



SAINT CASSIAN PARISH

187 Bellevue Avenue Upper Montclair, NJ 07043 • (973) 744-2850 • stcassianchurch.org

4th Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2023

MASS SCHEDULE

Check inside bulletin for Christmas mass schedule

Weekdays: Tuesday through Saturday: 8:15AM



Office Information:

Served by:

Rev. Steven D'Andrea, Parish Administrator
Rev. Msgr. Anthony Kulig, Weekend Assistant
Deacon Roberto Demetillo
Stephen Powers, Director of Music
Keri Misurell, Director of Faith Formation
Maria Llanes, St. Cassian School Principal

Parish Phone Numbers

Parish Office(973) 744-2850
Fax..... (973) 744-6187
Email.....parishoffice@stcassianchurch.org
Websitewww.stcassianchurch.org
Religious Education Office.....(973) 744-2850
Music Office(973) 744-7864
St. Cassian School.....(973) 746-1636
Fax.....(973) 746-3271
Email.....info@stcassianschool.org
Website.....www.stcassianschool.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00AM—3:30 pm
Office closed Dec.25-26.

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation, formerly RCIA) Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic? Were you baptized Catholic but never received First Communion or Confirmation? Call the parish office for details.

The **Sacrament of Baptism** is celebrated one Sunday each month except during Advent, Lent and the summer months. In order to baptize your child at St. Cassian, the family must be registered parishioners. Parents, and godparents if available, must attend a preparation class (7:00 PM) prior to the date of baptism (1:00PM). Once registered, contact the Parish Office, (973) 744-2850, to make arrangements for the date of baptism. See schedule on the next page. Scan here to download Parish Registration Form



Arrangements to celebrate the **Sacrament of Marriage** must be made at least one year before the desired date. Do not make firm plans for the reception prior to speaking with a priest. Call the Parish Office, (973) 744-2850, to speak with a priest.

The **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** brings the Holy Spirit's gifts of peace and courage. It is not necessary to wait until the point of death for anointing. Contact a priest through the Parish Office, (973) 744-2850.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is celebrated every Saturday between 4:15PM-5:00PM in the church or at another time convenient to the priest and penitent.



Dear Parishioners,

The world has changed a lot since I was a kid waiting for Santa to bring me my first Velvet jogging suit and a few gold rope chains. I remember as a kid, as soon as my mother put up the Christmas tree, the house took on a different atmosphere. For about three or four weeks, we "made the rounds," we went out every night or people came over. The wine flowed, the men played cards, you heard laughing and wine glasses clanking, the espresso coffee pots worked overtime, and something was always baking in the oven. Those were the days when people really did gain 20 pounds during Christmas. Us kids stayed up late because there were so many coats on the beds, you couldn't get in it. I remember walking into church on Christmas Eve as a kid. The church was beautiful. The Christmas trees were beautiful. The church smelled like candles and Christmas trees, mink coats and Shalimar. I remember we would get home late, and I would say to my father " Carry me". Pisans really didn't go Christmas shopping. Most Italians gave things to each other that they made themselves. The men would exchange their homemade cheese and wine and the ladies would give each other cookies or roasted peppers or tomato sauce. When you went to their house, they would say to you: " Go see what baby Jesus left for you by the tree". The kids would get envelopes. Grandma always put the envelope under baby Jesus. Italians would keep their cash in coffee cans, so the money you got always smelled like coffee.

Christmas wasn't about buying presents for just one day. Christmas was about enjoying and living a sacred season; it was about experiencing a spiritual time with your family and friends. Christmas placed great importance on family and your home. Today more than ever, your homes have to be a sacred place for you and your family. You must protect it and keep the drama and the negativity out. Your home must be your sanctuary, a place where you invite God to be present in your home and to be a part of your lives.

