

Last Sunday afternoon I had the pleasure of spending some time with the RELIT group's movie presentation in Mercy Hall. They, and some other parishioner's, watched a movie about our Blessed Mother, Mary. For those who may not know, RELIT is a group of parishioner's dedicated to growing their own faith, and helping others do the same. I appreciate their effort, and encourage everyone to join in some of their events.

Speaking of helping people grow their faith, our parish is blessed by the presence of some very special women who have truly dedicated their lives to this. They are the religious sisters who minister in our community: Sr. Clare, SJH, Sr. Ellen, SJH, and Sr. Michaelita, RSM.

Sr. Ellen and Sr. Clare are members of the Sisters of Jesus, Our Hope. They teach in our parish school and are a great witness to the students and faculty. Their community also hosts our faculty for annual Days of Recollection-which helps all our teachers to deepen and enrich their faith.

Sr. Michaelita, RSM, runs the local Catholic Charities on South Main Street. She does a great deal to help the local poor, and is a great help and inspiration to me. Sister recently was instrumental in hosting Project Homeless Connect in Mercy Hall, where many local people were able to access all kinds of essential services. I cannot possibly thank her enough.

Our parish will honor all these sisters at Saturday's 4:30pm Mass this weekend. I ask that you keep these sisters, and all religious sisters who have served our parish and community over the years, in your prayers. Be sure to say thanks when you see them!

Speaking of Catholic Charities, the Bishop's Appeal is kicking off soon. This appeal is a great source of support for Catholic Charities. It also supports the education of future priests and a million other things. You will be seeing announcements about the Bishop's Appeal in upcoming bulletins and receiving mailings about it as well. Please read them, prayerfully consider what you can do to help, and do it!

In responding to the Bishop's Appeal, please also remember how much the diocese does for our St. Philip and St. James Church. Remember how they have been carrying our parish debt for a number of years, not to mention our property and liability insurance. Our parish is one that truly gets a great deal of help from our diocese, and any gift to the appeal is a good way to say 'thanks!'

I know that not all of us can give much to the appeal. But we can all give something. Even if it is a small gift, it is great when added to the others. Remember the widow who was commended by Jesus for giving what she could, little as it was.

My hope is that all of us -100%-will give something to the appeal. In this way we can show gratitude to our diocese and do our part to share in the mission of the larger Church.

Please say a Hail Mary for me today, and every day. Please also pray for the local poor and homeless, and for peace.

Have a great week!  
Fr. John



St. Philip & St. James School  
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Phillipsburg, NJ08865 (908) 859-1244 – <http://sspjnj.org/>  
Follow us at: [facebook.com/sspjnschool](https://www.facebook.com/sspjnschool)

#### **SAINTS UPDATE:**

**Learn more about why it is Great to be a Saint! We will be hosting two information sessions this spring. Information Sessions will take place: March 8<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00pm and April 26<sup>th</sup> 1:00-3:00pm. Can't make it to any of these events? Call 908-859-1244 to schedule a private tour and learn more about our school. Saints Philip & James School educates students as young as 2years old through grade 8.**

**Interested in assisting with our first ever 5K Run & Child Fun Run? Please contact Mrs. Kucinski. The 5K will take place on May 9<sup>th</sup>. We need your help to make this event a success.**

#### **SAVE THE DATE:**

**Please join us in honoring two pillars of our community: Mary Lilly and Paul Juliano. Our Annual Faith and Service Dinner will take place at Flynn's on the Hill on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm and the cost is \$60.00. This night is a beautiful evening celebrating both our school and Parish community. If you are interested in attending the event or becoming a sponsor, please contact Margie Markus at [markus.margie06@gmail.com](mailto:markus.margie06@gmail.com).**

#### **POSITIONS AVAILABLE:**

**Substitute teachers are needed. Certification and clearances required. Please contact Mrs. Kucinski at 908-859-1244 to apply.**

#### ***FORMED...A GREAT WAY TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR FAITH!***

FORMED is a collection of Catholic Bible studies, talks, movies, and other programs for people who want to learn more about their Catholic Faith. Anyone in our parish can access it by following three simple steps: (1) Google [formed.org](http://formed.org). (2) Scroll down to where it asks if your parish already subscribes and indicate yes. It will ask you to enter your parish code, which is GMKZ4Q (all capitals). (3) You will then be asked to set up your own account by establishing your own password. After that, you should be in!

