

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 8, 2024 / *Second Sunday of Advent*



IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE!

Help Spread Some Christmas Cheer by...

- * **Taking a tag** from the Christmas Sharing Board.
- * **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**).



REMINDER!

This is the last week to participate! **Gifts &/ or Gift Cards are due back to the parish this Friday, Dec. 13.** Please drop them off in the Gathering Rooms. If you have any questions, email Phyllis Discioscia at aafchristmas17@gmail.com



Please bring in any **NEW unwrapped toy** by the end of this weekend. Any toy is appreciated, *although* toys and games for **school-aged children** are most in need. Collection Bins are located in the Narthex or outside of the glass doors by the Community Room.

Music Ministry
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Next Sunday, Dec. 15, 3:00pm
TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE
BUT GOING FAST!

General Admission Tickets
\$20 per person

You may purchase tickets at the piano after mass & in the parish office during the week.





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.

ADVENT AT PRESENTATION. Pick up flyer in the Narthex or print a copy from the [parish website](#). It has Mass schedules, Reconciliation opportunities, & Events. A great one-page resource of everything Advent!



Paint Morning
Saturday, Dec. 14
9:00am-10:45am in the Community Room.
\$20- proceeds support our Youth Ministry. *RSVP via the [parish website](#)*

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass
Next Sunday,
December 15 at 10am
All are welcome!

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



Youth Ministry Happenings
churchofpresentation.org/youthministry

YM Gathering - Dec. 15 after 6:30pm Mass
There is no parent meeting on Dec. 15.

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 5:30-8:30pm in the Antioch Rm. Come once, often, or weekly!

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

Attn. All High Schoolers: We are looking for Teen Lectors to read at mass. We are holding a training session on **Wed., Dec. 11 at 7pm** in the Community Rm. If interested, email Nancy at nmierswa@churchofpresentation.org

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

Family Nativity Story
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 "December attendance event" for our Family Faith Families.



"Play-n-Worship"
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



FFF Families, a reminder that you are required to attend one of the following special events in December:

Let's Celebrate St. Nick: Sun., Dec. 1, 10am Mass
Breakfast w/ St. Nick: Sat., Dec. 7, 8:30am or 10am* (Sold Out)
Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass: Sun. Dec. 15, 10am
Christmas Concert: Sun., Dec. 15, 3pm*
Pardon & Peace Service: Mon., Dec. 16, 7pm
Nativity Story: Sat., Dec. 21, 5pm Mass

*Breakfast with St. Nick & the Christmas Concert are the only events that require tickets to be purchased.
Please remember to sign out of the event which you attend.



FROM THE PASTOR

One of the things I enjoy when reading St. Luke's Gospel is that he adds so much detail to the story. Today's Gospel of John the Baptist's appearance is replete with history, geography, names and places. It's as if Luke knew there would be skepticism centuries later, and that people would be less inclined to doubt the veracity of a story placed in such a specific historical context. John the Baptist ushers in the "Jesus period." Our job now is to find Jesus also. He's probably easier to find in the soup kitchen as opposed to the mall or the office Christmas party. Let's not let all of our preparations cause us to miss His presence in our lives.

* * *

The **Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary**, the patronal feast of the United States, falls on December 8, but this Marian Feast doesn't supplant the Second Sunday of Advent. As a result, the celebration of this holy day will be tomorrow (Monday, Dec. 9) with Masses at 9:00am, 12:15pm, and 7:30pm.

You will be able to receive **Confession** (without an appointment) after 9am daily Mass and on Saturdays from 3:30pm-4:45pm. Fr. Rich & I are always available at other times by appointment.

Pardon & Peace is a week from Monday, (Dec. 16 at 7pm), which includes another opportunity for individual reconciliation. We will have extra priests available that evening. It's a great way to make room for the Lord; make time for this special evening.

Next Sunday morning, we'll celebrate **Our Lady of Guadalupe** at the 10am Mass. Next Sunday afternoon is our ever-popular **Christmas Concert** with our fabulous choir and musicians.

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



The **Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary** will be celebrated at the 9:00am, 12:15pm, & 7:30pm Masses **this Monday, Dec. 9.**



Feed Milot, Haiti, A Meal at a Time

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.

The **CAREER MANAGEMENT GROUP's** next session is **Career Q&A & Discussion about Interviews on Monday, Dec. 9 at 7:30pm in the Jerusalem Rm.**

We are here for those who are unemployed, under-employed, looking to enhance their career or considering a career change. We meet in a welcoming, low-pressure setting. All are welcome! Email presentation.cmm@gmail.com with any questions &/or to join our network.



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!

Advent Reconciliation



- † At the end of our Pardon & Peace Service (*see below*)
- † Monday-Saturday after 9:00am Mass
- † Saturdays, 3:30pm-4:45pm
- † By appointment with any of our priests

Pardon & Peace Service Monday, December 16, 7:00pm

Advent is a time to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. Our Advent Pardon and Peace Service offers the parishioners of Presentation an opportunity to reflect together on God's gift of reconciliation. Celebrate Pardon and Peace with the community of Presentation. The Service ends with individual reconciliation.

