

**Sacred Heart Church  
The Italian National Parish  
37 Schuyler Avenue  
Stamford, Connecticut 06902**

*And to the earth  
it gave great light...*

*Third Sunday  
of Advent*

**SACRED HEART CHURCH**  
**ITALIAN NATIONAL PARISH**  
**37 SCHUYLER AVENUE**  
**STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT 06902**  
**203-324-9544/FAX 203-324-9202**  
**REV. ALFONSO PICONE**  
**PASTOR**  
**REV. MARTIN deMAYO**  
**PAROCHIAL VICAR**  
**HOLY MASS**

**Saturday December 16, 2017**

4:00PM Anna Picciallo by the Perrotta Family

**Sunday December 17, 2017**

8:30AM Ernest Passarelle by Wife & Children  
 10:00AM Rosario D'Elia by Angela D'Elia & Family  
 11:30AM Rosino Zezima by Phyllis Montefuscoli  
 1:00PM Victor Lopez by N. Lopez/ Bienvenida Encarnacion by Brothers/  
 All the Souls in Purgatory by Carlos Augusto Rivera

The Lamp for the week of December 17- December 23 is in memory of Elio D'Elia by Wife & Children The Hosts for the week of December 17-- December 23 is in memory of All the Souls in Purgatory by Carlos A. Rivera
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**Monday December 18, 2017**

7:00AM Family of Joseph Burriesci by Daughter

**Tuesday December 19, 2017**

7:00AM Biagio Fusaro & Angelo Cozzolino by Assunta & Frank

**Wednesday December 20, 2017**

7:00AM Deceased of the Tolla Family by Family

**Thursday December 21, 2017**

7:00AM Maria & George Richetelli by the Carriero Family

**Friday December 22, 2017**

7:00AM JoAnn & Vincent Adipietro by Ann Santasiero

**Saturday December 23, 2017**

8:00AM Marie Boccuzzi & Albert Pensiero by Family  
 4:00PM Michael T. & Margaret H. Powers by Children

**Sunday December 24, 2017 & CHRISTMAS EVE**

8:30AM Tara Sinaguglia by Family  
 10:00AM Alberico, Raffaele & Michelina Faugno by Grandchildren  
 11:30AM Maria C. Joseph, James, Dorothy & Mary Malafarina by Family  
 1:00PM Silvio Boccuzzi, Tommaso & Domenico Prizio &  
 Salvatore & Giuseppe Boccuzzi by Family  
 3:30PM Concert of Carols  
 4:00PM Pat (Skippy) Denicola & Angelina D. Verrastro by Family  
 9:00PM Christmas Mass in Spanish  
 12:00AM First Mass of Christmas (Midnight)

The Lamp, Host & Wine for the week of December 24 - December 30 Is in memory of Dominick (Doc) Marino by Family
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**Monday December 25, 2017 CHRISTMAS DAY**

8:30AM For the Souls in Purgatory  
 10:00AM Priests Intentions  
 11:30AM Priests Intentions  
 1:00AM Priests Intentions

**SUNDAY COLLECTION** – The Sunday Collection for the weekend of December 9 & 10 totaled \$4,957.00. The second collection totaled \$636.00. The collection for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception totaled \$1,090.00. Please be as generous as your means will allow.

**FOR THE DECEASED:** We ask the Lord to grant Eternal Rest to Vincent Galatro, Rose Hill, Francesco Collia, Anna Dinella, Sylvia Bologna, and the deceased of our parish.

**THE ILL OF THE PARISH:** Please remember in your prayers: Gary Roscillo, Jeff Curtis, Antoinette (Honey) Montanaro, Helen Buchetto, Vittorio Faugno, Donald Brandi, Jenna Follo, Antonia (Toni) Smeriglio, Giuseppe Pampena, Thomas Vozzella and all of our parishioners who are ill.

**GUIDELINES FOR BAPTISMS:** **Classes in English will take place on the First Saturday of each month. The next class will be held on January 6, 2018 in the church at 1:00PM and then the child can be baptized any time after that on a Saturday at 1:00PM. Classes in Spanish will take place on the third Saturday of the month and then the child will be Baptized any time after that on a Saturday at 1:00PM.**

**MESSA IN MEMORIA SETTIMANALI** Se qualcuno vuole donare l'ostia, il vino per la messa o la lampada del santuario in memoria di una persona cara o come una donazione si prega di contattare l'ufficio 203-324-9544. L'offerta è di \$25.00 per ciascun.

**CLASES PRE-BAUSTISMALES:** se ofrecen clases en español cada tercer sábado del mes, a la 1:00PM en la iglesia, por favor llamar al número de la oficina a fin de poder registrarles (203) 324-9544, los Bautizos en español se celebrarán el cuarto sábado de cada mes a la 1:00PM.

