

HIS WORD TODAY
by Rev. William J. Reilly

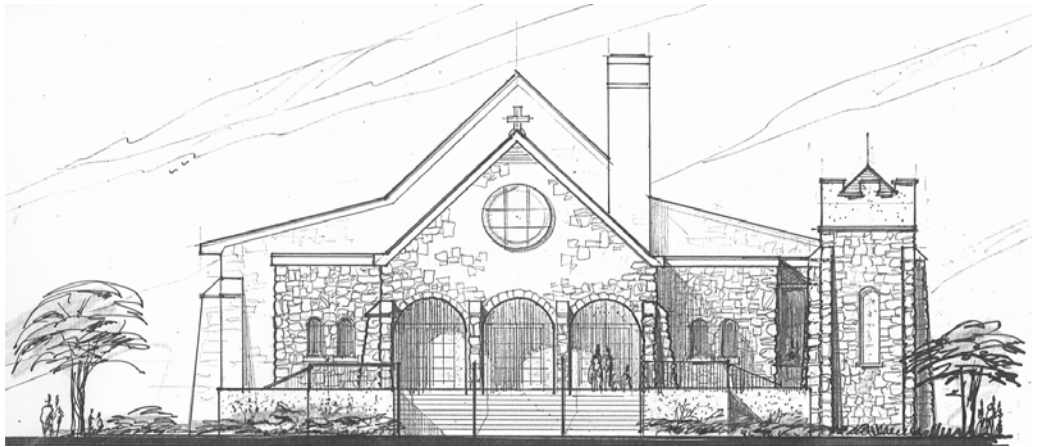
Pentecost Sunday
May 20, 2018

“Jesus stood up and exclaimed; ‘Let anyone who thirsts come to Me and drink. As Scripture says: Rivers of living water will flow from within him who believes in Me.’ He said this in reference to the Spirit that those who came to believe were to receive.”

The great event in Jerusalem, marked by wind, noise and fire, was a moment of fulfillment and at the same time of beginning for the life of the church. The signs and wonders of Pentecost are so familiar surrounding the radical change which took place in the upper room.

Jesus speaks to us today, leading me to ask myself: Do I thirst for the Lord? When we are thirsty we long for a drink, for refreshment, to be renewed. The reading from John, who always speaks about belief and believers, reminds me to pray ‘Come Holy Spirit’ in the events of my daily life. I am thirsty for the Lord, yes or no. The Spirit is part of my family life, of my home and work. The Spirit leads and guides me, but only if I ask and give in.

Speaking of thirst, remember the words on the lips of Jesus at Calvary, ‘I thirst’. He thirsts still for you and for your Spirit filled life.



CHURCH OF ST. DENIS

MANASQUAN, NEW JERSEY

STAFF

Reverend William J. P. Lago, Pastor
Rev. Joseph Miele, Weekend Assistant
Rev. Lewis Papera, Weekend Assistant
Mr. George R. Kelder, Jr., Deacon
Mr. Gary J. Pstrak, Deacon
Mrs. Eileen Ziesmer, Pastoral Associate

Ms. Barbara Evans, Director of Rel. Ed.
Mrs. Doris Ramme, Director of Music Ministry
Sr. Josephine Wade, SSJ
Sr. Mary Guyer, SSJ
Mr. Denis Campbell, Trustee
Mr. Gregory W. Boyle, Trustee

BEACH CHAPEL	554 East Main Street		
RECTORY	90 Union Avenue	732-223-0287	FAX 732-528-1901
CONVENT	117 Virginia Avenue		732-292-0772
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE	119 Virginia Avenue		732-223-1161
ST. DENIS CONFERENCE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY			732-223-1383
CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS		st.denis@verizon.net	
PASTOR'S E-MAIL ADDRESS.....		wlago@dioceseoftrenton.org	
WEB PAGE ADDRESS		http://www.churchofstdenis.org	



MASS SCHEDULE:

