

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 23, 2018

*Dear Parishioners,*

He takes away the first to establish the second. (Hebrews 10:9)

Here we are, just two days before Christmas, and the Scripture readings at Mass are still telling us about all the new things that Jesus' birth has brought about. Take today's second reading. The author of Hebrews tells us that Jesus came to take away one thing—"the first"—and establish something new—"the second" (Hebrews 10:9). What are these two?



The "first" is the entire system of "sacrifices and offerings" that took place in the Jewish Temple (Hebrews 10:8). The time had come to end the practice of offering up bulls and goats in atonement for sin. In place of these sacrifices, Jesus established the "second" thing: "Behold, I come to do your will" (Hebrews 10:9). He replaced countless sacrifices with his own heart of trust and obedience.

God doesn't need our sacrifices. We don't have to convince him to love us. We don't have to prove ourselves to him by giving things up or by working ourselves to death. Of course, he delights in seeing his children making sacrifices for the sake of his Church, but his love doesn't depend on it. It's not something we earn. It's something we receive as a generous gift—just as we receive any gift sitting under our Christmas tree.

Of course, our sacrifices do please the Lord—especially the sacrifices we make for our families and for the poor. But Christmas is about Jesus' love, not our efforts. It's about his generosity, not our hard work. Instead of demanding sacrifices from us, Jesus did the exact opposite: he sacrificed himself for us by becoming a man. Instead of abandoning us because of our sin, he came closer to us so that he could redeem us. Not by our sacrifices. Not by our suffering. But by his love.

There are just two days left. Jesus is about to do a new thing all over again. Fix your eyes on him. Let him reveal this new thing to you—the love that saves and the obedience that sanctifies.

"Jesus, thank you for your love. Thank you for your sacrifice.  
Thank you for doing your Father's will."

*Deacon Mark Race, Administrator*

## Christmas Schedule

### CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Children's Mass  
Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 PM  
Midnight Mass - Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
(Christmas Carols at 11:30 PM)

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

### NEW YEARS EVE MASS

Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 AM

### NEW YEARS DAY MASS

*The Solemnity of Mary,  
the Holy Mother of God*  
Tuesday, January 1, 2019 at 8:00 AM

### Stewardship Thought

*For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." (LUKE 1:44)*

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading each Sunday, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. Do you prepare for Mass each week or do you just show up and expect to be entertained? We are called to be active participants, not passive bystanders.

### Pray for our sick...

LaVerne Agnew, Cyd Michelle Anderson, Sidney Anderson, Brian Argusta, Rose Ball, Percenia Beasley, Fr. Emile Belletty, Sister Juliet Berber, Glenda Brown, Vivian Burgess, Barbara Butler, Brownie Cain, Sister Cecilia Calva, Alberto Casanova, Christopher Chestnut, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Katherine Clark, Ramona Clark, Agnes Cooper, Edward Cousin, Juanita Davis, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Jayden Dunn, Nigel Dunn, Alton Duhon, Gwen Files, Cynthia Fortier, Teresa Franklin, Judy Felton-Gardner, Avis Gibbs, Barbara Harris, Darren Harris, Jacqueline Holman, Janie Jackson, Aaron Katz, Briana Katz, Barbara Lagarde, Irwin Lagarde, Jeanne LeBlanc, Mercedes LeBlanc, Barbara Lindsey, Connie Louie, Joe McZeal, Vyldred Manor, Sister Marianna, Dorothy Okoye, Aliyah Patterson, Wiley R. Pugh, Vickie Race, Andrea Raggette, Doris Rogers, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Chris Simon, Joan Spencer, Dorothy Stanley, Annie Starks, Leila Thomas, Emma Thornton, Iris Turner, Mabel Walton, Johnnye Washington, and Alice Williams.

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 22</b>
5:15 PM	Soul of Lillian White
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 23</b>
8:00 AM	Intention of all Parishioners
10:00 AM	Soul of Ferdinand Foye
12:15 PM	Soul of Sam Richardson
<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 24</b>
5:15 PM	Soul of Angula Bates
Midnight	Souls of Yvonne, Jackeline, Dilcia, & Wilfred Morgan, Jr.
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 26</b>
8:00 AM	Intention of Dorothy Stanley
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 29</b>
5:15 PM	Soul of Basil Raymond
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 30</b>
8:00 AM	Soul of Paul Moore
10:00 AM	Intention of the Knights of Peter Claver & Ladies Auxiliary
12:15 PM	Intention of all Parishioners

## DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Mi 5:1-4a, Ps 80:2-19, Lk 1:39-45
Monday	2 Sm 7:1-16, Lk 1:67-79
	Is 62:1-5, Ps 89:4-29, Mt 1:1-25
	Is 9:1-6, Ps 96:1-13, Lk 2:1-14
Tuesday	Is 52:7-10, Jn 1:1-18
Wednesday	Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59, Mt 10:17-22
Thursday	1 Jn 1:1-4, Jn 20:1a-8
Friday	1 Jn 1:3-2:2, Mt 2:13-18
Saturday	1 Jn 2:3-11, Lk 2:22-35
Sunday	Sir 3:2-14, Ps 128:1-5, Lk 2:41-52

## WEEKLY OFFERING

**December 16, 2018**

\$4,229.33 Tithe and Offering  
63.00 Building Fund  
6.00 We Care"



## Men, Mark Your Calendars

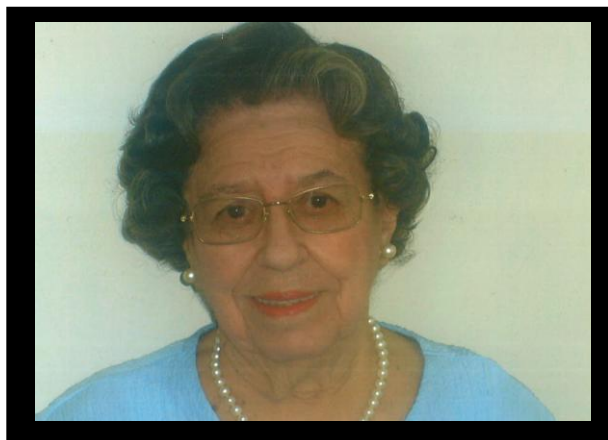
Transfiguration Annual Retreat for men will be held at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center on the weekend of January 18, 19, and 20 2019. Join your fellow parishioners for this weekend of spiritual enrichment and growth. The Passionist retreat team offer inspirational talks on the theme, as well as time for quiet prayer, Mass, Confession and Stations of the Cross. You may arrive as early as 3:00 PM on Friday. Our retreat opens at 5:45 PM with a buffet supper and closes Sunday after lunch about 12:30 PM. **A \$50.00 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your weekend Retreat, this time is reserved for you.**

This year's Retreat theme:

***"Be Not Anxious! Living in the Peace of Christ"***

For more information or to make your reservation please call Greg Warner retreat Captain at 323.974.7405 or 310.538.2214.

**2019 Calendars** are available in the church sacristy for a donation of \$2. Thank you for your support.



*to Dorothy Stanley  
who celebrates her birthday on  
December 26<sup>th</sup>.*

# 100 YEARS

## Blessed & Beautiful!

**Congratulations from your  
Family, Friends and 50 + Club.**

## ***"WE LOVE YOU"***

## Rosary Procession January 5th

You are invited to participate in the monthly Rosary Procession in Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on **Saturday, January 5, 2019** at 4:30 PM at Transfiguration. The Rosary is one of the most powerful prayers on earth. The 5:15 PM Mass will follow.