



**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2017**

**Masses for the Week**

Saturday	Regina Mihm	5:00pm
Sunday	People of the Parish	8:00am
Sunday	Bill Welsek	10:00am
Monday	Hal Holly & Gail O'Kelly	5:30pm
Tuesday	Tom Merck	8:00am
Wednesday	Paul & Josephine Lendvay	5:15pm
Thursday	Marie Dombrowski	8:00am
Friday	George Goldstein	5:30pm
Saturday	Sal Bulla	5:00pm

**Please Pray for Our Sick**

Fanny Bonventre, Herb Cahill, Billye Doria, Hal Holly, Fred Kimlin, Maureen Krom, Lynne Lazzaro, Mary McNamara, Grant Nicolson, Joseph Mongelluzzo, Tony Peralta, Joe & Virginia Petras, Daniel Sweeney, Alice Theiss, Thomas Vavrinec, Irene Waddell, Luisa Walsh, Denise Woltman, Amelia Zak

We also want to remember parishioners who are currently in Nursing Facilities. They are: Frank Cahill, Betty LaFera, Robert LaFera, Rose Sferrazza, Shirley Spornyak, Alice Tochterman

**Tithing \$ 3,337.00**

**Retired Priests & Religious \$1,367.00**

**Reconciliation Monday**

This Monday, December 18th, we will celebrate our Advent Reconciliation Monday. The time will be from 4-8pm in the confessionals in the rear of the Church.



**Holyday Mass Schedule**

Sunday, Christmas Eve  
4:00pm

Monday, Christmas Day 8am & 10am

Sunday, New Year's Eve  
5:00pm

Monday, New Year's Day 10am

***Religious Ed News***

Religious Ed classes will not be in session December 27<sup>th</sup> but will resume on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Remember Christ this Christmas**

Shop until you drop! Buying, having, possessing and allowing your possessions to possess you! Sad to say, this has all become the modern immediate preparation for Christmas. Moreover, in many places even the word "Christmas" has been forbidden from modern vocabulary.

*Jesus is the reason for the season.* The whole focus of Advent which culminates in the Solemnity of Christmas is a *person!* That person is Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus is the true reason for the entire season. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary in the humble, poor stable of Bethlehem. The name "Jesus" means Savior. He came to open up the gates of heaven, to save us from slavery to sin, the devil, and eternal damnation. This Christmas let us contemplate the Person of Jesus and the purpose of His mission. Let our hearts overflow in humble praise and thanksgiving. St. Ignatius of Loyola accentuates the fact that Jesus did all of this not simply for humanity as a whole but for you and I, individually. Jesus was born, suffered, died and rose from the dead for me, as if I were the only person in the universe. How important I am for God! How important Christmas—the birth of Jesus—should be for me.

Fr. Ed Broom, OMV

**WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE**

Knights of Columbus Annual Winter Clothing Drive". All proceeds and donations go to benefit all in need of our local community. Please drop off well-kept and near new items in box in the back of the church.

**Christmas Gifts - Last Day**

Please attach the tag to the gift you donate. We ask that you place an **unwrapped** gift in a gift bag. Bring the gifts and food no later than Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Masses for Loved Ones**

What a perfect way to remember loved ones at this blessed season is with a Mass. Call the rectory or stop in with your requests.

## Mariapolis Luminosa, Nativity Displays

Most of you are probably familiar with Mariapolis Luminosa, one of the projects of the Focolare Movement. Every December, Luminosa displays over 200 Nativity scenes from over 50 countries the world at the Chiara Lubich Conference Center at 200 Cardinal Road, in Hyde Park. Many visitors come from neighboring communities to see this beautiful display. Suggested donation \$5. For more information call 845-229-2030 ext 127 or write to [luminosa.office@gmail.com](mailto:luminosa.office@gmail.com). Nativity Display. Dec 8, 2017 - Jan 7, 2018



### Flower Memorial Fund

Envelopes for Christmas memorials are in the rear of the church. Just fill in the envelope and place it in any first collection basket. We are indebted to our parishioners who choose to remember their deceased loved ones by contributing to this fund. It is the primary means we have for funding the decoration of the sanctuary.

### Christmas Crib

“Following a beautiful and firmly rooted tradition, many families set up their crib immediately after the feast of the Immaculate Conception, as if to relive with Mary those days full of trepidation that preceded the birth of Jesus. Putting up the crib at home can be a simple but effective way of presenting the faith, to pass it on to one’s children. The crib helps us contemplate the mystery of God’s love that was revealed in the poverty and simplicity of the Bethlehem Grotto. Saint Francis of Assisi was so taken by the mystery of the Incarnation that he wanted to present it anew at Greccio in the living nativity scene, thus beginning an old, popular tradition that still retains its value for evangelization today. Indeed, the crib can help us understand the secret of the true Christmas because it speaks of the humility and merciful goodness of Christ, who ‘though he was rich made himself poor’ for us (2 Cor 8:9). His poverty enriches those who embrace it and Christmas brings joy and peace to those who, like the shepherds in Bethlehem, accept the Angel’s words: ‘Let this be a sign to you: in a manger you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes’



(Lk 2: 12). This is still the sign for us too, men and women of the third millennium. There is no other Christmas.”

*Pope Benedict XVI*

### Stamps for Missions

As the holidays approach and we begin receiving many card and letters, please consider supporting the missions through the cancelled stamp recycling program. Simply trim around the stamp leaving a ½” border. There is a basket located in the rear of the church by the statue of St. Anthony to deposit your stamps or you can drop them off at the rectory.

### CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE “WAY OF ST. PAUL” SUMMER OF 2018

Join Father Michael McLoughlin, Pastor of St. Columba, Hopewell Junction and Peter’s Way Tours on a wonderful Pilgrimage to Greece “In the Footsteps of St. Paul” on July 29 – August 7, 2018. It will make the Letters of St. Paul come alive! Stops include Thessaloniki, Philippi, Veria, Meteora, Athens (including the Parthenon) and Corinth. A three day cruise is included! Stops include Mykonos, Ephesus (Mass at the House of the Virgin Mary), Patmos, Heraklion (Crete) and Santorini. Please call Father Michael at St. Columba 845-227-8380 or [emailrectory@stcolumbaonline.org](mailto:emailrectory@stcolumbaonline.org) for a Pilgrimage Brochure! Spaces are limited so do not delay.

### PASSION PLAY AT OBERAMMERGAU

The Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany is held once every ten years. Tickets and accommodations are always in high demand so we must make reservations now. Father Michael McLoughlin, Pastor of St. Columba, Hopewell Junction, and Peter’s Way Tours invites you to join us on a Pilgrimage on July 30 – August 8, 2020. We will visit Vienna (St. Stephen’s Cathedral, Schonbrunn Palace & free time), Melk Abbey, Cruise the Danube, Shrine of Mariazell, Salzburg (Shrine of Maria Plain, guided tour of city including St. Peter’s Abbey from “Sound of Music” and free time), King Ludwig’s Castle, Oberammergau, Dachau and Munich. Please call Father Michael at St. Columba 845-227-8380 or [email rectory@stcolumbaonline.org](mailto:rectory@stcolumbaonline.org) for a Pilgrimage Brochure! Spaces are limited so do not delay.

### Rosary Altar Society

Next weekend team *four* is scheduled