

COVER SHEET

Church Name: St. Athanasius

Bulletin # 511245

Date of Publication November 30, 2008

John Fruner, (718) 236-0124 Extension 44

RECTORY EXTENSIONS 718.236.0124

Rev. Msgr. David L. Cassato, <i>Pastor</i>	Ext. 11
Rev. Ron D'Antonio, <i>Parochial Vicar</i>	Ext. 13
Rev. Gabriel Toro, <i>Parochial Vicar</i>	Ext. 14
Rev. Deacon Dante Colandrea	Ext. 23
Mrs. Marie Skroly, <i>Pastoral Administration</i>	Ext. 10
Mrs. AnnaMarie Scuteri, <i>Pastoral Administration</i>	Ext. 19
Mrs. Ann DeVito, <i>Pastoral Administration</i>	Ext. 12
Mr. Steven LaPlante, <i>Music Ministry</i>	Ext. 25
Mr. Joseph Barbieri, <i>Lay Pastoral Leader</i>	Ext. 24
Mrs. Carmela Colandrea, <i>Lay Pastoral Leader</i>	Ext. 24
Mr. John Fruner, <i>Pastoral Associate & Social Worker</i>	Ext. 24
Mrs. Angela Maffei, (Mon.,Wed.,Fri.,9a.m.-2:30p.m.)	Ext. 0
Mrs. Michelle DeStefano (Tues.&Thurs. 9a.m.-2:30p.m.)	Ext. 0

PASTORAL CARE Please don't forget to inform us if you are going to be hospitalized so one of our priests can visit. Provide us with your name, hospital, room number, phone number and, when possible, how long you will be hospitalized. If you are unable to attend Mass, due to poor health, illness or advanced age, please call so a Eucharistic Minister can bring Communion to you. Anointing of the Sick may be requested because of scheduled surgery or treatment for a life-threatening illness. Call us prior to your surgery or treatment. Anointing of the Sick at Mass may be celebrated before you go into the hospital. Directly inform one of our priests or call ext.24.(Pastoral Ministry)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**SUNDAY, November 30 *First Sunday in Advent***

8:30	Anna Francesca & Antonio Gradilone
10:00	Nicholas & Grace Capoodona
10:00	Spanish Mass (Lower Church)
11:30	Purgatorial Society Acceptance into the Order of Catechumen & Call to Continuing Conversion for those Baptized
11:30	Italian Mass (Lower Church) Don Bruno
6:00pm	John Picariello

MONDAY, December 1, 2008

7:00	William Finn
9:00	Donald Petrick (Birthday)

TUESDAY, December 2, 2008

7:00	Biagio & Ida Scotto
9:00	Evelyn Esposito (Anniversary)

WEDNESDAY, December 3, 2008

7:00	Edith Raagas
9:00	Paul & Rose DeMola

THURSDAY, December 4, 2008

7:00	Violet Settecase
9:00	Incarnacio Gonzalez & Hilda Laumberg

FRIDAY, December 5, 2008

7:00	Special Intention of the Aggimenti & Belcore Family and Guardian Angels
9:00	Paul Sibilo
6:30pm	LOWER CHURCH- First Friday Benediction
7:00	UPPER CHURCH- Christmas Concert

SATURDAY, December 6, 2008

9:00	Carolyn D'Antonio (Birthday)
10:30	Memorial Mass- Cilia Lieggi (Italian & English)
3:00pm	Wedding- Joseph Corrozzo
5:30	Isabella, Antoinette & Joseph LaFortezza

SUNDAY, December 7, 2008 *Second Sunday in Advent*

8:30	Mary Tuohy DeMola
10:00	Robert LaSala, Sr. & Annette LaSala
10:00	Spanish Mass (Lower Church)
11:30	Purgatorial Society & Carolyn D'Antonio (Anniversary)
11:30	Italian Mass (Lower Church) Giovanni, Giovanna & Franklevia, Francesco, Maria e Giovanna Agosta
6:00pm	Vavallo Family

MAKE A VISIT TO THE CHURCH AND PRAY IN THE PRESENCE OF JESUS IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Don't forget our Upper Church is open Monday-Friday from 6:30a.m. to 3p.m. Saturday & Sunday 7a.m. to 7p.m.

"Trust all things to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and you will see what miracles are." St. John Bosco

WELCOME, we're glad you're here!

If this is the first time you have been to St. A's, welcome! We promise that if you keep your heart and mind open to God, you'll find what you're looking for. **Would you like to talk to someone?** We're here to listen and help if we can. Just call us at the Rectory when you're ready. In the meantime, remember that you are always prayed for and that it is our hope to pray with you each week.

