

## HIS WORD TODAY

by Rev. William J. Reilly

**Thirty-second Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
November 12, 2023**

“Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us.’ But he said in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you. Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.’”

During this month when we celebrate the saints and commemorate the holy souls, it is time for us to look at our own spiritual lives and our journey. We often ‘put off until tomorrow’, what should be done today. How true that we listen closely to the parable of Jesus and apply it to our own lives, where we stand at this precise moment. When we remember the past we express our gratitude and also ask forgiveness. Yesterday is over. Tomorrow may never come for some of us, so don’t wait.

We live in the present ‘and if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God through Jesus bring with Him those who have fallen asleep.’ May we answer the question ‘am I ready now?’

Clip this paragraph and bring it with you to church, and ask the Lord for forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Clip this paragraph and give it to someone for whom you are concerned and encourage them to act. Today, don’t delay.



# 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](http://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, November 11, 2023

- 8:30 am James Lewis by his Wife & Family  
 8:30 am Carrie Forsythe-Mace by Cindy & Scott Ernst  
 8:30 am Mary & Julius Parsick by Rosemary Esposito  
 4:30 pm Patricia Brunner by Phil Brunner  
 4:30 pm Michael Gabler by the Hendricks Family  
 4:30 pm Gabrielle Noa Abbate by the Deane Family

### Sunday, November 12, 2023

- 8:00 am For the People of the Parish  
 9:30 am Patrick Campbell by his Family  
 9:30 am Charles Nielsen by his Daughter  
 9:30 am Edward F. Rogers by the DeGenova Family  
 10:00 am David Vivino by Eileen & Jim Rochford  
 10:00 am Joan Harriman by Mary Maes Plaine & Family  
 10:00 am John J. Liskowitz by Cindy & Scott Ernst

### Monday, November 13, 2023

- 7:30 am Viola & Joseph Ziella by Michele & Jim  
 7:30 am Mary Louise Donohue by the Leonard Family  
 7:30 am Peter A. DeLuise by Maryann Crowe

### Tuesday, November 14, 2023

- 7:30 am A Special Intention by Tom & Kerry O'Connor  
 7:30 am Patricia Brunner by Mike Brunner  
 7:30 am Kenneth Massicotte by Larry Walton

### Wednesday, November 15, 2023

- 7:30 am The Sarullo, Bugliaro, Burke & Schellar Families  
 by the Bugliaro Children  
 7:30 am Mary Bussanich by Betty Scrivanich  
 7:30 am Maura Kennedy by Carol Rizzi

### Thursday, November 16, 2023

No Mass

### Friday, November 17, 2023

- 7:30 am Ann & Rocco Zito  
 by Luann & John Quigley & Family  
 7:30 am John Bussanich by Betty Scrivanich  
 7:30 am Steven M. Erb by Andie Hansley

### Saturday, November 18, 2023

- 8:30 am Christopher "CJ" Holowach  
 by Lois & Denis Campbell  
 8:30 am Robert Brennan by Tom & Geri Bleach  
 8:30 am William Kelly by Kevin & Linda Orender  
 4:30 pm Norah Bruther by her Family  
 4:30 pm Lucille Setteducati by the Deane Family  
 4:30 pm Margaret Johnston by the Deane Family

### Sunday, November 19, 2023

- 8:00 am John Bishop by Jackie Lyons  
 8:00 am Robert Perry by the Easton Family  
 8:00 am Linda Donovan by the Easton Family  
 9:30 am For the People of the Parish  
 10:00 am Sheila Crawford by her Family  
 10:00 am Kevin Walsh by Carol Rizzi  
 10:00 am Joan Harriman by the Sheehan 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 Anthony Majeski.



