

HIS WORD TODAY

by Rev. William J. Reilly

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) December 25, 2022

“Beloved: When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, He saved us...”

This was the message of
St. Paul to Titus.

In the joy of this season, as we recall the most significant event in human history, we might tend to forget, that the Father sent Jesus to save us and give us new life in Him. May we pause for a moment, not to visit the scene of Bethlehem, but consider what was our need and the Father’s loving response, and our need today for His saving grace.

We were separated from God, but at this moment He bent down from heaven, sending us Jesus as our Savior. Today we are invited to respond to the Father’s gift in gratitude and accept the greatest Christmas gift ever. Bring the meaning of this day to someone else.



CHURCH OF ST. DENIS

MANASQUAN, NEW JERSEY

STAFF

Reverend William J. P. Lago, Pastor
Reverend James Burke, Weekend Assistant
Rev. Lewis Papera, Weekend Assistant
Mr. George R. Kelder, Jr., Deacon
Mr. Gary J. Pstrak, Deacon

Mrs. Eileen Ziesmer, Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Kathleen Bodnar, Parish Cat. Leader
Mr. Mark Mataranglo, Director of Music Ministry
Mr. Ralph Cabrera, Trustee
Mr. Robert Butler, 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 (Mon.-Tues.-Wed.-Fri.) – 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 - St. Denis Church
Mass is shown on the Parish Facebook Page each weekend.
Sunday: 10:00 AM - Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel
Holy Days: See bulletin or website for schedule

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturdays, 3:30-4:15 pm & by appointment.

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

BAPTISM: The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Parents must complete the required preparation with the Pastoral Associate 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-Thursday 8:30 AM-12:00 noon & 1:00 PM- 4:30 PM, Friday 8:30 AM- 12:00 noon only. 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, December 24, 2022**

8:30 am The Family of MCW
 8:30 am Norah Bruther by the Creamer Family
 8:30 am Jack Simes by his Family

Christmas Eve:

4:30 pm (church) Norah Bruther by her Family
 4:30 pm (church) Leo Cunningham by his Family
 4:30 pm (church) John & Jack Kolon by Kay Kolon
 4:30 pm (church) Patrick Campbell by his Family
 5:00 pm (chapel) For the People of the Parish
 7:00 pm (church) William Pavincich by his Family
 7:00 pm (church) Carl Castrovinci by the Curran Family
 7:00 pm (church) Frances Maria Simla by her Family
 10:00 pm (church) The Arena Family by Bernice Arena
 10:00 pm (church) Rev. Joseph Miele by Betsy & Jim Rice

Sunday, December 25, 2022-Christmas**Church:**

8:00 am Intentions of MCW by MCW
 8:00 am Janice Racioppi by her Family
 8:00 am Rose & Jack Feeney by the Family
 9:30 am Deceased of the Koch & Rice Families
 by Betsy & Jim Rice
 9:30 am Thomas Crawford by the Sutor Family
 9:30 am Betty & Frank Ernst by Scott & Cindy Ernst

Chapel:

10:00 am Margie & Tony Patullo by Pam & Family
 10:00 am Matthew Trengrove by his Family
 10:00 am Deceased of the Sarullo, Bugliario, Schellar &
 Burke Families by the Bugliario Children

Monday, December 26, 2022

No Mass

Tuesday, December 27, 2022

7:30 am Michael Parcaro (53rd Anniversary) by Mona Kirk
 7:30 am Leon & Dorothy Madden by the Jacobus Family
 7:30 am Viola & Joseph Ziella by Jim & Michele Conrey

Wednesday, December 28, 2022

7:30 am Larry DeGrande by Sandy DeGrande
 7:30 am Ken O'Donnell by Karen O'Donnell
 7:30 am Michael Gabler by the King Family

Thursday, December 29, 2022

No Mass

Friday, December 30, 2022

7:30 am Barbara Drum by Claire Waltsak & Family
 7:30 am Anne Boyle by Thomas & Gail Campbell
 7:30 am Michael Gabler by Adelaide Avena

Saturday, December 31, 2022

8:30 am Rosemary Struncius by Brian & Gail Lawrence
 8:30 am Paul Weeks by Maureen Smith
 8:30 am Mary Maisonnade by Patty & Bob Koch
 4:30 pm For the People of the Parish

