



Dear Brothers and Sisters of Our Lady of Lourdes,

I write to share with you a reflection – both scientific and spiritual -- from Maggie Ciskanik, a contributor to the Magis Center website and blog of Father Robert Spitzer, S.J., Ph. D. I encourage you to check out his website [magiscenter.com](http://magiscenter.com), for more lessons about the connections between our Catholic intellectual and spiritual life.

**“A Point in Time: Not All Time is Linear”**

[EXCERPT, [magiscenter.com](http://magiscenter.com)]

by Maggie Ciskanik | Dec 4, 2018 |  
God & Modern Physics, Latest, Prayer

**How do we measure time?**

Measured for thousands of years in different ways, seconds, minutes, and hours are now the most familiar units of time. Did you know that since 1967, the 9 billion plus vibrations of a cesium atom [note: the cesium element (Cs) is in your atomic clock] have set the standard for a second, the international unit of time? But even that is changing as they discover ever more accurate ways of measuring a second.

**A little more history**

Einstein’s introduction of the special and general theories of relativity, in which time moved faster or slower based on an observer’s frame of reference, drastically changed our understanding of time. We now know that using a clock to measure the passage of time does not yield a fixed measurement, as experiments have shown that clocks in motion or at a greater distance from a gravitational source (for example, the center of the earth) move faster or slower. This is known as time dilation.

To incorporate this new information, time became known as the “fourth dimension.” Now, a hundred years later, even this idea of a space time continuum is being challenged by the work of two mathematicians described in this interesting article.

**Liturgical time and Kairos**

*Kairos* [as opposed to ‘*Chronos*’] is that other ancient Greek word for time, meaning the right, critical or opportune moment. In rhetoric, it means saying the right thing at the right time. This second kind of time includes an understanding of sacred time.

In his book, “The Architecture of Time,” Rabbi Abraham Heschel reminds his readers that the first consecrated measure of time in the Old Testament was the Sabbath day. Anthony Esolen, a scholar of Renaissance literature, describes time as “the moving image of eternity,” and adds, “All times are impregnated with God’s being and his eternal purposes.”

Using the studies of a well respected historian of religion, Mircea Eliade, Fr. Spitzer discusses this universal sense of sacred time and its “reactualization” in religious rituals. A sacred ritual acts as a portal or entry allowing participants “to connect with the Transcendent reality in it.” It is not merely a “remembering” or a re-enactment, but a present reality.

T.S. Eliot poetically described this dance of *Chronos* and the eternal *Kairos*:

*At the still point of the turning world. Neither  
flesh nor fleshless;  
Neither from nor towards; at the still point,  
there the dance is,  
But neither arrest nor movement. And do  
not call it fixity,  
Where past and future are gathered. Neither  
movement from nor towards,  
Neither ascent nor decline. Except for the  
point, the still point,  
There would be no dance, and there is only  
the dance.*

**Advent is the beginning of the Church year**

Our liturgical seasons allow us to connect to sacred events “in the past” in this timeless way. Time “collapses” in the sense of *Chronos*.

There is only *Kairos*, the opportune moment, the right moment—for conversion, for insight, for renewal. That is why, as a penitential season, Advent calls us to a kind of change that is not decay, but a transformation, a growth in our relationships to God, our neighbor, and yes, even to ourselves.

Advent is a time of preparation for that sacred moment.

We are waiting in the darkness once again for the Light that is to come into the world.

Will our hearts be ready to receive Him, the Promised One, Emmanuel, “God with us?”

*Maggie Ciskanik is a regular contributor to the Magis Center blog.*

Blessed Advent and Christmas to you and yours,

In Christ’s Peace,  
Father Jim Ferry



**For Your Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure**

**FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 2018**

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| WEEKLY GOAL               | \$ 6800 |
| Collection: December 1-2* | \$ 5804 |
| Deficit:                  | \$ 996  |

\* Includes Online Giving Weekly Average Deposit

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

**SATURDAY 15 DECEMBER**

8:30 am Humberto Thaddeus Ludena, Jr.  
5:30 pm Kathleen & Owen Mooney

**SUNDAY 16 DECEMBER**

7:30 am People of the Parish  
9:30 am Catalano & Chiaramonte Families  
11:30 am Dr. Anthony Oropollo & Pavone Family

**MONDAY 17 DECEMBER**

8:30 am Kathy Buonopane

**TUESDAY 18 DECEMBER**

8:30 am Leo Acevedo

**WEDNESDAY 19 DECEMBER**

8:30 am Thanksgiving for St. Jude

**THURSDAY 20 DECEMBER**

8:30 am Thanksgiving for St. Jude

**FRIDAY 21 DECEMBER**

8:30 am Leo Acevedo

**SATURDAY 22 DECEMBER**

8:30 am Humbert Thaddeus Ludena, Jr.  
5:30 pm Catherine & Lawrence Del Plato

**SUNDAY 23 DECEMBER**

7:30 am People of the Parish  
9:30 am Deceased Members of the Pflug & Napolitano Families  
11:30 am John J. Giblin

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**SUNDAY 16 DECEMBER THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal  
11:30 am Simbang Gabi Novena Mass  
12:30 pm Lunch  
**HELLO**  
It's Nametag Sunday

**MONDAY 17 DECEMBER**

7:00 pm PENANCE SERVICE—St. Joseph's Church

**THURSDAY 20 DECEMBER**

10:00 am Deadline for News & Announcements For December 30th bulletin email: [lourdesbulletin@aol.com](mailto:lourdesbulletin@aol.com).

