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**Sunday**

**of**

**Advent**

“Joseph, son of David,  
do not be afraid to  
take Mary your wife  
into your home.”

Matthew 1:20

**St. Catherine of Siena Church**

Roman Catholic Diocese of Trenton

**Christmas Day 2019**

**December 22, 2019**

They shall name him  
Emmanuel, which means  
“God is with us.”

— Matthew 1:23



## MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY · DECEMBER 21

4:30 PM

John Squartino • Libby Miller

SUNDAY · DECEMBER 22

8:00 AM

John A. Meagher • Catherine & Dave Runkel  
Larry G. Fowler Sr. • Catherine & Dave Runkel

10:00 AM

John Squartino • Rachel & James Walsh

11:30 AM

Robert Russamano • loving cousin  
Jose B. Martinez Sr. • Pat & Kathie Lavin

MONDAY · DECEMBER 23

9:00 AM

Nancy Fitzgerald • Teresa Porter

TUESDAY · DECEMBER 24

4:00 PM

William O'Doherty • Catherine & Dave Runkel

6:00 PM

Giuseppe & Benedetta Cosentino  
Phillip & Kristin Natilli

John D'Alessio • With Love from the Family

10:00 PM

All Deceased Members of the Storey Family  
Nigel & Jackie & Family

WEDNESDAY · DECEMBER 25

8:00 AM

Wayne Sos • Loving Wife, JoAnn

10:00 AM

Angelo & Antoinette & Family • Libby Miller

11:30 AM

Raymond King  
Suzanne & Peter DeGrande & Family

THURSDAY · DECEMBER 26

9:00 AM

Monsignor James J. McGovern

FRIDAY · DECEMBER 27

9:00 AM

Jean Burke • Michael Burke & Family

Please Pray for the Sick and All Those Who Have Asked for Our Prayers

MaryAnn Aulisi, Peter Bennett, Hugh Blair, Victoria Bott, Frank Bracco, Mike Burke, William Clemens, Keith Dice, Nancy Drake, Bob Ebhar, Cyril Elias, Sharon Foster, Cheri Gargiulo, Marlene Gravatt, Norma Jean Hall, John Hart, Lori Jones, Ann Johnston, John Keegan, Laurie Krawsowski, Charlie “Butch” Lavin, Barbara Lipari, Lauren MacArthur, Teresa Magyar, Margie McCullam, Linda Moore, McKenna Murray, Amber Painter, Jeanette Picciani, David Piccolo, Mary Rossiello, Sansevere, Nancy Soper, Ilona Supczynski, Melissa Tortorello, Giuseppe Turriciano, Isabel Wallace, Phyllis Weissblum.

## OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Parishioners,

### FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT

Deciding who we can trust has profound consequences on our lives. Everyone, and maybe each generation, face the same question that Ahaz and Joseph faced; whom do I trust? On what foundations do I build my life? The fundamental promise that God makes to Ahaz, to Joseph and to us, is: "I am with you." The choice each of us then must make is; do I trust God? Do I live my life based on the belief that through the challenges and difficulties of life, God is with me, and with us as a community? As we face our own threats and challenges in life, both as individuals and as a Church, we can, like Ahaz, choose to place our trust in the false gods of our own time: materialism such as money and possessions, or power such as using people for our own ends, putting popularity, status and success before principle and truth. Or, like Joseph, we can listen to the still, quiet voice of the God who speaks to our better self in the silence of our dreams and our hopes, the God who quietly yet persistently invites us to live our lives in faith and confidence, rather than insecurity and fear. To genuinely trust God, to believe that God is with us – has the most profound consequence for our lives and for the community. Amen.

### CHRISTMAS Reflections and Insights: In Deep Shadow, A Light Has Shone

High in the Andes, an Indian Prince is anointed in the darkness. Then, on a large raft in the center of a sacred lake, his naked body is plastered with gold dust by members of his tribe. They turn away so that they do not look at his face. They all wait in silence. Then the sun comes over the horizon and bathes in its light the Indian prince, gold in glory. He plunges into the lake, and the people cast jewels and sacred objects of gold into the water to sanctify the place where he swims. He is the legendary Eldorado, the gilded one. This ceremony is an annual ritual to the god of the sun for the people depending on its power.