**REZAR EL ROSARIO:** Desde Enero del 2018 se realizará el primer sábado de cada mes a las 6:30AM, quedan invitados todos.

**ÚLTIMA DIA DE LA NOVENA AL NIÑO DIOS:** sábado, 23 de diciembre del 2017 de 7:00PM a 9:00PM. Mucho agradeceré su colaboración, preparando una comida de su agrado a fin de compartir como familia con la comunidad y con grupos comprometidos con nuestra Iglesia.

### **LETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**

Guidelines for fulfillment of Christmas Mass Obligations:

- Sunday Obligation, December 23 & 24: The faithful may attend a Vigil Mass on Saturday, December 23 or any Mass on Sunday, December 24th (including any Christmas Vigil that concludes before midnight) in order to fulfill the Sunday obligation. Should one choose to fulfill his or her Sunday obligation by participating in a Christmas Vigil Mass, one should also attend Mass on Monday, December 25th in order to fulfill the Christmas obligation.
- Christmas Obligation, December 24-25: The faithful may attend a Vigil Mass or Midnight Mass on December 24th or any Mass on Monday, December 25th in order to fulfill the Christmas obligation (unless as noted above, the Christmas Vigil fulfills the Sunday obligation).

**The upcoming Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation since it falls on a Monday. While the faithful are encouraged to attend that celebration, it is not required.**

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING has been changed from January 22, 2018 to January 29th at 7:30PM**



**THANK YOU TO OUR CHOIR FOR A BEAUTIFUL CONCERT**

**CHOIR MEMBERS INCLUDE:**

**GIOVANNI AND LISA ALLEGRINI**

**ANNA BASILE**

**ROSE MARIE BITETTO**

**CARMELA CARDILLO**

**LYNDA CHARLESTON**

**NEIL FLORES**

**MAFALDA GAUDIANO**

**EDDA IUDICONE**

**JEAN-MICHEL LOBEAU**

**ROSELLA PARROTTA**

**ANGELO RAUS**

**PIA ROMANO**

**MICHAEL VARTULI**

**MARIA ZINICOLA**

**WITH GREGORY FREILINO OUR ORGANIST**

## LETTER FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

**Dear Parishioners,**

**The Peace of Christ be with you!!!**

**The third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete Sunday" because the Mass for today (in its original Latin text), begins with the opening antiphon, "Gaudete in Domino semper"- "Rejoice in the Lord always". To remind ourselves that we are preparing for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus, we light the rose candle, and the priest may wear rose vestments. The common theme of the day's Scripture readings is one of joy and encouragement. The readings urge us to make the preparations required of us as we await the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. Holy Scripture reminds us that the coming of Jesus, past, present and future, is the reason for our rejoicing.**

**In the First Reading, the Prophet Isaiah encourages the Jewish exiles returning from Babylon to rejoice because their God, Yahweh, is their strong Guide, Provider and Protector.**

**Today's Responsorial Psalm (Luke 1:46 ff) Mary rejoices in the great blessing given to her by exclaiming "My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit finds joy in God my Savior."**

**In the Second Reading, St. Paul advises the Thessalonian Christians to "rejoice always" by leading blameless, holy and thankful lives guided by the Holy Spirit, because Christ's second coming is near, and He is faithful in His promise to reward them.**

**Today's Gospel tells us that John the Baptizer who tells the Sanhedren members challenging Him that He is unworthy even to become the slave of Jesus the Messiah. We also rejoice at the humility of John the Baptizer who tells the Sanhedrin members challenging him that he is unworthy even to become the slave of himself completely in preparing people for the long-awaited Messiah. We have an additional reason to rejoice because, like John the Baptizer, we, too, are chosen to bear witness to Christ Jesus, the Light of the world.**

**We need to bear witness to Christ the Light. Our mission as brothers and sisters of Christ and members of His Church is to reflect Christ's Light to others, just as the moon reflects the light of the sun. It is especially important during the Advent season that we reflect Christ's sharing love and His unconditional forgiveness.**

**There are too many people who live in darkness and poverty, and who lack real freedom because of their evil addictions and bad choices. There are others who are deafened and blinded by the cheap attractions of the world. Many others who are deafened and blinded marginalized. Let us bring the true Light of Christ to illumine the lives of all these brothers and sisters during this Advent season through our sharing love, overflowing mercy, unconditional forgiveness and humble service. We will be able to accomplish this witnessing mission of radiating Christ's Light only by repenting of our sins asking God's pardon every day and renewing our lives by our daily prayers, by frequenting the Sacrament of Reconciliation, by attending and taking part in the Eucharistic celebration, by reading the Bible daily in meditative, prayerful fashion and by performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy where we see these are needed.**

**Have a blessed Sunday!**

**God Bless You,**

**Father Alfonso Picone,  
Pastor**

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