

The Parish Clergy:
The Reverend the Vicar and Surrogate
Fr. Andrew Stevens, M.A., S.S.C.,
Regional Dean For Southwark Forward in Faith
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The Churchwardens:
Mrs Cecelia Okrafo-Smart Mrs Diane Bartlett
The Churchwardens Emeriti
Mr Reg Martin Miss Betty Stroud

THE ADVENT CROWN HYMN

The First Sunday of Advent:

*The holly and the ivy
are dancing in a ring
round the berry-bright red candles
and the white and shining King.*

Oh, one is for the prophets
and for the light they bring.
They are candles in the darkness
all alight for Christ the King.

The Second Sunday of Advent:

And two is for God's people
and for the light they bring.
They are candles in the darkness
all alight for Christ the King.

The Third Sunday of Advent:

And three is for John the Baptist.
He calls us on to sing:
"O prepare the way for Jesus Christ,
He is coming, Christ our King".

The Fourth Sunday of Advent:

And four for Mother Mary:
"I cannot see the way.
But you promise me a baby.
I believe you, I obey".

Christmas Day:

And Christ is in the centre,
For this is His birthday
With the shining lights of Christmas,
Singing "He has come today".

Welcome to our Church today, after the Parish Mass refreshments will be served at the back of Church. Please join us and make yourself known to one of the clergy.

This ancient church has been a place of Christian worship of Almighty God for well over 1,000 years; as we enter the third millennium of our salvation it is salutary to remember that Christians have gather here on this spot since the first millennium.

If you would like to pray, the Lady Chapel is set aside as a place of quiet, where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved or you might like to light a candle at one of the many shrines around church.

THE PARISH AND ANCIENT CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS, PLUMSTEAD

WELCOME TO OUR CELEBRATION TODAY



Induction loop fitted Sound reinforcement

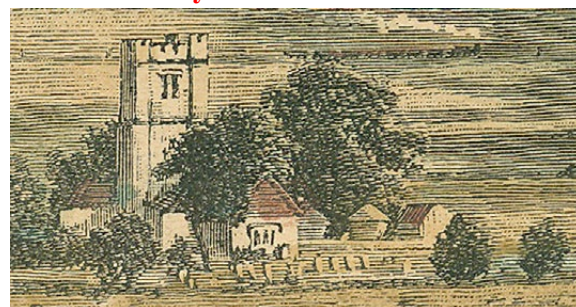


Ramp available for access

**A Forward in Faith parish under
the Episcopal Care of the Bishop of Fulham,
The Right Reverend Jonathan Baker,
we are a Eucharistic community
who is worshipping in the present,
upon the Apostolic Truths of the past,
in the hope of finding our future salvation
in God's Heavenly Kingdom.**

The Mass is offered daily

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Sunday | 8:00am |
| | 11:00am |
| Monday | 8:00pm |
| Tuesday | 7:30pm |
| Wednesday | 9:30am |
| Thursday | 7:00pm |
| Friday | 12:00pm |
| Saturday | 10:00am |



Exposition of the
BLESSED SACRAMENT or ADORATION
half an hour before Mass every day except Sunday.

The ROSARY of the Blessed Virgin Mary
is said after Mass on Friday and Saturday

STATIONS OF THE CROSS, after the Mass
on Tuesday evenings in Lent

Confessions:

*Monday 7:30-8:00pm. Tuesday 7:00-7:30pm,
Thursday 6:30-7:00pm, or by appointment.*

Please turn off



all mobile 'phones

**PLEASE LET FR. ANDREW KNOW OF ILLNESS
OR OTHER NEED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

PLEASE TAKE THIS SHEET HOME

The word of the Lord

Isaiah 7. 10-16

What a moment it must have been for Ahaz to hear of the miraculous birth which was to come. Even when given the opportunity, he had resisted the offer to test God. God, speaking through Isaiah, tells Ahaz that, in spite of the people's shortcomings, he would give them the sought-after sign – an indication of the anticipated moment of redemption.

What must God's people envisioned the child bearing the prophetic name "God-is-with-us" to be? Would it be a warrior wreaking vengeance on their enemies? Would it be a new version of David, exercising a divinely-led earthly rule? Whatever their expectation might have been, the sign of that child would usher in something much greater than they could have imagined. For that child Immanuel would take the relationship between God and man to a new level – a relationship in which God would take our frail flesh to demonstrate the depth of his love.