For most primitive people throughout history, the sun was the supreme god, surveying the world, giving it light and warmth. And in the winter, these primitive people would light fires in the hope that they could strengthen the failing power of the sun. By the 4th century, the sun-god was proclaimed the principal patron of the Roman Empire, and December 25th was the date celebrated as the birthday of the invincible sun. This was the date of the winter solstice. On this day, the sun began its return to the northern skies, and bonfires were lit to welcome back the sun after the darkness of the short days.

The Feast of Christmas originated when the cult of the sun was particularly strong in Rome. The pagan festival was baptized by the Church in Rome, which used the same date to celebrate the birth of Christ. We do not know the date of Jesus' birth, but we do know why December 25th was chosen as the date to celebrate His birth. For us, the Yule logs and candles symbolize the warmth and light of another sun: the Son of God. In the darkness of this night, we celebrate the birth of the light of the world.

Ancient religions, as well as modern, always used the themes of light and darkness as a way of speaking about religious experience. Light has always been associated with goodness, knowledge, and hope. Darkness has symbolized evil, ignorance, and despair. In the 1st reading, we heard the prophet Isaiah voice his hope to the people of Judah:

The people that walked in darkness; Have seen a great light; On those who live in the land of deep shadow, a light has shone.

In our Christian tradition, we interpret that light to be Jesus Christ, "the true light that enlightens all men" (Jn. 1:9). Without him, we are stumbling around in the dark; without him, we can come to prefer the dark to the light. He is the only light that darkness cannot overpower.

Christmas is a beautiful celebration of our faith in Jesus. We gather to celebrate light amid the darkness. We celebrate the new hope that Jesus has generated in people through the centuries. He is our light; he is our hope. When we want to know God, it is to Jesus that we turn; when we want to worship God, it is through Jesus that we sing our praises. We, too, give glory in the highest for revealing himself to the lowly.

The mystery of God was concentrated in a child. The hope of God's love was fastened on to this little one. God was choosing to visit his people, not through dreams and words of the prophets, but in human flesh. The God who lived in the highest heavens wanted another address; he decided to pitch his tent among us.

The Christmas story we hear each year is the same, but we are different. Our world is different. Our memories have grown, our hopes have been tested, our love has been called on in a new way. No matter what changes we have undergone, what losses we have mourned, the Christmas story speaks to us again of the new birth and the possibility of our own rebirth. It tells us that things can be different. It gives substance to our hope that new life is possible because of the birth of the Son of God. Amen.

May Christ's Peace and Hope  
be with you.

Merry Christmas,

Father Angelito



#### Christmas Eve Mass Schedule

4:00 p.m. • 6:00 p.m. • 10:00 p.m.

#### Christmas Day Mass Schedule

8:00 a.m. • 10:00 a.m. • 11:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve Mass Schedule • 9:00 a.m. • Chapel  
New Year's Day Solemnity of Mary • 9:00 a.m. • Church