especially Doris Abruzzo, Maiya Andrews, Velma Andrews, Peggy Andrich, Baby Lucy, Bobbie Banks-Grove, Edith Bean, 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, Dule Campbell, Sean Campbell, Mary Carstens-Lockenmeyer, Amanda Castro, Albert J. Cifelli, Mark Clarkin, Elizabeth Clos, Baby Aubrey Rose Cirinia, Christine Coburn, Mary Collins, Mary Conlon, Jimmy Conrey, Rick Constrisciano, Marge Covey, Thomas P. Coyle, Linda Custode, Mary Damico, Christine Danish, Duane Danish, Lauren Davis, Rose DeMarco, Constance & Hugh Doherty, Lisa Dunfee, Thomas Evans, Thomas Fahey, Gail Fallon, Chris Faraca, Joseph Fiamingo, Christine Fields Nannette Forkan, Denise Frank, Norma Friel, Barbara Gearing, 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, Shawn Herenburg, Katie Holbrook, Jimi Hood, Lori Hurd, Baby Cayden Joseph, Gordon Justin, Eugene Karpinski, Jim Kazenmayer, Haley Keating, Marian Keefe, Catherine Kelleher, Robert Kelleher, Kathleen Kelly, Regina Kiesche, Bill Koch, Celina Koch, Bridget Korn, Christopher Kurtanick, William Liao, Barbara Liggett, Elizabeth Ann Linden, Joan Lipscomb, Nick Ljuljana, Frank Lopez, Linda Lowery, Barbara Magda, Linda Matthews, Douglas McCartney, Ed McCullough, Michael McGonigle, Helen McGowan, Michael McNulty, Claire Meachum, Frank Meidenbauer, Nair Messias, Ronnie Micciulla, Marylee Monsell, Gloria Moore, Mary Moran, Elizabeth Morgan, Margaret Mullin, Robert Mullin, Nancy Murphy, Pauline Naturile, Nesbitt Family, Jack Noble, Jennifer Noble, Bob O'Brien, Neil O'Callaghan, Catherine O'Connor, Sue O'Connor, Tina O'Donnell, Gerald O'Keeffe, Diane Padluck, Wes Pal, Dolores Palmisano, Joanne Panzarella, Joseph Pastore, Charlotte Pentek, Tony Picinich, Mike Pierce, Mickey Pindar, Lisa Pirrello, Marty Pirrong, Samara Pirrong, Kidron Procyson, Timothy Michal Przywara, Vera Raffetto, Windell Rainey, Leanna Rawson, Al Ricciardi, Marybeth Richards, Joel Rivera, Patricia Rodgers, Taryn Rotondi, Christina Roundtree, Christian Russo, Donna Schwear, Slotnick Family, Katie Spawn, Susan Suagee, Danny Suskevich, Sadie Svenson, Laurie Syby, Marie Tashjian, 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, Eileen Zemo, and Werner Ziesmer.



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

Luca Robert DiOrio  
Kaia Lorraine McArthur  
Quinn Tarbett

May the grace of the sacrament remain with them always.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** takes place First Fridays, from noon to 1 pm, in the church. We look forward to the beautiful prayer of presence with our Lord. All are welcome!

**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.

**JOIN US FOR RCIA**-Do you or someone you know have an interest in becoming Catholic? Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist and wants to change that? We offer an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our Catholic faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of becoming a full member of the Church. For information about becoming Catholic please contact Eileen Ziesmer at (732) 223-0287 or eileenziezmer@gmail.com

**CATHOLIC-LUTHERAN DIALOGUE – REFLECTIONS ON THE SUNDAY READINGS**- Join Pastor Mary Farnham and Father Bill for the next “edition” of the Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue which will be a reflection on the Sunday Readings from our respective traditions, almost all of which are the same. We will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 15, from 11 am-12 noon at Holy Trinity Church Hall and from 7-8 pm at St. Denis Parish Center. We will study the Scripture for the upcoming weekend. It is a great time for reflection on the Gospels and sharing faith and fellowship and a little food with the “food for thought.”



especially Navy Lt. Rachael M. Honrath, Navy LS2 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, USN LTJG 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, US Army Airborne Private Zachary Hoyle, Army 2nd Lieutenant Brendan Ertle, USMC Corporal Patrick Bednarski, USMC 1st Lt. Diego Heinzerling, and USMC Private Robert E. Mullin IV.

**CONFIDENCE THAT LEADS TO LOVE**- Come for a discussion on Pope Francis’ new Apostolic Exhortation on the 150 Anniversary of the birth St. Therese of the Child of Jesus and the Holy Face (The Little Flower) and her Little Way. Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> @ 11am, 4:30 pm & 7 pm, St. Denis Church and Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 pm, St. Denis Church-Eileen Ziesmer

**GOD & GOGGINS FOR WOMEN**- Yes, ladies, it is your turn! Fr. Bill will lead a discussion for women on the main concepts from David Goggins’ books, “Can’t Hurt Me” and “Never Finished” about changing your life with corresponding/illuminative concepts found in the Catholic Faith. Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm, St. Denis Church- Father Bill Lago.

