



St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala

Streams of living water will flow from within. ~John 7:38

Parish Office: 60 Kingsland Rd, Berala, 2141, **Ph:** 96447787 **E:** info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au
Parish Website: www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au, **facebook:** [stpeterstjoseph](https://www.facebook.com/stpeterstjoseph) **YouTube:** [BeralaParish](https://www.youtube.com/BeralaParish)

Holy Mass at Berala: Monday to Friday 6.45am, Saturday 8.00am | **Holy Hour:** Saturday 8.30am-9.30am

Lord's Day Mass Berala: Saturday 5.00pm (Vigil), Sunday 8.00am & 10.00am

Reconciliation at Berala: Saturday 8.30am - 9.30am. Or contact the parish office for any other time.

For Baptisms, Weddings, Bible Study and Catholic Enquiry, please contact Fr Thomas or the parish office on 9644 7787.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

6 DECEMBER 2020

You are a voice in the wilderness



Jack came to see me, all confused. His family and friends had disappointed him. His prayer life was far from perfect. The Sacraments of the Church had not appeared in the horizon of his mind for a long time. Having listened to him I made some suggestions on how to move forward and where to find some help. The relief that brought to him was amazing. It was like a parched wilderness soaking up the little showers it gets occasionally and blooming instantly. For a moment I felt like John the Baptist, who was the voice that cried out in the desert.

John the Baptist was a messenger, not like a postman who delivers letters, but as someone who gladdens the people who needs lifting up. There are times you feel like a desert place. That is when you need a John to announce the good news of hope. You may not have always noticed; but when you look back you would find a number of occasions when you were helped to find the Spirit of God at work in your life.

Acknowledging such times of listening to 'the voice in the wilderness' helps you to turn to the river and find God's grace that can give you a new life of hope.

If you are blessed enough not to feel like a 'desert place', know that you are called to be the 'voice that cries out in the wilderness' for other people. You are called to invite others to a change of heart for a new life. John baptised people with water as a gesture to mark a change of heart. Similarly, you may be able to recall some gestures that marked some change of heart. In this time of waiting for Christmas, see whether you can identify some of those gestures in your own life.

John the Baptist acknowledged that Jesus, who comes after him is greater than him. **Similarly, the first step in making your life the 'voice of a prophet' is the humility in which you acknowledge Jesus as your saviour. Try recollecting the acts of humility in your life, freely acknowledging the place of God and others in your spiritual renewal. Even with all your limitations, you are called to be a voice in the wilderness.**

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Sr Tomsy, Graham Turner, Sr Salve Stuart, Theo Bergstedt, Tony Michael, Rosario Poli, Doreen Stanmore, Ann Bechiom, Lourdes Zabala, Grazyna Lukasiewicz, Morris Edward Zamora, Olivia & Andrew Casey, Lourdes Zabala, Margarita Kawada, Ray Jarque

Recently Deceased: Tony Draybi, Vergenia V Nayan, Ikaw Kumon, Joseph Spiteri, Max Barton, Rudolfo Macaraeg, Carlito Salar

Deceased: Lily Morris

Anniversary: Lloyd Collins, Sandy Amores, Jovito Amores, Felicisimo Amores, Lucila Amores, Tarcila Figueras, Fe Allarde & Pacita Allarde, Erlina Villanueva

Deceased Members and Friends of: O'Dwyer & Erwin Families, Ross & Mitchell Families

Other Intentions: For all those affected by the Corona Virus. For the intention of the Holy Father.



Please do not put the
bulletin back in the church.

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ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Is 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading

Is 40:1-5. 9-11

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

R Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **R**

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **R**

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **R**

Second Reading

2 Pt 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never

forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 3:4-6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

Communion Antiphon

Bar 5:5, 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Is 61:1-2. 10-11**

2nd Reading: **1 Thes 5:16-24**

Gospel: **Jn 1:6-8. 19-28**

REFLECTIONS ON MARK 1:1-8

Historical Context – A Baptism of Forgiveness

The understanding that we generally have of baptism today has not always been the case. At the time of John and Jesus, the Jewish tradition used baptism as a ritual bath to cleanse a person who had become ritually unclean and make them able to participate in religious rituals. What John was preaching was a baptism for the forgiveness of sins – a new interpretation at the time. He emphasised that repentance was essential for forgiveness and that there needed to be a conscious returning to God. John's baptism was a symbolic act to signify the willingness of the person to renounce their sins and make a more conscious return to God.

