

*March 21-22, 2020: Holy Mary, Health of the Sick, pray for us*

We are all well aware of the threat posed by the coronavirus outbreak. In his concern for public health and the well-being of each of us, Bishop Checchio has temporarily suspended the public celebration of Holy Mass in the churches of our diocese. This means that Holy Mass will not be celebrated publicly in our church from Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> until at least Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Bishop will reconsider the situation, in consultation with public health officials, at that time.

During this time, all scheduled Masses will be celebrated privately by our priests. The intentions for each Mass will be honored and prayed for – as required by Canon Law.

During this time our Church will remain open during the day for private prayer and reflection. Please use good judgement and common sense when coming to the Church to pray.

Fr. Wojciech and I will be available to you for private Confessions, Anointing of the Sick, spiritual counseling and all other priestly ministry. You may reach us through the parish office at 908-454-0112. It is our intention to be there for you as we confront this terrible epidemic together, with God's help.

Above all else, let us pray together for the healing of those afflicted by the coronavirus, and all of our sick brothers and sisters. Let us remember that, throughout history, Christian people have turned to the Lord Jesus and His Blessed Mother for help and strength in times of illness and distress. Like our ancestors in faith, we will get through this together with God's help.

In addition to your usual prayers, I ask all of you to pray the following prayer each day – or at least for the nine days as a novena – asking for the help of our Blessed Lord and His Holy Mother.

God bless you!  
Fr. John

A Prayer for Protection in time of Pandemic

O Mary, you always brighten our path as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain while remaining steadfast in faith. O loving Mother, you know what we need, and we are confident you will provide for us as at Cana in Galilee. Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician, for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable, and for those who have died. Intercede also for those charged with protecting the safety and health of others and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure. Help us, O Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who took upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows, so as to lead us through the Cross, to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.



St. Philip & St. James School  
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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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup>. We need your help to make this event a success.

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 9<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:fenton.sierra@spsj.org).

Congratulations to our most recent calendar raffle winners:  
Heather Gilrane and Tina Socci

### **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

### **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.

### **ST. JUDE NATIONAL SHRINE BUS TRIP**

There will be a bus trip to St. Jude National Shrine and Baltimore Inner Harbor on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. 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

## **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.

### **CCD Information**

- **The Mandatory Parent /Student Confirmation Meeting has been postponed.**
- **CCD has been cancelled until April 3rd. Please check the parish website for updates.**
- **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.

Although formal adoration is closed at this time, people are still welcome to pray privately in the Church. Please also know that when adoration resumes, Our Lord will need many faithful adorers to keep him company.

## **SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS**

“Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart.” (1Samuel 16:7). How often do we invest our time, talent, and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car, and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talent, and treasure here on earth.

## **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.

## **CHURCH HOURS FOR PRAYER**

The church will be opened on weekdays from 6am – 6pm and on weekends from 12 noon to 6pm.

## **LENTEN FISH DINNER**

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

## **“UP ALL NIGHT WITH JESUS”**

Please join the G.I.F.T. ministry on Holy Thursday as they participate in the **Visita Iglesia** or the **Seven Churches Visitation**, following the 7pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper. During the Seven Churches Visitation, we visit several churches to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Please see the narthex of the church for the schedule and for more details. Meet us in the Mercy Hall parking lot to join the caravan. Looking forward to seeing you and your family or friends!

## **PART TIME HELP NEEDED**

We are currently seeking part time janitorial help. Please call 908-454-0112 and speak to Cindy DePillo or Bill Casey for more information.

## **FAITH AND SERVICE DINNER**

Due to the current health crisis and being compliant with the Warren County Department of Health and the CDC, the Faith and Service Dinner scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup> has been postponed. The rescheduled date is still yet to be determined. Thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter.

## **NEW JERSEY SAFE HAVEN LAW:**

Under the New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act a person may give up an unwanted infant anonymously. The purpose of Safe Haven is to protect unwanted babies from being hurt or killed from unsafe abandonment. A distressed parent who is unable to care for an infant can give up custody of a baby less than 30 days old safely, legally and anonymously. All that is required is that the baby be brought to any hospital emergency room, police station, fire station, ambulance, first aid, or rescue squad in New Jersey that is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. As long as the child shows no signs of intentional abuse, no name or other information is required. The parent can call the Safe Haven Hotline – 1-877-839-2339 – and get the address and directions for any hospital emergency room, police station, fire station, ambulance, first aid, or rescue squad in the state.

