

HIS WORD TODAY

by Rev. William J. Reilly

Seventh Sunday of Easter or Ascension of the Lord May 21, 2023

“Then he approached and said to them, ‘All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.’”

The familiar ‘Great Commission’ of Jesus is so familiar and is directed to us personally. As we claim discipleship someone, an instrument of the Lord, carried out His mandate. The summary blessing calling on the creative Father, saving Son and sanctifying Spirit brought us into new life in the Lord.

The directive to the disciples in Galilee is repeated, as we accept our responsibility to be that ‘someone’ making other disciples, celebrating the sacraments with them and spreading the message of salvation, our personal relationship with Jesus Christ. But something has gone wrong. Many of us have failed to enthusiastically do our part to go and make disciples and teach by word and example.

Why are we afraid? Do we forget the promise that He is with us always? Think about the way you can carry out the mandate. How often we are told ‘do not be afraid?’ May we be reminded once again.



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.



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 20, 2023

8:30 am Nicolò Mircovich by Alberta Scrivanich
 8:30 am Gregory John Mazurek by Karen & John Sinisi
 8:30 am Colleen Larkin by the DeGenova Family
 4:30 pm John Sajdak by Scott & Cathy Abercrombie
 4:30 pm Marge Heinrich by Gisele Lewis & Family
 4:30 pm Leola Szlinsky by Jeanne & Jerry Kaplan

Sunday, May 21, 2023

8:00 am For the People of the Parish
 9:30 am Charles Nielsen by his Daughter
 9:30 am Michael Gabler by Bob & Mary Lynn Morris
 9:30 am Marge Heinrich
 by Ronald & Helene Boedart & Family
 10:00 am Sister Mary Guyer by Carol Rizzi
 10:00 am William Garrett by Carol Rizzi
 10:00 am Walter Byscek by Carol Rizzi

Monday, May 22, 2023

7:30 am Grace & Ralph Adams by Carolyn McCreesh
 7:30 am Christine Mutch by Kathleen Donahue
 7:30 am Brian White by Lauren Kennedy

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

7:30 am Lillian A. Goerke by the Honrath Family
 7:30 am Margaret A. Honrath by the Honrath Family
 7:30 am Judith Grady by Patricia Wladich

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

7:30 am Joseph Racioppi, Jr. by his Family
 7:30 am Carol Houlihan Flynn by Evelyn Tuttle
 7:30 am Jerry Dymek by Jim O'Neill & Family

Thursday, May 25, 2023

No Mass

Friday, May 26, 2023

7:30 am Martin Freeman by his Wife, Joanne Freeman
 7:30 am Patricia Brunner by Phil Brunner
 7:30 am Margaret Andersen by Mary & Charles Kavanagh

Saturday, May 27, 2023

8:30 am Catherine Skillman by her Family
 8:30 am The Morhart Family by the Family
 8:30 am Russell Stroupe, Sr. by his Daughter
 4:30 pm Rose & John Cafone, Sr. by their Children
 4:30 pm Richard Avena by his Wife
 4:30 pm Dorothy Devaney by Linda Wynd

Sunday, May 28, 2023

8:00 am Mary & Frank Stankunas by Deacon Gary
 8:00 am Lawrence Redmond by MCW
 8:00 am Jo-Ann Augustine by Scott & Cindy Ernst
 9:30 am For the People of the Parish
 10:00 am John J. Lewis by his Family
 10:00 am Michael Gabler by Kris Duritz & Alyssa Lewis
 10:00 am Ruth & Jack Young by their Family

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED especially Giacomo Ranieri.



