

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 22, 2013

THOUGHTS FROM OUR PASTOR



Christ is born into a world so very different from our own. No Internet, no fast travel, no shopping malls, no Superbowl. But appearances aside, the world was very similar to ours. Crowded streets, political rivalries, personal heartbreaks, physical sufferings, emotional struggles. Into all of this comes a Messiah. He doesn't "uproot" the system; He becomes part of it. Jesus is immersed in our history and so it is redeemed. The Messiah might have come in another way, perhaps more powerful, more adversarial. But He came instead – and still does – to become part of our lives and our world. He hands Himself over to us and redeems us as a fellow traveler. This world will not give the Messiah special privileges or front row seats (unless, of course, we count the top place on Calvary). God's Son is one of us. We are transformed by Christ's redeeming love and so become a part of Him as He willingly comes to us.

Jesus our Messiah redeems us with a compassion born out of our own experience. That may be why we are both consoled and challenged by Christmas. Jesus knows our lives and world so well because He was part of it, born in it and hurt by it. The mercy and compassion of God take flesh in the form of an infant, tender and mild, but tough enough to hand Himself over to whatever this world might offer.

The beauty of Christmas is that the Messiah enters into our experience of the world (after all this world is already His: "Through Him all things were made"). Because of Him it is a different place. It is now the scene of our knowing that "God draws nigh to us" and we are touched by the light and truth of divine grace.

May this Christmas be for all our parishioners a time of grace, blessing and peace. This year may our special prayers be offered for those in the military and their families, the unemployed and underemployed, the disenchanting and forgotten, the lonely old and the lonely young.

Thank you for all you do to make St. Elizabeth's a parish of faith, commitment and prayer. May we continue to grow and serve after the model of the One who though born in a stable invites us to the eternal dwelling place of love and grace beyond all telling. All God's blessings to our parishioners and your families.

Merry Christmas,

Fr. Harahan

PARISH CENTER HOLIDAY HOURS
 Tuesday, December 24th, 9-12 noon
 Wednesday, December 25th, Closed
 Tuesday, December 31st 9-12 noon
 Wednesday, January 1st Closed

Dear Parish Family of St. Elizabeth's,

I want to let you know that I miss you all very much and I'm deeply grateful for your prayers in my time away.

I've had much time to think, pray, and reflect over these past four months, and I'm grateful I've had this time to grow as a person and as a priest. Though I've always believed and strived to live what I preach, I've truly had to experience and live the Christian reality of sacrifice and spiritual martyrdom we so often hear about. It has not been easy, but I've had so much support, especially from Msgr. Harahan, Fr. Maciek, and the parish and school community.

I've learned and gained many tools in my time away, and the time is soon coming when I will return to active priestly ministry and put them into practice.

Sometimes in our lives the Lord asks us to make very big sacrifices, and these can be very painful. We're asked to let go of what is familiar and comfortable. We're asked to let go of what we love, *out of love*. We're asked to trust an unknown future to a *known* God. I've come face to face with this reality, and it saddens me very much to tell you that I will not be returning to St. Elizabeth's as your parish priest.

I did not plan this and I really wish I could stay. I made this decision only because I truly believe that God is calling me to start anew.

LET ME BE CLEAR, even though it was short, I *loved* my time at St. Elizabeth's. I cannot imagine a better parish, school, and pastor to be assigned to. I don't expect my decision to make sense, and I know it will be tough to understand. But please trust *with* me that God has a plan. Please trust that I love you, and that I'm better off because of you.

I do not know how to say goodbye. I truly hope to see you around. Please continue to pray for me, and I certainly will for you. The last thing I can only say is thank you. Thank you!

Fr. Paul

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Holy Hour Friday, Dec. 27



MASS BOOK OPENS FOR 2015
Saturday, January 11

To accommodate those who work during the week, the Mass Book for 2015 will be opened on Saturday, January 11th, in the St. Francis Room at the Parish Center after the 9:00am Mass for those who wish to arrange Mass intentions for next year. A limit of 3 Masses will be taken at this time.



ADVENT; AWAITING THE CHRIST
HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE

All are invited to enter into the Joyful Season of Advent with Deacon Anthony Liguori as he presents; "The Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of Advent". On Monday, December 23rd at 7:30 pm. Deacon Anthony will awaken our hearts to the Sacredness of the Season with heartfelt reflections and songs. No need to sign up, just join us.



Advent Series

Monday December 23, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Facilitator – Deacon Anthony Liguori

Tuesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve

Mass Schedule

9 a.m. (Daily Mass)

4 p.m. Mass (Church and Gym)

5:30 p.m. Mass (Church and Gym)

7 p.m. Christmas Pageant

7:30 p.m. Family Mass

10 p.m. Caroling

10:30 p.m. Mass

Wednesday, December 25th, Christmas Day

(There **will not** be a 7:30 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day).

9 a.m.

