

COVER SHEET

Church Name: St. Athanasius

Bulletin # 511245

Date of Publication December 21, 2008

John Fruner, (718) 236-0124 Extension 44

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
Mr. Joseph Banker, <i>Coordinator of Youth Ministry</i>	Ext. 27
Mrs. Angela Maffai, (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, December 21, 2008 4th Sunday in Advent

8:30 Rosary Society
 10:00 Albert, Joseph, Christina Niciforo & Dolores
 10:00 Spanish Mass (Lower Church)
 11:30 Purgatorial Society
 11:30 Italian Mass (Lower Church) Tommaso Gioeli
 6:00pm Marchese Family

MONDAY, December 22, 2008

7:00 Frank Pasquale
 9:00 Ralph Liberti

TUESDAY, December 23, 2008

7:00 Kenneth Fasulo, Peter Esposito & Robert Starace
 9:00 Giovanni Furio

WEDNESDAY, December 24, 2008 Christmas Eve

7:00 **NO 7a.m. Mass today**
 9:00 John Buoncore
 4:30pm (Upper Church) Andrew & Marie Harkness
 8:00pm (Lower Church) Spanish Mass
 12:00am(Upper Church) Midnight Mass – English
 Rosemary & Anthony Gentile, Giovanna &
 Francesco Gentile, Jenny & Thomas Tanzi
 12:00am(Lower Church) Midnight Mass- Italian
 Alfredo Feletti, Guido & Enza Franconieri

THURSDAY, December 25, 2008 Christmas Day

8:30 Raymond Aumente
 10:00 Arthur Cappadona & Concetta Ferrante
 11:30 (English & Italian)- Upper Church
 Rose Circosta
 6:00pm **NO 6p.m. Mass today!**

FRIDAY, December 26, 2008 St. Stephen

7:00 **NO 7a.m. Mass today!**
 9:00 Christmas Novena, Day # 1

SATURDAY, December 27, 2008 St. John the Evangelist

9:00 Christmas Novena, Day # 2
 10:30 Memorial Mass- Natale Longo (Italian)
 3:00 Wedding- Pablo & Ana Lucia Perez
 5:30 Rosemary, Anthony Gentile, Giovanna, Francesco
 Gentile, Jenny, Thomas Tanzi

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.

SUNDAY, December 28, 2008 Holy Family

8:30 Deceased of the La Peruta Family
 10:00 Phil Acciarito
 10:00 Spanish Mass (Lower Church)
 11:30 Purgatorial Society
 11:30 Italian Mass (Lower Church) Felice Seminario,
 Marella e Francesco Seminario
 6:00pm Rosa Carmela Barillaro, Saverio Panadrea

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 Michael Maffai requested by wife Angela & children.*

WINE FOR THE WEEK - *donated in loving memory of Centorrino & Damiano Families requested by Ann Centorrino & Eleanor Damiano.*

ALTAR CANDLES FOR THE WEEK – *donated in loving memory of Arthur Cappadona requested by wife, Maria & daughter, Janine.*

SANCTUARY LAMPS *One sanctuary lamp is donated in memory of John Vonelli requested by Angie, Joan, Grace, & Frank Vonelli. The other sanctuary lamp is donated in memory of Isabella, Antoinette & Joseph LaFortezza requested by Angie, Joan, Grace, & Frank Vonelli.*

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!

BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS *Did you baptize your child here at St. A's this past year?* If so, we invite you to join us on Sunday January 4, 2009 at the 11:30a.m. Mass. All babies baptized here at St. A's & any church, are invited, with their parents & Godparents, to receive a special blessing. If interested, call ext. 24 of the rectory, our Pastoral Ministry Office, & leave your baby's name.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS!

We warmly **welcome** all who have come today to celebrate this glorious feast.

We **welcome** the stranger, the traveler and guest!

We **welcome** our students home from college for a good winter's rest!

We **welcome** parishioners who moved far away but join us this night as friends & guests! We **welcome** all who have not been active of late in their Catholic faith and hope they will find new hope and inspiration this Christmas season to come back again and again! We **welcome** our faithful parishioners- joyful and true.

May the Lord bless you for all you do! **Welcome to all!**

May our gathering this season gladden our hearts and deepen our bonds.

We, after all, are one People of God redeemed by LIGHT!

May we walk by light and live by light together in love.