Weekday Masses: 7:30 AM– St. Denis Church
Saturday: 8:30 AM – St. Denis Church
Saturday Evening: 4:30 PM (fulfills Sunday obligation)- St. Denis Church
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM- St. Denis Church
Sunday: 10:00 AM - Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel
Holy Days: Evening before: 7:00 PM & day of: 7:30 AM & 7:00 PM-St. Denis Church

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Every Saturday from 3:30 until 4:15 PM - St. Denis Church. Also by appointment.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL DEVOTIONS: Tuesday morning after the 7:30 AM Mass-St. Denis Church

BAPTISM: The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 12:15 pm at St. Denis Church. Parents must complete the required preparation with the priest or deacon and obtain godparent eligibility letters before a date for Baptism will be given. Please call the rectory for further details.

MARRIAGE: Please contact the rectory office for more information about weddings. All couples contemplating marriage are asked to give the priests one year prior notice in order that all the requirements for marriage can be satisfied. Do not reserve the reception hall before contacting the church; your requested date may not be available.

CARE OF THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND: We will gladly bring Holy Communion to anyone who is ill or otherwise unable to get to Mass. Please call the rectory to make arrangements. The priests and deacon make regular visits to the local hospitals. Please call the rectory if any loved one is hospitalized.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL: At such times of deep pain and loss, we seek to offer our bereaved families comfort and hope as they commend their loved ones to God. Please note that, in accordance with Church regulations, eulogies are not permitted during Funeral Masses.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM. There are no office hours on Saturday & Sunday. Evenings are by appointment only.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Welcome! We encourage new families moving into the area to stop in or call the rectory to arrange for registration.

CELIAC SPRUE PARISHIONERS – Saint Denis provides a low gluten (<0.01% gluten content) host. Parishioners who are gluten-intolerant should see a deacon or priest prior to the start of Mass in order to be included in the reception of the Eucharist.

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK- Saint Denis Parish Facebook page: www.facebook.com/churchofstdenis. You don't need to have a Facebook account to read parish news and updates, but would need one to leave comments and feedback.

**Saturday, May 19, 2018**

8:30 am Raymond Misch by Erna O'Malley
 8:30 am Bernard Moore by Ginger Coester
 8:30 am Helen A. Decker by Mr. & Mrs. Mark A. Galdieri
 4:30 pm John Klosin by Diane Gentile
 4:30 pm Allen Bessemer, Sr. by Catholic Daughters, Ct. St. Denis
 4:30 pm In Honor of Arthur Licata by his Children

Sunday, May 20, 2018

8:00 am Patricia Schroeder by Marge Heinrich
 8:00 am Louis Beneduce by Lorraine Stagliano
 8:00 am Norma Quinn by Rosalie Dingler
 9:30 am For the People of the Parish
 10:00 am Mary Collinson by the Family
 10:00 am Francis Przybylski by the Bartholomew Family
 10:00 am Frank Arena by the Family
 11:00 am William Brannick, Jr. by Tina & John O'Donnell
 11:00 am Maryann Alberque by Kathy Donahue
 11:00 am Eugene McCue by Michael & Susan Tighe

Monday, May 21, 2018

7:30 am Mary Ellen & Jim McLaughlin by Peggy Hardiman
 7:30 am William McNamara by Michael & Susan Arnone
 7:30 am Richard Kosseck by Bob & Dee Nesbitt

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

7:30 am Rosemary Smock by her Sister
 7:30 am Intentions of Cathy Trost by Dr. & Mrs. James Cashman
 7:30 am Virginia Anton by Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Gowen

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

7:30 am Thomas Rochford by Tim & Sheila Kearney & Family
 7:30 am David DuPre by Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Gowen
 7:30 am Mary Natale by Marjorie, Margie & Victoria Housen

Thursday, May 24, 2018

7:30 am Anthony & Catherine Rotonda by the Family
 7:30 am Joseph Racioppi, Jr. by the Family
 7:30 am Wendel Becker by William & Jeanne Buble