especially Doris Abruzzo, Maiya Andrews, Velma Andrews, Peggy Andrich, Vincent Azzollini, Baby Lucy, Bobbie Banks-Grove, Edith Bean, Eileen Beesley, Belle & Ashton, Bernadette Bevan, Stanley Bevan, Joseph Bick, Lois Borton, Holly Boyd, Cathleen Brenner, Borgias Family, Lois Brookes, Karen Brown, Eileen Byrne, Stephen Byrne, Barbara Cabrera, Campbell Family, Sean Campbell, Mary Carstens-Lockenmeyer, Amanda Castro, Andrew Chermak, Albert J. Cifelli, Mark Clarkin, Elizabeth Clos, Christine Coburn, Mary Collins, Mary Conlon, Jimmy Conrey, Rick Constrisciano, Thomas P. Coyle, Linda Custode, Mary Damico, Duane Danish, Lauren Davis, Rose DeMarco, Constance & Hugh Doherty, Frank Dugan, Lisa Dunfee, Thomas Evans, Thomas Fahey, Gail Fallon, Chris Faraca, Joseph Fiamingo, Christine Fields, Steve Ford, Nannette Forkan, Denise Frank, Norma Friel, Mary Anne Gearing, Katherine Geiger, Nicole Giambrone, Sharon Goettle, Johnny Gondek, Baby Kelly Grace, Phillip Graceffa, Julianna Grusso, Angeline Hart, Irene Hayes, Jeanne Hayes, Teresa Hayes, Thomas Hayes Jr, Beverly Heinz, Sandy Heitner, Katie Holbrook, Jimi Hood, Lori Hurd, Baby Cayden Joseph, Gordon Justin, Eugene Karpinski, Jim Kazenmayer, Haley Keating, Marian Keefe, Catherine Kelleher, Robert Kelleher, Regina Kiesche, Bill Koch, Tanner Koch, Bridget Korn, Christopher Kurtanick, William Liao, Barbara Liggett, Elizabeth Ann Linden, Joan Lipscomb, Nick Ljuljana, Frank Lopez, Linda Lowery, Barbara Magda, Ed McCullough, Michael McGonigle, Helen McGowan, Michael McNulty, Claire Meachum, Frank Meidenbauer, Nair Messias, Ronnie Micciulla, Marylee Monsell, Mary Moran, Elizabeth Morgan, Margaret Mullin, Nancy Murphy, Pauline Naturile, Nesbitt Family, Jack Noble, Jennifer Noble, Neil O'Callaghan, Catherine O'Connor, Sue O'Connor, Gerald O'Keefe, Diane Padluck, Wes Pal, Dolores Palmisano, Joanne Panzarella, Joseph Pastore, Charlotte Pentek, Tony Picinich, Mike Pierce, Lisa Pirrello, Marty Pirrong, Samara Pirrong, Timothy Michal Przywara, Vera Raffetto, Windell Rainey, Leanna Rawson, Al Ricciardi, Joel Rivera, Taryn Rotondi, Christina Roundtree, Christian Russo, Donna Schwear, Slotnick Family, Rob & Katie Spawn, Susan Suagee, Norma Summers, Sadie Svenson, Marie Tashjian, Sondra Thompson, Cindy Tomkins, Jim Trischitta, Paul Tuyp, Phyllis Van Salders, Riley Veazey, Dee Vulgaris, Siobhan Vuono, Stephen Whyte, Kathy Wicks, Karen Williams, Marilyn Woerner, Patricia Wolfe, Albert Wood, Butch Wright, Linda Wynd, and Werner Ziesmer.



The Walking with Purpose (WWP) 2022/23 season has come to a close.

Our relationships with Jesus and our sisters-in-Christ have grown so much!

We have committed our hearts to learning and growing in Holy Scripture and we are ready to set the world on fire!

We are so grateful to Father Bill for his continued support of WWP.

WWP is a bible study for all women and we hope you will join us October 2023 for our next WWP Season.

For more information and to register, please go to www.wwpnjshore.com

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.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND & BEYOND— Fr. Todd Carter, Pastor of Holy Innocents Church in Neptune will be the trip Spiritual Advisor for a 10-day round trip to the Holy Land, November 10-19, 2023. Air and land prices start at \$3,890 (per person, per double occupancy), single room (limited in number), \$600 supplement. Reserve your spot with a \$500 deposit ASAP. Final payment must be made by 9/1/23. For more information call the St. Denis Rectory Office at 732-223-0287.

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.

