

*Come let us adore Him*



*S a i n t   T h e o d o r e*  
*Roman Catholic Church*  
*Port Murray, New Jersey*

*Sunday December 22, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Advent*

# Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

5:00 pm Christmas Remembrance

Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 am † Elizabeth Tothkoper  
By Capaldo Family

10:30 am Christmas Remembrance &  
Maria & Gizegorz Karkoszka  
By Family

Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

8:45 am Christmas Remembrance

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> ~ Vigil Mass

5pm Christmas Remembrance

12am Christmas Remembrance

Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> ~ The Nativity of the Lord

9am Christmas Remembrance

11am Christmas Remembrance

Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup> ~ St. Stephen

No Mass

Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup> ~ St. John

8:45 am Christmas Remembrance

Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup> ~ The Holy Innocents

5:00 pm Christmas Remembrance

Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> ~ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:00 am Living & Deceased Parishioners of  
St. Theodore &

Jan Karkoszka 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary  
By Family

10:30 am † Susan Gould  
By Gerry & Brian Moss

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

First Collection: \$2,127

Property & Liability: \$798

Votives: \$261

Thank you for your generosity.



**Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Eve Mass & Pageant  
5:00 pm & 12:00 am Midnight Mass

**Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Morning Mass  
9:00 am & 11:00 am



**New Years Day Mass**

Tuesday, 31st  
6:30 pm

Wednesday, 1st  
9am & 11 am

## Dear Parish Family,

I am very happy to wish you all my **Prayerful Greetings** as we enter the Christmas Season. The story of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ is a reminder to us all that God came to live among us, to be close to us, and to save us from our sins. Jesus gave us himself as a gift to us.

As we celebrate the Nativity of Jesus, we remain eternally grateful to God for all the blessings, especially for the gifts of life, family, faith community, friends and neighbors. I take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely as you have been such a blessing to our parish by being active and supporting us with your gifts of time, talents and timely financial help. My special gratitude goes to all the volunteers in our different ministries who do such a wonderful job in serving the various needs of our parish with much enthusiasm and commitment. I hope and pray that you will have a wonderful and blessed time during this Christmas Season.

Father Damian, SDS

Matthew 1:21 says, "She shall bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins."



St. Theodore Roman Catholic Church  
855 Rt. 57, Port Murray, NJ 07865  
908-689-8318 / sttheodorenj.org

## The Nativity of the Lord



At the beginning of the 4th century, the liturgical calendar began to evolve, giving value to the "historical" Jesus as well. Good Friday was added to recall Jesus' death, and the Last Supper.... In that trajectory, the Nativity, the Birth of Jesus, was added. The first evidence of the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord dates back to the year 336. Christmas is the only liturgical celebration with four Masses, the Vigil Mass, the Mass during the Night, the Mass at Dawn and the Mass during the Day. The readings are the same for each of these Masses for all three liturgical years. This choice seeks to demonstrate and enhance, almost in slow motion, that Event that changed the course of human history: God became man.

**Vigil:** *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham... Matthan became the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ (Mt. 1:1-25).*

**Night:** *"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" (Lk 2:1-14).*

**Dawn:** *When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place... So they went in haste... Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God (Lk 2:15-20).*

**Day:** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us (Jn. 1:1-18).*

Today, the Light came into the world. Today, as it has done for over two thousand years, the Light shatters the darkness and the shadows of the night and illuminates us. That Light has a face and a name: Jesus Christ, prophesied by the prophet Isaiah: *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light"* (Mass during the Night, Is. 9:1-6). He is the Light of the world that shines in the darkness (Jn. 1:9, 3, 19; Mass during the Day). He is the Hope that does not disappoint (Rom. 5:5). Jesus, from the root and lineage of David (cf. 2 Sam. 7:8ff.), the fulfillment of God's promise to King David (Fourth Sunday of Advent). Jesus is the radiant morning star (Rev. 22:16).

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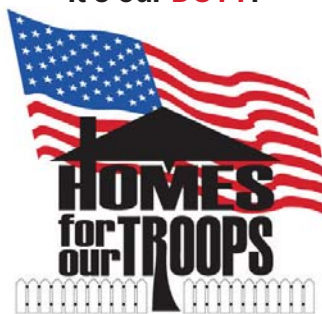
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