Second Sunday of Advent 4 December 2011 Saint Luke Church, Whitestone, New York

FROM THE DESK OF MSGR. TOSI ----

The Advent/Christmas Season is such a special time to be pastor here at Saint Luke. Although a hectic pace pervades the parish, it is a time of grace. The scriptures - like those of Mass this Second Sunday of Advent - focus our attention on the true meaning of this Season:

In the desert prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God ... fear not to cry out and say...Here is your God! Like a shepherd he feeds his flock, in his arms he gathers the lambs... (Isaiah 40)

But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace. (2 Peter 3)

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Mark 1:1-8)

Filled with this spirit of joyful hope so many wonderful events are planned for the parish in the next few weeks. The bulletin contains news and information about many of them. Please plan to join the parish family in celebration of the birth of our salvation in Christ. Of course, in addition to the parish events there are so many other happenings in our Parish School (school plays, Happy Birthday Jesus Breakfast, class parties) and Religious Education Program as well as parish organizations. Wow! I get tired just thinking of all the joyful things that fill our parish during this special season.

Allow me to call attention to just a few:

- *Blessing of Expectant Mothers (AND Fathers)* on Sunday, December 18 at the 11:45am Family Mass. All expecting a baby are invited to receive God's blessing for a safe delivery and healthy baby.

- *Parish Christmas Tree Lighting* will take place on Saturday, December 10th after the 5:00pm Mass. Why go to Rockefeller Center when you can come to the Great Lawn!

And don't forget --- *The Giving Tree --- Advent Bible Study --- Lessons & Carols* And of course: celebrate *Christmas Mass at Saint Luke*.

See what I mean! What a blessing to be pastor at this time of the year. God bless.

Let us pray for one another,

Msan. Tori

The Campaign Prayer

Memorare

Remember, O most compassionate Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your assistance, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, we fly unto you, O Virgin of Virgins, our Mother; to you we come; before you we kneel sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your clemency hear and answer them. Amen.



Serving the Present; Building the Future The Campaign for St. Luke Church

The Lord is good. His love endures forever, his faithfulness continues through all generations.

- Psalms 100:5

December 3rd – 4th 2011 **Our Campaign is entering our 8th week, and we're still going strong.**

The Committee members have been making their rounds, and have contacted and visited many of the registered members of our parish, in order to secure their pledges. In a few weeks there will be an opportunity for anyone who is not registered to join their fellow parishioners and become part of this major undertaking that will restore our beautiful church.

Committing to a pledge can be a little daunting, but when you think about it in terms of a weekly or daily amount – it's a much less intimidating number! Just think about it ... A \$2,500 pledge on a weekly basis is less than the cost of a pizza ... Or for the - cost of one fast food treat a week for the family – you can pledge \$5,000 ... For the price of a large gourmet coffee a day – you can pledge \$10,000

5 Year Total Pledge	Annual Amount	Monthly This is only	Weekly This is only	Daily This is only
\$15,000	\$3,000	\$250	\$63	\$9
\$10,000	\$2,000	\$167	\$42	\$6
\$5,000	\$1,000	\$83	\$21	\$3
\$2,500	\$500	\$42	\$11	\$1.57

If we can all make little sacrifices – we will find the strength and resources to restore our church building so we can carry on our mission, enrich our faith, and continue to bring Christ's love to the community of Whitestone.

Help us find the strength and the resources to carry on our mission. If you have already met with a committee member, please send back your completed pledge form as soon as you can. Every pledge is vitally important to the success of the campaign. All we can ask is that you follow your heart.

We thank everyone who has already made a pledge, and we ask everyone to please continue to pray for the success of the campaign.

Stand still and consider the	wondrous works of God.
	- Job 37:14

<u>Campaign Statistics</u> Goal: \$3,000,000 Percent Reached: 74% Current Amount Raised: \$2,225,420 Number of Gifts: 285 Average Gift: \$7,808

MISSION STATEMENT

As a community of believers in Jesus Christ and in Communion with the universal church, we strive to follow the Lord's command to love God and one another. Rooted in word and sacrament, we grow together as a Eucharistic community inviting all to the Good News of Jesus.

