



Parish of Saint Monica

Atlantic City, NJ



The Parish of Saint Monica serves all of Atlantic City. It is the union of the city's previously five Catholic parishes: St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Our Lady Star of the Sea, St. Michael, Holy Spirit, and St. Monica.

December 18, 2016 **4th Sunday of Advent**

Our Lady of Guadalupe



Frs. Jon and Fernando concelebrate the Mass honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe last Monday at Star of the Sea Church. Bishop Dennis Sullivan celebrated the Mass and is pictured here wearing a sombrero style hat.

MASS SCHEDULE

Our Lady Star of the Sea 2651 Atlantic Avenue

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

- Saturday** 4:15 PM
7 PM (Spanish)
- Sunday** 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM
10:30 AM (Spanish)
12 Noon
2:30 PM (Spanish)
6:30 PM (Vietnamese)

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

- Mon-Fri** 7 AM, 5:15 PM
- Saturday** 8 AM
- Wednesday** 7 PM (Spanish)
- Thursday** 6:30 PM (Spanish)
- Friday** 7 PM (Spanish)

Saint Nicholas of Tolentine 1409 Pacific Avenue

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

- Saturday** 4:00 PM
- Sunday** 8:45 AM (Traditional Latin)
10:30 AM
12 Noon

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

- Mon-Fri** 8 AM

St. Michael's 10 North Mississippi Avenue

December 24 4:15 PM

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

DEC 24

Midnight Mass

- Our Lady Star of the Sea Church
- Doors open at 11:00 PM
- Christmas Carols at 11:30 PM
- Mass at Midnight

DEC 19

Advent Mass

- Holy Cross Mausoleum Chapel
- Mays Landing
- 10 AM

DEC 19

Advent Penance Service

- 7:00 PM
- Parish wide annual Penance service being held at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church

Parish of Saint Monica • 2651 Atlantic Avenue • Atlantic City, NJ 08401
www.acatholic.org • 609-345-1878

Our Lady Star of the Sea School • 15 North California Avenue • 609-345-0648

Catholic Charities • 9 North Georgia Avenue • 609-345-3448

St. Nicholas Shoppe • 1409 Pacific Avenue • 609-344-1040

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Monday - Friday, 5 PM at Our Lady Star of the Sea. Saturday, 3:15 - 4 PM in both churches. Also available by appointment.

MARRIAGE

Couples planning marriage should set a date with a parish priest at least six months in advance.

INFANT BAPTISM

Preceded by a required baptismal preparation program. Speak to Fr. Pham.

WANT TO BECOME CATHOLIC?

Need to complete your initiation into the Church? Classes run September - June, Mondays at 6:30 PM. Speak to Fr. Pham.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the office when a parishioner is seriously sick so one of the priests may visit.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

September-May. Sundays at 9:00 AM for one hour.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA

Wednesday evenings after the 5:15 Mass.

ROSARY

Monday - Friday, after 7 AM Mass and before 5:15 PM Mass. Saturday after 8:00 AM Mass.

PARISH CENSUS

Recommendations cannot be issued to persons not registered with the Parish. You can register in person in the Rectory.

HOLY DAY SCHEDULE

Our Lady Star of the Sea Vigil Mass 5:15 PM English 7:00 PM Vietnamese

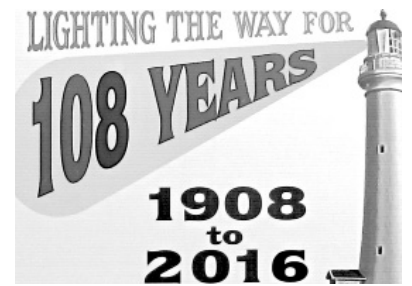
HOLY DAY

7:00 AM English
5:15 PM English
7:00 PM Spanish

St. Nicholas of Tolentine

8:00 AM English
10:00 AM Latin Mass
12 Noon English

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA REGIONAL SCHOOL (OLSS)



Mrs. Susan J. Tarrant School Principal School Staffed by Sisters of Mercy and Lay Faculty

"The mission of Our Lady Star of the Sea Regional School is to strengthen the integration of Catholic values through academic excellence and service and by instilling respect, encouraging justice, and demonstrating compassion to all in our multi-cultural community."