6:00 pm Choir Practice

**SUNDAY 23 DECEMBER FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal  
12:30 pm (Giblin reception—Connor Hall)



Today, DECEMBER 16, 2018 is **Gaudete Sunday**—the Third Week of Advent.

**WHAT IS GAUDETE SUNDAY?**

(Excerpt, [www.thought.com](http://www.thought.com)) by: Scott P. Richert

It takes its name from the first word in Latin of the Introit, or entrance antiphon at Mass. The introit for Gaudete Sunday, is taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Gaudete in Domino semper" ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). It is a joyous celebration. Although it takes place during the usually penitential period of Advent, Gaudete Sunday serves as a mid-point break from the austere practices to rejoice in the nearness of Jesus's return.

Like Lent, Advent is a penitential season, so the priest normally wears purple vestments. But on Gaudete Sunday, having passed the midpoint of Advent, the Church lightens the mood a little, and the priest may wear rose vestments. The change in color provides us with encouragement to continue our spiritual preparation for Christmas. For this same reason of lightening the mood, the third candle of the Advent wreath, first lit on Gaudete Sunday, is traditionally rose-colored.

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS— SUNDAY 23 DECEMBER**

| Mass              | Lector             | Eucharistic Ministers  | Altar Servers   |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|---|
| 5:30 pm           | Joe Riopel         | Emily Kunz<br>Eileen Reilly<br>Sharon Rosario                                | Gina Camosy<br>Jenie Camosy<br>Jonathan Camosy        |
| 7:30 am           | Joe Gruszczynski   | Mary Cassels<br>Joe Gruszczynski<br>Sr. James Soon                           | Tim Brennan   |
| 9:30 am           | Bill Talbot        | Annette Chiaramonte<br>JoAnne Chiaramonte<br>Carmelita Dizon<br>Sonia Murphy | Briana Sampson  |
| 11:30 am<br>Choir | Wendy Sheyka       | Paul Hirsch<br>Nancy Lanfrank<br>Wendy Sheyka                                | Anika Fernandes<br>Jennifer Fernandes<br>Faith Nzegwu |
| 11:30 am          | Children's Liturgy | Rachelle Brown   |   |
| 10:30 am          | RCIA               |  |   |



**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Vincent Aiello, Sean Bailey,  
Josefina Balerdi, Suzane Ball,  
Gina Cammarata, Darlene Cangialosi,  
Teresa Carbin, Josephine Ciullo,

Tom Collinson, Jeannie Cox, Ramona De Castro,  
Peggy Dolan, Pierre Ferrus, Helen Filan,  
Catherine Gascoyne, Al Gebhardt, Judy Givas,  
Gary Grasso, Alberta Greco, Michael Harris,  
Marissa and Richard Hedstrom, Jovann Henry,  
Yann Henry, Glenn Holland, Prepty Joint,  
Bruce Kiefer, Tim Klein, James Leung,  
Rose Mateus, Marion McConville,  
Mary McGuinness, Stephanie Montano,  
Noreen Meyers, Liam Morley, Florence Olabiyi,  
William Ollenschleger, Otilia Ortega, Idelourdes  
Petion, Patrick Pierre, Ruby Ibanez Polixa  
Mark Quarno, Thelma Ramaglia, Amy Ricciardi,  
Mary Lou Ruppel, Marie Salvatoriello, Vincent  
Santucci, Jr., Heather Scoffone, Patricia Seib,  
Natalie Sims, Marie Stopfer, Jimmy Tiernan,  
Robin Tobia, Ann Whelan, Michael Whelan,  
George Zachos.

If you wish to have a loved one prayed for,  
please call the rectory at 973.325.0110.

# Around the Parish & Community

**ALL GIFTS  
DUE TODAY!**



November 1—December 16

### TAKE A TAG—

Purchase the gift on the tag—  
Wrap the gift and  
Attach the Tag -

Place under the Giving Tree by  
**Sunday, December 16th**

New Community Corporation  
Archdiocese of Newark

## PIPE DREAM >

Church Organ

Raffle Winner  
**ANNOUNCED!**

*Congratulations*

to Our Dec 1st \$500 winners:

**REGYNALD & YOLIE HEURTELOU**

*Thank You*

to the Dangler Family and  
Dangler Funeral Home

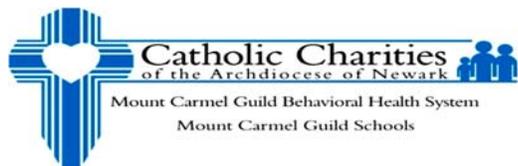
We are grateful to Darren and Mellen Dangler and to Dangler Funeral Home of West Orange and of Boonton for their annual gift of our Catholic Calendar. These 2019 calendars are available after Sunday Mass in church and at the rectory. We pray God will bless you in the new year.

**reminder**

### “BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR VOLUNTEERS”

Background checks must be renewed (i.e., re-checked) every 5 years for all parish employees and parish volunteers working with children. If you are a volunteer whose previous background must be renewed in 2019, you will be contacted by the parish office. You yourself need not take any action. If you have questions, please call parish rectory office [973-325-0110](tel:973-325-0110).

How many gifts will you unwrap this Christmas?



Most gifts will bring you a deep sense of joy on many levels — joy from the actual item you received and joy in knowing that someone thought about you. Catholic Charities reaches out to those who may not receive one gift and who may have very few if anyone to think about them. Help Catholic Charities by contributing to the clothing bin.  
Thank you.



### FOOD FOR THE NEEDY

**December 29-30** is our monthly food collection for St. John's Church, Newark. Please bring non-perishable food and place it in the bins in the Church lobbies. Thank you.