

February 29 – March 1, 2020 Catholic Spring Training

Today is the First Sunday of Lent. I personally think of Lent as Catholic Spring Training! Baseball players head to Spring Training around the same time Lent begins, and spend several weeks getting into shape for the coming season.

In the same way, Catholics use Lent as a time to get in 'spiritual shape.' The traditional ways to do this are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We are encouraged to do a little more praying, fast as a penance for our sins, and be generous to the poor. What follows are some suggestions for doing this.

Try to get to Daily Mass during Lent. If you can't get there every day, at least try to get to Daily Mass at least once a week. The Mass is the most powerful prayer we have, and we do well to make good use of it. Another good way to pray this Lent would be to get to the Lenten Benedictions which we will have every Wednesday evening of Lent. Each evening will include time for prayer, as well as a Lenten homily, followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. I would especially encourage families to come to these evenings, at least once this Lent, just to expose your children to the beautiful practice of Benediction.

We will also be having a Lenten Mission this Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the Church. There will be a Lenten Homily each evening, along with some other prayer. Monday it will include the Miraculous Medal Novena, Tuesday will be a Holy Mass, and Wednesday will be Benediction. It should be a great time for prayer and reflection!

Stations of the Cross will begin this Friday at 3pm and 7pm. These meditations, which help us reflect on all that Jesus did for us on that first Good Friday, are a tried and true way to pray during Lent. I hope that every family in our parish will get to the Stations of the Cross as many Friday's as possible this Lent. (Stations will be prayed in Spanish on Tuesday evenings at 7).

To assist people in almsgiving, our parish will participate in the Rice Bowl again this year. I would ask every family to take a Rice Bowl and fill it with change this Lent. This money is given to Catholic agencies that serve the poor. Many families make a practice of having a very simple meal once a week during lent, and donating the savings to the Rice Bowl. Others place spare change in it each day. It's a great way to both fast and help the poor this Lent.

Most of all, I encourage everyone to make a good Confession this Lent. Confessions are heard every Saturday 9-9:30am and 3:15-4:15pm. Additionally, there will be a Penance Service on March 23rd at 7pm. Many priests will be available to hear Confessions that evening. Whether you go to the Penance Service or regular Confessions, be sure to get to Confession this Lent.


Finally, we will have 24 Hours for Jesus again this Lent. From after the 8am Mass on Friday, March 20th to before the 8am Mass on Saturday, March 21st, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in our Church for adoration and prayer. There will be a Holy Hour and extra times for Confession. Check the details elsewhere in the bulletin or on the parish website.

Our Church takes on a somber tone during Lent. Most of the images are covered and there are no flowers. Simple Latin chants are used for the Mass parts. The idea is to help us enter into this

holy season on many different levels, as a reminder of our need to get into better spiritual shape this Lent.

Please remember to pray a Hail Mary for me today, and every day. I pray for all of you daily. Let's also pray for the grace to make a good Lent, and to use this holy season to really get in good spiritual shape for Easter.

Have a great week!
Fr. John



St. Philip & St. James School
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Follow us at: [facebook.com/sspjschool](https://www.facebook.com/sspjschool)

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 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 2 years old through grade 8.

Interest in assisting with our first ever 5K run and 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.

Sts. Philip & James School will be hosting a fantastic day on May 9th. The day will begin with our first ever Saints Sprint, a 5K walk/run followed by a kids fun run. The second part of our day we will be hosting a Luau festival at the school. There will be live music, food and drink specials, entertainment for the kids, and more. Bring your pop-up tents and share the day with us. For additional information please contact Sierra Fenton at fenton.sierra@spsj.org.

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

MASS CELEBRANTS FOR

March 7/8

4:30pm – Fr. John
7:00am – Fr. Wojciech
9:00am – Fr. John
11:00am – Fr. Pat
1:00pm (SP) – Fr. Wojciech
5:30pm – Fr. Pat

33 DAYS OF MERCIFUL LOVE

Join us on Monday, March 9th, as we start another Parish Program, 33 Days to Merciful Love, by Fr. Michael Gaitley, from the Divine Mercy Shrine. Come to the Parish Conference Room at 7pm on Monday nights during Lent to watch the DVD's & participate in small group discussion. 33 Days will bring us into the Merciful Love of Jesus & learn more about St. Therese, St. Faustina, & God's Divine Mercy.

LEGION OF MARY LIBRARY

March is the month of St. Joseph. 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.

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!