Forward!

Welcome to our celebration today

22nd December 2013

Advent 4



Arrival

'The maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. After much expectation the great Solemnity of Christmas is almost upon us, the prophet Isaiah speaks of the arrival of a

child, a child who will be called 'Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace' (Isaiah 9:6). Despite the exile of the Jewish people, recounted through the prophecies in Isaiah, to Babylon the prophet also gives a message of the hope for their return to the promised land should they choose to repent. This return will come about because of a Saviour, the child promised by the prophecy. Through Christian eyes this promise has taken on a new meaning. It is not just the Israelites who are promised salvation in the promised land, but the coming of Jesus announces the hope of salvation and the promise of everlasting life to us all. We are about to celebrate the arrival of our Saviour once again, the waiting is soon to be over but our readings and Advent preparations over the past four Sundays have prepared us in faith, hope and love for that arrival – we are now ready to welcome the Lord- come Lord Jesus!

Saint of the Week

Saint Frances Cabrini

22nd December

It is not usually the case that saints are commemorated during this final days of Advent when our thoughts naturally turn to the forthcoming celebration of the birth of our Saviour. However, on the 22nd December the Church commemorates the life of S. Frances.

Born in Italy in 1850, she was one of 13 children raised in a poor family who worked the land for their income. Poor health prevented her from becoming a nun as she had wished but she was asked by a local priest to teach at an orphanage school near to where she lived. She did this for six years and was a faithful teacher. In 1877 she consecrated her life to God under vows and on the order of her bishop established the order of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart to care for poor and sick children. She was sent to the United States to continue her mission and together with the six sisters who accompanied her she established many institutions including hospitals, schools and orphanages. She became a citizen of the United States and became the first canonised saint of the United States.



She died having contracted malaria, in Chicago on the 22nd December in 1917. She is venerated as patron of those who are immigrants and those suffering with malaria. May her prayers strengthen the millions who suffer from this disease today, many of whom will die as a result of it, and bring consolation to those who

Come Redeemer

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
and manifest thy virgin birth:
let every age adoring fall;
such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will,
but of the Spirit, thou art still
the Word of God in flesh arrayed,
the promised fruit to man displayed.

The virgin womb that burden gained
with virgin honor all unstained;
the banners there of virtue glow;
God in his temple dwells below.

Forth from his chamber goeth he,
that royal home of purity,
a giant in twofold substance one,
rejoicing now his course to run.

From God the Father he proceeds,
to God the Father back he speeds;
his course he runs to death and hell,
returning on God's throne to dwell.

Hymn by St Ambrose of Milan

The Rota for Reading and Intercessing

| DECEMBER | 1 st Reading | 2 nd Reading | Intercessions |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Sunday 1 st | Y. Stevens | D. Stevens | T. Agin |
| Saturday 7 th Feast of St Nicholas | T. Agin | Deacon | G. Agin |
| Sunday 8 th | B. Scott | E. Crawley | A. Davies |
| Sunday 15 th | P. Alexander | E. Buhl | B. Scott |
| Sunday 22 nd | S. Obubo | Stephanie O | S. Jahans |
| Tuesday 24 th Midnight Mass | G. Agin | R. Barzey | R. Martin |
| Wednesday 25 th Christmas Day | D. Martin | R. Martin | Fr. Andrew |
| Sunday 29 th | R. Barzey | B. Stroud | T. Agin |
| JANUARY 2014 | | | |
| Sunday 5 th | D. Stevens | Y. Stevens | G. Agin |
| Sunday 12 th | E. Crawley | B. Scott | A. Davies |
| Sunday 19 th | P. Alexander | E. Buhl | R. Martin |
| Sunday 26 th | B. Stroud | R. Martin | B. Scott |

Sancte Nicolae, Ora pro nobis



All-powerful God,
you made
Saint Nicholas
a bishop and leader
of the Church
to inspire your people
with his teaching
and example.
May we give fitting
honour to his memory
and always have the
assistance of his prayers
We ask this
through our
Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives and reigns
with you and
the Holy Spirit,
one God,
for ever and ever.
Amen

Christus, Heri, Hodie, Semper

S. NICHOLAS CHURCH

FLOODLIGHT: LIGHT THE CHURCH

We all realise how important it is to support our Church, more so in these days of rising costs; well here is a good way of supporting it and enjoying it personally.

