

March 7-8, 2020 As Lent continues

I want to start by thanking everyone who came to the Parish Meeting in Mercy Hall last Sunday. It was a pleasure for me to speak about our parish with everyone there. Our parish is blessed to have some very dedicated and supportive people who care deeply about it. They are an inspiration to me.

Remember that we will have fellowship in Mercy Hall following the 9 and 11am Masses next Sunday. It is good to share some time with other parishioners, and to enjoy a cup of coffee and some snacks with them. Such gatherings remind us that, as Catholics, we belong to a family of faith that extends beyond ourselves.

The news these days is full of stories about public health. With people concerned about everything, from common things like colds and the flu to the new coronavirus, it seems that some common sense recommendations are in order.

It is certainly OK to simply wave to those around you at the Sign of Pearce, if you are concerned about shaking hands. Also, anyone who does not feel well should not receive from the chalice, which is simple common sense. Finally, remember that, while we have a serious obligation to attend Mass on Sunday (or Saturday evening), we are dispensed from that obligation when we are ill. Please keep these things in mind, especially during this time of year!

As Lent continues, please take the opportunity to attend some of our Lenten devotions. I was pleased to see a nice crowd for the Stations on the first Friday of Lent. I hope that all of you will get to the stations at some time before Lent is over. You may also wish to attend one of the Lenten Benedictions on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. They are a good way to spend some time in prayer and hear a Lenten homily that will hopefully give you some spiritual food for thought this Lent.

Most of all, remember to make a good Confession before Lent is over. Two priests will be on duty at our regular Confession times (Saturday 9-9:30am and 3:15-4:15pm). We will also have a Penance Service with many visiting Confessors on Monday, March 23rd at 7pm. Finally, we will hear Confessions during the 24 Hours for Jesus on Friday, March 20th, after Stations of the Cross, from 7:30pm-8:30pm. I hope that this will help you find a time to make a good Confession this Lent.

There are some Lenten booklets left over in the back of the Church. They are simple reading, with a thought or prayer from St. Theresa of Calcutta (Mother Theresa) for each day of Lent. There is also a Spanish language booklet, with daily thoughts from Pope Francis. Please take one and use it this Lent.

Last Sunday evening I had dinner at my sister Natalie's home. It was nice to visit with she and my brother in law. I hadn't seen them in a while and it was nice to get caught up.

Please pray a Hail Mary for me today and every day, and be assured of my daily prayers for you!

Have a great week!
Fr. John



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

SAINTS UPDATE:

Learn more about why it is Great to be a Saint! We will be hosting one more Information Sessions which will take place: April 26th 1:00-3:00pm. Can't make it? Call 98-859-1244 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.

Interested 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.

We hope you will consider supporting our Blessings in a Bag. Please join our Student Council in sharing some items with the homeless families in our community. Items requested are: bars of soap, hand sanitizer, wipes, toothpaste, tooth brushes, cough drops, socks, granola bars, cheese or peanut butter crackers, and Slim Jims. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is greatly appreciated by those in need. Thank you!

Keep Collecting Bottle Caps! Thank you for saving the plastic bottle caps. We already have approximately 500 pounds, which is enough to get a small bench. We will continue collecting until Wednesday, April 8th.

Parents Invited: Teachers' Professional Development Seminar The faculty will participate in training to learn more strategies for teaching reading to students with reading difficulties and those with dyslexia, on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 from 12:45-4:00pm. If you are interest in learning more about this or attending this session, please feel free to contact Mrs. Kucinski.

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. 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. Tickets for the event are \$60.00.

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.

Congratulations to our most recent calendar raffle winners: Tomasina Marone, David Torres, the Callinan Family, and Pamela Hill.

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

MASS CELEBRANTS FOR

March 14/15

4:30pm – Fr. John

7:00am – Fr. Pat

9:00am – Fr. Pat

11:00am – Fr. Wojciech

1:00pm (SP) – Fr. Wojciech

5:30pm – Fr. John

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.

