

ISSUE No. XIX

1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

31 DECEMBER 2017

Cathedral WEEKLY

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR



Cathedral WEEKLY

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
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Bishop Jean Dubois

*Saint Catherine of Siena said
that all the way to
Heaven is already Heaven for
those who love the Lord.*

To keep Advent is to peek into
Heaven especially on "Gaudete
(Rejoice) Sunday," when we re-
joice at what is about to happen.

This glimmer of light prefiguring the Light coming into the world
has exquisite poignancy.

Let us not be selfish: Christmas is for the faithful departed as
well as for those still in time and space. There need be no sad-
ness at Christmas when we remember our forebears who are no
longer at our table, for in the Holy Eucharist we are united with
"the whole company" who are with the Lord.

This brings to mind one of our own, Bishop Jean Dubois, the
third bishop of New York who died in 1842 on December 20, after
nearly seventeen years of arduous labor serving the entire state
of New York and much of New Jersey with the help of just eigh-
teen priests. He founded churches and institutions, including a
seminary and two future universities.

Jean Dubois was trained in Paris just when the French Revolu-
tion rose up with diabolical furor against the Church. A chief ar-
chitect of the Reign of Terror, which slaughtered countless priests
and nuns, was Robespierre who tried to replace Catholicism with
a "Cult of the Supreme Being," declaring on May 7, 1794 that
"priests are to morality what charlatans are to medicine." None-
theless, Robespierre had been a friendly classmate of Dubois in
the Collège Louis le Grand and, old school ties being strong, he
disguised Dubois and helped him to escape. Ironically, Robe-
spierre would be beheaded on his own guillotine.

With letters commendatory from Lafayette, Dubois made it to
America where he lived with future president James Monroe.

There had been two bishops of New York, both Dominicans living
in Rome: Concanen who was impeded by the Napoleonic block-



ade of Naples; and Connolly, who worked himself to death establishing parishes. The small but growing num-
bers of Catholics were opposed to a "foreign" bishop, for they did not appre-
ciate that the Church Universal is also international. The Irish objected that their new bish-
op spoke French-accented English, this in spite of the fact that the English tutor of Dubois,
Patrick Henry, had been impressed by his proficiency. The

bishop's claim that Saint Patrick was French further irritated his flock.

After many trials, Bishop Dubois asked to be buried under the
front steps of the old Saint Patrick's Cathedral, so that people
could "walk on me in death, as they did when I was living."

At Christmas, gift giving also requires that we accept gifts from
the Lord, and among them is the gift of those who served him in
this world and who join us at the altar every day.

"Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers in their genera-
tions" (Sirach 44:1).

*Father George W. Rutler is the pastor of St. Michael's Church in New
York City. Printed by permission.*

RENEWAL OF OUR PARISH



Continuing the Joy of Christmas

We continue our journey through the Octave of Christmas this weekend with the celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family. This feast reminds us that Jesus was raised in a home, that he grew in age, wisdom, and in knowledge of God's will for his life. He also grew

in grace and obedience under the care of Mary and Joseph. This feast is followed by the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, on New Year's Day. This solemnity marks the end of the Octave of Christmas by celebrating the motherhood of Mary, remembering that it was from her that Jesus took his human nature, becoming one with us in all things but sin. This year the obligation is lifted to attend Mass on January 1st because the solemnity falls on a Monday, however, Mass will still be offered on New Year's Day at 9AM.

Thank you to all who ministered and assisted in making our Christmas celebrations so wonderful. How blessed we are to have this joyous season of light in the midst of the darkest days of winter, but also at a time when the light begins to lengthen ever so slightly and the darkness begins to recede. Please continue to enjoy the beauty of the season. It began, not ended, on December 25th and continues through Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord on January 8th. May the joy of Christmas continue to be yours and may you know God's abundant grace and blessings in 2018!



Father Christopher House is the Rector-Pastor of the Cathedral and serves in various leadership roles within the diocesan curia, specifically Chancellor and Vicar Judicial.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

Monday 1 January

9AM - For the People

Tuesday 2 January

7AM - Dr. David Mack (Lou Ann Mack)

5:15PM - Catherine Staab (Francie LaCamera)

Wednesday 3 January

7AM - Dr. David Mack (Lou Ann Mack)

5:15PM - Norma F. Buckner (Tim and Judy Nicoud)

Thursday 4 January

7AM - Charles and Barb Kaufman (Ellen Mattox)

5:15PM - Lawrence Bussard (Father Tulton K of C Council)

Friday 5 January

7AM - Jane Burmeister (Friend)

5:15PM - Kevin Dallavis (Jeannette Giannone)

Saturday 6 January

8AM - All Souls

4PM - For the People

Sunday 7 January

7AM - Bart Rotherham (Betty Rotherham)

10AM - Lost Souls (CCCW)

5PM - Albert O. Eck, Jr. (The Billington's)