

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE LEGEND OF THE POINSETTIA

The brilliant red leaves of the Poinsettia are a common decoration at this time of year. Its association with Christmas began many years ago when the story developed of Pepita, a poor Mexican girl who had no gift for the Christ Child at Christmas. Her cousin Pedro told her that even the most humble gift given in love is a welcomed present. So, Pepita gathered a handful of weeds into a small bouquet. As she laid it at the foot of the crèche, it burst into blooms of red. From that day on, the Poinsettia has also been known as the *Flor de Nochebuena*, or Flower of the Holy Night (Christmas Eve).

THE RECTORY WILL BE CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY; THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, AND FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26TH.

OPLATEK (POLISH CHRISTMAS WAFERS) are still available in the Rectory. This Polish custom of the breaking and passing of the thin wafer, Oplatek bread, at the Christmas Eve meal reminds us of our daily bread and the Bread of Life who came into the world.



Christmas Schedule

CONFESSION, Saturday, **December 20th**, 4:00pm – 4:45pm

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES: Wednesday, **December 24th**, 4:00pm, 5:30pm & Midnight.

Carols begin at 11:30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY: Thursday, **December 25th**, 8:00am, 8:00am at LSJ, 10:15am & 12:00 Noon.

NEW YEAR'S EVE: Wednesday, **December 31st**, **5:00pm (Christmas Folder Correction)**

NEW YEAR'S DAY, Thursday, **January 1st**, 9:00am & 12:00 Noon

UNCLE AL'S CHRISTMAS & THRIFT SHOPS

Don't forget Uncle Al's for that perfect last minute gift! Both shops have a wonderful assortment of gifts, toys, games, books and decorations at reasonable prices. Uncle Al's on Front Street or the Christmas Shop on Franklin Avenue. Please call for this week's hours of operation 677-5002.

BIRTHRIGHT

Next Saturday and Sunday will be our collection for Birthright. There is a list of items needed posted on our bulletin board. Birthright is very grateful to the parishioners of St. Joseph's Parish for their generosity in supporting their Mission in aiding pregnant women both before and after delivery.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #381

Our next *Council Meeting* is on Tuesday, January 13th at 7:00pm (**note the time change**). The *Council Christmas Dinner* is Saturday, January 3rd at 7:00pm in the Church Hall. All council members are invited. Please call GK Greg Butta at 392-6474 for details. Our monthly *Sunday Coffee Social* kicks off on Sunday, January 11th from 9:00am -10:00am. Hot beverages and goodies will be served. All are welcome to join us. Wishing all a very Blessed Christmas!

NEW YEAR'S EVE IN MILLBROOK

Please visit the Rotary Club of Millbrook website at www.millbrookrotary.org for their scheduled evening of entertainment on December 31, 2014 from 4:00pm – 8:15pm in the Village of Millbrook.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 20th -		Thursday, December 25th - Christmas Day	
7:30am John Liskey		8:00am Connie, Judith, Andrea & Rod Ciferri	
5:00pm Andrew, Margarite & Mary Rotunno		8:00 (LSJ) Maria Conley	
		10:15am People of the Parish	
Sunday, December 21st -		12:00pm Danny Quirk	
Fourth Sunday of Advent			
8:00am Rodrigo & Josephine Ciferri		Friday, December 26th – St. Stephen	
8:00 (LSJ) Sally Sinnott		7:30am Mary Setaro	
10:15am People of the Parish			
12:00pm JoAnn Colomello		Saturday, December 27th –	
		St. John the Evangelist	
Monday, December 22nd -		7:30am Jerome Aienello	
7:30am Steven Kearins		5:00pm Jennie & Joseph Tumino and Amelia & Dominic Molella	
Tuesday, December 23rd -			
7:30am Felice & Felicia Manzi Family		Sunday, December 28th - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	
Wednesday, December 24th Christmas Eve		8:00am Fred & Mary Paolucci	
4:00pm Ethel & Albert Morrison		8:00 (LSJ) Deceased Members of the Sinnott Family	
5:30pm George Zerafa & Josephine DeSomma		10:15am People of the Parish	
Midnight Delores & Joseph Fargione and Joanne		12:00pm Deceased Members of the Steller Family	