<u>FAMILY PRAYER FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS</u> Pray this prayer aloud together as a family after Thanksgiving and until January 1st.



In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Jesus,

We know you will come to us in a special way at Christmas.

But we also know this means that you will be born in our hearts not in a stable in Bethlehem.

Prepare us to welcome you! Help us to be sorry for our sins and confess them honestly. Help us celebrate Mass with devotion and share ourselves with others. Help us see around us those who are suffering or have special needs or who can't help themselves.

(Here mention any who may need your help at this time)

Come, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Come into our hearts as we wait to celebrate anew your birth; Come into our minds as we recall the grace of your love for us; Come into our lives as we follow your call to live for you and for others.

May we bear your love to our world, as we wait in hope for the day when the whole world sees your love and lives in it.

We make this prayer in your name, Emmanuel, you who are one with the Father and the Spirit, now and forever.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

On Thursday, December 8, the church celebrates a Solemnity of Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception. It is under this title that Mary is the Patroness both of our diocese and country.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a Holyday of Obligation. All Catholics are obliged to attend Mass. The Mass schedule is as follows:

> Wednesday, December 7 7:30pm Vigil Mass

Thursday, December 8 8:30am, 10:30am, 12 Noon and 7:30pm

SUNDAY COLLECTION November 27 \$12,179 **Amount Needed** \$13,425 **Envelopes** Mailed 1883 **Envelopes** Received 673

2011 Annual Catholic Appeal Thank you --- Thank you ---



The 2011 Annual Catholic Appeal will close as of December 31, 2011. Once again, thank you to those who supported this year's appeal. As of November 27th a total of \$144,137.00 has been given by 508 donors with \$139,240 already received. There is still time to make your gift to this year's appeal. Do it today and join your fellow parishioners.

And please use the time remaining to fulfill your pledge already made. This is most important and helpful to the parish. If everyone fulfills the pledges made an additional \$15,000 will be returned to the parish. This sum will enable us to complete the cost of the repair of the stained glass windows. God bless.

One Bread --- One Body **One Vibrant Church**

ATTENTION ALL EXTRAORDINARY **MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION &** LECTORS ----

Please stop by the sacristy and pick up your copy of "The Little Blue Book" for Advent and Christmas Seasons. Put out by the Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan the book contains six-minute reflections for each day of the Advent and Christmas Season. A source of grace and meditation will bring new insights into these two seasons of the Liturgical Year.



The new edition of the Workbook for Lectors which begins with the First Sunday of Advent, November 27 is now available in the sacristy. Please be sure to pick up your copy as soon as possible.

Thank you for your generous ministry to the parish.

MY CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THE CHURCH ----

The annual Christmas Gift to the Church Collection will be taken up at all the Masses on the weekend of December 10th & 11th

Your constant generosity to this Christmas Gift is so very much appreciated and so well reflects your love and gratitude for the parish and the important place it holds in your heart. On a more practical side, your Christmas Gift to the Church helps the parish cover many outstanding bills.

Allow me to encourage your generosity and thank you in advance for it.

Msgr. Tosi

PLEASE NOTE ---

In observance of the feast of the Immaculate Conception, there will be NO Golden Age meeting on Thursday, December 8th.

Also, there will be NO Religious Education classes on Thursday, December 8th.

The Religious Education classes that meet on Wednesday, December 7th WILL be held.

PLAYGROUND UPDATE ---

As you can see the new playground is rising on the site of the former parking lot. Many have commented favorably on the work and the quality of the materials used. The play equipment has been installed as well as the new fence. The image of Our Lady of Lourdes has been relocated from the back-

yard of the convent to the new playground which will be dedicated to the Dominican Sisters. Of course, just as much work has been accomplished that can no longer be seen - underground drainage and dry wells - but is equally important.