Please join us for the Children's Mass, 5:30 Christmas Eve or on Thursday, December 22nd at 1:15 in Church when the Choir and students in the primary grades present the gift of the birth of Jesus.

OLSS School will close for Christmas break at 11:30 on December 23rd and classes resume Tuesday, January 3rd.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of Our Lady Star of the Sea School, please allow me to extend to you our humble gratitude for your great goodness to us through your prayers and support. Be assured of our continued prayers for you, parishioners of OLSS, and all your intentions, now and in the year ahead. Let us all continue to find wonder and joy in knowing that the Christ Child's presence is with us now and forever. Mrs. Susan Tarrant, Principal

STEWARDSHIP

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Stewards Model

Discipleship

"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." MATTHEW 1:24

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. As His Stewards we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Jon Thomas
Pastor

Rev. Thanh Pham
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Fernando Carmona
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Robert Matysik
Hospital Chaplain

Maria Isabel Duran
Religious Education Coordinator

Erick Duran
Facilities Manager

Mary Ellen Maguire
Pastoral Associate

Sandy Parker
Office Manager

Joan Parker
Bookkeeper

Ruby Brooks
Gift Shop Manager

Laura Esparza
Asst. for Hispanic Ministry

Henry Porvaznik
Asst. for Special Projects

CONTACT

RECTORY
609-345-1878

FAX
609-348-0248

RELIGIOUS ED
609-345-1878 x24

SCHOOL
609-345-0648

CONVENT
609-347-0434

WEB SITE
accatholic.org

The Meaning of Christmas

In *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, Charlie, disenchanted by the commercialization of Christmas, searches for its true meaning. I thought I might share my own thoughts about the meaning of Christmas.

I was ordained in 2010 with a former Lutheran pastor. His insights as a convert to Catholicism are always interesting but one insight has been particularly memorable. When speaking to atheists, he said, we should avoid abstract proofs of God's existence in favor of the words and actions of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, meaning God with us.

Seminary begins with a study of philosophy. I remember learning St. Thomas Aquinas' five proofs of the existence of God. They follow good logic but they do not tell us much about God or his relationship with us. They do not inspire. My class wondered if anyone became a believer after reading them. In fact, many people do accept that there is some God above, but have no idea what it means for them. My ordination classmate meant that we should preach the God of Jesus Christ, who is not a distant spirit but one who came among us in the flesh.

Does God exist? "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). What better answer than this? God became one of his in order to speak to us in a way we could understand. Yet there was no missing the divinity behind the humanity. He said clearly that he was God by invoking the divine name Yahweh (I AM): "Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58). He taught more powerfully than other religious teachers: "The crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes" (Matthew 7:28-29). Finally, there are Jesus' miracles, called signs in the Gospel of John. They led Nicodemus, a Pharisee and Jewish leader, to say: "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do, unless God is with him" (John 3:2). The entire ninth chapter of the Gospel of John is about a single miracle, Jesus giving sight to a man born blind. The Pharisees investigated the miracle, questioning the man and even his parents whether he was really born blind and, if so, how he was able to see now. The Pharisees threatened the man to deny Jesus' miracle but he responded, "Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing" (John 9:32-33).

What does God's existence mean to us? God cherishes human life: "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's will. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:29-31). Humanity's destiny is with God: "Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14:1-3).

Maybe many people today do not even ask the questions above, so Jesus' answers are not heard. However, like Charlie Brown, they are searching for something. It may be happiness, love, truth, meaning, purpose. But these are abstractions. Concepts do not fulfill people; only other people do. The only possible end to our search is another person. Atheists sadly close the door to this possibility. Christmas teaches us that God is not the abstract concept of logic and philosophy; he is a real person who wants a relationship with us.

