

MASSES FOR THE WEEK



Monday, December 19, 2011
7:00 am Al Miele
9:00 am Charles Ecke

Tuesday, December 20, 2011
7:00 am Dolores Andreski
9:00 am Dale Marie Fanning

Wednesday, December 21, 2011
7:00 am Sergio Russo
9:00 am Vincenzo Pugliese-Christmas Rem.

Thursday, December 22, 2011
7:00 am Luigi Sorace
9:00 am Adrian Lopez-Silvero-5th Anniv. Rem.

Friday, December 23, 2011
7:00 am Diehl, Mennella & Restituto Families
9:00 am Rosemary Penta

Saturday, December 24, 2011
9:00 am Joseph Hobbins
Carl Scarito
Francis J. Walsh, Jr./Genevieve Walsh
Angie and Rudy Giovannetti
Margaret Lombardo
4:00 pm Alissa Marie Tucciarone&grandparents
4:00 pm/Aud. Eleanor Dale and Herb Sievers
5:30 pm Cervini and Peacock Family
10:30 pm Living and Deceased Parishioners

Sunday, December 25, 2011
7:30 am Members of Purgatorial Society
9:00 am Lawrence Caparco, Sr.-Birthday Rem.
10:30 am Philip Rooney
12:00 pm Anthony Arpino—1st Anniversary
12:00 pm/Aud Fritz and Hanna Straub
No 5 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day

**Please pray for the sick of our Parish
and those who care for them:**

Michael Glose	June Bellofatto	Joyce Ambrusino
Richard Strejlau	Michael Capobianco	Robert Link
Larry Redican	Mary Ann Kotoucek	Maura Dolan-Colucci
Andrew Bartolozzi	Edward Zoccola	Sean Matthews
Nicole O'Neill	Slavica Vrbatovic	Joe Dunne
Emily Brophy	Brian Mulligan	Gene Chanis
Rose Vroman	Frank Santoriello	Baby Ellieanna Barbers
Sally Waskewich	Mackenzie J. Borchers	Paul Bozung
John Dominic Morea	Richard Girardi	Baby Paul Meyers
Jeanne Bianco	Cathy Mitchell	Christine Americo
Aaron Rojan	Rita Esposito	Bayani Santiago
Dorothy Vella	Mary Sue Maluda	Christopher Palmer
Julianna Buttner	Dominick Granite	Thomas Volpe
Jessica Buttner	Connie Granite	Frances Elberfeld
David Golpanian	Linda Farese	Myrtle Melazzi
Elizabeth Jones	John LoBasso	Justin LaScala
Edward Weinschreider	Michael LoBasso	Pat Kohler
Peter Mastropasqua	Sal Portelli	Michael Kolnberger
John McKeon	Alan Meyer	Debra M. Monahan
Doris Eich	Joan Nauss	Eugene Mullins
Baby R. Sznurkowski	Elizabeth Logan	Theresa Gorozdi
Andrew Gamard	Baby Joseph Bedell	Anne DellaRocca
Leonard Toscano	Anna Lopez	William Joseph Adams
Raymond O'Rourke	Grace McNulty	Thomas Marinace
Dorothy Montuori	Bonnie Kmiolek	Maddie and Bob Kenny
Marion Gattus	Diana Skelton	Amanda Koch
John/Connie Cardillo	Christine Alpin	Joe Dunne
Philip Crepeau	Mary Fitzsimmons	
Steven Bonansinga	Coleen Ventricelli	
Baby Sophia Maglione	Mario DiGangi	
Rose Maglione	John Maniaci	



**Please pray for the deceased of our
parish and those who mourn them:**
*Barbara R. Hickey, Arthur V. Gunning
and Marion Castellano*

Altar Bread and Wine Donations

*Our Altar Bread and Wine
for the week of December 18, 2011
are in memory of Sergio Russo
4th Anniversary
donated by his loving family*



Altar Flower Donations

*Our Altar Flower Donations
for the week of December 18, 2011
are in memory of Joseph & Antoinette Mollino
and Paul & Sadie Graziano
donated by Jack and Cathy Graziano*



