

# Saint Francis of Assisi Church

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**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT-**  
Dec 03, 2017

**OUR WEEKLY OFFERTORY**

Nov. 25, 2017 = \$3,848.00

Nov 24, 2016 = \$2,805.00

**YTD (Year to Date)**

2017 = \$75,230.00

2016 = \$69,316.00

**THE SECOND COLLECTION**  
**THIS WEEK IS FOR CAPITAL**  
**IMPROVEMENTS**

**REST IN PEACE**

Ann Marie DiMauro, Mary Colegrove  
Allen Lamontagne

**BUS TRIP TO RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL**

What a fantastic trip we had on Thursday down to NYC to see the famous Rockettes and their wonderful Christmas performance. Lunch at Carmines and then the show. What a tremendous demonstration of talented people working together. It was almost like a dream.

**ATTENDANCE FOR**  
Nov 24 & 25, 2017

Sat. 5:00 pm = 71

Sun. 9:00 am = 94

Sun. 12 noon = 143

**TOTAL = 308**

**HEALING PRAYERS FOR:** Billy & Kathy Kowalski, Nar Scaia, Helen LoGuidice Bousquet, Ethan Heng, Robert Rau, Rick Csuhata, Joe Dorgan, Lydia Perez, Jack Romegialli, Bob Olson, Norma Ramirez, Father Hal Weidner, Jessica Clark.



## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Dec 02, 5:00 pm (English)

Sunday, Dec 03, 9:00 am (English)

+ **Geraldine Kasiski, r/b husband Bill.**

Sunday, Dec 03, 12 noon, (Spanish)

Monday, Dec 04, 5:00 pm NO MASS

Tuesday, Dec 05, 5:00 pm NO MASS

Wednesday, Dec 06, 5:00 pm

Thursday, Dec 07, 5:00 pm (Vigil Mas the feast of the Immaculate Concepti of the Blessed Virgin Mary.)

+ **Shawn Kiley, birthday remembrance**

**Special intention for Gloria P Sepúlveda & good health for Mercedes Rivillas.**

Friday, Dec 08, 5:00 pm, Holy Day, Mass Of Immaculate Conception of the BVM.

Saturday, Dec 09, 5:00 pm (English)

Sunday, Dec 10, 9:00 am (English)

+ **Ann Carriere, 3<sup>rd</sup> ann) & Victor Romegialli (55th ann) r/b Joyce and John Conklin.**

Sunday, Dec 10, 12 noon, (Spanish)



**Our Lady of Guadalupe -- Sunday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30a.m.**

December 12th is the feast of [Our Lady of Guadalupe](#), patroness of the Americas, unborn children, and the New Evangelization. Our Blessed Mother came to us in a time of need and left behind the only image of herself in the world not made by human hands. This was done so that she might unite the land and bring all those around closer to her son. As we learn more about this miracle, we realize that this message was not only for those in Mexico but for all of the Americas!

On December 10th, our parish will be celebrating this miracle. The procession will begin @ 11:30 am with the Mass promptly starting @ 12:00 pm, During the Mass we will enjoy the reenactment of the apparition. Afterwards we will continue the afternoon with a Mexican Style Lunch, music and dance in the Monsignor Fox Parish Center. The donation is: Adults: \$12.00, Kids: \$7.00 (6- 12 years), children under 5 years are free. Tickets will be on sale after the weekend masses. This is a great opportunity to fellowship while supporting your church!

Call the parish office at [\(860\) 347-4684](tel:8603474684) for more information and for tickets and table reservations.



## **THIS SUNDAY COFFEE SOCIAL AND MOVIE** - Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017.

During the coffee social we will enjoy a documentary about the scientific facts found in the painting left for our Lady of Guadalupe. Come and join us to discover the Miracle image left by the Virgin Mary.

## **CHRISTMAS MASSES** **"What to do?"**

UPDATE: I will ask again at the masses this weekend what you think is best for the parish for Christmas Day. Do we have one 10:00 am bilingual Mass or do we have a 9:00 am English Mass and a 12 noon Spanish Mass like every weekend. This year Christmas day, December 25, falls on a Monday. Last year it was on a Sunday and all the Masses were full. That is not going to happen this year. Monday presents a lot of practical problems. So, what do we do?

## **ADVENT VESPERS**

St. Pius Church, 5:00 pm on Sunday evenings during Advent. All are welcome.

## **OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE WITH BISHOP COTE IN NORWICH**

Mass at St. Patrick in Norwich with Bishop Cote and the Latino people of the Diocese in our annual bilingual celebration of the Feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Tuesday, December 12, 2017. The celebration begins with the Rosary and opportunity for confessions at 6:30 pm, followed by Holy Mass at 7:00 pm. Fiesta following. We look forward to honoring Our Lady with you.



## **NOVENA FOR OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

Friday, Dec 1, Gloria Aguilar, 65 Church St, Apt 1 B, South Green Apartments, 860-807-501.

Saturday, Dec 2, Catalina Alvarado, 49 Glen Rd, Deep River, 860-304-3994.

Sunday, Dec 3, Jose Matute, 33 Main St, Deep River.

Monday, Dec 4, Abraham de Jesus, Saybrook Rd, Middletown, 860-550-5806

Tuesday, Dec 5, Iolani Peterson, 65 Durant St, Middletown, 860-462-0306.

Wednesday, Dec 6, Miriam Torres, 300 Hamilton St. Meriden, 203-886-6580.

Thursday, Dec 7, Diana Torres, 92 Warren St. Meriden, 203-537-8379.

Friday, Dec 8, Tony Benitez, 181 Newfield St. Middletown, 860-748-6645.