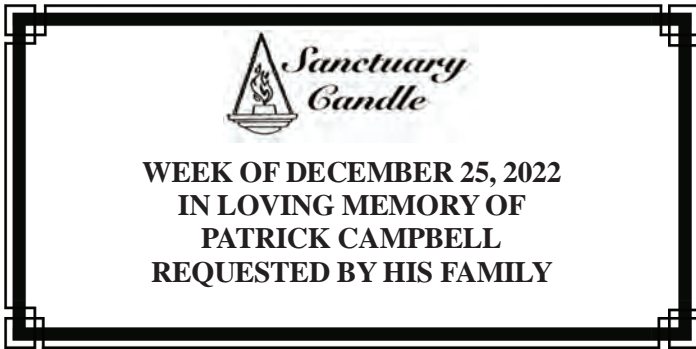
Sunday, January 1, 2023

8:00 am Dan Carey by Eileen & Mike Mahoney
 8:00 am Rita Mary Clarkin by her Family
 8:00 am Kenneth Zelinski by Joan & Mark Clarkin
 9:30 am Kelsey Stonebraker by her Family
 9:30 am Marie Steven by Lenore Paterno
 9:30 am Jacqueline McGuckin by Mary & Tom Cantillo
 10:00 am Paul Ramee, Jr. By Owen & Maura McCarthy
 10:00 am William Griffin by Barbara Moschetto
 10:00 am Allsion Berry Wagner by Carol Rizzi



especially Mary Moran, Steve Ford, Elizabeth Ann Linden, Peggy Andrich, Mary Damico, Eileen Byrne, Amanda Castro, Dolores Palmisano, Holly Boyd, Mary Conlon, Albert Wood, Maiya Andrews, Velma Andrews, Katie Holbrook, Claire Meachum, Mike Pierce, Thomas Hayes, Jr., Thomas Evans, Catherine O'Connor, Edith Bean, Phyllis Van Salders, Joanne Panzarella, Taryn Rotondi, Kathy Wicks, Michael McNulty, Lisa Pirrello, Joseph Bick, Mary Collins, Robert Kelleher, Stephen Byrne, Denise Frank, Marie Tashjian, Angeline Hart, Cathleen Brenner, Nick Ljuljana, Sue O'Connor, Baby Cayden Joseph, Thomas Fahey, Baby Kelly Grace, Nair Messias, Jennifer Noble, Belle & Ashton, Karen Brown, Elizabeth Morgan, Frank Lopez, Christina Roundtree, Eugene

Karpinski, Charlotte Pentek, Phillip Graceffa, Christian Russo, Rose DeMarco, Dee Vulgaris, Michael McGonigle, Baby Evelyn Mizer, Leanna Rawson, Nannette Forkan, Nicole Giambrone, Lisa Dunfee, Albert J. Cifelli, Stanley Bevan, Windell Rainey, Sadie Svenson, Barbara Magda, Paul Tuyp, Nancy Murphy, Bernadette Bevan, Teresa Hayes, Jeanne Hayes, Irene Hayes, Ronnie Micciulla, Cindy Tomkins, Joseph Fiamingo, Baby Colton Gardella, Catherine Kelleher, Samara Pirrong, Donna Schwear, Helen McGowan, Karen Williams, Timothy Michal Przywara, Christopher Kurtanick, Wes Pal, Neil O'Callaghan, Siobhan Vuono, Linda Lowery, Tanner Koch, Linda Custode, Marty Pirrong, Bridget Korn, Vincent Azzollini, Joan Lipscomb, Baby Lucy, Stephen Whyte, Christine Fields, Chris Faraca, Gordon Justin, Jim Kazenmayer, Frank Meidenbauer, Sean Campbell, Joel Rivera, Jimi Hood, Al Ricciardi, Eileen Beesley, Beverly Heinz, Pauline Naturile, Haley Keating, Bill Koch, Doris Abruzzo, Sandy Heitner, Joseph Pastore, Christine Coburn, Julianna Grusso, Frank Dugan, Lori Hurd, Lois Borton, William Liao, Marylee Monsell, Norma Friel, Tony Picinich, the Borgias, Patricia Wolfe, Marian Keefe, Elizabeth Clos, Gail Fallon, Lois Brookes, Andrew Chermack, Mark Clarkin, Duane Danish, Werner Ziesmer, Thomas P. Coyle, Constance & Hugh Doherty, Jim Trischitta, Regina Kiesche, Colleen Nielsen, Mary Carstens-Lockenmeyer, Rob & Katie Spawn, Jack Noble, Jim Racioppi, Sondra Thompson, Barbara Liggett, Gerald O'Keefe, Jimmy Conrey, Norma Summers, Vera Raffetto, Bobbie Banks-Grove, Margaret Mullin, Johnny Gondek, Celina Koch, Marilyn Woerner, Diane Padluck, Theresa Sergel, Joan Harriman, Sharon Goettle, Rick Constrisciano, Barbara Cabrera, Pat O'Leary, the Nesbitt Family, the Slotnick Family, and the Campbell Family.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED especially Joseph Dauber and Thomas Davis.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT takes place every First Friday, 12-1 pm in the church. We look forward to the beautiful prayer of presence with our Lord.

LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS – Those in need of these specially approved Communion hosts at Mass are invited to receive from the priest. Look for the small cup attached to the priest’s ciborium, in order to receive the sacramental Body of Christ with a low-gluten host.

MASS INTENTIONS for the weekend, as well as the coming week, can be found on our parish website on Friday mornings www.churchofstdenis.org

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEWS- Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton and Recycle-America have joined forces to provide a new service. Now, someone will come to your door to collect your clothing and shoes. All items will be donated to those in need in our local community. Pickups in Monmouth County are made on Wednesdays. To schedule a pickup, email racworld2015@gmail.com or call 609-906-0004. Please call or email three days prior to pick up day. Catholic Charities provides assistance with food, housing, drug addiction, domestic violence, and immigration services. If you know a parishioner needing help, please contact us at www.catholiccharitiestrenton.org, or call 800-360-7711.

HEALING THE WOUNDS OF ABORTION- The psychological and spiritual wounds of abortion can be sharp, deep and crippling. You may feel a deep numbness and may not be able to name the pain or recognize any of the symptoms. It can also have a devastating impact on the father or grandparents of the aborted child and friend/s of the mother. You do not have to continue to hide in shame and fear. Rachel’s Vineyard’s Retreat is a chance to focus on this painful time in your life through a supportive non-judgmental process, in an atmosphere of confidentiality, understanding, and compassion. It is designed to help both women and men experience the mercy and compassion of God. 2023 Weekend Retreats: February 3rd – February 5th & November 10th – November 12th

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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – The Knights of Columbus is dedicated to the mission of our Holy Mother Church starting here, in our parish and our community. We are a fraternity of Catholic men united in charity and patriotism. If you miss fraternity life and want to get out and join with others in charity and Catholic brotherhood, join us. To learn more please call the rectory office.

ST. DENIS MEN’S GROUP is a faith study group for Catholic men at the Jersey Shore, coordinated from St. Denis Parish. The group meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month in the Parish Center, from 6-7 pm. For more information contact the St. Denis rectory at 732-223-0287.

WALKING WITH PURPOSE- Ladies, you can join us at any time! Our WWP community is comprised of women, just like you. We strive to learn more about our faith and understand how the teachings of Jesus Christ can be relative to our everyday lives. Together we create an authentic community that laughs, learns, grows, and loves one another. We offer two day/time options for our gatherings: Tuesday evenings, 7:30-9pm or Wednesdays, 12:15-2pm. We meet at the St. Denis Parish Center (school). We don’t actually exercise—we “walk” on a faith journey together. Walking with Purpose leads hearts to Christ. For more information, visit www.wwpnjshore.com



especially Navy Lt. Rachael M. Honrath, Navy LS3 Nora N. Honrath, Army Major Matthew Cauda, Navy LL. Edward P. Windas, Marine Lance Corporal Laura Licata, Contractor Benjamin Ostrow, Air Force Major David Smith, Army Major Sean Fessenden, Army Lt. Nikkole Crosson, Navy Captain Colin S. Walsh,

Army Captain Dr. Justin Eisenman, Army Lt. Brian Quinn, Navy E4 Patrick Moynihan, Air Force 1st Lt. Dominic Celiano, Air Force Academy Cadet 2nd Class Slade Kelling, Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Petty Officer Joseph Beattie, Navy CM Taylor Nesbitt, Airman Devon Webster, Army Private 1st Class Cody Svenson, Lt. Jg. Mary T. Herman, Matthew Van Pelt, Army, USMC Capt. Philip Cahill, Navy MIDN Michael Zimmerman U.S. Naval Academy, Air Force 2nd Lt. Jason Trischitta, Allison M. Ingraham at West Point Academy, Lt. Col. Ivan Ingraham USMC, PFC Joseph J. Foley, Jr. USMC, Airman Andrew Halmi, Corporal Jordan Basile USMC, PFC Neil Horenburg USMC, and USMC Private Robert E. Mullin IV.