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.
- **Family CCD Families remember to complete your Lenten Activity**

"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: Mondays at 2pm, 3pm, & 5pm; Tuesdays at 3pm, 5pm & 10pm; Wednesdays at noon; Thursdays 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.

ANNUAL ACIES (RECONSECRATION TO MARY)

The Annual Acies (Reconsecration to Mary) for the Legion of Mary will be held on Sunday, March 22nd beginning at 3:00pm with the Rosary in five languages followed by Holy Mass at 3:30pm with refreshments served in Mercy Hall afterwards. All auxiliary members of the Legion and parishioners are invited.

THANK YOU!

I would like to thank all of our parishioners for your wonderful generosity at our loaf cake sale. The Columbiettes of Warren Council #474 are very grateful for your donations which help many local charities in our area. Thank again! Bev Redondo - President

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

"It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve." (Matthew 4:10) Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things. Ask God how he is calling you to serve.

CALLED TO THE ORDER OF DEACONATE

We are happy to announce that Mr. David Edward Keyes, who has served as a Seminarian in our parish, has been called by the Most Reverend James F. Checchio, Bishop of Metuchen, to the Order of Deacon. He will be ordained on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 10:00am at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen. Please keep him in your prayers as he approaches ordination and continues his journey to the priesthood.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

Come & join us on Saturday March 7, at 8:30am in the Chapel for the First Saturday Devotion for Life. Let us pray to Our Blessed Mother in reparation for the sins committed against her Immaculate Heart & the Heart of her Son, Jesus. Mass at 8am, Confessions at 9am. A Holy Hour for Life will be at 11am.

ST. JUDE NATIONAL SHRINE BUS TRIP

There is a bus trip to St. Jude National Shrine and Baltimore Inner Harbor on Sunday, April 26th. The bus will leave at 8:30am from 137 Roseberry St. and return at 9pm. The cost is \$55.00. Please contact Camille at 908-319-2719 for reservations.

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.

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 by Monday March 16th.

FAITH, HOPE, & FORGIVENESS

We will be presenting a guest speaker here at Immaculate Conception Church, 316 Old Allerton Road, Annandale, Immaculee Iibagiza, who was a Rwandan genocide survivor and New York Times Best Seller Author of "Left to Tell", a story of faith, hope and forgiveness. Presentation is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, at 3:00pm in the church. All are welcome and general admission pricing is \$35. There are also limited spaces for a book signing at 2:00pm for \$75. \$125 will include the preferred seating during the 3:00pm ICC talk and a dinner at Clinton House with Immaculee. For registration and additional information, please go online to <https://icsannandale.org/innaculee>. Ticket sales will be held the weekend of Feb.29/Mar. 1 and March 8/9 and March 15/16 in the narthex of the church after all Masses.

FOOD FOR THE NEEDY

“A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.” - Proverbs 22:9. Remember – “Food for the Needy” Collection - First Sunday of each month

CAMP VERITAS 2020

Camp Veritas is a one-week play and pray sleep away summer camp for teens going into 7th thru 12th 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

LENTE 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, Mass times: 6:45am, 8am, 12:10pm, 5pm, and 7pm.

March 4th, 11th, 18th, 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 prayers and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11pm)

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

Holy Saturday, April 11th Blessing of Food: 12:30pm
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)

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION SESSION

Notre Dame High School information session will be held on Thursday, March 12th from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. All are welcome to take a tour of our campus, given by students. Tuition and Financial Aid representatives, Campus Ministry, Aquinas Director, Admission Director and Principal, Mr. D'Angelo will be present to answer all your questions about our school. For more information, please contact Mandy Kopp '99 at 610-68-1431 ext. 1108. It's a great day to be a Crusader!

*** MINISTRY ***

March 8/9

SATURDAY EVENING

4:30pm

Acolytes: Andrew Haussman & William Haussman
Ministers: Dorothy Kays & Edward Socci, C1 – Joseph Gourniak, C2 – Margie Markus, C3 – Ronald Rossini, C4 – Carol Bevilacqua
Lector: Mary O'Sullivan
Servers: Brady Carver & Jeremy Carver

SUNDAY MORNING

7:00am

Acolyte: Brendan Hasara
Ministers: Mary Duaine & Immaculata Durnin
Lector: Susan Gerhardt
Servers: Oliver McKenna & Isabella McKenna

9:00am

Acolytes: Michael Juliano & Zackary Payran
Ministers: Brittany Allen & Allison Frasca, C1 – Kyle Allen, C2 – Ann Coyle, C3 – Paul Juliano, C4 – Karen Juliano
Lector: Ryanne Bigelli
Servers: Jack Juliano & Paxton Payran