## **NURSING HOME TEAMS**

**All Care Centers are currently under quarantine. No Services will be held.**

## **MASS INTENTIONS:**

The Priest are offering Masses privately for all the Mass Intentions that are scheduled for March 18 – April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **CHRISM MASS:**

On Monday, April 6, 2020, Bishop James F. Checchio will celebrate the Chrism Mass with the priests of the Diocese. At this Mass, the Bishop will bless & consecrate the Holy Oils which each parish receives for the rites of anointing. St. Ambrose (340-397) began this custom-which we now call the Chrism Mass – in his Cathedral in Milan. These Holy Oils, which are used to sanctify the Faithful, have been channels of holiness for centuries!

The **Oil of Catechumens** is used to anoint infants and adults before their Baptism; the **Oil of the Sick** is used on the forehead and hands of the infirm in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick; and **Sacred Chrism** is used to anoint the head of the newly baptized, the foreheads of confirmandi, the hands of a priest at his ordination, the head of a bishop at his ordination, and the altar and walls of new churches.

At the Mass, all priests make a **Renewal of Commitment to Priestly Service**, recommitting themselves to their Bishop and to their ministry to God and His People; the Bishop and all Priests then ask the people for a pledge of their prayerful support. All are strongly encouraged to join in the ancient, grace-filled Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen at 4:00pm.

### **LENTEN DEVOTIONS**

Stations of the Cross: Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> 7pm

#### **Lenten Wednesdays**

Every Wednesday at 7pm

April 8<sup>th</sup>: Exposition, Homily and Benediction.

#### **Holy Week and Easter**

Holy Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>: 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 10<sup>th</sup>: Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion: 12noon (Spanish) 3pm (English)  
Solemn Stations of the Cross: 7pm

Holy Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> Blessing of Food: 12:30pm  
Solemn Easter Vigil Mass: 7pm

Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>: 7am Holy Mass (English), 9am Holy Mass (English), 11am Holy Mass (English), 1pm Holy Mass (Spanish)

### **MUSIC DIRECTOR NEEDED:**

Music Director is needed for Assumption Parish, Hackettstown for Masses on Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 8am, 10am, and 12 noon. Also to conduct weekly music practice and play for Holy Days of Obligation. Please contact: Mrs. Arlene Pidgeon, Secretary, 908-852-3320 for more information or send resume to: [secretary@assumptionbvnmnj.org](mailto:secretary@assumptionbvnmnj.org).

### **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. Please keep him in your prayers as he approaches ordination and continues his journey to the priesthood.

## **\*MASSES FOR THE WEEK\***

### **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  
5:30pm – Sp. Intention Conceicao Otinoco DeCastro by The Gomes- Alversa Family

### **MONDAY, MARCH 23**

6:45 – Ida Leone by Immaculata Durnin  
8:00 – Mary Stanchus by Ed & Margaret Connolly  
12:10 – Gert Mazza by The Flynn's

### **TUESDAY, MARCH 24**

6:45 – Mary Elizabeth Lilly by Terri & Ron Rasbold & Family  
8:00 – Jack Lilly by Family  
12:10pm – Theresa Merlo by Adam & Ella Lokitis

### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25**

6:45 – For the Souls in Purgatory by the Gomes Alversa Family  
8:00 – Kevin Mulrine by Merrie Mulrine  
12:10 – Mildred Carducci by Deacon Enock & Ines Berluche

### **THURSDAY, MARCH 26**

6:45 – Charles H. Young, Sr. by Family  
8:00 – Eugene Horvath by Karen Hoffman  
12:10 – Anne Pritchard by Deacon John & Florence Flynn

### **FRIDAY, MARCH 20**

6:45 – Deceased members of the Guldo/Alesci Families by Patricia Clarke  
8:00 – Angelo DeNicuola by Daughter  
12:10 – Anne Harrison by Steve & Dorothy Kohler

### **SATURDAY, MARCH 21**

8:00 – Vito Minchini by Letitia Dannecker  
4:30pm – Frank Bigelli by Yola & Enzo Marinelli

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 22**

7:00 – Danny Lilly by Family  
9:00 – For The People  
11:00 – Edith Sciascia by Family  
1:00 (SP) – Special Intention Eduardo Raul Roman Castro by Family  
5:30 – Rossini Family by Ronald Rossini

### **Stewardship of Treasure**

March 15, 2020: \$7,603.73

February On-Line Contributions: \$8,458.50

### **Parish Capital Campaign**

Total Pledged as of 3/6/2020 \$1,520,850.90

Total Collected as of 3/6/2020: \$1,049,996.65

*Have you considered on-line giving?*

*If interested in signing up for on-line giving, please go to:*

<https://spsj.churchgiving.com>