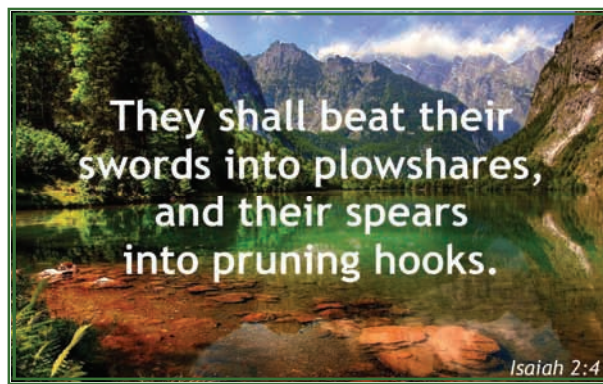


First Sunday of Advent
DECEMBER 1, 2019



Rev. William F. Platt, Pastor
Rev. Mark D'Silva, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Christopher Johnson, Priest in Residence

Deacon Renato Berzolla
Deacon Vincent Heidenreich
Deacon Robert Henrey, Retired
Deacon Eduardo Rodrigues
Deacon John Linsenmeyer

SACRAMENTAL SCHEDULE

REGULAR MASSES

SATURDAY – St. Catherine

5:00 PM (Vigil)

SUNDAY – St. Catherine

7:30, 9:00 (Family Mass), 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM

SUNDAY – St. Agnes

8:30 and 10:00 AM

DAILY – St. Catherine Chapel

Monday through Friday at 7:00 AM & 5:15 PM

HOLY DAY – St. Catherine

Eve: 5:15 PM (Vigil)

Holyday: 7:00 AM, 12:10 PM, & 5:15 PM

MASSES IN OTHER LANGUAGES – St. Catherine

September to June (Chapel)

French Mass - 2nd Sunday 11:00 AM

Italian Mass - 3rd Sunday 11:00 AM

Spanish Mass - 4th Sunday 11:00 AM

Year-round (Chapel)

Korean Mass - Every Sunday 5:00 PM

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

St. Catherine Chapel – Every 1st Friday of the Month

Immediately following 5:15 PM Mass

RECONCILIATION - Sacrament of Penance

St. Catherine (Sacristy) Saturday: 3:00 - 4:00 PM

or by appointment at **St. Catherine** or **St. Agnes**

Contact Us

OFFICE

Ph: 203-637-3661

Administrative Assistant - Cindy Busani
ext. 315 / rectory@ stc-sta.org

Receptionists - Lisa DeLeo & Claire DeLuca
ext. 310 / lisa.deleo@ stc-sta.org

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Database Manager - Terri Marino
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and Faith Formation** - Lori Wilson
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**Pastoral Associate of Youth
Faith Formation** - Kate Noonan Glaser
ext. 329 / kate.glaser@ stc-sta.org

Faith Formation Office Assistants
ext. 330 Emma Doring
ext. 331 Betty Lundgren

MINISTRIES

Altar Servers - Deacon Berzolla

Baptismal Preparation - Fr. Mark D'Silva

Care of the Sick and Aging - Fr. Mark D'Silva

Eucharistic Ministers - Lori Wilson
ext. 328 / lori.wilson@stc-sta.org

Director of Music - Dr. Liya Petrides
ext. 322 / music.director@stc-sta.org

Parish Partners - Jeannemarie Baker, RN
ext. 375 / parishpartners@stc-sta.org

Readers - Lori Wilson
ext. 328 / lori.wilson@stc-sta.org

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - Deacon Berzolla

Parish Office Hours: Mon – Fri, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Faith Formation Office Hours: M – Th, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (Individual or during Mass)

Please call the Rectory to arrange for Baptism.

Attendance at a Pre-Baptism Session is required –
3rd Saturday: 1:30 p.m. in the Rectory

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please call the Rectory 9-12 months before proposed
wedding date to arrange for marriage preparation.