Scriptural context – Mark

The gospel of Mark is sometimes portrayed as a 'no fuss' gospel. Nowhere is this more clearly seen than in this week's passage. We have the first eight verses of the gospel and the author wastes no time in announcing the purpose, 'The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.' The gospel of Mark does not give any infancy narrative or genealogy like Matthew or Luke, nor a theological foreword like John. It jumps straight in with a declaration that Jesus is the Son of God and almost immediately begins to explore his ministry.

Gospel Focus – Preparing the Way

The gospel passage quotes the prophet Isaiah (although text combines Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3; and Exodus 23:20) and casts John the Baptist in the role of fulfilling the prophecy of the voice that cries in the wilderness, 'Prepare a way for the Lord'. The description of John in camel-skin and eating locusts and wild honey is designed to align him with Elijah, the great prophet of Jewish history. In a very short and sharp passage the gospel ties the coming of Jesus to the expectation of a messiah that has run through Jewish history and been foretold by the great prophets. .

A voice of one crying in the wilderness

A commentary on Isaiah by Eusebius of Caesarea (4th Century)

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight the paths of our God. The prophecy makes clear that it is to be fulfilled, not in Jerusalem but in the wilderness: it is there that the glory of the Lord is to appear, and God's salvation is to be made known to all mankind.

It was in the wilderness that God's saving presence was proclaimed by John the Baptist, and there that God's salvation was seen. The words of this prophecy were fulfilled when Christ and his glory were made manifest to all: after his baptism the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove rested on him, and the Father's voice was heard, bearing witness to the Son: *This is my beloved Son, listen to him.*

The prophecy meant that God was to come to a deserted place, inaccessible from the beginning. None of the pagans had any knowledge of God, since his holy servants and prophets were kept from approaching them. The voice commands that a way be prepared for the Word of God: the rough and trackless ground is to be made level, so that our God may find a highway when he comes. *Prepare the way of the Lord:* the way is the preaching of the Gospel, the new message of consolation, ready to bring to all mankind the knowledge of God's saving power.

Climb on a high mountain, bearer of good news to Zion. Lift up your voice in strength, bearer of good news to Jerusalem. These words harmonise very well with the meaning of what has gone before. They refer opportunely to the evangelists and proclaim the coming of God to men, after speaking of the voice crying in the wilderness. Mention of the evangelists suitably follows the prophecy on John the Baptist.

What does Zion mean if not the city previously called Jerusalem? This is the mountain referred to in that passage from Scripture: *Here is mount Zion, where you dwelt.* The Apostle says: *You have come to mount Zion.* Does not this refer to the company of the apostles, chosen from the former people of the circumcision?

This is the Zion, the Jerusalem, that received God's salvation. It stands aloft on the mountain of God, that is, it is raised high on the only-begotten Word of God. It is commanded to climb the high mountain and announce the word of salvation. Who is the bearer of the good news but the company of the evangelists? What does it mean to bear the good news but to preach to all nations, but first of all to the cities of Judah, the coming of Christ on earth?

This week we welcome into the Catholic faith

Angelina Deeju & Ailish Lucy Toher

May they always know the love of God
and feel His guiding hand throughout their lives.



FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Monday, 7 December - St Ambrose (Memorial)



Born in Trier (Germany) about 340. Ordained bishop on this day in 374 and died at Milan (Italy) on Holy Saturday 397. A lawyer who became governor in Milan and who was still a catechumen when elected bishop by popular acclaim. Upheld orthodoxy against the Arians and won many Christian converts. Encouraged monasticism and defended the independence of the Church against secular authority. Remembered as an outstanding pastor through his writings on the sacraments and Christian ethics and through his homilies, instructions, and hymns.

Tuesday, 8 December - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)



This feast had its origin in the East as the "Conception of Mary by Saint Anne". It spread through the West during the Middle Ages as the "Immaculate Conception" and was extended to the entire Western Church in the eighteenth century. The feast celebrates Mary, preserved from sin from the moment of conception; she is the first fruits of her Son's redemption and a prophetic model of what the Church is called to be.

WHAT'S NEW?