No matter where our people came from, Christmas traditions gave us roots; they gave us stability and they taught us about who we are. But we didn't learn them over night, or from just one year, our families did these things for us every year so we would learn them and grow up and one day teach our children our way of life. Christmas time always brought us together, and sometimes back together. Christmas was always a time to reconcile and make up with someone and put aside our differences, because Christ came to bring us together and to reconcile us with God.

We are so blessed to be able to celebrate Christmas in America, but it would not be the same if we could not celebrate Christmas in true freedom. You may ask did we really need another Christmas? We sing the same songs, put up the same tree. The story was the same...No civilized person would want to be born in a stable. Hay on the floor. Animals all around. The Son of God deserved a royal entry. Less peasants, more pizzazz. Why not be born in a Roman palace or an Italian Palazzo. But we didn't plan it. God did. God was content to enter the world in the presence of sleepy sheep and a wide-eyed carpenter. No spotlights, just candlelight. No crowns, just cows and sheep and Shepherds. God made so little of his Son's coming. But that was the message.

The moment Mary and Joseph kissed that baby's face sitting in a stable is the moment God made his case:

There is no place he will not go.

If he is willing to be born in a stable, then we can expect him to be at work anywhere— bars, bedrooms, boardrooms, our church, your homes. No place is too common. No distance is too far. There is no limit to his love.

When Christ was born, so was our hope. May the Christ child bring each of you the gift of hope.

On behalf of all the priests, Monsignor Duran, Monsignor Kulig and myself, along with Deacon Roberto and the whole Parish staff, we extend to you and your families our warmest wishes as we begin to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

May this Christmas provide all of you with an opportunity to re-vitalize your relationship with Christ. May anything that might be bruised, stained, tainted, ugly or brutal melt away from your lives.

Allow Christ the privilege of transforming you in His image – an image of truth, compassion, dignity, mercy, forgiveness, love, true joy, hope, sinlessness, spiritual depth, and beauty.

A most awesome Christmas time to all!

Fr. Steve



Mass Intentions for the Week of December 24

For those who are ill:

Marcia Mann	Leigh Major
John Anderson	Sr. Idoia Martinez
Alesia Maria Andras	John McCarthy
Mary Blatz	Patricia Melo
Leo Botwin	Mary McGuire
Frank Briamont	Frank Mongioi
Penelope Brisco	Thomas Nelson
JoAnne Callahan	Dr. David Pallotta
Dominek Capela	Mildred Pasino
Marilyn Castellano	Rosemary Raleigh
John Flynn	Ronald Rego
Dennis Gannon	Dr. Lorraine Reyes
Virgilio Geulen	Jaxson Rivera
Dan Greiner	Eleanor Schiavo
Steve Grube	Rhonda Sen
Jennifer Gullace	Elizabeth Smith
Joyce Hakimian	Olaf Stechow
David Hogan	Dennis Swanson
Noel Jordan	Lindsay Trembulak
Cassie Lopolus	

For those who have died: Magda Rosado

THE ALTAR BREAD IS OFFERED IN MEMORY OF
MELISSA MARTINEZ

For national and world leaders and for those in the armed service.

Please remember these names in your daily prayers.

ROSARY INTENTIONS...

<i>Monday</i>	For safety and freedom for the people of Ukraine
<i>Tuesday</i>	All military and protective services especially in areas of violence; protect them, grant peace to their loved ones
<i>Wednesday</i>	Respect for sanctity of life from conception to natural death
<i>Thursday</i>	Unity among churches and nations
<i>Friday</i>	Vocations to the priesthood and religious life; all parishioners living and deceased