Bishops Annual Appeal

- **On Sunday March 15th, after the 9am and 11am Masses, everyone is invited to Fellowship Sunday to view a video from Bishop Checchio outlining this year's appeal. At this time you will also hear about how the Bishop's Appeal benefits our community and the positive impact it has for so many of our neighbors in the Phillipsburg area.**

"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.

CONFIRMATION PICTURES

Confirmation pictures are in. Please pick up in the church office.

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.

LENTEN FISH DINNER

The Knights of Columbus Council #474 will be having their Lenten Fish Dinner on March 13th, March 27th and April 10th. It will be from 4pm – 7pm in Mercy Hall. The cost is \$9 for adults & \$6 for a child 6-12. Please join us!

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you." (Genesis 12:1) God calls all of us to leave behind our old ways and to follow Him, placing our complete trust in Him. Some of the old ways that we may have to struggle to leave behind might be materialism, selfishness and greed. Yet God promises to show us a new land and a better way to live. Remember what St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "God does not call us to be successful, God calls us to be faithful."

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.

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.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.

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.

ANNUNCIATION NOVENA

Join in praying a special novena March 16-24 in preparation for the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord on March 25th. The Annunciation commemorates the visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to inform her that she was to be the mother of our Savior. Let us follow the examples of Mary & call upon her intercession to help us open our hearts to say "yes" to God! Copies of the novena are in the back of the church.

24 HOURS ADORATION

On Friday, March 20th at 8:30am to Saturday, March 21st at 7:30am we are going to have 24 Hours adoration for the Lord as part of our Lenten activities. You are all invited to sign up especially for the hours between 11pm to 6am. Sign-up sheets are located in the Foyer of the church. Fr. John and Fr. Wojciech will hear Confessions after the Stations of the Cross that night from 7:30-9:00pm and on Saturday morning from 9-10 (as usual). Our regular schedule of Eucharistic Adoration will resume at 8:30am Saturday after the 8am Mass.

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 610-868-1431 ext. 1108. It's a great day to be a Crusader!

FAITH, HOPE, & FORGIVENESS

We will be presenting a guest speaker here at Immaculate Conception Church, 316 Old Allerton Road, Annandale, Immaculee Ilibagiza, 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/immaculee>. 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

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

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

Lenten Wednesdays
Every Wednesday at 7pm

March 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)

*** MINISTRY ***

March 14/15

SATURDAY EVENING

4:30pm

Acolytes: Luciana Perna & Elisabeth Talpas
Ministers: Valerie Lusardi & Joseph Lusardi, C1 – Donna Kucinski, C2 – Eileen Dean, C3 – Melody Talpas, C4 – Ines Berluche

Lector: Louis Moyer

Servers: Allan Palos & Mark Talpas

SUNDAY MORNING

7:00am

Acolyte: Lianna Krouse
Ministers: Joseph Gourniak & William Hillhouse

Lector: Lucas Anmolsingh

Servers: Sofia Grimshaw & Joey Grimshaw

9:00am

Acolytes: Raymond Zelda & Franco Zelda
Ministers: Kyle Allen & Eileen Catalli, C1 – Brittany Allen, C2 – Elizabeth Divinagracia, C3 – Kelly Perna, C4 – Eileen Kerrigan

Lector: Henrietta Schupper

Servers: Tiago Aversa & Riley Perna

11:00am

Acolyte: KJ Kassick & Jason Palazzo
Ministers: Denise Kassick & Lynn Markus, C1 – Kevin Kassick, C2 – Sam Fatta, C3 Patricia Palazzo, C4 – Pat Jamess

Lector: Aidan Lavigne

Servers: Logan Shoudt & Andrew Sretenovic

5:30pm

Acolyte: Andrew Haussman

Minister: Judy Leone & Barbara Schanaberger

Lector: Ryanne Bigelli

Servers: Paxton Payran & Blake Sweigert

2020 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL STEPPING FORWARD IN FAITH: GRACE IN ACTION

Twenty-four percent - \$1.7 million dollars – of the funds raised by the 2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal is earmarked for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen. Through more than 100 programs, Catholic Charities serves those most in need of our assistance. If you have yet to make your pledge to this year's Bishop Annual Appeal, you will have the opportunity to do so the weekend, March 21/22, which has been designated as Bishop's Annual Appeal In-Pew Weekend. Help us reach our target of 100% participation. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please allow us to introduce you to Family Promise of Warren County, (FPWC) at our IHN shelter program orientation and Night of Information. The event will be presented at St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, 830 5th Ave., Msgr. Lusini Parish Center, Alpha, NJ 08865 at 7pm on March 11, 2020. Our host includes our St. Mary volunteer coordinator, Fred Maas.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

