

March 14-15, 2020: 24 Hours for the Lord

I am excited to announce that our parish will host 24 Hours for the Lord. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in our Church (rather than the chapel) from 8:30am Friday until 7:30am Saturday. People are invited to come and spend some quiet time with our Lord that day and night. You may come and stay for as long or as little as you like. It would be great if you could spend at least an hour with Jesus.

Confessions will be heard after the Stations of the Cross, Friday evening from 7:30-9:00pm and at 9am Saturday morning. Stations of the Cross will be prayed in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament at 3pm and 7pm Friday, and the Daily Masses will be offered as usual.

Spending extra time in prayer is a great thing to do during Lent. To make a special effort to come at an "inconvenient" hour in the middle of the night is a special sacrifice to make for Jesus. It can even be offered as a special prayer for yourself, your family, or others. I hope many of you will take advantage of the opportunity!

Speaking of spending time with our Lord this Lent, I was very happy to see so many people at the Lenten Parish Mission a few weeks ago. Fr. Venditti's talks were excellent, and the presence of such a nice crowd was very inspiring. I hope we can make the Lenten Mission a yearly event in our parish.

For those who did not get to the Mission, remember that we will have an ongoing mission every Wednesday evening of Lent at 7pm. A different priest or deacon will offer a Lenten homily, lead some prayers, and celebrate Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament each Wednesday. I would encourage everyone to get to at least one, if not all, of these Lenten Benedictions.

Remember that we will have our parish Lenten Penance Service on Monday, March 23rd at 7pm. As usual, we will have about ten priests available to hear Confessions that evening. Some of our old friends will be here, as well as some new priests. My hope is that having a choice of Confessors will not only be helpful to you, but also ensure that you don't have to wait too long that evening.


To help you prepare for Confession, an Examination of Conscience has been inserted in this bulletin. You can also find pamphlets on 'How to Make a Good Confession' around the Church. Please be sure to go to Confession before Lent is over, so you can celebrate Jesus' resurrection with a truly pure and grace filled soul.

Last Saturday evening I had the pleasure of visiting a small group of our Parish Cub Scouts. They were doing some winter camping in a cabin about an hour north and west of here. While it was cold outside, they had a blazing fire going that kept their cabin nice and warm while the kids had fun. It was great to spend time with them.

Those who are devoted to our Blessed Mother may want to attend the Legion of Mary's Acies Mass which will be offered in our Church on Sunday, March 22, at 3:30pm. The rosary will be prayed preceding the Mass at 3pm. While primarily a Mass at which the members of the Legion of Mary renew their commitment to our Blessed Mother, it is open to anyone who would like to attend, and is a nice way to honor our Blessed Mother!

Please say a Hail Mary for me today, and every day, and have a great week!

Fr. John



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Follow us at:
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SAINTS UPDATE:
Learn more about why it is Great to be a Saint! We will be hosting one more Information Session which will take place: April 26th 1:00-3:00pm. Can't make it? 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.

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.

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.

Congratulations to our National History Day Regional Winners: Nicholas Socci, Sienna Belverio, Maura O'Hare, Kelly Carroll, and Riley Perna. They will be moving on to the State Level of the competition.

Walk-A-Thon season is officially underway! Students and faculty will walk to raise money for SSPJ enrichment programs, technology upgrades, and scholarship funds. This year, Walk-a-Thon and Field Day will be combined into one fantastic day of music, games, prizes, treats, and walking! Please consider sponsoring one of our students for this fantastic day.

SAVE THE DATE:
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 winner:
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 21/22

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

March is the month of St. Joseph. Legion of Mary Library has a wonderful selection of books & 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.

CCD Information

- There will be a Mandatory Parent /Student Confirmation Meeting on Sunday March 29th, after the 9am Mass in Mercy Hall for all 7th grade students preparing for Confirmation in 2021.
- Confirmation pictures are in. Please pick them up in the Church office.

“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.

PRAYERS FOR LIFE, LIBERTY, & MARRIAGE

With the coronavirus threatening us, let us get together to pray against it. Join us on Saturday, March 21st at 8:30am in the Chapel to pray for protection, for life, liberty, & marriage. Let us pray the Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet every day to mitigate this virus.

LENTEN FISH DINNER

The Knights of Columbus Council #474 will be having their Lenten Fish Dinner on 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

“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again.” John 4:13.” Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us for long. When we build our lives around material possessions we always want more. True Joy and Peace only comes when we follow Jesus; when we become more “God-centered” and less “self-centered.”

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 will be 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 us 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.

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

Cemetery personnel will start their Christmas 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.

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.

FELLOWSHIP & CHRISTIAN CHARITY

On Sunday March 15th, 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: Laundry detergent, toilet paper, cereal, canned tuna fish. 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)

Lenten Wednesdays
Every Wednesday at 7pm

March 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)

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL: FELLOWSHIP & VIDEO

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.