Please pray for the deceased members of our parish.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 1

Is 2:1-5; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

7:30 a.m. John Shanahan

9:00 a.m. John Manuli

10:30 a.m. All the Members of this Parish

5:00 p.m. Mary Romeo

Sunday, December 1 - St. Agnes Campus

8:30 a.m. Kimberly Orrico Gillick

10:00 a.m. Edward Burns

Monday, December 2

Is 4:2-6; Mt 8:5-11

7:00 a.m. Dominic and Susan Pucci

5:15 p.m. Robert Morelli

Tuesday, December 3

Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

7:00 a.m. Colleen Mackey

5:15 p.m. Dolores I. O'Donnell

Wednesday, December 4

Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

7:00 a.m. Clara Comeau

5:15 p.m. Giuseppe Antonio Pollifrone and
Nicola Pollifrone

Thursday, December 5

Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

7:00 a.m. Anne Guinan Sommer

5:15 p.m. Fr. Vincent J. O'Connor

Friday, December 6

Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

7:00 a.m. All Souls

5:15 p.m. Raymond Wholley

Saturday, December 7

Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

5:00 p.m. Alberto and Maria Zinco and Luigi,
Filomena and Antonia Vitta

Sunday, December 8

Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

7:30 a.m. Bill Gallagher

9:00 a.m. Dolores D. Trudden

10:30 a.m. Vincenzo and Immacolata Marraffa

11:00 a.m. French Mass

5:00 p.m. All the Members of this Parish

Sunday, December 8 - St. Agnes Campus

8:30 a.m. Dorothy Masny

10:00 a.m. Matthew Gesell

NEXT WEEKEND CELEBRANT SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 7

Reconciliation: Fr. Mark D'Silva

5:00 p.m. Fr. William F. Platt

Sunday, December 8

7:30 a.m. Fr. Mark D'Silva

8:30 a.m. Fr. Paul Sankar

9:00 a.m. Fr. Christopher Johnson

10:00 a.m. Fr. Paul Sankar

10:30 a.m. Fr. William F. Platt

11:00 a.m. Fr. Gilbert D'Souza (French)

5:00 p.m. Fr. Mark D'Silva

PARISH EVENTS AND NEWS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 3	Rosary Group 6:00 p.m., Chapel
Dec 4	An Advent Dialogue 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., St. Agnes
Dec 5	Meditation 7:00 – 7:30 p.m., St. Catherine's Chapel
Dec 5	Walking with Purpose 9:30 a.m., Lucey Parish Hall
Dec 6	Family Advent Celebration (see bulletin for details) 5:00 p.m., Gymnasium
Dec 6	First Friday Adoration Immediately following 5:15 Mass, Chapel
Dec 7	Walking with Purpose 9:30 a.m., Rectory Conference Room
Dec 9/10	St. Catherine's Players <i>Matilda</i> Auditions 7:00 or 8:30 p.m. (see details in bulletin)
Dec. 11	An Advent Dialogue (continued) 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., St. Agnes
Dec 12	St. Catherine's Support Circle: <i>Telling Stories: How to Impress Your Network & Your Interviewer Without Bragging</i> 7:00 p.m., Room 209
Dec 13	"Christmas in Paris" Pot Luck Dinner & Concert 6:00–7:30 p.m., Lucey Parish Hall & Church

ADVENT GIVING TREE



We hope you will be able to take a wish card ornament from our tree to brighten someone's Christmas! If you take one, please fulfill your commitment on time as the families and organizations are counting on us.

***All gifts should be left in the church by the tree no later than the return date listed on each ornament.**

If you are unable to participate, please return your ornament to the tree so that family is not forgotten.

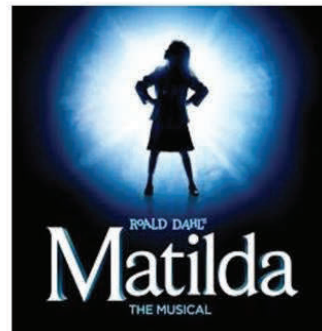
Come sing with us this Christmas!

We invite all families with children to sing as part of our Family Choir at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Church.



Please contact
Dr. Liya Petrides
for more information at
music.director@stc-sta.org

ST. CATHERINE'S PLAYERS ANNOUNCES OUR 2020 PRODUCTION



AUDITIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 AND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019

