

We are **Church of the Presentation**,
a welcoming Catholic community leading people
into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ
through **Word, Worship, and Outreach**.



December 15, 2024 / Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

Pardon and Peace

Monday, December 16, 7:00pm

Advent is a time to prepare ourselves for the joy of Christmas. Our Advent Pardon and Peace Service offers an opportunity for us to reflect together on God's mercy. The evening ends with individual reconciliation. All are welcome!

Please note: This is a "December attendance event" for our Family Faith Families.



IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE! Help Spread Some Christmas Cheer by...

- * **Donating Target, Walmart &/or supermarket gift cards. No time to shop? You can drop off a check payable to "Presentation" & we will purchase them.**
- * **Contributing NEW warm hats, gloves &/or mittens for the homeless and needy. No need to wrap them.**
- * **Sorting the donated items on Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 10am (No RSVP required).**
- * **Slicing ham on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 12:30pm (No RSVP required).**
- * **Delivering the food to the Soup Kitchens on Christmas Eve morning. (RSVP to 201-327-1313 ext. 871 & you **WILL receive a confirmation call back**).**
- * **Serving the meal at our Bronx Soup Kitchen on Christmas morning. We leave Presentation at 7:30am. (RSVP to 201-327-1313 ext. 871 & you **WILL receive a confirmation call back**).**

A reminder that the Christmas Sharing Board items are due by the end of this weekend. Thank you as always for your generosity!



Christmas Eve Parking Help Needed! Men & women high school age or older - we need you! If you can help, please call Barry Ervin at 201-327-7367.



**Family Nativity Story
Next Saturday, Dec. 21
during 5pm Mass**

Come and enjoy a reenactment of the Nativity Story by our 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders joined by our Children's Choir. *Please note: This is a "Dec. attendance event" for our Family Faith Families.*



M2-Gether Foundation Remembrance Walk will be at the Torne Valley Sports Complex in Hillburn NY next Sun., Dec. 22. This charitable foundation was established by the Nicpon Family in remembrance of their daughter, Madie, who died tragically in October 2021 at the age of 20. Madie was very active in our Youth Ministry and was involved in many charitable endeavors. *For more info & to pre-register, visit www.mn2-gether.org.*



**Join our PACKATHON on
Saturday, Jan. 11 (9:30am-11:30am)
Donations Needed Also!**

We are partnering with Haiti Health Promise of Holy Name Healthcare System's "Packathon" outreach program to help the neediest families in Milot, Haiti, served by Hôpital Sacré Coeur. You can support this effort by joining our PACKATHON & also donating toward the cost of the meals. Visit the [parish website](#) for details.



"Play-n-Worship"

No meeting on Dec. 29.

Our popular Sunday school for **ages 3 through Kindergarten** is during Sunday 10am Mass. Parents, you can now have a more meaningful worship experience with fewer interruptions, while your children learn about our faith in a fun environment with games, crafts & songs.

Parent(s) must sign their children in and out of the program, sign-in time starts at 9:45am. If you have any questions, feel free to email Catzel LaVecchia at catzel@churchofpresentation.org

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve Masses - Tues., Dec. 24
4:00pm, 5:30pm, 7:00pm & full choir at 10:00pm

Christmas Day Masses - Wed., Dec. 25
9:00am, 10:30am & 12:00pm

* *If the attendance at the 4pm Mass exceeds the church's capacity, we will accommodate the overflow by live-streaming the mass into the community room.*

* *Our Christmas collection makes up a large portion of our budget. We ask that you prayerfully take this into consideration when making your Christmas offering.*

Youth Ministry Happenings

churchofpresentation.org/youthministry

YM Gathering - TODAY, Dec. 15 after 6:30pm Mass

IGNITE is back! Are you looking to grow in your relationship with the Lord with a deeper "youth group" connection? Join us on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30pm in the Antioch Rm. Come once, often, or weekly!

Summer Mission Trip applications are **not** available online. Visit the YM office.
Application deadline is this Friday, Dec. 20.

Attn. All High Schoolers: We are looking for Teen Lectors to read at mass. Contact Craig if interested.

Attn. H.S. Seniors: Are you interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister? Contact Craig for training.

UPCOMING BULLETIN DEADLINES



The deadline for the Dec. 22 & Dec. 29 bulletins is Tuesday, Dec. 17 at noon.

The deadline for the Jan. 5 bulletin is Monday, Dec. 23 at noon.