KEEP THE LIGHT OF CHRIST SHINING THROUGHOUT CHRISTMAS

right here in our parish! Did you know that the 12 days of Christmas refer ***not*** to the 12 days before Christmas but the 12 days ***AFTER*** Christmas. The 12 days begin on Christmas day and ends on Epiphany, January 6th. It was customary to give your husband, wife, fiancé, girlfriend or boyfriend a gift each day of the Christmas season. In the United States Epiphany is celebrated on Sunday, however, January 6th is a Holy Day of Obligation outside of the United States. **Let us keep our houses decorated and lights turned on until Sunday January 11, 2009, the feast of the Baptism of our Lord, the last day of the Christmas Season.**

**PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THE CHURCH**

As you browse through the department stores brightly lit green and red, and you hear Christmas carols over and over in your head...**we ask you to please think about St. A's parish.** As you bake dozens of cookies of angels and trees, and you bundle in woolens so that you don't freeze... **we ask you to please think about St. A's parish.** As you wrap dainty, little packages in silver and gold, and extend Christmas greetings to friends new and old... **we ask you to please think about St. A's parish.** Think about all of the work at St. A's performed lovingly and with care. Think about the many children who count on us, and we're there. Think about the adults, who, through us, can hope for brighter days, better ways, and the ability to cope. If you are not on our mailing list, we invite you to please take **MY CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THE PARISH** envelope next to the bulletin. You may return it at any time.

THE PRESEPE IS OPEN – Come to see the beautiful Presepe in our lower church. Bring your family and friends to see this spectacular work of art crafted by our very own Italian Choir Master Anthony Vigilante.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ST. VINCENT DePAUL SOCIETY ABOUT OUR THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

On behalf of the members of the St. Vincent DePaul Society, Msgr. Cassato, Fr. Ron, & all our parishioners who donated so generously, we offer you our heartfelt thanks! Special thanks to Msgr. Cassato who donated the Thanksgiving Day collection, Mrs. Jeanne McFeeley for donating the turkeys, & Brian Long for sending us Alexander Zhang & Peter Porcelli (Troop 99 Eagle Scouts) to help with the food distribution. We distributed 37 turkeys & 176 bags of food to 37 families so that they too could share in the joy of Thanksgiving. Calling to mind the words of Our Lord Jesus Christ: "Whatsoever you do for the least of my sisters and brothers, you do for me!" This reflects the true meaning of Thanksgiving. Thank you & God bless you.

Nick Cagliuso, Present of the St. Vincent DePaul Society

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL FROM OUR PARISH STAFF! May the angel of the Annunciation bless you, inviting you to awaken to the life of God within in you. May the angel of Joseph's dream bless you, stirring your spirit to trust the many ways God whispers to you! May the angel of Bethlehem bless you, tickling your soul with laughter and joy, heralding hope & good tidings to you!

In your kindness please pray for those who are sick

Kathy Adams, Vivian & Antonio Antonelli,
Catherine Arrighetta,
Faith Arent, Kimberly Arent,
Patricia Aurigemma, Maria Bogdan,
Douglas Brock, Catherine Broderick,
Aidan Cassidy, Gianna Marie Carlson,
Judith Carminette, Cynthia Carponetto,
Michele Cassata, Ann Centorrino,
Arthur Chapnick, Sebastian Chiarello,
Carmela Colandrea, Vincenzo Coppolivo,
Bruce Dalton, Victoria D'Errico,
Celeste DeLeonardus, Joseph Delgado,
Al DeMarco, Jr., Al DeMarco III,
Louis DeMarco, Joan DeMarco,
Joan Demeyer, Mario DePinto,
Rachel DePinto, Catalina Diaz,
Barbara Doyle, Maria Esemplare,
Tina Esposito, Frances Falzetta,
Helen Felcetto, Anthony Felcetto,
Marie Ferlazzo, Sunday Giuffanti,
Theresa Giuffanti, Gina Giuffanti,
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
Avdy Llakukic, 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 Schiavo,
Josephine Schiavo, Jada Sciacchatano,
Carol Sidoti, Fran Sidorksy,
Concetta Sottilaro, Dana Sottilaro,
Philip Sottilaro, Lauren Thurgood,
William Thurgood, Amalia Vazquez,
Rita Verde, Carla Vitucci,
Pasquale Visceglia, Catherine Vermericci,
Madelon Vitucci, 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:
Glenn Carr****HEALING MASS** in honor of
the Infant Jesus

with Fr. John Campoli,
Saturday Jan. 10 at 8p.m.
Rosary begins at 7:30p.m.
Come & get a blessing for the
New Year & experience
Jesus' Healing!