7 PM FOR YOUTH AT LEAST 9 YEARS OLD BY 12/31/19

8:30 PM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND ADULTS

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA LUCEY PARISH HALL

4 RIVERSIDE AVENUE, RIVERSIDE, CT 06878

PERFORMANCES

FEBRUARY 28, 29, MARCH 1 AND MARCH 6, 7, 8, 2020

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: WWW.STCATH.ORG

OR EMAIL STCATHERINESPLAYERS@GMAIL.COM

2nd Announcement



Faith Morley and Robert J. Hodges

Have Made a Promise of Marriage

TAG WARM COAT DRIVE

*Help keep our neighbors
warm this winter!*

Donations to benefit Neighbor-to-Neighbor
Nov 25 - Dec 20 M-F 7:30am-4pm

13 Riverside Ave, Greenwich, CT 06878

EVENTS AND NEWS

Financial Report

Sunday Offertory (for the last four weekends)	
October 26 & 27 – St. Catherine.....	\$ 14,547**
October 26 & 27 – St. Agnes.....	\$ 836
November 2 & 3 – St. Catherine.....	\$ 9,291
November 2 & 3 – St. Agnes.....	\$ 2,112
November 9 & 10 – St. Catherine.....	\$ 9,896**
November 9 & 10 – St. Agnes.....	\$ 1,522
November 16 & 17 – St. Catherine.....	\$12,296**
November 16 & 17 – St. Agnes.....	\$ 1,474

**May Include Monthly (AEG) and/or (OLG) Offertory

Take the Simple Way to Support your Parish!



St. Catherine of Siena offers **Online Giving** and you can use it to make your offertory donation from anywhere! Visit www.stcath.org/giving/online-giving

Online Giving allows you to easily make donations, payments, and pledges via your smart device or computer to your church back home. Your support during summer months helps grow and sustain our parish all year long and is sincerely appreciated!

COLLECTION FOR THE CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Thank you for your generous support last week for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! Your support helps those who live on the margins and in poverty in the United States.

If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give. Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections, and click on "How to Give" on the left.

2019 THANKS-IS-GIVING APPEAL

Our thanks and gratitude to those families that have already responded to the TIG Appeal. During the first week of the Appeal, 44 families have responded donating a total of \$13,530. Please consider participation in this year's Appeal.

Please remember, should you have questions at any time regarding parish finances, please direct your questions to our finance council. You can find contact information on our website under ABOUT US – FINANCE.

SPECIAL RENTAL OPPORTUNITY



Lori Wilson at lori.wilson@stc-sta.org

We have a 4 bedroom apartment for rent at St Agnes. If you have friends or family please share this news. All interested should email:

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



After eight years of dedicated service, Cindy Busani, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor, will be starting a new chapter in her life. Cindy has taken another position, and her last day at St. Catherine of Siena will be on December 6th. We are grateful for Cindy's dedication and hard work, and we wish her well in her next opportunity. Cindy is a parishioner and will continue to worship at our Parish so we will see her regularly!

We are starting a search for an **Administrative Assistant** with great communication, word processing, and organizational skills

We also continue to search for a new **Business Manager** as Sharon Capparelle is retiring on January 31, 2020.

Both of these job descriptions have been posted on the **Diocese of Bridgeport website** as well as on **ctreap.net**. If you know of anyone who has these skills and likes to work collaboratively with a fantastic team, please ask them to email Lori Wilson at lori.wilson@stc-sta.org.



"Telling Stories: How to Impress Your Network and Your Interviewer Without Bragging"

**Thursday, December 12, 2019
7 – 9 PM in Room 209**

Whether you're networking in a formal meeting, at a holiday party, or interviewing for a job it's important to effectively showcase your talents and leave a powerful impression of what you have to offer. You want to focus your listeners on what you do, how you do it, and how it's relevant to them ---without seeming to overstate your case.

The easiest way to do that is to tell them a memorable (and relevant) story.

Join NYC-based career coach Win Sheffield on December 12 to learn how to pick and deliver stories that will convey the message of your value in a compelling way in a variety of work situations. Topics that Win will cover will include:

- Connecting with the interests of your listener
- Identifying relevant stories to tell: What Hollywood can teach us about telling our story
- Isolating the messages you want to deliver
- Learning techniques to deliver your message with clarity and purpose

For more information and details on how to attend the event, please visit our website at www.stc-sta.org under **COMMUNITY LIFE**.

