



Cathedral of St. Agnes
Rockville Centre, New York

Schedule of Masses

Saturday Evening

5:00 p.m. — Cathedral 7:30 p.m. (Parish Center)
7:30p.m. — Cathedral (Spanish Mass)

Sunday—all Masses in the Cathedral unless noted

7:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:00 p.m.
8:00 a.m. (Parish Center), 10:30 a.m. (Parish Center)

Weekday

6:30, 7:45, 9:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m. (No 12:10 p.m. Saturday)
Monday 7:30 p.m.

Eve of Holy Day 5:00 p.m.

Holy Day — *Check the weekly bulletin*

Cathedral & Adoration Chapel Hours

As a reminder to parishioners and visitors alike, during these times of revised schedules, the Cathedral will be open Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. On weekends the entire Cathedral is open until the completion of that day's final Mass. Please remember to adhere to social distancing guidelines. For the time being, the Adoration Chapel (Clinton Avenue entrance) is closed. Adoration is held every Wednesday from 2:30—5:00 p.m., with Benediction at 5:00 p.m.

“Mass Transit” Bus Service

St. Agnes Cathedral offers bus service to parishioners who are unable to drive to Sunday Mass. Our “Mass Transit” mini-bus provides service to our 9:30 a.m. Mass. This service is suspended until further notice.

Contact Numbers

Rectory Office 766-0205
*Open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (closed for lunch 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.)
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Emergencies anytime
All visitors must wear a mask and only one person at a time may enter the office.*

Elementary School 678-5550
*Cecilia St. John, Principal
Justin Grover, Assistant Principal*

Evangelization and Formation (Religious Education) and Adult Formation (RCIA) 678-2306
*Joseph R. Long
Email: jlong@stagnescathedral.org*

*Religious Education Office hours:
Mondays from 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

Service Center/Outreach 678-1854
*Sr. Kathleen P. Murphy, O.P.
Office open Monday—Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

Music Office 764-9578
*Michael Bower, Director
Maura Goodwin, Associate Director*

Comunidad Hispana 766-0205
Rev. German Villabon, O.S.A.

Business Office 766-0205
Harry Larson, Manager

Sacraments



Confessions

Saturday, Eve of Holy Day, and Eve of First Friday from

4:00 to 4:45 p.m.

Monday Evening following 7:30 p.m. Mass.

Wednesday Morning following the 7:45 a.m. Mass and the 12:10 p.m. Mass.



Baptism

Once a month on Saturday at 12:30 p.m. and on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of

the month at 1:45 p.m. Contact the Rectory Office to arrange for interview,

ceremony and registration for required Baptism Preparation Class (for first time parents). Spanish Baptisms take place before the 7:30 p.m. Spanish Mass on Saturday evening. Please call the Rectory Office for more information.



Marriage

Arrangements should be made at least 12 months in advance and prior to making reception plans. Call the Rectory for an appointment with the priest or deacon you wish to witness your wedding. All couples are required to attend Pre-Cana.



Pastoral Care of the Sick

Priests and Extraordinary Ministers of

Communion are available to bring Holy Communion to parishioners confined to home. Please call the Rectory Office to make arrangements. Those who are seriously ill should request a priest for Anointing of the Sick. The Anointing of the Sick, previously celebrated each Monday morning after the 9:00 a.m. Mass has been suspended.



On Becoming A Catholic

Those seeking information about the Catholic Faith are invited to contact Joseph R. Long (678-2306) concerning the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

Masses For The Week

**Monday, December 21, St. Peter Canisius,
Priest & Doctor of the Church**

Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45

6:30 John Michael Ahern
7:45 Patrick Campbell
9:00 James Donlon
12:10 Ivan Mrakovcic
7:30 Patricia F. Fleming

Tuesday, December 22, Late Advent Weekday

1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

6:30 Rev. Frank A. Bain & Family
7:45 Frances & Ercole Perrotta
9:00 Deceased members of the
Brennan & Cambridge Families
12:10 Vincent A. Ciccolella

Wednesday, December 23, St. John of Kanty, Priest

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

6:30 Steven Zinno
7:45 Roseleen Murtagh
9:00 Tommy Brull
12:10 Marco Mauro

Thursday, December 24, Late Advent Weekday

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79

6:30 Pam Shea Byrnes
7:45 Alan Jones
9:00 Joseph & Millie Mastrocovi
12:10 Leo G. Michael & Omar Pena