Floodlight the building by day £2.25 or by the week £14.50, for that personal event: a birth, Baptism, Birthday, an Anniversary, Wedding or Years Mind of a loved one, in doing this you will remember and at the same time help pay the electricity bill. The price is reasonable and shows this building in all its glory after sunset, it does enhance this fine building. Reg holds the diary, to be sure there are no double bookings, it is yours for the day or week.



4th Sunday of Advent

The Angelus will be sung at the Shrine
of Our Lady of Fatima

HYMNS

| | | |
|-----------------|-----|--------|
| Introit: | NEH | 180 |
| Gradual: | NEH | 18 |
| Offertory: | NEH | 19 tii |
| Communion: | NEH | 2 |
| Post Communion: | NEH | 17 |

PALM CROSSES:

Jessica Roberts in thanksgiving for the life of her Father

THE PASCHAL CANDLE:

Flavia Kisambira in thanksgiving to God for his
Greatness and Mercy

THE HIGH ALTAR CANDLES:

Lilian Osedumme

THE LADY CHAPEL ALTAR CANDLES:

Lilian Osedumme

THE CANDLES AT THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA:

Lilian Osedumme

THE SEVEN DAY SHRINE LIGHTS FOR DECEMBER

The Blessed Sacrament:

Lilian Osedumme: For her husband and her family.

The Sanctuary:

Lilian Osedumme

Our Lady by the Lady Chapel:

Joy & Stephen Jahans: for Joy's Recovery

Our Lady of Walsingham:

Lilian Osedumme

Our Lady of Fatima:

Murray Smallbone: For the repose
of the soul of John Beck 30-7-1937 - 8-10-2008

S. Nicholas:

Lilian Osedumme: For her husband and her family

S. Francis:

Betty Stroud

THE SUNDAY SHRINE LIGHTS FOR DECEMBER

Our Lady by the Tower:

Gwen Pearce

The Immaculate Heart of Mary:

Henry Aguh

Our Lady of Sorrows:

Christina Agin:

S. Joseph:

Paul Pangrace

S. Augustine

Lilian Osedumme: For her husband and her family

S. Martin:

Vincent Chime

Sacred Heart of Jesus:

Azuka Agun

S. Dunstan: S. George: S. Clare: B. Jacinta: B. Francisco:

S. John Vianney: Our Lady of Light:

Lilian Osedumme: For her husband and her family

S. Anthony: S. Teresa:

Motunde

S. Thomas More:

Margaret Mendes: in thanksgiving

FLOODLIGHT:

22nd - 28th Leo McCarthy:

In thanksgiving for the life of his wife Carol

INTRODUCTION

In these days before Christmas we rejoice together in hope as we become especially aware that Christ is present in our lives and in our world.

Today's Readings

First Reading Isaiah 7:10-14

The prophecy in this reading from Isaiah speaks of the intervention of God in human history. A child will be born, called Emmanuel, which means "God-is-with-us".

Second Reading Romans 1:1-7

Salvation is offered through Christ Jesus, the Son of God, whose coming into the world is good news.

Gospel Matthew 1:18-24

This is the fulfilment of the prophecy given in the first reading, telling the story of Mary conceiving a child through the Holy Spirit and giving birth to a son named Emmanuel.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

With trust in God's presence in our lives, let us turn to the Lord in prayer.

For all the peoples of the Holy Land: that they may one day experience justice and reconciliation.
Lord, hear us.

For the Church: that God's people will not be indifferent towards individuals and communities throughout the world suffering violence, persecution and poverty.
Lord, hear us.

For young people everywhere: that they may enjoy an environment that is conducive to happiness and hope.
Lord, hear us.

For people who find it hard to be happy and optimistic, particularly those suffering depression or bereavement: may they find hope in God's loving presence in our world, especially this Christmastime.
Lord, hear us.

Father, hear our prayers, which we make trusting in your faithful love for us, through Christ our Lord.