The deadline for the Jan. 12 bulletin is Tuesday, Dec. 31 at noon.

FROM THE PASTOR

Today is **Gaudete Sunday**, when the third pink candle on the Advent wreath gets lit. Like Laetare Sunday (the 4th Sunday of Lent), it is a Sunday of joy in an otherwise penitential season. Gaudete Sunday gets its name from this day's old Latin antiphon, "*Gaudete in Domino, Semper,*" meaning "Rejoice in the Lord, Always."

One of the most important events of Advent is our **Pardon and Peace Service** on Monday evening beginning at 7:00pm. It's a chance to look at reconciliation issues in our lives and in our relationships. Clearly, it's the ultimate moment in our Christmas preparation. We'll also be joined by a number of extra priests that evening for individual confession. **Confession is also available** after 9am daily Mass & on Saturdays from 3:30-4:45pm. You're also welcome to call me or Fr. Rich if you'd like to make an appointment for confession, for this is one of the most important aspects of our ministry, and we welcome the opportunity.

Our **Family Nativity Story** will take place during the homily at next Saturday's 5pm Mass, a joyous event for the entire family!

If you're looking for some **tax-friendly donation ideas** to benefit your parish, we've got some outlined for you on page 5. It's a good idea to take advantage of the tax benefits from donating stock which has appreciated in value.

Fr. Bob

Alzheimer's & Dementia Support



Our **Support Group** is virtual on the last Wednesday of each month from 6:30pm-8pm. Because of Christmas, the group will meet next on **Wed., Dec. 18**. Facilitated by Debby Montone, RN, Certified Dementia Practitioner, & Certified Dementia Support Group Facilitator from the Greater NJ Alzheimer's Assn.

To receive the Zoom link, email Michele at mbaron@churchofpresentation.org

SPECIAL PROGRAM ON THURS., JAN 23
10am in the Jerusalem Room or via Zoom

Debby Montone will be hosting a program for caregivers on **New Medical Advances**. You may attend in person or join us via Zoom. Please RSVP to Michele at mbaron@churchofpresentation.org or ext. 847 & let her know whether you'll be attending in person or via Zoom. She'll send you the Zoom link.



Time to Plan for Your 2025 Retreat!

Men's Cornerstone
January 31 - February 1

A 26-hour overnight retreat at the parish center. Registration forms are around the parish center & also may be downloaded & printed from www.churchofpresentation.org/2025-retreats/

Women's Journey: February 21 - 23

A weekend away at San Alfonso Retreat Center, Long Branch NJ - **Deadline to register is Feb. 15**. Visit www.churchofpresentation.org/2025-retreats/ or scan the QR code to register

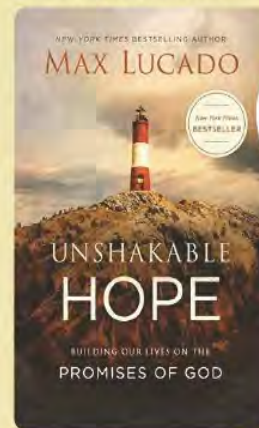
online or download & print a paper registration form. Registration forms are also located around the parish center.



Women's Cornerstone: February 28 - March 1
A 26-hour overnight retreat at the parish center.

Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year with the Theme *Pilgrims of Hope*.

Celebrate with us and explore this theme of *Unshakable Hope* in our 6 week small group faith sharing experience!



Dates: **MONDAYS** beginning in January
January 13, 27, Feb 3, 10, 24, and March 3, 2025
at 9:30-11:00am OR 7:00-8:30pm

To register, scan the QR Code or visit the [parish website](http://www.churchofpresentation.org), where you can also view an introductory video.



For more information, please email catzel@churchofpresentation.org



LGBTQ Ministry

LGBTQ Ministry is a welcoming fellowship embracing the dignity and diversity of all Catholics by fostering a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and his people, through Word, Worship and Outreach.

For more information or to get involved, please contact LGBTQ@churchofpresentation.org



Monday Yoga Classes
at 9:45am in Gathering Room North.
Wear loose clothing, and bring a mat, towel & water. Donations welcome.

Women's Morning Group:

Thursdays at 7:30am via Zoom

All women are invited to join us every Thursday morning at 7:30am for an hour. Weekly attendance not required, but you are most welcome! Email Kathleen at kmartorano@churchofpresentation.org for the Zoom link. Let's share the gift of faith together!

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Rejoice always! Rejoice!

Almighty God,
giver of all that is good,
you have done glorious things.
You have turned away our enemies and
removed misfortune.
Help us to be unafraid,
to not be discouraged,

to give to those who want.
We sing praise,
rejoicing always, rejoicing,
knowing that you are our salvation.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 15, 2024

The Lord Is Near



Today's readings: Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4, 5–6; Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 3:10–18. On this Third Sunday of Advent, also called Gaudete Sunday, the second reading and the entrance antiphon proclaim, "The Lord is near." On Gaudete Sunday, a rose-colored candle is lighted on the Advent wreath, along with two purple candles from the previous two weeks of Advent. The purple candles symbolize our prayer and preparation; the rose candle symbolizes our joyful anticipation at the halfway point of Advent.

In today's first reading, the prophet Zephaniah speaks of the restoration of Jerusalem after the nation's sinfulness. He

invites us to not be discouraged, but rather to "Shout for joy . . . / Sing joyfully" and "Be glad and exult with all your heart." The faithful today, like the people who approached John the Baptist in the Gospel, are filled with expectation.

This week, to continue preparing your heart for the full joy of Christmas, dedicate time every day to pray. As St. Paul suggests in his letter to the Philippians, "with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." Begin your prayer by expressing your joy and gratitude to God. How will the Lord's nearness inspire you to share your kindness with others? End your prayer by resting in the peace of God.

**Sharing the Blessings of the Year
Christmas & Year-End Giving Opportunities**

With the year drawing to a close, now is a time when many parishioners offer a year-end gift to Presentation, making the most of their donation thanks to various tax benefits. The deductions allowed by the IRS for charitable giving help individuals grow their generosity and help our parish continue its mission.

Did you know that...

***You don't have to use cash to make your gift** — donate appreciated securities instead. The deduction is the same as for a cash gift, and you pay no capital gains tax on the transfer.

***You can also transfer your Required Minimum Distribution** to Presentation directly without having to pay income tax on the transfer. Simply coordinate for a "Qualified Charitable Distribution."

***Give an asset that may help us more than it's helping you** — such as a life insurance policy whose coverage your family no longer needs, or real estate like a second home or a parcel of undeveloped land, or valuable collections or artwork you no longer have room to display.

***You can make a gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime** — name your parish as a beneficiary of your will or revocable trust, or of your retirement plan.

***You can make Presentation a partner in your giving** — you can deed us your home but continue to live there.

***Will my employer match my gift?** Many companies offer to match an employee's gift, but there may be an issue with matching gifts to religious institutions. If you have a question or issue regarding matching gifts, contact Bob Rooney.

***How do I start?** To find out your giving options or to learn more, please contact Fr. Bob or Bob Rooney.

Thank you for all that you do throughout the year to help Presentation help others!

Knights' Corner
Knights of Columbus



Presentation
Council #6033

Our monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Wed between Sept and June. We do volunteer events throughout the year. Come join us! Please join us for fellowship and to hear about what we are doing.

Dec Social Meeting and Installation – Wed., Dec. 18 at 7:30pm: We will be holding our Christmas social and install our Knight's officers for the calendar year in a special ceremony

THANK YOU to all parishioners and brother Knights who supported our annual Thanksgiving turkey donation program. We were able to donate \$1,215 in food gift cards and about 15 turkeys to our parish food outreach program which included a ShopRite donation.

Email us at kofc6033@churchofpresentation.org to learn more about the Knights.

Memorial of Lights



We are offering opportunities for parishioners to remember a deceased loved one by memorializing our wreaths and Advent candles which adorn our church during the Christmas season. Each Memorial is \$150.00. If interested, please contact Kathleen Martorano at ext. 835.

Christmas Memorials

Beautiful Christmas trees and flowers will fill our church's sanctuary during this holy season, which are donated by parishioners who contribute an offering in memory of a deceased loved one. Please return this form to the Parish Office with your contribution.

Please PRINT clearly.

In Memory of:

By: _____

Email: _____
(phone no. if no email)

Donation: \$20. ___ \$40. ___ \$50 ___ Other: ___



**SCRIPTURE STUDY OF
THE BOOK OF EXODUS**

Bible Study On Thursday, January 9, we will begin a study of the Book of Exodus, a central event of the Old Testament. Its themes of liberation, wilderness, Passover, covenant & God's dwelling are central to the entire Bible.