HOSTS FOR THE WEEK- *donated in loving memory of Harry George requested by Dorothy Asreen.*

WINE FOR THE WEEK - *donated in loving memory of Nicolina Bagnati requested by Mario & Jennie DePinto.*

ALTAR CANDLES FOR THE WEEK - *donated in loving memory of Vincenzina Addonizio requested by Jerry & Ann DeVito.*

SANCTUARY LAMPS *One sanctuary lamp is donated in memory of Joseph Solla requested by Mom. The other sanctuary lamp is donated in memory of Helen Touloumis requested by 8th Grade Class of St. Margaret Mary School.*

OUR CALL TO CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Loving God, we give in confidence, knowing the seeds we plant today will sprout and produce a harvest that will feed body, mind and soul and "as each has received a gift, we employ it for one another as good stewards of God's grace." (1 Peter 4:10)

November 16, 2008 \$ 9,113

LAST YEAR 2007 \$8,793

Our weekly expenses reflects what is needed for salaries, insurances, utilities, bills as well as the costs of the many programs, ministries & services we offer here at St. A's.

CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR CHILDREN sponsored by the Holy Name Society will take place Sunday December 21 in the Parish Auditorium right after the 10:00a.m. Mass. We hear Santa will stop by too!

WE INVITE YOU TO REGISTER AS A PARISHIONER OF ST. A's & USE SUNDAY COLLECTION ENVELOPES You & your family can register at the rectory by stopping in, up until 8p.m., for a "Welcome Packet."

In your kindness please pray for those who are sick

Kathy Adams, Catherine Arrighetta, Faith Arent, Kimberly Arent, Patricia Aurigemma, Guy Ateniese, Maria Bogdan, Ann Bricese, Douglas Brock, Catherine Broderick, Aidan Cassidy, Gianna Marie Carlson, Judith Carminette, Cynthia Carponetto, Glenn Carr, Mark Cascio, Michele Cassata, Ann Centorrino, Arthur Chapnick, Sebastian Chiarello, Carmela Colandrea, Vincenzo Coppolivo, Bruce Dalton, Celeste DeLeonardus, Joseph Delgado, Gene DelPrete, Al DeMarco, Jr., Al DeMarco III, Louis DeMarco, Joan DeMarco, Joan Demeyer, Mario DePinto, Rachel DePinto, Catalina Diaz, Barbara Doyle, Maria Esemplare, Frances Falzetta, Helen Felcetto, Anthony Felicito, Marie Ferlazzo, Carole Fruner, Ann M. Fruner, Sunday Giuffanti, Theresa Giuffanti, Gina Giuffanti, Melissa Grondal, Ruth Hoffman, Diana Ingravallo, Francesca Ingravallo, John Jadazeewski, Neil Kelleher, Jean Kelly, Lawrence Klein, Lawrence Klein, Jr. Stephen Kelleher, Marie Liberti, Richard Liberti, John Liberti, Jillian Lasinsky, Sandra Lazinsky, Ellen Mary MacDougall, Ellen Mackey Fontana, Enise Maignan, Paul Marchese, Eleanor Marando, Rosalie Mazzalla, Catherine Minerva, Lucia Montella, Julie Murray, Joe P., Grace Pecorella, Cathy Petrik, Eric Brandon Pinzon, Christine Remmer, Mercedes Rivas (Fr. Gabriel's mother) Hilda Rodriguez, Ida Russo, Fortunato Salzano, Maria Sassano, Ralph Satriano, Donna Schiavoe, Josephine Schiavo, Jada Sciacchitano, Carol Sidoti, Fran Sidorksy, Concetta Sottilaro, Dana Sottilaro, Philip Sottilaro, Lauren Thurgood, William Thurgood, Amalia Vazquez, Rita Verde, Carla Vitucci, Pasquale Visceglia, Catherine Vermericci, Angelina Vonelli, Leonard Walder, Lucy Wasieleski

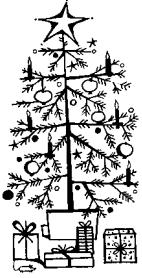
TO ADD A NAME, (or keep a name) please call ext. 24 on Monday, spelling the name. **If you wish the name to remain on the list you must call each week.**

In your kindness, please pray for those who died:

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meets Mondays Dec. 1, 8 & 15 from 7:30-9p.m. in the Nazareth Institute. Sr. Barbara Murtha, CSJ leads our group.

ADVENT GIVING TREE

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Brooklyn already has an exceptionally large request for new toys for children so this year our Giving Tree will benefit those needy families. **The Giving Tree will be next to the St. Joseph Altar on November 30, December 7 & 14. ALL GIFTS MUST BE PLACED NEXT TO THE TREE BY SUNDAY DECEMBER 14th.** Any NEW toy or NEW clothing for a child, newborn to 18, is needed. **Choose an angel ornament off of the tree and attach that angel to your UNWRAPPED GIFT with the intended age of the child.**



IN ADDITION TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES, we have received a request to provide some developmentally delayed children in **The William O'Connor Midwood School** with gifts. The children are 3-5 years old and we need: Mega Blocks, Duplo Blocks, Candy Land Games, trouble Games, Hi-Ho Cherrio Games, Dora the Explorer Dolls & Barbie Dolls. **Please place WILLIAM O'CONNOR SCHOOL on the angel ornament and attach it to your UNWRAPPED Gift** so we know that these gifts go to these children.