THOSE PREPARING FOR BAPTISM

THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTISED

*Sunday 29th September 2013:
Kai Kwabena Osei Goodensimms*

THOSE ADMITTED TO HOLY COMMUNION

Charlene Namuleme Kaddu

THOSE PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION

THOSE PREPARING FOR HOLY MATRIMONY

*Saturday 28th June 2014 at 2:00pm:
Ian William Bentley & Karen Ann Gladwell*

THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN MARRIED

*Saturday 24th August 2013 at 4:00pm:
Scott Edward Parker and Maria Betsy Side*

SPECIAL INTENTION

Joy wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes for her and her family

FLOWERS IN MEMORY

S. Joseph:
Carol Ann McCartney

BURIAL OF ASHES

Sunday to be confirmed:
John Barry Gant
Sunday to be confirmed:
Jack Brunt

THE DEPARTED

Tony Slaney
Jack Brunt
Les Jones
Brian Goulding
Morgan Sheen

YEARS MIND

24th Sylvester Dawkins
24th Robin Bothwell
24th Betty Morris
27th Albert Bristow
27th Reginald Warrenner



FOR YOUR DAILY INTERCESSION DECEMBER**General Intention:**

That children who are victims of abandonment or violence may find the love and protection they need

Missionary Intention:

That Christians, enlightened by the Word incarnate, may prepare humanity for the Saviour's coming

BIRTHDAYS

27th Olubunmi Akinlalu

PRAYER FOR HEALING

Murray Smallbone Russell Sabat
 Andreas Poplopdous Christina Agin
 Ruby Arthurs John David Cook
 Stanley Lewis Pat Wenham Hazel Clark
 Cloe Gibson Mary Cook Roy Richards
 Walter Mann
 Eve Cocklin Helen Thorpe
 Ruth Kabeba Stephen Katu
 Pauline Alexander Eric Buhl
 Kirsty Forrester Terry Hayward Pat Hayward
 Janet Hole John Hole
 Kathy Fincham Bill Baker
 Iris Agin Shirley Bristow
 Jennifer Fairweather Emma Clifford
 Brian Joseph Bill Scott
 Rosamond Nash Isabel D'Alvarez
 Fr Grahame Stephens Elisabeth Wright
 Karen Bryan Firth Joyce Moore
 Barbara English Alison Scott-Holt
 Alex Fernandes Dee Hodges
 Dianne Fulbrook
 Joanne Johnson (nee Davies) Michael Somer
 Barbara Sleigh Jaq Pearce
 Win Pinn Horace Thompson
 Christian Towner Rosemary Rowan
 Nicky Dacies Heather Goulding
 Muriel Taylor Elizabeth Huddleston
 Fr Derek Robinson Stephen Jahans Jr
 Vivian Rogers Pat Hayward
 Joy Frances Jahans John Cotton
 Katherine Higgins Jason Baker
 Darren Knight Rosina Cochran
 Irene Beatrice Watkins
 Fermina de Araujo
 Mick Martin Pat McFarlane

IN THANKSGIVING

Rebecca Huddleston Alison Abrey
 David Jahans Elisabeth Wright
 Pat Hayward

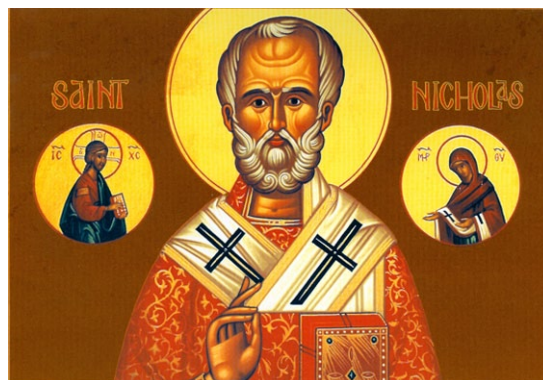
If you are celebrating
 a BIRTHDAY or ANNIVERSARY
 and would like to share it with your Church Family
 A £15 DONATION
 covers the cost of Sherry
 (You may if you wish provide wine of your own choice)
 to be enjoyed at the back of church after Mass
 Please see Gwen or Christina Agin!