## *Christmas Flower Memorials*

### **IN MEMORY OF**

Alcina Afonso, Henrique Afonso, Preciosa Cardoso,  
Joao Cardoso

The Screnock & Alfano Families & Friends

The Deceased Members of the Ambrose & Camia Families

The Deceased Members of the Andrew Families

Jean & Frank Applegate, Louise & Martin McNamara

The Deceased Family Members

Marie Baldasari, Bernardine Bennek, Richard Bennek,  
Antoinette Stokes

Sergio Bello, Linda Dempsey

Fred and Adeline Kazmierski

Edward Zalewski, Mattus Zalewski; Tessie Zalewski

Jane Brogno, Louis Brogno, Luciano Pantalena, Rich Lahkan

The Deceased Family Members

Helen Burke, Harold Burke, Brian Burke, Alex Kontos

Jean A. Burke

Lawrence Stall, Wesley Textores, Shannon Willis, Jean Burke

The Deceased Members of Callari & Cataffo Families

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Canella

Luca Michele Canzona, Luisa Pompeo Canzona

The Deceased Members of the Caputo Family

Lenny Cerisano, The Bonner Family, The Jaffrenou Family,

The Valentine Family

Mary Clemente, Gesualdo Clemente, Angelina Miracola,

Lawrence Miracola

Joseph Cocuzza

John and Ellen Mahoney

### **DEDICATED BY**

Manuel & Marie Afonso

Reynold and Debra Alfano

Robert and Diane Ambrose

Robert Andrews

David & Nicole Applegate

Ann Ariosta

Michael and Patricia Baldasari

Ryan and Maxx Boyle

Bruce and Stephanie Brayshaw

Diane Brennan

Brian and Franca Brogno

Maureen Bruen

Brian and Dawn Burke

Michael Burke

Michael and Mary Burke

Joann Callari

Christopher and Diane Canella

Daria Canzona

Michael and Patricia Caputo

Michele & Mariah Cerisano

Anthony and Angela Clemente

Marianne Cocuzza

Jerry and Mary Coleman



## *Christmas Flower Memorials*

### *IN MEMORY OF*

Laura Conway

Billy Costello

The Cranmer Family, The Gifford Family, The Perri Family,

The Mazza Family

Irene Cummings, Stella Biernacki, Veronika Bober,

Marie and Leonard Cullmann

Sally Carlson

The D'Amico Family

David DaSilva, Amparo Millan, Maria D. Gonzalez

The Deceased Members of the Dalton Family

John & Concetta DeGrande, Leon & Irene Davison,

Gene Ravally, Palma Bramonte

Walter and Josephine Niemiec; Celeste Maria DeMarco,

Alfonso and Concetta DeMarco

Michele Savignano; Luigia D'Urso;

Louis D'Onorio DeMeo, Diamante D'Onorio DeMeo

Luigi D'Onorio DeMeo, Diamante D'Onorio DeMeo,

Luigina D'Urso, Amelia & Luigi Matarese

Donald J. DeSanto

The Deceased Members of the Diamond Family

The Deceased Members of the DiBella Family

The Deceased Members of the DiBello Family

Neville Tompkins, Jacqueline Tompkins, Elizabeth Doran,

Robert Doran

Chris Sr., Kevin, Dennis, April

### *DEDICATED BY*

Edward and Irene Conway

William and Cheryl Costello

Roy and Pat Cranmer

Raymond and Diane Cullmann

Helen and John Cyrus

James D'Amico

Dolores DaSilva

Mark and Angela Dalton

Leon and Pam Davison

David and Adele DeMarco

Emilio and Dolores D'Onorio DeMeo

Fred and Anna D'Onorio DeMeo

Loretta DeSanto

Andrew and Patti Diamond

Frank DiBella

Louis and Margaret DiBello

John and Nancy Doran

Anita Dorey



## *Christmas Flower Memorials*

### *IN MEMORY OF*

### *DEDICATED BY*

Elias Family, Koenig Family, Margaret and Paul Wilke

Cy and Lois Elias

Roy Failla

David and LeeAnn Failla

The Deceased Members of the Falco Family

Anthony and Debra Falco

Nicholas LJ. Felicione

Nicholas Felicione

Virginia and Daniel Driscoll, Claire and George Wiles;

Stephen and Megan Ferraro

Theresa and Howard Cunningham, Sonny Ferraro

The Deceased Members of the Field Family

Thomas Field

John Flannery, Mary Flannery

The Flannery Family

The Deceased Members of the Foreman Family

Kenneth Foreman

Nancy and Chet Swistock

John and Francine Gagliano

Connie Gersbeck, Rosemarie Lanzaone, Rose Panagallo,

Joseph Gersbeck

Lenny Panagallo

The Deceased Members of the Gibbons Family

Richard Gibbons

Dorothy Siniscalco; Anthony Siniscalco, Helen Forino,

Richard and Louise Giordano

Maria Segalini

Baby Gonzales, Jeprante Fuentes

Teodorico and Ninfa Gonzales

James Ferraro Jr.

