

**She will bear a son, and you  
shall call his name Jesus,  
for he will save his people  
from their sins.**

**Matthew 1:21**



*December 25, 2020*



**Our Lady of Lourdes**  
455 Hunter Avenue  
West Islip, NY 11795  
631.661.3224 | Website: [ollchurch.org](http://ollchurch.org)

**Msgr. Brian J. McNamara, Pastor**  
**Rev. Charles Mangano, Associate Pastor**  
**Rev. Sylvester Chukwumalume, Chaplain - Southside Hospital**  
**Rev. Freddy Lozano, in Residence**



**Welcome...**  
**to Our Lady of Lourdes!**

*Christmas is a time for family. We are glad you decided to celebrate with our Parish Family during this Holy Season. We hope you will return often. If you would like to become a registered member of our Parish, please fill in the information below and place this form in the collection basket or send it to the Parish Office.*

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Names: Head of Household \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Children (please include ages, grades and sacraments received)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_



## Solemnity of Mary

The Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes will gather on **Wednesday, January 1** to celebrate the **Solemnity of Mary**.

*We will celebrate the Solemnity of Mary on...*

**Thursday, December 31 at 5:00pm**

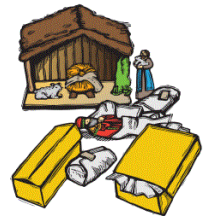
**Friday, January 1 at 8:30am, 10:00am and 12:10pm**

**NOTE: There will be no 7:30pm Mass on January 1<sup>st</sup>**

Please come and pray with us!

## The First Nativity Scene

The origin of the display of the Nativity dates back to the time of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis was concerned that people did not appreciate the gift of Christ's birth. St. Francis wanted to celebrate the Incarnation (God becoming a man) in a special way. He wanted to do something that would help people to remember the Christ Child and how Jesus was born in Bethlehem.



On Christmas Eve, in the year 1223A.D., at the proper time, St. Francis and his Franciscan brothers created a new Bethlehem. People, young and old, came to see this new sight. They carried torches to light up the sky as they approached the manger. Once again, shepherds came from the fields to come and adore the King. All were filled with joy over the mystery of the Incarnation. And a beautiful tradition was started.

As you look upon your own family Nativity set, may you remember and celebrate again God's love for His creation. In order to show His abundant love, mercy, and forgiveness for us, God became one like us. That is what the crèche ultimately symbolizes.

## Christmas Raffle



Below please find a set of 6 chances. It is a 50-50 drawing. Chances are \$25 each or 6 chances for \$100. 1<sup>st</sup> place winner will win 35% of the money, 2<sup>nd</sup> place will win 10% of the money and 3<sup>rd</sup> place will win 5% of the money. You have to be in it to win it!

The drawing will take place on **Sunday, January 17 after the 12:30pm Mass**.

*Hopefully, the Wise Men will bring you a gift of a winning ticket!*

<p align="center"><b>CHRISTMAS RAFFLE</b></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>1 Ticket for \$25; 6 Tickets for \$100</p>	<p align="center"><b>CHRISTMAS RAFFLE</b></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>1 Ticket for \$25; 6 Tickets for \$100</p>	<p align="center"><b>CHRISTMAS RAFFLE</b></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>1 Ticket for \$25; 6 Tickets for \$100</p>
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DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2020

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

When he was elected as a Successor of St. Peter on March 13, 2013, our Holy Father chose the name *Francis*. It was a weighty decision with a prophetic message. Especially now, seven years later and with the publication of his latest encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* from the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi on October 3, 2020, the significance of the choice is clear: Pope Francis connects his papacy to St. Francis.

Through the ministry of our Holy Father, St. Francis of Assisi is close to the Church in these times. Therefore, as we draw near to Bethlehem at the end of this difficult year, I wish to recall two points Pope Francis highlights from the life of St. Francis. One will help us celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord; the other indicates a grace for which to pray during the holy season.