DOWNEY SIDE— Do you want to make a difference in the life of a foster care child? If so, apply to adopt through Downey Side and give foster care children a permanent home. The children are school-age and up. Call 732-359-8434 for more information.



especially Navy Lt. Rachael M. Honrath, Navy LS3 Nora N. Honrath, Army Major Matthew Cauda, Navy LL. Edward P. Windas, USMC 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, 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 ENS Michael Zimmerman, Air Force 2nd Lt. Jason Trischitta, US Army 2nd Lt. Allison M. Ingraham, PFC Joseph J. Foley, Jr. USMC, Airman Andrew Halmi, Sgt. Jordan Basile USMC, PFC Neil Horenburg USMC, US Army Airborne Private Zachary Hoyle, Army 2nd Lieutenant Brendan Ertle, USMC Corporal Patrick Bednarski, and USMC Private Robert E. Mullin IV.



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

Kaia Breeze Cronin
Gabrielle Mae Croson
Kennedy Lillian Maguire
Maeve Carmela McGuire
Joelle Susan O'Donnell
Amelia Jean Raffetto

May the grace of the sacrament remain with them always.

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.

ST. PETER SCHOOL IN PT. PLEASANT BEACH OFFERS ENHANCED WORKING FAMILY FRIENDLY PRE-K PROGRAM— St. Peter School's high quality, well-rounded Pre-K programs focus on early learning skills in a Christ-centered, loving, nurturing environment. *Pre-K and Pre-K 4: 5 full-day options and part-time options depending on family needs *Family affordable (compare and you'll see!) * Focused on Kindergarten readiness * Integrated with award winning K-8 St. Peter School Academics (Blue Ribbon School of Excellence 2016 & New Jersey School of Character 2020) *STREAM Pilot School *Little Saints Athletic Program *Same convenient drop off and pick up times as St. Peter School. For more information visit stpschool.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.

ONLINE GIVING— To help support our parish more easily we offer online giving! For information or to sign up, go to our parish Website www.churchofstdenis.org and click on "Online Giving".



May 14, 2023

Weekly Collection- \$10,654.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT takes place First Fridays, from noon to 1 pm in the church. We look forward to the beautiful prayer of presence with our Lord.

CELEBRATING THE EASTER SEASON ON OUR WAY TO PENTECOST- Join us these upcoming weeks as we explore the theology of the sacraments and discern our spiritual gifts and callings and think more deeply about the relationship we have with Jesus. "The fifty days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday are celebrated in joy and exultation as one feast day, indeed as one "great Sunday". These are the days above all others in which the *Alleluia* is sung." (USCCB)

Below are our Easter Season Parish Adult Faith Opportunities and Services

Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Service (Ecumenical)

St. Denis Church (1Hour) Monday May 22 11 am and 7pm

Lessons from St. Rita's Life :Vocations of Marriage, single life and Religious life Tuesday May 23rd 11am and 7pm at the Parish Center (St Denis School) (1) hour

Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit- (1) hour at the Parish Center (St. Denis School) Wednesday, May 24th 11am and 7 PM

SACRED TRIBUTE- A musical sharing of gratitude benefit by the African Mission Caritas Chamber Chorale, directed by Barbara Sanderman, will present two concerts of sacred *a cappella* choral music, entitled *Sacred Tribute*, for the benefit of Adorno Fathers' African Mission. Through the music, *Sacred Tribute* offers thanks to God and to all who make it possible for Caritas to support the African Mission. A diverse selection of choral music will provide a feast for the ears. The concert will be presented Sunday, May 21, 2023, at 4 pm at St. Catharine Church, 215 Essex Ave., Spring Lake. The concert is free and open to the public. The entirety of a freewill offering will benefit the Adorno Fathers' African Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa. Caritas Chamber Chorale is dedicated to serving the poorest of the poor through the art of sacred music. For more information, please visit www.caritaschamberchorale.org or call 732.718.0775.

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.



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

This week's needed items: boxed milk (like Parmalat), boxed instant white rice (small size), canned Spam, baked beans, Ramen noodles, tissues & paper towels.

Donations can be dropped off at the shopping cart in the gathering space of the church. For monetary donations please make checks payable to: SVDP/St. Denis Conference. On the memo line please write: "Food Pantry". Thank you!



