

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**St. Stephen**

**Monday, December 26**

8:00 Giuseppe & Antonietta Tellone  
12:00 Rosario Barone

**St. John**

**Tuesday, December 27**

8:00 Alfonso Migliarini  
12:00 Agostino & Rosa Silvestro

**The Holy Innocents**

**Wednesday, December 28**

8:00 Filomena Sicuranza  
12:00 Mary & Lawrence Dwyer

**Thursday, December 29**

8:00 Antonietta Tellone  
12:00 William Hamilton

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

**Friday, December 30**

8:00 Coletta Hein  
12:00 William McDonagh

**Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

**Saturday, December 31**

8:00 Giuseppe & Grazia DiSanto  
12:00 Robert Dorman  
5:00 Olimpia Longaroni

**Solemnity of Mary,**

**The Holy Mother of God**

**Sunday, January 1, 2017**

8:00 For the People of the Parish  
9:30 Teresa Rodrigues &  
Antonio Gomes  
11:00 Donald Alleva, Sr.  
12:30 Olimpia Longaroni

**Bread and Wine**

**For:** James Breen  
**By:** Eileen Breen



**Sanctuary Lamp**

**For:** Philip Curnyn  
**By:** Noreen Curnyn



***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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The rich images and the poetic phrases of today's Isaiah reading form one of the most celebrated passages in Handel's Messiah. Isaiah proclaims that the state of the people has been overturned by "a great light." Oppression and gloom have been overcome; the power and graciousness of God brings rejoicing. And the most amazing feat of all is that it is a child who brings this about; his Kingdom will be forever.

The psalmist calls on the Israelites to rejoice, for our saving God has come! All the nations, all of creation—the earth and the seas—are to join in the rejoicing. Singing this psalm fills us with joy as we, too, celebrate the coming of the Lord of salvation.

In his letter to Titus, Paul affirms that the grace of God has already been bestowed on believers. They can live as those whose hope of salvation is already assured by the Lord. In this expectation they (and we) enter another time of waiting—for the coming of the Lord in glory in the future. Until then they are to live devoutly and justly.

Luke's account of the birth of Jesus is one of the most familiar texts of the New Testament. The details are so familiar. This humble scene has inspired centuries of art, from great masterpieces to the school pageant. Luke situates the birth of Jesus in the course of history and in the midst of the everyday public life of secular rulers and humble shepherds alike. But this is no ordinary birth event. The child is "of the house and family of David." He is the fulfillment of God's promise that has stirred the hearts of God's people for generations. The humble surroundings point to the nature of Jesus' mission, and the future of mankind is forever changed in this night.

**Report of Parish Giving**

Offering 12/18/16 - \$7,824.00  
Adults: 575 Children: 92  
Offering 12/11/16 - \$7,835.87  
Adults: 580 Children: 84

Sign up for ParishPay and have your donations to Sts. Peter & Paul 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 [www.parishpay.com](http://www.parishpay.com) or call (866) 727-4741. We thank you for your support and are grateful to all those who use ParishPay or the envelopes.

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

Betty D'Avi, Ella DiGovanni, Arleen Dmytryshyn, Bobby Gregory, Louise Holly, Betty Lane, Ann Latora, Joan Lynch, Catherine McKeon, Stephanie Merenda, Sterling Mitchell, Maria Scampone, Susan Scarinci, Barbara Schimpf, Theresa Vazquez

**Thank You!!!**

A special thanks to all of the families who contributed to our annual Giving Tree Collection, toys and personal care products 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.

**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.

**Winter Coat Drive Thank You**

The Men's Club would like to extend a big thank you to all of our parishioners 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 merchants, Gramatan Bagel Café and Republica Cigars for helping to make this such a big success. Your generosity helped to keep so many people warm. THANK YOU!

***Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God***

**Saturday, December 31 – Vigil Mass – 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, January 1, 2017  
8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.**

**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!

**Bread & Wine**

The Bread and Wine is available the weeks of January 15, 22 & 29; February 5, 19 & 26; March 5, 12, 19 & 26. The cost is \$25. If interested please call the Rectory 668-9815.

**Sanctuary Lamp**

The Sanctuary Lamp is available the weeks of January 8 & 29; February 5, 19 & 26, March 5 & 19. The cost is \$10. If interested please call the Rectory 668-9815.

**Faith Discussion Group**

Our Faith Discussion Group will not meet on Tuesday, December 27th. If you are interested contact Ann McLoughlin at [AnnMcLoug@aol.com](mailto:AnnMcLoug@aol.com) or call (917) 363-2722.

**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.**

# *Merry Christmas Christ's Peace to All*