The meeting on January 9 will be a "no obligation" orientation and series overview. The weekly program, from 7:30-9pm in Meeting Room 1, will run on Thursday evenings from **January 16 through March 13**. Cost of the program is \$25 per person, which includes all materials. For more info and to register, contact Fran Madsen at franmadsen@optonline.net or (845) 357-6132. New members are always welcome. Come and join us!



Eucharistic Exposition on Wednesday

Come anytime this Wednesday from **noon-4pm** to spend time with our Lord in the Nazareth Room.
Note: No Exposition on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1.



Church of the Presentation 271 West Saddle River Rd., Upper Saddle River NJ 07458

Phone: 201-327-1313 **Fax:** 201-760-2570

Website: www.churchofpresentation.org

Information Desk: Sun. 9am-12:45pm in the Narthex

Mass Schedule: See "Mass Intentions" on this pg.

Summer Office Hrs: (Memorial Day-Labor Day): 9:30am-4pm Mon-Thu

"Non-Summer" Office Hrs: 9:30am-5pm Mon-Thu. | 9:30am-4pm Fri.

Confession: Mon-Sat after 9am Mass, Sat 3:30pm-4:45pm, or by appt.

Email Addresses: Except as otherwise noted, all of our email addresses end with: @churchofpresentation.org

Rev. Bob Stagg, Pastor ext. 820 [bstagg@](mailto:bstagg@churchofpresentation.org)

Fr. Bob's asst.: Melanie Cheplic ext. 827 [mcheplic@](mailto:mcheplic@churchofpresentation.org)

Rev. Richard Francesco ext. 829 [rfrancesco@](mailto:rfrancesco@churchofpresentation.org)

Pastoral Council [pastoralcouncil@](mailto:pastoralcouncil@churchofpresentation.org)

Bob Rooney (Accounting, Finance, Plant Management)

ext. 818 [brooney@](mailto:brooney@churchofpresentation.org)

Catzel LaVecchia (Lifelong Learning, Junior High,

Play-n-Worship) ext. 828 [catzel@](mailto:catzel@churchofpresentation.org)

Craig Johnson (Youth Ministry, Confirmation) ext. 819

[cjohnson@](mailto:cjohnson@churchofpresentation.org)

Diane Carr (OCIA, Catholic Faith Inquiry) ext. 831 [dcarr@](mailto:dcarr@churchofpresentation.org)

Kathleen Costello (Family Faith Formation) ext.840 [kcostello@](mailto:kcostello@churchofpresentation.org)

Kathleen Martorano (Parish Registration, Facebook, Protecting

God's Children, LGBTQ Ministry) ext. 835 [kmartorano@](mailto:kmartorano@churchofpresentation.org)

Lisa Dempsey (Music) [LDempsey@](mailto:LDempsey@churchofpresentation.org)

Liz Cosentino (Bulletin, Parish Website) [LizC@](mailto:LizC@churchofpresentation.org)

Marilou Tenazas (Livestreaming & Tech Support, Family

Faith Formation, FFF Website) ext. 815 [mtenazas@](mailto:mtenazas@churchofpresentation.org)

Maureen Murphy (Outreach) ext. 844 [mmurphy@](mailto:mmurphy@churchofpresentation.org)

Michele Baron (Meeting Room Reservations, Scheduling,

Volunteering) ext. 847 [mbaron@](mailto:mbaron@churchofpresentation.org)

Nancy Mierswa (Baptisms, Weddings, Worship) ext. 839

[nmierswa@](mailto:nmierswa@churchofpresentation.org)

Patty Dodwell (First Eucharist, Family Faith Formation)

ext. 832 [pdodwell@](mailto:pdodwell@churchofpresentation.org)

Altar Server Training: Nancy Mierswa, ext. 839 [nmierswa@](mailto:nmierswa@churchofpresentation.org)

Bereavement Support: ext. 872

Bulletin Advertising: Bon Venture Services 800-364-0684

Celiac Communion: Nancy Mierswa ext.839 [nmierswa@](mailto:nmierswa@churchofpresentation.org)

Communion Calls: Kyle Lippman ext. 879 [pastoralcare@](mailto:pastoralcare@churchofpresentation.org)

Emergencies (hospital/funeral) ext. 899

Envelopes (Parish) Kathleen Martorano ext. 835 [kmartorano@](mailto:kmartorano@churchofpresentation.org)