CHRISTMAS EVE, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

2:30 p.m. in the Cathedral, Parish Ctr and Gymnasium
4:00 p.m. in the Cathedral (Family Mass)
4:00 p.m. in the Parish Center and Gymnasium
5:30 p.m. in the Cathedral, Parish Ctr and Gymnasium
8:00 p.m. Spanish Mass in the Cathedral
11:30 p.m. Procession and Blessing of the Crèche
12:00 a.m. Pontifical Midnight Mass

**CHRISTMAS DAY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
(All Masses in the Cathedral)**

7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

No 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day

Saturday, December 26, St. Stephen,

The First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

6:30 Paul Marasco
7:45 Joe Milone
9:00 Special Intention
5:00 Alejandrina Magcal, Pasquale Albarella,
Virginia Garces, Marvin Young,
Thomas John Murphy
7:30 C Catherine Pirrone
7:30 PC Frances & Ercole Perrota

**Sunday, December 27, The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40

7:00 Parishioners of St. Agnes Cathedral
8:00 PC Giovanni & Divina Molinaro
9:30 Douglas Pacella
10:30 PC Jean Finlayson
11:00 Eugene J. Murray
12:30 David Mooney, Christopher Golembiewski,
Doug Pacella, Barbara Egas, Bertha Mendez
5:00 Doug Pacella

*Please Pray**For The Dearly Departed*

Joan T. Bladel, Cornelius M. Griffin
all who have died from coronavirus

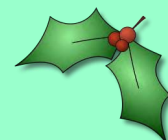
For The Sick

All those suffering from the coronavirus, Georgie Ritter, Camille Carrello, Suzie Cosgrove, Jake Basile, Derrick Boyd, Timothy Cantwell, James Conroy, James Conway, Edward Denaro, Dolores DeVito, William Farley, Andrew Healey, Henry J. Hinton, Stephen Hirsh, Jimmy Kerrigan, Michael Lanzi, Jake Lonigro, Gail Lotz, Zellen Lowe, Alvin Mahabeer, Midge Malone, Joseph Mariani, Maria McDonald, Thomas Mohr, Joseph Murray, Vincent Musac, Elmer Gehman Musser, Mary O'Neil, Robert Oswald, Thora Petzold, Barbara Rotunno, Jim Schneider, Lisa Pelrine-Shulman, Sally Ann Smith, Ramona Valez, Louise Vastola, Abigail Violet, McKenna Shea Zydias

Sick Names for the bulletin remain for three weeks unless the Rectory is notified.

*Wine & Hosts**In Loving Memory Of
Elizabeth Feiner,*

With love from the Bohn,
Boranian & Scala families

**Rectory Holiday
Schedule**

Please note the following Rectory

Holiday Office Hours:

Thursday, December 24th — 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.;
closed on Christmas Day; Saturday, December 26th —
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Sunday, December 27th —
9:00 to 1:30 p.m.; Monday, December 28th —
9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday
December 29 and 30th — 8:30 a.m.—8:00 p.m.;
New Year's Eve, December 31st — 8:30 a.m. to
5:00 p.m. It will be closed on New Year's Day,
reopening at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 2nd.



*"Behold, you will conceive in
your womb and bear a son,
and you shall name him Jesus.*

*He will be great and
will be called Son of
the Most High, . . ."*

— Lk 1:26-38

Staying Connected With St. Agnes Cathedral



Parish Website: Visit us at www.stagnescathedral.org to view our bulletin online and see other parish information.



Facebook: Find us at:
Parish of St. Agnes Cathedral



Instagram: Follow us:
@stagnescathedral



YouTube: Find us at:
YouTube.com — search “The Cathedral of St. Agnes”.



Weekly Email: If you are not currently on our list and would like to receive email updates on parish news, please send your name, address and email address with your request to our rectory office at: parishoffice@stagnescathedral.org.

We will use these resources to communicate more news/information that needs to be publicized immediately or has occurred after our bulletin print deadlines. We invite you to share parish information with those without access to social media or computers so they may stay informed as well.