Christmas Luncheon

All are invited (with or without their families) to join Christmas Luncheon on 25 December at 11.30AM. You may invite other people also to dine together on Christmas day at Berala.

This year Christmas Lunch will be served at the tables. In the previous years it was buffet where the participants served themselves. But this time we want to be COVID safe. To organise we need volunteers.

Following is the list of tasks for you consider volunteering.

- Greeters. These are the people who welcome the guests as they arrive and make them register and sanitise their hands.
- Setting up the Jubilee Hall and preparing dinner accessories. This could be done on 24th December after 4PM.
- Dishing up meals in the kitchen and making them ready to serve. This is done mostly after 9AM on Christmas Day.
- Volunteers to serve plates of food to the tables. These volunteers should be ready to go from 11.30AM on Christmas day.
- Serving drinks – (Volunteer already assigned).
- Cleaning the Hall – this will be done with all available volunteers after the lunch.



Lunch Menu

The menu includes ham, chicken (roast), pasta bake, potato salad, green salad and dessert. Soft drinks, beer, and red wine will also be available.

You are welcome to donate any one or more of the above items. Volunteers with food items can indicate in the sheet provided at the entrance of the church what they are bringing. Should you prefer email to inform the parish office what you are donating, that too is welcome. You can drop off food items by 10AM on Christmas day. That which could be brought earlier could be done so.

Just for Laughs

Q: What's a good Christmas tip?

A: Never catch snowflakes with your tongue until all the birds have gone south for the winter.



Mass Schedules for Advent and Christmas



The restrictions are relaxed from Monday, 7 December. The church intake for weekend masses could be increased from 100 to 200, following the two square meter rule. That should satisfy our Sunday

congregations. Therefore, we will be returning the normal schedule of masses from next Sunday, Vigil (Saturday) 5PM, Sunday 8AM & 10AM.

There will not be any more 9AM mass.

To help plan Christmas Mass arrangements, please register which Mass you wish to attend for Christmas. You can register your name on the sheet provided at the entrance of the Church as well by email to the parish office.

Christmas Schedule

Thursday, 18 December

7.30pm Second Rite of Reconciliation

Saturday, 19 December

7.00pm Carols Night

Thursday, 24 December

7.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass, 12.00 midnight Solemn Mass

Friday, 25 December

8.00am Christmas Mass, 10.00am Christmas Mass

Christmas Pageant



Christmas Vigil Mass at 7PM on 24 December will have a special focus on families with children. It will be celebrated outdoors (weather permitting) this year. There will be a Christmas Pageant as part of the Mass.

All children are invited to dress up as characters in the nativity scene. Options are to dress up as angel, shepherd, wise men, Joseph, Mary, and infant Jesus. There will be a parade of the Characters at the Vigil.

Christmas Giving Tree

As in the past years, the Parish will be working with Vinnies to distribute Christmas gifts. To ensure safety due to Covid, this year Vinnies will be holding a toy drive for their clients where they can come and pick up a present using a voucher from the school on a weekend. Vinnies would love your support by donating toys for children of all ages this Christmas. Please label wrapped gifts with whom they may be most appropriate for (boy or girl and age). Any food donations this year will be delivered to Vinnies office for distribution. Alternatively, you can donate gift cards for distribution to the needy. Your generosity will help bring a smile to those less fortunate. Thank you!



Carols 2020



The Parish Carols this year will be held on **Saturday, 19 December** at 7PM. We would love for you to come and join the Parish Choir and sing at the Carols.

If you as an individual or a group would like to sing at the Carols please contact Fr Thomas or the Parish office.

