

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
**Ss. CYRIL &
METHODIUS**

WWW.SSCMDP.ORG
125 HALF HOLLOW RD, DEER PARK, NY 11729

4th Sunday of ADVENT

December 24, 2023



This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflect-

ed on John the Baptist's announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation.

...continued on page 4

Readings and Songs this Sunday

No. 1001 in the Blue Gather Hymnal

1st Reading: **2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16**

2nd Reading: **Romans 16:25-27**

Gospel Reading: **Luke 1:26-38**

LITURGICAL MUSIC for the Holy Mass:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	#395
Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn	#423
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart	#940
People, Look East	#409

(All Masses except Sunday 6pm)

CHRISTMAS & 2024 NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24 - CHRISTMAS Vigil

4:00 pm (Family Mass), 6:00 pm
& 10:00 pm (Concelebrated Mass)

There is NO 12:00 Midnight Mass

Monday, December 25 - CHRISTMAS Day

9:30 am, 11:00 am & 12:30 pm

NOTE: NO 8:00 am & 6:00 pm Mass

Monday, January 1 - MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

11:00 am - Not a Holy Day of Obligation
Only one Mass

Sunday, January 7 - EPIPHANY

Vigil - 5:00 pm on Saturday, January 6

8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 12:30 pm & 6:00 pm

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday: 5:00 pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am: Family Mass - LIVESTREAM,
11:00 am, 12:30 pm
4:00 pm (Vietnamese Mass) & 6:00 pm

Weekdays: 7:00 am, 8:30 am, 12:15 pm

Saturday: 8:30 am

HOLY DAY SCHEDULE

Please check the Bulletin and the Parish Website.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: (Confessional)

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: after the 12:15 pm Mass

Saturday: 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

and by appointment by calling the Parish Office

PARISH OFFICE

Tel: (631) 667-4044

Fax: (631) 667-6237

Email: parishoffice@sscmdp.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday — Saturday

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Tuesday & Thursday:

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Sunday — closed

Parish Social Ministry Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Other hours by appointment only.

Email: socialministry@sscmdp.org

BAPTISM: Saturday at 12:30 pm and Sunday at 2:00 pm. Contact the Parish Office to arrange for an interview and to register for the required preparation class.

MARRIAGE: Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance and prior to wedding reception plans. Call the Parish Center to make an appointment for the initial intake.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK: Holy Communion are ministered by appointment to those confined to home. Contact the Parish Office to schedule a visit by a Eucharistic Minister.

THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Saturdays after the 8:30 am Mass (inform priest before Mass or request for it after Mass). In an emergency, call the Parish Office to request a priest. Outside office hours, call (631) 667-4044, Ext. 9.