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. 30** 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.

THE ROSARY SOCIETY Our monthly Mass is on Dec. 21 at 10a.m. Please note our meeting will be MONDAY EVENING Dec. 22 at 7:30p.m. in the Parish Auditorium. It will be our Christmas meeting and our Baby Shower. Time for fun! All women are invited!

K.I.S.S.- Keep it Simple- Stupid!

Msgr. Cassato shared his reflections on Thanksgiving and the upcoming holidays with us at our parish Thanksgiving Mass as well as the Bishop Kearney's Thanksgiving Mass. One of the students at Kearney wrote a reflection on Msgr's message and it is decorating her homeroom door. We want to share it with you:

'Twas the day before Thanksgiving & Kearney went to St. A's to give thanks for our families & friends as we prayed.

It was there that Monsignor found a note that said KISS and explained it meant KEEP IT SIMPLE STUPID! We all listened to Monsignor & thought about what he said and those thoughts stayed with us as well went to bed.

Next morning in homeroom there was such a chatter.

Mrs. Maffei had to yell, "Girls, what is the matter?"

into our seats we all flew like a flash

and announced in one voice "We don't want the cash!"

We don't want iPods, Sidekicks, or Masc!

We don't want iPhones! Please take it all back!

Our first wish this year during Christmas time

is to get materialistic things out of our minds.

This year for Christmas we want something more

like jobs for all people and help the poor!

We wish that young would respect the old and children would listen and do as they're told.

We want drugs to stop and all sickness to end and for all to learn it's what we do to help others and not what we spend.

We wish that the homeless could be safe and warm and our soldiers come home so no more will mourn!

We wish that all Kearney girls do well in school

because as every knows- all Kearney girls rule!

Our last wish this Christmas is for peace on earth!

We wish that all have love, hope, and happiness!

And as we end, we want to add this:

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

and to all a big K.I.S.S.!



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!

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY? A society made up of men

dedicating their efforts towards serving God, allegiance to our country, and protecting our families. We need men who can help us feed the hungry & homeless, coach in the Sports Programs, coordinate our blood drive, help with the Holy Name Society Halloween Party, Christmas Party and Dinner Dance, serve as an usher, maybe experience the parish Bible Sharing group, Scouting Program?

Call Ed DiGiacomo the Holy Name Society President to learn more! 718.836.7917

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.

Share about how well you keep your promises to others.

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.

G.I.S.A. Gruppo Italiano Sant'Atanasio – Christmas Party – Sunday, December 21 at 4:30pm in Parish Hall. Everyone welcomed. Coffee and refreshments. Join us for a delightful afternoon with a visit from Santa. Freddy Felletti, President - 718- 614 – 9683.

NEWLY INSTALLED EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION AND LECTORS Thank you Father Ronald D'Antonio and Msgr. David Cassato for your time and effort to train and support us in this parish ministry. We especially thank our parish for their warm welcome given to us on the day of our Installation, Sunday, December 7th, at the 11:30 A.M. Mass.

DO YOU LIKE OUR NEW ADVENT ALTAR CLOTH? THE ALTAR CLOTH IS STILL AVAILABLE FOR MEMORIALIZATION for a donation of \$500. We will place a memorial tag with your intention on the cloth so we will pray for that intention each time we celebrate the Mass with that cloth. Speak to AnnaMarie Scuteri or Marie Skroly.

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 memoria

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 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! 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.



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!

WELCOME TO THE STAFF! WE HAVE A COORDINATOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY HERE AT ST. A'S WHO WILL WORK WITH OUR CLUSTER DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES. We welcome **Mr. Joe Banker**. Joe will work with Ken to coordinate activities here. His office will be in the rectory and his phone extension is 27. After the Christmas Holidays, Youth Minister Joe should be all set up. You can ring the bell on the SIDE of the rectory that says: **PASTORAL MINISTRY OFFICE**. (We will get a new sign but until then... you know where Youth Minister Joe is!)

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 meeting is December 29th and restarting in the new year, January 12th.