First, in his 2019 Apostolic Letter *Admirabile Signum: On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene*, Pope Francis emphasizes St. Francis of Assisi's foundational role in our celebration of Christmas. The Holy Father recalls the origins of the crèche and the first nativity scene inspired by the holy friar in 1223, by which the saint sought "to bring to life the memory of that babe born in Bethlehem." Importantly, the remembrance of Christ's birth that St. Francis desired to convey was brought alive in Greccio, a small village in Italy, not by statues but by people from the surrounding towns and countryside. Together with St. Francis, his friars, an ox and a donkey, they gathered at a cave to behold a manger full of hay over which the Eucharist was celebrated. That Christmas night, almost 800 years ago, Pope Francis reminds us, "the nativity scene was enacted and experienced by all who were present." That night, there was "no distance between the original event and those sharing in its mystery." (2) Encountering Christ, there was simply joy and hope.

This Christmas, in our world laden with the Crosses of COVID-19, political and economic turmoil, racism, financial hardship, and so many other societal ills and challenges – challenges that impact us on Long Island – let us remember this lesson from Greccio: Christmas is an event to be lived. It demands our participation. Like the women and men who embodied that first crèche, we must be present to Christ who is born for us. We must behold and receive Him.

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

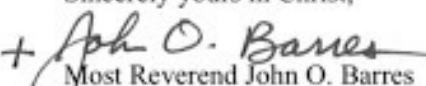
Second, in *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis shows St. Francis as an icon of Christocentric-listening. With great humility and charity, the saint reverently listened to others. He was present to the various voices in his life – the voice of God, the voice of his neighbor, the voice of the poor, the voice of the sick, the voice of nature – and by truly hearing them, he was an instrument of peace, healing, and understanding. How different it can be for us! The Holy Father says well what we know: “Today’s world is largely a deaf world...At times, the frantic pace of the modern world prevents us from listening attentively to what another person is saying.” Aware of this fact, the Pope encourages us, in the midst of our hectic and polarized world, to be like St. Francis and “not lose our ability to listen.” (48)

This Christmas, when we approach the crib, let us ask for the grace to be attentive listeners. Let us ask for the grace to be like St. Francis, so that we may hear the voice of God and the voice of our neighbor and respond with the radical charity he exhibited.<sup>1</sup>

Like Pope Francis, may we be moved by the example of St. Francis, and may St. Francis of Assisi’s love for the Mystery of the Nativity, his ecstatic mysticism, his love for the poor, and his spirit of universal fraternity animate our celebration of Christmas this year.

May God bless you and your families this Christmas.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+   
Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. Bishop John O. Barres October 8, 2020 Statement, “The Compelling Figure of St. Francis of Assisi in the Pontificate of Pope Francis and his New Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti*.”

# Christmas

## FLOWER OFFERING

Mark Rosen  
Mrs. Melissa Rogan  
June Carrick, John Carrick  
Ellen McMahon, Thomas McMahon  
Spud Gili, Theresa Gili, Joseph Gili  
Mary Pivova, Robert Miller  
Vincent M. Sepe,  
Mr. & Mrs. C. Mandfaccitta,  
Mr. & Mrs. M. Sepe, Jon Sepe  
Mrs. Olympia Aparo  
Eleanor Carrana  
James Rooney & William Milligan  
Members of Mangels and  
Murph Families  
Raymond W. Everett, Jr.  
Patrick & Theresa Tracey  
Raymond Winslow  
Mr. & Mrs. Galbo, Mr. Joseph Walsh  
Mr. Joseph Lehman  
Mary & Patrick Rodemeyer  
Anthony Petrsorich  
Amalia E. Busuttill  
Mary & Lou Pirovato  
Al, Pat & Kevin Waters  
All those on the front lines of COVID  
Stephen Gili  
Thomas G. Brando, Anne M. McNulty  
The Lee, Finnegan & McNulty Family  
Carmine & Josephine Barila  
Anthony & Fannie Messina  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Wissing  
Ambrosino & Carrano Families  
Joseph C. Capo II  
Patricia & Dennis Hirt, Our Parents  
Peter McCann, Sr.  
Frank X. Bronkhurst