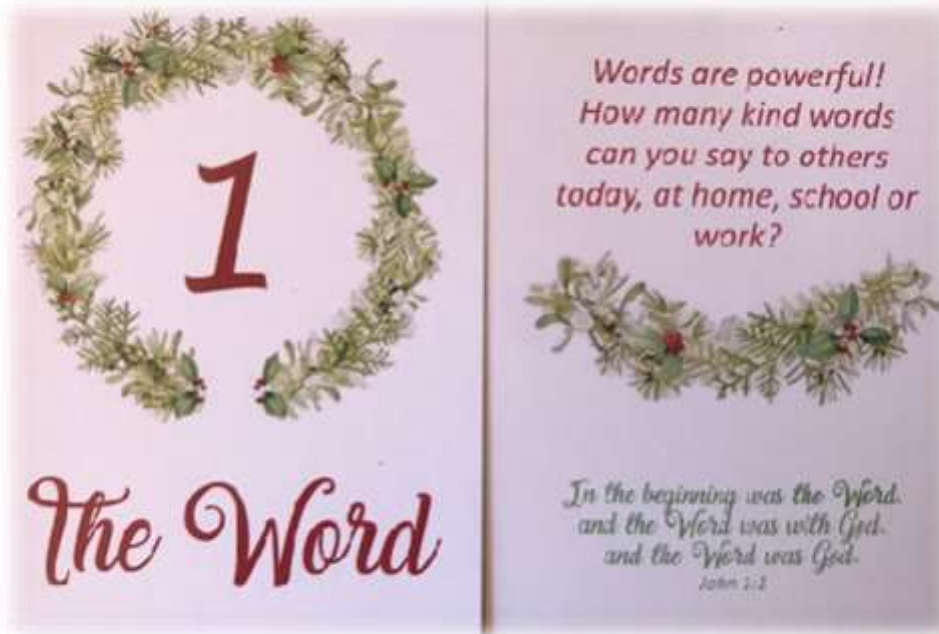
With Thanks

We wish to express our gratitude to Father Thomas and the parishioners of St Peter Chanel & St Joseph for your prayers and sympathy at the recent death of our sister, Lily Morris. We are blessed to be part of this Parish Family.

~Kay & Charlie Scully

Advent Calendar - St Joseph the Worker Primary School

To prepare our hearts and minds for the sacred birth of Jesus our God, the families and students at St Joseph the Worker, Auburn South have received a special **Advent Calendar**, focused on acts of kindness. The calendar was designed around the many different titles we have for Jesus. Each title is accompanied by a scripture passage for reflection and then an action to live out each day.



For example, on Day 2 of Advent:

Title: ***“Lamb of God”***

Scripture: ***“Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”*** John 1:29

Action: Jesus was **forgiving**. If someone does something to hurt you today, forgive them (even if they do not say sorry).

Year 1 and 2 students proudly displayed their Advent Calendar on their classroom door.



The Advent calendar was created by a Family Educator as part of the Family and Faith Project at Sydney Catholic Schools.

~ **Natasha Ellis, Family Educator**,
St Joseph the Worker Primary School

The Catholic Parish of St Peter Chanel & St Joseph, Berala
would like to invite you and your family to a



Christmas Luncheon

Friday, 25 December

11.30am to 2.00pm

Jubilee Hall

62 Kingsland Road

BERALA 2141

*The magic of Christmas is not in the presents, but in His presence.
May God bless you and your family this Christmas!*

WE NEED YOU!

St Vincent de Paul Society - Berala Conference

The Berala Conference is always looking for volunteers. Whether you would like to do home visits, social visits, help with fundraising, office duties or just join a team of people who are determined to make our community a better place for all - we would love for you to join us! The time you contribute is up to you and the rewards are indescribable! **For more information, email amanda.gahan@syd.catholic.edu.au.**



Masculine Mission 1-day Course for Men

Join Simon Carrington of Fire Up Ministries for a 1-day course on the Masculine Mission!

Date: 12 December from 8 am – 5 pm

Registration price: \$99 (includes a PDF and studyguide)

Email simon@fireupministries.com to register

Registrations close 10 December

**Course limited to 20 men in-person. Also available via Zoom.*

CHURCH CLEANER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Looking for volunteers to help clean church once a month starting December. If you are able to help, please contact the Parish Office.

Planned Giving Request Form

Your financial contribution to the Planned Giving of the Parish is your appreciation for the Parish. At the end of the financial year you will receive a receipt for your contributions. To join the Planned Giving Program fill this form, tear this part off and place it in the Sunday Collection plate.

Your Name:.....

Telephone NoEmail

☐ Yes, please organise a set of envelopes. ☐ Yes, please organise automatic credit card deductions. (An authority form will be sent)

OTHER NOTICES

Job Opportunity with Caritas Australia- Youth Participation Coordinator

The aid agency, Caritas Australia is looking for an energetic person who can implement an Australia-wide Caritas Youth Participation Strategy.

A signature program is our walking 'With God Program' or faith inspiring bush walks in groups around Australia, and this is the key focus along with helping to animate the stories of Caritas' work through virtual engagements with schools.