#### ***LEGION OF MARY LIBRARY***

February is the month of the Holy Family. Legion of Mary Library has a wonderful selection of books and videos for the entire family to choose from. Open Sundays (excluding holidays) in Mercy Hall from after 9am Mass to 10:45am.

#### **MASS CELEBRANTS FOR**

**Feb. 22/23**

4:30pm – Fr. Wojciech

7:00am – Fr. Pat

9:00am - Fr. Pat

11:00am – Fr. John

1:00pm (SP) – Fr. Wojciech

5:30pm – Fr. John

### ***YOUNG PARISHIONER LENTEN ACTIVITY***

During Fellowship Sunday on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> and then again on April 19<sup>th</sup> after both the 9am and 11am Masses, G.I.F.T. Ministry invites all parish youth to participate in a Lenten craft. The youth will craft a Crown of Thorns made from dough that they will mix, shape into a crown, add thorns to, and then bake. The idea is to spend Lent focusing on good thoughts, words, and deeds; helping others when they can and showing their Catholic faith through their actions and words. Every time they behave in this way, they can remove a thorn from the crown. By Eastertime the thorns should all be gone and the youth can join us again on April 19<sup>th</sup> at fellowship Sunday, with their crown, and paint and glitter the crown transforming it into a Crown of Glory! We ask that at least one parent accompany children under 13 to help their child with the activity on both days. You may call 908-454-0112 to sign up. Signing up isn't required, but will help with planning.

### ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:***

#### ***CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOOD PANTRY***

Do you have 3 hours a week to spare in the morning or in the afternoon? Catholic Charities is looking for individuals to help package food in bags or to assist in the Thrift Store. They are open Monday thru Friday. Please consider performing a Corporal Work of Mercy by volunteering to assist those in need. Call 908-859-5447 to inquire and obtain a volunteer application.

#### ***LIFE CHOICES ANNUAL CHARITY BANQUET***

Life Choices Resource Center's Annual Charity Banquet "Rescue the Beating Heart" will take place on Sunday, February 23, 2020 from 4-8pm at Pines Manor, in Edison, NJ. An inspirational evening highlighting God's love at work in the work we do at Life Choices Resource Center. Tickets are \$65.00 per person. Sponsorship opportunities available. For more information call Christine or Rosanda at 732-516-0911 or visit [www.LifeChoicesRC.com](http://www.LifeChoicesRC.com)

#### ***MARDI GRAS BINGO!***

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Incarnation of Our Lord Parish is sponsoring its 7<sup>th</sup> annual "Mardi Gras Bingo" on Sunday, February 23, 2020. This fundraising event will be held in the LaBuda Social Hall in the church basement. Doors will open at 12:00pm, and Bingo will start at 2pm. The ticket price includes 15 Bingo cash prize games. "Specials" (5 separate games), food and tricky tray raffle will be available for purchase. Ticket donation: \$20 advance/\$25 at the door

#### ***KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY!***

The Knights of Columbus Council #474 will have their Fish Fry's starting on February 28<sup>th</sup> and also on March 13<sup>th</sup>, March 27<sup>th</sup>, and April 10<sup>th</sup>. It will be from 4pm to 7pm in Mercy Hall. The cost is \$9 for adults and \$6 for children 6-12. Please come join us!

#### ***LETTING GO AND LETTING GOD RETREAT***

Join the Sisters of Jesus our Hope at their Annual Retreat for Women on Saturday, April 18, 2020 at St. Magdalen de Pazzi Church 105 Mine St., Flemington, NJ starting at 8:30am. Please register at [www.sisterofjesusourhope.org](http://www.sisterofjesusourhope.org).