Pastoral Council

The St. Agnes Pastoral Council meets monthly with Father Duffy to consult on issues facing the Parish, to express views and concerns, and to discuss ways for the Parish to best advance its mission to proclaim the presence of Christ in the world through Word, Sacrament and deeds.

The members of the Pastoral Council are:

Melissa Beltre
Tom Nofi
Rob Wiedenhoft
Tom Glynn
Theresa Cove
Mary Beth Croutier
Kevin Mulry
Greg Smith
Michael Smyth

Parishioners are invited to speak to individual members of the Pastoral Council or to contact Kevin Mulry of the Pastoral Council by e-mail at parishoffice@stagnescathedral.org.



Stewardship A Way of Life

Stewardship Reflection

The Angel Gabriel appears to Mary and announces that she was chosen to become the mother of God.

Living Stewardship . . . Pillar of Formation

Mary was called to become the mother of our Lord. Each of us are called to serve the Lord in some way, as well. Ask the Lord to reveal to you what He wills of you and ask Him for the courage to do His will.

Sharing One's Material Resources in the Parish

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>12/13/20</u>	<u>12/15/19</u>
Weekly Collection	\$34,250	\$34,867	\$41,252

Supporting Our Parish

In these challenging times, special gratitude is expressed to those who are able to support St. Agnes Cathedral Parish.

WAYS TO GIVE:



Online: Faith Direct is a fast, secure, simple way to make your contributions. Visit www.faithdirect.net to register. Our Parish code is **NY239**.



Text: Text-to-Give to 1(516) 271-3338. Our Parish Code: 050; Keyword for Parish Offertory: **050parishstagnes**



By Mail: Mail to St. Agnes Cathedral, 29 Quealy Place, Rockville Centre, NY 11570



In Person: At Mass during the collection or dropped off at the rectory.



From the Rector —

My Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas!

What a tremendous joy it is to say those words for the first time as your Rector. Christmas has always been one of my favorite times of the year. The sights and sounds, the palpable joy that fills the air! I am filled with tremendous gratitude to be celebrating this most wonderful Feast Day with all of you. On this wonderful day we remember with great joy that our God decided to become one of us by becoming a beautiful, innocent, poor baby. Our God was born into humility at that humble cave in Bethlehem. Remembering that truth should fill each of us with warmth and the knowledge that God does indeed love us so very much. Our God is not far off, He is right here with us.

We know how different this year has been and continues to be. Even this Christmas feels different. What is unchanged however is the love the Lord has for you. Regardless of the size of the crowds that gather here at the Cathedral or at your homes, the truth of the Lord's Nativity remains. The Lord is one of us!

This Christmas, we pray in a special way for those who are on the front lines, fighting this virus. For all of our medical professionals, our police officers and firefighters. We pray for the members of our military who are stationed away from home. And we especially pray for those who have gone home to God this year.

Allow me to thank each of you for your kindness and generosity that you have shown to our parish during these difficult times, and for the many gifts you have given to the priests of the Cathedral. I have only been here since August, but already Rockville Centre is very much home. Thank you for all you have done to make me feel welcome. Be assured of a remembrance in each of my Masses this Christmas Day.

May the light of Christ which radiates from the crib in Bethlehem shine brightly in your homes this Christmas. May the Christ Child bless you abundantly. May the Lord give you His Peace.

In Our Lord and Blessed Lady,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Dubbo". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

P.S. Friends, I'm happy to announce that our new live-streaming equipment has been installed and is up and running. If you would like to watch our livestreams you may do so at [facebook.com/stagnescathedral](https://www.facebook.com/stagnescathedral) or by going to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and searching "The Cathedral of St. Agnes."

We plan on live-streaming the 9:30 Mass every Sunday from the Cathedral to YouTube and Facebook. If you haven't already then please go and like, follow, and subscribe to those pages.

Remember St. Agnes at Christmas

Our Christmas collection this year is more important than ever before. With the additional expenses to keep the Masses and events at the Cathedral safe and the 3 month weekly collections \$51,000 below last year, our needs are greater than previous years. We know that many of you are struggling to make ends meet in this difficult time, but if you can, please remember to support our parish and our many ministries.

You should have received the Christmas Collection Envelope in the mail. You may also pick one up when you visit the Cathedral, Rectory or Parish Center. Our automated giving option is available at faithdirect.net using church code NY239.