Funerals: ext. 899

Knights of Columbus: www.kofc6033.org [kofc6033@](mailto:kofc6033@churchofpresentation.org)

Meeting Room Setups: Cesar da Gama ext. 823

Prayer Tree Ministry: [prayertree@](mailto:prayertree@churchofpresentation.org)

This Week's Mass Intentions

*Bread & Wine: Thomas Mitchell, by Susan & Thomas Abbate
Sanctuary Light: Anthony Signorelli, by Jill Haubert*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

9:00am Bill Perley, by Althea Gardner

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:00am Gino Morin, by the Belz Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:00am Stephen & Columbia Rusnock, by their family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:00am Kelvin Briones, by Agnes, Mark, & AJ

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

9:00am Helen & Vincent Frank, by Judy Frank

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

9:00am Angelica Rodriguez, by Sonia Allen

5:00pm Mario Vassallo, by Mary Ellen & Anthony Vassallo

Kathleen Van Nostrand, by Pat Doorhy

Patricia Finucane, by the Finucane Family

Gennaro Michael Del Gatto, by Jeannie Miranda

Evelyn Keane, by Sheila Keane

John LaVecchia, Sr., by Gerri & Matt Harold

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

8:00am Thomas Vrtis, by Angela & Michael Vrtis

10:00am Madie Nicpon, by the Nicpon Family

11:30am Joanne Singley & Henry Testa, by the Coudriet Family

Daniel Padluck, by daughter Diane Padluck

Joseph Salierno, by Florine Salierno

Cynthia Scott, by the Donnelly Family

Gandolfo Virga, by the Tasman Family

Maria Luisa Grisoni, by Fran & Frank Nuzzi

6:30pm Barbara Barry, by the Rover Family

We also pray for the following ill: Ashley Mortensen, Jonny Andrade, Fred Parodi, Kimberly Berardino, Christina Grenzer, Birgit "Ana" Borgman, Bernhard Freund, Veronica, Bill Partlan, Mike O'Donnell, Bob DePellegrini, Bobby Vandal, John & Wilma Mcmurrin & family, Christopher Noel Hanna, Cornelius Hanna, Doreen D., Mary Louise Gallagher, Frances Gerbino, Doug Quackenbush, Kathie McKinless, Charlie Aiello, Charlie Cerullo, Joyce Somers, Robert Doidge, Helga Scholton, Lucy Schneider, Jose Ruiz, Mary Lou Murphy, Evelyn Roberts, Michael Keane, Phil Kipnis, Jose Ruiz, Elizabeth Van Nostrand, Charlie Musumeci, Jerry Crean, Margaret Taylor, Marie Egan, Phyllis Clark, Graham N., Lisa White, Joe & Judy Schneider, Marie Egan, Baby River Budesza, Marianne & Bill Hurley, Holly Holland, Salvatore Telesco Jr., Ronnie Mojo, Francis J. Neeson Jr., Michele Pesanello, Jamie Brown, Rosemary Fuhrman, Patti Murray, Ray McSherry, Clara Willey, Lorraine O'Loughlin, William Hardy, Louis D'Amico, Ethan Benjamin Berkowitz, Marie Hiles, Jon Rapkin, Guy Gaudenzi, Steven Chakonis, Cathy Mostyn, Kevin Flood, Dirk & Donna Kinney, Mary Anne Nardini, Cathy Mueller, Susanne Knoepfle, Virginia Kondrat, Anne Downs, Seth Gopin, Adrienne Stephens, Karin Elliott, Frank Cirillo, John Nazzaro, Marie Kaspar, Cheyanne Emmons, Gloria Zoda, Bill Brown, Scott M. Koenig, Ken Genalo, Mary Goldberg, Thomas Doorhy, Sab Caponi, Rosemary Tocci

and recently deceased:

To request prayers **in the bulletin** for the **ill or recently deceased**, email LizC@churchofpresentation.org. See pg. 2 for the upcoming bulletin deadlines. The name is not kept on the list indefinitely. If the ill person still needs prayers after their name is removed, feel free to email Liz to have their name printed again in the bulletin.

For **mass cards & mass intentions**, call or visit the parish front office, or visit the Information Desk in the narthex on Sunday mornings.

Weekdays after 9am Mass, all are welcome to stay in the church to pray the Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet.

We ask that you prayerfully consider using electronic donations through Faith Direct. Visit membership.faithdirect.net/NJ854 or the parish website to enroll or make a one-time donation. Thank you for your support!

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