Sunday December 24h Fourth Sunday in Advent	5:30PM 7:30AM 9:30AM 4 pm 6 pm 10:30pm	Colleen Mahoney James McHugh People of the Parish People of the Parish People of the Parish
Tuesday - Saturday morning masses are celebrated at 8:15AM; Monday morning mass is private		
Monday Dec 25th Nativity of the Lord	7:30, 9:30, 11:30	People of the Parish
Tuesday Dec 26th Second Day within Octave of Nativity		Ezekiel Cousins
Wednesday Dec 27th St. John, Apostle and Evangelist		Glenda Dickerson
Thursday Dec 28th The Holy Innocents		Rosemary Diza & Lawrence Lico
Friday Dec 29th Fifth day within Octave of Nativity		Stanley N. Sarama
Saturday Dec 30th Sixth Day within Octave of Nativity		Gregory Amilcar Prado
Sunday Dec 31st Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	5:30PM 7:30AM 9:30AM 11:30AM	Hasna Chhada People of the Parish Bill Ford Michael McKeta

READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
MON.	(Day) Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18
TUES.	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 Mt 10:17-22
WED.	1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20:1a and 2-8
THUR.	1 Jn 1:5—2:2 Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8 Mt 2:13-18
FRI.	1 Jn 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 Lk 2:22-35
SAT.	1 Jn 2:12-17 Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 Lk 2:36-40
SUN.	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40

28th Anniversary of the St. Cassian Dedication

In the News: St. Cassian Opens Its Christmas Gift

By Alison De Groot Dec 21, 1995 "Montclair Times"

Despite the scaffolding still visible through a second story window, the parishioners of St. Cassian Roman Catholic Church gratefully dedicated their new home on Saturday.

In a moving service, presided over by the Newark Archbishop and Monsignor John E. Doran, Pastor of St. Cassian, the new church was blessed and parishioners were welcomed home just in time for Christmas, after spending three years without a church building of their own. The service was attended by more than 200 well-wishers.As Saturday's service began, the bells of St. James Episcopal Church across the street rang out in honor of the growing friendship that has developed between the two parishes.



When St. Cassian staff and parishioners found themselves homeless, St. James came to the rescue and made available its church building for weddings and funerals and leased office space to St. Cassian rent-free. We have a picture dedicated to St. James in our stained glass windows. Can you find it?

St. Cassian also sports a bell tower that copies St. James' bell tower as a lasting tribute to its gracious host. The Catholic parish couldn't afford the stone used in the original tower so, instead, it chose stucco and wood for its structure.



St. Cassian's dedicates new church

Jan. 3, 1996 "The Catholic Advocate"

St. Cassian's Parish in Upper Montclair has received a "Christmas present from God", according to Pastor Msgr. John Doran. During Mass on Saturday Dec. 16, the Archbishop dedicated the new church building, which contractors had promised by Christmas but were able to hand over to the pastor on December 15.

From Dec 16-17, the parish participated in Dedication Weekend which celebrated the opening of the new building. In the morning of Dec. 16, the Archbishop started the weekend when he presided over the Dedication mass which featured singing by the St. Cassian Choir and Junior Choir. That afternoon, Bergen and Essex Regional Bishop Charles McDonnell celebrated the first regularly scheduled Mass in the newly constructed building.

On Dec. 17 at 7 a.m., the parish clergy celebrated St. Cassian's first Sunday Mass in the church. At 9:00 am, the retired Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Francis presided over the first family Liturgy with the St. Cassian Junior and Primary choirs. (P.S. Dec. 17 was *Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent.*

It was called REJOICE SUNDAY. All the vestments of the priest were rose colored.)

At 10:30 a.m., Archbishop Emeritus Peter Gerety celebrated the first sung Liturgy with St. Cassian Adult and Junior Choirs, while Bishop Michael Saltarelli, Rector of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, presided over a Pontifical Mass at noon which concluded the Dedication Weekend.

Just in time for Christmas, contractors refurbished and installed the old church's grand pipe organ which was built originally in 1965. (*The St. Cassian organ is a re-build of a 1965 Schantz, formerly at Our Lady of All Souls in East Orange. It has been completely refurbished with four new ranks added, and installed in the new St. Cassian Church building which has a three-second reverberation.*) Source: Catholic Advocate Aug. 28, 1996) .