KEEP THE LIGHT OF CHRIST SHINING THROUGHOUT CHRISTMAS right here around our parish buildings! We are preparing for our 10th Annual Christmas Tree & Nativity Lighting Ceremony to be held on **SATURDAY DECEMBER 13th**, the Feast of Saint Lucy, at 6:30p.m. A flier is on page 8 has the details. **In order for us to have the program printed, all memorializations must be submitted by MONDAY DECEMBER 8th.**

THE DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL CHOIR WILL ONCE AGAIN BE HERE ON FRIDAY, DEC. 5TH TO PERFORM THEIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT.

Due to the tremendous response and success of last year's Christmas Concert, the Daughters of St. Paul Choir will once again be performing their wonderfully entertaining Christmas Concert at St. Athanasius Church. For those who attended last year's concert, please encourage any family members, friends and neighbors who missed last year's performance to be here for this year's concert. Monsignor wants to see a "full house" on the night of the performance!

Date: Friday, December 5, 2008

Time: 7:00pm

Place: St. Athanasius Church (Upper Church)

Ticket Cost: \$10

Tickets can be purchased throughout the month of November in the back of the Church after all Sunday Masses, at the rectory, or at the door on the night of the concert.

THE DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL WILL BE HERE ON DECEMBER 6 AND 7 TO SELL THEIR EXCELLENT RELIGIOUS ITEMS.

The Daughters of St. Paul, Catholic Nuns dedicated to evangelization using the communications media, will be with us on the weekend of December 6 and 7 after all of the Sunday Masses, with a display of good Catholic books, music CDs, movies on DVD and VHS, and other religious articles. You are encouraged to select some good spiritual items for yourself, your family members and friends for Advent or as Christmas gifts. The sale will take place in the Upper Church Narthex. Items will be available in English, Italian and Spanish. If you want more information on the Daughters of St. Paul or are interested in seeing other available items, please visit Pauline Books & Media in Midtown Manhattan at: 150 East 52nd Street - New York, NY 10022 (between Lexington and 3rd Avenues), call them at: 212-754-1110 or go on-line to the Pauline Books & Media website: <http://www.pauline.org>.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

DO YOU NEED A MINISTER OF CARING? Is someone in your family ill, homebound, hospitalized or in a care facility (assisted living or nursing home) & wishes a visit or a phone call from a **MINISTER OF CARING**, please call Bensonhurst Cluster Lay Minister Palma Parmese at 718. 837.1752.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE HERE IN ST. A's RECTORY ON WEDNESDAYS from 9a.m. to 4p.m. The Neighborhood Office is an extension of the District Attorney's Office's Citizen Action Center. You can discuss problems that concern you and our community with their staff members. **THE D.A.'s OFFICE IS LOCATED IN THE RECTORY CONFERENCE ROOM. You can call them at 718.234.8709.**

SUPPORT GROUPS HERE AT ST. A's

DIVORCED & SEPARATED SUPPORT GROUP Are you separated? Thinking about Divorce? In the midst of a Divorce? Already Divorced? Ending a long term relationship? We will meet in the Nazareth Institute on **Tuesday Dec. 2** from 7:30-9p.m. Call AnnaMarie Scuteri at ext. 19 to get contact information of the Director of this support group.

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from a gambling problem. **WE HAVE A GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS GROUP HERE AT ST. A's, meeting every Friday night at 7:30p.m. in the Nazareth Institute.**

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS Overeaters Anonymous members talk about their struggles with compulsive eating. **WE HAVE AN OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS GROUP HERE AT ST. A's, meeting every Wednesday night at 8:00p.m. in the Nazareth Institute.**

IS YOUR LIFE EFFECTED BY SOMEONE WHO IS DRINKING? To help them, you first must help yourself. Al-Anon helps families and friends of alcoholics recover from the effects of living with the problem drinking of a relative or friend. Our **AL-ANON GROUP** meets here at St. A's every Friday at 8-9:30p.m. & Saturday at 7:30-9:30p.m. in the Nazareth Institute.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS meets twice a month on Fridays from 7:30-9:30p.m. in the Nazareth Institute's Bethany Room. For more information, call Andre at 646.236.4813.

We can longer offer counseling here at St. A's so...

IF YOU NEED COUNSELING, THE ITALIAN BOARD OF GUARDIANS offers counseling to adults, teens, seniors, children, couples, and families. Their services are offered in English and Italian. For more information & cost, call 718.232.4242 or E-mail nyisibg@alo.com.

ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE ABUSE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM through Catholic Charities The program provides counseling, support, & treatment for those seeking help. Call 1.800.659.1603.

ST. A'S HOMELESS OUTREACH MINISTRY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS, with cars, to help collect cooked food and serve meals in the Coney Island area on Saturday mornings, from nine to twelve. Call 718.236.0264.