### ***CST 101 SERIES – GOD'S CREATION***

As a parish family, we are viewing the CST (Catholic Social Teachings) 101 Series each week on FORMED. Please join us this week from your computer in viewing "The Dignity of Work, Rights of Workers." The discussion questions are on FORMED or you can join us in the Conference Room on Monday night, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. A worksheet can be found in the back of the church.

#### **Religious Education News**

***Hope's Closet: We have a few gently used dresses, suits, and shoes in a variety of sizes for First Holy Communion. If you are interested in looking through our collection, please stop by the church office during business hours.***

#### ***STEPPING FORWARD IN FAITH: GRACE IN ACTION***

Please watch your mailbox for a letter from Bishop Checchio coming to you this week announcing the 2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal. The campaign will again be conducted during Lent and our parish can earn a rebate of 50% of the amount collected over goal. Through your support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal you help those in our diocese whose needs are the greatest—the poor, the homeless, and those struggling with illness or grief. Among other needed pastoral ministries, your gift also supports the formation of seminarians and enhances the work of campus ministry through the Catholic Center at Rutgers University. The many pastoral, educational and charitable ministries of the Diocese of Metuchen would not be possible without a generous contribution from every household. Please be as generous as your means allow.

#### ***"COULD YOU NOT WATCH ONE HOUR WITH ME?"***

"A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with JESUS in the BLESSED SACRAMENT."... St. Padre Pio.

Eucharistic Adoration hours currently in need: Monday at 2pm, 3pm, & 5pm; Tuesday at 3pm, 5pm & 10pm; Wednesday at noon; Thursday at 4pm & 6pm. Fridays at noon, 2pm, & 10pm; Saturdays at 8am, 9am, 10am, 3pm & 6pm; and Sundays at 1pm, 2pm, 3pm & 4pm...or an hour of your choice and/or on our substitute list. Phone Camille at 908-319-2719.

#### ***SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS***

"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. "Matthew 5:20". The scribes and Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear—it's the love that you have in your heart that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules out of obligation, not love, does not put you on the path to heaven. Attending Mass on Sunday and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner in the parking lot is an example of a modern day Pharisee.

#### ***SIGHT & SOUND THEATRE TRIP!***

Queen Esther at Sight & Sound Theatre Matinee on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Leaving Phillipsburg at 11:30am. Cost: Adult \$105/ Child (3-12) \$78. We're stopping at Shady Maple Gift Shop with optional dining. Phone Camille at 908-319-2719 for reservations.

### **CAMP VERITAS 2020**

Camp Veritas is a one-week play and pray sleep away summer camp for teens going into 7<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grades. It will be held at five locations in 2020; June 29-July 4 at Clongowes Wood College in Ireland; July 19-25 at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh NY; July 26-Aug. 1 in Emmitsburg, MD; Aug. 2-7 in Lake Placid, FL and Aug. 16-22 at Camp Lakota in Wurtsboro, NY. Enrollment opened 1/1/20 and enrollment price for each week is only \$400 per camper. Early bird rate (before 4/1/20) is \$400 and will be \$450 after that. More details can be found at [www.campveritas.com](http://www.campveritas.com).

### **CATHOLIC SPIRIT**

The annual drive to support our diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Spirit, is taking place during the month of February, National Catholic Press Month. Please support their good work by using the envelope in your packet. Any amount you contribute will show your support for the ministry of The Catholic Spirit and will be greatly appreciated. Please remember to take home a copy of the paper-it has a special role to play in your life as a practicing Catholic.

### **CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2020-2021 TUITION ASSISTANCE**

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at <https://online.factsmtg.com/aid>. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) no later than March 31, 2020. Applications are available in English and Spanish.

