

**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF
SAINT THOMAS of CANTERBURY – SAINT JOSEPH**

ADVENT III
GAUDETE (REJOICE)
DECEMBER 17, 2017



Rejoice Always.

Pray Without Ceasing.

In All Circumstances

Give Thanks

for This is the Will of God
for you

in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

SAINT THOMAS' CHURCH

340 Hudson Street
Cornwall on Hudson, NY 12520

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses

Saturday Evening (Sunday Vigil): 5:30PM
Sunday: 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM

Weekday

Monday – Saturday: 8:30AM

Holy Days of Obligation

As announced

Confession

Saturday: 4:00PM – 5:15PM (or by appointment)

Miraculous Medal Novena

Monday after the 8:30AM Mass

Rosary

Monday – Saturday after the 8:30AM Mass

SAINT JOSEPH'S CHURCH

4 Saint Joseph's Place
New Windsor, NY 12553

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses

Saturday Evening (Sunday Vigil): 4:00PM
Sunday: 12:30PM
Monday: 6:30PM Mass;
Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction 5:30PM

Holy Days of Obligation

As announced

Confession

Monday: 6:00PM

Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction

Monday: 5:30PM

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Rees Doughty

Parochial Vicars

Rev. Benjamin Benneh

Rev. John Kwaku Sah

Deacons

Leonard Farmer

Anthony Ferraiuolo

Joseph Lieby

John Pelella

RECTORY OFFICE

Monday - Friday, 9AM to 4PM

Administrative Assistants:

Kathy Kissel & Melissa Nosenchuck

Telephone: 845-534-2547 Fax: 845-534-1357

email: office@stt-stj.com

Web: ststthomasjoseph.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Faith Formation Coordinator

Anmarie O'Connor

Administrative Assistant:

Terry Sue Volpe

Telephone: 845-534-9393

email: RelEd@stt-stj.com

Please visit the parish website for office hours.

RCIA

Coordinator

Mary Ellen Tiernan

845-661-8586

metiernan@comcast.net

Music Director

Vincent Mateo

914-522-0066

pianoinvalhalla@gmail.com

DECEMBER: MONTH OF THE DIVINE INFANCY

SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER: ADVENT FERIA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Peter Gary Ferraro, r.i.p.*

by James & Tiffany Gagliano

4:00PM (Sunday Vigil: Saint Joseph): *Fr. Robert Hilfiker, r.i.p.*

by Kathy Kissel

5:30PM (Sunday Vigil: Saint Thomas):

Thomas & Bridget McManus by the family

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER: ADVENT III (GAUDETE)

7:30AM (Saint Thomas): *pro populo*

9:00AM (Saint Thomas): *Ann Adams, r.i.p.*

by Phil & Liz Adams & Family

11:00AM (Saint Thomas): *Kenney & Serraino Families*

by the Kenny Family

12:30PM (Saint Joseph): *Brendan Leen* by the Festa Family

MONDAY 18 DECEMBER: ADVENT FERIA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Neil Hogan & John Sweeney*

by the family

6:30PM (Saint Joseph): *The Siner Family* by Linda Siner

TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER: ADVENT FERIA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Ted King & Margaret Scalzo, r.i.p.*

by Mary King

WEDNESDAY 20 DECEMBER: ADVENT FERIA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *John LaGrutta, r.i.p.* by Sue Jones

THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER:

COMMEMORATION OF SAINT PETER CANISIUS

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *James V. McEnery* by the family

FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER: ADVENT FERIA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Anne Campbell, r.i.p.*, by Crispo Family

SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER:

COMMEMORATION OF SAINT JOHN of KENTY

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Charles Joly, r.i.p.*, by Jean Ries

4:00PM (Sunday Vigil: Saint Joseph):

Edward & Lynne Hassdenteufel, r.i.p., by Shirley Hassdenteufel

5:30PM (Sunday Vigil: Saint Thomas): *Mario & Anna Cercone,*
by the family

NEXT SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER: ADVENT IV

7:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Special Intention*

9:00AM (Saint Thomas): *Sonia Bolz, r.i.p.*, by the family

11:00AM (Saint Thomas): *Mary Boyle, pro sal.*, by a friend

CHRISTMAS EVE 24 DECEMBER

4:00PM (Vigil: Saint Thomas): *Flower Donor Intentions*

6:00PM (Vigil: Saint Joseph): *Celebrant's Intentions*

8:00PM (Vigil: Saint Thomas): *Celebrant's Intentions*

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

25 DECEMBER

8:00AM (Saint Thomas): *Celebrant's Intentions*

10:00AM (Saint Thomas): *Celebrant's Intentions*

12:00 Noon (Saint Thomas): *Celebrant's Intentions*

r.i.p. (requiescat in pace: rest in peace)
a.i.d. (ad intentionem donoris: for the intention of the donor)
pro sal. (pro salutem: for health)
pro populo (for the people)

LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS

Regular Collection: \$9526.00
Immaculate Conception: \$963.00
Pantry: \$55.00
Bingo: \$593.00

***See the letter from Father Doughty included in this Sunday's bulletin about upcoming changes to our Mass schedule.**

RECONCILIATION MONDAY

December 18

Confessions will be heard from
4:00 – 8:00PM at St. Thomas
6:00 - 6:30PM at St. Joseph

STAR YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

POINSETTIA SALE

After all Masses this weekend,
December 16th and 17th.
All proceeds will assist the youth
in attending retreats and Camp Veritas.