CHRISTMAS TREE OF LIGHTS IN FRONT OF THE PARISH RECTORY All members of our parish are invited to purchase lights on the **TREE OF LIGHTS** as a special gift for family and friends or for that "difficult to shop for" someone. Gifts can be in honor of someone or in memory of a loved one or be in celebration of a Marriage anniversary or engagement. Lights can also be in Thanksgiving to God or a special Saint. **Lights may be purchased up until Friday Dec. 19, 2008 for your intentions to be posted on the plaque by our tree.** The Tree will be lit until January 11, 2009. Each light is \$7. **THE TREE OF LIGHTS IS LOCATED ON 61st STREET TO THE LEFT OF THE RECTORY BY OUR SAINT JUDE STATUE.**

ST. ATHANASIUS SPORTS-O-RAMA PROGRAM FOR BOYS AND GIRLS GRADES 2ND TO 6TH every Wednesday Night 7p.m. to 8:30p.m. in St. A's Gym Registrations Fee \$15. For more info call Donna 718.331.8906.

THANK YOU MR. MICHAEL DeMOLA

for donating a full scholarship to a student in St. Athanasius School in memory of his wife Mary Tuohy DeMola. This scholarship enables a student to attend St. A's School. Without this scholarship, this student would not be in our school. Thank you Michael!

THE ROSARY SOCIETY'S CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our annual Christmas Fair will beheld on **SUNDAY Dec. 7th**. Anyone interested in reserving a table please call Eleanor Damiano at 718.331.0450 or Eleanor Mattia at 718.256.4321.



Ring in 2009!

DEACON DANTE INVITES YOU TO SAY: HAPPY NEW YEAR 2009! December 31, 2008 – New Year's Eve Party in our Parish Hall! 8p.m. to 2a.m. Dinner, Dancing & Lots of fun! Donation is \$65 per person but we only have

space for 280 people! Call Deacon Dante at 917.602.3793 to make your reservations now!

A BIG THANK YOU FROM MSGR. CASATO

Thank you to all who made our 95th

Anniversary

ONE FAITH- ONE FAMILY

a marvelous celebration of our Parish Life!

I would like to thank: Susan Gentile, Ginger Bivona, Rose Lamicela, Pino- and all who helped in any to organize our Gala Celebration at El Caribe. **Congratulations to our Raffle winners:**

32" Flat Screen T.V. - Marie Mallia

Christ Redeemer Statue (donated by Casa del Corado)

Frank & Mary Papia

Basket of Cheer - Robert Cassato

Jewelry (donated by Pino) Cundari (Fr. Jamie's parish)

Fr. Jamie, Frank Inga

Pashmina Scarf - Frank Gulino

FAITH SHARING QUESTION OF THE WEEK

We encourage you to talk about the readings & reflection question in the car on the way home from Mass, at dinner on Sunday, or at parish meetings. Faith sharing opens the door for us to meet, know & walk with Christ in our everyday lives.

How faithful do you feel you are being to God's plan for you?

THURSDAY MORNING SCRIPTURE REFLECTION & FAITH SHARING GROUP meets every Thursday, after the 9a.m. Mass, in the Nazareth Institute to discuss the upcoming Sunday's Scriptures. Join Lay Pastoral Leader Joe Barbieri for spirited discussions on next Sunday's Bible readings.

NEED AN IDEA FOR A CHRISTMAS GIFT? Buy that special person a ticket or join Deacon Dante for a special night at the Marquis Theatre for **Irving Berlin's White Christmas**. Wednesday, December 17, 2008. Bus leaves St. Athanasius at 4:30pm. Donation \$160 includes transportation, dinner and show. **A second trip** will be on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 to go see the **Jersey Boys**. Bus, dinner & show - \$155. For Reservation call Deacon Dante 917- 602- 3793

WHY NOT CONSIDER DONATING A LEAF OR STONE ON OUR ST. ANTHONY-ST. JOSEPH TREE OF LIFE? A gold leaf is available for a donation of \$1,800, a copper leaf for \$1,000 and small stones for \$10,000. All memorials can be paid on an installment plan. Please come in to the rectory and speak to **Marie Skroly, AnnaMarie Scuteri** or **Msgr. Cassato** to reserve your Tree of Life memorial.

UNDERNEATH THE GLITZ, OVERBOOKED SCHEDULES, AND OVER-STRETCHED BANK ACCOUNTS, THERE'S A TRUE MEANING TO CHRISTMAS HERE AT ST. ATHANASIUS CHURCH!



Families in celebration, glowing outdoor trees and our lit up life size Nativity highlight the season, welcoming you and all our neighbors to join us for our Advent and Christmas celebrations. Our wonderful lights on Bay Parkway just shout Christmas cheer! Why not rediscover the Christmas story? Find out how it can change your life – forever! Advent and Christmas, here at St. A's, can make the true meaning of the Christmas story fresh and real for you and your family! Come and see why we celebrate Christmas! Begin your holiday celebrations with our notably warm welcome from our St. A's Church Family.

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR WHEN WE BEGIN OUR PREPARATION FOR OUR CHRISTMAS season and our wonderful decorations in St. Athanasius Church. In order to have a more parish family centered Christmas we are asking our family parishioners to bring in ornaments of balls, tear drops, angels or stars in colors **GOLD, or RED** in any style of glass, satin or velvet. The colors stand for GOLD-love-RED-warmth! Please leave your decorations by the Shrine of the Blessed Mother where our parish tree will be displayed.



