Join a campaign like Toys for Tots or a food drive at your local supermarket or schools. Help provide a celebration for those who cannot afford it themselves.

**Show appreciation** to those who provide services to make your life easier. Give a gift to those who provide services for you including your local mail carrier, sanitation workers, teachers, secretaries, etc.

**Volunteer your time** especially in your parishes with cleaning the churches, sacred linens, and vessels, decorating, planting a flowerbed in the spring. Also help out in nursing homes and thrift store...

Hope is not the conviction that what we do will be successful but the certainty that something is right regardless of how it turns out. We work for change because it is right and good, not because it stands a chance to succeed. "Even a purely moral act that has no chance of immediate and visible effect can gradually, over time, gain in significance."

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...



Christmas is often marketed in fluffy and tinseling ways – in pastel colors, lots of emphasis on here today and gone tomorrow presents, chocolate and bubbly, friendly faces, and so forth. The domestic reality, of course, is more mixed than that.

It is certainly about showing children love, celebrations, and families coming together. But it is about **real families and relationships**. Christmas has its fair share of tensions, tantrums, jealousies, and unspoken harsh words, as well as of love, generosity, and affection. It needs rich and deep colors to describe it, not just soft blues, yellows, and pinks. It poses serious questions to us about what matters to us in our lives. When we think of the story of the first Christmas, that element of seriousness is appropriate. The question underlying the Gospel stories of Christ's birth asks where we might look to find God in our world. The answer given in the stories is that we might expect to find God in unnoticed people, in marginal and poor places, in simple human realities like giving human birth, in danger from paranoid rulers, in flight from home, in intimations of a troubled future. The stories address the deep realities of human life and not just the surface. The Christmas stories also say that where God is found, joy can also be found. As at the first Christmas, joy is built with the bricks of unselfish love, the straw of unexpected growth in times of solitude, the mortar of conversations that happened because there was nothing more interesting to do, and the sharp eye that notices and responds to the joys and sorrows of others. **Wishing you and your loved ones a very Blessed Christmas.**

With Love and Prayers.... Fr. J.T.

### THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord. At the time of his birth, few took notice. After all it was just a child born to a poor young woman, nothing extraordinary. And yet, Angels announced his birth to stunned shepherds out in the field. This seemingly insignificant baby boy would change the world by opening heaven for all who would follow him. This truly is the GOOD NEWS! Let us shout it from the rooftops and invite all to come meet their Lord and Savior this Christmas season. (from the Diocesan Office of Evangelization)

### REMINDER:

Please note that there will be a Special **HOLY HOUR** from 3-4.15 pm in St. Elizabeth's church on next Saturday (31<sup>st</sup>) in giving thanks to God for all the Blessings that we have received this year and for a fruitful year with God's choicest blessings in 2023.

### From Bishop Terry R. LaValley...

*"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.*

*For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord...*

*...and this will be a sign for you..." (Luke 2:10-12)*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

What is this sign that the angel in St. Luke's Gospel proclaims? God is born among us. What a wondrous sign of God's love for you and me! St. John of the Cross once wrote to a friend: *"Think nothing else but that God ordains all, and where there is no love, put love, and you will draw out love."*



When God the Father didn't find love in the human race, He put love in the human race through the Incarnation of His Son. Then, He found Love, in His Son Jesus and in all who had become a part of His Body. Each of us is called to go and do likewise. When we don't find love in a situation, we can put love there and then we'll find it! We can make a difference.

A current example can be found in the tens of thousands of Polish families opening their living rooms to Ukrainians fleeing their homeland. Polish monasteries, convents, rectories and homes are among some of the places where Ukrainian refugees are encountering the living Lord in their neighbors.

We must embrace the same kind of faith in the overriding providence of God in all the events of our lives—even in a world that, at times, seems so loveless, so Godless. The angel insists: Do not be afraid, I've got some great news to share with you. God has been born among us and, through His Spirit, He remains ever present.

Fear can be a crippling emotion that often raises our defenses and restricts our outreach to others. However, such a divine intervention as God's birth on earth, prepares you and me to open ourselves to the gift of God's presence. When we accept such an invitation in humility and with patience, we can grow in holiness. Fear subsides because we know we are in the presence of Jesus.

The Christmas story is our love story. It's the story of our encounter with the living God and sharing the fruits of that encounter with others. It's no wonder that this is a season of great hope, joy and peace. May the Christ Child bring you and your loved ones the Gift of Love, the Blessing of Hope and the Promise of Peace. A blessed Christmas and joy-filled New Year!

Faithfully yours in Christ,  
Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley,  
Bishop of Ogdensburg