28th Anniversary of the St. Cassian Dedication cont'd

"Because of the building's completion around the holidays, the parish will hold an extra special place in its heart for Christmas as a part of its own history", Msgr. Doran said, adding joyfully that " **St. Cassian will be known as a Christmas parish**".

Msgr. Doran told the congregation, "The gift you have given, give also as a gift. God gave us the faith and the talent and the means and we used them to build this beautiful church which we give to God as a wonderful gift. And he has given it back to us. This is our church", Doran said .

While reminiscing about the Dedication Service, Msgr. Doran told an anecdote about the Christmas tree in the parking lot. When one drives though the driveway and lets a passenger off under the portico, you can see the alignment with the tree and the driveway. Back in 1996, the children from St. Cassian school planted the tree and would decorate it for Christmas.

Dec 2023



Msgr. Doran, 1995 and 2023.



Father Lander's Chalice given to him by his aunts June 1, 1912

Pictures from Dedication Service



Procession of the Gifts :
Original Crucifix of Old Saint Cassian,
Baptism register and Marriage register,
Rendering of Old Saint Cassian Church,
Rendering of New Saint Cassian Church,
School gifts,
CCD Gifts,
Parish Seal,
Original Ciborium,
Father Lander's Chalice,
The Bread and Wind

BEARING GIFTS—Parishioners travel the center aisle of the new St. Cassian Roman Catholic Church bearing gifts to the church in honor of Saturday's dedication service.

Can you help us identify the gift bearers?

Pictures from Dedication Service



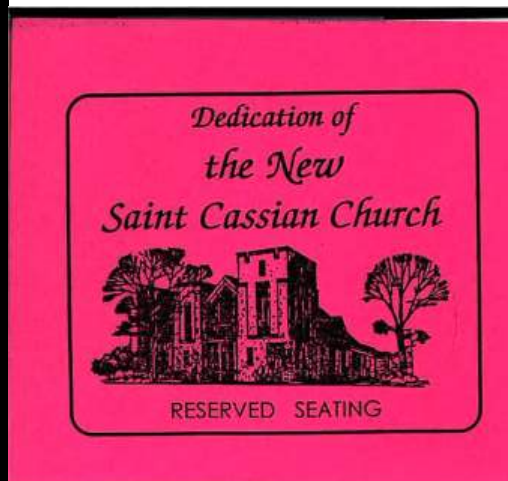
Junior Choir



Adult Choir



Martha Nowik, C.A.G.O., Director of Music



Covering the Altar



2023 Christmas Ministry Schedule

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

4:00pm Family Mass

Celebrants: Fr Steve/Deacon Roberto

Altar Server: A, Costa, G. Horbal, M & L Gimelli

Lector: Kathrynna Demetillo, Matt Hertzog

Eucharistic Minister: Barbara Gregory, Cynthia Demetillo, Fr Steve, Deacon Roberto

Back of Church: Regina Sammon, 1 EM Needed

Larkin Hall: Susanne Russo, Angela Russo

6:00pm Vigil Mass

Celebrant: Msgr Doran/Fr Steve/Deacon Roberto

Altar Server: E & O Zaccone, C. Grube

Lector: Lisa Higgins, Bob Zaccone

Eucharistic Minister: Tom Higgins, Marie Meyer, **1 EM Needed**, Msgr Doran, Fr Steve, Deacon Roberto

10:30pm Solemn Mass

Celebrant: Fr Steve

Altar Servers: **Altar Servers Needed**

Lectors: Marie Badaracco, Jason Lynch

Eucharistic Minister: Jeannette Pizarro, Jane Ryan, Marguerite Giustina, **2 EMs Needed**, Fr Steve