Altar Candle Donations

*Our Altar Candle Donations for the week of
December 18, 2011 are in memory of
Evo Bontempi, donated by his loving wife*



PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR MILITARY



Jonathan Ambrosini	Kristin Paladino
Chris Caiozzi	Christopher Manzalillo
Joseph Carroll	Evan Marcy
Anthony Cavalieri	Drew Masone
Michael Dundon	Robert Michelotti
Christopher Eckert	Marc Mitchell
James Fenton	Gregory Nordquist
Michael Geller	Peter Rommel
Murray Griffin	Adam Ropelewski
James Harris	Joshua Rotondo
Ashlee Heckler	Michael Sanchez
Timothy Hirten	Alfred Simeone
Ryan Hodgetts	Michael Simeone
Gregory Holownia	Jason Spinella
Michael Jackvony	John M. Tarpey
Timothy Judge	Chad Thornton
Daniel Klein	Nathan White
James Lisle	John Zimmerman
Thomas Lisle	Kevin Zwijczak



Dear Parishioners,

Christmas is a special season. "For unto us a Child is born," tells us that Jesus was born as God's gift to each one of us. Like the Wise Men, who sought truth and found Jesus, we are pilgrims on a journey toward Christ. We seek the wisdom, the peace, and the joy that only the spirit of Christ can provide.

We invite you to gather around the Lord's table with us to celebrate the richness of Christ's presence with all the people of God in our parish family.

May this Christmas season find you abounding in love, rejoicing in hope, and secure in God's peace. May God's richest blessings continue with you through the coming year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Maria Regina Pastoral Team



FAREWELL TO FATHER STEPHEN

This season of the year is a time for many different emotions. For many, it is a joyous time to be with family and friends, to share joy and cheer, to think of loved ones past and present, to remember the greatest gift God has ever given the world—Jesus, the Word made flesh. For others, unfortunately, it is a time of loneliness and distance from relatives and friends or sad memories from the past. We need to keep these—our brothers and sisters—in our hearts and prayers for their comfort at this time.

This year, Maria Regina Parish, will be experiencing both sets of emotions. The first is, of course, JOY, for Fr. Stephen that he has been appointed by Bishop Murphy as the new pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Roslyn. Having already served for many years as a pastor in a small parish, Fr. Stephen will bring a 'sack load' of wisdom and ideas to St. Mary's. The additional fact that he has already served there as a young priest—adds a note of 'homecoming'. To serve as a pastor today is a challenging ministry in the Church, one which Fr. Stephen will more than adequately fulfill. His fifteen months with us here in Maria Regina have been filled with an almost nonstop round of activities and ministries—some old and some newly developed by Fr. Stephen. We are the richer for his presence among us and so we rejoice with him at this time in his life.

The SADNESS is because he will be leaving us. The past fifteen months have passed very quickly, especially for the Staff of the parish. Each member has come to know, respect, and cherish Fr. Stephen in his/her own unique way. We will carry these memories far into the future.

Due to the suddenness of his departure, we were unable to honor Fr. Stephen in a fitting way. Therefore, with his agreement, we have set aside the **12:00 noon Mass on January 22, 2012** as a time to pray for and honor him. This Mass will be followed by a social in the school gym. **PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO BE WITH US ON JANUARY 22, 2012 AT THE NOON MASS.**

Fr. Peter

**Pauca Verba ~ Advent and Saint Andrew the First-Called
Father Stephen P. Morris**

A few weeks ago, at the start of Advent (November 30), the Church kept the feast of Saint Andrew the Apostle, who is given the name, *First-Called*, by the Eastern Church. John's Gospel (1:40,41) tells us how Andrew came by this title.

One of the two who followed Jesus after hearing what John said was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. The first thing he did was to find his brother Simon. He said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is Hebrew for 'Christ').

Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland, Greece and Russia – as well as the patron of fishermen and sailors. But Father Tom Gallagher, who lives with us in the rectory, said that he has named Andrew the *Patron of Hospitality*, as in all three gospel appearances where we encounter Andrew, he's busy introducing people to Jesus. In addition to his introducing his brother Simon to Jesus, Andrew introduces the little boy with the five barley loaves and the couple of dried fish to Jesus as well (John 6:8-10) – providing the basic ingredients by which Jesus feeds 5000 people! And in John 12:10-22, it's Andrew (along with Philip) who tells Jesus that there are some Greeks who would like to meet him.

Hospitality: introducing people to each other, making space for people, welcoming others, being sure no one's left out, inviting those who haven't been invited before, assuring others of my undivided attention, making people feel valued. Catholic parishes should be highly visible signs that say *Look! there's room for everyone*, in a world of division, bitter acrimony, alienation, marginalization and child-rejecting abortion.

Josh Groban ~ NOEL

Josh Groban is a young singer, musician and song writer who has produced a number of albums. But one that might interest us particularly is **NOEL** – his Christmas album (2007). Here his voice is described as "*majestic yet intimate*". His rendition of "*I'll Be Home For Christmas*" is timely and extraordinarily sensitive. He sings the traditional *Ave Maria* (Hail Mary) many of us know and love, and the great and tender Eucharistic hymn *Panis Angelicus*:

*We feed on angel's food
The slave, O wonder! eats the flesh
of his Incarnate God.*

His rendition of "*Little Drummer Boy*" is very fresh and for the first time I became aware of the line which tells us that the Infant Christ *smiled* at the little boy playing. *That in Christ, heaven has smiled at us!* And this is not just pious imagining. The gospel tells us that when the young man decided **not** to follow Jesus, that Jesus "*looked at him with love*" (Mark 10:21). It's no stretch to realize that a soft smile is part of looking at someone lovingly.



Marriage Banns-Second Time
Michael Tauber & Kathleen Turco

First Time

Nicholas Pacione & Michelle Steinmueller



Marie Regina
Holy Name Society

New Year's Eve Party
Saturday, December 31, 2011
Maria Regina Auditorium
Hot Food-Open Bar
Dancing to a Live Band!
Nose Makers, Hats, etc.

Admission: \$65.00 pp All Inclusive!!

Call: Joe Pontieri 679-9764;
Robert Wahl 776-2767
or the Rectory Office 798-2415

Start the New Year right!

Holy Name Society
Annual Christmas Poster Contest

Theme: Christmas is Jesus' Birthday

Maria Regina School Winners

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Name</u>
Kindergarten	Sean Atkinson
Grade 1	Gabrielle Cappella
Grade 2	Megan Monaghan
Grade 3	Anthony Genovese
Grade 4	Nicolle Kouw
Grade 5	Eddie David
Grade 6	Cristina Iovino
Grade 7	Emily Mohlin
Grade 8	Samantha Migliore

Congratulations to all the winners, your parish family is very proud of you!



Holy Name Society
Annual Christmas Poster Contest

Theme: Christmas is Jesus' Birthday

Diocesan Level Winners from Maria Regina School

Kindergarten:	Sean Atkinson-3rd Place
1st Grade:	Gabrielle Cappella-participation only
2nd Grade:	Megan Monaghan—3rd Place
3rd Grade:	Anthony Genovese—Honorable Mention
4th Grade:	Nicole Kouw—3rd Place
5th Grade:	Eddie David—3rd Place
6th Grade:	Cristina Iovino—Honorable Mention
7th Grade:	Emily Mohlin—2nd Place
8th Grade:	Samantha Migliore—2nd Place

Congratulations to one and all!



Maria Regina School is Celebrating it's 50th Anniversary!

We are reaching out to alumni, requesting they send emails to
alumni@mariareginaschool.org

Please indicate your full name (surname if applicable), address, telephone
number, and email address.

We invite you to join us on the following dates.