EVENTS AND NEWS




ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA AND ST. AGNES

Join us at St. Catherine's and
celebrate family Christmas Traditions in Food & Song

Christmas in Paris
Potluck Dinner & Concert

Friday, December 13, 2019
POTLUCK: 6:00 to 7:30 PM in Lucey Parish Hall

Please bring a family Christmas favorite ready to serve and share:
Appetizer ◊ Entrée ◊ Vegetable Side ◊ Salad ◊ Dessert
plus **BYOB** to add to the Beverage Table

RSVP to Pam Sloane (psloane@optonline.net) **by December 11**
with number of people and what you are bringing

CONCERT: 8:00 PM in the Church
St. Catherine of Siena Festival Choir and Ensemble
Dr. Liya Petrides, Director
present ...
Christmas in Paris
Camille Saint-Saëns, Christmas Oratorio
French Christmas Carols
featuring Soloists, String Quartet, Organ, Harp and GHS Flute Ensemble

Tickets: \$10 per adult, Children 17 and under Free
Available now for purchase at the Rectory, in the Church vestibule after all weekend Masses
or reserve by emailing music_director@stcath.org.

Dessert Reception for All following concert in the Lucey Parish Hall

St. Catherine of Siena Church ◊ 4 Riverside Avenue ◊ Riverside, CT 06878

Luke McQuillan's 3rd Annual

HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE
for
10-18 YEAR OLD PATIENTS
at
YALE NEW HAVEN'S
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

FRI, NOV 29 - SUN, DEC 15

GIFT DONATION IDEAS:
Gifts – cozy blankets, pj's, water bottles (not plastic), headphones, earbuds, sports attire, art supplies, legos, etc.
Gift Cards – please make sure \$ amount is specified. iTunes, Sephora, Game Stop, Amazon, American Eagle, Urban Outfitters, Dick's Sporting Goods, etc.

GIFT DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:
ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH
4 Riverside Ave, Riverside, CT (bins inside front foyer)
KING'S FOOD MARKET
26 Arcadia Rd, Old Greenwich (bin near registers)
THE MCQUILLAN'S HOME
45 Cedar Cliff Rd, Riverside (please call or text Meg McQuillan at 917-439-4433)

WISHING YOU HAPPY & HEALTHY HOLIDAYS!

LECTORS

All Lectors should go to the Sacristy to pick up their new books as soon as possible. Please note that the books are grouped in alphabetical order and each person should take their assigned book.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Our next meeting is
January 22- 7:00-8:30 PM
in Room 101

The Universal Christ, by Richard Rohr

Contact Lori Wilson at
lori.wilson@stc-sta.org to register.
Each participant purchases their own book.



walking with purpose

Thursday, December 19, 9:30AM
St. Catherine of Siena Chapel

ALL are invited to this wonderful community gathering to pray the Rosary - a perfect opportunity for Advent! We will have extra rosaries and instruction sheets to share. Bring a friend!

Hosted by Walking with Purpose.

"I take refuge, then, in prayer, and turn to Mary, and our Lord always triumphs."

~ St. Therese of Lisieux



What's Happening in Faith Formation

Visit www.stcath.org for the full calendar.

The Faith Formation Office hours are Monday – Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



There is a basket in the lobby of the church containing the names of the confirmation students. Please take a name and pray for this confirmation candidate as they prepare for their confirmation and their journey into servant leadership.



Confirmation Class:

Our next class is Sunday December 15. We look forward to seeing you all of you at the 5pm Mass with dinner and class to follow.

The Family Program will meet on Sunday December 8th. We look forward to seeing you at 9am Mass followed by breakfast and class.

There are NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES on TUESDAY DECEMBER 10 OR WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11.



Advent can come as a surprise to us sometimes, beginning right after the busy Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. It's not unlike the surprise of Mary when she received news that she was pregnant with Jesus. Like her, we take the season of Advent as a time for pause, reflection, and preparation for the gift of God's love coming to us through the baby Jesus.

Many of the faith formation students came home with an Advent calendar. There are more copies of the Advent calendars in the church lobby. Please take some time to look at your Advent calendar as a family. Each calendar day has a suggestion to help us prepare for the celebration of Christmas. Let's take some time to slow down and reflect this season.



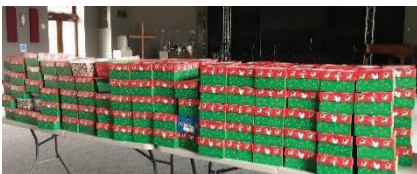
Thank you to all who joined in the procession for the Blessing of the Parish. It was a joy to watch our churches come together as one parish and celebrate by processing with the Blessed Sacrament from the St. Agnes Campus to the St. Catherine of Siena Campus on Sunday November 24.