Florence Borzell  
Leonard & Gertrude Parine  
Kenneth Meyer  
Eugene & Lois Parine  
Martha Wills  
Ed & Marie Terrible  
Don & Theresa Rienzo  
Rosanne Levine  
Anne & Tom Bush  
Deceased Members of Loscalzo &  
Schmitt Families  
Deceased members of Okurowski &  
Lee Families  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Fogarty  
Mr. & Mrs. William Angeloro  
Lucille & Phil Berthold, Mom & Dad  
Raymundo Herrera  
Consolation DeLeon  
Ireneo DeLeon  
Edward & Katheryn Herger  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Niewinski  
Mrs. Teresa Reilly  
Christine Pascale  
Phyllis Diesso &  
Felicia Spiers Burnham  
Evelyn Wessels, John Steward  
Jessie Neal, Sr.  
Rega & Costanza Family  
Joseph & Mary DeFillipo  
Ahern & Duggan Families  
Gaspar Baltazar, Ladislao Razon,  
Julia Razon, Felisa Baltazar,  
Raffy Baltazar  
Joseph & Anne Malloy Joseph Horan,  
Fr. Joe & Fr. Bill Sheen & Fr. Pat  
Robert & Mira Kazmer  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Walas  
Mr. Kevin Cruze  
Deceased Members-Ferguson Family  
John P. Caparella  
Ruvolo & Lanfair Families  
Bill Mace, Peter Roache  
Margaret & Joseph Colasuonno  
Helen & Rocco Marrone  
Joseph Marrone  
Daniel Colasuonno  
Stanley Renkas, Teresa Anderson  
Rosemary & Charles Clancy  
Wilfred & Nargret Corrigan  
Mr. & Mrs. John Sehn  
Mary & Al Dorrington  
Esther & Claude Sisson  
Mr. Robert P. Meditz  
The deceased Family & Friends of the  
Mezzacappa, deLeon, Herrera, Feeney  
& Zaragoza Families  
Nancy & Jerry Esposito, Sr.  
Anthony Zafferese  
Kathleen B. Wall  
Elsie Isopo  
Colleen McNamara

Claire Thomson  
Denzler Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Giambo  
Thomas & Florence Brady  
Maria LaRocca  
Connie Vela  
Natalie Macari  
Joe Catusco  
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Shannon  
Margaret Morrow  
Laurence & Elaine Stehl  
DeLeon & Espina Family  
The Capoccia Family  
Dolores Gordon  
Mr. & Mrs. William Mazzoli, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Janusz Wlodkowski  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Yagarich  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Sterling  
Deceased Members of Kopitsch &  
Wilson Families  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Montesanto  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Bracco  
Jack, Laura, Steven, Jacklyn Dawson  
Joe, Laura, Laurie Campisi  
Lena Sferlazza  
John Gargaro  
Fedele & Anne Aita  
Mom & Dad  
Ms. Eileen Martin  
Sullivan & Kennedy Family  
Trotta & Atanasio Families  
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Balestri  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kaminski  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Horne  
Mr. & Mrs. William Clifford  
Guider & Heartt Family  
Deceased Members of the Colletti &  
Guarino Families  
Mr. John Gilmartin  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Cascino  
Mr. & Mrs. David Paprocky  
Bruce J. Ferland, Sr.  
Mylo Manno & Billy Farley  
Virginia & John Cruse  
Edward White  
Rosemarie Kendall  
In memory of James Rooney  
Gene Langan, Edwin Lucie  
Magliocco Family, Corsa Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Lamb  
Robert Beck  
Charles Ecker, Kim Ecker  
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Tamney  
Adele Bavuso  
Punzi & Furia Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Francisco Castiller  
Mr. Albert Ranzie  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Folks  
Mr. Daniel Henery  
Joseph & Cecilia Fiore  
Umberto J. Fioravanti

*Madeline Hopper  
The Dowd & Fioravanti Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Angelito Cruz  
Joseph A. Kelly, Jr.  
Mrs. Maureen Thompson  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hannon  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Sgueglia  
Daniel Catalina  
Mr. & Mrs. Lenny Gersbeck  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Troiano  
Mr. & Mrs. Zbigniew Musial  
Mr. Andrew Nangano  
Mr. Joseph Dellauniversita  
Frank Aparo  
Joseph A. Taylor  
Lazarich & Ruth Families  
Lustig & Rendine Family  
Father & Mom (Deceased)  
Angie & James Anderson  
Frederick F. Zimmerman, Jr.  
Mary F. Poveromo  
Mr. & Mrs. John Bochicchio  
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Ramirez, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. William Gries  
Mrs. Antonina Stabile  
Steven Perone  
Mrs. Elsie Koch  
Mrs. Mary Ann Clausey  
Mrs. Mary Meyer  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cesario  
Bob Meyer  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Sabella  
Nicholas Ferrante  
Mr. Henry Schreiber  
Deceased Members Carola &  
Franzone Families  
Neuman & Mathews Families*

*Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bovasso  
Deceased Members DeCotis, Paradiso &  
Peluso Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Piscola  
James Teague  
Gail Solomonik  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Petersen  
Robert Aziz  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Muller  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Carbone  
Mrs. Elena Nunez  
Fred & Charlene Hervey  
Chuck & Georgette Van Manen  
Joseph Johnson, Jr.  
Ciccarello & Sierra Families  
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Kilkelly  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph T. Mirro  
Howard Swicord  
Victoria & Edward Magee  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Egarter  
Mr. & Mrs. Domenic Dachille  
Ms. Dolores Beckerman  
Marie Conti  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Esposito  
Mr. & Mrs. James Wood  
Mr. & Mrs. William Sheehan  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Benavides  
Mr. Raymond Okurowski  
Mr. & Mrs. James Clifford  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Lipari  
Mr. & Mrs. John Weilert  
My Parents  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Papocchia  
Mrs. Nannette Proscia  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Madonia  
Hannah Greenhalgh*

***Christmas Flower Offerings received after December 6<sup>th</sup>  
will be published in subsequent bulletins.***

## Candy Cane Priest

A Catholic priest from the Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas, invented the machine that shapes candy canes. Candy maker Bob McCormack (founder of Bob's Candies in Albany, Georgia) had begun making candy canes for his children in the 1920's. The process was tedious. Twisting could only be done by hand and the breakage often ran up to 22 percent of production. Perplexed as to what to do, Bob turned to his wife Anna Louise's brother, Fr. Gregory Harding Keller, for suggestions.



Fr. Keller had been dubbed the "family genius" because of his fascination for how things worked. As a student, he fixed the organ at the North American College in Rome. During summer vacations, he would travel to Albany and work at the candy factory. Fr. Keller listened to his brother-in-law's predicament. Within six months, he had perfected the Keller Machine which twisted soft candy into spiral striping and cut the sticks in precise lengths.

Born May 24, 1895, in Little Rock, Fr. Keller studied for the priesthood in Rome, where he was ordained. He returned to Little Rock and served in parishes there for 36 years. Fr. Keller gained national attention as a contestant on the popular TV show, "What's My Line" in the 1960's. He was the inventor priest.



## O Holy Night

Originally, "O Holy Night" was written as a poem by French wine merchant and poet Placide Cappeau (1808-1877). Inspired by the Gospel of Luke, he wrote these famous lines in honor of the renovation of a church organ in Roquemaure, France. Later, Cappeau's friend and composer, Adolphe Adams, put the words to song. "O Holy Night" was performed for the first time on Christmas Eve by opera singer Emily Laurie at the church in Roquemaure. The lyrics were translated into English in 1855 by American minister and publisher John Sullivan Dwight.

## Legend of St Joseph's Staff

When Mary was 14, so the legend goes, the high priest gathered the young women of marriageable age and told them that they should prepare for marriage. Mary said that she could not because she had dedicated herself to the Lord. The high priest did not want to dissolve her vow, but neither did he want to start a new custom that Jewish women should not marry. With other elders, he prayed for a solution. Since, according to the legend, Mary was a descendant of David, they decreed that all men of the line of David of marriageable age should gather and bring their favorite walking stick to the altar. If a flower should spring from one of these, this man would be the one to whom Mary was given. Joseph was an older man and did not want to participate, so he did not bring a walking stick. One by one, staffs were brought to the altar but nothing happened. So the priest demanded that the "missing walking staff" be brought forward. Joseph went and got his, and when it was brought to the altar, a dove perched on top of it. It was clear that he was to be Mary's husband.



## The Legend of the Poinsettia

The brilliant red leaves of the Poinsettia are a common decoration at this time of year. Its association with Christmas began many years ago when the story developed of Pepita, a poor Mexican girl who had no gift for the Christ Child at Christmas. Her cousin Pedro told her that even the most humble gift given in love is a welcomed present. So, Pepita gathered a handful of weeds into a small bouquet. As she laid it at the foot of the crèche, it burst into blooms of red. From that day on, the Poinsettia has also been known as the *Flor de Nochebuena*, or Flower of the Holy Night (Christmas Eve).



