

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

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

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

December 25, 2023

The word Christmas is derived from the Greek Christos—anointed one—and the Latin Missa—to send. In other words, the anointed one is sent, the divine to the worldly. We celebrate the Incarnation; God has taken on human form and come to dwell among us. Dictionary.com defines Christmas as “the annual festival of the Christian church commemorating the birth of Jesus: celebrated on December 25 and now generally observed as a legal holiday and an occasion for exchanging gifts.” Well, sort of . . . I suppose.

Is it really just a gift exchange? We may feel a bit conflicted with the distortion of religious beliefs by the typical holiday extravaganza. Have we forgotten that Christmas is not just a giant shopping spree and opportunity for overindulgence? Nonetheless, regardless of our beliefs and practices during the rest of the year, many will take time on this one day to enter a

church and pause to reflect on the Christmas story. We hunger for something more. Deep down we know the purpose for this season lies there in the straw.

What is it we come looking for within the walls of the sanctuary? What is so important about this event that we prepare with such energy, misguided or otherwise?

To simply say that love is at the heart of it would be insufficient. Indeed much of our Christmas busy-ness involves some expression of love. We exchange gifts. We send greetings. We spend time together. We make an effort to reach out to those less fortunate than ourselves. We look for opportunities to heal damaged or broken relationships. We remember those we have lost.

Yet the love at the heart of this feast is more than we can possibly imagine. The love we

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Readings & Songs Today

No. 1003 in the Blue Gather Hymnal

Vigil Mass see page 1003

Mass during the day see page 1006

LITURGICAL MUSIC for the Holy Mass:

O Come, All Ye Faithful	#439
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	#424
Silent Night	#441
Angels We Have Heard on High	#430
Away in a Manger	#448
Joy to the World	#437
(All Masses except Sunday 6pm)	



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: (Children's Chapel)

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

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. 170

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

Deacon John F. Fitzpatrick, Ext. 124

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

Ms. Janet McEnany, *Social Ministry*, Ext. 105

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

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

PARISH TRUSTEES

Mary Malerba

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

seek is the indescribable love God has for all humankind, the reason God sent a redeemer to bring us back to where we belong. It is agape—unselfish, self-sacrificing love without strings or implications. It is a love with no memory of past mistakes.

We yearn for something beyond what we are humanly capable of giving or receiving. Our restless spirits seek some way to grasp at something we can only find in the divine. And so we come to church to rest quietly in the presence of that which we seek.

When we gather to offer ourselves in worship, God sees our hearts longing to receive the greatest gift of all. Regardless of the intensity of our religious faith or the amount of preparation we have done, we humbly acknowledge that we are all the same, restless souls in need of a God who loves us unconditionally.

A blessed, peace-filled, Spirit-filled Christmas to all!

Excerpt from Kathy Olenik Henry's article from loyolapress.com. Kathy is a published author with Loyola Press.

FOR YOUR GENEROSITY *Thank you*



Anthony Graziano
& Zuliy Colon-Papa
Joan & Bill Neuner
Maria Mattson
Grace Zontini
Ron Fedorowicz
Rosalie Downey
The Gallagher
Florence Parisi
Anthony & Jacqueline Suarato
Rosalie Olszewski
Kevin McCann
Susan & Carmine Soldano
John Nga
Caroline DelPiano & Family
Rev. Gergory J. Cappuccino
Julio Amaya Jr.
Flavia Caiola
Nancy & Gerard Lanni
Bernadatte Waters
Vincent J. Castagana
Kit & Lorraine Covington
Nanna & Grandpa Mabanta
JoAnn Signorelli
Kimberly & Family
Charlotte Werkmeister
Mrs & Mrs Burnett

Carmen L. Jimenez
Jennifer Brillantes
Mary Ann Catanzaro
The McCarthy Family
Michael Mercurio
Johanna E. Pomerence
John Fischetti
Mary Lou Grieb
Diane Lange
Raymond Lombardi
Joseph Pavone
Foley Family
Jerry D. Jean-Pierre
Monica & John Wawrzynski
Patricia Cangro
The Massimillo Family
James & Eileen Prezorski
Doris Klem
Diane Inman
Lenore Roth
Leonard Visciano
Gerard A. Wright
Mario Marques
John Kelly
Jennifer Brillantes
Horodnicki Family
The Boody Family

Paul Coonelly
Janet Hart
Gloria Family
George & Jennifer
Cordero
Theresa Vieta
Margaret Hroch
Susan & Philip Hogan
Jean Cardlin
Patricia Patasenko
Keith & Kathy Rooney
Lange Family
Annette & Al Arena
Linda Bisiani
The Lazarte Family
Ronald Carey
Harold Forstell
Cecelia & Patrick Block-
Tammy Loring
Bette, Laura & Dave Stahl
Pat Moffett
Carol Carroll
Mr & Mrs. Cecil Chau
Edward Fanning
Herminie Tavares
Frank & Noah Gusmerotti
Regina O'Connell
& John Scrivani

Donald Mallon
Barbara Gould & Family
Jean Kirschenheiter
Grace
Anna L'Abbate
Rose Guerin
Jean Puszc
Stephen Walsh & Family
Rosina Mazzola
June Harris & Family
Peter & Annmarie
Eileen Mallon
Nancy Foley
Rose C Caporaso
Susan, John & Paul
John Burke
Albano Family
Hickham Family
The Spy Family
Nicholas Morales
Laurance Taylor

Merry Christmas



Thank You for your prayerful participation in our Christmas Season Masses and for your generosity in our Christmas & 1000 Lights Offerings. Your faithful stewardship all throughout the past year is much appreciated and provides the financial resources necessary to continue our pastoral ministries.

We pray that God will Bless us all in the New Year of 2024 with health, financial stability, world peace, and hope.

Along with the Wise Men, may we continue our own journey to seek out, discover, and personally encounter the LOVE of God in Christ Jesus!

Father Gius, the priests, deacons, and lay staff of
SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS PARISH



FAITH FORMATION 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

A good way to honor loved ones this Christmas and to let them know they remain in our hearts.



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.