George and Anna Marie Gravatt and grandchildren Allie,  
Nicholas, Olivia, and Leah

Cecil Gravatt Sr., Olive Gravatt,

George and Marlene Gravatt

Lillian Winthers, Charles Winthers

Violet and Richard Furjanic, Pamela Mullen,

Peter and Laura Greco

Josephine and Peter Grew

George Hankel, Philip and Stella Olenitsky,

June Hankel

Jacob and Rose Hankel

Living and Deceased Family and Friends of the

John and Stephanie Harakal

Harakal and Krulan Families



## *Christmas Flower Memorials*

### *IN MEMORY OF*

### *DEDICATED BY*

Dylan Joyce, The Nash Family, The Hilker Family,

Dennis Fitzgerald

Thomas Howarth

Ann and James Infante, Barbara, Pat and John,

John Flannelly, Sheila Flannelly

Rose and John Petillo, Lloyd Petillo,

Llydelle & Jack McKinney

Eugene Travinski Sr., Eugene Travinski Jr., Tekla Kaczor

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The Kehoe Family

Mrs. Angelina Martins, Mrs. Rose Brescia,

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Kennedy

James and Kathleen Maher

The Deceased Members of the Kerek Family

The Kneucker and Martin Families

Catherine and Fabian Bulsiewicz, Ronald Kulick

The DelPriore Family, The LaRocca Family

Imre Slatman, Ben Le

Sally Carlson, Loved Ones, Anne Carty

David daSilva Sr., Josephine Leto, Marie Petruzzi

Jean and Warren Madsen, Mary and Don Greco,

Peter and Katherine O'Connell, Vivian and Kie Madsen,

Jenny and Sal Placa, Rev. Robert and Juanita Kirchgessner

Carol Maffia, Leonard, Maffia, Helen Maffia,

Anthony Maffia

John and Tessie Zebrowski, Ronald and Barbara Magner

Anne Hilker

Matthew and Barbara Howarth

Anthony and Shelia Infante

Dave and Francine Jordan

Walter and Deborah Kaczor

John and Cathy Keegan

Kevin and Deneen Marie Kennedy

Walter and Agnes Kelso

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kerek

Bruno and Helga Kneucker

The Kulick Family

Ella LaRocca

Cuong and Katalin Le

Donna Lee

Vincent and Maria Leto

Chris and Sally-Jo Madsen

Richard Maffia

Kenneth and Paula Magner



## *Christmas Flower Memorials*

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Consuelo and Sal Remigio, Vicenta and José Martinez Sr.,  
The Rivera, Remigio, Andrade Families

Betty McCann, Joseph C. Schuld, Ken Felix,  
Jack & Larry McCann

Catherine M. Wilkes, Matthew J. Wilkes,  
Marianne Wilkes Drake, Catherine and James McKee

Patricia A. Schreiner  
Our Deceased Family and Friends

Frank Misiak

Christopher Pflum

The Morro Family, The Shapiro Family

Marie Davis, Joseph Davis, Joseph Gaffney, Mary Mueller  
All Deceased Family & Friends

Jack Nagle and all the Nagle Family, Dan and Elsie Clark

Giatano Mangano, Michael Natilli, Filippo & Maria Natilli,  
Giuseppe and Benadetta Cosentino, Edward Merkel

The Deceased Members of the Nahrebne Family

Truat Nguyen, Nguyet Nguyen, Minh Nguyen,  
Nhien Nguyen

The Deceased Members of the Okerson Family

The Deceased Members of the Onulak Family

Peter Oraboni, Bessie Petruzzelli, Michael Petruzzelli,  
Vincent Petruzzelli

The Paette Family, The Mulé Family, The Peay Family,  
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Roy and Theresa Murray

Dennie Nagle

Phillip and Kristin Natilli

Nancy Nahrebne

Dinh and Trinh Nguyen

Charles F. and Jennifer Okerson

Dustin and Amanda Onulak

Katherine Oraboni

Robert and Loretta Payette





## *Christmas Flower Memorials*

### *IN MEMORY OF*      *DEDICATED BY*

William Pellechia, The Pellechia Family,  
Grace and John Buonivata

Grace Pellechia

Frank Percaccio and all Deceased Family Members

Mary Ann Percaccio

David DdaSilva, Maria D. Gonzalez,  
Amparo Millan Dominguez, Benita Garcia Vazquez