# Christmas Tree Origins

The German and English immigrants brought the Paradise Tree, or Christmas Tree, to Canada, the United States and South and Central America. Fruits, nuts, flowers and lighted candles adorned the early Christmas trees but, with all of the decorations, many of the trees sagged and drooped due to the weight of the decorations. Ingenuity prevailed as German glassblowers began to produce lightweight glass balls and decorations to replace the heavier natural decorations. The lights and decorations were symbols of the joy and the light of Christmas and at the top of the tree was placed a star that was symbolic of the “Star of the East” that led the Wise Men to the manger.



Another legend surrounds the use of the Pine Tree as the Christmas tree. When the Holy Family was pursued by the soldiers of Herod, many plants offered them shelter. When Mary was too weary to travel any longer, the Family stopped at the edge of the forest to rest. A gnarled and withered old pine tree that had grown hollow from its many years invited the family to rest within its trunk. When the Holy Family did so, the branches closed around them and hid them from the soldiers who sought their presence. When the soldiers had passed, the Holy Family left. When they did, the Christ Child blessed the pine tree and the imprint of the Infant Jesus' hand was left forever in the fruit of the tree, the pine cone. If a pine cone is cut lengthwise, the little hand of Jesus can still be seen.

When you and your family place and decorate your tree this year, you might want to thank God for the true meaning of the Christmas tree: *eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven.*

## St. Teresa of Calcutta



Christmas held special meaning for Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who once said that her work with the poor began on Christmas Day in 1948.

A priest had come to India to spend the holiday with Mother Teresa, While he was visiting, there was a knock at the door. When the sisters opened the door, they found a small basket on the doorstep. Perhaps it is a benefactor donating food for Christmas, one sister exclaimed.

But when Mother Teresa opened the basket, she began to smile. “Jesus has arrived.” In the basket was a sleeping baby boy, left to be cared for by the sisters. Mother Teresa picked the infant up. “Look, now we can say that our Christmas is complete. Baby Jesus has come to us. We must thank God for this wonderful gift.”

## Did You Know...

In biblical times, cakes were made with wheat flour and water, then sweetened with honey. Honey doughnuts were made into animal shapes and fried in olive oil. Locusts (grasshoppers) were dried in the sun, then mixed with honey and wheat flour before being baked into biscuits.

An early version of a Christmas ball ornament was made by wrapping a walnut in tin foil and hanging it with a piece of thread.

The popular Christmas Carol, *The Little Drummer Boy*, has been commercially recorded more than 200 times in at least seven languages and has been performed in a variety of genres, including rock, rap and easy-listening.

The word “wreath” comes from the old English word, “writhen”, meaning “to twist.” In ancient times, wreaths were often placed on the heads of heroes, royalty or winning athletes.

Two of the gifts from the Wise Men were made from plants; both frankincense and myrrh are herbs that come from small trees. The bible says that the Magi came from the East. If they came from Persia, as some scholars think, the trip would have taken almost a year by camels and the Wise Men would have travelled more than 1,000 miles.

A thirsty camel can drink 30 gallons of water in 13 minutes! When a camel does not eat, he uses the fat stored in his hump, so the hump slowly droops.

# *Roman Martyrology*

Throughout the season of Advent, the Church has reflected on God's promises, so often spoken by the prophets, to send a savior to the people of Israel who would be Emmanuel, that is, God with us. In the fullness of time, those promises were fulfilled. With hearts full of joy let us listen to the proclamation of our Savior's birth.

*Today, the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in His own image.*

*Several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant.*

*Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;  
thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.  
Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges;  
one thousand years from the anointing of David as king;  
in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.*

*In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome.*

*The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;  
the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ,  
eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,  
desiring to sanctify the world by His most merciful coming,  
being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and  
nine months having passed since His conception, was born in  
Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.*

*Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.*

*Come let us adore him!*



## THE NATIVITY SCENE

The Nativity Scene reminds us that CHRIST is the reason for the celebration of Christmas. In an increasingly secular world, let us boldly proclaim that God, the Father, sent us the first and greatest Christmas gift: JESUS CHRIST, Prince of Peace.

This tableau is to be placed in the FRONT WINDOW, or OTHER PROMINENT PLACE in your home, witnessing to WHOM and WHAT we believe in as Christians:

“For God so loved the world that He sent His only Son that all who believe in Him may have eternal life.”

~ John 3:16

We ask that you display this NATIVITY scene until SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021, THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD. This marks the official end of the Christmas season. Let us do our part to keep Christ in Christmas!

# Keep **CHRIST** in **CHRISTMAS**