BLESS YOU DOOR ON EPIPHANY- January 4, 2009-

The gospel tells us that the Magi found Christ "on entering the house." The door to your home is your holy threshold. We encourage you to bless those who come in and go out by inscribing above the door in chalk the following:

20+C+M+B+09

Tradition tells us that the letters stand for the names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. This may also mean: "Christus mansionem benedicat." Or "May Christ bless this dwelling." It's appropriate to bless your door in January- janua means "door" and the first month is the door to the new year. After inscribing your door, bless the door with incense & Holy Water saying this prayer: God of Bethlehem and Cana, God of Jordan's leaping waters, in baptism you bring us into your family. You wed us and embrace us as your beloved. May we fill this place with kindness to one another, with hospitality to guests and with abundant care for every stranger. By the gentle light of the star, guide home all who seek you on paths of faith, hope and love. Then we will join the angels in proclaiming your praise: Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever. Amen. Sing "We Three Kings."

A PARISHIONER HAS SOME CHRISTMAS KITTENS



3 kittens (6 wks) need homes. Litter trained & eating solid food. Fun & cute!!! I have 3 grown cats. 718 236-2720

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.



Parrocchia Sant'Atanasio

Bollettino Settimanale

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

21 dicembre 2008

IV domenica

d'Avvento

**MERCOLEDI', 24 DICEMBRE 2008 – MESSA DI MEZZANOTTE
CHIESA SOTTOPIANO - CANTI NATALIZI ALLE ORE 11:30PM
PORTATE I VOSTRI BAMBINI PER LA SFILATE DEI PASTORELL**

Dal nostro DIACONO DANTE COLANDREA

Riflessione del mese di dicembre

AVVENTO, VIENI SIGNORE

Avvento, tempo dell'attesa e della speranza:
è la tua venuta, o Cristo, che vogliamo rivivere,
preparandoci più profondamente
nella fede e nell'amore.

Avvento, tempo della Chiesa affamata del Salvatore:
essa vuole ripeterti, volgendosi a te
con più insistenza, con un lungo sguardo,
che tu sei tutto per lei.

Avvento, tempo dei desideri più nobili dell'uomo
che più coscientemente convergono verso di te,
e che devono cercare in te, nel tuo mistero,
il loro compimento.

Avvento, tempo di silenzio e di raccoglimento,
in cui ci sforziamo d'ascoltare la Parola
che vuol venire a noi,

e di sentire i passi che si avvicinano.

Avvento, tempo dell'accoglienza

in cui tutto cerca di aprirsi,

in cui tutto vuol dilatarsi nei nostri cuori troppo stretti,
al fine di ricevere la grandezza infinita
del Dio che viene a noi.

E' NATALE - E' Natale ogni volta che sorridi a un fratello e gli
tieni la mano.

E' Natale ogni volta che rimani in silenzio per ascoltare l'altro.

E' Natale ogni volta che spera con quelli che disperano.

E' Natale ogni volta che riconosci con umiltà i tuoi limiti e le tue
debolezze.

E' Natale ogni volta che permetti al Signore di rinascere in te e
poi lo doni agli altri. (Beata Madre Teresa di Calcutta)

**A tutti voi fedeli, possa Dio che nella nascita di Cristo suo
figlio ha congiunto la terra al cielo, riempirvi della pace e nel
suo amore. Che la benedizione di Dio Padre Onnipotente
discenda su di voi e sulle vostre famiglie e rimanga con voi
per sempre. Buon Natale. Diacono Dante.**

G.I.S.A. Gruppo Italiano Sant'Atanasio - FESTA BABBO

NATALE – La riunione generale G.I.S.A. Gruppo Italiano
Sant'Atanasio si terrà oggi, domenica, 21 dicembre alle
4:30 pomeridiane nell'auditorium della nostra scuola. A
questa riunione avremo la visita di Babbo Natale che
porterà i doni ai soci della G.I.S.A. Come sempre la
riunione si concluderà con caffè e dolci. Sarà un
piacevole pomeriggio. Venite numerosi. Freddy Felletti,
Presidente - 718- 614 – 9683.

IL PRESEPE E' APERTO – come ogni anno il presepe
nella chiesa sottopiano e' aperto. Da ricordare che sono
stati molti scritti articoli su giornali importanti sulla bellezza
di questo capolavoro d'arte.