Friday, May 25, 2018

7:30 am Charles Nielsen by his Daughter
 7:30 am Rose & John Cafone, Sr. by their Children
 7:30 am James Schofield by Kate Geiger & Family

Saturday, May 26, 2018

8:30 am Eileen Catherine Loftus by Jane & Ed Donovan
 8:30 am Ruth Hatcher by the Prince Family
 8:30 am Bernadette Hurley Lynskey by Angela Lopez Miller
 4:30 pm Mary Huth by her Family
 4:30 pm Barbara Morsell by her Sisters
 4:30 pm Adolph Macho & Edward Macho by the Macho Family

Sunday, May 27, 2018

8:00 am Catherine Skillman by her Family
 8:00 am The Morhart Family by the Family
 8:00 am William O'Brien by Eileen & Mike Mahoney
 9:30 am Tim Kennedy by Don & Beverly Hickey
 9:30 am Carmella Ferraro by the Kaplan Family
 9:30 am Joan Barros by Peggy Walker
 10:00 am For the People of the Parish
 11:00 am Jay Klosin by Claudia Costello
 11:00 am William Brannick, Jr. by Ron & Mary Ernish
 11:00 am Edward Pringle by Ted & Clare Schlich

MOVING? Please inform the rectory office if you are moving out of the area or if you have a change of address, so the envelope company can be notified. Thank you!

SAINT DENIS PRAYER GROUP - The Prayer Group meets at 12:00 noon each Monday in St. Denis Church. There are no meetings on holidays. All are welcome.



**Pray For
The Sick**

especially Mary Moran, Steve Ford, Elizabeth Ann Linden, Peggy Andrich, Mary Damico, Eileen Byrne, Amanda Castro, Dolores Palmisano, Holly Boyd, Mary Conlon, Jillian Zito, Jennifer Zito, Albert Wood, Maiya Andrews, Velma Andrews, Stella Thompson, Katie Holbrook, Claire Meachum, Mike Pierce, Thomas Hayes, Jr., Thomas Evans, Catherine O'Connor, Edith Bean, Phyllis Van Salders, Joanne Panzarella, Taryn Rotondi, Joseph Siple, Kathy Wicks, Michael McNulty, Colleen Grady, Richard Koch, Mary Jane Schaaf, Edna Moore, Lisa Pirrello, Joseph Bick, Mary Collins, Ken Kleinlein, Robert Kelleher, Lisa Olivera, Stephen Byrne, Denise

Frank, Lucy Falco, Marie Tashjian, Angeline Hart, Joan Tumbas, Cathleen Brenner, Florence McManus, Nick Ljuljana, Jim Hodgkiss, Patricia Blumenstock, Sue O'Connor, Baby Cayden Joseph, Thomas Fahey, Baby Kelly Grace, Donna Gaham, Nair Messias, Jennifer Noble, Scarlet Slotnick, Belle & Ashton, John Najar, Patrick Lewis, Tina Pilot, Karen Brown, Elizabeth Morgan, Frank Lopez, Christina Roundtree, Eugene Karpinski, Charlotte Pentek, Joan Samperi, Phillip Graceffa, Christian Russo, Rose DeMarco, Dee Vulgaris, Michael McGonigle, Baby Evelyn Mizer, Patricia O'Leary, Herbert "Butch" Wolfe, Leanna Rawson, Nannette Forkan, Nicole Giambone, Lisa Dunfee, Albert J. Cifelli, Linda Smith, Brian Alberse, Stanley Bevan, Windell Rainey, Sadie Svenson, Barbara Magda, Paul Tuiyp, Nancy Murphy, Bernadette Bevan, George Leonard, Frank Bonavita, Joel Rivera, Teresa Hayes, Jeanne Hayes, Irene Hayes, Ronnie Micciulla, Cindy Tomkins, Joseph Fiamingo, Baby Colton Gardella, Ernie Donnelly, Anita McCudden, Baby Siena Grace Pizzillo, Samara Pirrong, Donna Schwear, Helen McGowan, Patricia Lannon, Karen Williams, Timothy Michal Przywara, Christopher Kurtanick, Wes Pal, Neil O'Callaghan, Claire Kessler, Siobhan Vuono, Linda Lowery, Kathy Perusi, Alan Singer, John Danczuk, Linda Custode, Marty Pirrong, Edward Romanko, Bridget Korn, Vincent Azzollini, Scott Burdett, Joan Lipscomb, Kathy Kleinlein, Baby Lucy, the Pilots, the Nesbitts and the Campbells.