10:30 a.m. Church

12 Noon (Church and Gym)

Thursday, December 26th

9 a.m. (Daily Mass only)

Friday, December 27th

7 a.m. & 9 a.m. Mass

No Holy Hour

Sunday, December 29th, Feast of the Holy Family

5 p.m. Sat. Vigil, 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12 noon

Monday, December 30

7 a. m & 9 a.m. (Daily Mass)

Tuesday, December 31st, New Year's Eve

9 a.m. (Daily Mass)

Wednesday, January 1, 2014, New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

5 p.m. Tues. Vigil, 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 5, 2014, Epiphany

5 p.m. Sat. Vigil, 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12 noon

**“To everything there is a Season
and a Time for every
Purpose under heaven.”**

Ecclesiastes 3:11

“A time to be healed...”

Please pray for: Joan Domm

“A time to mourn...”

Recently Deceased: Anne Serpentino, Ed Oldziej,
Elizabeth D. Minrath, Shirley Sofadzis

“A time for war and a time for peace...”

**For national and world leaders and for those in the
Armed Services:** Jessica DeRosa, Major Christopher
Crotty, Miguel Tully, John Paul Phillips, Jennifer
Smolinski, Michael Zahorniak, LT. Brendan McGovern,
Captain Colin McNulty, Captain Luke Walsh, Major
Raymond G. Tierney, Capt. Brian Donlon, USMC, Major
Brian Ferguson, US Marines P.F.C. Martin E. Koerner Jr.
Major Mark Wimmer, 2nd LT. Nolan Dunn. **Amen.**

2013 ADVENT CHRISTMAS....

Thank you for your participation in the Advent Giving Tree 2013. We have received over one thousand presents. One thousand families were given a smile and a sense of care and love from our parish community. Many thanks to Laurie and Dan Kocher and all our wonderful parishioners who made our program a great success.



We are so happy that you have joined us today, if you would like to become a registered parishioner, kindly fill out the form below. You may drop it in the collection basket or drop the form off at the parish center. Thank you again for being a part of St. Elizabeth's Parish.

Name _____

Address _____


Phone Number _____

Email _____

FaithFusion
connecting adults to christ and their catholic faith

Faithful Readers

Join us to discuss this tremendous author and book!



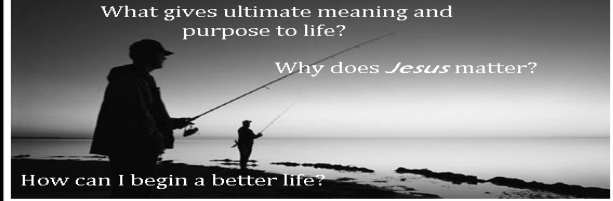
The VIOLENT BEAR IT AWAY
By Flannery O'Connor

Wed, January 29
9:30 AM in St. Francis Room
Books at Parish Office—\$15
Questions? Ask Jonathan (201) 891-3262



**BOLD March for Life,
Youth Rally & Mass for Life
Jan 21-22, in Washington, DC**

BOLD Youth Ministry will be going down to Washington DC for the March for Life 2014! We will leave for DC on Tuesday, January 21st after school and will spend the night. On Wednesday morning, January 22nd, we will be attending the Youth Rally & Mass for Life in the Verizon Center followed by the March for Life with over 500,000 people! All high school students are welcome, but space is limited. Please contact Brian Flanagan at bflanagan@fiatventures.com by Friday, January 3rd for more details if you are interested.



What gives ultimate meaning and purpose to life?
Why does *Jesus* matter?
How can I begin a better life?

Discovering Christ 2014 - an exciting 7-week series where we gather to share a meal, listen to a dynamic teaching and explore answers to some of the most important questions worth asking about God and finding ultimate purpose in life. **Thursday evenings, January 23rd - March 13th, 6:45-9:15 PM Elizabeth Room; Retreat Day Sunday March 2nd, 9:00AM-4:00PM**

Discovering Christ Enrollment

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Ph #: (home) _____
(cell) _____

If signing up with another family member, would you like to be in the same group? Yes No

Please return form to the parish office.

BOLD youth ministry

Don't miss BOLD this Winter!

TNL's
Tuesdays
7:30-9:00pm

TNL = Teen Night Life (regular High School meeting)

January 7, 21
February 4, 25
March 11, 25

HIGHLIGHT
March for Life & Youth Rally
Tues-Wed, Jan 21-22
Washington, DC
For info...Email
bflanagan@fiatventures.com

Other High School Dates to Remember:

Ski Trip 2014
January 24-26
Okemo, VT
SIGN UP NOW!!!!
Forms in Narthex!

BOLD Retreat
2/28-3/2

BOLD Middle Youth Ministry
(for all 6th, 7th & 8th Graders)

Saturday, 1/11
BRIDGES Prep
Time & Place TBA

Friday, 1/17
8:00-10:00 pm
Tubing @ Campgaw

for more information, email jcamilo@saintelizabeths.org

PLEASE JOIN US FOR CORNERSTONE 2014
Women's Cornerstone Men's Cornerstone
February 7-8, 2014 March 7-8, 2014
Is Cornerstone for you?