*** MINISTRY ***

March 21/22

SATURDAY EVENING

4:30pm

Acolytes: Chisomaga Acholonu & Luciana Perna
Ministers: Carol Bevilacqua & Immaculata Durnin, C1 -, C2 -, C3 -, C4
Lector: Lisa DeGerolamo
Servers: Chiazam Odinna & Anthony Ventura

SUNDAY MORNING

7:00am

Acolyte: Brendan Hasara
Ministers: Barbara Balas & Patricia Flynn
Lector: Kathy Fulse
Servers: Steven Fulse, Jr. & Brett Bruckman

9:00am

Acolytes: Mark Luke Gural
Ministers: Paul Juliano & Karen Juliano, C1 -, C2 -, C3 -, C4 -
Lector: Theresa Duaine
Servers: Alexander Brahm & Kiernan Lopez

11:00am

Acolyte: KJ Kassick & Daniel Perez
Ministers: Geraldine Lagrimas & Matt Markus, C1 -, C2 -, C3, C4 -
Lector: Ryanne Bigelli
Servers: Peter Diaz & Anthony Diaz

5:30pm

Acolyte: Gabriel Adams
Minister: Yakubu Miles & Barbara Schanaberger
Lector: Hannah Adams
Servers: Lillee Chismar & Blake Sweigert

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

By now you have received a letter from Bishop Checchio inviting your participation in the 2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal. The diocesan ministries supported by the Appeal directly impact many of the parishioners here in St. Philip & St. James. Your gift provides formation opportunities for our catechists, youth and young adults. Among other important ministries, your sacrificial gift supports our renewed efforts in Evangelization & Communication. If you have yet to make your pledge to this year's Bishop Annual Appeal, you will have the opportunity to do so next weekend, March 21/22, which has been designated as Bishop's Annual Appeal In-Pew Weekend. Please prayerfully consider a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal to help our parish reach its goal. If we can exceed our goal, 50% of the amount collected over goal will be returned to us in the form of a parish rebate. Just as important as our financial goal is our goal of reaching 100% participation. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated.

MAKE A WISH EASTER PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Notre Dame High School Key Club will sponsor a Pancake breakfast on 3/21 from 8am - 11:00am at Notre Dame High School Cafeteria. Cost is \$8.00 per person, \$4.00 8th grade and younger.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

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
5:30pm – Santa & Salvatore Caroprese by Daughters

MONDAY, MARCH 16

6:45 – Thomas M. O'Hara by Jeannine Riotto
8:00 – Alayna Smulick by Family
12:10 – Edith Sciascia by Family

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

6:45 – Deceased family & friends by Speer Family
8:00 – Paddy Bracken by Flynn Family
12:10pm – Mark Tickle by Caprio Family

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

6:45 – Joseph Heil by Frances DiVittorio
8:00 – Gail Martin (A) by Ruthie & Jim Martin
12:10 – John J. Natisin, Sr. by Wife

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

6:45 – Geraldine Rossnagle by Norman Rossnagle
8:00 – Special Intention by Ann Nicolosi Foose
12:10 – Mary Albanese by Marly Lilly

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

6:45 – Dr. Robert Zengulis by Socci Family
8:00 – Mr. & Mrs. Thomas & Lena Connolly by Ed & Margaret Connolly
12:10 – Louis Balducci by Keith Gallagher

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

8:00 – Argentate Family by niece - Gloria
4:30pm – Ida Leone by Volk Family

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

7:00 – Dale Briggs by Mac Briggs
9:00 – James & Patricia Rustay (A) by JoAnn Banghart
11:00 – Ann Marie Cervasi by Deacon Larry & Carol Bevilacqua
1:00 (SP) – For the People
5:30 – Sp. Intention Conceicao Otinoco DeCastro by The Gomes- Alversa Family

* CALENDAR *

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 – 11:00pm – HFC – Adoration
2:30pm – CH – Baptism Ceremony

16th – Monday-

8:30am-11:00pm – HFC – Adoration
6:00pm – SSPJ – Family CCD
7:00pm – CR – 33 Days to Merciful Love
7:00pm – HFC – Novena
7:30pm – PMR – K of C Meeting

17th – Tuesday – St. Patrick, Bishop

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 – CH – Spanish Lenten Mission
7:00pm – HFC – Cenacles of Life
7:30pm – MH – Boy Scout Troop Mtg.

18th – Wednesday – St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC – Adoration
10:15am – MH – Prayer Shawl Ministry
7:00pm – CH – Lenten Mission
7:00pm – PMR – Divine Mercy Prayer Group
7:00 – HFC – Flame of Love Devotions (Holy Rosary)

19th – Thursday – St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

20th – Friday –

8:30am-11:00pm – HFC – Adoration
8:30am – CH – 24 Hours for the Lord
3:00pm – CH – Stations of the Cross
7:00pm – CH – Stations of the Cross
7:30pm – 9:00pm – CH -Confessions

21st– Saturday –

8:30am-11:00pm – HFC – Adoration
9:00am – CH – Confession
9:00am- MH – Legion of Mary Curia
11:00am – HFC – Cenacles of Life
11:00am – MH - Scouts Retreat
3:15pm-4:15pm – CH – Confession

22nd – Sunday – 4th Sunday of Lent

10:00am – CR - RCIA Mtg. (makeup date)
12:00pm – 11pm HFC – Adoration
2:30pm – CH – Baptism Ceremony
3:00pm – CH & MH – Queen of Peace Curia

Stewardship of Treasure

March 8, 2020: \$11,876.00
February On-Line Contributions: \$8,458.50

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

3/22/20 – Lynn Markus & Matthew Markus
3/29/20 – Kyle Allen & Brittany Allen

Brakeley Care Center

3/22/20 – Rosemary Carnali & Maria Gural
3/29/20 – Eileen Dean & Donna Kucinski

Phillipsburg Care Center

3/22/20 – Denise Kassick & Kevin Kassick
3/29/20 – Denise Kassick & Kevin Kassick