In *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, Linus answers Charlie's question by reciting Luke chapter two verses eight through 14, the angel's annunciation to the shepherds. We will hear their "good news of great joy" at midnight Mass. Let us pray that many others will, too, this Christmas season.

Does God exist? "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). What better answer than this?

How We Serve

FOOD PANTRY

At St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church
1409 Pacific Avenue

Your donation of food, money and/or time are always welcome!

Come every **third Monday of the month** between **8:00 am & 11:00 am** on Memorial Ave. (Rear of church property) Please come early.

**NEXT DISTRIBUTION IS
TOMORROW
DECEMBER 19, 2016**

At St. Monica's Church
108 N. Pennsylvania Avenue

**NEXT DISTRIBUTION IS SATURDAY
JANUARY 21, 2017**

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

At 9 N. Georgia Avenue
Corner of Atlantic Avenue
Fridays (except First Friday)

Free clothing to Homeless who provide proof of their homeless situation

Thrift Store Hours 9:30-11:30
Monday - Adult Clothing
Wednesday - Children & Housewares

Some bill pay services

Other services for the most needy in Atlantic County

Call 609-345-7737 to ask how you can help serve this Catholic Outreach Ministry

Open Monday-Friday

ST. NICHOLAS RELIGIOUS GIFT

SHOPPE IS LOCATED IN THE RECTORY GROUND FLOOR. PLEASE RING THE BELL. **STOP IN AND BROWSE!** Proceeds from the gift shop go to support Our Lady Star of the Sea School and Church Restoration.

Store Hours

Monday, Thursday and Friday
10:00 AM—3:00 PM
Tuesday, Wednesday - Closed
Saturday - 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sunday 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Christmas Season Sale

50% off your total purchase

JOIN US

Music At St. Nicholas

Today at St. Nicholas, we hear music from the Papal Chapel. Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594) is perhaps one of the best known composer of sacred music in the Catholic Church and his work is seen by many as the culmination of vocal music in the Renaissance. His "Missa Brevis" or "Short Mass" is a skillful use of singers, resources and time; with the tempo changing always to underscore the meaning of the text.

Cristóbal de Morales (1500-1553) worked in both Spain and Rome, serving as a composer to the papal chapel as well as the director of music at the Cathedral of Toledo, Spain. This week we will hear his settings of the "Hail Mary" and "Behold a Virgin Conceived".

Anyone who would like to make music at St. Nicholas Church either by singing or playing a musical instrument is encouraged to contact Steven Ball: info@StevenBall.com (609) 515-5857.

Altar Servers Needed

Altar servers are not just a great help to the priest; they also enhance the beauty and solemnity of the Mass. We are in need of servers at St. Nicholas Church. Marvin Laws, pastoral council vice chair, graciously serves the 4 PM Mass every Saturday. A number of men serve the Latin Mass. But we are in need of servers for the 10:30 AM and 12 noon Masses. Children as well as adults are welcome. Servers can assist on a rotating basis. Inquire with Fr. Jon (jthomas@accatholic.org).

Stardust Tickets

Memberships are now available for the next cycle of the Stardust 50/50 Raffle Club. The donation is \$70 for a seven month membership.

Applications & information regarding the club can be found in the racks at the church doors and online at accatholic.org. To date, 941 memberships have been sold, 59 memberships are still available for purchase.

Advent Penance Service

Parish Wide Advent Penance service will be held at
7:00 PM Tomorrow
Monday December 19, 2016 at
Our Lady Star of the Sea Church.

JOIN OUR US CATHOLIC SISTERS IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Not all persons experience loving families and receive multiple gifts. **REMEMBER** those who are bought and sold as commodities for greed and pleasure.