31 families received Thanksgiving deliveries!

A big thank you to all who contributed by bringing food items in to fill up the baskets.



Pic of the Week



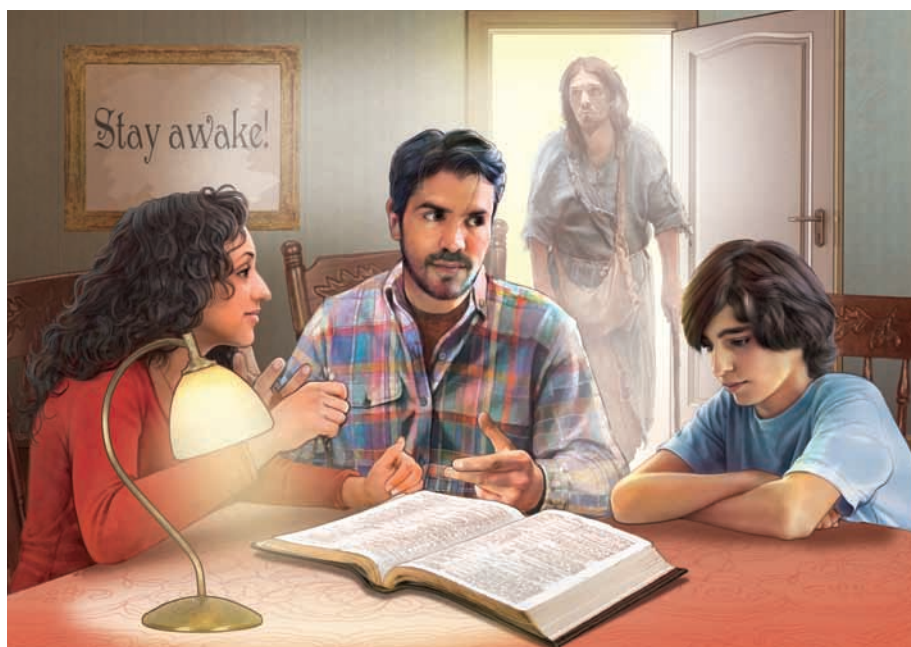
Nearly 200 boxes our parish generously donated to the Samaritan Purse to make so many children happy at Christmas! A big thank you to everyone



Friday, December 6
5:00 p.m.
St. Catherine of Siena
Gymnasium

Please join us on December 6 for a discussion about the meaning of Advent that will include a service activity and a potluck dinner.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Path of Light

Lord of our eternal day,
you alone brighten our world.
Sometimes we lose our way in the darkness,
and sometimes we make the world a
darker place.
Alert us to the ways we drift into shadow.
Illuminate our hearts
and send forth your instruction,

that we may follow your path of light
and ascend your holy mountain.
When darkness surrounds us, keep us
radiant with hope,
so that all will see and know that you are
in our midst,
you who alone are God.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 1, 2019

The Day Is Coming



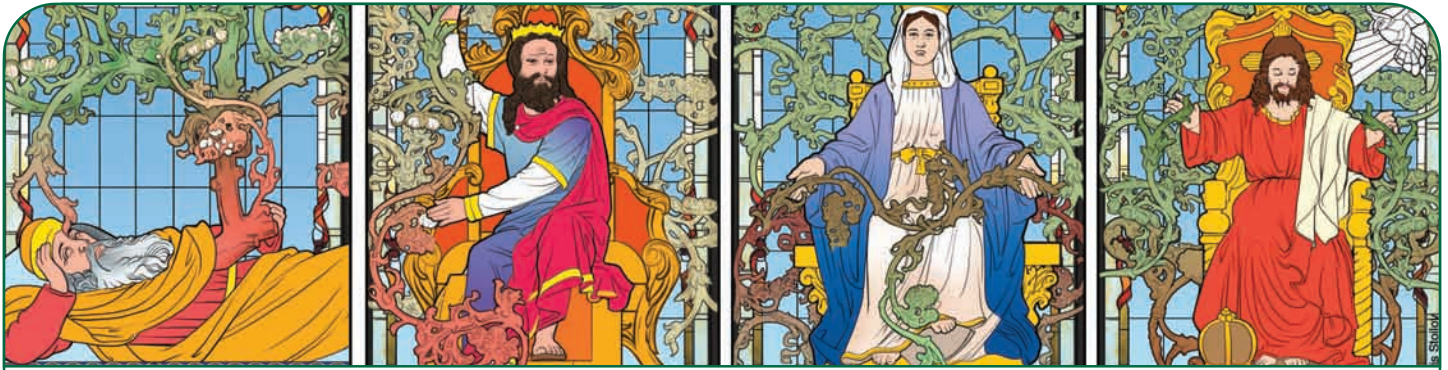
Today's Readings: Isaiah 2:1–5; Psalm 122:1–2, 3–4, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; Romans 13:11–14; Matthew 24:37–44. Our liturgical year both concludes and begins with readings on the end-times. As we enter the season of Advent, we are reminded that we are not only preparing to celebrate Christ's birth, we are also preparing for his return. The First Reading fills us with hope for the Second Coming, for on that day everyone in the world will turn to God and there will be an end to conflicts and war.