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.*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Moving from Mourning and Misery

Loving God,
you restore what we have broken.
Amidst our struggles with sin,
guide us in preparing the way;
help us to see your salvation.
Give us courage

to move on from mourning and misery.
We rejoice,
for you have done great things for us.
As you directed the Israelites,
lead us in joy by the light of your glory.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Led by God in Joy



Today's readings: Baruch 5:1-9; Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Philipians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6. The first reading comes from the end of the prophet Baruch's poem of consolation to the Israelites. Though the Israelites have sinned and are in exile, the prophet shares encouraging words, referencing the Israelites' eventual return to Jerusalem. Baruch's words paint a beautiful image of hopefulness and trust in God. Encouraging the Israelites, he tells them to shed their "mourning and misery; / put on the splendor of glory from God forever." He reminds them that they are "wrapped in the cloak of justice from God," and tells them to confidently display "the glory of the eternal name." Indeed, just like the Israelites, we are led by God in joy.

In Luke's Gospel, John the Baptist's call to "prepare the way of the Lord" echoes Isaiah words "that every lofty mountain be made low / and that age-old depths and gorges / be filled to level ground." The text encourages us to meditate on the universality of salvation. How can you take on John the Baptist's challenge to repent for forgiveness with joy? Our reason to rejoice is evident, for as the psalmist sings, "The Lord has done great things for us."

Make an intentional effort this week to join in St. Paul's prayer: may our love increase ever more and more in every way so that we can be ready for the day of Christ.

**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!

Presentation Seniors

Christmas Program - Tues. Dec. 10: Sold out!

For those attending, **please select your seat for the luncheon AFTER Mass at 11am.** Then we will celebrate the season with our friends and enjoy the entertainment of Anthony Duke Claus.

Knights' Corner Knights of Columbus		Presentation Council #6033
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Email us at kofc6033@churchofpresentation.org to learn more about the Knights.</p>		



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: ___

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**



Eucharistic Exposition on Wednesday

Come anytime this Wednesday from **noon-6pm** to spend time with our Lord in the **Nazareth Room**.



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@

Fr. Bob's asst.: Melanie Cheplic ext. 827 mcheplic@

Rev. Richard Francesco ext. 829 rfrancesco@

Pastoral Council pastoralcouncil@

Bob Rooney (Accounting, Finance, Plant Management)

ext. 818 brooney@

Catzel LaVecchia (Lifelong Learning, Junior High,

Play-n-Worship) ext. 828 catzel@

Craig Johnson (Youth Ministry, Confirmation) ext. 819

cjohnson@

Diane Carr (OCA, Catholic Faith Inquiry) ext. 831 dcarr@

Kathleen Costello (Family Faith Formation) ext.840 kcostello@

Kathleen Martorano (Parish Registration, Facebook, Protecting

God's Children, LGBTQ Ministry) ext. 835 kmartorano@

Lisa Dempsey (Music) LDempsey@

Liz Cosentino (Bulletin, Parish Website) LizC@

Marilou Tenazas (Livestreaming & Tech Support, Family

Faith Formation, FFF Website) ext. 815 mtenazas@

Maureen Murphy (Outreach) ext. 844 mmurphy@

Michele Baron (Meeting Room Reservations, Scheduling,

Volunteering) ext. 847 mbaron@

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

nmierswa@

Patty Dodwell (First Eucharist, Family Faith Formation)

ext. 832 pdodwell@

Altar Server Training: Nancy Mierswa, ext. 839 nmierswa@

Bereavement Support: ext. 872

Bulletin Advertising: Bon Venture Services 800-364-0684

Celiac Communion: Nancy Mierswa ext.839 nmierswa@

Communion Calls: Kyle Lippman ext. 879 pastoralcare@

Emergencies (hospital/funeral) ext. 899

Envelopes (Parish) Kathleen Martorano ext. 835 kmartorano@

Funerals: ext. 899

Knights of Columbus: www.kofc6033.org kofc6033@

Meeting Room Setups: Cesar da Gama ext. 823

Prayer Tree Ministry: prayertree@

This Week's Mass Intentions

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

9:00am William O'Toole, by Janet O'Toole

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

9:00am Mary G. Monks, by Jim Monks

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

9:00am Ernest Zima, by Melody Zima & family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

9:00am Christopher Tuohy, by Peggy Corrigan

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

9:00am Danielle Koppenaar, by the Franzetti Family

5:00pm Jack Corrigan, by Peggy Corrigan

Kermit Hoffman, Jr., by Jeanette Hoffman & Jim Monks

Vincent Gerbino, by his family

Sue Fedele, by Glen & Nancy Mezzatesta

Salvatore & Francesco Rao, by Marianne Licciardello

Deceased Crowley family members, by Sheila Keane

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

8:00am Gregorio Prado, by Mary & Gino Zonghetti

10:00am Michael R. Ceglie, by Marianne & Bill Strasser

11:30am Al Giordano, by JoAnne Giordano

Sheila Lynch Chillingworth, by Barry & Rosemary Ervin

Patrick Tolve, by the Tolve Family

Martha Romano, by Pat Fullam

William Pangert, by the DeRobertis Family

Joseph McCarthy, by JoAnne Giordano

6:30pm Claire Fallon, by Don & Beth Whittam

We also pray for the following ill: 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 Budesca, 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, Michael Roger, 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: John Babbitt (husband of Claire), Marino Santo, Samuel Anzalone

To request prayers **in the bulletin** for the ill or recently deceased, email LizC@churchofpresentation.org. The bulletin deadline is Tuesday at noon. 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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