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

7:30 am Mass

Celebrant: Fr Steve

Altar Server: **Altar Servers Needed**

Lectors: George Kenny

Eucharistic Ministers: Sandy Kenny, John Rogers, **EM Needed**, Fr Steve

9:30am Mass

Celebrant: Fr Steve

Altar Server: J. Misiukewicz, K. Tsikitas, S. Misurell

Lector: Alicja Delag, Keri Misurell

Eucharistic Ministers: Andy Kuziemko, **2 EMs Needed**, Fr Steve

Back of Church: 2 EMs Needed

Larkin Hall: 2 EMs Needed

11:30am Mass

Celebrant: Msgr Doran/Fr Steve

Altar Server: Kyle Pantanilla

Lector: Vallery Geulen

Eucharistic Ministers: Maryann Kuzel, Tom Johnson, **2 EMs Needed**, Msgr Doran, Fr Steve

Back of Church: 2 EMs Needed

Saturday/Sunday, December 30/31, 2023

5:30 pm Mass

Altar Server: E & O Zaccone

Lectors: Bob Zaccone, JB McCall

Eucharistic Ministers: Lisa Higgins, Tom Higgins, Barbara Gregory, **2 EMs Needed**, Fr Steve

7:30 am Mass

Altar Server: C. Grube, R. Cohen

Lectors: Agnes Dembia

Eucharistic Ministers: **2 EMs Needed**, Fr Steve, Deacon Roberto

9:30 am Mass

Altar Server: J. Misiukewicz, N & C Horvath

Lectors: Eileen Fasanella

Eucharistic Ministers: Linda Melchiorre, Jerry Fasanella, **2 EMs Needed**, Fr Steve, Deacon Roberto

11:30am Mass

Altar Server: Altar Servers Needed

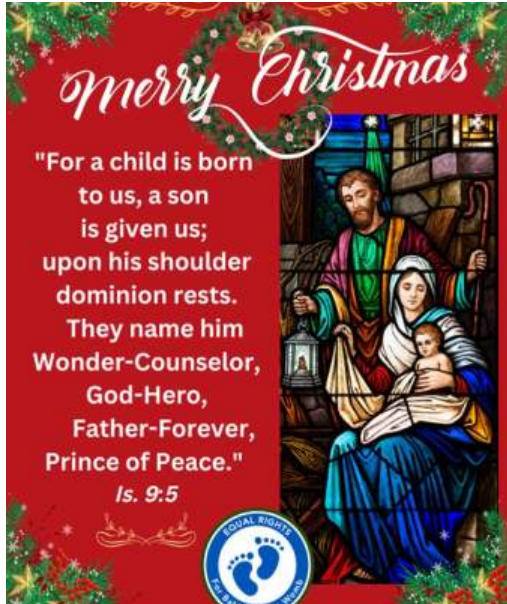
Lector: Lector Needed

Eucharistic Ministers: Maryann Kuzel, Cynthia Demetillo, **2 EMs Needed**, Fr Steve, Deacon Roberto

Larkin Hall: 2 EMs Needed



NEWS AROUND THE PARISH



Parish Calendar

December 24, 25 & 26	No Faith Formation Class
Dec.31, January 1 & 2	No Faith Formation Class
January 7	Epiphany of the Lord
	Children's Liturgy of the Word 9:30
January 14	Children's Liturgy of the Word 9:30

	Gift of Treasure
SIGNS OF STEWARDSHIP	12/2—12/3
<i>Minimum weekly needed</i>	\$16,250
<i>Regular Weekly Collection</i>	\$5,106
<i>Faith Direct Average</i>	\$6,765
<i>Weekly Total</i>	\$11,871

PLEASE HELP HOWEVER YOU CAN!

We will be collecting cleaning supplies and any of the usual items we collect on the weekend of Dec 30/31 and Jan. 6/7.


Thank you for your continued generosity.



