

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2009



Announced Masses

Sat	12/19	4:00 pm	Lois Southard/Daughter Pat & Dan
Sun	12/20	10:30 am	Eleanor Panko (Birthday)/Family
		12:00 pm	Dec'd. Members of the Canzanese Family/Patty Higgins Juana Diaz/Joseph Diaz
Mon	12/21	8:00 am	George Shopa/Beverly Alberts
Tue	12/22	8:00 am	Alfred W. Randazzo, Sr./(6 month Anniv.)/Fr. Gerard Marable and the St. Joan of Arc Parish Family
Wed	12/23	8:00 am	Open
Thu	12/24	8:00 am	For the Intentions of Mr. & Mrs. Ed Miller/Bill Finnegan
		4:00 pm	Frances Lightcap/Cookie & Angel
		6:00 pm	People of the Parish/Fr. Gerard
Fri	12/25	10:00 am	Mary Nikituk/Joe Nikituk
Sat	12/26	4:00 pm	Denise A. Bramble/Paul Panko, Jr.
Sun	12/27	10:30 am	Elizabeth & Daniel Meschini/ Daughter Diane & Family
		12:00 pm	Ramon Garcia/Joseph Diaz

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**Entered Eternal Rest
Ivis Guerrero**

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**The People's Tithe
Third Sunday of Advent: \$.00
Retired Religious Fund: \$.00
Thank you for your continued generosity!**

New Parish Mission Statement

As a sacrifice of praise the people of St. Bartholomew and St. Joan of Arc welcome people of every race, language and way of life around the table of our Lord Jesus Christ in an American African/Hispanic expression of Roman Catholic worship. Sharing our time, talent and treasure in acts of justice, we proclaim the "Gospel of Life" with and for the people of Camden.

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Sick List

Please pray for those who are ill and those who care for them:

PLEASE NOTE: If your name or the name of a sick friend and/or family member has been removed from this sick list and you would like it put back on, please notify the rectory. Also, please notify the rectory when you or someone you know no longer needs to be on the sick list.

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**Fr. Gerard, Fr. Rico &
Deacon Tom
Wish you a Blessed Christmas!
The Rectory office will be closed
Thursday & Friday, December 24 & 25**

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What's Happening Around SJOA

Sunday, 12/20/09:

Rel. Education—English	9:15 am	School
Rel. Education—Spanish	10:45 am	School

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Eucharistic Ministers Needed at Cooper Hospital

Fr. Al Harshaw, Staff Chaplain at Cooper Hospital, is recruiting Eucharistic Ministers to bring Holy Communion to patients at Cooper University, Camden. If any Eucharistic Minister would be interested in this special kind of ministry, please call Fr. Harshaw at (609) 707-0101 or the Pastoral Care Department at (856) 342-2197. A letter from your Pastor is required certifying your certification and recommendation and endorsement.



Fourth Sunday of Advent



From the Desk of Fr. Rico

Dear Parishioners,

Since 3 weeks ago as a community we have began our journey, a journey in faith and charity that will lead us to the day our Lord Jesus Christ was born - the Christmas day. Many people in our society or in our community are busy and even stressful trying to figure out what gifts to give to their friends or the love ones, what to cook and who must be invited in their Christmas parties. All are good and worthy to do.

However, we need to remember the true meaning of Christmas in our lives as Christians, and live it out in a different way. Christmas is the time to remember and celebrate God's faithfulness. God had promised a Savior for the world. The fulfillment of that promise became true on the night that Jesus Christ was born- the Christmas day. God always fulfills His promises.

Christmas is the moment to remember and to celebrate the encounter of our humanity and the divinity, when God broke through our history and embraced our humanity so that we can become God's sons and daughters.

Christmas is the time to reflect on and thank God for this wonderful gift that we received, God's only Son Jesus Christ. He is the gift that will not break or wear out and will not pass or fade away. He is the lasting value of the gift that we can receive. This great gift needs to be shared with the world, within our community and above all, with each member of our family. As Mary, the Blessed Mother did, as soon as she received the message from the angel she went with haste to her cousin's house, Elisabeth; to serve and at the same time to bring her the gift that she received in her womb. There was joy in Elisabeth's home, even the baby in Elisabeth's womb leap with joy.

Let us keep and celebrate the spirit of Christmas; this incredible act of love by worshipping God, and being especially conscious of the poor and less fortunate in our community. While we continue our journey, let us meditate on the inspiring words of Saint John, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." Jn 3:16-

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Rico

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Attention Parishioners!

It has been brought to our attention that a man named Joseph Veight, who was a former candidate for the permanent diaconate but subsequently removed from the program has been "ordained" in the Catholic Anglican Church/Catholic Charismatic Church and is attempting to pass himself off as a validly ordained Roman Catholic priest.

Please take caution if you find yourself in a situation requiring the services of a Catholic priest, especially in emergency situations. It has been suggested by the Diocese that you contact your own parish priests to receive any sacraments, prayers, and faith-community support.

Religious Give Thanks

Our parish contributed \$295.00 to the Retirement Fund for Religious in the second collection last weekend. Of the support offered by this appeal, one religious writes, "We deeply appreciate this assistance. God's loving care touches us through the hearts of thousands of Catholics who give so generously to this collection year after year." Women and men religious throughout the country send their abundant thanks for your donation.

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A Family Perspective

Mary was excited with her first pregnancy and rushed to tell her cousin. Some consider children as a liability, a "mouth to feed" or an obstacle to a career. While Christmas is "for children" it is also "for adults to appreciate the gift children are to us."

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Stewardship Reflection

Humble Stewardship

"You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for the one who is to be ruler of Israel." Micah 5:1

We may think that the gifts we have to offer may be too small or too inconsequential to give to God. Today we are reminded that God brought forth His greatest gift to mankind, His own Son, through the humble town of Bethlehem. We can also accomplish great things through our Stewardship if we generously offer our gifts to Him.

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30 Hour Prayer Vigil and Fast

Our parish will host a 30 Hour Prayer Vigil and Fast in response to the suffering experienced from the violence in our city this past year. This 30 hour vigil of prayer and fasting gives us the opportunity to pray for the murder victims and their families as well as to pray for peace in the new year.



The vigil will begin at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, December 29th and continue until 4:00 pm on Thursday, December 31st.

Eight Camden parishes will have a time frame to come and pray. Our parish's time is scheduled for Tuesday, December 29th from 5:00—10:00 pm, however, all are welcome to come and pray at any time, day or night, during the vigil. Please come!

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Beef 'N Beer to Benefit Homeless Pregnant Moms and Their Children

Saturday, January 16, 2010 - 6-10 pm

At St. Margaret's, Woodbury Hts, NJ

Tickets: \$25.00 in advance, \$30.00 at the door

Call Brenda at (856) 423-3468 for tickets/info.