WEEK OF MAY 21, 2023
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JOHN BEYERSDORF
REQUESTED BY HIS WIFE

REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM 2023-24- All new students entering the 1st grade this Fall and all returning students must complete a new registration form each year in order to keep our records up to date. New students must provide a Baptismal certificate. All transfer students from other religious education programs should also include a copy of the Baptismal certificate, proof of any sacraments received, if not at St. Denis, and a letter or progress report showing what level has been completed to date. Download the form from the St. Denis Church website <http://www.churchofstdenis.org/> under the Religious Ed tab. If you require any further information regarding the Religious Education program, please do not hesitate to contact the Religious Ed office at (732) 223-1161 or email: office@stdeniscdd.com We thank you for your interest in choosing to further your child's Faith Formation at St. Denis Parish.

"THE CHOSEN" SEASON THREE DISCUSSION- We will continue our discussion on Season Three of "The Chosen" on the following Wednesdays: May 31; June 7, 14 and 21. We will meet at 11 am in the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church meeting room and we will also meet at 7 pm in the St. Denis cafeteria. So, choose the time that is best for you and watch the episode before you attend a discussion of the show and its impact on us.

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.

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



The Gospels often ask us to have faith in God and that He will help us to know the right path to take. In choosing a path to help, He does not ask us about ability but only our *availability*; and, if we prove our dependability, He will increase our *capability* to do good. God often doesn't call the "most qualified", He qualifies the "called".

The volunteers of St. Vincent de Paul, who come from many diverse backgrounds, know only so well how true this is.

To learn more about helping those in need, come to the Society's next meeting on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 7 pm in the Parish Center.

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



FREE FAMILY BREAKFAST– On Sunday, May 21st, from 8:30 am to 11:00 am, the Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a free family breakfast. The breakfast will be held in the St. Denis Parish cafeteria. The menu will consist of pancakes, eggs, fruit, juice, coffee or tea. All are invited.

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.

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

A NIGHT OF MERCY AND HEALING- WHEN: Thursday June 8th 7 pm WHERE: St. Pio of Pietrelcina Chapel 103 Washington Ave. Lavallette WHO: Our Celebrant is Fr. Jay Chacko; prayer teams are NJ Campus graduates/students of Encounter School of Ministry. Come join us for a Mass with healing prayers. All are welcome! CONTACT: Dawn-Rusinko@yahoo.com for more information.

KATERI DAY CAMP- Make a difference in the life of a local child this summer. For over forty-six years, The Sisters of the Good Shepherd have provided low-income Monmouth County children with a safe, enriching summer at Kateri Day Camp. You can help a child this summer!

Key components that make our camp valuable are:

- Full-day camp for 7 weeks allows parents to work and know their child is safe
- We provide transportation, breakfast, lunch, and snack to each child
- Each child receives daily swimming lessons and literacy
- Each child can take home as many books as they enjoy reading

Your donation will have an impact on a child's life.

\$80 = one day of camp • \$400 = one week of camp • \$2,800 = full seven weeks of camp

Get some friends together and sponsor a local kid at camp!

Visit www.collieryouthservices.org/camp to donate online or mail your contribution to: Collier Youth Services *Campership Appeal* P.O. Box 300 Wickatunk, NJ 07765-0300

A CELEBRATION OF COLLIER– You are cordially invited to an evening to celebrate Collier Youth Services and their work to empower youth with belonging, dignity, and hope. The celebration will take place at Spring Lake Golf Club, 901 Warren Ave. in Spring Lake on Thursday, June 8, 2023, 6:00-9:00 pm. Casual elegant attire is required. No denim permitted. Visit Collier23.givesmart.com for all the ways you can participate.