PLEASE HELP US DECORATE OUR CHURCH FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS Christmas decorations are being prepared, we have ordered our Christmas trees, poinsettia plants, wreaths, and garlands to decorate our church. If you are not on our mailing list, we invite you to take an envelope next to the bulletins and return it in the Sunday collection. We rely on your donations to purchase all our decorations each holiday season. Thank you for your continued generosity. It's so inspiring!

INSTALLATION OF NEW MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION AND LECTORS The following will be installed as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: **Gianni Cracchiolo** (8th Grade Teacher) - for St. Athanasius School on Friday, Dec.5th -9:00 am Mass. **Bernadette Taranto , Madelon Vitucci, Jerry Mandaro, Anna Cali , Christopher Irizary, Lucy Pugliese,** and **Tiffany Kushner, Meghan Murphy** (both from Bishop Kearney) -for St. Athanasius Parish on Sunday, Dec. 7th 11:30am Mass. The following will be installed as Lectors: Kelley Prescott, William Miller - for St. Athanasius Parish on Sunday, Dec. 7th -11:30am Mass. May God bless them in their new ministries.

IN ORDER FOR ONE OF OUR DESIGNATED PARISH MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS TO RESERVE ONE OF OUR ROOMS HERE AT ST. A'S we require you to fill out our **PARISH CALENDAR & ROOM REQUEST FORM**. THE ROOM REQUEST FORM is available in the rectory or can be downloaded from our website & there you have the option of e-mailing your request. Otherwise, you can e-mail Joann Rubino at JRubino215@hotmail.com To check for available space, our parish calendar is online. Visit our parish website (<http://StAthanasiusNY.tripod.com>), The same parish calendar is also in the Rectory Office. **This is the ONLY way to reserve a room here at St. A's. Whatever group is listed on the parish calendar is the group that has the right to use that space. If you are not a designated ministry of our parish,** permission must be granted from our Pastor, Msgr. Cassato, a rental fee is paid, & a lease agreement completed in order to use space.

SUNDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES The Sunday Bulletin must be e-mailed to our printer by 5p.m. Monday. **All announcements must be submitted in WRITTEN form only** (handwritten, typed, computer, fax, e-mailed, etc) **by 12 noon Monday.** Announcements received after the deadline will be published the following week. **No one on the parish staff will assume the responsibility for your ministry's articles.** Include your bulletin articles in your advance planning for your event. **ALL FLIERS NEED TO BE APPROVED BY A STAFF MEMBER, and MUST BE SUBMITTED ON DISC or E-mailed ONLY** to StAPastoralMin@aol.com. A submission form is also on our website on the **BULLETIN** tab. (<http://StAthanasiusNY.tripod.com>)

CALLING ALL ST. A'S SCHOOL ALUMNI - WE NEED YOUR HELP! We want to form an Alumni

Association that can help keep St. A's School going strong! Anyone who is interested in forming a committee to get this going is asked to contact Msgr. Cassato at 718.236.0124. Ext. 11 or email him at StAthanasiusNY@hotmail.com In order to form a data base, we ask that you fill out this tear off and return it to the RECTORY. You may place it in the Sunday collection.

**ST. A'S SCHOOL ALUMNI**

Name: _____ Class of _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Cell: _____
 E-mail: _____

**WONDER AND AWE IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

As we try to offer a refuge from the business and confusion of the world, we ask all our parishioners to **PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES BEFORE ENTERING CHURCH.** Likewise, we ask all to please refrain from **TEXT MESSAGING** anyone, especially those who are already here in St. Athanasius Church! Finally, **GUM CHEWING** is not acceptable at Mass or in church, even when it is removed just before Communion. The Church requires us to fast for one hour before receiving Communion (Catechism of the Catholic Church # 1387), and we are to refrain from eating before we receive Communion. Gum chewing shows a lack of respect for the celebration of the Eucharist. **WE DO NOT BRING COFFEE, OTHER DRINKS, & FOOD into church.**

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Our Cluster Youth Ministry Office has a website.

Visit <http://brooklynym.tripod.com>

To contact *The Bensonhurst Cluster Youth Ministry Office* email KenWodz@optonline.net. By phone call **718-234-0614**. In person visit The Libutti Center at 2001 Bay Ridge Pkwy, next to St. Dominic's Rectory.

YOUTH DRAMA GROUP-THE PASSION PLAYERS 7-9PM at ST. FINBAR'S (Bay 20th and Bath Ave.) **EVERY OTHER MONDAY-** This drama group learns skills and performs mainly short plays throughout the year; new members are always welcome and needed. The next meetings are Dec 1st, Dec 15th, not meeting on December 29th and restarting in the new year, January 12th.