Come and experience Cornerstone for yourself and see why men and women have been a part of Cornerstone for 21 years strong! For more information contact:
Joan Thorne: earlythorne@verizon.net
Andonia Scoropanos: ascoropanos@yahoo.com
Johnathan Vanslooten: Johnathan.vanslooten@gmail.com
Justin Gornell: Jbgornell@gmail.com
Or visit our website: <http://teamxxi.wordpress.com/about>

VAN DRIVERS & HELPERS NEEDED

Please consider donating some of your time to St. E's "VAN Ministry." We are looking for men and women willing to join the group of dedicated parishioners who visit pre-selected local food stores and receive food donations and then drive the food to soup kitchens and food pantries for the poor. If not picked up the food items would have been discarded and thanks to our ministry they benefit families and individuals in need. The group works Tuesdays-Fridays. Please contact Gene O'Rourke at 201-906-3040.



Elvis

One Night with You

Deacon Anthony Liguori as Elvis

Saturday, January 25, 2014 at 7:30pm

\$25 per person BYOB!

Proceeds to benefit our parish mission projects. For more info call Deacon Anthony at 201-233-8242 or e-mail elsangel@live.com or www.anthonyliguorijr.com. Anyone interested in helping with the event please contact Deacon Anthony.

Tickets

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

I would like to reserve: _____

Seat/Seats at \$25 per person. Make checks payable to St. Elizabeth's Church. Checks maybe dropped off at the Parish Center or mailed to "Elvis" C/O Parish Office St. Elizabeth's Church, 700 Wyckoff Ave., Wyckoff, NJ 07481.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 22, 2013**



Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." - Mt 11:4-5

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday : Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24
 Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
 Tuesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79
 Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25
 Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
 Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
 Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
 Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a and 2-8
 Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Mt 2:13-18

OTHER PRAYER EXPERIENCES

Miraculous Medal Novena – Thurs. after 9 am Mass
Novena to the Divine Mercy – Fri. after 9 am Mass
Men's Sharing – Elizabeth Rm. Sat. 7 am
Morning Prayer – Mon.-Sat. 8:40 am
Rosary- Each day after 7:00 & 9:00 am Mass

SUPPORT FOR OUR PASTORAL ACTIVITIES



The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. Psalm 24:1-2

How can we take credit for the good things in our lives when Psalm 24 reminds us that God created absolutely everything and everyone on the earth? Surely we have an obligation to return a portion of our good fortune to the Lord, for without Him nothing would be possible.

The gift of treasure for last week was \$21,354 (of which \$3,186 was from online giving) vs. our weekly budgeted amount of \$24,235. Year to date collections amounted to \$542,222 vs. our year to date budget of \$581,640.

SAVE THE DATE...

Respect Life March, Washington, DC
 Wednesday, January 22, 2014

Elvis Night - Deacon Anthony Liguori
 Saturday, January 25, 2014 at 7:30pm

Catholic Conferences 2014

Men's Catholic Conference Day March 15, 2014
 Women's Day of Reflection April 26, 2014

Women's Cornerstone **Men's Cornerstone**
 February 7-8, 2014 March 7-8, 2014



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sat.	Dec. 21	5:00 PM	Edward Zaretski
Sun.	Dec. 22	7:30 AM	The McCormack Family
		9:00 AM	McNiff, Broderick & Meehan Families
		10:30 AM	Capalbo & Calandra Families
		12:00 PM	Peter & Carin Cantilina

Mon. Dec. 23 **St. John of Kanty**
 7:00 AM Raymond Maniaci
 Emilio & Estrella Horrilleno
 9:00 AM John MacQuaide

Tue. Dec. 24 **Vigil of Christmas**

Wed. Dec. 25 **The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Day
CHRISTMAS EVE/VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS**

All the Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses will be offered for the intentions of our parishioners Living & Deceased.

Please refer to page two for Mass times.

Thu. Dec. 26 **St. Stephen**
 9:00 AM Conrad W. Hurtz

Fri. Dec. 27 **St. John**
 7:00 AM Charles Franchavilla
 9:00 AM Peter Razzo, Jr.

Sat. Dec. 28 **The Holy Innocents**
 9:00 AM Memorial Mass

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

		5:00 PM	Daniel Giletta
Sun.	Dec. 29	7:30 AM	Dorothy & Patrick Driscoll
		9:00 AM	Veronica Clarke, 20 th Anniv.
		10:30 AM	People of the Parish
		12:00 PM	Anne Maureen Waldron, 1 st Anniv.

MEMORIALS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 22

Altar Bread & Wine: In Memory of Joseph Hibo III 4th Anniversary,
 Given by: Carol & Dennis Barnes.

Candles on the Altar: In Memory of Joseph Hibo, III 4th Anniversary,
 Given by: Dr. Stacey Barnes.

Sanctuary Lights: In Memory of Deceased members of the Cipolletti & Lerro Families,
 Given by: Veronica Cipolletti & Family.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE
WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE PRINTED BULLETIN

CHURCH NAME: **Church of St Elizabeth**

CHURCH CITY: **Wyckoff, New Jersey**

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FAX NUMBER: **201-847-8518**

EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Lisa H**

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