However, because of weather and temperature requirements, the special protective surface flooring cannot be put down until the spring. So... we need to be patient and know that the spring will follow winter and a new playground will take its place in our parish life. Msgr. Tosi

The new sidewalk along the school is completed and open for use. This sidewalk is an important piece of the new playground that allows easy access to the church from the parking lot across from the school. The sidewalk runs along the side of the school building allowing easy walking access to the back of the school, the church and the rectory. It's open and available for your use. Take a look!

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES ---

Lessons & Carols -December 18 at 3pm

Celebrating the birth of Jesus, Nine Lessons and Carols is a service of worship which traditionally occurs during the Advent and Christmas season. The story of the fall of Adam, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine shore scripture readings, interspersed with the singing of carols and hymns. This year, our choirs, Adult, Folk, Italian and Youth will lead us in the singing of Advent hymns and anthems to help us prepare for the birth of the Savior

O Come, O Come Emmanuel "Veni, Veni Emmanuel" is a Latin hymn from the 9th century which was translated into English by John M. Neale. Each stanza of this hymn is one of the "Great" or "O" antiphons. The Antiphons are used with the Magnificat at vespers to mark the last days of the liturgy, but these seven are the ones in current use. Neale's translation is from his Mediaeval Hymns and Sequences (London 1851.







TALKING ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN----

The hectic pace of this Season has only been added to by the excitement surrounding our parish Campaign - *SERVING THE PRESENT; BUILDING THE FUTURE*. With much hard work by so many parish volunteers and the generosity of our parishioners over \$2,000,000 has been raised!

While so much has been accomplished and donated in so brief a time we look to the future with real confidence - our \$3,000,000 goal is clearly in sight - and more is possible.

We need your help! Please consider making your pledge NOW! A three to five year pledge in whatever amount decided truly adds to the success of the campaign and allows us to move forward with well founded parish needs - serving the present and building the future.

Please make your pledge before Christmas. Of course, welcome the parish volunteer as they come in my name and for the good of the parish.

Let me bring you up to date on a few things happening:

- a request for a \$3,000,000 loan has been made of the diocese with the approval of the Finance Council and Trustees. I am pleased that a verbal approval by the diocese has been received. We await written notice.

- initial contact with architects, designers and demolition companies has been made so that with the spring we can begin work.

- the Finance Council has been expanded and will be meeting on a regular basis to advise and counsel the pastor on these many financial matters relative to the work.

- a small council of parishioners (4-6) with knowledge and experience in construction will be formed to work with the pastor as the construction and maintenance work begins.

I will use the bulletin throughout this project to keep all the parishioners up to date and aware of what is happening.

Any questions - give a call or drop a note.

God bless.

Msgr. Tosi



Next Sunday, December 11th is Hospitality Sunday. Please stop by the school hall after any of the morning Masses for some light refreshments. Join your fellow parishioners and maybe some new friends for Hospitality Sunday at Saint Luke Church. We look forward to seeing you there!

SACRED CHRISTMAS CHORAL MUSIC ---

The Brooklyn Diocesan Choir under the direction of Emanuel Bologna and Jessica Tranzillo-Smith will present a concert of Sacred Christmas Choral Music on Friday, December 16th at 7:30pm at Resurrection-Ascension Church in Rego Park. The choir, consisting of singers from around the diocese will perform the Gloria by Antonio Vivaldi as well as other Christmas favorites. For ticket information and to purchase tickets contact Jessica Tranzillo-Smith in the Music Office at



to purchase tickets contact Jessica Tranzillo-Smith in the Music Office at 718-746-3862.

LAY CARMELITES, ST. LUKE'S CHAPTER ----

Will meet on Friday, December 9, 2011 at 7:00pm in the church.