Gift Giving Tree

Thank You for your generosity





Christmas Poinsettia and Church Decorations In Memory of:

In Memory Of:

Deceased Members of the McDonald Family

Danielle Pino
Walter Collins

Nancy Walsh Bird

Deceased Members of the McGrath Family

Eula and O'Grady Family

Edward Pasino, Sr.
George and Lois Clarkson

LoFrano and Falco Families

Deceased Members of the Lovejoy Family
Raquel C. Barnes
Raquel M. Barnes

Deceased Members of the Casas Family

Rebecca Ziegler
Richard A. Ziegler
Al & Terry Mattner
Richard & Margaret Ziegler
Deceased Members of the Mattner and McCaffrey Families
Deceased Members of the Ziegler and Seel Families
Tom Mattner
Rev. Robert Brennan
Rev. Msgr. John G. Judge

Deceased Members of the Hitti Family

Mary and Alfred H. Piché, Sr and the
Deceased Members of the Hasslinger
and Piché Families

Brendan Carney
Henry and Veronica Brezina
Joseph and Alice Carney
Kay Sheeran
Barbara Hurley

Deceased Members of the Hix Family

My father Winzell Gill

James A. Aguiar
June M. Moretti

Deceased Members of the McGurk Family

Antonia Rosa Dos Santos
Mary Greer
Nancy Smith

Victoria and Peter Sayegh
Ed and Dick Frizzi
Violet Kostrzewa
George Evans

Constantino and Antonia Chiusano
Deceased Members of the Chiusano Family
Deceased Members of the Lee Family

Deceased Members of the Convey Family

Daniel F. Sullivan and
Deceased Members of the Sullivan and Kenny Families

Albanese/Lipani Families
Grossjung/Wass Families

Evelyn and James Sherretz and the Deceased Members of
the Biondi and Sherretz Families

