



The People that
walk in darkness,
have seen a
Great Light

Isaiah 9:2

The Second Sunday of Advent

St Catherine Laboure Church: Middletown, N.J.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Sat. 5:00pm & 6:30pm

Sun: 7:30am; 9:00am (*Latin*)

10:30am & 12:00noon

Daily: Mon.– Sat. 8:00am: Mon & Fri 12:00 (*Latin*)

Eucharistic Adoration: Monday 8:30am-7:00pm

Novena Mass; Mon., Wed. 7:00 pm; Sat. 8:00 am

Confessions: Sat. 3:00 -4:00/ Mon. 6:00-6:50pm

Parish Clergy and Staff

Pastor: Very Rev. Daniel C. Hesko, V.F. (*Dean*)

Deacons Rev. Mr. John Orlando

Rev. Mr. John McGrath (*retired*)

Religious Education: Mrs. Jackie Callahan, M.A.

Mrs. Kathleen McGuire

Parish Office: Mrs. Julie Fehlhaber

Mrs. Kathleen Toomey

Music Director: Mrs. Karen Ohrn

TODAY'S LITURGY: Second Sunday of Advent

READINGS: RED HYMNAL # 769

Processional Hymn: CREDO # 297

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven came

P: the Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, whose Advent is near be always with you.

R: And with your spirit.

P: God has delivered us from the domain of darkness and brought us into the Kingdom of His beloved Son.

As we gather to receive the good news of the coming of His Kingdom among us, let us prepare ourselves with confidence and joy to hear the Word of God, and to open our hearts to embrace His Sacrament of Grace.

May we respond in penitence and faith to the glory of His Kingdom, its works of justice and its promise of peace, its blessing and its hope.

P: Restore us O Lord God of Hosts, let the light of Your Countenance shine upon us.

R: Come to us and we shall be saved.

P: Turn to us and give us life again,

R: That Your people may rejoice in You.

P: Show us O Lord, Your mercy and love.

R: and grant us Your Salvation

P: May Almighty God have mercy on us forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord

R: Amen

Gradual (Psalm 72)

**Justice shall flourish in His time,
and Fullness of Peace forever.**

Offertory Hymn: CREDO # 116

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Communion Hymn:

*Refrain: For You O Lord, My soul in stillness Waits,
Truly my hope is in You.*

Recessional Hymn: CREDO # 102

On Jordan's Bank

Come to your people with the message of victory and peace. We pray for the poor and hungry throughout our land, for the homeless and for those who long for honest work. Grant them their hearts desire.

MARANATHA: **COME O CHRIST THE LORD**

Come among us as Shepherd and Guide. We pray that we may keep our eyes fixed on truth and walk daily in your commandments. Give us victory over the world, the flesh and the devil.

MARANATHA: **COME O CHRIST THE LORD**

Come among the sick as Comforter and Savior. We pray for all who look to you and pray for healing. Grant them strength and hope. MARANATHA: **COME O CHRIST THE LORD**

Come as life and Resurrection to those who died in your love. Set them free from every bond, and receive them into your kingdom.

MARANATHA: **COME O CHRIST THE LORD**

Show us your mercy Lord and grant us your salvation, as we wait in joyful hope for the coming our savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR A CHRISTMAS TREE



O Lord our God, we praise You for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.

We praise You for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise You for Jesus Christ, Your Son: He is Emmanuel, God with us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of Your love. Lord God, let Your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree.

May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



The Intercessions

Let us pray to God our Father, as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, saying
'Come O Christ the Lord'

Come to your Church O God as Lord and Redeemer. We pray for our Pope and our Bishop, for all Priests and Deacons, and for all your people scattered throughout the world. Help us to live in the light of your coming, and give us a longing for your reign.

MARANATHA: **COME O CHRIST THE LORD**

Come to our world Lord as King of the nations. We pray for the President of the United States, for our Governor and all elected leaders, give them grace to know and to do your will, for before you all rulers will stand in silence.

MARANATHA: **COME O CHRIST THE LORD**

The Rosary Altar Society

**CHRISTMAS
BAZAAR**

**Today; Sunday,
in the parish hall.**

New merchandise and crafts

Free admission,

50/50 raffle. Food, Fun,

Pictures with Santa.