We welcome into our parish family the following children who were brought to the Lord through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Emerson Lily Hedges
&

June Rollins Larkin

May the grace of the sacrament remain with them always.

ST. DENIS ELIZABETH MINISTRY: AN INVITATION TO WOMEN- We are looking to restart The Elizabeth Ministry at St. Denis Parish. The Elizabeth Ministry is a group of women who affirm, encourage, assist and pray in response to the needs of women during the child-bearing years and beyond. We are looking to begin a Mommy and Me group, reach out to the families of newly baptized, and get together once a month for fellowship and support. To get involved in this wonderful ministry or to ask any questions, please contact **Eileen Ziesmer at eileenziezmer@gmail.com or 732-223-0287.**

BLESSED ST. GERARD MEDALS & PRAYER CARDS AVAILABLE- Do you know someone who is expecting a child, hoping to conceive, or thinking about adoption? Blessed St. Gerard medals and prayer cards are available for anyone who wishes to take them for themselves or to give to family and friends. To receive one, please stop by the rectory office during normal business hours. For more information, call Rachel at 732-223-1658.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREATS- Join us for an evening presentation about healing the wounds of abortion. Who? All who want to learn more about this healing ministry Where? St. Joseph's Church, 509 Hooper Ave. in Toms River. It is the first building south of the bell tower on the left side of Hooper Ave. Please enter through the rear of the building. When? Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 7:30 pm No preregistration or RSVP is necessary. Bring a friend!



our military, especially Navy Lt. JG Rachael M. Honrath, Navy MIDN Nora N. Honrath, Army Captain Christopher Cauda, Army Captain Matthew Cauda, Navy LL. Edward P. Windas, Marine Lance Corporal Laura Licata, Contractor Benjamin Ostrow, Air Force Captain David Smith, Senior Airman John J. Kosequat, Army Captain Sean Fessenden, Navy Captain Colin S. Walsh, Army Captain Dr. Justin Eisenman, Army 2nd Lt. Brian Quinn, Navy E4 Patrick Moynihan, Army Captain Michael Potoczniak, Air Force 2nd Lt. Dominic Celiano, Air Force Academy Cadet 3rd Class Slade Kelling, Air Force Academy, Coast Guard FN Joseph Beattie, Navy CM Taylor Nesbitt, Airman Devon Webster, Navy Chief Petty Officer James DeLuise, Army Private 1st Class Cody Svenson, Navy Ensign Mary T. Herman, Matthew Van Pelt, Army, USMC 2nd Lt. Philip Cahill and USMC 2nd Lt. Joanna Smith.



**WEEK OF MAY 20, 2018
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
GEORGE BEDNARSKI, JR.
(10TH ANNIVERSARY)**

**REQUESTED BY
HIS PARENTS, KAREN & GEORGE**

FIRST RESPONDERS MEMORIAL MASS-Let us join together in prayer Monday, 21 May, 7:00 pm in the Church as we pray for all first responders who have died. We will remember all those who serve as police, firefighters, EMTs, lifeguards, and other local responders who selflessly put their lives on the line to help protect and save others.