PASTORAL STAFF: (631) 667-4044

Rev. Gius Garcia, *Pastor*, Ext. 121

Rev. Christopher Deh, *Associate Pastor*, Ext. 165

Rev. Patrick Grace, *Associate Pastor*, Ext. 166

Rev. Paul Bersamin, *Associate Pastor*, Ext. 167

Rev. Gregory Cappuccino, *Occasional Help, (Retired)*

Deacon John F. Fitzpatrick, Ext. 124

Deacon James A. Murano, *Liturgical Music* Ext. 127

Mrs. Janet McEnany, *OFS, Social Ministry*, Ext 105

Mr. Timothy Leitch, *Youth Ministry*, Ext. 154

Deacon Philip A. Mills, Jr. *Business Manager*, Ext. 110

PARISH TRUSTEES

Tom Richardson

John Grieb



Mrs. Joan Ann Loring, Ext. 122

Parish Secretary / Bulletin Editor

Mrs. Marianne Saffran, Ext. 115

Baptism & Wedding Coordinator

Ms. Allison Taibi, Ext. 111

Bookkeeper



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	December 25 Christmas Day
9:30 AM:	For Our Parishioners
11:00 AM:	For Our Parishioners
12:30 PM:	For Our Parishioners
	NO 8:00 am & 6:00 pm Mass
Tuesday	December 26
	Only one Mass at 8:30 AM
8:30 AM:	For Our Parishioners
Wednesday	December 27
7:00 AM:	(Open: No offered intentions)
8:30 AM:	(Open: No offered intentions)
12:15 PM:	Luigi, Filomena, and Catherine Salegna
Thursday	December 28
7:00 AM:	(Open: No offered intentions)
8:30 AM:	Harry Gentile
12:15 PM:	Catherine Morgan
Friday	December 29
7:00 AM:	Nicholas Diana
8:30 AM:	Aida Feliciano
12:15 PM:	Alicia Morales
Saturday	December 30
8:30 AM	Purgatorial Society
5:00 PM	Damian Sam Aiello, June Vasilakis, John Feeney, and for Shani Shekh Gamberdela's intentions
Sunday	December 31
8:00 AM	Concetta and Gregorio Morlacci
9:30 AM	Harold W. Schillinger
11:00 AM	Michael Castellano, Jose E. Torres
12:30 PM	Thomas Fitzgerald
6:00 PM	Damian, Vincenza and Damian II Aiello

PRESIDERS FOR NEXT WEEK'S MASSES

Saturday,	December 30
5:00 PM:	Fr. Patrick Grace
Sunday	December 31
8:00 AM:	Fr. Christopher Deh
9:30 AM:	Fr. Paul Bersamin
11:00 AM:	Fr. Patrick Grace
12:30 PM:	Fr. Christopher Deh
6:00 PM:	Fr. Paul Bersamin

REST IN PEACE

Jennifer Jones

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Third Banns

Glenn Geis — Ss. Cyril and Methodius

Kerry Keenan — St. Lawrence the Martyr, Sayville

Second Banns

Robert Ploth — St. Martin of Tours, Bethpage

Jacquelyn Corbett — Ss. Cyril and Methodius

AVAILABLE MASS INTENTIONS

December 27 - 7:00 am, 8:30 am

December 28 - 7:00 am

January 2 - 7:00 am

January 3 - 7:00 am, 8:30 am

January 4 - 7:00 am, 8:30 am

January 5 - 7:00 am, 8:30 am

January 7 - 12:30 pm

January 8 - 7:00 am, 8:30 am

January 9 - 7:00 am, 8:30 am

January 10 - 7:00 am

January 12 - 7:00 am, 8:30 am

January 14 - 9:30am, 12:30 pm

Please see or call the receptionist during office hours to offer Mass intentions for family members and loved ones, living or deceased.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Kathleen Jacobi, JRV, Lucy Benivegna, Phyllis Otto, Leonard Caltabiano, Joyce Ratushny, Vickie Lynch, Kristen Tonnesen, Christopher M. Wall, Julio C. Rivera, Lydia Reveron, Joseph E. Farren

We ask that you email jloring@sscmdp.org or leave a message at X122 for the name of your sick family member. We will publish it for 2 months after which we will remove them in the list to make room for others.

PRAY FOR OUR SERVICE MEN & WOMEN

Kyle Chanley US Army

We will only publish 5 names at a time for 2 weeks to highlight them. We will publish their names 2x after that they will be taken down. This is to make room and accommodate more names that we could publish. Email jloring@sscmdp.org if you want a name included.



FROM THE PASTOR

...from cover page

The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her fiat, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able to respond with obedience.

Stewardship

DECEMBER 17, 2023

Regular Collection	\$17,572.90
Online Giving	\$ 825.71
Total	\$18,398.61

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Goal \$125,200

\$88,143.00 Pledged 70.40% of Parish Goal

VANCO
FAITH

Total Collection last week: **\$18,398.61**

We are short of \$ to reach the weekly collection goal of **\$17,000** in order for our parish not to operate on a deficit. Collection figures in the past weeks have also shown a decrease.

We are aware of the increased cost of living that we all experience in Long Island. In fact we in the parish feel this even more as we try to maintain a very big property.

If you are able, we appeal to your generosity if you are able to increase with **\$2, \$5 or \$10** dollars your weekly donation to the Church. This would help us much. Thank you for your generous support to your Church family.

PARISH FINANCIAL CONDITION

The weekly goal is \$17,000 for the parish to stay afloat. This would have taken into account a limited number of Parish Fundraisers for the year. If it continues to be lower than the goal, we may need to add more Fund Raiser events in the future or cut down on current services.

This week we are up **(+ \$1398.61)**

As of 9/1/2023: **(- \$8,528.42)**

1000 Lights Campaign - to date: \$6,182.00

Goal: 100,000 **(- \$93,818.00)**

We remember how you loved us...

