

February 22-23, 2020: Here comes Lent!

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Holy Season of Lent. Masses will be offered in our Church that day at 6:45, 8:00am and at 12:10, 5:00 and 7:00pm. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all those Masses.

There are several ways of looking at Lent. Some people see it simply as a time of penance. We give up treats we like to show that we are sorry for our sins and want to do better in the future. This is a good way of looking at Lent.

Other people look at Lent as a time to do something extra for God. They go to Daily Mass, or practice extra charity as a way of going the extra mile for God during this holy season. This is also a good way of looking at Lent.

I personally think that it's best to see Lent as a little of both. It is indeed a time of penance, but also a time for spiritual growth. This means that we make the most of Lent by both repenting of sin and doing something extra for God! There will be many opportunities to do this in our parish this Lent.

We will have a Parish Lenten Mission on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 2nd, 3rd and 4th. I am happy that Fr. Michael Venditti, who usually celebrates our 12:10pm weekday Mass, will preach our Mission. Those who attend that Mass regularly often tell me how much they enjoy his homilies. I hope that many of you will come to the Mission and take advantage of this opportunity for spiritual nourishment.

We will also have a series of Lenten Wednesdays on the Wednesdays of Lent at 7pm. Every Wednesday a different priest or deacon will expose the Blessed Sacrament, preach a Lenten homily, and give Benediction. I encourage everyone to attend at least one-if not all-of these evenings.

We will, of course, pray the Stations of the Cross in Church every Friday of Lent at 3 and 9pm. Stations will also be prayed in the Church on Tuesdays in Spanish. Praying the Stations of the Cross is a great way to remember what Jesus did for us on Good Friday, and to do something extra for Him!

Another good thing to do for Lent is called Best Lent Ever, It is a series of free, daily video reflections you watch or listen to on line. You can sign up at DynamicCatholic.comLent2020.


Rice Bowls will be distributed as a means of helping us practice charity this Lent. As usual, I encourage every family to take one and fill it up this Lent. A good way to do this is to put spare change in it each day, or to eat a simple meal once a week this Lent and put the money saved in the Rice Bowl for the poor.

Confessions will be heard every Saturday during Lent, and extra Confessors will be assigned to help hear them. Additionally, we will have a Lenten Penance Service on Monday, March 23rd at 7pm. At least 10 priest will be here to help hear Confessions that evening. Participating in a Penance Service is a great thing to do for Lent.

My hope is that everyone will take advantage to these opportunities to repent of our sins and do something extra for God this Lent. Indeed, let's all resolve to make this the best Lent of our lives, so that we can celebrate Jesus' resurrection this Easter with our faith, renewed and reenergized!!

Also, we will have a Parish Meeting in Mercy Hall following the 9am Mass next Sunday, March 1st. I will give an update on our parish projects, the capital campaign, and Financial Report. Some members of our Finance and Building and Grounds Committees will also be there. Coffee and donuts will be provided, of course! Hope to see you there.

Have a great week!
Fr. John



St. Philip & St. James School
137 Roseberry Street
108865 (908) 859-1244 – <http://sspjnj.org/>
Follow us at: [facebook.com/sspjschool](https://www.facebook.com/sspjschool)

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 8th from 1:00-3:00pm and April 26th 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 9th. 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 28th 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.

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. (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!

MASS CELEBRANTS FOR

Feb. 29/Mar. 1st

4:30pm – Fr. John

7:00am – Fr. John

9:00am – Fr. Pat

11:00am – Fr. Pat

1:00pm (SP) – Fr. Wojciech

5:30pm – Fr. Wojciech

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.

YOUNG PARISHIONER LENTEN ACTIVITY

During Fellowship Sunday on Feb. 23rd and then again on April 19th 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 19th 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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY!

The Knights of Columbus Council #474 will have their Fish Fry's starting on February 28th and also on March 13th, March 27th, and April 10th. 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 ANNUAL 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.