* CALENDAR *

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
5:30pm – Harold Smith, Jr. by Family

MONDAY, MARCH 9

6:45 – Maria Echavarria by Family
8:00 – Charles Farley by Mary Lilly
12:10 – Mark Tickle by George McBride

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

6:45 – Tony Leone by Scott Sobon
8:00 – Geri Farley & Pat Thompson by Sister, Camille
12:10pm – Robert McKillips by Judy Francisco & Family.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

6:45 – Concilio Family by George & Pat Wildrick
8:00 – Martin Family Members by Jim & Ruthie Martin
12:10 – Albina Mecsey by Jim Sciascia & Family

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

6:45 – Augusto & Stella Pasquini, children, nephews & grandchildren by Jean Pasquini
8:00 – William & Nancy Hughes by Vance Opdyke
12:10 – Nellie Sbriscia by Fran & John Ludwig

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

6:45 – Mary “Betty” Lilly by Rob & Sue Newpauar & Family
8:00 – Virginia Rosznagle by Patrick Rosznagle & Son
12:10 – Mary Albanese by Mary & Anne Brogan

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

8:00 – Antonio Celia by Rosemary Carnali
4:30pm – Mr. & Mrs. Charles Haviland by Family

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

7:00 – Perine Family by Martha Perine Richline
9:00 – Michael (Mick) Payran by Denise, Zackary & Paxton
11:00 – Ida Leone by Merrie Mulrine
1:00 (SP) – For The People
5:30 – Santa & Salvatore Caroprese by Daughters

8th - Sunday – 1st Sunday of Lent

10:00am – CR – RCIA Mtg.
11:00am – CH – Catholic School Mass
12:00pm – 11:00pm – HFC – Adoration
1:00pm – SSPJ Open House
2:30pm – CH – Baptism

9th – Monday-St. Frances of Rome, Religious

8:30am-11:00pm – HFC – Adoration
6:30pm – MH – Catholic Daughters
7:00pm – CR – 33 Days to Merciful Love
7:00pm – HFC – Novena

10th – Tuesday –

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

11th – Wednesday –

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

12th – Thursday –

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

13th – Friday –

8:30am-11:00pm – HFC – Adoration
3:00pm – CH – Stations of the Cross
4:00pm – MH – K of C Fish Dinner
7:00pm – CH – Stations of the Cross

14th– Saturday – Adopt a Missionary Collection

8:30am-11:00pm – HFC – Adoration
9:00am – CH – Confession
10:00am – Baptism Prep. Class
11:00am – HFC – Cenacles of Life
11:30am – CH – Soup Kitchen
3:15pm-4:15pm – CH – Confession

15th – Sunday – 3rd Sunday of Lent

Bishop Appeals Fellowship Sunday after 9am & 11am

Adopt a Mission Collection

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

Stewardship of Treasure

March 1, 2020: \$12,683.00
Ash Wednesday: \$ 4,764.00
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>

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

Cemetery personnel will start their clean-up operation beginning March 16-2020. Anyone wishing to obtain any decorations presently on the graves should do so by March 15, 2020. Any decorations left on the graves after this date will be discarded.

NURSING HOME TEAMS

Lopatcong Care Center

3/15/20 – Dorothy Kays & Robert Ellwood
3/22/20 – Lynn Markus & Matthew Markus

Brakeley Care Center

3/15/20 – Melody Talpas & Diane Volk
3/22/20 – Rosemary Carnali & Maria Gural

Phillipsburg Care Center

3/15/20 – Sara Greene & Anne Coyle
3/22/20 – Denise Kassick & Kevin Kassick