



MASSES FOR THE WEEK
 December 12—December 18
 EACH MASS IS OFFERED FOR
 THE INTENTIONS OF EVERYONE
 PRESENT AND FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 4:00 p.m. Ree Alario; Jody A. Breaux-Pope; Dominic Cammarata; Maselli Family; Marlene Morris; Barbara Rush; Gladys & Louis Schwartz; Anna & Joseph Szabo; Captain Houston E. Walker
- 5:30 p.m. Theresa M. Barry; Leona O'Dwyer; Joseph Maselli III

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 8:00 a.m. Members of St. Patrick's Church (Propopulo)
- 9:30 a.m. Roberta W. Bruley; Jane O. Chatelain; Kelsey Favrot; Mary Ferrara; Emilda B. Formusa; Marie Gaudet; Mary Alice Gaudet; Edwin Jeasonne; Ollie Jeasonne; Joseph Maselli; Norma McClellan; John H. Schroder, Jr.; Jerome J. Triche, Sr.
- 11:00 a.m. Judith Bourgeois Casey; Barbara Rush; Captain Houston E. Walker
- 5:30 p.m. Raymond R. Cazzola, Jr.; Carol Mallett; Leona O'Dwyer

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
- 12:00 p.m. Fr. Stanley Klores; Dr. & Nancy Minyard

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 11:30 a.m. Edward O'Dwyer
- 12:00 p.m. Dr. & Nancy Minyard; Elisabeth Robert

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
- 12:00 p.m. Stephen Losee; Joseph Maselli

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 11:30 a.m. Edward O'Dwyer
- 12:00 p.m. Loretta Doussan; Elisabeth Robert

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
- 12:00 p.m. Loretta Doussan; Stephen Losee

GREGORIAN LATIN MASS—Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Gaudete Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent)

Solemn High Mass—First Sunday of the month.

Benediction—Third Sunday after the 9:30 A.M. Mass.

COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS

After the Sunday morning Masses, the Claddaugh Group hosts coffee and pastries in the Monsignor Reynolds Hall, directly behind the rectory. Everyone is invited.

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS
 DECEMBER 12 & 13, 2009**

Your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides critical support to religious institutes in meeting the escalating costs of elder care. Please pray for all religious and give generously to this week's second collection.

SUNDAY OFFERING—December 6, 2009

First Collection \$ 25,381

Second Collection* \$ 1,939

* Maintenance and Restoration

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 13, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.

The St. Patrick's Chorale, who sing at the 11:00 A.M. Sunday Mass, will perform a service of lessons and carols. This service was first performed at King's College, Cambridge on Christmas Eve 1918. The service will be by candlelight, and accompanied by organ. A collection will be taken to benefit the Music Fund here at St. Patrick's. **Security will be provided.**

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH MORNING OF PRAYER

Cenacle of Our Loving Mother Prayer Group

Saturday, December 19, 2009; 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, Confession, Novena and Holy Mass. All are invited.


CHRISTMAS FLOWERS FOR THE HIGH ALTAR

Envelopes for the annual giving of poinsettias, to be placed on the high altar during the Christmas season, are available in the vestibule. The listings will be published in the Christmas bulletin and the midnight Mass program. The final date for submitting a request is **Wednesday, December 16, 2009.**

IN MEMORY OF—2010 ENVELOPES

Names are now being accepted for the 2010 "In Memory Of" listing on the back of the Sunday Bulletin. Envelope forms, found in the vestibule of the church, should be completed and returned to the rectory office no later than **Friday, January 8, 2010.**

The completed envelopes can be deposited in any Mass collection basket or hand delivered to the rectory office.




EWTN HAS MOVED

ETERNAL WORD TELEVISION NETWORK HAS BEEN MOVED TO COX CABLE CHANNEL 391, IN BOTH ORLEANS AND JEFFERSON PARISHES.

ACOLYTES FOR ST. PATRICK'S

Service in the liturgy can be a path to holiness for men sensing a call to support the Parish in a practical, active way. There is a continuing need for men of any age (or responsible older boys if accompanied by their fathers), especially at the 11.00 Sunday Mass. Instruction and training are provided. Please contact Robert Ramirez at (504) 899-3048; e-mail: bramirez@bellsouth.net.



The Living Flame of the Sanctuary Light
 is in memory of Joseph Maselli

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL

For the sick of our parish and those who have asked for our prayers especially: Randall Cashio; Mary Ann Ciravolo; Tony Clesi; Colleen Collet; L Darcy; R.J. DeBlanc; R.F. DeBlanc; Al Duroncelet; Bryan Evans; Mimi Finley; John Fulcher; Marie Gattuso; Bob Held; Howard Henriques; Milton J. Hock, Jr.; Karen Ibraheim; Joan Kimball; Belinda Lazaro; Stephen Losee; Mary A. McKay; Sally Ann Main; Maudie Megeson; Lucille Ogden; Beverly Orillion; Karen Paprocki; J. Van Provosty; Tom Roach; Elisabeth Robert; M. Schuss; Joseph M. Sonne; Pierre Stouse; Stephanie Summers

SECURITY PROVIDED AT ALL EVENING SERVICES

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE MANHATTAN DECLARATION

<http://www.manhattandeclaration.org>

An unprecedented coalition of prominent Christian clergy, ministry leaders, and scholars has crafted a 4,700-word declaration addressing the sanctity of life, traditional marriage, and religious liberty. The declaration issues "a clarion call" to Christians to adhere to their convictions and informs civil authorities that the signers will not "under any circumstance" abandon their Christian consciences.

The statement, called "the Manhattan Declaration," has been signed by more than 125 Catholic, Evangelical Christian, and Orthodox leaders.

"We are Christians who have joined together across historic lines of ecclesial differences to affirm our right—and, more importantly, to embrace our obligation—to speak and act in defense of these truths. We pledge to each other, and to our fellow believers, that no power on earth, be it cultural or political, will intimidate us into silence or acquiescence," the statement says.

"We recognize the duty to comply with laws whether we happen to like them or not, unless the laws are gravely unjust or require those subject to them to do something unjust or otherwise immoral," the signatories explain.

But they also made clear that "we will not comply with any edict that purports to compel our institutions to participate in abortions, embryo-destructive research, assisted suicide and euthanasia, or any other anti-life act; nor will we bend to any rule purporting to force us to bless immoral sexual partnerships, treat them as marriage or the equivalent, or refrain from proclaiming the truth, as we know it, about morality and immorality and marriage and the family."

The Manhattan Declaration is the result of several months of dialogue among Orthodox, Catholic, and evangelical Christian leaders culminating in a gathering of approximately 100 leaders in New York City on September 28, 2009.

The signatories explained that they speak now because in order "to defend principles of justice and the common good that are now under assault."

"We will fully and ungrudgingly render to Caesar what is Caesar's, but we will under no circumstances render to Caesar what is God's."

The signatories of the Manhattan Declaration explain that although public sentiment has moved in a pro-life direction, "pro-abortion ideology prevails in many places of power and influence."

"Our government promotes and funds scientific research in which the lives of tiny human beings in the early embryonic states of development are treated as disposable research material."

They also contend that "public policies contribute to the weakening of the institution of marriage, including the discredited idea of unilateral divorce," while "influential individuals and organizations are seeking to redefine marriage to embrace same-sex partnerships and to recognize multiple-party sexual unions that are beyond same-sex marriage."

Catholic News Agency

Go to the website: <http://www.manhattandeclaration.org> to read the entire Manhattan Declaration, *A Call of Christian Conscience*; to sign the Declaration; read the FAQ's; and share the document with friends.

CHRISTMAS SEASON—MASS SCHEDULE

Confessions heard before the Masses

Thursday, December 24, 2009—Vigil of Christmas

Security will be provided

No midday Mass

4:00 p.m. Mass (Ordinary rite with carols)

5:30 p.m. Mass (Ordinary rite with carols)

Solemn High Mass of Midnight—Extraordinary Rite

Security will be provided

11:00 p.m. Doors open

11:15 p.m. Music begins

12:00 a.m. Solemn High Mass of Midnight

Friday, December 25, 2009—Christmas

9:30 a.m. Mass (Ordinary Rite with carols)

11:00 a.m. Mass (Ordinary Rite)

5:30 p.m. No Mass

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Thursday, December 31, 2009—Vigil

5:30 p.m. Mass

Friday, January 1, 2010—Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9:30 a.m. Mass

11:00 a.m. Solemn Mass (Novus Ordo)

THE JOY OF ADVENT

The liturgy of today's Mass repeats the words of St. Paul in which he urges the first Christians of Philippi: *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.* And the Apostle goes on to give the basic reason for this profound happiness: *the Lord is at hand.*

This is also the joy of Advent, and that of every day; Jesus is very near us. He is nearer every day. And St. Paul gives us the key to understanding the origin of any unhappiness we may feel: it comes from our putting a distance between ourselves and God, through our sins, through tepidity.

Our Lord always brings us joy and not affliction. His mysteries are all joyful mysteries, the sorrowful mysteries we bring on ourselves...

Rejoice, says St. Paul to us today. And we have good reason for doing so, and one surpassing reason, above all: The Lord is at hand. We can come close to him whenever we want to. In a few days it will be Christmas, a great feast for us Christians, but also for the whole human race, which, without knowing it, is looking for Christ. Christmas is coming, and God wants us to be joyful, like the shepherds, like the wise men like Mary and Joseph.

We shall be full of joy if Our Lord is really present in our life, if we have not lost him. If we have not allowed our sight to be clouded by tepidity or lack of generosity. When one attempts to discover happiness along other paths which lead away from God, all one finds in fact is sorrow and misery. All those who, in one way or another, ever turned their backs on God have had the same experience: they have proved that apart from God there is not true happiness. There can be none.

To find Christ, and to remain in his company, is to possess a deep happiness which is new every day.

Francis Fernandez