JOURNEYING TOGETHER WITH SACRED SCRIPTURE- Our Lutheran-Catholic journey continues... Last summer was our first-ever super-successful combined Scripture Study with people from Holy Trinity, St. Mark, and St. Denis. Each week we had about 30 people gather at a different church with a different presenter reflecting on the same Readings we would all be using at our upcoming weekend worship services. We were inspired by Scripture and inspired by each other. Join us this year for this awesome opportunity. Our three-part series will meet on the following Tuesdays with two meeting times to choose from: 11:00 am or 7:00 pm. June 12 - Meet at St. Mark's Catholic Church-215 Crescent Pkwy, Sea Girt: Reverend Mary Farnham presenter June 19 -: Meet at Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church-6 Osborn Ave., Manasquan: Monsignor Sean Flynn presenter June 26 - Meet at St. Denis Church, Msgr. O'Connor Hall: Reverend William Lago presenter

WEEKLY CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP meets at St. Rose weekly on Mondays (since 1982) at First Presbyterian Church of Belmar from 7:00-7:45 pm. Introduction is given and new members are always welcome. For more info call Gregory at 732-681-6238 or email gjryan@wccm.org

ONLINE GIVING- To help support our parish more easily we offer **Online Giving!** For additional information or to sign up, go to our parish Website www.churchofstdenis.org and click on "Online Giving". For those who wish to use the online giving service but do not have Internet access, please contact the Parish Office at 732-223-0287 for assistance.

RESERVATIONS FOR ALTAR FLOWERS- Parishioners may reserve the flower arrangement near the altar, for a week at a time, in "memory of" or "honor of" someone or some occasion. Weekend flowers are billed to the parish at \$150 per arrangement so the suggested donation for flowers is \$150. Unfortunately due to liturgical and church calendar requirements, donations toward floral arrangements do not permit the donor to choose the color, style or flower type. Reservations will be taken by the rectory staff during regular business hours.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT WITH BENEDICTION- Fridays 12:00-1:00 pm Come join us in adoring Jesus in the Holy Eucharist in Saint Denis Church on Fridays. All are welcome to spend a few minutes praising, thanking and just being with Jesus.

THE DANIEL PLAN- GOD'S PRESCRIPTION FOR YOUR HEALTH- JOIN US... and CHANGE YOUR LIFE TODAY! The Daniel Plan is a groundbreaking healthy lifestyle program founded on biblical principles and focused on The Five Essentials: **Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus and Friends.** The program is an innovative approach to optimizing your health in each of these life areas, setting goals, and providing support and encouragement. **WHO:** Anyone looking to improve his/her health **WHEN: Wednesdays, at 7:00 pm** **WHERE:** St. Denis School Building **LEADER:** Monica Butler **Contact Eileen in the parish office with any questions (732)-223-0287.**

YOUTH GROUP NEWS- Our next event, as we get ready for the end of the school year, is Sunday May 20th. We will get together for fellowship and fun with the Youth Groups from Epiphany/St. Martha/St. Peter Parishes. We will gather at the Beach Chapel at 3 pm and head down to the beach for fun and pizza. Pick up at the Beach Chapel at 5 pm. Any parishioner in High School or 8th grade is welcome. Any questions: email stdenisyg@yahoo.com.

FOLLOW SAINT DENIS YOUTH GROUP ON FACEBOOK! How to find us: 1. Open Facebook 2. Search: St. Denis Youth Group-Manasquan or username: @StDenis.YouthGroup 3. Like and follow our page to learn about upcoming events, post your thoughts/ideas for the youth group, and find photos from past events!

DIOCESAN RESPECT LIFE WEBSITE- Please visit the Respect Life website of the Diocese of Trenton at respectlife-today.org. You will obtain important information concerning respect life issues in our diocese and in our world.



**SAINT DENIS
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY
732-223-1383**

Msgr. O'Connor Hall (lower level of church)
HOURS

EVERY TUESDAY: 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM
3RD & 4TH SATURDAY: 10:00 AM-12:00 NOON

Items needed at this time: non-refrigerated boxed milk (like Parmalat), powdered milk, hot chocolate, small bottles of vegetable oil, canned beef stew, sugar, canned carrots, female deodorant, and paper towels. Parishioners are asked to place their non-perishable donations in the shopping cart that is located in the gathering space near the stairwell to Msgr. O'Connor Hall. **Non-perishable food may also be brought to the Beach Chapel.** Please check the expiration dates of your donations.