DON'T FORGET OUR FAMILY MASS ----Sunday, December 18th at the 11:45am Mass

Bring the family to this special Mass in preparation for the Christmas feast. Families will prepare the Nativity Scene during Mass. This Christmas tradition first prepared by St. Francis of Assisi reminds us of the true meaning for the season.



THE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING ON THE GREAT LAWN SATURDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 10, 2011

SAINT LUKE PRESENTS

This special event will begin immediately after the 5:00PM Mass. Monsignor Tosi will bless the giant 45 foot pine tree located on the Great Lawn adjacent to the Saint Luke Rectory.

All Saint Luke parishioners and friends are welcome to celebrate this special night filled with music and song, prayer and refreshments. A performance by the Children's Choir will add to the joy of the evening.

Come join neighbors, friends and relatives in making the night bright in Whitestone with the true meaning of Christmas. Celebrate a wonderful new parish tradition.

It's not too late to sponsor a tree in memory of or in honor of a loved one or to make a donation to help light the tree. Please call the Rectory at (718) 746-8102 for more information.

Hope to see you all on December 10th for this very special event!

CHRISTMAS 2011

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Confessions will be heard on Saturday, December 17 2:30pm to 4:30pm

<u>CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES</u> Saturday, December 24 4:30pm 6:00pm

The Mass at Midnight Carol singing beginning at 11:30pm Mass at Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 25 7:30am 9:00am in Italian 10:30am 11:45am 1:00pm

There is NO 5:00pm Mass on Christmas Day.

At all the Christmas Masses, the first collection before the readings is for the support of the parish. The second collection at the Offertory of the Mass is for Catholic Charities.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

<u>NEW YEAR'S EVE</u> Saturday, December 31 Mass at 5:00pm

<u>NEW YEAR'S DAY</u> Sunday, January 1 7:30am 9:00am in Italian 10:30am 11:45am 1:00pm

There is NO 5:00pm Mass on New Year's Day.



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. VINCENT ---

Join Father Vincent in a Scripture Study called "Jesus of Scripture". We will learn about the different portraits of Jesus in the Gospels. The two sessions are Wednesday, November 30th at 7:30pm and Friday, December 16th at 7:30pm - both in the rectory basement.

The next meeting of the Padre Pio Prayer Group will take place on **MONDAY**, **December 12** at 7:30pm in the church. All are welcome!

The Bereavement Group meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 6th** at 7:30pm in the Rectory basement. The bereavement ministry is an outreach to those who have experienced the death of a loved one. If you are interested in joining us once a month, please call Sr. Catherine T. Reilly, O.P. at (718) 746-8531 or Fr Vincent Chirichella at (718) 746-8102.

If you are planning a Baptism, please note the following dates:

Baptism SundayBaptism ClassDec. 11Dec. 19

Jan. 8 & 22 Jan. 9

Feb. 12 & 26 Feb. 13

YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER ---

All young people in Youth Group are invited to the Saturday 5:00pm Mass on December 10th. Following Mass we are having the Annual Parish Tree Lighting...followed by our Youth Group Christmas Party from 7:00pm to 10:00pm - DJ, pizza and fun!

A note of thanks to all who contributed to our Altar Server Bake Sale last weekend. Because of your generosity, \$1,100 was raised toward our Christmas Trip on December 9th.

FOR YOUR HELPI



Fr. Vincent

YOUTH





GROVP



SAINT LUKE HOLY NIGHT - BRIGHT STAR CELEBRATION 2011



Help make our community radiant with the Light of Christ. Holy Night-Bright Star offers all our parishioners, friends and neighbors the opportunity to light up a tree by remembering or honoring the people that have touched our lives.

For a donation of \$250 you can dedicate a Tree of Lights in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Your donation will include:

- One fresh cut 5 foot Christmas tree decorated with lights.
- A sign containing the name of your loved one on each tree.
- Assist with the lights and star for the Parish Tree.
- A Mass for all our loved ones will be celebrated at 5:00PM on the night of the lighting Saturday, December 10, 2011.

