

# ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

113 CHIEGO PLACE  
ROSELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07204

To all who are tired and need rest; to all who mourn and need comfort; to all who are friendless and need friendship;  
to all who are discouraged and need hope; to all who sin and need a Savior; and to whomsoever will,  
**THIS CHURCH OPENS WIDE ITS DOOR IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS!**



**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 22, 2019**

## **SERVED BY:**

**Very Rev. Father James F. Spera, V.F.**, Pastor  
Dean, Union County North

**Rev. Father Carmine Rizzi**, Priest-in-Residence

**Rev. Deacon David J. Farrell**, Deacon and  
Director of Religious Education

**Michael Casa, Elizabeth Santora**, Trustees

**Donna Schmatz**, Organist and Music Coordinator

**Virginia Jediny**, Parish Secretary

**Karen Colucci**, Religious Education Coordinator

New members of the Parish are welcome and invited to **REGISTER** by calling the Rectory Office. Please notify the Office when moving away from the Parish. Sponsor certificates for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation will be signed and sealed for Registered parishioners only. You must be registered for 6 months prior to your request.

## **EUCCHARIST:**

**Saturday Evenings:** 5:30 pm

**Sundays:** 8:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 Noon

**Weekdays:** Monday - Saturday, 8:00 am

### **Holy Days of Obligation:**

8:00 am and 7:30 pm

### **Novenas:**

St. Jude after the Saturday 8:00 am Mass

St. Anthony, prayers with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Tuesday, 7:30 pm, September thru June

### **Confession:**

Saturday afternoon from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Weekdays (Monday-Saturday) at 7:30 am before the 8:00 am Mass, or anytime by appointment

## **PARISH OFFICE**

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## **FAX**

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## **WEB PAGE**

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[assumptionschool113@gmail.com](mailto:assumptionschool113@gmail.com)



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## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

*They shall name him Emmanuel, which means  
"God is with us".*

*-Matthew 1:23*

### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - December**

**5:30 PM + Dec. 31, 5:30 PM** - Cindy Campbell, Michael Casa, Angela Gravina, John Mattingly

**8:00 AM** - Emily Kaulfers, Jack Kaulfers, Maryann Mansueto, Betty Santora, Tony Santora

**10:30 AM + Jan. 1, 10:30 AM** - Virginia Biondi, Rosa Pluchino, Joan Trapp

**12:00 Noon** - Celeste Michielli, Rosemarie Olden, Maureen Rebimbas

**Dec. 24** - 4 pm - Noelle Degbe, Rita Kushner, Kim Allende  
12 Midnight - John Ballantyne + Volunteers

**Dec. 25** - Sunday Schedule for December

### LECTORS

#### December 21/22, 2019

**5:30 PM** Cindy Campbell

**8:00 AM** Debbie Kachnowski

**10:30 AM** Matthew Leingang

**12 Noon** Celeste Michielli

#### December 28/29, 2019

Cindy Campbell

John Ballantyne

Diane Burgos

Maria Becker

**Dec. 24** - 4 pm - Celeste Michielli

12 Midnight - Volunteer

**Dec. 25** - 8 am - Jack Kaulfers - 10:30 am - Mattia Leingang - 12 Noon - Bob & Nicholas Milici

### ALTAR SERVERS

#### December 21/22, 2019

**5:30 PM** Sofia Sanchez

Ivan Sanchez

**8:00 AM** Loretta Raczynski

**10:30 AM** Karen Saavedra

Sebastian Saavedra

**12 Noon** Samuel Mendoza

#### December 28/29, 2019

Joe Schmatz

Nico Lee

Matthew Stark

Nicholas Stark

**Dec. 24** - 4 pm - Rocco Paolino, Angelo & Anthony Geronimo - 12 Midnight - Nico & Hanna Lee

**Dec. 25** - 8 am - Loretta Raczynski - 10:30 am - Raciely Rodriquez - 12 Noon - Samuel Mendoza

### **WEEKLY COLLECTION**

Weekly Collection for Dec. 14/15 \$ 7,799.00

Retired Religious \$ 2,238.00

Total Donation \$10,037.00

*Thank you for your generosity!*

## Mass Schedule

### SATURDAY, December 21: St. Peter Canisius;

#### Winter Begins

8:00 AM **Concetta Nobile**  
(From: Mr. & Mrs. Pluchino)

5:30 PM **Joseph S. Tortoriello**  
(From: Janet Landis)

### SUNDAY, December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM **Thomas W. Greer, Jr., 1st Anniv.**  
(From: Pauline Spera)