**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.

**CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COLLECTION**- Our second collection next weekend supports the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Currently 38 million people in the United States live in poverty. This collection funds programs that empower local communities to address the challenges they face. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development supports those living in poverty across the country. It identifies and addresses the unique obstacles people face as they work to lift themselves out of poverty. In addition, 25% of the funds we collect remain in our diocese to fund local antipoverty projects. By supporting this collection, you are giving those on the margins a hand up, not a handout. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



**October 29, 2023**

**Weekly Collection-**

**\$8,599.00**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !**



**SAVE THE DATE: ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE-** The Manasquan Ministerium will be holding its annual Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, 19 November at 4:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, 907 4th Avenue, Spring Lake.

Please take the time to join in the prayer of thanksgiving as we reflect on God's goodness to us. This prayer also helps our community grow through the fundamental understanding of Ecumenism – the movement to promote Christian unity and cooperation. Fellowship will follow.

**THANKSGIVING DRIVE – Helping Children in Monmouth County-**

We are hosting a Thanksgiving Drive for children in Monmouth County assisted through DCP&P. Through Nov. 12th we are collecting \$25 Gift Cards for Wawa, Shoprite and Walmart. Why Wawa? There are children/families who are being temporarily housed in motels/hotels and the Wawa gift cards can help those who do not have kitchens available to them. Other children can be helped by those who can buy food from Shoprite and Walmart and prepare that in homes/apartments.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED-** Our Religious Education Program is in need of catechists for an 8th grade class on Sundays, 8-9:15 am, and also a 6th grade class on Mondays, 6:30-7:45 pm. Please call the Religious Education Office at 732-223-1161 if you can be of help.

**SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS- DIVORCED AND SEPARATED—**

St. Leo the Great Parish is pleased to announce that it is offering a "Surviving the Holidays" Seminar in November and December this year that will be offered for anyone who is divorced and/or separated. This year the "Surviving the Holidays" Seminar will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2023 and Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at St. Leo The Great located at 50 Hurleys Lane in Lincroft. Please feel free to attend one or both seminars. Please know that these seminars have been offered since 2014 and they have helped many people. We are lay people that have been through divorce, and we found this program helpful to us. We would like to bring it to you and help you! If interested please email Michele Coppola Wilson at [healfromdivorcetoday@gmail.com](mailto:healfromdivorcetoday@gmail.com).

**HEALING MASS-** All are welcome to join us at The Church of Epiphany, 615 Thiele Road in Brick every third Friday of the month (from September to May) for a Healing Mass. We will begin at 6:45pm in the worship area with Prayer and Reflection. Mass will commence at 7:00 pm, followed by Prayers of Healing and Adoration.



**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:

cooking oil, flour, sugar, & crackers.

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 NOVEMBER 12, 2023  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
RUSSELL HILBERT  
REQUESTED BY HIS WIFE**

**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.

**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 nonprofit 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](http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/holy-innocents-society).

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



In the Gospel, Jesus once asked, "Who are you looking for?" It could be asked, "What are you looking for?" Perhaps it is happiness we seek, but sometimes we are looking for happiness in selfish ways. However, we also find that when we look for ways to make others happy or a bit more secure, it is then that we become truly happy and witness God's love. The Vincentian Society witnesses God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice. The Society collaborates with other people of good will in relieving need and addressing its causes. As you give your gift or your time to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who are suffering, and you give them reason to believe and trust.

If you would like to donate to our ministry, checks can be made payable to "SVDP/St. Denis Conference" and placed in the shopping cart in the gathering space of the Church (envelopes available). At the Beach Chapel, please drop them in the collection basket.

To learn more about helping those in need come to the Society's next meeting on November 16th, at 7pm in the Parish Center.

If you need assistance, please call the St. Vincent de Paul hotline at 732-223-1383.



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 strengthen us to be the women we are called to be. Together we create an authentic community that laughs, learns, grows, and loves one another. *We are so much more than a Bible study!* It's never too late to join us. Offered at St. Denis Parish Center on Tuesdays, 7:30-9pm or Wednesdays, 12:15-2pm (virtual options too!). We don't actually exercise—we "walk" on a faith journey together. For more information and to register visit [www.wwpnjshore.com](http://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.

**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.

**SAVE THE DATE - December 2nd & 3rd- CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS, COURT ST. DENIS ANNUAL PONTSETTIA & WREATH SALE AFTER ALL MASSES.**

**JERSEY SHORE CHORALE CONCERT**—Come hear the Jersey Shore Chorale, a diverse chorale of men & women of all ages, many with professional music backgrounds, performing a wide variety of seasonal classical to traditional song favorites. The Jersey Shore Chorale's exquisite harmonies and a joyful singalong accompanied by a piano, flute, strings and woodwinds will kick off the magic of the Holiday/Christmas season on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 7pm at Greenbriar 1, 1 Darley Circle, Brick OR Sunday, December 3 at 4pm at United Methodist Church, 23 Church St., Manasquan. Tickets sold at the door. Adults: \$15. Seniors: \$10. Students are free. For more information call 732-223-0287.