Annie Alviar
Mario Alviar
Richard Gildersleeve

Deceased Members of the Connolly and Bowens Family

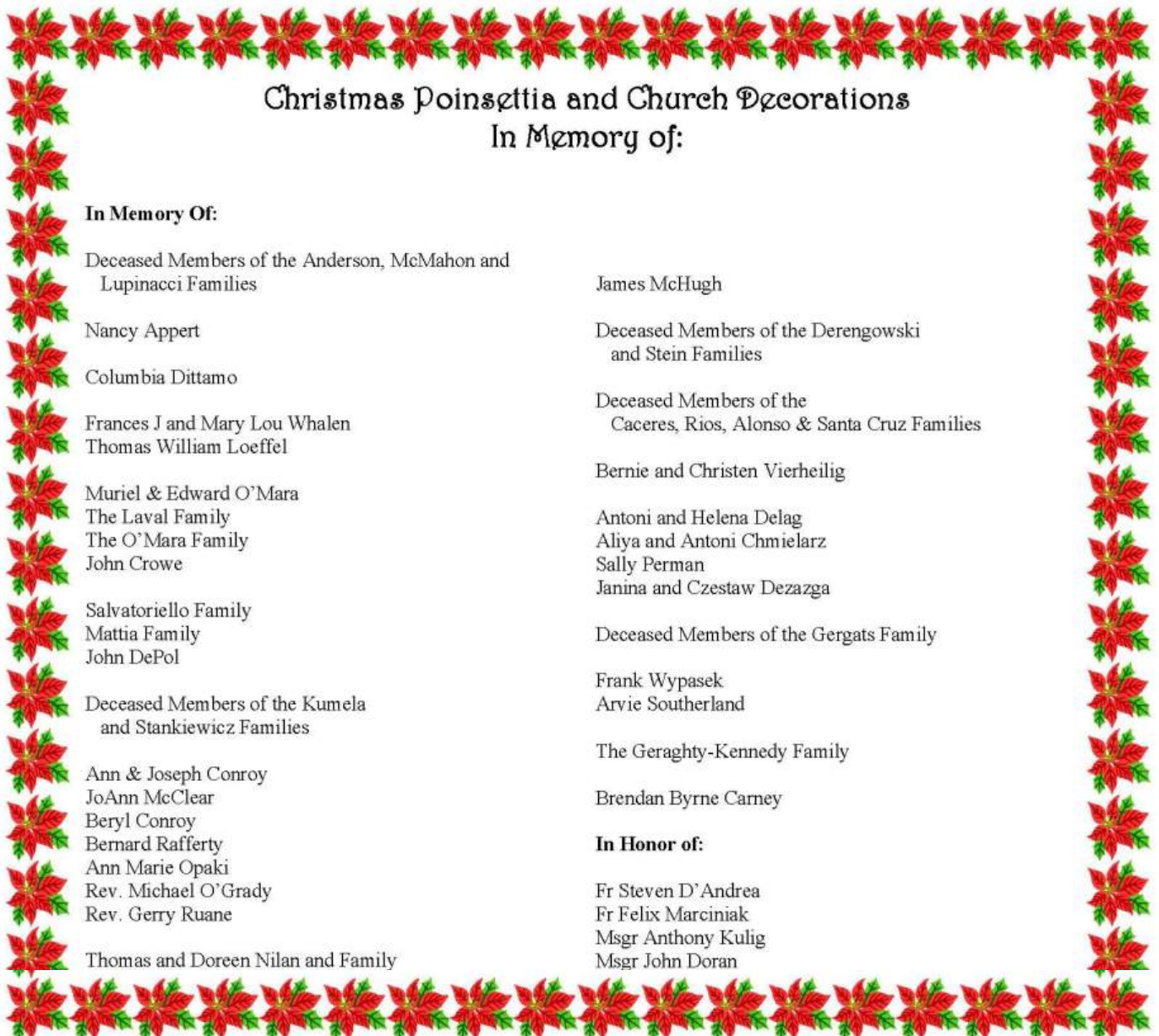
Dorothy Helen Valentini

Deceased Members of
the Eng-Moi-Chin-Larkin-Palmer Families

William Feiler
Christine Arena

Yeris Bode
Emma Bode
Ramona Perez
Felisa Gines
Gordon Foster
Hector Gines
Ana Pena

Rev. Monsignor Jack Judge
David Sheehan
Frances Grube



Christmas Poinsettia and Church Decorations In Memory of:

In Memory Of:

Deceased Members of the Anderson, McMahon and
Lupinacci Families

Nancy Appert

Columbia Dittamo

Frances J and Mary Lou Whalen
Thomas William Loeffel

Muriel & Edward O'Mara
The Laval Family
The O'Mara Family
John Crowe

Salvatoriello Family
Mattia Family
John DePol

Deceased Members of the Kumela
and Stankiewicz Families

Ann & Joseph Conroy
JoAnn McClear
Beryl Conroy
Bernard Rafferty
Ann Marie Opaki
Rev. Michael O'Grady
Rev. Gerry Ruane

Thomas and Doreen Nilan and Family

James McHugh

Deceased Members of the Derengowski
and Stein Families

Deceased Members of the
Caceres, Rios, Alonso & Santa Cruz Families

Bernie and Christen Vierheilig

Antoni and Helena Delag
Aliya and Antoni Chmielarz
Sally Perman
Janina and Czeslaw Dezazga

Deceased Members of the Gergats Family

Frank Wypasek
Arvie Southerland

The Geraghty-Kennedy Family

Brendan Byrne Carney

In Honor of:

Fr Steven D'Andrea
Fr Felix Marciniak
Msgr Anthony Kulig
Msgr John Doran

Start thinking about New Year's Resolutions

The start of a new year is the perfect time to turn a new page, which is probably why so many people make New Year's resolutions. The new year often feels like a fresh start and a great opportunity to change bad habits and establish new routines that will help you grow spiritually, psychologically, emotionally, socially, physically, or intellectually.

In today's society, New Year's resolutions rarely focus on making promises to God. In fact, the top three categories of resolutions are health, self improvement, and money, according to a recent report from Finder. These resolutions can be anything from a commitment to losing weight to saving money in an investment or quitting a bad habit.