10:30 AM **Vincenzo & Lauretta Tripicchio**  
(Love, Sal)

12:00 Noon **Jamie Fahey, 24th Anniv.**  
(From: Family)

### MONDAY, December 23: St. John of Kanty;

#### Hanukkah Begins

8:00 AM **Harry Corning**  
(From: Wife, Helen)

### TUESDAY, December 24: Vigil of Christmas

8:00 AM **Maria Tripicchio**  
(Love, Salvatore)

4:00 PM **For the Parishioners**

12 Midnight **For the Parishioners**

### WEDNESDAY, December 25: The Nativity of the

#### Lord; Christmas

8:00 AM **For the Parishioners**

10:30 AM **For the Parishioners**

12:00 Noon **For the Parishioners**

### THURSDAY, December 26: St. Stephen;

#### Boxing Day (Canada)

8:00 AM **Benedetto & Brigida Cosentino**  
(From: Adelina Cosentino)

### FRIDAY, December 27: St. John

8:00 AM **Vincenzo & Lauretta Tripicchio**  
(From: Adelina Cosentino)

### SATURDAY, December 28: The Holy Innocents

8:00 AM **Violet Campbell**  
(Love, Cindy)

5:30 PM **Michael Kudlach**  
(Love, Virginia, Jenny & Jackie)

### SUNDAY, December 29: The Holy Family of Jesus,

#### Mary and Joseph

8:00 AM **For the Parishioners**

10:30 AM **Charlie Stallone & Stallone Family**  
(From: Wife and Children)

12:00 Noon **John & Mary Swedish**  
(From: Family)

**BELIEVE**



There was no room at the Inn. To us, that sounds like a necessary—if not a cozy—detail of the Christmas story. *Of course there was no room in the Inn*, we think. *Jesus had to be born in a stable and laid in a manger!* But, the fact that Jesus was born in a stable was a consequence of the hard realities of life. Bethlehem was overflowing with visitors because of the census. Every place that a visitor might stay was filled. The stable was all that was left. No one was willing to share their space so that this woman who was about to give birth might have her baby in clean and warm surroundings. “There was no room at the inn.” These words highlight the calloused attitude of the world to the beauty of new life. They point out the self-centered attitude that most of us have when faced with people in need. “Why should I give up my room for them? This man and his pregnant wife are nobody special.”

And yet, we know that God was in charge. He could have made it so that there was just one spot left when Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem. He could have arranged it so that Mary and Joseph were able to leave Nazareth earlier and arrive before all the rooms were taken. Why didn’t God do that? We have to assume that somehow it fit God’s purposes for his son to be born this way.

At least three important truths are revealed in these events. First, being born in a stable showed Jesus’ solidarity with the poor and the displaced. It proved that Jesus came for all people—not just the rich and powerful. Second, the truth of a powerful spiritual metaphor is revealed. A manger is a feeding trough for animals. So, being laid in a manger as though he were food anticipates that his body will one day be the “spiritual food” offered in the Lord’s Supper. Cyril, the patriarch of Alexandria, wrote in the fifth century: *He found humanity reduced to the level of the beasts. Therefore he is placed like feed in a manger, that we, having left behind our carnal desires, might rise up to that degree of intelligence which befits human nature. Whereas we were brutish in soul, by now approaching the manger, yes, his table, we find no longer feed, but the bread from heaven, which is the body of life.* Commentary on Luke, Homily I

But, most importantly, thirdly it showed that God came in an attitude of great humility. He could have claimed for himself the best place. He could have demanded that the world worship him. Roman emperors certainly did. Yet Christ came in gentleness and humility. Instead of demanding our worship or forcing his way upon us he waits. **He waits for us to invite him in.** This Christmas, invite Jesus into your life as Lord and Savior and walk with Him every day in this New Year. Merry Christmas!

Fr. Jim

*God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ.*

*-Romans 1:1-7*

**THERE WILL BE NO NOVENA ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, AND ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2019.**

**Please note the 2019 Christmas Mass Schedule:**

### Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24, 2019  
4:00 P.M. Vigil Mass  
11:30 P.M. Christmas Carols with Our Parish Choir  
12 Midnight Mass of Christmas

### Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25, 2019  
Masses 8:00 A.M., 10:30 A.M., 12 Noon

### New Year’s Eve

Tuesday, December 31, 2019  
5:30 P.M. Vigil Mass

### New Year’s Day 2020

Wednesday, January 1, 2020  
Masses 8:00 A.M., 10:30 A.M. (NO 12 noon)