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**— A Christmas Concert performed by the Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea, conducted by Fr. Alphonse Stephenson, will take place on Friday, 12/22/23, 7 pm (doors open at 6 pm), at St. Peter Church in Point Pleasant. The "Christmas Spectacular" is a program of holiday classics and carols performed flawlessly by a 42-piece orchestra and distinguished vocalists. Tickets are \$50. There is no reserved seating...first come, first served. For questions contact [bonz-rep@comcast.net](mailto:bonz-rep@comcast.net) or [office@saintpeteronline.org](mailto:office@saintpeteronline.org). Get your tickets early, this event will sell out.

**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!

### **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**

### **A MESSAGE FROM FATHER BILL**

We took part in the diocesan "October Count", where we gather data for attendance at Masses. Our parish has about 1,000 people each week attend across the four Sunday Masses. Attendance at both the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. is about 220 people. And about 280 people attend either the 4:30 p.m. or 9:30 a.m. Masses. In 2022 we averaged 860 people in total attendance and in 2021 there were 760 parishioners. So, the good news is that more people are actively participating in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. (It is right and just to give thanks to the Lord our God!) As the Pope and others continue the Synod conversations, we all know that it is the experience of participating at Mass that is the grounding of our community. "We are the Body of Christ when we receive the Body of Christ" as one theologian said.

It is November, Fr. Bill, why tell us of the October count? Because everyone counts! As we look forward to all that will be happening at the parish over the next several weeks, I need you, the active participant, to invite others to come and take part in our celebration of Mass and all the other things we offer to participate in and be enriched by. It is through engaging with the community that the community will thrive and synergistically, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, more will happen in our lives than we could know.

Next Sunday is the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. This year is will be held on Sunday, 19 November at 4:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, in Spring Lake. We finish up with the Thanksgiving Gift Card Drive on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup>. I will be offering a "Lady's Night – God and David Goggins" discussion on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the parish center. We will soon be publishing our "What are you doing for Advent this year?" list of Advent happenings at the parish. So please invite people, read the bulletin and check out the calendar for the parish on our website and see what else is going on. I am counting on you to invite people to be part of our parish for their well-being. Knowing that through the experience of parish we know we can truly count on God to be with us on our journey of faith.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.catholiccharitiestrenton.org). or call 800-360-7711.



**FRANCIS HOUSE OF PRAYER** is a Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center and Retreat House located at 84 Walnford Road, Allentown, NJ. Please check [www.FHOP.org](http://www.FHOP.org) for dates, registration, directions and for our other offerings! All programs will be offered online and in-person unless otherwise indicated.

Upcoming Offerings:

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION-** Spiritual Direction is a monthly one on one conversation about your life with God. With the accompaniment of a spiritual director, you learn to deepen and enjoy your relationship with God, and to be more aware of God's presence and action in all the events of your life. Call (609) 877-0509 to make an appointment. Donation: Love Offering.

**THE REED OF GOD** 4 Mondays 9:30 – 11:00 am  
Nov. 20 & 27 Dec. 11 & 18 Our Blessed Mother became God's divine instrument because, like a reed in a musical instrument, she allowed God to breathe God's Spirit into her being. God offers each of us the same breath of life. Join us as we contemplate the classic book, *The Reed of God* and learn from Mary our way of giving voice to God's Divinity. Led by S. Marie. Donation: \$60

**ADVENT RETREAT DAY** Monday, Nov. 27 9:30 am – 1 pm  
We will travel through Advent this year with *Preparing for Christmas*, by Richard Rohr and Henri Nouwen's *Advent and Christmas*. Both books will be available. They are perfect companions for this busy and stressful season. Again, we begin this holy season together doing what we can to make it more peaceful and prayerful. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$35, includes lunch and one book. Zoom: \$20

**IN-PERSON ONLY WE ALL LOVE SCROOGE**  
Friday, Dec.1 9:30 am – 1:00 pm The old familiar *Christmas Carol*, is ever ancient, ever new! What does the story say to me now? We will view the film, share its message, and enjoy a fabulous lunch. What a great Advent morning as we prepare to be generous givers this season (unlike Scrooge). This will be fun and remarkably impactful for your Advent Season. Led by Judy Principe. Donation: \$25, lunch included.

