



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22/23, 2018

Mass Intentions

Saturday 5:00 PM Terence T. K. O'Leary / Mike Ferrante
Sunday 8:00 AM Kim Kaminski (birthday) / Anonymous Living & Deceased Parishioners
Monday – Vigil of Christmas 6:30 PM Mr. & Mrs. Consolacion Agabin / Nori Corpez & Family
9:00 PM – Christmas During the Night St. Joseph's Parishioners
Tuesday – The Nativity of the Lord 9:00 AM † Fred J. Scott / Scott Family
Wednesday – St. Stephen 8:00 AM Jason Scott (birthday) / Scott Family
Thursday – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist 8:00 AM † Richard Peterson / Lori NeSmith
Friday – The Holy Innocents 8:00 AM † Deacon John Cretaro
Saturday 5:00 PM William J. O'Reilly, Jr. / Mike Ferrante

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Kindly pray for our parish family and all those who are journeying in a special way with Our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Parishioners: Bill Brennan, Ginny Cook, Barbara Edwards, Richard Fortunati, June Henderson, Brad Jarveis, Bill Johnston, Judy Jordan, Curtis Malone, Mary Miller, Bob & Margaret Nail, Vera Patterson, Claire & Bill Patton, Charles "Buddy" Stempel, Dave Woodford

Homebound: Juanita Baena, Loretta Roy, Dotsie Santa Cruz, Jo Flynn, George Schaff, Mary Smith
Assisted Living: Allen & Gwen Dretzka, Paul Peschel

Non-parishioners: Diane Geiselman, Susan Henderson, Valerie Hines, Bud Kaechele, Mercedes Carol Knutson, Brenda McCord, Bill Roman

~ Prayer Requests ~

Terry Danson – 251-961-2165 or tsdanson@gmail.com

If you or someone you know is homebound, ill, due to have surgery or is in the hospital and would like a visit from the pastor or to receive the sacraments, please call the rectory or the office.

First Friday Memorial Mass Association

Our Loved Ones – Bob & Margaret Nail Living & Deceased Kaiser, Klein & Murphy Families Living & Deceased Scott & Weiss Families Living & Deceased Bush, Alvarez & McAleer Families Living & Deceased Mullek & McCandless Families Living & Deceased Patton & Norton Families Living & Deceased Shields, Self & Chambers Families Living & Deceased Cretaro & Kilday Families Living & Deceased Gardner & Donovan Families
† Jim & Mary Link † Deacon J. Cretaro † Doris Mullek † Margaret A. Mullek † Joe Lacey † A.M.S. Warriner Mignon Kilday Jo Anne Cretaro
James D. & Mary Lou Chunn Partridge & Family Living & Deceased Lacey & Clancy Families Living & Deceased Kearns & Patterson Families Living & Deceased Pope & Lang Families Living & Deceased Altar Society Members The Baptized Who Do Not Practice Their Faith Holy Souls in Purgatory Intentions of the President of the USA

This Week's Schedule

Monday 9:00 AM Decorate church for Christmas "Many hands make light work"
Monday 6:00 PM Children's Vigil Program
Monday 8:30 PM Adult Choir Prelude
Tuesday 8:30 PM Christmas Day Prelude
Wednesday 10:30 AM Choir Practice – Church

New Year's Eve Vigil Mass ~ 5:00 PM
New Year's Day Mass ~ 9:00 AM

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEKEND

5:00 PM = 53 8:00 AM = 52 10:30 AM = 67 Total = 172
STEWARDSHIP for December 16, 2018
Offertory = \$2,237.50
Maintenance = \$100.00
Renovation Project = \$502.00
SVdP Collection = \$473.00 ~ Many thanks!

Please pray for Fr. Maria on his Priestly Ordination Anniversary December 27 and also for his congregation.

"RAISING THE ROOF" Project ~ Balance due is \$31,748.
Thanks for your continued support to reach our goal!



Christmas Flower Envelopes are in the pews. Fill out and place in the offertory collection. Thank you for all you do to help beautify our church.

STEWARDSHIP – Annual Renewal ~ Calling All Cards
It's not too late to fill out and turn in your Renewal Commitment card. Thank you to all who have made their commitment to support our parish and its ministries.