Sancte Nicolae. Ora pro nobis

Sunday Readings: Year A
 Psalter Week 4

DECEMBER 2013

| # | 22 | Su | P | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | |
|---|----|----|---|--|--------------------------------|
| | | | | | (CWCL:Fourth Sunday of Advent) |
| | | | | DO1(4) | MP:2(107) EP:1(102) |
| | | | | Mass pr, LI 68, Cr, Pref Advent II | |
| | | | | R1: Isaiah 7:10-14 | Psalm 23:1-6 |
| | | | | R2: Romans 1:1-7 | Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24 |
| | | | | Day of Special Prayer for Expectant Mothers: No special Mass is permitted. The intention is included in the Prayer of the Faithful. | |
| | 23 | M | P | FERIA OF 4th WEEK OF ADVENT | |
| | | | | (Ad lib: com of S John of Kanty Pr – see notice before December 17) | |
| | | | | DO5(4) | MP:2(108) EP:1(103) |
| | | | | Mass pr, LI 90, Pref Advent II | |
| | 24 | T | P | FERIA OF 4th WEEK OF ADVENT | |
| | | | | DO5(4) | MP:2(109) |
| | | | | Mass pr, LI 92, Pref Advent II | |
| | 25 | W | W | THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, Sol with Octave | |
| | | | | DO2 | MP:18(117) EP:17(114) |
| | | | | Mass pr, Gl, LI 104/107/109 (according to the time of Mass), Cr, (all kneel at Incarnatus), Pref Nativity, Eucharistic Prayer I pr | |
| | 26 | Th | R | S STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR, Fest | |
| | | | | DO3(4) | MP:180(453) |
| | | | | Mass pr, Gl, LI 125 or LII 1304, Pref Nativity, Eucharistic Prayer I pr | |
| | | | W | EP of Christmas Octave DO2 | EP:17(113) |
| | 27 | F | W | S JOHN ApEvang, Fest | |
| | | | | DO3(4) | MP:175(455) |
| | | | | Mass pr, Gl, LI 127 or LII 1306, Pref Nativity, Eucharistic Prayer I pr | |
| | | | W | EP of Christmas Octave DO2 | EP:17(114) |
| | 28 | S | R | HOLY INNOCENTS Mrr, Fest | |
| | | | | DO3(4) | MP:183(457) |
| | | | | Mass pr, Gl, LI 129 or LII 1308, Pref Nativity, Eucharistic Prayer I pr | |
| | | | W | EP I of foll DO3(1) | EP:46(120) |
| | | | | Nothing this year of S Thomas Becket | |



Sancte Nicolae. Ora pro nobis

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.*

COLLECT

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, "Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above." "No," Ahaz answered "I will not put the Lord to the test."

Then Isaiah said:

"Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Emmanuel,
a name which means 'God-is-with-us'."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 23

RESPONSE: *Let the Lord enter!
He is the king of glory.*

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **R.**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **R.**
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

SECOND READING Romans 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about

Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins." Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means "God-is-with-us". When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord,
sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar,
just as he filled with his power
the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption,
we pray, almighty God,
that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer,
so we may press forward all the more eagerly
to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

Christmas Mass times



TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS EVE:

5:00pm

CRIB SERVICE

A service with candles and carols. The children may wish to bring presents for the underprivileged.

11:30pm

MIDNIGHT MASS

WEDNESDAY 25TH DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS DAY:

8:00am

Low Mass of the Dawn

11:00am

Solemn Mass of the Day

THURSDAY 26TH DECEMBER

S. STEPHEN'S DAY

Mass at S. Stephen's, Lewisham,

their Patronal Festival,

Preacher Fr Richard Norman

11:00am

FRIDAY 27TH DECEMBER

S. JOHN

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 11:30am

Mass 12:00noon

SATURDAY 28TH DECEMBER

HOLY INNOCENTS

No Celebration of the Mass

SUNDAY 29TH DECEMBER

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00am

Low Mass of the Dawn

11:00am

Solemn Mass of the Day

MONDAY 30TH DECEMBER

SIXTH DAY IN CHRISTMAS OCTAVE

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 11:30am

Mass 12:00noon

TUESDAY 31TH DECEMBER

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 11:30am

Mass 12:00noon

WEDNESDAY 1ST JANUARY 2014

NEW YEAR'S DAY:

Mary Mother of God

12:00noon

Solemn Mass of the Day

THURSDAY 2ND JANUARY

Ss BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 11:30am

Mass 12:00noon

FRIDAY 3RD JANUARY

MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 11:30am

Mass 12:00noon

SATURDAY 4TH JANUARY

FERIA AFTER CHRISTMAS

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9:30am

Mass 10:00am



*A happy and Blessed
Christmas
to everyone!*