

**PLEASE TAKE THIS BULLETIN HOME!**

**Sunday, December 18 \* Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. Nicholas Aleksandrovich Vasiliev  
(Bill & Inna Gould)  
11:00 a.m. Living/Deceased of the Holy Cross Family  
– Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

**Monday, December 19 ♦ NO MASS**

**Tuesday, December 20 ♦ Late Advent Weekday**

6:15 p.m. In memory of Kathleen Albert  
(Daniel & Margaret Christie)  
– Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

**Wednesday, December 21 ♦ Late Advent Weekday**

11:30 a.m. In Memory of Kathleen Albert  
(Christine Farris)  
– Sg 2:8-14; or Zep 3:14-18; Lk 1:39-45

**Thursday, December 22 ♦ Late Advent Weekday**

11:30 a.m. In Memory of Kathleen Albert  
(Daniel & Margaret Christie)  
– 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1; 46-56

**Friday, December 23 ♦ Late Advent Weekday**

11:30 a.m. Living/Deceased of the Cullinan Family  
(Jeanne C. Brown)  
– Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

**Saturday, December 24 ♦**

**Late Advent Weekday (Christmas Eve)**

4:00 p.m. Martha Walsh (Walsh/Burkey Family)  
– Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

**Sunday, December 25 ♦ Nativity of the Lord**

10:00 a.m. Living/Deceased of the Holy Cross Family  
– Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn1:1-5, 9-14

**+ Please remember in your prayers** our homebound parishioners, and those who are ill: Michael Baker, Betty Cockran, Richard Deneski, Herbert Froesch, Sr. Sally Groom, Robert Hackett, Dr. Glenn Haninger, Julie Litsinberger, Susan Luck, Ellen McMillen, Mary McNellis, Marilyn Scott.

**St. Lawrence Haven – January 8, 2017**

Attention, all our “Lil Larry” sandwich makers. Sunday, January 8, 2017, is your next opportunity to support St. Lawrence Haven is following the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Holy Cross School.

**Pastor’s Notes: Christmas is soon here and I wanted to announce three things:**

- 1) Congratulations to our new secretary Mary Anne White who has been so awesome to work with in the office. Right now she works Tuesday and Thursday, so there is no one in the office on Monday and Friday.
- 2) Apologies for any problems calling the rectory in the past, our phone system has not worked properly for many months and we hope to have the problem solved soon.
- 3) Thanks to all those who came forward to help with the parish Christmas wish list, everything has been donated except one server candle. The server candles will be carried up in procession and put on the altar and used on special feast during the gospel reading.



**Christmas Flower Donations**

Donations toward the altar flowers for the Christmas season in the memory of deceased family members or friends can be put in upcoming Sunday collections with the person’s name you wish to remember. A donation of \$10.00 is suggested. Please utilize the special envelopes available for this purpose.

**Religious Retirement Collection Results**

Thank you for the generosity and support of the Religious Retirement collection held last week. \$542.00 was contributed.

**Reminder: All Christmas Angels**

All purchased items (*unwrapped with the tag attached to it*) should be returned back to church today. Thanks to all for your participation and generosity.



**Mass Intentions**

One of the greatest acts of charity is to pray for the living and the dead, and the greatest and most powerful prayer we have is the Mass since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus’ redemption. Mass stipends (offerings) are \$10.00 each; only one offering per Mass. All Mass intentions will be listed in the bulletin. **We are in need of daily Mass intentions.** Please contact Mike Agriesti by regular mail, or drop a note into the collection basket on Sundays or email [admmike@columbus.rr.com](mailto:admmike@columbus.rr.com) to schedule a Mass.

**THANKS!**

**DECEMBER 11, 2016 OFFERINGS**

<b>Designated Collections</b> (Funds forwarded directly to the Diocese)	Offertory.....\$2,084.00
Religious Retire = \$542.00	Mail-in .....\$ 128.00
<b>Mass Attendance</b>	Immacule Concept .....\$ 202.00
9:00 a.m. = 74	Mail-in Repair.....\$ 3.00
11:00 a.m. = 81	less 6% Diocese tax .. (\$ 145.02)
	<b>Net To Parish .....\$2,272.98</b>

# THE WORD

We tend to think that with careful planning we can know ahead of time what the right – the “proper” – course of action is. We have some idea of what situations might arise and what good people do in a given situation. But sometimes we do not fully understand what the true situation is, and how our ideas about what is proper might or might not apply. This seems to be particularly the case when God enters into the equation.

In today’s Gospel reading, Joseph is faced with a situation that he thinks he understands: his fiancée has become pregnant by “another man.” He prepares to do the proper thing and quietly break off the betrothal. This is not only “proper” but, given the situation as he understands it, it is even merciful, since it will spare Mary some measure of shame. But the situation is not what he thinks it is, and when the angel of the Lord appears to him in a dream and tells him that Mary has not been unfaithful, but rather conceived her child through the Holy Spirit, Joseph has to rethink what the proper course of action is. He realizes that he has been playing according to the wrong rulebook. Part of what makes Joseph a truly honorable man is his willingness to rethink how an honorable man acts once God enters the picture in an unexpected way.

Our faith tells us that God is always entering the picture, and not only when angels appear to us in dreams. In every situation we have to be open to rethinking our notions of what is proper. It is of course a good thing to develop a sense of what is the fitting thing to do in a given situation, but as Advent moves toward Christmas we are reminded of God’s capacity to surprise us, forcing us in turn to act in surprising ways.

*– Who first told you about Jesus and the difference he has made in their lives?*

*– What concrete signs make clear that God is with you and with us?*

*“Living the Word”*

## Special Parish Dates

Mark your calendars for the following important dates for the parish:

- 1) **Saturday, December 24, 2016, Christmas Eve**  
3:30 p.m. – Carols/Mass at 4:00 p.m.
- 2) **Sunday, December 25, 2016, Christmas Day**  
Mass at 10:00 a.m. – One Mass Only



## Parking for Christmas Eve

Extra parking is available during Christmas Eve Mass at PERS garage, just north of the Rectory (corner of 5th and Town Street) from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.. We have made arrangements for you to enter from the **Town Street entrance for your convenience.**

## Diocesan Charities Collection

A second collection will be taken for the Diocesan Charities during the Christmas Masses. This collection allows the diocese to meet a variety of basic needs directly and through diocesan agencies and organizations, including J.O.I.N., St. Stephen’s Community House, Catholic Social Services, St. Lawrence Haven, St. Vincent Family Center and St. Vincent de Paul Society.

## Catholic Social Services – Needs You!

Are you looking for meaningful volunteer opportunities? Have you thought about volunteering for Catholic Social Services, but never got around to contacting us? Well, now is your chance!

We are in need of volunteers for our Spirit of Hope Gala event. Volunteers are needed in the months leading up to the event (for help collecting and organizing auction items, making phone calls, and participating on our committee) and volunteers are also needed on the day of the event to ensure things run smoothly.

The Gala will be on March 11th, from 6:30-10:30 p.m. at the Columbus Hilton Downtown, 401 North High Street.

Contact Mackenzie Burton at [mburton@colscss.org](mailto:mburton@colscss.org) or 614-857-1254 for more information or to volunteer!