COLLIER 50/50 RAFFLE- Enter to win a 50/50 raffle to help support Collier Youth Services' programs for at-risk youth. The winner will receive 50% of the amount received for all tickets sold. Tickets are \$50. You must be 18 years old to purchase tickets. The winner does not need to be present to win. The drawing will be held on June 8, 2023 at 8:30 pm during the Celebration of Collier at the Spring Lake Golf Club. For more ways to support the Celebration of Collier, visit Collier23.givesmart.com. For more information or questions visit events@collieryouthservices.org.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER BILL

Happy Feast of the Ascension of our Lord. In this part of the country, until last year, this feast of the Lord was celebrated on a Thursday, nine days before the Feast of Pentecost. Last year, the Bishops of New Jersey chose to “transfer” the feast to the Sunday following that Thursday. So now we celebrate the Ascension the week before Pentecost. We celebrate the Ascension of our Lord and recall his command to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Feasts of Easter, Ascension and Pentecost are parallel to, and supersede the major events of the Exodus. Jesus fulfills the Old Covenant and gives us the New and Everlasting Covenant. Easter is the New Passover, with Jesus as the Paschal Lamb – giving us the Eucharist, His Body and Blood, His Life and Sacrifice on the Cross in order for us to Passover from death to eternal life. The Ascension, which happened 40 days after Easter, parallels Moses going up the mountain and being there for 40 days. Pentecost, meaning 50, parallels the 50th day after Passover, when Moses received the Ten Commandments; for us, Pentecost is the coming of the Holy Spirit to remind us of Jesus' commandment to love God with all our hearts, and love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

The Holy Spirit did come upon our teens this past Friday as they experienced the Pentecost event at their Confirmation. Join me in congratulating these young men and women in their receiving their Confirmation. May they choose to remain open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit each and every day and so give God glory doing their part to bring about the coming of the Kingdom by using their gifts and talents and witnessing to their Faith, Hope and Love.

I also ask that you join me in thanking the religious education staff and the many volunteers who share their faith with the children of the parish. The religious education program is the largest program we have and involves an enormous amount of effort and dedication. This effort is given, unfortunately, in the face of actual opposition from many parents and students who create difficulties for the staff and volunteers. I am thankful for the witness to the perseverance and faith given by the volunteers and staff as they continue to minister to our children.

We are in the midst of the Thy Kingdom Come Novena. Please pray, by name, for people to come to know Jesus who have never known him before and also pray for those who do not practice their faith, that they may be moved by the Holy Spirit and value the greatest gift ever given – Our Lord, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself to us in the Most Holy Eucharist. I ask that we all pray until Pentecost and reflect on the Holy Spirit in our own lives. Come Holy Spirit and renew all of our hearts. Amen.

HARBOR HOUSE, A SAFE HAVEN FOR YOUTH- If you know of any youth between the ages of 10-21 who is homeless and/or in crisis, call the Hotline at 732-929-0660.

OUR PROMISE TO PROTECT

The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the Diocesan Abuse Hotline: **888-296-2965**

**CONGRATULATIONS AND BLESSINGS TO
THE FOLLOWING YOUNG ADULTS WHO RECENTLY RECEIVED
THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION IN OUR PARISH:**



Ava “*Rose*” Agnese
Robert “*Sebastian*” Balioni
Lucas “*Sebastian*” Bonner
Timothy “*Francis*” Brophy
Quinn “*Paulina*” Butler
Gavin “*Michael*” Carew
Saverio “*Francis*” Chiarella
Michael “*Nicholas*” D’Alessio, Jr.
Aiden “*Sebastian*” DelSalto
Nicholas “*Christopher*” DeMarco
Elizabeth “*Giulia*” Doviak
Zachary “*Jude*” Esdaile
Cecilia “*Cecilia*” Esquieres
Doyle “*Walter*” Fagen
Kevin “*Kilian*” Fallon
Morgan “*Jane*” Feeney
Colin “*Paul*” Fell
Michael “*Andrew*” Femenella
Timothy “*George*” Fischer
Paige “*Gianna*” Franklin
Carolyn “*Margaret*” Glassberg

Mairead “*Maria*” Gonzalez
Rose “*Therese*” Healey
Mackenzie “*Rose*” Heim
Lucia “*Elizabeth*” Holt
Ella “*Veronica*” Jackwicz
Kelsey “*Brigid*” Kalemba
Matthew “*Thomas*” Kutcher
Nicholas “*Dante*” Kutcher
Ava “*Elizabeth*” LaMonica
Siena “*Sophia*” Leonard
Cameron “*Catherine*” Linstra
Ryan “*Charles*” Lovasz
Ryleigh “*Catherine*” Luethold
Roree “*Elizabeth*” MacDonald
Luke “*Michael*” Maddalone
Emily “*Christina*” Manzo
Carina “*Dorothea*” Martell
Casey “*Marie*” Martignoni
Christopher “*James*” Matthaei
Blake “*Joseph*” McCowan
Stella “*Abigail*” Mechler