### **CURSILLO 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST**

The Cursillo 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Encounter With Christ will be held at Mary, Mother of God Parish, 157 South Triangle Rd., Hillsborough, on Saturday February 29, 2020 from 8am to 3pm. Our distinguished speakers will be Fr. Glenn Sudano, CFR of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (Saint Joseph Friary, New York, NY) and Dcn. Sal Bonfiglio, OFS (Secular Franciscan Order). The theme of the Encounter is "One Does Not Live on Bread Alone" (Matthew 4:4). Morning Coffee as well as a light lunch will be served. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation; as well as celebration of the Mass. There is no charge for the event; but a free will offering will be accepted. ALL ARE WELCOME. To register, please log on to <http://metcursillo.org> for more details.

### **FELLOWSHIP AND CHRISTIAN CHARITY**

On Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, G.I.F.T Ministry is inviting you to join in Mercy Hall after the 9am and 11am Masses. There will be coffee, snacks, and fellowship. As a supplement to Fellowship Sunday, please consider donating to those most in need in our community. Each month we will be taking donations of items that are often in short supply but of high need. This month we will be collecting Personal Hygiene Items: toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, shampoo, feminine hygiene products. A donation is not required to enjoy coffee and fellowship, but consider helping if you are able. There will be a special donation basket inside Mercy Hall for any donations. Collected items will be delivered to Catholic Charities. We look forward to spending time with you in fellowship and thank you in advance for your support.

## **\* MINISTRY \***

**Feb. 22/23**

### **SATURDAY EVENING**

**4:30pm**

Acolytes: Chisomaga Acholonu

Ministers: Kevin Kassick & Ronald Rossini, C1 – Margie Markus, C2 – Ines Berluche, C3 – Dorothy Kays, C4 – Edward Socci

Lector: Mary O'Sullivan

Servers: Chiazam Odinna & Nicholas Socci

### **SUNDAY MORNING**

**7:00am**

Acolyte: Michael Juliano

Ministers: Patricia Flynn & Judy Leone

Lector: Lucas Anmolsingh

Servers: Sofia Grimshaw & Joey Grimshaw

**9:00am**

Acolytes: Raymond Zelda & Franco Zelda

Ministers: Eileen Catalli & Valerie Lusardi, C1 – Kelly Perna, C2 – Joseph Lusardi, C3 – Joseph Gourniak, C4 – Rosemary Carnali

Lector: Yvonne Montague

Servers: Brook Troxell, Grace Troxell & Cael Troxell

**11:00am**

Acolyte: Gabriel Adams & Jason Palazzo

Ministers: Robert Hopkins & Pat James, C1 – Patricia Palazzo, C2 – Maureen Speer, C3 – Sam Fatta, C4 – Barbara Schanaberger

Lector: Hannah Adams

Servers: Lilee Chismar & Logan Shoudt

**5:30pm**

Acolyte: Lauren Rautenberg

Minister: Matt Markus & Lynn Markus

Lector: Kathy Fulse

Servers: Blake Sweigert, Cole Rautenberg & Steven Fulse, Jr.

### **ADULT ENRICHMENT CLASSES –MATTHEW'S SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

The Diocesan Office of Adult Faith Formation will be offering a four week course, which will meet each Wednesday beginning March 11, 2020 at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center from 10 to 11:15am. The classes will explore and examine Chapters 5-7 of Matthew's gospel in which the Beatitudes are couched. Through the use of PowerPoint slides, Q & A and the "New American Bible," students will have a better grasp of what God is communicating through the pen of the second evangelist. This Adult Enrichment class is free of charge and open to anyone who is interested. Registration is required. To register please visit <https://diometuchen.org/faith-formation>. For additional information, please contact Angela Marshall at [amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org) or call 732-562-1543.

## \* MASSES FOR THE WEEK \*

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

7:00 – Ida Leone by Bev & Al Redondo  
9:00 – Francis Flynn, Jr. by Wife & Children  
11:00 – Malley Fisher by Deacon Larry & Carol Bevilacqua  
1:00 (SP) – For the People  
5:30pm – Catherine V. McCana by Eileen

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

6:45 – Carmen Calatrisano by Sister & Family  
8:00 – CJ Koop by Scott Sobon  
12:10 – Angelina Bevilacqua by SPSJ CCD Staff