December 8, 2022– Holy Day

Regular Collection-	\$1,919.00
December 11, 2022	
Regular Collection-	\$9,803.00
2nd Collection– (Rel. Retirement)-	\$3,146.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !

HELP AT MASS: PROJECTIONISTS- We have a need for volunteers to help with the projection of lyrics and prayers at Mass. This is a great service opportunity for students and a chance for parents and children to work together. You can choose your Mass and the frequency of volunteering. Contact the office for training with Deacon Gary.

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!

GRANDPARENTS' GUILD- Grandparents' Guild sends blessings of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy to you and your families. In your prayers, kindly include your intercessory prayers to St. Anne and St. Joachim, the grandparents of our Lord Jesus Christ, that their prayers may continue to bless our grandchildren and our vocation as grandparents. Reminder, our next scheduled meeting will take place on January 17th. All grandparents and seniors are invited to attend. We meet on the 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 11:00 AM at the Parish Center (St. Denis School Building.) Have a Merry, Blessed Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year!

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP AT ST. DENIS- Our parish hosts a support group for all types of caregivers on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 6-7 pm in the Parish Center. This is a judgement free safe place to share, to learn and/or to just listen. The session ends with an Expressive Meditation & Healing Art Session that will be a reminder that you deserve time for yourself. It is facilitated by Kat Verdi, Caregiver Advocate and Certified Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Care Trainer. Kat's mission is the 3E's- *Educate, Empower, and Encourage* caregivers. Rsvp's are appreciated (732-223-0287) but walk-ins are welcome.

LASAGNA LOVE- What started as a mother and daughter feeding families in their community has grown into a national movement with over 5,000 volunteers across the country, all making and delivering home-cooked meals. The mission is not only to help address the incredible rise in food insecurity among families, but also to provide a simple act of love and kindness during a time full of uncertainty and stress. To request a free lasagna delivery: 1. Visit lasagnalove.org 2. Get matched to a local lasagna mama or papa 3. Coordinate a delivery day & time 4. Get a safe contactless delivery 5. Sign up again the next month.



St. Vincent De Paul Society's Food Pantry
at St. Denis Church Phone: 732-223-1383

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

There is curbside pick-up of
prepackaged food with social distancing.

Questions or special food needs?

Please call our hotline number at 732-223-1383

Pantry hours:

Tuesdays: 1PM-3PM and
3rd Saturday of the month: 10AM-12 noon

This week's needed items :

Cereal, cookies, crackers, baked beans, and Spam.

Thank you.

LET US PRAY TO END COVID AND VIOLENCE IN THE WORLD with the Holy Innocents Rosary Group, Monday through Friday at 10:00 am online or by phone. Please contact Kathy Lynch at kathy.lynch65@gmail.com or 732-513-2970 for more details. It is easy to join by phone or she can assist you to access the group via video teleconference.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY- CARS FOR HOMES- Please donate your vehicle to help build homes. Donating your vehicle to Habitat for Humanity can directly impact Coastal Habitat for Humanity and its partner families. All kinds of vehicles are accepted, running or not. For more information or to donate please call 877-277-4344 or visit carsforhomes.org.

HOLY INNOCENTS SOCIETY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS Are you passionate about including persons with special needs fully into our parish communities? If yes, then we are looking for you! We are the Holy Innocents Society Diocese of Trenton. You may know our work in catechesis, but did you know our mission as a non-profit organization is so much more? Please explore how you can participate with us in our mission. Please call 609-403-7139, leave your name, telephone number and parish's name. We will contact you as soon as possible. Visit www.dioceseoftrenton.org/holy-innocents-society.

MEALS ON WHEELS- MONMOUTH COUNTY- Volunteers are always needed for the Meals on Wheels program. If interested, please call Nancy at 732-775-0525 ext. 211 or email at nancyk@interfaithneighbors.org. We deliver over 1,100 meals daily, Monday through Friday with several starting points across Monmouth County. Depending on the route, meals are generally picked up and delivered between 10-10:30 am. Routes consist of approximately 6-10 stops and take one to one and a half hours to complete. We also have a "standby" volunteer list if you are not able to commit on a daily or weekly basis, but can assist on an "as needed" basis, filling in for vacations and illnesses. Thank you!

