



JOY

Do not be afraid. I bring you
GOOD NEWS that will cause
great joy for all the people.

LUKE 2:10

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

Sunday December 15th, 2024 Third Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 14th ~ St. John of the Cross

5:00 pm † **Nicholas DeSantos**
By Desiree Mora

Sunday, December 15th ~ Third Sunday of Advent

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

Henry Kuruc 20th Anniversary
By Family

10:30 am **Nicholas John Prosser**
By Lisa Marie

Monday, December 16th

8:45 am † **Ardra Doherty**
By Family

Tuesday, December 17th

8:45 am † **Peter & Julie Martinez**
By Karl & Rose Strohmaier

Wednesday, December 18th

8:45 am † **Paul Bocollini II**
By Mom, Dad & Brother

Thursday, December 19th

No Mass

Friday, December 20th

8:45 am † **Sabino & Antonietta Antinolfi**
By Ienneli Family

Saturday, December 21st

5:00 pm **Christmas Remembrance**

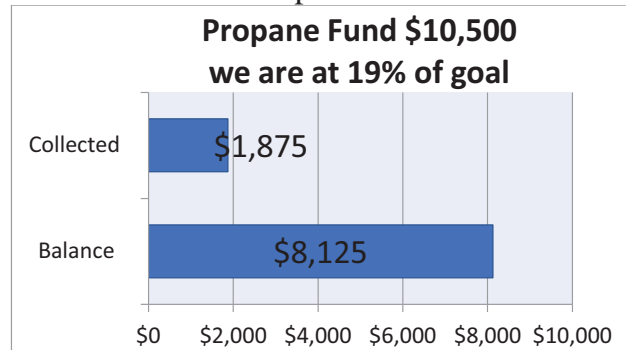
Sunday, December 22nd ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 am † **Elizabeth Tothkoper**
By Capaldo Family

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

Next week's collection is for

The Propane Costs.



St. Theodore's ANNUAL TRICKY TRAY

St. Theodore Annual Tricky Tray was a success! We thank everyone who donated/sponsored prizes, bought tickets, donated food, and the work behind the scenes throughout the year!

All the hard work paid off and we were able to raise approximately

\$26,000

more details to follow once all expenses are accounted for

A special thank you to Desiree Mora, Theresa McLaughlin, Dorothy Wantrobski & Louise Wladich who ran the operations.

December Calendar

Christmas Nativity Pageant Practice- Every Sunday Dec 1st Dec. 22nd at 9- 10:30am

Parish Mission with Father Luke
"Prepare for His Coming"

Saturday, Dec, 14th thru Dec. 17th at 6:30 pm

Christmas Confession

Monday Dec.16th at 6:30 pm

Decorate the Church

Sunday Dec, 22nd at 11:30 am



Gaudete Sunday

We celebrate on Christmas not because the power of the season will get me through another year, but because Jesus Christ has entered the battle against my ancient enemy, Satan. While modern Christmas songs gloss over this, the traditional hymns highlight that it is the Son of God entering the fight that leads to the joy of the season.

It is for this reason that the priest wears pink, or rose, on this third Sunday of Advent. Known as "Gaudete," (rejoice) Sunday, the pink candle in the Advent Wreath is a reminder of the explosive power of the season. We receive reminders of the reason for this joy all throughout the readings this weekend, and it is always connected with the presence of the Savior. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all...Cry out with joy and gladness; for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel...The Lord is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. Yes, this is a season joy and celebration, but only because Jesus Christ has become a human to save us from "Satan's power." Our modern world attributes all the joy of this season to some generic good feeling that comes this time of year. Nothing could be less helpful or further from the truth. Christmas is only a season of celebration because Jesus Christ has entered the arena against His ancient enemy, and we know who comes out on top.

What comes next for us? The pink candle and vestment invite me into the great battle, where the Word became flesh and "saved us all from Satan's power." Between now and Christmas, what do I need to do to more fully enter the battle? Invite someone to Confession or Mass? Get myself to Confession? Be generous with someone in need? Whatever the case may be, may our celebrations this weekend and this entire season lead us into greater appreciation for the Word Made Flesh and our entry into the battle next to Him.

Written by Fr. Drew Hoffman



St. Theodore Altar Rosary Society would like to thank you for your generous kindness in purchasing Christmas wreaths and /or centerpieces from Dutch Valley Florist. You as parishioners made this a successful "Thank You Drive" to Dutch Valley Florist for all the lovely flowers they donate to us throughout the year. A collection of \$540 was given to Dutch Valley Florist from St. Theodore.



DECORATE the Church

Sunday, Dec, 22nd at 11:30 am

Come join the festive chaos as we decorate the Church. It is a wonderful time for your family to feel the Christmas spirit as we prepare for the birth of Jesus.



Remember in your prayers the sick of the parish:

Ann Marie, Ientile Family,
 The Proefrock Family, Luke Ansbach,
 Michael Shannon, Jim Mattison, for the Cáceres Family,
 Helen Schuetler & Family, Edward Kirby, Joseph Mattar, Patricia Walker, Bp. Paul Bootkoski, Jaenne Szamreta and all the intentions found in **THE BOOK OF INTENTIONS** located in the Narthex.



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