SPETTACOLO TEATRALE - BROADWAY SHOW - Da
ricordare la data di mercoledì, 18 febbraio–spettacolo
teatrale - *Jersey Boys* - \$155. Cena prima dello
spettacolo. L'autobus parte da Sant'Atanasio. Per
prenotazioni Diacono Dante al 917-602-3793.

**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.**

ORARIO DELLE MESSE PER LE FESTE NATALIZIE

OGGI, DOMENICA, 21 DICEMBRE – l'orario delle Messe
rimane lo stesso di ogni domenica.

MERCOLEDI', 24 DICEMBRE – VIGILIA DI NATALE:

4:30pm – chiesa superiore (Santa Messa folkolistica)

8:00pm – Messa in lingua Spagnolo – chiesa superiore

mezzanotte – in Iglese – chiesa superiore

mezzanotte- in Italiano – chiesa sottopiano

SI INIZIA ALLE 11:30PM CON CANTI NATALIZI

**GIOVEDI', 25 DICEMBRE – GIORNO DI NATALE – NON
CI SARANNO MESSE NELLA CHIESA SOTTOPIANO-**

8:30 e 10:00 am – in Inglese con canti

11:30am – concelebrata

**GIORNO DI NATALE NON CI SARANNO LE MESSE IN
SPAGNOLO, IN ITALIANO E LA MESSA DELLE 6:00PM**

DOMENICA, 28 DICEMBRE – Festa della Sacra Famiglia
- l'orario delle Messe rimano lo stesso di ogni domenica.

MERCOLEDI, 31 DICEMBRE – Messa in Inglese con canti
natalizi alle 5:30pm – chiesa superiore.

5:00pm – messa in spagnolo – chiesa sottopiano

8:00pm – messa in spagnolo – chiesa superiore

GIOVEDI', 1 GENNAIO 2008 – Solenita' di Maria, Madre di
Dio - **NON CI SARA' LA MESSA IN ITALIANO**

8:30 e 10:00 am – in inglese – chiesa superiore

11:30am – concelebrata – chiesa superiore

NON CI SARA' LA MESSA DELLE 6:00pm

GLI ANIMALI PER IL PRESEPE VIVENTE arrivano nel
cortile di San Atanasio domenica, 28 dicembre. Venite a
vedere gli animale che erano insieme a Gesu'.

ome ogni anno il presepe nella chiesa sottopiano e' aperto.
Da ricordare che sono stati molti scritti articoli su giornali
importanti sulla bellezza di questo capolavoro d'arte.



Parroquia de San Atanasio
Boletín Parroquial Hispano

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

BOLETIN PARROQUIAL HISPANO DICIEMBRE 21

4º Domingo de Adviento: "Yo seré para él un padre y é será para mi un hijo" (2ª Sam 7,14)

"La profecía insiste en la permanencia del linaje de David en el trono de Israel. Esta es la promesa que hace Yahvé a David y que la tradición posterior interpretará en relación con el Mesías, como Hijo descendiente de David. La primitiva Iglesia entendió estas palabras en relación con Jesús como verdadero Mesías. Mateo y Lucas se esfuerzan por presentar en sus genealogías a Jesús como descendiente de este rey, y varias veces se le llama Hijo de David".

ORACION: MUÉSTRANOS OH PRECIOSO NIÑO LOS ENCANTOS DE TU ALMA, PARA QUE TODOS LOS QUE VENAMOS A ADORARTE EN ESTE PESEBRE, TE ACUNEMOS EN NUESTRAS ALMAS POR SIEMPRE.

L L E G A I A N A V I D A D

Señor, otra vez te haces presente entre nosotros y nos traes tu Navidad.
Te donas como Bien, Verdad y Belleza...

Tú nos creaste para que hubiera un ser necesario al cual darte en regalo, y nuestra vida sólo tiene sentido cuando somos capaces de entregarnos a ti. Quiero decirte Si como María.

Quiero como Ella, tener un lugar para ti, un hospedaje para ti. Dios, Señor, que quieres vivir y morar en mi casa, y seguro que en mi pobre gruta, en el silencio de mi casa, reservaré el mejor lugar de mi vida.
Viviré así este misterio de la Noche Santa: LA NAVIDAD.

De antemano, reciban todos ustedes, mis queridos hermanos en Cristo
UNAS FELICES PASCUAS DE NAVIDAD Y AÑO NUEVO 2009.