### Epiphany

Saturday, January 4, 2020  
5:30 P.M. Vigil Mass  
Sunday, January 5, 2020  
Masses 8:00 A.M., 10:30 A.M., 12 noon

The Knights of Columbus will once again be holding our **Baby Bottle Boomerang**. This is a fundraiser for Raphael’s Life House in Elizabeth, NJ, a transitional housing for pregnant homeless women. We will be distributing the bottles the weekend of December 28 & 29, at all Masses. We will be collecting them the weekend of January 18 & 19, at all Masses. Please consider taking one home and filling it with your spare change, bills or checks payable to the Knights of Columbus. If you take a bottle home, please return it, we continue to use these bottles every year for this fundraiser.. Thank you.

### CHRISTMAS

A young mother, her eyes shining with fatigue, who is arranging her hair; a father who finds himself alone with his pretty wife and baby, straightening the stable to make himself useful in some way; shepherds who bring cheese and perhaps also some curdled milk; sheep who look at their shepherds while bleating; a donkey who is eyeing his manger changed into a cradle; an adorable swaddled baby whom one calls Savior, Christ and Lord: This is the manifestation of the goodness and the tenderness of God. This is the most fantastic birth in the history of humanity, the one which changed the face of the world! This is how far God humbled and compromised himself with us! This is Emmanuel!

—From *God’s Word Is Our Joy*, Vol. 1 by Lucien Deiss, CSSp, copyright © 1998, World Library Publications. p. 73

*The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.*

*-Matthew 1:18-24*

**SPECIAL DONATIONS**

To make a Special Donation for Hosts, Wine, Candles, Sanctuary Candles or Tabernacle Flowers, please use the Special Donation Envelopes found at the doors of the Church.

**In Loving Memory of Nancy Commerato**

Requested by Alisa & Cristina Commerato:  
Donation of Wine and Hosts

**In Loving Memory of Marciana Ramos  
(Death Anniversary)**

Requested by Emeline R. Saldana  
Donation of Candles

*Let the Lord enter; he is King of Glory.*

—Psalm 24

The song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is an English Christmas carol. From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the Church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember. To fit the number scheme, when you reach number 9, representing the Fruits of the Holy Ghost, the originator combined 6 to make 3, taking the 6 fruits that were similar: the fruit in each parenthesis is the one that was not named separately. There are actually Twelve Fruits of the Holy Ghost.

The "True Love" one hears in the song is not a smitten boy or girlfriend but Jesus Christ, because truly Love was born on Christmas Day. The partridge in the pear tree also represents Him because that bird is willing to sacrifice its life if necessary to protect its young by feigning injury to draw away predators.

The two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments

The three French hens stood for faith, hope, and love.

The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The five golden rings represented the first five books of the Old Testament, which describe man's fall into sin and the great love of God in sending a Savior.

The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit----Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit----Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience [Forbearance], Goodness [Kindness], Mildness, Fidelity, Modesty, Continenence [Chastity].

The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful Apostles.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in The Apostles' Creed.

Original Source: Fr. Calvin Goodwin, FSSP, Nebraska

Dear God,

There's an empty chair near the tree,  
an ache in our hearts  
and tears on our faces...

We may try to shield one another  
from the grief we bear  
but we cannot hide it from you...

We pray for (names)  
whose presence we miss so much  
in these days of peace and joy...

Open our hearts and minds  
to the healing, the warmth,  
the light of your presence...

We pray, Lord, and we trust  
that those we miss have found the place  
you prepared for them, their home,  
within your heart...

Open our hearts, Lord,  
to joyful memories  
of the love we shared  
with those who've gone before us...

Help us tell the stories  
that make the past present  
and bring us close again  
to those we miss...

Teach us to lean on you, Lord,  
and on each other,  
for the strength we need  
to walk through these difficult days...

Be with us as we sing and cry our way  
through Christmas cards and carols;  
help us find and open the present you bring:  
the gift of your peace  
in the birth of the child Jesus...

And give us quiet moments  
with you, Lord,  
and with our thoughts,  
our memories and our prayers...

Be with us, Lord,  
and hold us in your arms  
even as you now hold those  
who've gone before us...

Help us trust that one day  
we'll be with those we love  
when your mercy gathers us together  
in the joy of your kingdom,  
in the life you've promised us....

This is the Christmas you have made,  
the only one we'll have this year:  
help us to rejoice in it, Lord,  
and in the blessings of your peace...

Amen.