**SILENT DIRECTED RETREAT WEEKENDS**  
7 pm Friday to 1 pm Sunday Dec. 15 – 17 Jan. 19 – 21  
March 15 – 17 Please register early. These weekend retreats fill quickly. Donation: \$175/\$75 non-refundable deposit with registration.

**CENTERING PRAYER WEEKEND RETREAT**  
7 pm Friday – 1 pm Sunday Feb. 23 – 25  
A Centering Prayer weekend provides the time, space and discipline needed to experience the inner stillness which occurs when given the opportunity for frequent Centering Prayer periods alone and in common. Commuters are welcome, all meals included. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$175/\$75 non-refundable deposit with registration.

**BE BORN IN ME- MAKE MY HEART YOUR BETHLEHEM**  
Tuesday, Dec. 5 9:30 AM – 1 PM This retreat morning will allow you the time and space to celebrate Christmas spiritually, as most of us do not have that opportunity on the day itself. Spending this time with God makes a huge difference in the final days before Christmas, as you continue your preparation for the feast and will enhance your entire Christmas Season. *"I'll hold you in the beginning, you will hold me in the end. Every moment in the middle, make my heart your Bethlehem. Be Born in Me."* (Battistelli) Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$25, lunch included. Zoom: \$20.

**RECOVERY CORNER**



**Monday 7PM** "SMART Recovery for Family and Friends"...Education and support using current concepts and a workbook, continuously cycling through the year. Right things, not wrong things. Presently just virtual on Zoom.

**Thursday 7PM** "Life Recovery Bible Study"...The 12 steps of Anonymous Recovery framed in their origin in holy scripture along with corollary readings. An education and support program featuring scripture and workbook assistance to enlighten and empower those seeking recovery from substance or behaviors. Presently just virtual on Zoom. Call the rectory office for more information.

**Thursday 10AM** "Life Recovery Bible Study"...Same as above but specializing in corollary readings from the 12 Gifts, the 12 Laws, the 12 Missteps of recovery and other corollary readings. Presently just virtual on Zoom. Call the rectory office for more information. Life Recovery Bible Weekly Podcasts by City of Angels Recovery Radio-

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=st.shoutca.sh.coanj>  
Download this app to listen to Life Recovery Bible podcasts. New ones can be heard each Sunday at 10AM and 10PM. There is a library of older podcasts. Please share with friends in recovery or anyone who may want to listen.

**COAT DRIVE-** St. Mark's Church in Sea Girt is collecting winter clothing items for its annual coat drive. The church is asking for new or very gently used winter coats, hats, gloves, boots and sweaters in adult, teen and child sizes. Drop off is now through November 19th at St. Mark's Church basement (near the elevator), located at 215 Crescent Parkway.

**DONOVAN CATHOLIC PRESENTS "OUR TOWN"-** The Performing Arts Department at Donovan Catholic presents its fall production, "Our Town". Show Times are as follows: November 17, 2023 at 7 pm, November 18, 2023 at 7 pm, November 19, 2023 at 2 pm. All tickets are \$17. Only tickets that are paid for will be held at the door. Tickets are non-refundable and not transferable. The school is located at 711 Hooper Ave. in Toms River. Order your tickets online at [www.DonovanCatholic.org](http://www.DonovanCatholic.org)

**SSJ ANNUAL CHANCE DRIVE TO BENEFIT SAINT JOSEPH VILLA-** Please help us make this year's Chance Drive especially successful by getting your ticket online. Turn \$5 in \$10,000-6 ways to win. Grand prize- \$10,000 also 5 prizes of \$500 each. Donation-\$5.00 each or \$20.00 for a book of 5 chances. Visit the Chance Drive page on the Sisters of Saint Joseph website at [www.ssjpghila.org](http://www.ssjpghila.org) Winners will be drawn on December 7, 2023. For additional information, contact any Sister of Saint Joseph or the Development Office at 800-482-6510 and [Developmentofssjpghila.org](mailto:Developmentofssjpghila.org)

**CATHOLIC RADIO-** If you are a listener of Domestic Church Media: WFJS 1260 AM-WGYM 1580 AM and WSMJ 91.9 FM-89.3 FM beware of the fact they are having financial problems and we could lose Catholic Radio. Because daily listeners would be very lonely and uninformed of Catholic news, we need Catholic Radio. To keep them on the air you can send any size donation to: Domestic Church Media P.O. Box 7509 Trenton, NJ 08628 For more info visit: [www.DomesticChurchMedia.org](http://www.DomesticChurchMedia.org)



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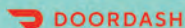


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