Also, if you have appreciated stock investments you may donate stock without paying a capital gains tax. If the shares are in your brokerage account, notify your representative to transfer the shares to the account of:

St. Agnes Cathedral
 UBS Financial Services Inc.,
 1251 Avenue of the Americas,
 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10020
 DTC#0221 Account # WE Q0041 90
 Please consult your tax advisor.

Thank you for your generosity and care for our parish in these difficult times.

Fr. Duffy



Cathedral of St. Agnes
 Rockville Centre, New York

CHANTED

SOLEMN VESPERS

Guest preacher
 to be announced.
 Check our
 Facebook and
 Instagram pages
 for updates.

**7:30 p.m. on
 December 20**

29 QUEALY PL. ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Evening Prayer (also called Vespers) is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office. In the Liturgy of the Hours, the Church fulfills Jesus' command to "pray always" (Luke 18:1; see also 1 Thessalonians 5:17). Through this prayer, the people of God sanctify the day by continual praise of God and prayers of intercession for the needs of the world. Evening Prayer gives thanks for the day just past and makes an evening sacrifice of praise to God (see Psalm 141:1). — from www.usccb.org

ADVENT
 CONFESSION

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.



Christmas

AT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF ST. AGNES

MASS TIMES

CATHEDRAL

CHRISTMAS EVE

2:30 pm, 4:00 pm (*Family Mass*),

5:30 pm, 8:00 pm (*Spanish*),

11:30 pm

*Christmas Carols, Procession,
& Blessing of the Crèche*

12:00 am

Pontifical Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

7:00 am, 8:00 am, 9:30 am

11:00 am, 12:30 pm

PARISH CENTER

CHRISTMAS EVE

2:30, 4:00 pm, 5:30 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30 am, 11 am, 12:30 pm

GYMNASIUM

CHRISTMAS EVE

2:30 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:30 pm



Cathedral of St. Agnes
Rockville Centre, New York

LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING

CELEBRATING REMOTELY

Christmas Masses will be televised on the Catholic Faith Network: beginning at 11:30 p.m. for Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and 11:00 a.m. on Christmas Day. Bishop Barres will be the main celebrant for these Masses.

Our parish recently launched its own YouTube channel. Go subscribe and please share with your friends. We now have the ability to livestream Masses and other events to both Facebook and YouTube.

We will be livestreaming the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass from the Cathedral with Fr. Duffy as the main celebrant. The 9:30 a.m. Mass from the Cathedral will also be streamed on Christmas Day.

Facebook

[https://
www.facebook.com/
stagnescathedral/](https://www.facebook.com/stagnescathedral/)

You do not need a Facebook account to view. (if you see a pop up box to log in or create an account, just click "not now" to proceed to our page)

YouTube

[https://
www.youtube.com/
channel/
UC0FeIo4P4vBLM6qj7x
o6SXQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0FeIo4P4vBLM6qj7xo6SXQ)

For those viewing this information digitally, simply click on the links above to access our pages.



Principal's Announcements

This week's Gospel tells us how the "birth of Jesus Christ came about." More specifically, it tells us how an angel appeared to Joseph, explaining to him that Mary's son would save the people from their sins.



While Joseph might not have understood it at the time, we know that Jesus is the fulfillment of the great prophecy of Isaiah that the Messiah would come from the line of David and be born of a Virgin. In the readings this week, we first read that prophecy and then see its fulfillment in the Gospel. While this week's reading focuses on Joseph, Mary is also present. It is because of her, and her willingness to do God's will by accepting the responsibility of bearing his Son, that our sins can be forgiven.

But we cannot overlook Joseph's role either. As the Gospel tells us, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded—taking Mary to be his wife and accepting his responsibility toward the child in her womb. As we examine both Mary's and Joseph's responses to the Lord, we are shown two examples of the way that we, as Christians, are to be open to the Lord's movement in our own lives. We, too, can prepare a place for Jesus in our hearts. Joseph, the faithful husband, accepted what he did not understand and trusted that the Lord was at work. Inspired by his example, we who often can't understand what is happening to us can learn to trust more that the Lord is truly working in our lives.

With only a few days left before we celebrate the coming of the Lord at Christmas, take this time to ask both Mary and Joseph to help "prepare the way of the Lord" in our hearts, our minds, and our souls.