THE SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Our ministry of lay volunteers is inspired by the values of the Gospels and the work of Frederic Ozanam, the founder of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Paris is 1833. The first U.S. conference was formed in St. Louis in 1845 and it remains to this day the national headquarters. There are over 800,000 members worldwide in 140 countries. The St. Vincent de Paul Society offers members the chance to grow spiritually, to cultivate friendships and to provide person-to-person help to those who ask for assistance. The volunteers of St. Vincent de Paul, who come from many diverse backgrounds, invite you to join their efforts, and they also thank all who donate so generously to the Society.

To learn more about helping those in need, come to the Society's next meeting on Thursday, January 19th at 7 pm in the Parish Center.

If you need assistance, please call the hotline at 732-223-1383.



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

Gus Edward Bogan & Lucas Michael Coulter.

May the grace of the sacrament remain with them always.

STANDING TOGETHER FOR LIFE- On Friday Jan. 20, 2023, the faithful of the Diocese of Trenton will come together in prayer and solidarity to proclaim the sanctity of all human life. All are invited to a Mass for Life celebrated by Bishop David M. O’Connell, C.M., in St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral, 61 Georgia Rd., Freehold, beginning at 11 am. Mass will be livestreamed on [Youtube.com/trentondiocese](https://www.youtube.com/trentondiocese). The Mass will be followed by a luncheon and speaker seminar in the Co-Cathedral’s Dentici Hall. Author and speaker Dr. Charles Camosy will be our keynote speaker. His talk and conversations that follow are intended to help us build a Culture of Life in this post-Roe world by working together as one church and stepping out of the politics and divisions that often separate us. Advanced registration to attend the luncheon and seminar is required by Jan. 10, 2023. Registration and information can be found here: dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life

WORD OF LIFE

Today, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus, let us recall that it is He who calls each of us to care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible. Pope St. John Paul II’s encyclical *The Gospel of Life* recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers’ wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the ‘least of these’ in our world’s estimation. Let us call on the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary & Joseph, to guide us to consider how we can courageously stand up for and protect all unborn children and those women and men who are vulnerable to the ‘choice’ of abortion and to help us to understand that profound dignity exists in every human life, no matter how frail, ill, disabled, or old.

THE MISSION OF MARY’S CHILD MINISTRY is to defend the truth of Jesus Christ. Each human being is a gift from God, made in His image and likeness, worthy of dignity, respect, and protection from conception until natural death. We raise our prayers, concerns, and funds in support of this Truth, and we support organizations that consistently live and value the Gospel of Life. If interested in this ministry, contact the rectory for our parish ProLife representative.

ACTION CENTER- First Friday Mass & Adoration. It was the special desire of our Lord Jesus Christ, revealed to Blessed Margaret Mary, that the first Friday of each month be consecrated to the devotion and adoration of His most Sacred Heart. Join us after 7:30AM Mass to pray the rosary for the unborn, the protection of our country, and peace throughout the world. Attend Adoration from noon until 1pm at the church. First Saturday Mass: This devotion is honoring and consoling the Immaculate Heart of our Blessed Mother per her request at Fatima. Join us after 8:30AM Mass to pray the rosary for the unborn, the protection of our country, and peace throughout the world. We seek to unite our hearts to Jesus thru Mary

VISIT OUR WEBSITES:

dioceseoftrenton.org/respect-life-ministry

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER BILL

Merry Christmas! May God bless you and your loved ones this Christmas Season and may God grant peace to God’s people on earth.

The Gift of Christ is more than we can ever comprehend. Jesus, our Emmanuel – our God-With-Us, was born for us in the stable. This event of His birth is *never finished*. Yes, Jesus was born already on a certain day and time, but the transcendent mystery of that event is not yet finished if Jesus is not born into the stable of my life today (and every day).

Everything God does has an eternal ongoing quality because God is eternal. The birth of Christ (and the Last Supper for example) such events that are historical but not meant to be limited by that fact. The present reality of the power of the Incarnation is meant to have an impact in my life, now, it is meant to have a real effect on my being (identity) and behaving (morality).