Que la bendición de Dios a través del padre Gabriel llegue a cada hogar, en el cual hago parte por el ministerio que El me ha dado entre ustedes, las ovejas más cercas del rebaño. Les guiero mucho y espero que mi paso como sacerdote entre ustedes, deje día a día las huellas del Maestro Jesús y de su Misericordia para con todos, en especial con los más pobres y necesitados. Gracias por el compartir del pasado 19. fue algo sencillo pero lleno de amor y alegría. **GRACIAS A TODOS!**

Misa de Navidad el día 24 a las 7:30 pm **LES ESPERAMOS!** Iglesia abajo.

St. Athanasius Roman Catholic Church
Bay Parkway and 61st Street
Bensonhurst Brooklyn, New York 11204

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 2008-2009

Advent Confessions in Preparation for Christmas

The last opportunity for Advent Confessions is on Saturday December 20 from 4-5p.m.
There are no confessions on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Wednesday December 24, 2008 *Christmas Eve* NO CONFESSIONS TODAY.

Family Mass with Children's Christmas Pageant at 4:30p.m. in Upper Church (Folk Mass)
Spanish Mass at 7:30p.m. in Lower Church (Choir)

MIDNIGHT MASS 2008

Christmas Carols in English with the Choir at 11:30p.m. in Upper Church (Choir & Organ)
Mass in English begins at 12:00a.m. Midnight in Upper Church
Christmas Carols in Italian with the Choir at 11:30p.m. in Lower Church (Choir & Organ)
Mass in Italian begins at 12:00a.m. Midnight in Lower Church

CHRISTMAS DAY Thursday December 25, 2008 **No masses in the Lower Church today.**

8:30, 10a.m., 11:30a.m.

No 10a.m. Spanish Mass today. No 11:30a.m. Italian Mass today.

The 11:30a.m. Mass in the Upper Church is in English & Italian.

NO 6p.m. Mass today.

All masses include Christmas carols with organ & cantor.

Sunday December 28, 2008 *The Feast of the Holy Family* Saturday Mass: 5:30p.m.

Sunday Masses in our Upper Church: 8:30a.m., 10a.m., 11:30a.m. & 6p.m.

Lower Church: 10a.m. (Spanish) 11:30a.m. (Italian)

LIVE ANIMALS OF THE NATIVITY

will be in the Parish Parking Lot from 10a.m. to 1p.m. today.

New Year's Day 2009 *The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God* **Wednesday December 31, 2008**

Mass in English at 5:30p.m. in the Upper Church with Christmas Carols

Mass in Spanish at 5:00p.m. in the Lower Church with the Ecuadorian Community

Mass in Spanish at 7:00p.m. in the Lower Church

Thursday January 1, 2009

Masses in the Upper Church: 8:30a.m., 10a.m., 11:30a.m.

The 11:30a.m. Mass in the Upper Church is in English & Italian.

No 10a.m. Mass in Spanish today.

NO 6p.m. Mass today.

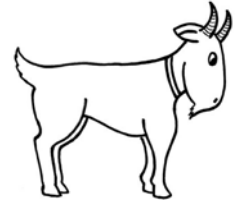
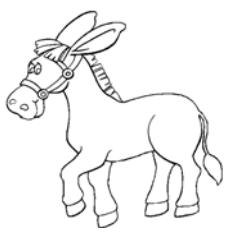
**“Brother and sister birds, you should praise your Creator and always love him: He gave you feathers for clothes, wings to fly and all other things that you need.” —
Saint Francis of Assisi**

Did you know that St. Francis created the First Nativity?

In Francis' time, many people could not read. Francis wanted to re-create the Nativity so people could understand the meaning of Christmas, so, in 1223, on a hill near a church in Greccio, the first Nativity re-enactment was conceived. Francis and his friars took an ox, donkey and a trough filled with hay and re-enacted the scene. Soon after, the tradition of a living Nativity spread across Italy and all of Europe. Thanks to Francis, the Nativity scene is brought to life every year from every corner of the world and now here at St. A's!

JOIN US ON THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Sunday December 28
from 10a.m. until 1:00p.m.
next to our outdoor Nativity,
in our Parish Parking Lot.



Come and meet our Christmas donkey, chickens, sheep, and goats!
Take a picture or video as a family, in the Nativity.
Sit on our life size camel, stand next to our Wise Men,
(who got to Bensonhurst a little early!)
and experience the Nativity as Saint Francis intended!