**The Knights of Columbus will be selling  
Christmas Wreaths until they are sold out.**

We will be in front of the Annex after all Masses. The freshly cut wreath will be decorated and there will be a keepsake Christmas ornament on it. The cost is \$20.00 each. We have a limited quantity.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS****Religious Education Contact Information:**

908-245-6572

[assumptionschool113@gmail.com](mailto:assumptionschool113@gmail.com)[karen.assumption@hotmail.com](mailto:karen.assumption@hotmail.com)**ADVENT 2019****DECEMBER 22, 2019  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT****READ****Collect**

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,  
your grace into our hearts,  
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son  
was made known by the message of an Angel,  
may by his Passion and Cross  
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever

**COMMENTARY**

\*The prayer comes from the seventh century Papal practice at Rome where it was assigned to March 25, the feast of the Annunciation, when the angel appeared unto Mary when she conceived Christ, for the 1970 Latin edition of the *Roman Missal* the prayer was transferred to the last Sunday before the birth of our Lord.

\*The Angel announcing the birth of Christ refers not only to the Angel that appeared to Mary in the Annunciation but also to the Angels that appeared to the shepherds who came to do homage to the new-born babe.

\*This prayer preserves an early insight that the whole mystery of Christ from his incarnation, passion, death and resurrection and his continuing presence in his body the Church is one integral mystery. The specific moments of this mystery in salvation history are mapped out over the course of the church year, but this prayer reminds us that every Sunday, every liturgy celebrates the whole mystery and our share in it.

**REFLECT**

"The Lord Jesus had compassion upon us in order to call us to himself, not frighten us away. He came in meekness; he came in humility." --St. Ambrose of Milan, *On Repentance*, 1.1.3

**PRAY**

Add this "O Antiphon" to your daily or meal-time prayer today: "O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!" (*Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers, Revised Edition*, 77)

**ACT**

Light the final violet candle on your Advent wreath today.

**Knights' Corner (Council #3240)**

The Knights of Columbus (Council #3240) of the Church of the Assumption would like to invite any interested Parish men, that wish to learn more about the Knights of Columbus to fill out one of the cards located in the front of the Church and place it in the collection basket. The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus is currently conducting a membership drive. Please be sure to "like" our Facebook page: Knights of Columbus - Msgr. Loreti Council #3240

**John Leaps Evangelization presents:****Faustina—A Live Drama.**

Shown at Felician University, Lodi Campus, Breslin Performing Arts Center, 262 South Main St., Lodi, NJ 07644

**3 Showings:**

January 10, at 7 p.m.

January 11, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

\$25 General Admission

\$15 for children 8-14

Buy tickets at: [johnleaps.com](http://johnleaps.com) or 800-313-6933**Mary's Grotto**

Well, this is it, the time has arrived to get your religious gifts. We will be open this weekend, but time is fleeting. If you hesitate, you will soon be lost. THANK YOU to all who Stopped and Shopped and those who Had a Look this year of 2019.

This will be our last Bulletin in which we say, 'STOP AND SHOP OR HAVE A LOOK'.

Mary's Grotto will be closed temporarily in JANUARY and FEBRUARY 2020, due to anticipated inclement weather; HOWEVER, look for us to return in MARCH 2020 (weather permitting).

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR,  
till we meet again.

Ladies of the Rosary Society, Church of the Assumption



**Prayer List: (In alphabetical order) To have someone placed on or removed from the sick list please call the Rectory.** We invite you to clip out this section each Sunday. Perhaps you could put it near a prayer book, in your Bible, or in your pocket or purse. It is a good thing when we pray with and for one another. Thank you and God bless you!

**Kathy Barz, Richard Barz, Fred Boyne, Florence Carosella, Christine Conrad, Robert Curry, Cathy Naccarato DeRoxtra, Ronald Fellner, Bonnie Greer, Joseph Gregory, Cynthia and Thomas Ingman, A.M.J., Baby Janin, Elizabeth Knych, Richard Kratson, Ann Losyk, Sr. Theresia Maria, Janet Marino, Eleanor Morehouse, Arthur Muller, Tanina Naccarato, Carol Fellner Nasta, Jeanette Noto, Louis Noto, Monica Quigley O'Brien, Lily Rita Procopio, Roseann Santanna, Frank Sillito, Nancy Sillito, Ann Sisalli, Anthony Spadora, Antonio Spano, Gabrielle Spano, William Szajko, Steven Szajko, Lynn Tumblety, Joanne Vallone, Diana Verderame, Tony Wargacki, Ella Zsampar**

**TRUST IN GOD**