As one author put it: Our life’s journeys often take us to unexpected places, and the journey of Jesus, the King of kings and Lord of lords, is certainly no exception. Jesus comes to earth not in power and esteem but born of a humble woman. ... Rather than being born in the comfort and cleanliness of a well-lit home or the splendor of a castle, he is born in poverty and dirt of a stable. Jesus’ circumstances are not coincidences but rather intentional movements of God, who wants to unite Himself to us in every way, for Jesus is (meant to be) present in every stable of our lives. What we find in the stable where He is born are the same features that are present in our own lives: light and darkness, stench and freshness, beauty and sorrow. (Sr. Miriam Heidland)

I add the phrase ‘meant to be’ because we must desire it in our own hearts. We must pursue Jesus’ presence, Jesus’ birth, into the situations of our life – through conscious awareness, through our act of will, through a living relationship with Jesus (Mass and daily prayer and reflection). With this energetic attitude, aware of the Gift of Jesus born in a stable in Bethlehem and born anew in the stable of our life, we can grow in our discipleship, our friendship, with Jesus and the mystery of Christmas will be lived every day. Christmas is never finished – it is the gift (Jesus) that keeps giving. Merry Christmas!

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. 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 business hours.

BLESSED ST. GERARD MEDALS AND 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 please call the office at 732-223-0287.

New Year Schedule



Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Masses:

Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022-
St. Denis Church- 4:30 pm

&

Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023-

St. Denis Church-

8 am & 9:30 am

Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel-
10 am

ST. MARK'S YOUTH GROUP – AN INVITATION-Teens are invited to join a high school youth group at our neighboring parish of St. Mark, Sea Girt. They meet on Sunday nights at 7:30 pm. There are always lots of games, service opportunities, food, and friendly high school students from our local area.

CONTACT OF OCEAN AND MONMOUTH COUNTIES
The next (12-week) training class for telephone volunteers for CONTACT (24-hour crisis intervention hotline) will begin Wednesday, January 18, 2023, once a week for 12 weeks, every Wednesday from 6:30-9:30 pm. In person training will be held at St. Luke's Church, 1674 Old Freehold Road in Toms River. CONTACT, a free and confidential service, has been assisting with the needs of individuals throughout the community since 1975, by providing a safe place for callers to talk about their problems with anonymity. Information and referrals are provided when requested. For additional training information, please call the CONTACT office at 732-240-6104.

VOLUNTEER WITH COASTAL HABITAT FOR HUMANITY- Coastal Habitat for Humanity welcomes you to join their volunteer team. Together we can create a world where everyone has a safe and affordable place to live! For information on how to get involved, please email Kim Sambade, Director of Development and Volunteers Services at: ksambade@coastalhabitat.org.

MANASQUAN ELKS BREAKFAST- All are welcome to attend the Manasquan Elks breakfast on the second Sunday of every month, 8:30 am-11:30 am. Enjoy your choice of Pancakes, French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Egg Sandwich, or Omelets. Adults are \$8 and children under 5 eat free. The breakfast is held at the Elks Lodge located at 17 Stockton Lake Boulevard in Manasquan.

The Rectory Office will be closed
Monday, December 26, 2022
&
Monday, January 2, 2023



*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
to our wonderful parishioners and friends!*

CURSILLO is all about building long-term Christ-centered relationships with God and others through prayer and a focus on authentic Christian living. For information contact trentoncursillo@gmail.com or 609-396-8447 x14.

OFFERINGS AT FRANCIS HOUSE OF PRAYER, a Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center and Retreat House, 84 Walnford Road in Allentown, NJ 609-877-0509 or FHOP@verizon.net :

END OF THE YEAR RETREAT-

Saturday, Dec. 31 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM Since God gives us life and time and is Lord over all, it seems appropriate to end the year in prayer. Francis House offers time, space and quiet for naming the graces of 2022 and expressing gratitude to God. The day will focus on our goals, hopes and desires for 2023. We reverently say farewell to 2022 and cordially welcome 2023 as a gift from God. Please bring your lunch. Donation: Love Offering

OFF TO A PRAYERFUL START FOCUSING THE NEW YEAR (ZOOM ONLY)-

Tuesday, Jan. 3 7:00 – 8:00 PM Start out 2023 with an evening zoom retreat to set the direction for the year. "Well begun is half done," they say, and establishing a direction is essential for the journey. Where am I going in 2023? What is the desire of my heart, and God's as we begin this year together? Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$15, includes materials.

A CONTEMPLATIVE TELLING OF THE STORY OF MARY & HER SON-

4 Mondays 9:30 – 11:30 AM Jan. 16, Feb. 6, March 6, April 3 Enter the heart of Mary through the contemplative words of John Lynch's spiritual classic, *A Woman Wrapped in Silence*. We will use the second half of this wonderful narrative to help us to go deeper into the humility and strength of the Blessed Mother and her love for her Son and us all. Donation: \$80

THE POWER OF YOUR STORY-

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