January 29, 2012: 50th Anniversary Mass @ 10:30 AM

Open House will follow from 11:30-1:00 PM

March 3, 2012: Alumni Mass @ 5:30 PM

Dinner Dance in the school's gym from 7-11PM

May 19, 2012: Barbecue/Picnic at Marjorie Post Park
(Rain date May 20, 2012)

July 5-8, 2012: Family Carnival

September 28, 2012: 50th Anniversary Dinner
The Coral House

Visit our school's homepage at
www.MariaReginaSchool.org

Join us on Facebook!





BAPTISMS

We welcome to the parish and the Christian Community the following baby baptized last week:

Christopher James Greco



The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is in the back of the church. Please help yourself to a tag off the tree and buy a gift card to Old Navy,

Kohls, Waldbaums, Target, Toys R Us or any other Local store. Please return the gift card to the rectory or the Religious Education Office by *December 19th*.

These will be distributed to families in need in our area. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Christmas Tree Sale!

Members of the Maria Regina Holy Name Society will be selling wreaths, blankets and trees after all the Masses on the weekends of:

Dec.17th/18th

Buy early for decorating and those trips to the Cemetery. All items reasonably priced with all proceeds returned for parish needs.

The Long Island Catholic

Thank You For Your Donations!

This month we asked for \$20 donations and tens of thousands of our Catholic neighbors responded with great generosity. Thank you all so very much!

If you missed our Dec. 4th collection, you can still make your \$20 donation by bringing your LIC envelope to next weekend's Mass. \$20 may not seem like much, but it is our lifeline. Thank You!

"Shopping Cents" Gift Card Program

- What:** We will be selling gift cards from Best Yet, King Kullen, Pathmark, Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, and Waldbaum's as well as gift cards from other retailers such as Kohl's Macy's, Marshall's/TJ Maxx, Payless, Starbucks, Apple bee's, Dunkin Donuts, Barnes & Noble and AMC/ Loews Theaters and more.
- When:** Please contact the Rectory, time is running very short!
- How:** You can pay by cash or check made Payable to Maria Regina Scrip Program
- Why:** Stop by and do some of your holiday shopping or buy a gift card to donate to the Giving Tree.

Thank you for your support!

Nativity of the Lord

Bulletin Reflection

The shepherds who heard the joyous news from the angels on that first Christmas night and then hurried to find the infant Savior must surely have been changed by that experience. How has His coming changed my life?

Living Stewardship

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who rejoice because the Word became flesh and dwells among us!

O come let us adore Him!

Special Friends Mass

Our next Special Friends Mass will take place on Sunday, January 8, 2012 at 12 noon in the Chapel.

Fr. Paul Bie will preside

Ministry Page



Maria Regina Youth Ministry **Youth Ministry Movie Night** **Scheduled for Dec. 30th**

Any teen currently in 7th-12th grade can e-mail their interest to Meg@gotomyhomepage.com to receive further movie information, plus the parish permission slip so that they can attend. Hope to hear from you.

Maria Regina Singles Club

The next meeting for the Maria Regina Singles Club is on Thursday, December 22nd at 7:30 pm in the St. Michael Room of the Parish Center.

Join us and see what we're all about!



Calling all angels **and shepherds!!**

Christmas Eve Nativity for Children
4 pm Christmas Eve Family Mass
All parts needed!

Any children interested in being a part of the Nativity during Christmas Eve Mass please contact Gina D'Orio at 679-0169.

Children, how are you getting ready for the birth of Jesus? The family Mass committee needs you! Please take a "Good Deeds Straw" sheet from the back of church today and write the good deeds you are doing during Advent. Bring them back to Mass and put them in the basket at the front, so we can line the manger with all your good deeds!

INNKEEPERS

Teams #2 & #3 will be working Wednesday evening, Dec. 21st @ 7:00 p.m.

EVANGELIZATION

Christmas is a time of gifts-both giving and receiving. Let us make sure that among the gifts we offer to others is some of the Christian joy which we ourselves have received.



Human Life Committee

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it. He sends you flowers every Spring and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He will listen. And the Christmas gift He sent you in Bethlehem?

FACE IT FRIEND,

HE'S CRAZY ABOUT YOU!