CHRISTMAS CARTOONS, CHRISTMAS ARTS AND CRAFTS, SNACK, MUSIC AND GAMES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN 4-10 YEARS OLD (as long as potty trained) **SATURDAY DEC. 13 at ST. ATHANASIUS, 11a.m. – 2p.m.** Drop off and pick up. Do some Christmas shopping. **Why not do some service that Saturday from 10:30-2:30PM?** Come assist at the above program, get service hours, or just help out! Call or email Ken!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING AND YOUTH MASS- SAT. DEC. 13 at ST. DOMINIC'S Join us meeting at St. Dominic's as we sing in the neighborhood and visit a local nursing home starting at 3PM. Share Christmas Cheer and then come to St. Dominic's 5:30 Mass. Hot chocolate and cookies after Mass!

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING- DECEMBER 14TH at ST. FRANCES CABRINI- 9a.m.-1:30PM, Come do some Christmas Shopping and help Youth Ministry through their Jewelry Sale. Buy a gift or two and help us raise some money for our youth programs.

FREE BASEBALL CLINIC for BOYS & GIRLS AGES 5-10 on Wednesday nights December 3, 10 & 17th at 6:30p.m. in St. Athanasius Gym. Parents can come and observe & ask questions. Kids can stay in shape by going through various baseball drills, all while seeing how much fun baseball is. Participants need to wear sneakers, comfortable clothing, and bring a baseball glove if they have one. For more info call Joe Orlando, (646.210.2919) Mike Garthaffner (917.488.4-41) or visit www.saintasports.org

ADVENT MEMORIALS**Our New Advent Pulpit Hanging**

was donated in Memory of Phyllis & John Crawford requested by Liliian Ristuccia.

The Advent Wreath Candles in the Upper Church were given as a gift from Theresa Romersa & Sons in memory of Joseph Romersa, Michael & Anna Mealli Anna Marie Porter & Theresa Teta.

The Advent Wreath Candles in the Lower Church were given as a gift from Genevieve & Josephine DePinto, also donated by Anna Metcalf in memory of Mario DelBianco & Michelina Lubrano, given as a gift from Gregory, Tara, and Danielle Rincones in memory of Don Petrik and Jack & Dorothy Rincones, and in memory of Helen Touloumis from the 8th Grade Class of St. Margaret Mary School.

A MEMORIAL MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 13 for those who lost a loved one during the current year and were buried at Scarpaci Funeral Home. For more info, please 718.331.8000.



Messa in Italiano ogni Domenica alle 11:30am (Chiesa di giu')

**SABATO, 13 DICEMBRE 2008 SULLA BAY PARKWAY
ANNUALE CERIMONIA PER ACCENDERE LE LUCI SUGLI
ALBERI INTORNO ALLA NOSTRA CHIESA
ORARIO - DOPO LA MESSA DELLE 5:30PM**

Dal nostro DIACONO DANTE COLANDREA

Riflessione del mese di dicembre

CONVERSAZIONE INTERIORE - (prima parte)

1. "Il regno di Dio e' dentro di voi", dice il Signore. Volgiti al Signore dal profondo del cuore e staccati da questo mondo miserabile; l'anima trovera' il riposo. Impara a non far conto di tutto cio' che e' esteriore e consacratigli a cio' che riguarda lo spirito, ed esperimenterai in te la venuta del regno di Dio; perche' "il regno di Dio e' pace e gioia nello Spirito Santo", e non e' concesso all'empio. Cristo verra' in te e ti fara' provare le sue consolazioni, se gli preparerai nel tuo intimo conveniente ospitalita'; tutta la sua gloria, tutta la sua bellezza sono nello spirito; la' Egli trova le sue compiacenze. Con l'uomo spirituale numerose sono le sue visite, e dolci le sue parole, e gradita la sua consolazione; molta la pace, meravigliosamente bella la sua familiarita'.

2. Su, dunque, anima devota; a codesto sposo prepara il tuo cuore, affinche' Egli si degni di venire ad abitare in te. Egli dice cosi': "Colui che mi ama fara' tesoro delle mie parole, il Padre mio lo amera'". Fai posto a Cristo e noi verremo a lui e stableremo in lui la nostra dimora". Fai posto a Cristo, dunque; siano esclusi tutti gli altri. Nel Possesso di Cristo tu sei ricco, di tutto provveduto. Egli si fara' tuo provveditore e fedele amministratore universale, sicche' non avrai bisogno di collocare le tue speranze negli uomini. Questi con grande facilità ti si mutano, ti vengono a mancare improvvisamente, mentre Cristo e' sempre, eternamente lo stesso, appoggio costante e sicuro fino alla fine.

3. Non bisogna riporre molta fiducia in un uomo, per sua natura fragile e mortale, anche se utile e caro: e nemmeno convien rattristarsi troppo se qualche volta ci si fa oppositore contraddicente. Chi oggi e' tecco, potra' essere tuo avversario domani, o viceversa; vento che gira. Percio' poni tutta quanta la tua fiducia in Dio. Egli sia il tuo timore. Egli sia il tuo amore. Egli si fara' tuo mallevadore e agira' bene, come meglio ti si convenga. Del resto non hai quaggiu' dimora stabile; sarai sempre uno straniero e un pellegrino dovunque tu sia; ne' troverai finalmente pace se non ti sarai immedesimato con Cristo.