US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking (sistersagainstrafficking.org)

CATHOLIC MASSES IN ATLANTIC CITY FOR CHRISTMAS 2016 AND NEW YEAR'S 2017

Our Lady Star of the Sea Church

2651 Atlantic Avenue (near Tropicana)

Sacrament of Penance

Saturdays from 3:15 to 4:00 PM

Regular weeknights from 5:00 to 5:15 PM

Advent Penance Service: Monday, December 19th at 7:00 PM

Masses

Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24	4:15 PM – English 5:30 PM – Children’s Mass 7:00 PM - Spanish 9:00 PM - Vietnamese 11:30 PM - Christmas Carols 12:00 - Midnight Mass
Christmas Day Sunday, December 25	7:30 AM, 9:00 AM & 12:00 Noon - English 10:30 & 2:30 PM - Spanish
New Year's Eve Saturday, December 31	4:15 PM - English 7:00 PM – Spanish
New Year's Day Sunday, January 1	7:30 AM, 9:00 AM & 12 Noon - English 10:30 AM & 2:30 PM – Spanish 6:30 PM – Vietnamese

Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Church

1409 Pacific Avenue (between Bally's and Resorts)

Sacrament of Penance

Saturdays from 3:15 to 4:00 PM

Masses

Christmas Eve December 24	4:00 PM – English
Christmas Day Sunday, December 25	8:45 AM – Traditional Latin Mass 10:30 AM – English
New Year's Eve Saturday, December 31	4:00 PM – English
New Year's Day Sunday, January 1	8:45 AM – Traditional Latin Mass 10:30 AM & 12 Noon - English

STARDUST WINNERS DECEMBER 10, 2016

First Prize #710	\$2,814.00	Alfred Emmons, Sr. Atlantic City, NJ
Second Prize #919	\$469.00	The Kroenig Family Reading Family
Third Prize #516	\$469.00	George & Theresa Inazaina Drexwl Hill, PA
Fourth Prize #402	\$469.00	Mr. & Mrs. Joeph Callahan Warrington, PA
Fifth Prize #873	\$469.00	Rita Ricketts Pembroke Pines, FL

HOST *Wine & Candles*

The week of
December 18, 2016

At Our Lady Star of the Sea Church

In Memory of
Jimmy Ruane & Chrissy Ruane Rush

Requested by
Mary Ruane

Palabra de Vida

Considere la posibilidad de volver a leer el Evangelio del Domingo, Mateo 1:18-24 y luego reflexione sobre las preguntas.

Reflexión para Adultos: ¿Cuáles son las distracciones que impiden escuchar el mensajes de Dios?

Reflexión para niños: ¿Qué crees de los ángeles? ¿Qué pensarías si en un sueño un ángel te hablara?

Comunidad Hispana

Horarios de Atención Oficina Hispana

Martes, Miércoles y Jueves 10am - 2pm

Viernes 11am - 2pm

Secretaria Laura Esparza

609-345-1878 ext.19

CLASES DE BAUTISMO

Las clases de bautismo en español se darán todos los primeros y terceros jueves de cada mes, empezando con la misa a las 6:30 pm y luego con la plática a las 7:30 pm. Por favor de traer el Acta de Nacimiento del su hijo (a).

Spanish Baptismal classes are held the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:30 pm in the sacristy. The classes will follow the 6:30 Mass. Please bring the child's Birth Certificate to the class.

LITURGIA DEL DOMINGO

4º DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

"Cuando José se despertó, hizo lo que el ángel del Señor le había mandado, y llevó a su mujer a su casa." Mateo 1:24

Pongamos toda nuestra confianza en el Señor sin esperar nada a cambio. Tratemos de poner a Dios primero en todo y de seguirlo a donde sea que nos guíe. Mientras nos preparamos para el nacimiento de nuestro Señor, oremos por fortaleza y valor para ser un modelo de discipulado, así como lo fue José.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Mary Help of Christians Sodality of The Parish of St. Monica, Atlantic City, will be awarding a \$1,000.00 Scholarship to a female high school senior planning to further her education in the fall of 2017. She must meet all criteria, including a connection to Mary Help of Christians Sodality either from the former St. Michael's Parish or The Parish of St. Monica. Applications are now available through the local high schools' guidance department.