THE ORIGIN OF THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

The celebrate the birth of Christ, St. Francis of Assisi decided to make it 'real' for his people and his friars who lived in the hills around the hermitage of Greccio. St. Francis sent a message to an old friend, Giovanni Vellita, telling him of his plan to re-create the scene at Bethlehem. "If you want to celebrate the Feast of the Lord at Greccio, hurry and diligently prepare what I tell you. For I wish to recall to memory the little child who was born in Bethlehem, I want to set before our bodily eyes the hardships of his infant needs, how he lay in a manger, how with an ox and ass standing by he lay upon the hay" Giovanni and his friends worked hard and succeeded in re-creating in the cave the first crib scene surrounded by candles. The villagers and friars were completely overwhelmed as they celebrated the Christmas Mass at which St. Francis preached, bring the Christmas story to life in a very special way. After the death of St. Francis, the custom of having a crib at Christmas spread throughout Europe. The crib in the house also became popular by the seventeenth century owing much of its popularity to the enthusiasm of the Franciscans. In England, the symbol of the crib was taken further in the baking of a Christmas mince pie in an oblong shape to cradle the image of the infant Jesus. This was very much a pre-Reformation practice and by the time the Puritans, mince pie making was outlawed as 'idolatry in crust.' When we have a crib scene in our home it is not only a reminder of the first Christmas, it is also a link with all through the ages.

What's up with this 'MARANATHA' thing???

We use this word in Advent, we sing it in the Intercessions, but what does 'Maranatha' mean? Maranatha, pronounced (Ma-RON-na-tha in Latin) or MA-RA-na-tha, in Greek) is an Aramaic word that means "the Lord is coming" or "Come, O Lord." The early church faced much persecution, and life for a Christian under Roman rule was not easy. The Romans required everyone to declare that Caesar was god. The early Christians knew that there is only one God and one Lord Jesus Christ and in all good conscience they could not call Caesar "Lord", so the Romans looked upon them as traitors, persecuted them, and put them to death.

Living under those adverse conditions, the believers' morale was lifted by the hope of the coming of the Lord. "Maranatha!" became the common greeting of the oppressed believers, replacing the Jewish greeting shalom ("peace"). The followers of Jesus knew there would be no peace because Jesus had told them so (Matthew 10:34; Luke 12:51). But he also knew the Lord would be returning to set up His kingdom, and from that truth they drew great comfort. They were constantly Reminding and being reminded that the Lord is coming (Luke 21:28; Revelation 22:12). Jesus taught several parables on this same theme of watching and waiting and being prepared for His return (Matthew 25:1-13; Luke 12:35-40).

Today, believers in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ live our lives in the light of the knowledge that He come anytime. We are to be ready when the call comes. Every day we should expect Him to come, and every day we should long for Him to come. Maranatha reminds us to keep our eyes on the eternal things of the Spirit. To dwell on material things is to be in constant turmoil. Looking down, we see the earth; looking around, we see earthly things. But looking up, we see the hope of the soon coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. To those who are discouraged today, **Maranatha!** To those who are worried today, **Maranatha!** To those who are filled with anxiety over the problems they are facing, **Maranatha!** Our Lord is coming!

COME LORD JESUS, DO NOT DELAY

MARANATHA μαρὰν ἄθᾶ מָרַן אֲתָא



O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week in memory of Eric Peterson, gift of Phyllis.

The Blessed Mother Votive Light in honor of Raymond Nicholas Menges.

The Sacred Heart Votive Light will burn this week in memory of Jean Stockdale gift of Courtney, Brendan & Max Cooper.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 9th The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00am Bernard Dippolito (bthdy) by Dgtr. Lorraine

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament all day.

12:00noon Liv. & Dec. of Forte & DeLuca Families by Family

7:00pm Mabel Scandariato by Helen Scandariato

Tuesday, December 10th

8:00am Liv. Myrna DeFoe by Sharon

Wednesday, December 11th St. Damasus I

8:00am Francis V. Regan by Michael V. Regan

7:00pm John Gilligan by Pattie & Bob Wazeter/ Novena Mass

Thursday, December 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00am James P. Casey, Sr. by Family

7:00pm St. Lucy Mass

Friday, December 13th St. Lucy

8:00am Eric Peterson (bthdy) by wife, Phyllis

12:00noon Jesse & Mario Cortis by Manny & Charmaine

Saturday, December 14th St. John of the Cross

8:00am Purgatorial Society

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00pm Rose Foy by Foy Children

6:30pm Margaret & Michael Galik by Family,

John J. Oswald by Liz & Patty,

Judith Michalski by Donohue family,

John Bernosky by Brown Family,

Priscilla Hernandez by Joann & Michael Kauffmann,

Therese Cesar by Family,

Liv. Int. Nicole Caneda by Chris & Lou Gerace.

Sunday, December 15th

7:30am Pro Populo

9:00am Charles Bolger, Sr. (25th anniv.)

by wife, Ann & Children

10:30am Jesse Walton by Aunt Marita and Uncle Bobby

12:00noon Joseph Cali by Alberta, Robert Festa & Son

ST JOSEPH Knights of Columbus THANKS

Thanks for your wonderful generosity as a Parish, for your participation in the "Warrior to Lourdes" all proceeds will go toward sending a service member suffering the effects of war on a Pilgrimage to experience the Healing Waters and the Graces poured out at the Shine of our Lady of Lourdes in France.