If you would like to donate a Tree of Lights for a loved one, please complete, sign and return the Sponsored Tree form below with a check for \$250 payable to Saint Luke Church. Any questions, please call the Rectory at 718-746-8102.

All are invited to sponsor a tree as a special way of saying: *"I'm thinking about you at Christmas!"*

We ask for your earliest response since there will be a limited number of trees available. This year's Holy Night-Bright Star display will run from December 10, 2011 to January 8, 2012.



Please cut below the line		
I/we would like to sponsor	a tree in memory or in honor of:	
NAME OF LOVED ONE		
	(Please Print)	
SPONSORED BY	PHONE	
	(Please Print)	
SIGNATURE	DATE	
Page 12		



1. Sunday celebration of the Eucharist and lighting of the Advent Wreath.

The Sunday Eucharist with its Scripture Readings is at the heart of the Advent Season. The traditional lighting of the Advent Candles recalls the longing for Christ, true light of the world.

2. Family Mass, Sunday, December 18th at the 11:45am Mass.

Bring the family to this special Mass in preparation for the Christmas feast. Families will prepare the Nativity Scene during Mass. This Christmas tradition first prepared by St. Francis of Assisi reminds us of the true reason for the season.

3. Family Mass & the Blessing of Expectant Mothers.

On Sunday, December 18 the Family Mass will celebrate the coming feast of Christmas with two special events:

- 1. The preparation of the church Nativity Set with a living Nativity Scene (a live baby Jesus included!)
- 2. A special blessing of expectant mothers fathers too! Expecting a baby? Come receive God's blessing for a safe delivery and a healthy baby. No registration needed.

4. Holy Night/Bright Star - Saturday, December 10 at 6:00pm.

Make the night radiate with the Light of Christ. Join the community in lighting the parish Christmas Tree on the Great Lawn; sing Christmas Carols as the Nativity Scene is blessed; join in the lighting of the "Trees of Lights" in memory of or in honor of our loved ones. The 5:00pm Mass will be celebrated for their intentions.



5. Lessons & Carols - Sunday, December 18 at 3:00pm.

Celebrating the birth of Jesus, Nine Lessons and Carols is a service of Worship which traditionally occurs during the Advent and Christmas Season. The story of the fall of Adam, the promise of the Messiah, And the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Scripture Readings, interspersed With the singing of carols and hymns. This year our Choirs, Adult, Folk, Italian and Youth will lead us in the singing of Advent hymns and anthems to help us prepare for the Birth of the Savior.

6. Advent Bible Study

Join Father Vincent in a Scripture Study called "Jesus of Scripture". Study will focus on different portraits of Jesus in the Gospels. The two sessions will be held in the rectory basement at 7:30pm on Wednesday, November 30th and Friday, December 16th.

7. Giving Tree

An opportunity for people to share their blessings at Christmas With those less fortunate.

8. Christmas at Saint Luke

Celebrate the joy of Christ's birth here at Saint Luke Church. Please consult the December issue of the PAX for the Christmas Schedule of Masses.



THE GIVING TREE



In the spirit of Christmas, St. Luke's Disciples in Mission is bringing you

THE GIVING TREE

WHAT IS IT?

The Giving Tree is an opportunity for people to share their blessings at Christmas with those less fortunate.



HOW DOES IT WORK?



The ornaments on the Giving Tree have gifts written on them. Choose an ornament and take it home. Purchase the gift and attach the ornament to the wrapped present. Place the gift under the Giving Tree before or after any mass **by December 11**th.



WHERE DO THE GIFTS GO?

All gifts are distributed to people in need through several organizations.