Until Christ comes again, we must “walk in the light” and turn away from dark, destructive thoughts and deeds. When we live as holy, kind, and loving people, we show that we are ready for God's kingdom, even though we continue doing everyday things such as working, eating, and sleeping.

Our lives may not seem radically different from the lives of others, but God can tell the difference.

Jesus warns us of the danger of not getting ready. Disaster struck those who did not prepare for the flood. Disaster struck the master of the house who slept through the swift and sudden arrival—and departure—of the thief. Disaster struck those who were left behind; they were excluded from God's kingdom.

Today we light the first candle of our Advent wreaths. Before you do, sit in darkness. Name whatever evils confront you as you prepare for Christ's return. Then light the candle, and pray for God to expel darkness from you and our world. Rejoice that Christ has already come to lead you into the light of his eternal day.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 2 Far and Wide

The soldier is certain that Jesus can heal his servant, even from a distance. He sees that Jesus is the presence of God, sheltering and protecting people. In Jesus, God's holy presence spreads out beyond Jerusalem to wherever Jesus goes, to whoever asks for his help. Use a map to find places in the world that are the farthest from you and pray for the people there. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 4:2-6; Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Matthew 8:5-11.*

Tuesday, December 3 St. Francis Xavier

Jesus is the one on whom the Spirit rests, bringing the peace for which people yearn. St. Francis Xavier, recognizing that he was blessed to know the one filled with this Spirit, devoted his life to sharing the Gospel. Although thousands of people came to know God through the revelation of his Son, not everyone welcomed this missionary. But he persisted. Persevere in the Spirit of peace today by letting go of a mean or angry thought. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Luke 10:21-24.*

Wednesday, December 4 Food for Life

Every day in our world some people have more than they can eat while others go hungry. God promises a world in which everyone has enough to eat and there are no more tears of hunger, no more pleas for help. By healing and feeding all who come to him desperate for physical and spiritual aid, Jesus fulfills God's promise. This ministry did not end with Jesus. It continues with the next generation of followers: us. Volunteer for a meal program that helps the local poor to share the good news that God is fulfilling his promises. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Matthew 15:29-37.*

Thursday, December 5 Built to Last

Sometimes we think we're doing what our Lord wants, when we're doing what we want. By becoming human, God surprised everyone and revealed how much about the divine we have to learn. We must listen closely to the words of God's Son and not imagine that we know best. Only when we truly know what our Lord is calling us to do will we be like "a strong city" and a house built on rock. Read chapters 5 through 7 of Matthew's account of the Gospel and reflect on the passage that most surprises and challenges you. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Matthew 7:21, 24-27.*

Friday, December 6 Gifts

God's name is revered by all who long for justice and who turn to him for instruction. Jesus heals the two blind men because they "see" that he leads people to such reverence for God. They're so happy to be healed that they refuse to keep the healing a secret. St. Nicholas, who is honored today, brought joy to people by secretly leaving gifts. Surprise someone with an anonymous gift. In this way, you will revere God, the source of all gifts. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 29:17-24; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; Matthew 9:27-31.*

Saturday, December 7 St. Ambrose

During St. Ambrose's lifetime, many people denied that Jesus was fully divine. Yet if Jesus did not fully share in the divinity of his Father, then God hadn't become truly present to us at the Incarnation. St. Ambrose knew that the Jesus who came to "bind up the wounds of his people" perfectly and completely revealed the love of God. Share God's love today by visiting someone who might feel forgotten or alone. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8.*



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