HOLY HOUR FOR TEENS

Orange County PTAF Youth Groups will
be sponsoring a special Holy Hour on
January 5, 2018 at Saint Thomas
Church. Social time and refreshments
in gym afterwards! 7:00 – 9:00PM
For questions and to RSVP, please contact Noelle
Molloy at 845-988-1165 or nojo1201@hvc.rr.com



*“This is the irrational season,
when Love blooms bright and wild.
Had Mary been filled with reason,
there'd have been no room for the child.”*
Madeleine L'Engle

THIRD ANNUAL 12 MONTHS OF CHRISTMAS RAFFLE BEGINS

A fresh start and more opportunities to win!
Fill out a new raffle entry for a new year of prizes.
Drop your completed raffle ticket and \$20 (cash or
check) at the parish office or in the collection
plate. All entries are good for the entire year!
Enter as many times as you like!

December's Prize:

Waterford Elegance Collection
Champagne Set – 6 flutes MSRP: \$175



The 'O' Antiphons of the final days of Advent

“The Roman Church has been singing the “O” Antiphons since at least the 8th century. They are the antiphons that accompany the *Magnificat* canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17th–23rd. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative “Come!” embodies the longing for the Divine Messiah.”
USCCB

December 17: O Sapientia

O Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18: O Adonai

O Leader of the House of Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19: O Radix Jesse

O Root of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!

December 20: O Clavis David

O Key of David,
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21: O Oriens

O Radiant Dawn,
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and
in the shadow of death.

December 22: O Rex Gentium

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:
come and save man, whom you formed from the
dust!

December 23: O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!

From Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers

THE BOREDOM OF SIN

by Father Rees

Typically during Advent, priests will listen to easily several hundred confessions, absolving penitents who dutifully present themselves to the sacrament of forgiveness, the presence of Christ through the instrument of the priesthood. Every priest is heartened by the sincerity and devotion of those who come for their "Advent duty". Yet, truthfully, hearing confessions is tedious business for many priests. Why?

Because sin is boring!

When St. Paul wrote to the Ephesians about putting aside the old self so that we could put on the New Man, he meant to convey the idea that the old way of life of sin and corruption, of misguided desires and false hopes, was just that - old! In fact, sin is nearly as ancient as creation itself. The writer of Ecclesiastes (a man named Qoheleth) captured the tedium of the world and its sin when he said:

All things are wearisome. No one can say that eyes have not had enough of seeing, ears their fill of hearing. What was, will be again, what has been done, will be done again, and there is nothing new under the sun!

Sheer futility. All of it. His words express the sorrow at how fleeting our experience of goodness and joy in this life can be and how detrimental to our happiness it is when we "do the things we would not do and don't do the things we would." It's hard to argue the point. How injured our world has become to the horrors of violence and war, the scandal of ignorance and want (these were the children the Ghost of Christ Present shows to Ebenezer Scrooge in Dicken's *A Christmas Carol*). How easily we, and our children, watch movies and television shows with so much violence without blinking an eye. How negligent we've become of the holocaust that abortion has become. Sin is insipid, lifeless, and uninteresting. It is persistent and stupefying. It is soul-destroying.

The cause of our joy then, on this Gaudete Sunday, is the freedom from this world of sin through God's gift to us of a Son. "The Lord of the world did not consider it right to allow human beings, for love of whom everything had been made, to be besieged by sin and to be sold like slaves to death." (Theodoret, from *The Cure of Pagan Diseases*.) St. Paul exhorts us, in the second reading this Third Sunday in Advent: *Rejoice always..... May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

To renounce sin and choose to live the life of grace in Christ, in uprightness and holiness of the truth, is to live as a New Man, with minds renewed in spirit, because something new has begun. No more for us the frustration of tasting goodness in this life only to see it disappear. We dare to hope for a new creation, already begun in Christ, which we share in through our baptism and the Holy Eucharist, where everything is new and is ever so!

So fitting for us, then, to seek a cleansing from all sin, from anything that would keep us from taking joy in celebrating the truth of Christmas. This is why we go to confession in Advent (and this is a priest's delight!).

On Monday, Catholic parishes all over the Archdiocese will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) from 4 pm to 8 pm.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT SCHEDULE: 12/24

4:00PM Vigil (St. Joseph)

5:30PM Vigil (St. Thomas)

7:30AM (St. Thomas)

9:00AM (St. Thomas)

11:00AM (St. Thomas)

** There will be **NO 12:30PM Mass at St. Joseph***

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE: 12/24

4:00PM (St. Thomas)

6:00PM (St. Joseph)

8:00PM (St. Thomas)

CHRISTMAS DAY SCHEDULE: 12/25

8:00AM (St. Thomas)

10:00AM (St. Thomas)

12:00PM (St. Thomas)

**Please note changes to the Sunday Mass schedule on 12/24 (Advent IV).*

EMMAUS MINISTRY

For Grieving Parents

Whose Children of Any Age Have Died by Any Cause

One-Day Spiritual Retreats: January 13, February

24, April 28, and October 20, 2018.

Call 646-794-3191 or register online:

www.emfgp.org/2018-archny.

**Don't just prepare for Christmas -
prepare for CHRIST!**