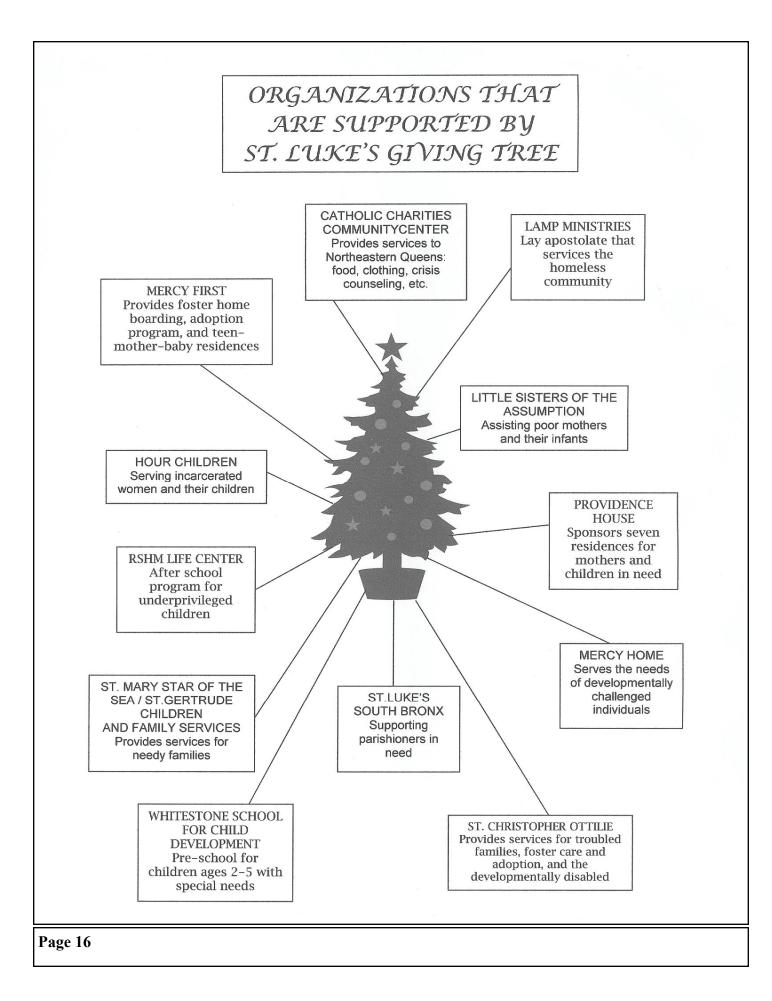


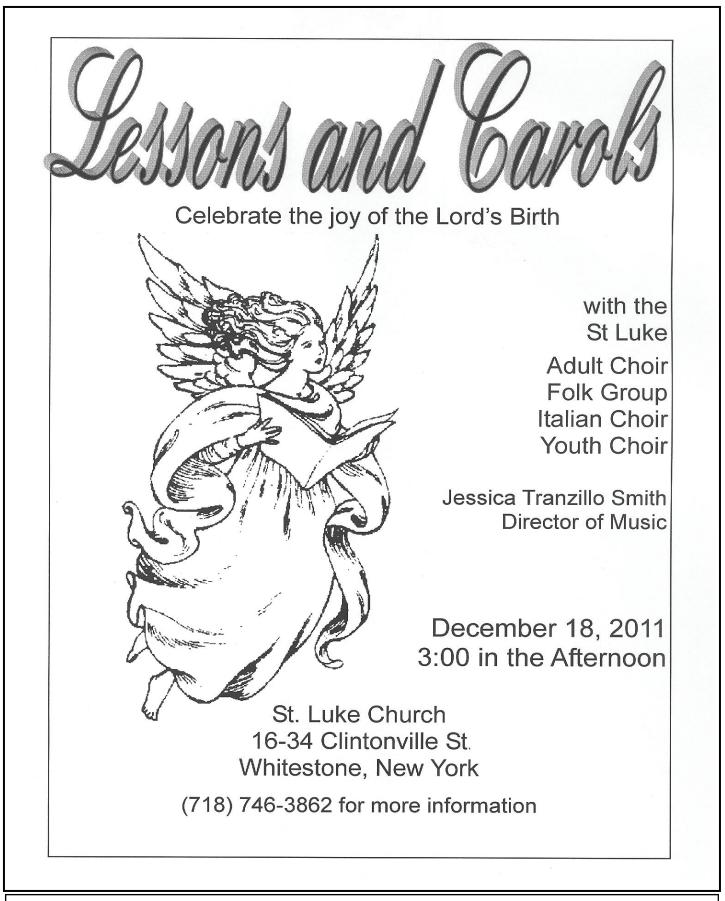
WHERE IS THE GIVING TREE?