**THE PANTRY IS NOW OPEN ON TUESDAYS, 1-6 PM.
THE FOOD PANTRY WILL NOT BE OPEN
THE 4TH SATURDAY IN MAY (MAY 26TH)**

Recovery Corner



Addiction is not a moral failing. There is help. Anyone affected by addiction is welcome each Thursday at 10:00 am & 7:00 pm as we support one another by applying what scripture says about recovery. Call 848-333-7085 for information.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ADDICTION SERIES- Available Mondays, 7:00 pm, at 67 Atlantic Ave. in Manasquan Recreation Annex.

RAFTS- "Recovery Advocates For The Shore" located in Manasquan, is a non-clinical, non-profit, peer-based community organization serving the recovery needs of individuals and their families struggling with behavioral or substance addiction. It is free of charge. 1-833—2BSOBER www.raftsnj.org



MOTHER'S DAY ROSES FOR LIFE!- Thanks to everyone who supported the Mother's Day Rose Sale last week! Many thanks to those who bought roses and those who volunteered to help sell them! Special thanks to John Newman of *Bouquets to Remember* for generously supporting our Rose Sale. This allows us to honor the gift of our mothers while collecting vital funds used to **assist women & children in crisis** and for **education about the dignity of ALL human LIFE!** Thank You!

**THE SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**



St. Vincent de Paul, the patron saint of our Society, never wrote a book about his spiritual teachings. We find the living voice of the saint in his letters and conferences-conferences like ours at St. Denis- in which he trained his followers for the mission of service to the poor. The two fundamental sources of his teaching were the Gospel and life. He wanted his followers to put the whole of the Gospel into the whole of their lives, and he never tired of deepening both with the faith that God had put into his heart. This is why all that Vincent says, as he speaks to us from almost 400 years ago, has the simplicity of our everyday life as well as the penetrating Word of God. The reflections in our weekly bulletin are therefore offered to all who strive to serve the poor in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul. They may encourage us to "have ears to hear the cry of the poor", to "have eyes to seek and find the forgotten and deprived", and to "have hearts that bring God's love to the poor" through generosity and love.

Today as we celebrate Pentecost, the Holy Spirit wants to make us advocates of God's presence to bring new life to others-especially those who do not know the love of God in their lives.

If you have a desire to be an "advocate of God's presence" join us for our St. Vincent de Paul meetings, held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 pm in Msgr. O'Connor Hall (church basement). Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 5, 2018.



HANDS-ON PARISH: POWERED BY YOU! Fellowship and Work for the Good of the Parish—The Committee for Buildings and Grounds is beginning a new initiative “Hands-On Parish”.

We are calling on parishioners to volunteer for some needed work about the parish. Powered by parishioners, we can get much done. We are starting with different projects. Please see if the date/time/activity would fit you. The Building and Grounds Committee members strongly feel that the “Hands-On Parish” initiative will get more people involved in the well-being of the parish and stretch our moneys from the “Faith to Move Mountains” campaign by saving on labor for smaller projects around the church and chapel. Both will begin after the 8:30 am Mass. Saturday, June 2— Mulch around the church (Please bring rakes and wheelbarrows) Saturday, June 16—Refinishing side doors of the church We are looking for approximately 10 individuals for each project. To volunteer contact Bob Olson at 732-223-0948 or rthardware@aol.com.

IN THE PINK HEALTH FAIR, sponsored by Belmar Cares, a Breast Cancer Support Group, will take place on Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 6:00-8:30 pm at the Taylor Pavilion, 5th & Ocean Avenues in Belmar. There will be medical professionals on hand, shoulder massage, a healing teas presentation, pink nail applications, yoga and more! There is no admission fee and all are welcome.