4. Perche' guardi e riguardi tutto intorno, qui se non questo e' il luogo del tuo riposo? Su in alto, nel cielo e' la tua casa, le cose della terra guardale di passaggio; e sono transeunti, infatti, e tu con esse. Sta' bene attento quindi e non ti attaccare ad esse, per non esserne irretito e trascinato in rovina. La tua mente all'Altissimo, la tua preghiera a Cristo, incessantemente. Non sai elevarti ad altre speculazioni di misteri? Riposati nella passione di Cristo, dimora volentieri nelle sue sante ferite. Se ti raccogli devotamente nelle ferite e nelle stimmate preziose di Gesu', proverai grande conforto in ogni tribolazione; non darai peso al disprezzo degli uomini e sopporterai con indifferenza la malignita' altrui. (da imitazione di Cristo libro secondo I)

ALBERI DI NATALE intorno alla chiesa e scuola per memorializzare, in memoria di un defunto oppure in onore di un vostro familiare – L'offerta e' di \$300, \$500, oppure \$1000. Per informazioni telefonare a Monsignor Cassato al 718-236-0124. La settima cerimonia annuale per accendere gli alberi e il presepe avra' luogo sabato, 13 dicembre dopo la Messa delle 5:30pm. I bambini della nostra scuola apprezzano molto la vostra generosita'.

DUE SPETTACOLI TEATRALI - BROADWAY SHOWS

mercoledì, 17 dicembre – Irving Berlin's White Christmas.- \$160. L'autobus parte da Sant'Atanasio.

mercoledì, 18 febbraio–Jersey Boys - \$155. Cena prima dello spettacolo. Diacono Dante al 917-602-3793.

MARTEDI' DI DICEMBRE - per i martedì durante il mese di dicembre (dicembre 2 -9 -16 e -23) ci sara' un incontro di preghiera in occasione dell'anno Paolino nel basement della rettoria dalle 8 di sera alle 9pm. Venite numerosi.

ALBERO DELLE LUCI DI NATALE ACCANTO

ALL'UFFICIO PARROCCHIALE – tutti i membri della nostra parrocchia sono invitati a comprare luci SULL'ALBERO DELLE LUCI come regalo particolare per qualche vostro familiare oppure in memoria di un vostro defunto. Avete tempo fino al 19 dicembre. Per ogni luce l'offerta e' di \$7. L'albero delle luci sara' posto sulla 61esima strada, a sinistra dell'ufficio parrocchiale, accanto alla statua di San Giuda.

31 DICEMBRE, 2008 VEGLIONE DI CAPODANNO A

SAN ATANASIO – i biglietti per il veglione di capodanno sono in vendita. Dinner Dance con inizio alle ore 7:00pm. Cibo caldo e musica con DJ. Brindisi di champagne a mezzanotte. \$65 a persona. Per informazioni e prenotazioni telefonare al **Diacono Dante 917- 602 – 3793, Maria Perniciaro 718 - 351-4764, Maria Porcu' 718 - 627-0387. Soltando 280 biglietti sono disponibili.**

ALBERO DI NATALE NELLA NOSTRA CHIESA – ogni

anno la nostra chiesa viene decorata con bellissime decorazioni natalizie. Per l'albero nella chiesa superiore chiediamo di donare palline da appendere all'albero di colore rosso oppure dorato. Cortesemente lasciate le vostre decorazioni nella chiesa superiore. Grazie.



**Parroquia de San Atanasio
Boletín Parroquial Hispano**

Misa en Español cada Domingo en la Iglesia de Abajo a las 10 de la mañana

BOLETIN HISPANO. Pbro. Gabriel Jaime Toro Rivas

Adviento 2009: Iniciamos hoy el nuevo año litúrgico con la bendición de la corona de Adviento así: "Bendice Dios con tu poder nuestra corona de Adviento para que, al encenderla, despierte en nosotros el deseo de esperar la Venida de Cristo practicando las buenas obras, y para que así, cuando El llegue, seamos admitidos al Reino de los Cielos. Te lo pedimos por Cristo Nuestro Señor. Amén"