Ideally this is a full time role based in Sydney however we understand that for some youth they may be studying or have other part-time jobs therefore flexibility in location and work hours will be considered for the right person. More information is available online at: <https://www.caritas.org.au/about/jobs/positions-vacant#YouthParticipationCoordinator>

Launch of 2020 Lights of Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral

St Mary's Cathedral is again hosting the magnificent lights of Christmas with the event officially being launched on 10 December with the lights display commencing at 8:30pm. The lights will be displayed each night until 11pm, concluding on Christmas Day.

Mass for Expectant Mothers

This year the Mass for Expectant Mothers will be celebrated on Saturday the 12th of December at 12 noon and will be celebrated by Bishop Richard Umbers at St Mary's Cathedral. Each expectant mother and her unborn child will receive a blessing from Bishop Umbers, as well as a small gift from the Life, Marriage & Family Team. Registrations: sydneycatholic.eventsair.com/smcsmass/massformothers/Site/Register

Leading U-S theologian Dr Scott Hahn to speak at Sydney Catholic youth virtual event

PDMKK Sydney, an Indonesian Catholic Charismatic Youth Group, is hosting a virtual event, with popular US-theologian Dr Scott Hahn who is credited with helping thousands of lapsed Catholics and Christians from other faiths embracing the Catholic faith. **Saturday 11 December | 11am | Admission: \$20 per person.** Register online: <https://pdmkksydneyshine.eventbrite.com.au>

Home Care Services for Seniors

CatholicCare's Home Care Services for seniors can support you or a loved one to live at home independently with comfort and confidence and to remain connected to your parish community. To learn more call our Home Care Team 13 18 19 or connect@catholiccare.org

CatholicCare outreach to the lonely and isolated

CatholicCare, through its CCareline 13 18 19 number and the Parish Volunteer Program in partnership with the Archdiocese of Sydney, is working together as the 'hands

and feet of Christ in the community' reaching out to those most in need in our parishes and beyond. To register or learn more about the Parish Volunteer Program call CCareline on 13 18 19. If you are struggling and need help or support, or you are worried about someone else, please call CCareline on 13 18 19 today.

Got your wedding plans under control?

How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. For further information visit: www.engagedencounter.org.au. Choose any of the coming weekends: Nov 7-8, Feb 20-21.

The 2021 Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation course, Of Life and Love

Will be held on Saturday 27 February commencing at 10am and then Thursday evenings 4, 11, 18 March 2021 Saturday 14 August commencing at 10am and then Thursday evenings 19, 26 August & 02 September 2021 To Book Online - <https://www.trybooking.com/BMTLF> For further information, please contact - The Life, Marriage and Family team on (02) 9307 8480 or e-mail steven.buhagiar@sydneycatholic.org.

Parent Line: 1300 1300 52

Many families are in the midst of or are facing serious challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and need extra support but don't know where to start. Parent Line can help parents by providing support and strategies to manage. Call us 7 days a week on 1300 1300 52.

Can you picture yourself being a foster carer ?

Children and young people in our communities need support now more than ever. To learn more about becoming a carer register for Family Spirit's next online information session by registering here - <https://bit.ly/2ESeRL4> | Call 13 18 19 or email connect@familyspirit.org for more information

JRS Appeal for Foodbank Donations

The Jesuit Refugee Service mobile food bank is a huge and growing operation. Since 1 April, they have collectively fed more than 5,000 women, children, and men who have lost jobs, been excluded from Federal Government financial support and cannot return home. Their stocks of rice, pasta, oil, tuna, and long life milk are RUNNING LOW. If you can donate these items we have drop off spots around Sydney here. In the absence of Federal Government support for people in need, we continue to need your help. Please visit: <https://aus.jrs.net/en/jesuit-refugee-service/> and learn how you can support people who have no other means to buy these basics for their families.

13 DECEMBER 2020

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	William ANDREWS	Charlie SCULLY	Trevor BREWTY
LECTOR/S	Christine KENSEY	Maris MARSH	Renee SALAR
	Mai NGUYEN	Joe MOSES	Sharon IACONO

Cleaners SPC: Marian Rosary Group | Altar & Sacristy: Group 2 Gwen Bergstedt

Saturday 8AM 12 DECEMBER

LECTOR FOR MASS Jann ROCKLIFF