

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Vigil Masses for Christmas**

**Sunday, December 24**

5:00 Elizabeth O’Shea  
10:00 Jean Silviotti

**Christmas Day**

**Monday, December 25**

8:00 For the People of the Parish  
9:30 Antonio & Marianttonia Tellone  
11:00 Dec’d. Mem’s. Dalbis &  
Archer Families  
12:30 Lauri Famiy

**Tuesday, December 26, St. Stephen**

8:00 Angelo Maiorano  
12:00 Rosario Barone

**Wednesday, December 27, St. John**

8:00 Louis Camputo  
12:00 Alfonso Migliarini

**The Holy Innocents**

**Thursday, December 28**

8:00 Mary & William Hamilton  
12:00 Carlo Dottore

**Friday, December 29**

8:00 Balduino DiMatteo  
12:00 David Strewing

**Saturday, December 30**

8:00 Donald Ruberto  
12:00 Romualdo Ranieri  
5:00 James Kevin Murphy

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

**Sunday December 31**

8:00 For the People of the Parish  
9:30 Antonietta Tellone  
11:00 Camille Piscopo  
12:30 Mario Novelli

**Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary**

**Sunday, December 31**

5:00 Jean Silviotti

**Bread and Wine**

For: Edna & Bert Alfano  
By: Carol Ann Alfano



**Sanctuary Lamp**

For: Elizabeth O’Shea  
By: Kathleen Whalen



***From the Pastor’s Desk***

My Dear Friends,

On this beautiful occasion of the birth of Jesus the Savior of the world, may you and your families experience the joy, peace and hope the Lord brings to us.

On behalf of Fr. Francis, Fr. Charles, Fr. Reynolds and myself, I wish you a Blessed Christmas. May you enjoy this day the warmth of family and friends as you gather together and remember Him who brings salvation and peace to all.

God Bless you,  
Merry Christmas!  
Fr. John

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Not until 2023 will Christmas Eve again fall on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The proximity of these two solemnities highlights the theme of today’s readings—the revelation of God’s mystery. The biblical word “mystery” is not about a puzzle to be solved or something impossible to understand. Rather it concerns a magnificent thing that will now be revealed in the last days to those who have faith.

In the First Reading, David desires to build a house for God, but through the prophet Nathan, God tells David that he never asked for a house and plans always to dwell among the people as he did during their desert wanderings. At the same time, God promises to build a house (or a dynasty) for David and to give him a son who will be an everlasting king and whom God will treat like his own son. What astonishing favor David receives from God!

The Gospel builds upon the imagery of this David story. The angel Gabriel tells Mary that she is God’s favored one and that she will give birth to a son who “will be called Son of the Most High” and who will be given “the throne of David his father”. How utterly confused this young girl must have been! Yet she quickly gives her fiat (Latin for “let it happen”) to the angel’s words.

In the Second Reading, we are invited to join in a doxology, a prayer of praise to God that celebrates God’s hidden plan for humanity. This plan is gradually revealed through the prophets and the covenants and is fully manifest in the person of Jesus. That manifestation is what we celebrate at Christmas.

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**Report of Parish Giving**

Offering 12/17/17 - \$9,104.00  
 Adults: 638 Children: 90  
 Offering 12/10/17 - \$7,331.00  
 Adults: 447 Children: 63

Sign up for WeShare and have your donations to Sts. Peter & Paul and St. Ursula automatically deducted monthly from your checking or savings account or charged to your credit card. It's easy and convenient and helps our parish. Enroll at <https://www.churchgiving.com/?pc=rniddx55>. We thank you for your support and are grateful to all those who use WeShare or the envelopes.

**Kindly remember in your prayers  
 the sick of the Parish**

Betty D'Avi, Ella DiGiovanni, Bobby Gregory, Louise Holly, Betty Lane, Joan Lynch, Annella Masselli, Stephanie Merenda, Sterling Mitchell, Frank J. Moore, Carol Jean Murphy, Maria Scampone, Susan Scarinci, Barbara Schimpf, Theresa Vazquez

**Please pray for the repose of the soul of**  
 Ralph Nanna  
 Lena Rose Choma

**Are you a registered parishioner of  
 Sts. Peter & Paul and St. Ursula Parish?**

Any new or unregistered parishioners are asked to register as soon as possible. You can register by completing the registration form found in the vestibule of the Church, by visiting our website at [stspeterpaulandstursula.org](http://stspeterpaulandstursula.org), or in person at the Rectory. Registering helps us to communicate with our parishioners about the many items of importance which arise throughout the year.

**Remember Sts. Peter & Paul and St. Ursula**

In your estate planning, please remember Sts. Peter & Paul and St. Ursula Parish in your Last Will & Testament. Such a gift of any amount will create a legacy in your name which will assist our Parish in continuing the work of God in Mount Vernon and the surrounding community for generations to come.

**Christmas Collection**

Please be as generous as you can in this year's Christmas collection. This is a vital part of not only supporting our Parish in paying our bills, but in providing us with funds to improve the programs we already have and implement new ones, so that our Parish may continue to grow and we may better serve all the needs of our Parish family. God Bless your goodness!

**Thank You !!!**

We received a letter of thanks from the St. Mary's Church Food Pantry for the food donated by our parishioners to their Thanksgiving Food Drive. Thank you again for your generous donations.

**Thank You!!!**

A special thanks to all of the families who contributed to our annual Giving Tree Collection, and personal care products collection for the homeless. Although you do not know the recipient, you can be assured your gift has brought some comfort to the heart of a person who needed some hope this Christmas Season.

*Winter Coat Drive Thank You*

The Men's Club would like to extend a big thank you to all of our parishioners and friends who so generously donated coats to our winter coat drive. We received more than 300 coats which were distributed throughout Mount Vernon to those in need. We would also like to thank our local merchant, Gramatan Bagel Café for helping to make this coat drive a success. Your generosity helped to keep so many people warm. THANK YOU!

**"I am with you always."**

Sometimes God can seem distant and silent. Yet, he promised to stay with us always. The same God who came to Bethlehem 2,000 years ago still comes to us now to live in our churches and our hearts. Today, be mindful of God's loving presence. Ask him to help you grow closer to him.

"Growing in Faith" - December 2017

**Parish Registration/Update**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ **New Registration** \_\_\_\_ **Change of Address**

\_\_\_\_ **Moving out of Parish**

**Please return to the Rectory.**

*Sts. Peter and Paul and St. Ursula Church*  
**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

**Christmas Eve Masses – Sunday, December 24th**

**4:30 p.m. – Half hour of Christmas Carols**

**5:00 p.m. – Christmas Vigil Mass**

**9:30 p.m. - Half hour of Christmas Carols**

**10:00 p.m. - Christmas Vigil Mass**

**Christmas Day - Monday, December 25th**

**8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.**

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – Regular Mass Schedule**

**Saturday Vigil – 5:00 p.m.**

**8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 12:30 pm**

**New Year's Eve Mass - 5:00 p.m.**

**New Year's Day, January 1, 2018**

**8:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon**