

DECEMBER  
24  
2023

# CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER  
25  
2023

## MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve  
5:30 PM Ernest Arsenault, William Pitt, Sr.  
Monday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day  
9:30 AM Frank Schmaus  
Wednesday, December 27  
9:00 AM  
Friday, December 29  
9:00 AM The People of the Parish  
Saturday, December 30 ~ Vigil/The Holy Family  
5:30 PM Stiano Family, Calvi Family  
Sunday, December 31 ~ The Holy Family  
9:30 AM Frank Schmaus, Jim Barnett

## MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Saturday, December 30 ~ Vigil/The Holy Family  
5:30 PM Eileen Ernst  
Sunday, December 31 ~ The Holy Family  
9:30 AM Alice Cross

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sunday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve  
5:30 PM Kim Grzybek (a), Colleen Wall (c)  
Monday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day  
9:30 AM Marie Barnett (a), Lisa Dyer (c)  
Saturday, December 30 ~ Vigil/The Holy Family  
5:30 PM Connie Pollos (a), Mary Morse (c)  
Sunday, December 31 ~ The Holy Family  
9:30 AM Ann Clouse (a), Denise Turner (c)

## PRAY FOR THOSE WHO SERVE

Alexandria Baker-Bonitz (Navy) Dylan Bonitz (Navy)  
Sarah Bowen (Navy) Juan Gonzalez (Navy)  
Kaila McGowan (Marines) Joseph Ruize (Navy)  
Robert Pape-Laucella (Marines)  
Pashko Shkreli (Army) Carissa Tironi (Army)  
Nicholas Turner (Army) Elliott Weidel (Marines)

## PRAY FOR THOSE IN NURSING HOMES

Barbara Ceriale, Gina Lempka,  
Rosemary Osborn, Regina Parthesius, Elissa Zahn

## PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Marion Andersen, Pat Arlotta, Bridget Auer, Joanne Bach,  
Rob Brosnan, Sr. Margaret Ellen Burke, Barbara Ceriale,  
Brad Ceriale, Lois Chanofsky, Brian Cross, Nicole Dawson,  
John & Lorraine DiCicco, Anna DiMare, Marie DiMare,  
Maria Elena DiMare, Michael DiMare, David Felter,  
Agnes Ferrone, Anna Gallo, Joe Gallo, Krystyna Grzybek,  
Margaret Hale, Mike Hurd, Julie Oparski, Marianna Oparski,  
Kerry Roberson, Helen Ryan, Frances Salewski, Sue Schmaus,  
Chris Strobl, Joanne Trumball, Terry Waterson

BULLETIN  
SPONSOR  
of the WEEK



STONEHENGE

*"We Buy Local So You Can, Too!"*

Corner of Rte. 17K & 302, Bullville

## LOOKING AHEAD

Helping Hands Food Pantry  
Certain Saturdays by Appointment. Call 845-733-1477  
(9 AM start)

AA Meetings  
Sundays 3:00 PM ~ Thursdays 6:30 PM

Tuesday, December 26  
NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Saturday, December 30  
Mass at 5:30 PM

Sunday, December 31  
New Year's Eve  
Mass at 9:30 AM  
"The Holy Family"



Solemnity  
of Mary  
Mother  
of God

Monday, January 1  
New Year's Day  
Mass at 9:30 AM  
"The Solemnity  
of Mary"

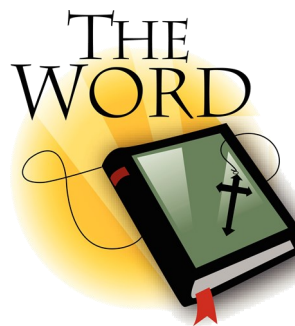
Tuesday, January 2  
Religious Education Classes ~ 6:30-7:30 PM

Monday, January 8  
Parish Council Meeting ~ 7:00 PM

Tuesday, January 9  
Religious Education Classes ~ 6:30-7:30 PM

Sunday, January 14  
Finance Council Meeting ~ 10:40 AM

Tuesday, January 16  
Religious Education Classes ~ 6:30-7:30 PM



## Today's Scripture Christmas

Isaiah 9:1-6  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:10-11



## ABOUT THE LITURGY: Shepherds

Christmas can be a time for putting on one's best: best clothes for church, best dinner together, or best gifts. But note how the first Christmas was celebrated: poor and marginalized man and woman in a stable, greeted by shepherds.

Shepherds are the first people invited to visit the newborn Jesus. Society considered shepherds to be on lowest rung. They had little money. Their proximity to animals rendered them virtually unclean and, therefore, most treated them as outcasts. Yet these shepherds who kept watch of the sheep on the hillside were the first to bear witness to God Incarnate, the Word made flesh.

When you look at the grand scheme of the Gospels, this all makes sense. People who are poor and lowly are exactly the people Christ came to redeem. These are the ones sent to glorify and praise God. May their witness, then and now, be an inspiration and motivation to us all.



If bad weather is in the forecast, there is always the possibility that Mass and/or Church activities (such as Religious Education) may be canceled. Here is our protocol for making the decision. If Pine Bush Schools are on a morning delay, the 9 AM Mass on Monday, Wednesday or Friday is canceled. If Pine Bush Schools close early, any remaining Church Masses or activities will be canceled. If Pine Bush Schools close for the day, any Church Mass and/or activity is canceled. To find out this information you may: (1) check the Church website: [ourladyoftheassumptionchurch.org](http://ourladyoftheassumptionchurch.org);  
(2) check the Pine Bush Schools website ([pinebushschools.org](http://pinebushschools.org));  
(3) call the Church office and the announcement on the answering machine will affirm our closing(s).

## A Christmas Prayer

Source of divine Light, Emmanuel, God with us, your radiant love illuminated our waiting world with the surprise of your Bethlehem birth:

Each year since then we celebrate this astonishing event, rejoicing in your coming anew, not as a newborn Babe, but as the hidden presence of divinity contained within each of us. To our great astonishment, we have become your dwelling place. We are now your Bethlehem.

Now you are Treasure birthed in the secret place of our soul. Now you are Light gleaming through our gestures of generosity. Now you are Hope radiating inside the core of our courage. Now you are Joy shining into the dark caves of our gloom. Now you are Peace glowing quietly in the crevice of our anxiety. Now you are Love brilliantly reflected within our kindness.

O Christ, Light of all lights, Star of all stars, dweller within these human homes of ours, open our wandering minds and hesitant hearts So your endless goodness radiates more complete in us.

We welcome you again and again, with gratitude and trust, not only in this Christmas season of remembrance and celebration but all through the new year that awaits us.

— Joyce Rupp