Saturday, Dec 9, Fernando Pasato, 72 Washington St, Middletown, 860-770-1025

**THE ANNUAL CONVOCATION FOR PRIESTS** will be held from December 4 - 6, 2017, at Gurney's Newport Resort on Goat Island in Newport, RI. It will be a time for all priests to gather with their bishop for spiritual renewal, support, education and rest. No parish, school or institutional activities will be scheduled during these days. Please pray for your priests, as they will be praying for you. Bishop Cote emphasized the importance of this annual gathering in his letter inviting each priest to the Convocation, "Your presence and commitment to this time together is important to me. This year we celebrate the 36th year of gathering as a presbyterate for the Convocation."

This is the best meeting of the year for us priests to gather with Bishop Cote and interact with one another. We just don't see each other that often anymore. These two days are really a blessing. Fr. Kennedy  
NB Please note that there is no Mass on Monday or Tuesday of this week.

**WEEKLY CEREAL & CAN GOODS REPORT**  
57 lbs. & \$00.00



## **JESUS AND SANTA**

Are there more uplifting songs than the Christmas carols and secular songs we sing at Christmas time? I don't think so. Modern day Christmas in the United States is a mix of sacred and secular. It is foolish to think everyone is going to agree on which is more important. For religious people Jesus takes center stage. After all the word is "Christ Mas" (Mass of Christ) and not "Santa Mas." For non-religious or non-Christian people Santa takes center stage. I think most of us combine the two and enjoy them both. We know "Jesus is the Reason for the Season," but we enjoy the secular side of the holiday as well. Everyone likes gifts and Santa does a really good job in that regard. But Jesus is the best gift anyone could ever get. He is our salvation. PS: The Rockettes Christmas program that I attended on Thursday is a perfect combination of Jesus and Santa.

**THIS SPANISH NOVENA** is lots of fun. Rosary, songs and food. Parking can be a problem, so, if you would like to participate, give me a call. The novena starts at 6:00 p.m. each night, due to the darkness. This is a good way to get to know some Spanish traditions. Isn't it wonderful how faith and food bring us together?

## WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD." As we celebrate Christ the King, let us also learn to serve our spouses by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Feb 2-4, 2018 in Manchester, CT and Jul 6-8, 2018 in Manchester, CT. For more information, call Dennis & Jane Lamondy at [860-481-3720](tel:860-481-3720) or visit them at <https://wwmectw.org/>.

## PROJECT RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT WEEKENDS

~ If you are silently grieving or suffering from an abortion, experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. The weekend healing process is confidential and offers an opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. Upcoming weekends are: November 3-5 in Stockbridge, MA, call 413-452-0661; a Spanish weekend will take place in North Providence, Rhode Island November 17-19 call 401-351-7730 or visit the national website at [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org).

"PROJECT RACHEL" is our Diocesan ministry for anyone seeking healing and forgiveness from an abortion. Priests in the Project Rachel ministry are there for you with God's Grace and Mercy. Call 860-861-4439. All inquiries are confidential.

## ALL ARE WELCOME

Whatever your current status in the Catholic Church, whatever your current family or marital situation, whatever your past or present religious affiliation, whatever your personal history, age, background or ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, whatever your own self-image or esteem, you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi.

## WORK OF ART

On Friday night we had a "paint night" here in the church hall and mine is a master piece. I will auction it off to raise money for the parish. Bidding will begin at \$50,000 with \$1,000 increments. I never knew I had a Michelangelo inside me. My work is entitled "Fish swimming under Tree." You may gaze upon it this weekend at the Masses.



## GIFT PROGRAM - GENERATIONS IN FAITH

**TOGETHER** is a monthly bi-lingual religious education program which brings together children, parents and grandparents to learn about their faith and grow together as a family. The class meets from October to May between the 9:00 am and 12:00 noon Mass on Sunday, beginning with light refreshments at 10:00 am in the parish hall, with instruction running from 10:20 am - 11:50 am. This is a great opportunity to learn about the church and the teachings of Jesus in an engaging and interactive way. It also provides the opportunity for families who attend the different masses in the parish to get to know each other. The program is open to all, not just those preparing for sacraments, and not just active parish members. Please spread the word so this can be a successful and rewarding program. Registration is \$30.00 per family. Please contact Belky Santos to register or for more information 860-347-4684, ext. 20 [office@saintfrancisofassisi.com](mailto:office@saintfrancisofassisi.com) or visit <http://www.saintfrancisofassisi.com/edu/> Please join us on the following dates: Sunday, October 29 Sunday, November 19 Sunday, December 17 Sunday, January 21 Sunday, February 25 Sunday, March 18 Sunday, April 8 Sunday, May 6.

## KEEP IN CONTACT

If you know a parishioner who is now unable to attend mass for whatever reason, please call the office so we can send them a bulletin and bring them Holy Communion.

For many Christians, **ADVENT WREATHS** are a favorite way to celebrate the month of December leading up to Christmas Day. Although Advent Wreaths are popular among Christians, many are not aware of the rich meaning and symbolism embedded in the tradition. If we learn this meaning, we can appreciate it all the more!

## DARKNESS AND LIGHT

The Advent candles readily demonstrate the strong contrast between darkness and light. In the Bible, Christ is referred to as the "Light of the World" contrasted with the darkness of sin. Human history spanned long ages before our prophesied Savior would finally make his appearance, and God's promise to make all things new through him.

As his Advent, or "coming," draws nearer another candle is lit, with each candle dispelling the darkness a little more. Thus, the Advent wreath helps us to spiritually contemplate the great drama of salvation history that surrounds the birth of God Incarnate who comes to redeem the human race.