This is a short week for the students. School will dismiss on Tuesday, December 22nd for Christmas Recess. We will have a virtual Christmas Paraliturgie on Tuesday to help all prepare for Christmas.

God Bless and Merry Christmas!

Mrs. Cecilia St John
Principal

Devotions

Jesus is waiting for you!



Eucharistic Adoration is the traditional Catholic practice of taking the consecrated host, the Blessed Sacrament, and placing it in a sun-shaped vessel called a Monstrance in order for the faithful to look upon

Our Lord and pray to Him in peaceful contemplation. You are invited to join us **every Wednesday (unless otherwise noted)** in the Cathedral from 2:30—5:00 p.m. for Adoration and some quiet reflection and prayer. *We will offer this in place of our normal Friday Adoration in the Holy Cross Chapel, which is suspended for the time being.*

Nocturnal Adoration has resumed in the Holy Cross Chapel on the First Friday night of each month from 8:00—10:00 p.m.

The Rosary is prayed after the 9:00 a.m. Mass each Monday through Saturday in the Cathedral except on the First Saturday, when it is recited at 8:30 a.m.

Please remember to sit in every other pew and maintain social distancing. All visitors must wear a mask inside the Cathedral and Chapel.

COME JOIN OUR

BIBLE



Study

Weekly Bible Study

The Parish Bible Study continues virtually via Zoom.com. **Sessions are every Wednesday and Thursday at 9:45 am.** The topic for this week will be on the Gospel of Mark Chapter Four. To join our Zoom session by computer please use the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88026185855> meeting ID 88026185855 and by phone dialing +1 929 205 6099 US (New York). All are welcome!



2020 Giving Tree

This is the last weekend for the Giving Tree. Please make sure your gifts are brought to church or rectory today.

Thank you for your incredible generosity!

*May the peace and hope of
Christ's birth
be with you now and in the days ahead . . .*

from the Clergy of St. Agnes Cathedral

Most Reverend John O. Barres, Diocesan Bishop

Most Reverend William F. Murphy, Bishop Emeritus

Very Reverend Michael F. Duffy, Rector

Reverend Bright Appiagyei-Boakye

Reverend Alessandro da Luz

Reverend Eric Fasano

Reverend John J. McCartney

Reverend Monsignor James Vlaun

Reverend German Villabon, O.S.A.

Deacon Thomas McDaid

Deacon Andrew Ciccironi

Reverend Mister Dominik Wegiel

Mass Reminders

Thank you for helping us keep the Cathedral and Parish Center safe for worship during these challenging times. Let us continue to be as vigilant as possible for the safety of others as we gather together to give Glory and Praise to God.



Please be reminded that all COVID-19 protocols remain in effect, particularly having face coverings at all times while in the Cathedral and the Parish Center. It is also important that we keep a distance of 6 feet from others while inside, especially during the reception of Holy Communion.

Because of concerns regarding the coronavirus, we request that those who choose to receive on the tongue please present themselves to the priest only to receive Holy Communion, and are asked to open their mouth and extend their tongue so the host can be placed on it without the priest's hand making contact with the recipient. If you choose to receive in the hand, please place your hand out very straight and flat to allow the priest or minister to place the Eucharist safely in order to avoid contact with your hand. We also kindly remind everyone to please remove your mask before receiving Holy Communion, whether you choose to receive on the tongue or in the hand. Please put it back on after you have consumed the host. The Diocese of Rockville Centre leaves the choice to receive in the hand or on the tongue at the discretion of each communicant.






"Go to Joseph!"
A New Pastoral Letter from
Bishop John O. Barres

www.stjosephpastoralletter.com

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS, DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Pope Proclaims Year Dedicated to St. Joseph



From Vatican City - CNS

Marking the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph being declared patron of the universal church, Pope Francis proclaimed a yearlong celebration dedicated to the foster father of Jesus. In a December 8th apostolic letter, "Patris Corde" ("With a father's heart"), the pope said Christians can discover in St. Joseph, who often goes unnoticed, "an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all," he said. The celebration will run from December 8, 2020 through until December 8, 2021.

The Newly Baptized




On December 12th & 13th, 2020 we welcomed the following children into the St. Agnes Cathedral Parish Community:

Noah Brand	John Maelia
Gabriel Drecia	Maxwell McAvey
Dylan Fleming	Madeline Murphy
Giuliana Izzo	

Congratulations to the parents of the newly baptized.