SCOUT DAY OF RECOLLECTION

All Catholic Scouts are invited, especially those working on their Ad Altare Dei & Pope Pius XII religious emblems to attend a Scout Day of Recollection at St. Philip & St. James Church, 430 So. Main St. Phillipsburg, NJ on Saturday March 21st from 11am – 2pm. Prayer, talks, Adoration, Confession & Holy Mass. Lunch will be provided by Troop 50. To register call St. Philip & St. James Parish Office at 908-454-0112 ext. 3. RSVP: Monday, March 16th.

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.

"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

"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you... (Matthew 5:44) Love your enemies, easier said than done, no doubt. But, remember, the foundation of stewardship is prayer. When we are in close communication with God, it opens our heart and it turns our attention away from "me" and moves it towards God and others. It allows us to have a little more empathy for "our enemy". When we pray for others, even "our enemies", maybe it softens their hearts as well.

PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue is a beautiful, visible reminder of Our Blessed Mother who constantly intercedes for us. Legion of Mary invites you to welcome her into your home for one week. Please contact Mary Ann at 732-539-4592 or Camille at 908-319-2719.

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.factsmgt.com/aid>. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) no later than March 31, 2020. Applications are available in English and Spanish.

PRAYERS FOR LIFE, LIBERTY, & MARRIAGE

Come join us on Saturday, Feb. 29th at 8:30am in the Chapel for Prayers for Life, Liberty, & Marriage. Let us continue to pray for the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, the freedom of conscience for all people, and for marriage & families.

CURSILLO 11TH ANNUAL ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST

The Cursillo 11th 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 23rd, 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.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

**Stations of the Cross: Fridays at 3pm and 7pm (English)
Tuesdays at 7pm (Spanish)**

**Parish Mission: March 2nd 3rd, & 4th at 7pm.
Preacher: Fr. Michael Venditti**

**Lenten Wednesdays
Every Wednesday at 7pm**

**Ash Wednesday, February 26th: Holy Mass with
distribution of ashes.**

**March 4th, 11th, 18, 25th, April 1st, 8th: Exposition, Homily
and Benediction**

Holy Week and Easter

**Holy Thursday, April 9th: Solemn Mass of the Lord's
Supper: 7pm (Church will remain open for prayer and
adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11pm)**

**Good Friday, April 10th: Solemn Commemoration of the
Lord's Passion: 12 Noon (Spanish) 3pm (English)
Solemn Stations of the Cross: 7pm**

**Holy Saturday, April 11th: Blessing of Food: 12:30p,
Solemn Easter Vigil Mass: 7pm**

**Easter Sunday, April 12th: 7am Holy Mass (English), 9am
Holy Mass (English), 11am Holy Mass (English), 1pm Holy
Mass (Spanish)**

*** MINISTRY ***

Feb. 29/Mar. 1

SATURDAY EVENING

4:30pm

Acolytes: KJ Kassick & Elisabeth Talpas
Ministers: Valerie Lusardi & Melody Talpas, C1 – Denise
Kassick, C2 – Mario Madawela, C3 – Robert Ellwood, C4
– Kevin Kassick
Lector: Aidan Lavigne
Servers: Aiden Hayes & Gavin Hayes

SUNDAY MORNING

7:00am

Acolyte: Jason Palazzo
Ministers: Barbara Balas & Patricia Palazzo
Lector: Kathy Fulse
Servers: Steven Fulse, Jr. & Dominic Russo

9:00am

Acolytes: Michael Juliano & Lianna Krouse
Ministers: Karen Juliano & Donna Kucinski, C1 – Paul
Juliano, C2 – William Hillhouse, C3 – Brittany Allen, C4 –
Kyle Allen
Lector: Ryanne Bigelli
Servers: Brook Troxell, Grace Troxell & Cael Troxell

11:00am

Acolyte: Joseph Cruz & Daniel Perez
Ministers: Sam Fatta & Kelly Perna, C1 – Robert Hopkins,
C2 – Pat James, C3 – Sara Greene, C4 – Gloria Cervasi
Lector: Richard Greene
Servers: Riley Perna & Andrew Sretenovic

5:30pm

Acolyte: Lauren Rautenberg
Minister: Keith Gallagher & Yakubu Miles
Lector: Susan Gerhardt
Servers: Cole Rautenberg & Allan Palos

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 or call 732-562-1543.