For any additional information/clarification, please call Sally Krause at 609-822-4008 or email at sk_614@yahoo.com. Do not contact the Parish office.

Mass Intentions for the Week - December 18, 2016

OLSS Church

Day	Date	Time	Intention
Saturday	Dec 17	4:15	Dan & Rose Maguire/Family
		7:00	Delia Pama/ofrece su familia
		7:30	Bob Hasson/His Mother
Sunday	Dec 18	9:00	Jimmy Boyd/Tim & Cathy Kelly
		10:30	Jaime Duque/pfrece su familia
		12:00	Andrea Librone/Family
		2:30	Mark Gabrielli/ofrece su familia
Monday	Dec 19	6:30	Mass for the People
		7:00	Sis & Joe Liddy/Liddy Family
		5:15	Edward DiNic/Charlie Dillon
Tuesday	Dec 20	7:00	Robert McDevitt/Tricia Clark-Collins & Family
		5:15	Phyllis Philip/John & Barbara Smith
Wednesday	Dec 21	7:00	Loss of the 36 Victims in the Oakland California Warehouse Fire
		5:15	Mass of Thanksgiving/Cecilia Magalong
		7:00	Marcos Lopez/ofrece su familia
Thursday	Dec 22	7:00	Theresa Haraburda/Rose Urban
		5:15	Lou Ann Giberson/Margie
		6:30	Eliseo Martinez Martes/ofrece su familia
Friday	Dec 23	7:00	Mass for the people
		5:15	Rosemary R. Jones/Steve & Family
		7:00	Daniel Borges/ofrece su familia
Saturday	Dec 24	8:00	John McAvaddy, Sr/Family
		4:15	Rose Maguire & Gloria Garufi/Family
		5:30	Children's Mass
		7:00	Maria Cristina Moran/ofrece su familia
		9:00	Tạ ơn/ Ban Chắp Hành xin
12 Mid-night	World Peace/Cecilia Magalong		

OLSS Church

Sunday	Dec 25	7:30	Mass for the People
		9:00	Christine & George Dudo/Jim & Chris Goodwin
		10:30	Marco Antonio Solano Guzman/ofrece su familia
		12:00	LoCoCo Gaetano Family/Andrea LoCoCo
		2:30	Frankie Williams/ofrece su familia

St. Nicholas Church

Day	Date	Time	Intention
Saturday	Dec 17	4:00	Pinchot Family (L&D) St. Mary Claude Damico
Sunday	Dec 18	8:45	Fr. Jon, Fr. Thanh, Fr. Fernando & Fr. Bob (L)/Cathy Lane
		10:30	Burke & Cox Families (L & D) Marie Mangano/Martha Dunham
		12:00	Rev. Raymond Gormley (L-Good Health) Walter & Dolores Domzalski/ Nancy Nolan
Monday	Dec 19	8:00	James Patrick & Mary Teresa Burke
Tuesday	Dec 20	8:00	Jose Gabriel Velez Diaz/Omer Ortiz
Wednesday	Dec 21	8:00	Dr. James Patrick Burke (L)
Thursday	Dec 22	8:00	Dr. Joseph Michael Formica (L)
Friday	Dec 23	8:00	Jaime Bautista, Sr.
Saturday	Dec 24	4:00	Pinchot Family (L&D) Davis & Flanagan Families/ Son/Grandson Kevin

St. Michael's Church

Day	Date	Time	Intention
Saturday	Dec 24	4:15	Michael McGhee & Charlie Iannarello (DJ Bliss)/Maria Haas Emma & William ("Dagi") Mancini/Family Joseph Persenda/Wife Sara & Family

Word Of Life

Consider rereading Matthew 1:18-24 then reflect upon the appropriate question below.

Reflection for Adults: What are the distractions that hinder your listening to messages from God?

Reflection for Children: What do you believe about angels? What would you think if in a dream an angel spoke to you?