

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church

10-08 49th Avenue

Long Island City, NY 11101

Hours: Mon-Fri 9 to 12, 1 to 5pm

718-786-0705

Email: stmarylic1008@gmail.com

Website: stmary-lic.org

St. Joseph Center/Religious Education

10-15 49th Avenue

Long Island City, NY 11101

917-832-6104

Email: dre.stmarylic@gmail.com



December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

Parish Staff

Pastor

Rev. Christopher J. Turczany

Director of Music

Parker Ramsay

Director of Religious Education

Giovanna Varlese

Director of Maintenance

Ray Rychalski

Administrative Assistant

Marie Gabrielle Diharce

Schedule of Masses

Masses:

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 9:30 am and 12:00 pm

Monday-Thursday: 12:15 pm

National Holidays: Mass at 9:00 am

Confessions: Saturday 4:00 pm to 4:40 pm

Anointing of the Sick: First Saturday of the month at the 5:00 pm evening Mass.

OCLA Program:

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic, or are you a baptized Catholic seeking to complete the Sacraments Initiation?

For an application or any questions, please send an email to dre.stmarylic@gmail.com

or call 917-832-6104.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Wednesday 11:00am to 12:00pm

Baptism:

Baptism take place on the 4th Saturday of the month at 1:00 pm. Please call the Rectory at 718-786-0705 for an appointment with the Pastor.

Weddings:

All wedding arrangements should be made at least six months in advance in prior to the wedding date. Please call the rectory at 718-786-0705 for an appointment with the Pastor. All couples are required to attend the online Pre-Cana and present the certificate when completed.

Funerals: Monday through Saturday

Intentions For the Week

Saturday, December 13, 2025

5:00pm Joseph Lanza

Sunday, December 14, 2025

9:30am Lydie Anselme

12:00pm Jean, Leonard,
and Richard Lofredo

Monday, December 15, 2025

12:15pm Rosemary Donahue

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

12:15 pm Thomas Weeks

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

11-12pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

12:15pm Virginia Dowicz

Thursday, December 18, 2025

12:15pm Anna O'Leary

Friday, December 19, 2025

NO MASS

Saturday December 20, 2025

5:00pm Margaret Gavan

Statistics December 6, 2025 & December 7, 2025

5:00 pm 87
9:30 pm 194
12:00pm 184

Total Count 465

1st Collection \$ 2,764
2nd Collection \$ 1,054—Electricity

Total \$ 3,818.00

Pray for the sick,

Martha Catel, Jimmy O'Neil, Robert Keegan,
Joan Pacheco, Madelaine Sullivan, Angela Iorio,
Alexandria Roeder, Joseph Pinto, Elizabeth
Ruiz, Angel Garcia, Anthony Fiorino

Pray for the Deceased

Catherine Hogan, Diane Hulser-Brue, Michael
Anthony Delgado, Joseph Pinto, Tina Stare, Tina
Torres, Margarita Sevillano, Maria Vesillo, Mario
Manetta, Alexandra Leal, Phyllis Manetta,
Giuseppe Evangelista

Purgatorial Intentions

Anthony DeFelica, Evarito Sipin, Frank Carrado,
Yolanda Sipin, Genevive Roeder, Pasqual Cafiero,
Robert Rohan, Tommaso Valesse, Leonardo Anto-
nio, Donna Vova, Vincenza Rios, Mildred
Schifano, Forbes and Family

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 2025

5:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass
"Vigil Mass of Christmas"

10:00 pm Christmas Mass at Night
With Musical Prelude at 9:30 pm

Christmas Day, December 25, 2025

9:30 am Christmas Mass at Dawn
With Musical Prelude at 9:00 am

12:00 pm Christmas Mass at Daytime
With Musical Prelude at 11:30 am

New Year's Eve, December 31, 2025

5:00pm New Year's Eve Mass

New Year's Day, Jan 1, 2026-Holy Day of Obligation

9:30am New Year's day Mass
12:00pm New Year's day Mass

Mass Intentions for 2025-2026 \$20.00.
Please call the rectory with questions or
comments at 718-786-0705. There is still
available dates in our 2025 Mass Book.

Pope's December prayer intention

Pope Francis releases his prayer intention for the month of December, inviting everyone to pray for catechists, "summoned to announce the Word of God," that they might "be its witnesses, with courage and creativity, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, with joy and much peace."

Confessions-December 22, 2025

11-12pm— Confession

5-7pm-Confession

3rd Sunday of Advent



December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent

On Gaudete Sunday we rejoice, for we know that the Lord is near. With eyes of faith, we can sense his presence even as we prepare for the celebration of his coming to us as a newborn infant. With eyes of faith, we can see his coming as well as the prophet Isaiah or the New Testament prophet John the Baptist, who each prepared his people for God's transformative presence. With eyes of faith, let us glory in Jesus' presence right here, right now: In God's word, in the Eucharist, and in those around us.