Manuel and Amparo Pineiro

Richard L. Player, Vincent J. Comegno

Greg and Laurie Player

Lawrence J. Pronek, Katherine L. Pronek, Joan Pronek,  
James Tattan, Agnes Tattan, Joan Meehan

Neal and Lorraine Pronek

All Deceased Loved Ones

Harry and Lynn Reed

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The Rubinson Family

Allan Landino, Daniel Landino, Kristine Landino

Ronald and Dolores Ruff

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Anne Ryan

Terance and Catherine Maguire and Family,

Jack and Josie Ryan and Family

Yolanda Spinelli, Dominick Spinelli, The Ianuicelli Family,

Brett and Doreen Sabio

The Puzzuto Family, All Deceased Friends

All Our Beloved Deceased Family and Friends

Daniel and Donna Sakowski

Frank and Marie Sardone, Daniel Cherellia,

Frank and Debra Sardone

Father Justin Biase, Cathy Taylor Attara, William Smith

Rosaria Sciascia, Matteo Sciascia, Josephine Rotondi,

Angelo and Josephine Sciascia

Alfonso Vitiello

James and Mary Scott

Thomas and Lisa Scott

Frank and Pauline Berta, Frank and Josephine Scotto

Joe and Pauline Scotto



## *Christmas Flower Memorials*

### *IN MEMORY OF*

### *DEDICATED BY*

Verna Paczkowski

John and Nancy Shanley

Elaine Luli-Shea, John T. Shea Sr., Catherine Shea Davis,

John T. Shea

E. Bava

The Deceased Members of the Siracuse Family

Michael and Denise Siracuse

The Deceased Members of the Slade Family

Elena Slade

Wayne J. Sos

JoAnn Sos

Michael and Ann Phillips, John and Ann Sowpel

Richard and Joyce Sowpel

Bill Fox

Scott and Christine Sweeney

The Deceased Members of the Taddeo Family

Salvatore and Yolanda Taddeo

Monica Ann Talcott, Joe and Tina Borsellino

Benjamin and Celeste Talcott

Michael Tamburri

Margaret Tamburri

The Tillett Family, The Palazzolo Family

Mary Jean Tillett

The Deceased Members of the Tuosto Family

Lauren Tuosto

John F. Valasa Jr., Lucille Violet Foxworth

Roxanne Valasa

The Deceased Members of the Viggiano Family

Perry and Peggy Viggiano

The Blessed Trinity, The Blessed Virgin Mary

Edward Walker

Richard Walker, Theresa Hobday, Rose and Peter Arzente

Marie E. Walker

William C. Whitehouse, Cecelia Whitehouse,

Mary Elizabeth Whitehouse

William A. Whitehouse, Charles and Doris Garrity

The Deceased Members of the Wilson Family

James and Christina Wilson

Col. Dean Wright, Stephen Legrand

Annette Wright

Andrew Stepen, Jean Stepen, Edward Zak, Olga Zak

Richard and Andrea Zak



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**“Through him we have been favored with apostleship that we may spread his name and bring to obedient faith all the Gentiles among whom are you who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all in Rome, beloved of God and called to holiness, grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”**

Do you ever count how many Christmas cards you receive? Do you classify some as religious, family pictures, or strictly secular? A card sometimes expresses how people feel about you, or even the Christmas season. We are about to celebrate the birth of Christ. Is not this passage of Paul to the Romans a great Christmas wish? We may not be in Rome, but his care for those loved by God is quite clear. We 1. Belong to Jesus Christ 2. Are called to holiness 3. Grace is his wish for us and 4. Peace is the result of the presence of the Lord.

May the blessings of Christ be with you and yours.

### HIS WORD TODAY

BY REV. WILLIAM J. REILLY

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON  
THE SUNDAY READINGS





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In memory of  
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