FAITH & FILM EVENING TO SUPPORT NEW JERSEY REFUGEE FAMILIES— The Justice & Peace Advocacy Committee of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is showing the movie All Saints on Friday, May 25th at 7:00 pm. This 2017 movie tells the story of a young pastor trying to keep a small church alive with the help of local Burmese refugees. The committee is sponsoring this event to raise awareness about refugee settlement and also to raise funds for Interfaith-RISE of Highland Park, NJ. The event is open to the public and we invite you to join us! All free-will donations will be earmarked for the purchase of gift cards for gas and food for local refugee families through Interfaith-RISE. Come see a good movie, enjoy ecumenical camaraderie and light refreshments, and support a great cause. The film is rated PG. Questions? Please contact Liz Stupar (estupar@gmail.com) or Jane Carbone (janecarbone@verizon.net).



GOOD COUNSEL HOMES BIG 50-50 RAFFLE—

GOOD COUNSEL HOMES is holding a first time BIG 50-50 RAFFLE. (Goal: \$50,000 pot) This major fundraiser will enable us to continue our blessed work of saving babies and helping women at our Riverside Home. We intend to sell just 1,000 tickets so the winners will receive: **#1 \$15,000 or 30% #2 \$7,500 or 15% #3 \$2,500 or 5%**. If we go a little over or under, the percentages will apply. In a time when so many have so little, your giving spirits to help those less fortunate, inspire us as we continue to do God’s work on earth. Thank you for your continued support. Tickets are available at the St. Denis Rectory Office during normal business hours.

Message from Fr. Bill

Happy Pentecost. We pray for the renewal of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives and we pray for the renewal of the world as well with the “Come Holy Spirit” prayer:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

In our prayer for renewal, let us pray for renewal in the truth about God’s gift of life, and our call to live in that truth. I share an excerpt from the “Life Issues Forum” of the USCCB. We must know the truth so we can witness to the truth.

"Conspiracy Against Life" By Chelsy Gomez May 4, 2018

In recent weeks, the eyes of the world were drawn to Liverpool, England as the life of 23-month-old Alfie Evans hung in the balance. Despite drawing support from across the world, including from Pope Francis and the Italian and Polish governments, Alfie's ventilator was removed against his parents' wishes on April 23. Alfie suffered from an undiagnosed neurological condition and was not expected to survive long after the removal of the ventilator. However, Alfie surprised doctors as he breathed on his own for minutes, then hours, and then days, until he ultimately passed away on April 28.

Pope St. John Paul II warned that, "A person who, because of illness, handicap or, more simply, just by existing, compromises the well-being or life-style of those who are more favored tends to be looked upon as an enemy to be resisted or eliminated. In this way a kind of 'conspiracy against life' is unleashed" (*Evangelium vitae*, 12).

This "conspiracy against life" has a long history that runs deep and, over the centuries, has risen to the surface in many different forms. It is unleashed when a society equates human dignity with human ability, when we no longer focus on the burdens experienced by a person, but rather view the person as a burden... every child deserves to be celebrated, cherished, and welcomed--regardless of their class, status, or medical condition.

The story of Alfie Evans is the most recent example of a growing hostility toward those whose lives are, for one reason or another, deemed to be "lesser," "futile," or "not worth living." Consider the staggering abortion rates of preborn children diagnosed with Down syndrome (nearly 100 percent in Iceland) or patients who, diagnosed with serious illnesses, are offered insurance coverage for assisted suicide, but not for treatment. ... Human life--created in the image and likeness of God--is always good, sacred in all stages and circumstances, and deserving of respect and protection from all that would threaten it.

It has often been said that we can measure a society by how it treats its weakest and most vulnerable members. We must never cease to witness to the dignity of human life, especially the most vulnerable among us. May Alfie's memory support us in our efforts to end this "conspiracy against life."