When setting out to make a New Year's resolution, it is important to check in with your intention—and involve God in the discernment process. What does He want you to do? How can you improve a habit or practice in your life that brings more glory to His Kingdom? As you discern ways to improve yourself or your relationships, try asking Jesus how He wants you to grow and change instead of how you might want to do that on your own. While many people feel that they don't achieve their resolution goals, one study showed that those who set New Year's resolutions are 10 times more likely to actually change their behavior than people who don't make these yearly goals. So start thinking now.

Even if resolutions don't always stick, that doesn't mean that resolutions aren't worth making. One survey conducted by YouGov found that people who planned to make New Year's resolutions were more optimistic about the future.

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Our children hold the key to the future of our Catholic faith. Providing our children Catholic faith-based education rich in academic excellence, leadership, and strong moral values is essential to the vitality of the parish.

Your end-of-year donation to the St. Cassian School Foundation is tax deductible and directly supports your CCD and St. Cassian School students.

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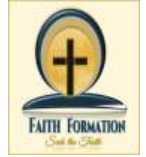
Science, Technology, & Engineering
Initiatives



Bergen PAC-directed Musicals

The Saints

Did You Know?

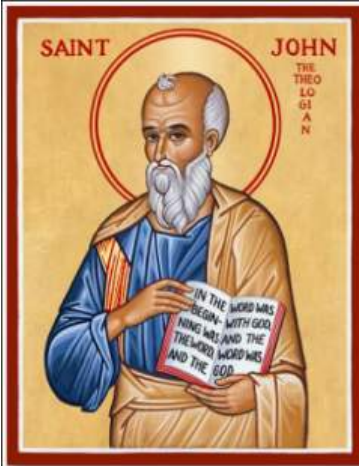


St. Stephen— Dec. 26



St. Stephen was one of the seven deacons mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles (6:5-7) who was ordained by the Apostles themselves. In the ICON, Stephen is vested in the deacon's sticharion. As the deacon who serves in the Church's worship, he carries the censer in his right hand. In his left hand he holds a church, symbolic of that which in his office he has been called to serve.

Stephen was the first who willingly shed his blood for Christ, and hence is known as the "proto" or first martyr. The actual day of his death is unknown, but since he was the first to sacrifice his life for Christ, his "heavenly birthday" is celebrated immediately after the earthly birth of Christ.



St. John, Apostle and Evangelist Dec. 27—patron saint of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors

St. John the Apostle, the son of Zebedee and Salome, was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. John was called to be an Apostle by our Lord in the first year of His public ministry. He is considered the same person as John the Evangelist, John of Patmos and the Beloved Disciple. John is believed to be the longest living apostle and the only not to die a martyr's death. John was the only one of the Twelve Apostles who did not forsake the Savior in the hour of His Passion. He stood faithfully at the cross when the Savior made him the guardian of His Mother. After the Assumption of Mary, John went to Ephesus, according to Church tradition. He later became banished by the Roman authorities to the Greek Island of Patmos; this is where he allegedly wrote the Book of Revelation.



The Holy Innocents, Martyrs—Dec. 28

Herod "the Great," king of Judea, was unpopular with his people because of his connections with the Romans and his religious indifference. Hence he was insecure and fearful of any threat to his throne. He was a master politician and a tyrant capable of extreme brutality. He killed his wife, his brother, and his sister's two husbands, to name only a few. Matthew 2:1-18 tells this story: Herod was "greatly troubled" when astrologers from the east came asking the

whereabouts of "the newborn king of the Jews," whose star they had seen. They were told that the Jewish Scriptures named Bethlehem as the place where the Messiah would be born. Herod cunningly told them to report back to him so that he could also "do him homage." They found Jesus, offered him their gifts, and warned by an angel, avoided Herod on their way home. Jesus escaped to Egypt.

Herod became furious and "ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under." The horror of the massacre and the devastation of the mothers and fathers led Matthew to quote Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children..." (Matthew 2:18). Rachel was the wife of Jacob (Israel). She is pictured as weeping at the place where the Israelites were herded together by the conquering Assyrians for their march into captivity.



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