

Press Release

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Area Catholics Join Pope Francis in Blessing of the Bambinelli



[Syracuse, NY] This year, many Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Syracuse will join Pope Francis for the Blessing of the Bambinelli, December 12-13. This tradition was started in 1969 by Pope Paul VI and has continued as a way to celebrate the Christian meaning of the Advent and Christmas seasons, God entering our lives and homes.

Each year in Rome on the third Sunday of Advent, children bring the Christ Child (Bambinelli) from their family nativity scene for a blessing during the Holy Father's Sunday *Angelus*. The blessing is a wonderful way of expressing joy at the coming birth of Jesus, and reminding families of the spiritual meaning of Christmas. Participating parishes will offer the blessing at Mass during the same weekend.

The Third Sunday of Advent was chosen for the blessing because it is known as *Gaudete* Sunday (which means JOY in Latin), a reminder of the joyous anticipation of the Savior's birth. The special nature of this Sunday is represented by the pink candle among the three purple candles in the traditional Advent wreath.

You are invited to cover the Blessing of the Bambinelli in an area parish. See attached for a list of parishes in your area that are participating in the Blessing of the Bambinelli and welcome media coverage. For information or to arrange coverage, contact Mary Hallman, Director Office of Evangelization or Fr. Charles Vavonese, Director Office of Formation for Ministry.

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Area Parishes Participating in the Blessing of the Bambinelli, Dec. 12-13, 2015

Parish	Address	City	Contact	Phone	Saturday Blessing	Sunday Blessing
Church of the Nativity at Holy Trinity	346 Prospect St.	Binghamton	Barbara Hill	607-797-1856	None	8:45
St. Patrick	9 Leroy St.	Binghamton	Msgr. Putano	607-722-1060	None	7:30, 9:00
St. Thomas Aquinas	One Aquinas St.	Binghamton	Msgr. Putano	607-797-4015	4:00	11:30
St. Patrick-St. Anthony	3364 Oneida St.	Chadwicks	Kathy Poupart	315-507-2528	4:00	8:30, 10:30
Sacred Heart	8229 Brewerton Rd.	Cicero	Fr. Prior	315-699-2752	5:00	7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00, 4:00 pm
St. Mary	59 N. Main St.	Cortland	Fr. Zareski	607-756-9967	5:15	8:00, 11:30
St. Anthony of Padua	50 Pomeroy St.	Cortland	Fr. Zareski	607-756-9967	None	9:30
St. Anthony of Padua	906 Jenkins St.	Endicott	Dc. Bill Matts	607-754-4333	5:00	9:00, 11:30
St. Francis Xavier	1 W. Main St.	Marcellus	Fr. Muscalino	315-673-2531	4:30	8:30, 10:45
St. Joseph	178 W. 2 nd St.	Oswego	Pat Barnett	315-342-3967	4:00	11:00
St. Stephen the King	138 Niagara St.	Oswego	Pat Barnett	315-342-3967	5:30	9:00
Our Lady of Lourdes	2 Barton Ave	Utica	Marie Morosco	315-724-3155	4:00	9:00, 11:15
St. Anthony & St. Agnes	422 Tilden Ave.	Utica	Fr. Kaminski	315-732-1177	4:00	8:30, 10:00, 11:30