DECEMBER 24 to DECEMBER 30

BREAD AND WINE - God Bless Us Everyone. The Gould Family

ALTAR FLOWERS— In memory of Fred Acquavita. Love, Fran, Freddy, Steven and Alyssa

CANDLES AT ST JOSEPH'S SHRINE - Peter Sheppard, Happy Birthday in Heaven. Love, your Family

To memorialize, please contact Joan Loring at X122

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO WORKED HARD TO MAKE THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND THE PARISH CHRISTMAS POTLUCK A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES!!!
More pictures to be posted in the upcoming Bulletins!!



OFFICE INFORMATION

Monday - Thursday: 9:30 am-2:30 pm

MORE ACCESSIBLE OFFICES are now open located by the Gym.

(631) 667-4044 extensions 145 & 147

faithformation@sscmdp.org

This letter is re-published in the bulletin for the sake of those who do not receive envelopes and mailings from the Parish to their home.



SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS PARISH

125 Half Hollow Rd, Deer Park NY 11729

Christmas 2023

My dear parishioners,

The heart of Christmas is family. We would have missed its meaning if we do not see the Holy Family of Jesus, Joseph and Mary and likewise be led to value our own families. Through Jesus' birth – as He is born into a family – God the Father fulfills his promise and plan of saving humanity. Therefore, the proper gift we all need to ask every Christmas is that Jesus may be born in our hearts and truly become part of our own family.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, let us find every possible way to build up family and strengthen the family bond. It may mean opening the door of your heart to welcome a family member gone astray. It may entail praying for healing in one's heart so reconciliation can begin. It may require making a little sacrifice to reduce "me time" and prioritize "family time". It certainly means making the extra effort to do something special for every member of one's family.

As you know, there is a bigger family we belong to: our parish family of Ss. Cyril and Methodius. This year has been extra challenging with all the recent problems and difficulties that affected us all as a parish. On top of this, part of the difficulty we face now is our finances. Our weekend collection is down and with the rising cost of things, it is taking a toll on us. We are partially resolving this by tightening our belts, looking to find ways to reduce expenses and cut costs while continuing to offer the services and ministries we have been used to. But we need your help. And so, I write to appeal to your generosity.

This Christmas, there is an opportunity to alleviate our situation while honoring loved ones and friends whom we hold dearly in our hearts. Through your offering of **\$100**, a unique custom-made ceramic Christmas ball will bear the name of your beloved deceased family member, relative or friend, which will adorn the sanctuary Christmas tree. Our goal is to come up with **1000** of these ornaments to represent the bright light that they continuously give to us, thus the name of the campaign is **1000 LIGHTS**. As the tree is put up on December 17, 2023, on the 3rd Sunday of Advent, we profess that their light remains and will not extinguished. After the feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 8, 2024, which marks the end of the Catholic Christmas season, the Christmas tree is taken down and the ornament will be given back to you as a reminder of your offering.

This Christmas may you and your family be strengthened by the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and showered with God's generous blessings.



In Opus Ministerii

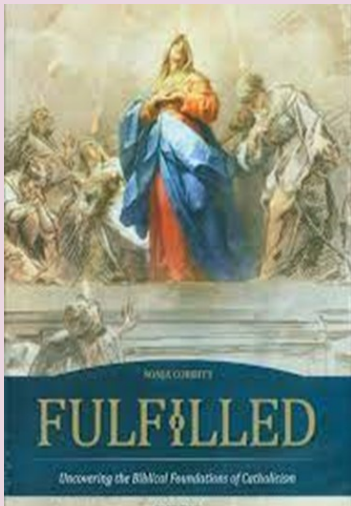
Fr. Gius Garcia, Pastor

Envelopes are available at the doors of the Church.



1000 LIGHTS CAMPAIGN

A unique and special Christmas ceramic ornament bearing the name of your loved one (*deceased or living*) you wish to honor on one side and the logo of the Parish of Ss Cyril and Methodius on the other side will adorn the Christmas tree in the sanctuary for the duration of the Christmas season.



Bible Study Class Coming in January! All are welcome!

Fulfilled is a book and a two-part study exploring the biblical roots of the Catholic Faith. It uncovers God's consistent design for our worship of him and his relationship with us. Learn where the blueprint for the Catholic Faith was laid out in the Old Testament and how Jesus fulfilled it in the New Testament.