Kayla “*Abigail*” Moretti
Faith “*Lucy*” Nawolski
Magnus “*Charles*” Nielsen
Nicholas “*Alphonsus*” Nolfi
Shane “*Michael*” O’Boyle
Addison “*Anne*” Panikiewsky
Lianna “*Rosalia*” Pennisi
Keira “*Anne*” Perillo
Patrick “*Christopher*” Priest
Brianna “*Anne*” Quigley
Andrew “*Michael*” Racioppi
Gabriella “*Philomena*” Restivo
Ryan “*Vincent*” Salvatoriello
Joseph “*Alberic*” Sedutto
Sydney “*Joan*” Szatkowski
Findleigh “*Gemma*” Tuite
Addyson “*Isabelle*” Vallio
Caroline “*Flora*” Watson
Benjamin “*Anthony*” White
Emmitt “*Andrew*” Whiting
Abigail “*Elizabeth*” Ziroli

Thank you to their catechists, aides, sponsors and parents for preparing them to receive this sacred sacrament.



BISHOP’S ANNIVERSARY BLESSING 2023-

All couples celebrating their 1st, 25th or 50+ wedding anniversary during 2023 calendar year are invited to share the Eucharist, reaffirm your sacred wedding vows, and receive Bishop O’Connell’s Episcopal Blessing. Anniversary couples from Ocean and Monmouth Counties may attend the Mass and reception at the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine in Freehold on Sunday, October 8, 2023 at 3 pm. For more information and to register for this event online visit us at www.dioceseoftrenton.org/bishops-anniversary-blessing, or call your local parish office. The registration deadline for all anniversary couples is September 15, 2023.

THE WEDDING SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR CATHOLICS-

Do you know someone who is recently engaged or seriously dating? *The Wedding Survival Guide for Catholics*, a joint publication of the Diocese of Trenton and Stress-Gone Publishing, is an essential guidebook for Catholic parents, grandparents, engaged couples and all who treasure the beauty and sacredness of Catholic weddings. This book covers every aspect of wedding and reception planning, offering a vision for Catholic marriage like no other while minimizing stress and maximizing effective communication and family harmony. Get your free copy from your parish while supplies last, or from Amazon (\$17.95) <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BM99FV2R>.

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!



OFFERINGS AT FRANCIS HOUSE OF PRAYER,

a Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center and Retreat House, 84 Walnford Road, Allentown, NJ or FHOP@verizon.net: Please check www.FHOP.org for dates, registration, directions and for our other offerings! All programs will be offered online and in-person unless otherwise indicated.

GIFTED BY THE SPIRIT- Friday, 5/26/23 9:30 am-12 pm

Christmas has been over for quite some time, but still there are gifts to be opened! As we celebrate the feast of Pentecost, prepare yourself to receive a gift which will fit you perfectly! Will it be: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Reverence, Wonder and Awe? Come and See! Led by Sister Marie. Donation: \$20

MAGNIFY GOD’S LOVE- ZOOM ONLY Wednesday, 5/31/23 7–8 PM

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Visitation and Mary has a powerful spiritual lesson to teach us. This young girl has a precarious road ahead of her. Amid her ordeal, she doesn’t complain. She doesn’t cry. She doesn’t panic. She simply allows her soul to proclaim the greatness of her Lord. No one of us has a perfect life, but tonight, let us join with one another in prayer and together proclaim the greatness of our Lord. Led by Sister Marie. Donation: \$10.

ANNUAL CLEANING PARTY- Tuesday, 5/30/23

9 am–12 pm or 1–3 pm Please come and help us clean Francis House. Bring your favorite cleaning supplies. Please choose a shift that is convenient for you and call with your choice (609-877-0509). Actually, it is fun! Thanks so much. Breakfast & lunch provided.



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