Tiempo de Adviento: La Iglesia latina, nos recuerda la memoria del pueblo de Israel que espera la venida del Mesías que les fueron hechas. A todos ellos los vemos cada día desfilar, formando el magnífico cortejo que a Cristo precedió en los siglos a su venida. Pasan a nuestra vista Abrahán, Jacob, Judá, Moisés, David, Miqueas, Jeremías, Ezequiel y Daniel, Isaías, S. Juan Bautista. José y sobre todo María, la cual resume en sí misma todas las esperanzas mesiánicas, pues de su fiat "SI" depende su cumplimiento. Todos a una ansían porque venga el Salvador y le llaman con ardientes gemidos. Al recorrer las misas y los oficios de Adviento siéntese el alma impresionada por los continuos y apremiantes llamamientos al Mesías: "Ven, Señor, y no te tardes". "Venid y adoremos al Rey que ha de venir". "El señor está cerca, venid y adorémosle". "Manifiesta, Señor, tu poder y ven." "¡Oh Sabiduría! Ven a enseñarnos el camino de la prudencia", "Oh Dios, guía de la casa de Israel, ven a rescatarnos". "Oh vástago de Jesé, ven a redimirnos, y no tardes". "Oh llave de David y cetro de la casa de Israel, ven saca a tu cautivo sumido en tinieblas y sombras de muerte". "Oh oriente, resplandor de la luz eterna, ven y alumbranos...", "Oh Rey de las Naciones y su deseado, ven a salvar al hombre que formaste del barro". "Oh Emmanuel (Dios con nosotros), Rey y Legislador nuestro, ven a salvarnos, Señor y Dios nuestro". El Mesías esperado es el Hijo mismo de Dios; Él es el gran libertador que vencerá a Satanás, que reinará eternamente sobre su pueblo, al que todas las naciones habrán de servir. Y como la divina misericordia alcanza no sólo a Israel sino a todo el Gentilismo, debemos hacer decir a Jesús: "¡Oh piedra angular, que reúnes en Ti a los pueblos todos, Ven". Todos seremos guiados juntos por un mismo Pastor. "El, dice Isaías, pastoreará a su rebaño, y acogerá a los corderitos en sus brazos, y los llevará en sus haldas; Él que es nuestro Dios y Señor".



AGENDA MES DICIEMBRE

Dic 5 Viernes: Grupo Carismático de Oración tendremos las conclusiones del Seminario de Sn Pablo y la Primera Parte del Retiro Adviento de 8:00 pm – 9:45 pm en la Iglesia de abajo.

Dic 6 Sábado: Tendremos el RETIRO ANUAL de Adviento de 9:00 am a 1:00 pm Iglesia abajo. Es importante que todos los ministros y servidores se hagan presente.. Los esperamos!

Dic 8 Lunes: INMACULADA CONCEPCION Misa de Precepto Obligatoria a las 8:00 pm en la Iglesia de abajo. Les esperamos al rosario 7:30 pm.

Dic 11: Mañanitas Virgen Guadalupe 11 pm en la iglesia de arriba: Eucaristía, Mariachis y más.

Dic 12: MISA VIRGEN GUADALUPE. Tendremos la Procesión saliendo del templo a las 7:15 pm y luego la Eucaristía a las 8 pm. Y refrigerio en el Auditorio. Les esperamos.

Dic 19 Viernes: Tendremos nuestro compartir navideño con todos los servidores de nuestra comunidad y el Grupo Carismático. Favor traer algo para compartir: Tendremos Novena al Niño Jesús, Villancicos, Charla Espiritual y demás. En la Iglesia de abajo. Vengan todos a compartir!

Dic 24: MISA DE NAVIDAD a las 8:00 pm en la iglesia de abajo... Obligación de todos.

Dic 25 : No habrá Misa en Español este día.

Dic 27: Sábado tendremos Bautismos a la 1 pm iniciando con la clase, pues no habrá clase el día 25 de Diciembre por motivo de Navidad.

Dic 28: Auditorio de la Escuela tendremos RETIRO ANUAL DE PAREJAS la cual deben atender de manera obligatoria los del Curso Pre-matrimonial próximo a terminar. Favor traer algo para compartir con todos. Habrá colecta.

Dic 31 Habrán dos Misas en Español en la Iglesia de abajo. La primera a las 5:pm con la comunidad Ecuatoriana y la siguiente a las 8:00 pm.

**No habrá Misa el 1º de Enero en español.
Fiesta de María Madre de Dios.**



**Help Keep Christ in Christmas
at St. Athanasius R.C. Church
Tenth Annual Christmas Nativity**

Dear Friend,

Please join us in celebrating our Tenth Annual Nativity and Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday evening December 13th at 6:30p.m. immediately following the 5:30p.m. Mass, on the corner of 61st Street and Bay Parkway. Lighted live Christmas trees will be placed around the Nativity and continue along Bay Parkway in front of St. Athanasius School to 62nd Street, as well as the opposite side in front of the church and convent. In these dark times of the year we can all join together in lighting up each other's lives.

We look forward to welcoming you to what has become an annual community event. I would like to personally invite you to participate in this community endeavor by sponsoring a Christmas tree. Your donation of either \$300, \$500 or \$1000 in the name of your family, business or in memory of a loved one, will be deeply appreciated. Two or three families may join together in sponsoring a tree. The children of our school will benefit greatly from your generosity.

We look forward to sharing this special season with you.

Sincerely and gratefully,

Msgr David L Cassato

Rev. Msgr. David L. Cassato
Pastor



SPONSOR FORM

For additional information, please call the rectory at 718-236-0124

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Sponsor/Greeting or/ in Memory of (how you would like the sign to read.) Please PRINT or TYPE clearly.

Please return this form with check payable to **St. Athanasius Church** to:

St. Athanasius Rectory 2154 61st Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11204 Attn: Tree Lighting.

Please return this form in order to allow us time to prepare signs for trees. All greetings, sponsors, and memorializations must be submitted by December 8 to be printed in our December 13th program.