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD... PRAISE & SING-

Come, praise our Lord with contemporary Christian music. 30 minutes of prerecorded music with lyric sheets provided. Every First Friday at 7:00 pm in St. Denis Church. For info call Allison Penkethman 732-528-4976.



THANK YOU!
to our Catechists & Aides



for allowing the **JOY** of our Faith
to **SHINE** through YOU! ☺
Our hearts are grateful to you for building
up the Kingdom of God and helping our
children to know, love & serve Jesus.

**AN INVITATION TO ALL MOTHERS TO SHARE IN
AN EVENING OF HOSPITALITY ON THE FEAST OF
THE VISITATION**

WHEN: THURSDAY, MAY 31ST 7 PM – 9 PM
WHERE: PARISH RECTORY

In the story of the Visitation, we encounter Mary and Elizabeth providing and extending loving hospitality to one another and being held in the all-encompassing hospitality of God. Their witness invites us to extend and receive hospitality with others... especially mothers.

**COME JOIN US. MOMS... NEW & NOT SO NEW.
SHARE IN A SOCIAL NIGHT OF FUN & SUPPORT**
Contact Eileen Ziesmer eileenziesmer@gmail.com or (732) 223-0287.

COMMUNITY THERAPUTIC YOGA is designed for cancer patients, arthritis sufferers, or individuals with other health issues who would benefit from a gentle and modified exercise program. In this class we will utilize various techniques and modifications to yoga postures for physical and medical challenges. Moving slowly into and out of postures we will stretch, tone, and strengthen muscles. Each class includes breathing exercises, posture exercises, and relaxation techniques. The class will take place in the St. Denis school building on Fridays, 11:30 am-12:30 pm. The cost is free to members of the community with health issues who would benefit from a modified exercise program. Call Bobbi at 848-459-4255 or Ronnie at 732-859-2601 for more information. This program is not associated with the Manasquan Recreation Department.



BLOOD DRIVE-The Father John F. Welsh Council 3231 Knights of Columbus of St. Denis & St. Mark Churches will sponsor a Blood Drive on Sunday, June 10, 2018, 8:30 am-1:30 pm in the St. Denis School building cafeteria. Please eat and drink plenty of fluids before donating blood.

Donors must be healthy, at least 17 years of age and weigh at least 120 pounds. All donors must present a signature or photo ID. For questions or to schedule an appointment, please call Joe Tully at 732-223-6656.



Share the **JOY** of our Faith
& lead children's hearts to Jesus!

JUNE 25 thru 29 2:00-5:00pm

We're in need of **7 ADULTS**
To help us provide a Bible Camp for ages 4-11
With **LOTS of TEENS** ready to help you!



HELP US KICK OFF the SUMMER! With a week of FUN and Games, Songs and Amazing Bible Stories for the kids in our parish. It's just **ONE WEEK**, but it'll *warm your heart for the entire summer!*

Can you help?

Seeking **ADULT HELP / SUPERVISION**
in the following areas:

MUSIC – (from videos) / **GAMES** / **BIBLE STORIES** / **SNACKS** / **FUN GIZMOS** / **DECORATING** (before vbs starts)
PHOTOGRAPHY (taking photos during the program)

Help us turn the ordinary into the

Extraordinary!!
With your help, **WE CAN!**

Please call the Religious Ed office at 732-223-1161.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY- All children (ages 4-7) are invited to participate in the Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 11:00 Mass on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Children will proceed to the church basement before the first reading and return during the offertory. Volunteers are needed for this ministry. If interested, call Debbie at 732-223-9823.

CAREGIVER VOLUNTEERS OF CENTRAL JERSEY INTERFAITH COALITION HELPING OLDER MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND CONGREGATION There are many older people living in our parish...in our neighborhood... who are in need of a little help to continue living with dignity and independence at home. If you can spare just a few hours a week, you can be involved in this ministry. Call and find out more... For information contact the Caregiver office at www.caregivervolunteers.org or 732-876-3900.



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