Parish Outreach



The Parish Outreach is now able to receive clean winter clothing only. Food donations are always appreciated. *Please do not leave any donations on the porch outside the Outreach office when the office is closed. We will gladly accept donations between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday except for holidays. Please note we will be closed beginning December 24th and reopen on Monday January 4th.*

Thank you for your understanding.

Love,
Sr. Kathleen

2021 MARCH FOR LIFE



How to #whywemarch during covid

JAN 29
in the Diocese of Rockville Centre

www.drvcMarchforLife.com

Join Fr. Mickey Bancroft on a trip to the Passion Play in Oberammergau
with a 7 day/night Rhine River Cruise
Wed., August 31 - Sat., September 10, 2022 • Eleven Days
from \$6,598.00 per person based on double occupancy



Includes:

- Daily Mass • Sightseeing
- Round trip airfare from JFK
- 9 nights accommodations
- Cruise aboard the AMA Sienna
- Daily Breakfast and Dinner plus lunch while cruising
- Tickets to the passion play
- Memories to last a lifetime!

Contact Fr. Mickey: 631-323-1323
or
Fern: 1-800-CATHOLIC ext. 232
or fciraolo@groupist.com

Regina Tours
www.regina-tours.com



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

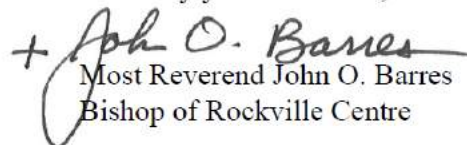
Second, in *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis shows St. Francis as an icon of Christocentric-listening. With great humility and charity, the saint reverently listened to others. He was present to the various voices in his life – the voice of God, the voice of his neighbor, the voice of the poor, the voice 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.¹

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,


+ John O. Barres
Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

¹ 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*.”



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Navidad 2020

Al Pueblo de Dios de la Diócesis de Rockville Centre:

Cuando fue elegido Sucesor de San Pedro el 13 de marzo del 2013, nuestro Santo Padre eligió el nombre de Francisco. Fue una decisión de peso con un mensaje profético. Especialmente ahora, siete años después y con la publicación de su última encíclica *Fratelli Tutti* desde la tumba de San Francisco de Asís el 3 de octubre del 2020, el significado de la elección es claro: el Papa Francisco conecta su papado con San Francisco.

A través del ministerio de nuestro Santo Padre, San Francisco de Asís está cerca de la Iglesia en estos tiempos. Por lo tanto, al acercarnos a Belén al final de este año difícil, deseo recordar dos puntos que el Papa Francisco destaca de la vida de San Francisco. Uno nos ayudará a celebrar el nacimiento de Nuestro Señor; el otro indica una gracia por la cual orar durante la temporada santa.

Primero, en su Carta Apostólica de 2019 *Admirabile Signum*: Sobre el significado y la importancia de la escena del nacimiento, el Papa Francisco hace énfasis en el papel fundamental de San Francisco de Asís en nuestra celebración de la Navidad. El Santo Padre recuerda los orígenes de la representación del nacimiento y la primera natividad inspirada por el santo fraile en 1223, con el que el santo buscaba "dar vida a la memoria del niño nacido en Belén". Es importante destacar que el recuerdo del nacimiento de Cristo que San Francisco deseaba transmitir cobró vida en Greccio, un pequeño pueblo en Italia, no por estatuas sino por personas del campo y los pueblos vecinos. Junto a San Francisco, sus frailes, un buey y un burro, se reunieron en una cueva para contemplar un pesebre lleno de heno sobre el que se celebró la Eucaristía. Esa noche de Navidad, hace casi 800 años, nos recuerda el Papa Francisco, "el nacimiento fue representado y experimentado por todos los que estaban allí presentes". Esa noche, "no había distancia entre el evento original y los que compartían su misterio". (2) Al encuentro con Cristo, hubo simplemente gozo y esperanza.