WEEKLY OFFERING

The first collection November 24th: \$6,431.00.

The second collection November 24th: \$1,676.00.

The first collection: December 1st: \$7,035.00.

The second collection: December 1st. \$3,297.00.

The second collection today: Retirement Fund for Religious

Thank you for your support of your parish. Fr. Dan Hesko

God is generous to the generous of heart. *Let us be generous in what we are and what we have, our time, talents and treasure.*

We Need Altar Servers. See Fr. Dan for more information. If you are unable to serve your assigned Mass try to get a replacement and notify the parish office of your replacement.

December 7th/8th

5:00pm Fr. Dan

6:30pm

Fr. Michael

7:30am

Fr. Dan

9:00am Fr. Dan

10:30am

Fr. Mat

12:00noon Fr. Mat

Altar Servers:

5:00pm R. Hussey,

A. Gibilisco

& A D'Aunnuzio

10:30am

A. Gibilisco,

A. Gibilisco

& S. Wickham



December

14th/15th

5:00pm

6:30pm

7:30am

9:00am

10:30am

12:00noon

Altar Servers:

5:00pm

R. Hussey, A.

Gibilisco, A. Gi-

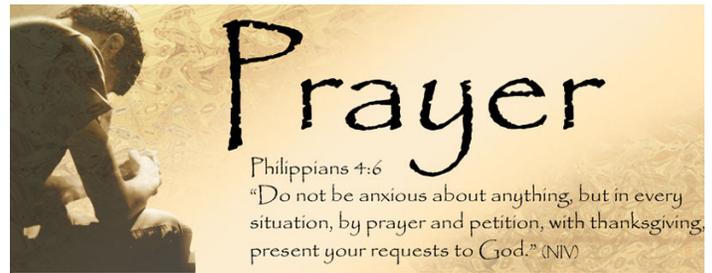
bilisco

10:30am

A. Gibilisco, P.

Edinger & S.

Wickham.



In your charity please remember to pray for: Patrick Corr, Eddie Zaborney, Paua Zaborney, Amelia Tobia, Tony Cinquegrana, Margaret Alfano, Tom Latin, Danny Sullivan, Catherine Olski, Pat Brokken, Corrine Hoffman, Debbie Miotta, Kevin Moran, Rachel O'Brien, Gina Tobia, Karen Conte, Baby Victoria Powers, Ann Bolger, Jim Murphy, Marge Brand, Ruth Alaia, Kathleen Toomey, Julia Fehlhaber, Michael Brothers, Theresa Marks, Sheila Buxton, Taryn Hussey, Maureen Farrell, Rich Callahan, and for the faithful departed: John Maziarski & Mary Miltner.

God, our loving Father, look with kindness on our brothers and sisters who seek Your care. In Your mercy grant health to the sick; comfort to the sorrowful, peace to the troubled, joy to the weary and eternal rest to those whose work on earth is done, and all for Jesus' Amen



Prayer for those serving in our Military

Please remember to pray for our parishioners and friends serving this nation at home and abroad.

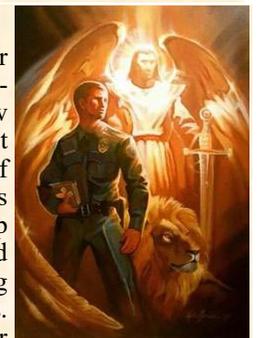
CDR Michael Dwan; USN Major Mark Paige; USMC Patrick Gallagher; Staff Ssgt. Matthew Santilli; Master Ssgt. Albert DiMaggio; Lieutenant Colonel Bayard Smith; Dallas Jamison; Sgt. Timothy Hayes; Major Carlo Brancato; USMC Sgt. Brian

Ruane.

Prayer: O God who art the lover of peace and concord. Grant to these thy servants who serve this nation, grace and strength. Preserve them we pray and shield them from all danger of body and soul; and hasten the day when they shall return to their homes and loved ones, through Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAYER FOR OUR OFFICERS

O Almighty God, Whose great power and eternal wisdom embraces the universe, Watch over all policemen and law enforcement officers everywhere. Protect them from harm. In the performance of their duty to stop crime, robbery, riots and violence. We pray, help them keep our streets and homes safe, day and night. We commend them to your loving care because their duty is dangerous. Grant them strength and courage in their daily assignments. Dear God, protect these brave men and women. Grant them your almighty protection. Unite them safely with their families after duty has ended. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



WINTER WEATHER AND CHURCH CLOSINGS

It would be an extraordinary weather event that would cancel Sunday Masses. Daily Masses Mon.-Fri. IF there is heavy snow, or icy conditions that make driving dangerous, we will often make the call to cancel morning or evening Mass, because it is often difficult to properly keep the parking lots and walks safe. (It is Not God's will that anyone should break their hip.) So in bad weather call ahead to make sure there is Mass. If there is No message on machine, then we will have Mass, or Adoration.