History of Advent

Continuation from 11/30/2025 bulletin

The oldest document in which we find the length and exercises of Advent mentioned with anything like clearness, is a passage in the second book of the History of the Franks by St. Gregory of Tours, where he says that St. Perpetuus, one of his predecessors, who held that see about the year 480, had decreed a fast three times a week, from the feast of St. Martin until Christmas. It would be impossible to decide whether St. Perpetuus, by his regulations, established a new custom, or merely enforced an already existing law. Let us, however, note this interval of forty, or rather of forty-three days, so expressly mentioned, and consecrated to penance, as though it were a second Lent, though less strict and severe than that which precedes Easter



Later on, we find the ninth canon of the first Council of Macon, held in 582, ordaining that during the same interval between St. Martin's day and Christmas, the Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, should be fasting days, and that the Sacrifice should be celebrated according to the Lenten rite. Not many years before that, namely in 567, the second Council of Tours had enjoined the monks to fast from the beginning of December till Christmas. This practice of penance soon extended to the whole forty days, even for the laity: and it was commonly called St. Martin's Lent. The capitularia of Charlemagne, in the sixth book, leave us no doubt on the matter; and Rabanus Maurus, in the second book of his Institution of clerics, bears testimony to this observance. There were even special rejoicings made on St. Martin's feast, just as we see them practiced now at the approach of Lent and Easter.

The obligation of observing this Lent, which, though introduced so imperceptibly, had by degrees acquired the force of a sacred law, began to be relaxed, and the forty days from St. Martin's day to Christmas were reduced to four weeks. We have seen that this fast began to be observed first in France; but thence it spread into England, as we find from Venerable Bede's history; into Italy, as appears from a diploma of Astolphus, king of the Lombards, dated 753; into Germany, Spain, of which the proofs may be seen in the learned work of Dom Martene, On the ancient rites of the Church. The first allusion to Advent's being reduced to four weeks is to be found in the ninth century, in a letter of Pope St. Nicholas I to the Bulgarians. The testimony of Ratherius of Verona, and of Abbo of Fleury, writers of the tenth century, goes also to prove that, even then, the question of reducing the duration of the Advent fast by one-third was seriously entertained. It is true that St. Peter Damian, in the eleventh century, speaks of the Advent fast as still being for forty days; and that St. Louis, two centuries later, kept it for that length of time; but as far as this holy king is concerned, it is probable that it was only his own devotion which prompted him to this practice.

The discipline of the Churches of the west, after having reduced the time of the Advent fast, so far relented, in a few years, as to change the fast into a simple abstinence; and we even find Councils of the twelfth century, for instance Selvingstadt in 1122, and Avranches in 1172, which seem to require only the clergy to observe this abstinence.

The Council of Salisbury, held in 1281, would seem to expect none but monks to keep it. On the other hand (for the whole subject is very confused, owing, no doubt, to there never having been any uniformity of discipline regarding it in the western Church), we find Pope Innocent III, in his letter to the bishop of Braga, mentioning the custom of fasting during the whole of Advent, as being at that time observed in Rome; and Durandus, in the same thirteenth century, in his Rational on the Divine Offices, tells us that, in France, fasting was uninterruptedly observed during the whole of that holy time.

This much is certain, that, by degrees, the custom of fasting so far fell into disuse, that when, in 1362, Pope Urban V endeavored to prevent the total decay of the Advent penance, all he insisted upon was that all the clerics of his court should keep abstinence during Advent, without in any way including others, either clergy or laity, in this law. St. Charles Borromeo also strove to bring back his people of Milan to the spirit, if not to the letter, of ancient times. In his fourth Council, he enjoins the parish priests to exhort the faithful to go to Communion on the Sundays, at least, of Lent and Advent; and afterwards addressed to the faithful themselves a pastoral letter, in which, after having reminded them of the dispositions wherewith they ought to spend this holy time, he strongly urges them to fast on the Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at least, of each week in Advent.

Finally, Pope Benedict XIV, when archbishop of Bologna, following these illustrious examples) wrote his eleventh Ecclesiastical Institution for the purpose of exciting in the minds of his diocesans the exalted idea which the Christians of former times had of the holy season of Advent, and of removing an erroneous opinion which prevailed in those parts, namely, that Advent concerned religious only and not the laity. He shows them that such an opinion, unless it be limited to the two practices of fasting and abstinence, is, strictly speaking, rash and scandalous, since it cannot be denied that, in the laws and usages of the universal Church, there exist special practices, having for their end to prepare the faithful for the great feast of the birth of Jesus Christ.

To be continued.....



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