The tree will be located in the church. Ornaments may be taken the weekend of November 26 – 27. Gifts may be returned under the Giving Tree <u>before</u> or <u>after</u> all masses no later than the weekend of December 10 – 11.

VERY IMPORTANT!!!! <u>WE CANNOT ACCEPT GIFTS AFTER DEC. 11TH</u>. GIFTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ORGANIZATIONS ON DEC. 12TH.





A THANKSGIVING THANK YOU ---

SAINT BARBARA CHURCH 138 BLEECKER STREET BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11221 (718) 452-3660

18 November 2011

Rev.Msgr. John C. Tosi St. Luke Rectory 16-34 Clintonville Street Whitestone, New York 11367

Dear Msgr. Tosi,

Permit me to express my gratitude and appreciation to you and your parishioners for their most generous donation of food to our parish. We are most grateful for this wonderful demonstration of charity and concern for others.

The Gospel of this past Sunday comes more alive for us as it is clear that your people recognize the presence of the Lord in his least fortunate brothers and sisters.

This donation will enable us to reach out to more people who come to us for help. What is even more impressive is that this act of kindness comes at a time when everyone is suffering from economic problems. Your people are most kind in their expression of concern for others.

Please be sure of a remembrance for you and yours in prayer and in the celebration of the Eucharist. May you and your parish family enjoy a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving.

Fraternally in the Lord, Rev. Joseph M. Hoffman

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. - Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26 Tues.- Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14 Wed. - Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30 Thurs. - Gn 3:9-15,20; Eph 1:3-6,11-12; Lk 1:26-38 Fri. - Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19 Sat. - Sir 48:1-4,9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

<u>WE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE</u> <u>PARISH</u>:

JOSETTE TANZOLA JENNIE ROMANO MARYANN (IZZO) GERMINO SUSANNA WINSHIP LENNY KALLU BARBARA SATALINO ARTOURAS JAOUTAKAS

AND FOR THE DECEASED:

YOLANDA DRENKALO FREDERICK HORBERT ELIZABETH DOYLE

<u>MEMORIALS</u>

The Altar Breads are given in memory of *MICHAEL ANTONUCCI* at the request of Antoinette & Roger Guadalupe.

The Sanctuary Lamp is given in memory of *FLORI COTUGNO* at the request of Mary & Charles Taylor.

The Altar Candles are burning in memory of *ALICE McVEY* at the request of Mary & Anthony Chianese.

ANNOUNCED MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 5, 2011

Monday, December 5 7:00 Patrick O'Connell (Anniversary) 12:00 Cosmo J. DiTucci

Tuesday, December 6 8:30 Sabina Stigliano 12:00 Mirko Trdoslavic

Wednesday, December 7 7:00 Frank Raggo 12:00 Rosemarie & Frank Molfetta 7:30 Vigil Mass

Immaculate Concception Thursday, December 8 8:30am, 10:30am, 12 noon, 7:30pm

Friday, December 9 7:00 Rocco Michielli & family 12:00 Alojz Trajbar

Saturday, December 10 8:30 Patrick Lynch

Collective Intentions Mass ---

The next Collective Intentions Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, December 10th at 12 noon. At this Mass we pray for:

SALVATORE TOTINO

ROCCO MANNIELLO