Esta Navidad, en nuestro mundo cargado con las Cruces del COVID-19, la agitación política y económica, el racismo, las dificultades financieras y tantos otros males y desafíos sociales, desafíos que nos impactan en Long Island, recordemos esta lección de Greccio: La Navidad es un acontecimiento para ser vivido. Exige nuestra participación. Como las mujeres y los hombres que encarnaron esa primera representación, debemos estar presentes para Cristo que nació por nosotros. Debemos contemplarlo y recibirlo.

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

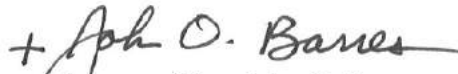
En segundo lugar, en Fratelli Tutti, el Papa Francisco muestra a San Francisco como un icono de la escucha Cristocéntrica. Con gran humildad y caridad, el santo escuchó con reverencia a los demás. Estuvo presente en las diversas voces de su vida - la voz de Dios, la voz del prójimo, la voz de los pobres, la voz de los enfermos, la voz de la naturaleza - y al escucharlas verdaderamente, fue un instrumento de paz, sanación y entendimiento. ¡Qué tan diferente puede ser para nosotros! El Santo Padre bien dice lo que sabemos: "El mundo de hoy es en gran parte un mundo sordo ... A veces, el ritmo frenético del mundo moderno nos impide escuchar atentamente lo que dice otra persona". Consciente de este hecho, el Papa nos anima, en medio de nuestro mundo agitado y polarizado, a ser como San Francisco y "no perder la capacidad de escuchar". (48)

Esta Navidad, cuando nos acerquemos al pesebre, pidamos la gracia de ser oyentes atentos. Pidamos la gracia de ser como San Francisco, para que podamos escuchar la voz de Dios y la voz del prójimo y responder con la caridad radical que él mostró. I

Como el Papa Francisco, que seamos conmovidos por el ejemplo de San Francisco, y que el amor de San Francisco de Asís por el Misterio de la Natividad, su misticismo extático, su amor por los pobres y su espíritu de fraternidad universal animen nuestra celebración de Navidad este año.

Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias en esta Navidad.

Sinceramente en Cristo,


Reverendísimo John O. Barres
Obispo de Rockville Centre

Upcoming Homilists

from the Cathedral of St. Agnes in Rockville Centre

"Our dedicated young priests are the Holy Spirit's instruments to help lead us to a bold and rich new harvest of vocations in the priesthood to revive the Catholic Church on Long Island!"
— Bishop John O. Barres



11AM
SUNDAY • 12.20.20
4th Sunday of Advent
Fr. Dennis Sughia
Pastor of the Church of St. Sylvester, Masford



11AM
SUNDAY • 12.27.20
The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Most Rev. Robert Coyle
Auxiliary Bishop, Diocese of Rockville Centre
Homilist & Celebrant



11AM
SUNDAY • 1.3.21
The Solemnity of Epiphany and the 200th Anniversary of the Death of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Most Rev. John O. Barres
Bishop, Diocese of Rockville Centre


Bishop Barres will be the principal celebrant for all Masses unless otherwise indicated.

All are welcome to attend these Masses *in-person* or to watch live on Catholic Faith Network (CFN).

CFN is available through 24/7 live stream at CFNTV.org and on selected cable and satellite systems. Optimum channel 29/137 • Verizon FiOS TV channel 296 • Spectrum channel 162/471. You can also watch CFN on Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Android, or by downloading the CFN iOS mobile app.

Dispensation from Mass

As a reminder, the dispensation from the requirement to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect. Those who are most vulnerable and at a greater risk (due to age, preexisting health conditions or being in close proximity to vulnerable people) are encouraged to remain home at this time. ***If a person shows any symptoms of illness, they are asked to please not come to church.*** We encourage you to join us for Mass on the Catholic Faith Network.



The Catholic Faith Network (CFN)
Broadcast of the Celebration of the Eucharist:

Daily Mass Celebrated by Pope Francis from the Santa Marta Chapel in Rome
Watch On-Demand

St. Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre, NY
Monday – Friday at 8:30 am, 12:30 pm ET
Sunday at 11:00 am, 7:00 pm ET

St. Patrick's Cathedral, NY
Monday – Friday at 6:30 pm ET
Saturday at 8:30 am ET
Sunday at 3:30 pm ET





La Santa Misa, Rockville Centre, NY
Sunday at 6 pm ET

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Optimum channel 29/137
Verizon FiOS TV channel 296
Spectrum channel 162/471

The Catholic Faith Network (CFN) is also available on selected cable and satellite systems nationwide, along with a vast on-demand library of original programming and a high quality 24/7 live stream at CFNtv.org

You can also watch CFN on Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Android, or by downloading the CFN iOS mobile app at the app store by searching "Catholic Faith Network" or "CFN"

Resources for Prayer and Meditation

Magnificat and *Give Us This Day* are Catholic resources that provide the daily Mass readings, meditations and prayers.