For those not receiving Holy Communion we offer the following prayer.

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri 8:30am- 4:00pm

OFFICE ADDRESS:

130 Bray Avenue, Middletown N.J.

CONTACT: Parish Office: 732-787-1318

Fax: 732-787-2851; **Rel. Ed/Ministry:** 732-495-7779; **Parish**

Hall: 732-787-2869;

Thrift Shop: 732-787-2836; **Web Site:** www.stcathk.org;

Email: stcathk1@aol.com

Ministry to the Sick and Homebound:

To arrange Communion for the homebound, or for the Sacrament of the Sick, call the parish office.

Sacrament of Baptism:

Arrangements must be made through the parish office. Infants should be baptized as soon as possible.

Sacrament of Matrimony:

According to Diocesan policy, marriage arrangements must be made at least nine months prior to the wedding date through the parish office. Either the man or woman must be registered in our parish.

Annulment Advocacy :

To discuss Church Annulment procedure, or for information concerning Church Validation of a civil marriage, call the parish office to arrange a meeting with Fr. Dan.

FORMED: A Catholic Media Program you can access 24/7 from your computer, I-phone etc. Go to www.stcathk.formed.org click 'register' follow prompts and enjoy.

ANNUAL LUCIA MASS

Blessing of eyes, and Imposition of the Holy Relic of
St. Lucy. Plan to be with us for the Blessing of eyes on
Thursday,

December 12th. (vigil) 7:00pm.

St. Lucy is invoked as the
Patroness of Eyesight.

Prayer for St. Lucy's Intercession

O God our Creator and Redeemer, mercifully hear our prayers that as we venerate Your servant, Saint Lucy, for the light of faith You bestowed upon her, You would increase and preserve this same light in our souls that we may be able to avoid evil, to do good, and to abhor nothing so much as the blindness and the darkness of evil and sin. Relying on Your goodness, O God, we humbly ask You, by the intercessory prayers of Your servant Saint Lucy, that You would give perfect vision to our eyes, that they serve for Your greater honor and glory and for the salvation of our souls in this world, that we come to the enjoyment of Your unfailing light of the Lamb of God in paradise. Saint Lucy, virgin and martyr, hear our prayers and obtain our petitions. AMEN



TONIGHT; Sunday Dec. 8, 7:00 pm



ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

A Beautiful Liturgy of Prayer and Meditation.

Join us as we prepare to keep the Festival of Christ's Birth by opening our hearts and minds to the ancient message of Hope and Peace.

The Liturgy presents in Word and Song, in Light and Darkness the Promise of Redemption in Christ the Messiah.

7:00pm in Church

DEC. 8th THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

To properly keep the Season of Advent, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception by directive of the Bishops of the U.S. has been transferred to Monday, Dec. 9

It remains a Major Holy Day, but because it will be observed on Monday the 'Obligation' to attend Mass is dropped. However, I sincerely Hope many of You will honor our Blessed Lady on this beautiful Feast by attending Holy Mass. Mass will be offered for the Feast

8:00 am;

12:00 (*Latin/ Votive Mass of Our Lady's Feast*)
In the Traditional Mass the Feast is observed Today,
with the Advent Sunday as a Commemoration

and 7:00 pm.



Advent and Christmas at St. Catherine's

Advent Sunday II

Dec. 8 Craft Christmas Bazaar

Dec. 8 Lessons and Carols for Advent 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 12 The Lucia Mass with the Blessing of Eyes with the relic of the holy Martyr

Advent Sunday III

Dec. 15 Breakfast with Santa in the Parish Hall after the Morning Masses

Dec 20 Cookies and Milk with Christmas sing a long in the Hall 6:30 pm

Christmas Eve Dec 24

Children's Mass 4:00

Mass with Carols 7:00 pm

Solemn Mass of the Shepherds 10:00 pm

Christmas Day Dec 25

Mass with Carols 7:30 am

Sung High Mass (*Traditional Latin*) 8:45 am

Sung Mass with Carols 10:30 am

Sung Mass with Carols 12:00 noon

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL FORMS ARE LOCATED ON THE NARTHEX
TABLES AS YOU LEAVE CHURCH.
SUGGESTED DONATION. \$10.00