11:00am

Acolyte: Chisomaga Acholonu & Joseph Cruz
Ministers: Gloria Cervasi & Maureen Speer, C1 – Matt Markus, C2 – Geraldine Lagrimas, C3 Karen Llanos, C4 – Lynn Markus
Lector: Gerard Llanos
Servers: Lillie Chismar & Peter Diaz

5:30pm

Acolyte: Blaise Erz
Minister: Ruth Clark & Michael Clark
Lector: Rosemary Carnali
Servers: Robby Basel & Ricky Krouse

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.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

* CALENDAR *

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
5:30pm – Brian Sobon by Scott Sobon

MONDAY, MARCH 2

6:45 – Frank Rosnagle by Patrick Rosnagle & Son
8:00 – Mame Crosby by Ann Marie & Frank
12:10 – Manny Francisco by SPSJ School Family

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

6:45 – Deceased members of the Flynn Family by Family of Betty Lilly
8:00 – Harry Rosnagle by brother, Barry Rosnagle
12:10pm – Herbert A. Vaugh by Cammy B.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

6:45 – Nicholas & Helen Conti by Family
8:00 – Millard Barlieb by Flynn Family
12:10 – Mark Tickle by Kucinski Family

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

6:45 – Sara Cerdan Olmos by Sara Morales-Epple
8:00 – Mary Louise Rosnagle by Wendy Steckert
12:10 – Beai Jiorle by Tony & Dolly Loiacono

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

6:45 – Fermina Rossini by Ronald Rossini
8:00 – Elizabeth Marazi by Scott Sobon
12:10 – Lillian Taborelli by The Flynns

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

8:00 – Marie Anne Berluce by Deacon Enoch & Ines
4:30pm – Ida Leone by Graziosi Family

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

7:00 – Ida Leone by Immaculata Durnin
9:00 – Ludevina Angelozzi by Gino Angelozzi
11:00 – Benny Pankowski by Scott Sobon
1:00 (SP) – For The People
5:30 – Harold Smith, Jr. by Family

1st - Sunday – 1st Sunday of Lent

10:00am – CR – RCIA Mtg.
10:00am – MH – Parish Meeting
12:00pm – 11:00pm – HFC – Adoration
2:30pm – CH – Baptism

2nd - Monday

8:30am-11:00pm – HFC – Adoration
7:00pm – CH – Parish Lenten Mission
7:00pm – HFC – Novena

3rd – Tuesday – St. Katharine Drexel

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
9:00am – MH – Legion of Mary
4:00 – SSPJ – CCD Grades 1-7
6:00pm – CH/Flynns – Serra Club Mass/Mtg.
6:30pm – CR – Legion of Mary
7:00pm – CH – Parish Lenten Mission
7:00pm – PMR – Spanish Lenten Mission
7:00pm – HFC – Cenacles of Life
7:30pm – MH – Boy Scout Troop Mtg.

4th – Wednesday – St. Casimir

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
1:00pm – MH – Over 50's Club Bus. Mtg./Social
7:00pm – CH – Parish Lenten Mission
7:00pm – PMR – Divine Mercy Prayer Group
7:00 – HFC – Flame of Love Devotions (Holy Rosary)

5th – Thursday –

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

6th – Friday – First Friday of the Month

8:30am-11:00pm – HFC – Adoration
3:00pm – CH – Stations of the Cross
7:00pm – CH – Stations of the Cross

7th – Saturday – Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs Food for the Needy Collection

8:30am-11:00pm – HFC – Adoration
8:30am – HFC – First Saturday Devotion
9:00am – CH – Confession
11:00am – HFC – Cenacles of Life
3:15pm-4:15pm – CH – Confession

8th – Sunday – 2nd Sunday of Lent

Food for the Needy Collection
10:00am – CR - RCIA Mtg.
11:00am – CH – Catholic School Mass
12:00pm – 11pm HFC – Adoration
1:00pm – SSPJ – Open House
2:30pm – CH – Baptism Ceremony

Stewardship of Treasure

February 23, 2020: \$ 11,342.00
January On-Line Contributions: \$10,154.50

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

3/8/20 – Yakubu Miles & William Hillhouse
3/15/20 – Dorothy Kays & Robert Ellwood

Brakeley Care Center

3/8/20 Joseph Gourniak & Mario Madawala
3/15/20 – Melody Talpas & Diane Volk

Phillipsburg Care Center

3/8/20 – Sara Greene & Anne Coyle
3/15/20 – Sara Greene & Anne Coyle