Give Us This Day —
<https://giveusthisday.org/>



Magnificat —
<https://us.magnificat.net/>

Pray for Vocations

Will you pray for vocations? As we all know, the Catholic Church needs more priests, as well as religious brothers and sisters. We encourage you to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood or religious life, especially from within our parish and our school.

Websites to Note:

<p>Catholic Faith Network: www.CFNtv.org www.cfnespanol.org</p> <p>Diocese of Rockville Centre: www.drvc.org</p> <p>Long Island Catholic: www.licatholic.org www.LICplus.org</p>	<p>United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: www.usccb.org</p> <p>Vatican News: www.vaticannews.va</p> <p>Vatican City: www.vatican.va</p>
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December 20, 2020

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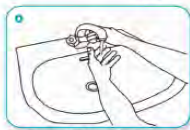


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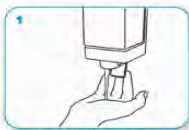
1. Visit FORMED.ORG
2. Click SIGN UP
3. Select "I Belong to a Parish or Organization:"
4. Find the parish by name (St. Agnes Cathedral) or Zip (11570)
5. Enter your email and you're in (There is no cost to use FORMED.)

How to handwash Catholic Style!

 30-45 second wash time



Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name.



Thy Kingdom come.
Thy Will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.



Give us this day our daily bread.



And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.



And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us
from evil. Amen.



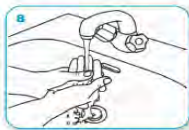
Hail Mary, Full of Grace,
The Lord is with thee.



Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.



Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners



now, and at the hour of
our death. Amen.



Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.



As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.



Amen.

*Clean hands are life savers
... and prayers save souls!*



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Pregnant? Need help? Contact Birthright, Inc.
at their 24 hour Helpline: 1-800-550-4900.

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Hampton Bays (631) 728-8900;

Islip (631) 277-3888; Southold (631) 876-5138;

Rocky Point (631) 821-9727

Suicide Prevention Resources



Suicide is a major public health problem and a leading cause of death in the United States. The effects of suicide go beyond the person who acts to take his or her life: it can have a lasting effect on family, friends and communities. If you are thinking about suicide, are worried about a friend or loved one, or would like emotional support, the Lifeline network is available 24/7 across the United States.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:

1-800-273-TALK (8255) or

Crisis Text Line: Text "Got5" to 741-741.

Website: suicidepreventionlifeline.org



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Please return this form to SAFC, c/o Jack Groarke 67 Tarence St, Rockville Centre NY 11570.

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II

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Religion and Rock



Tune into "Religion and Rock" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sundays from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 FM on Long Island's East End. Listen on Saturdays at 11:00 p.m. on Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel and at 11:00 p.m. on XM Satellite, Channel 117. Next Sunday's theme is *New Beginnings*—don't miss it! To listen online or receive more information regarding Religion and Rock go to ReligionandRock.com. or at "Religion & Rock" on ITUNES. Don't forget to tune into the Catholic Faith Network on Optimum Channel 29/137, Verizon FIOS Channel 296 or Spectrum Channel 162/471 or visit www.cfnv.org.



Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

*St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our defense against
the wickedness and snares
of the Devil.
May God rebuke him,
we humbly pray,
and do thou,
O Prince of the
heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about
the world
seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.*



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CDR Robert L. Betts, U.S. Navy
LCDR Maura C. Garrity-Betts, U.S. Navy
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Thomas Sullivan, U. S. Army
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PFC Derick Thomas, USMC

PRAYER FOR OUR TROOPS
Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.
Protect them as they protect us.
Bless them and their families
for the selfless acts they perform
for us in our time of need.
And give us peace.
I ask this in the name of Jesus,
Our Lord and Savior. Amen

*Kindly call the Rectory Office at 766-0205 if you know
of anyone that is on this list and has returned home.*

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