Part 2 Sessions

Session 1: Introduction
and Review of Part One

Session 5: Holy of Holies

Session 2: The Light of Truth

Session 6: The Throne of God

Wednesdays, 6:30 pm, beginning January 17, 2024 in Father Behan Hall
For more information and **to register** please call Marianne Grimaldi at 631-463-7886

MSGR. ROONEY MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Honoring: Fr Joseph Baidoo & Fr Brian Barr
(former associates of the parish)

Lunch at 12:00pm, Golf at 2:00 pm

TIMBER POINT GOLF COURSE

Cocktails and Dinner at the Fr Behan Hall, Ss Cyril and Methodius at 6:30 pm





DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2023

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

Merry Christmas to you and your families!

In recent years at Christmas, I have meditated on the relationship between the Nativity of the Prince of Peace and the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

I have been especially inspired by Pope Francis' analysis of the Parable of the Good Samaritan in the second chapter of his 2020 encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*. It is powerful and provocative, and I would recommend it for your mental prayer.

The short phrase in the Christmas Gospel narrative in the second chapter of the Gospel of Luke reads: "She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

"No room for them in the inn." No Good Samaritan stepped up to help the Holy Family. They were ignored and treated perfunctorily and impatiently. Some passed them by. Some pretended not to notice their plight.

Remember too that in the Parable of the Good Samaritan an "inn" is also mentioned. Luke 10 reads: "But a Good Samaritan while traveling came near him, and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn and took care of him."

The inn that the Holy Family approaches on the way to Bethlehem is a sign of rejection and indifference.

The inn in the Parable of the Good Samaritan is a sign of the Good Samaritan's compassion and commitment to go the extra mile and to make sure that the wounded man is taken care of until he is completely healed.

Contemporary literary criticism might very well emphasize that the use of "inn" by the Gospel writer in both the Nativity in Luke 2 and the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10 is not by accident.

In a sense, the phrase “there was no room at the inn” in the Nativity foreshadows and connects with the phrase in the Parable of the Good Samaritan describing the callous indifference of both the priest and the Levite toward the wounded man on the side of the road: “[H]e passed by on the other side.”

As Pope Francis says in *Fratelli Tutti*: “Each day we have to decide whether to be Good Samaritans or indifferent bystanders.”¹

Our Lady, St. Joseph and the unborn Christ Child experienced the reality of people who decided to be indifferent bystanders.

The Christmas Gospel narrative from Luke 2 poses a question which is posed again later in the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10.

Will we be Good Samaritans?

Or will we be indifferent bystanders?

As the Holy Father reminds us, we make that choice every day.

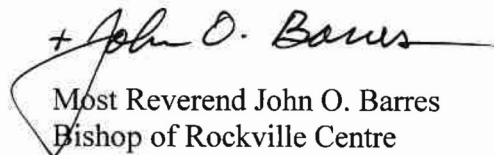
May our prayer, silent contemplation and creative family catechesis of the Nativity scene help us to be instruments of a Nativity Mystery. May the Good Samaritan Gospel revolution of humility, charity, mercy, tenderness and peace unite us in solidarity with the sick, the poor and the suffering, especially in the Middle East, Ukraine and all war-ravaged areas of the world.

May our commitment to “holiness and mission” bless our contemplative Synodal listening and our Eucharistic Revival and Evangelization.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

May the Light and Love of the Christ Child animate and guide our global Catholic Missionary Spirit on this Christmas night and throughout the New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

¹ Francis, encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, October 4, 2020: AAS 112 (11) 969-1074, at no. 70.



We are looking for boys and girls in 3rd grade or above to become part of our Altar Server Ministry.

The Altar Server's Ministry is a unique one in the Catholic Church. Other than the priests and deacons, no one else has the opportunity to participate so closely in the preparation of the Eucharist. Participation as an Altar Server is special. Essential life skills are built through teamwork, communication, reliability, and self-confidence. Altar Service also provides a unique way to earn valuable community service hours while growing in faith

If you want to learn more about becoming an Altar Server, please attend our information session on

Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Father Behan Hall

For more information, contact Father Christopher Deh at rchris@sscmdp.org or sscyril.altarservers@yahoo.com.

You can also leave a message at the front desk of the rectory at 631-667-4044.

Meets every Sunday After the 6:00 pm Mass

We will not meet on Sundays December 24 or 31st. We will meet on January 7, 14, 21, 28 & February 4, 18, 25. No meeting February 11th.

Meeting point at the Breezeway before proceeding to the Parish Youth Center at the second floor of the SSCM Pastoral Center.

FAITH + FRIENDSHIP + FUN + SERVICE

PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY

Contact: Tim Leitch

631-6674044

timeitch@aol.com