Maria Regina Memorial Walkway

A "Memorial Walkway" has been installed in and around our "Children's Garden of Remembrance". This walkway has been in existence for a number of years. It has been refurbished this past August as a Eagle Scout Project by one of our parishioners. He and his team did an outstanding job.

Engraved bricks can be placed with the name of your loved one, a special occasion or a prayer of gratitude. The bricks are \$100. each and can be engraved with up to three lines. Each line may have a total of 14 characters.

If you would like to become a part of this memorial program, please contact Judy Fasano at the Rectory: 541-6509.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

hgentile@mariaregina.com (Administrative Assistant)

amoran@mariaregina.com (Confirmation Coordinator)

ctannehill@mariaregina.com (Director)



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FOR THE RIDE HOME

We welcome all THIRD GRADERS

to our Family Mass this morning!

Mary does not understand all that God was asking of her. What is the sentence in Luke's gospel that tells us this? What three comforting words did the angel speak to her? What did Mary respond to the angel that says she was willing to do God's will? How can we listen to God who speaks to us in different ways?

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CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Level II – Eighth Graders: Gown Form, Confirmation Donation* and

Sponsor Certificates of Eligibility were due 12/7/11.

*The Confirmation Donation is not specifically for the gown. It covers the cost of the two retreats, the Sponsor Dinner, the Confirmation Certificates, the programs for Confirmation and all other administrative costs.

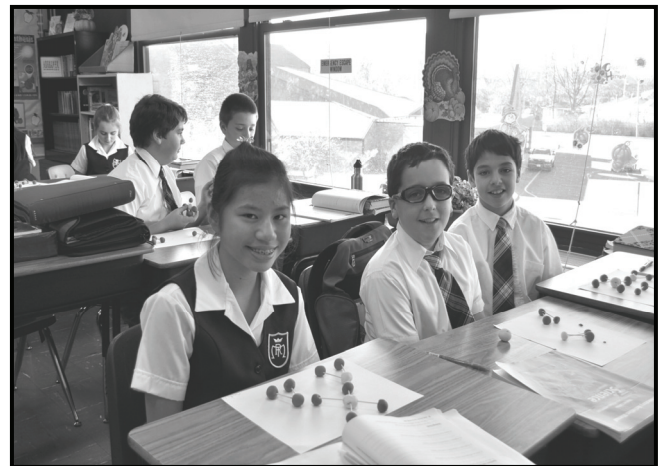
Level I – Seventh Graders – Notebook Check, Wednesday, January 4th. (Saturday classes will be checked on January 7th, Monday classes will be checked on January 9th.) Please make sure you have 4 Mass Reflections and the Letter to the Pastor in your notebook. If you attend Kellenberg, please make sure you bring in your notebook to be checked.

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***REMINDER: THERE ARE NO CLASSES 12/21 – 1/2/12.
CLASSES RESUME ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2012.***



Maria Regina School's sixth grade students recently enjoyed constructing compounds in Mrs. Haase's science class. They constructed compounds using modeling clay and toothpicks to show the number of atoms of each element that are in each molecule. They made models of water, carbon dioxide, and methane. It was a wonderful activity for our future chemists.



Upcoming Events at Maria Regina School:

- December 20:** Student Council Cookie Tasting & Bake-Off, 3 PM
- December 23:** Prayer Service, 9:45 AM
11:30 AM Dismissal
- December 25:** Merry Christmas!
- January 1:** Solemnity of Mary
Happy New Year!
- January 3:** School Reopens
- January 5:** Dismissal 11:30 AM
Faculty Meeting
- January 11:** Cupcake Sale
- January 16:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
School Closed
- January 20:** Picture Make-Up
Father-Son Night, 7:30 PM

**Please join us at the 10:30
am Mass
on January 29, 2012 to
Celebrate our 50th Anniversary.
Our Catholic Schools Week
Open House will follow Mass
from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.
Alumni welcome!**

Principal: Mrs. Denise Seck
Assistant Principal: Mrs. Donna DiGiovanna
School Phone: (516)541-1229
Fax: (516)541-1235
Website: www.mariareginaschool.org