ALL Liturgical Ministers: Please renew your commitment to serve for 2019 by turning in a Renewal Commitment Card. ATTENTION NEW ushers and gift bearers: Please check bulletin and vestibule board for current updates.

Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women
Baldwin Deanery Quarterly Luncheon Meeting

January 10 – 9:15 AM – Our Lady of the Gulf, Gulf Shores, AL. Guest speaker: Rev. Msgr. Michael Farmer, VG. Reservations for the 12:00 PM luncheon (\$13) are required by January 4. For registration, car pool or more information, call Harriet Shields at 205-405-7499.

Gospel Reflections

As we draw close to the great Feast of the Nativity, we hear the bold stewardship proclamation twice in today's second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews: "Behold, I come to do your will, O God!" Who is this Jesus? Who are we that we should follow him? Many want him as a friend, a guide, a king, an advocate. We long to see the face of God. Jesus reveals the nature of God, the servant sent to give us new life in Him. Take time to ponder: Do we have the courage to follow Jesus? To show others the face of God? To say to the Lord, "Behold, I come to do your will"?

A Stewardship Moment ~ Being a disciple of Jesus is a choice. The stewardship way of life likewise involves a choice, in fact, many choices. We choose to be grateful, we choose to live generously, and we choose to trust that God will always provide for our needs. These are three choices central to the stewardship way of life. What choices will we make this week that give witness to our decision to follow Jesus Christ?

Recognize the vital importance of our ministries to our parish and that every gift makes these ministries a little stronger, helps us reach a little farther, and enables us to do just a little bit more.

A Christmas Prayer ~ Dear Jesus, You are our Infant Savior and Lord! Thank you for allowing me to bring to the foot of your manger the gift of myself and my love. Help me to see You present in every person I meet this Christmas, especially the lonely, forgotten, and others in great need of compassion and generous care. The gifts you have given I now offer back to you. Take these blessings, multiply them for the good of those around me, allowing the light of your love to shine into the darkness of someone's life. By this humble offering, may I draw ever closer to you.

May God Bless You and your loved ones,
and may each of you have a Very Merry
and Holy Christmas and a
Blessed New Year.



Sincerely in the Lord,
Father Maria

Dec. 29/30	Lectors	Ext. Ministers	Gift Bearers	Ushers
Sat: 5:00 PM	C. Puglisi	B. & M. McCandless	Ushers' Choice	F. Mullek / S. Pinzone
Sun: 8:00 AM	H. Shields	J. & N. Alemany	Ushers' Choice	Mike & Hannah Gale
10:30 AM	R. Fortunati	K. Service/ Pat Hilderbrandt	Ushers' Choice	B. Jarveis / J. Hilderbrandt
Dec. 31/Jan. 1				
Mon: 5:00 PM	M. Cote	S. Williams / Mick Donovan	Ushers' Choice	F. Mullek / S. Pinzone
Tues: 9:00 AM	M. Handzus	B. & J. Johnston	Usher's Choice	J. Hilderbrandt / B. Jarveis

Become the Best Version of Yourself

Do you have a sense that something is missing in your life? Are you ready to grow spiritually? Are you hungry to learn more? You've come to the right place. Pick up your copy of "The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity" available at church entrances. Wherever you are in your journey, we want to meet you right there and walk with you, helping you discover God and the best way to live. It is never God's grace that is lacking, but rather our willingness to cooperate with his grace.



The Nativity of the Lord
(Christmas Day)

In today's Christmas Mass at dawn we hear from the Gospel reading that God has entered quietly into the world. Not into the great city of Jerusalem, but into a small village about five miles south. Not into a noble family, but to an outcast couple keeping the newborn in a manger. Not announced by royal edicts, but to common shepherds, the first human heralds of Christ's birth. As Christian stewards we simply allow Christ to live in us no matter what our circumstances happen to be. We allow Christ to share his love with us and reflect that love out to others. We now are the heralds of Christ's Incarnation. What an unimaginable gift from a generous Lord. Good stewards rejoice in this gift and give glory to God.



It's easy to get swept away into the material aspects of Christmas—gifts, food, decorations. But God wants your life to overflow with goodness—not material abundance, but spiritual abundance. "Jesus turns shortages into abundances—every time."

—Allan Hunt—"The Turning Point"