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

* MASSES FOR THE WEEK *

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

6:45 – Ida Leone by Mr. & Mrs. Roger DiVittorio
8:00 – Timothy J. Balas by Barbara Balas
12:10 – Angela Bevilacqua by Immaculata Durnin

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

6:45 – Carol Brancale by The Defuria Family
8:00 – Teresa Varga by Jeanie Blocar
12:10pm – Edith Sciascia by Pat Cummings

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

6:45 – Diana Dossantos by Pat & Prima Mattingly
8:00 – Ellen Connolly by Ed & Margaret Connolly
12:10 – For the People
5:00 – Dr. Robert Zengulis by Doug & Betsy Van Winkle
7:00pm – Miguel Angel Morales Rojo by Sara Morales-Epple

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

6:45 – Sp. Intention Brian & Judy Ebony and Benjamin & Jaidyn by George & Pat Wildrick
8:00 – Frank “Whitey” Spirk by Barry Rosznagle
12:10 – Mary Tickle by Deacon Enock & Ines Berluche

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

6:45 – Msgr. Joseph Francis Sheehan (A)
8:00 – Theresa & Peter Schiro (A)
12:10 – Marge Corona by Fr. John Barbella

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

8:00 – Richard Rosznagle by brother Barry Rosznagle
4:30pm – William J. Casey by Sons & Daughters

SUNDAY, March 1

7:00 – Francis Flynn Sr. by Family
9:00 – Joseph Fortino by Yola & Enzo Marinelli
11:00 – Vincenza Gregory & Son Frank Fodero by Deacon Rob & Family
1:00 (SP) – For The People
5:30 – Brian Soban by Scott Soban

* CALENDAR *

23rd - Sunday – 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

24th - Monday –

8:30am-11:00pm – HFC – Adoration
6:00pm – SSPJ – Family CCD Program
7:00pm – HFC – Novena

25th – Tuesday

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
9:00am – MH – Legion of Mary
4:00 – SSPJ – CCD Classes 1-7
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.

26th – Wednesday – Ash Wednesday

Mass Schedule: 6:45am, 8am, 12:10pm, 5:00pm, & 7pm
8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
10:15am – MH – Prayer Shawl Ministry
7:00pm – PMR – Divine Mercy Prayer Group
7:00 – HFC – Flame of Love Devotions (Holy Rosary)

27th – Thursday After Ash Wednesday

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

28st – Friday After Ash Wednesday

8:30am-11:00pm – HFC – Adoration
3:00pm – CH – Stations of the Cross
4:00pm – 7:00pm MH – Knights of Columbus Fish Fry
7:00pm – CH – Stations of the Cross

29th – Saturday After Ash Wednesday

8:30am-11:00pm – HFC – Adoration
8:30am – HFC – Prayers for Life, Liberty & Marriage
9:00am – CH – Confession
9:00am – PMR – Committee Timon
11:00am – HFC – Cenacles of Life
3:15pm-4:15pm – CH – Confession

1st – Sunday 1st Sunday of Lent

10:00am – CR - RCIA Mtg.
10:00am – CR – RCIA Mtg.
12:00pm – 11pm HFC – Adoration
2:30pm – CH – Baptism Ceremony

Stewardship of Treasure

February 16, 2020: \$11,008.00
January On-Line Contributions: \$8,340.50
Adopt A Mission: \$519.00
Catholic Spirit: \$55.00

Parish Capital Campaign

Total Pledged as of 2/7/2020: \$1,518,310.90
Total Collected as of 1/3/2020: \$1,030,976.73

*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

3/1/20 – Pat Flynn & Carol Bevilacqua
3/8/20 – Yakubu Miles & William Hillhouse

Brakeley Care Center

3/1/20 – Valerie Lusardi & Joseph Lusardi
3/8/20 – Joseph Gourniak & Mario Madawala

Phillipsburg Care Center

3/1/20 - Karen Juliano & Paul Juliano
3/8/20 – Sara Green & Anne Coyle