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

6:45 – Mary Chambers Ashmore by Sara Morales-Epple  
8:00 – Cele Daniels by Jeanie Bolcar  
12:10pm – Edith Sciascia by Rosalie Finegan

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

6:45 – Frank Romeo by Family  
8:00 – Jack Bacho by Eileen Mondzak  
12:10 – Manny Francisco by Kucinski Family

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

6:45 – Rose Hucklenbroich by Jeannine Riotto  
8:00 – Theresa Varga by Eileen Mondzak  
12:10 – Herb Vaughn by Paul Leone & Family

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

6:45 – Deceased Members of Nigrone Family by Bessie Family  
8:00 – Ann Marie Shaneberger by Richard & Kathleen Hoag  
12:10 – Gerald Carducci by Edward & Linda Portice

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

8:00 – Janet Davis by Rosemary Carnali  
4:30pm – Frank Bigelli by Yola & Enzo Mannelli

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

7:00 – Alayan Sulick by Family  
9:00 – Marian Manaserri by Family  
11:00 – Howard & Ruth James by Pat & Mike James  
1:00 (SP) – For The People  
5:30 – Santa & Salvatore Caroprese by Daughters

## \* CALENDAR \*

### 16<sup>th</sup> - Sunday – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Adopt a Missionary Collection  
Columbiettes Loaf Cake Sale  
12:00pm – 11:00pm – HFC – Adoration  
2:30pm – CH – Baptism

### 17<sup>th</sup> - Monday – The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order President's Day

8:30am-11:00pm – HFC – Adoration  
7:00pm – PMR – Knights of Columbus Mtg.  
7:00pm – HFC – Novena

### 18<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration  
9:00am – MH – Legion of Mary  
4:00 – SSPJ – NO CCD Classes  
6:00- CH/Flynn's – Serra Club Mass/Mtg.  
6:30pm – CR – Legion of Mary  
7:00pm – CH – Charismatic Hispanic Ministry  
7:00pm – HFC – Cenacles of Life  
7:30pm – MH – Boy Scout Troop Mtg.

### 19<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC – Adoration  
7:00pm – PMR – Divine Mercy Prayer Group  
7:00 – HFC – Flame of Love Devotions (Holy Rosary)

### 20<sup>th</sup> – Thursday

8:30am-11:00pm – HFC – Adoration  
10:00am – MH – Catholic Charities  
7:00pm – HFC - Blue Army  
7:00pm – PMR - Choir Rehearsal

### 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday – St. Peter Damiano, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:30am-11:00pm – HFC – Adoration

### 22<sup>th</sup>– Saturday – The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

8:30am-11:00pm – HFC – Adoration  
9:00am – CH – Confession  
9:00am – PMR – Spanish Bible Study  
11:00am – HFC – Cenacles of Life  
11:30am – MH – Soup Kitchen  
3:15pm-4:15pm – CH – Confession

### 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fellowship Sunday after the 9am and 11am Mass  
10:00am – CR - RCIA Mtg.  
12:00pm – 11pm HFC – Adoration  
2:30pm – CH – Baptism Ceremony

### **Stewardship of Treasure**

February 9, 2020: \$11,945.00  
January On-Line Contributions: \$8,340.50

### **Parish Capital Campaign**

Total Pledged as of 1/3/2020 \$1,517,815.90  
Total Collected as of 1/3/2020: \$948,303.38

*Have you considered on-line giving?*

*If interested in signing up for on-line giving, please go to:  
<https://spsj.churchgiving.com>*

### **NURSING HOME TEAMS**

#### **Lopatcong Care Center**

2/23/20 – Theresa Richey & Margie Markus  
3/1/20 – Pat Flynn & Carol Bevilacqua

#### **Brakeley Care Center**

2/23/20 – Barbara Balas & Karen Llanos  
3/1/20 – Valerie Lusardi & Joseph Lusardi

#### **Phillipsburg Care Center**

2/23/20 – Karen Juliano & Paul Juliano  
3/1/20 - Karen Juliano & Paul Juliano

*Please continue to pray for all of our parish youth as they further their faith formation through our parish school and CCD programs.*