

HIS WORD TODAY

by Rev. William J. Reilly

Thirty-third Sunday in
Ordinary Time
November 19, 2023

“Immediately the one who received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole and buried his master's money. Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given... but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”

God has endowed us with a variety of gifts or as the word of the gospel state, talents. Some have more, others less, but in the eyes of God He wants us to acknowledge them and use them well.

Two words which come to mind, both for the church, its leaders and politicians as well are transparency and accountability. But these are words which apply to our own Christian lives. What gifts I have been given, and go unused? How many people are in need of my hands and heart asking, without knowing it, that I share my gift with them? It may be the virtue of kindness, compassion, material or physical needs, but they are mine to give as I make Jesus' love present to them. I do not want to bury the one thing someone else needs. What is it that I have to give to the Lord through them?



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.

THIS WEEK'S
MASS
INTENTIONS

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

Monday, November 20, 2023

- 7:30 am Jack Kolon by his Mother, Kay Kolon
7:30 am Gertrude Simmet by her Family
7:30 am Dr. Donald R. & Mary Lintner by the Family

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

- 7:30 am Mary Ann Schachter by her Godmother, JoAnn
7:30 am William Bertscha by Lynn & Billy Bertscha
7:30 am Marilyn Bialas by Gene

Wednesday, November 22, 2023

- 7:30 am William Lago by his Family
7:30 am William Pavincich by his Family
7:30 am Deceased Priests of the Diocese of Trenton

Thursday, November 23, 2023 Thanksgiving

No Mass

Friday, November 24, 2023

No Mass

Saturday, November 25, 2023

- 8:30 am Kathleen & Doug Mitchell by the Family
8:30 am James Larkin by Tom & Geri Bleach
8:30 am Patricia Ann MacGillis by Bill & Jeanne Buble
4:30 pm Joan Harriman by June Cunningham
4:30 pm Judith E. Grady by Sean & Mary Ellen Boyle
4:30 pm Elmer Schmieder by Mr. & Mrs. Tom Heavey

Sunday, November 26, 2023

- 8:00 am Brenda D'Angelo
by Barbara Roche & Lou Nieves
8:00 am Ted Costantino by Marlene & Michael Martin
8:00 am Noel O'Connell by Mark & Martina Fox
9:30 am Marge Heinrich
by Ronald & Helene Boedart & Family
9:30 am Courtney Nerenberg
by Denise McDonald & Robert Drury
9:30 am Virginia DeGregorio by the Campisi Family
10:00 am For the People of the Parish

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 Mary Ann Dillon, Elizabeth Reilly and Mary Burne.



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 Giambone, 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, Patricia O'Leary, Gerald O'Keefe, 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.



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!

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 27th @ 7:00 pm, Parish Center- Father Bill Lago.

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 eileenziesmer@gmail.com

A GATHERING OF WOMEN SEEKING A PEACEFUL AND SPIRITUAL APPROACH TO CHRISTMAS- A Women's Community Christmas Program will take place on Tuesday, December 5th at Manasquan Presbyterian Church, 16 Virginia Ave. The program will begin at 11:30 am, with a light luncheon to follow. The guest speaker will be Sister Monica Clare, Sister Superior, of the Sisters of St. John the Baptist in Mendham, NJ. All women are invited to attend.



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.

ST. DENIS GIVING TREE-The Giving Tree, the Christian symbol of unconditional and selfless love, is once again displayed at St. Denis to help the less fortunate celebrate Christmas. Our Giving Tree will be in the Gathering Space of the Church, as well as at the Beach Chapel, now through December 3. We ask that those willing and able take a tag from the Giving Tree and purchase the suggested gift. Kindly return the unwrapped gift, together with the tag taped on it, the weekend of December 9 & 10. We truly appreciate your tremendous support as do the worthy charities and families benefitting from the Giving Tree.



FAITH AND BLUE TOY DRIVE CHRISTMAS EVENT!- Save the Date: Sunday, 9 Dec. from noon to 3 pm in the parking lot! Join the fun and help make a child's Christmas special! St. Denis is hosting our 2nd annual "Faith and Blue" Toy Drive to benefit children assisted

through the Monmouth County Division of Child Protection and Permanence as well as the children of military families assisted through the Angel Program of NJ. We will have a great community event on the drop-off day with music, Santa and the PBA trailer filled with hot chocolate and treats. Drop on by to meet members of the Sea Girt and Manasquan Police Departments and ministers of the Manasquan Ministerium who will be gratefully accepting your donation of toys and having a chance to build community bridges and spreading holiday cheer. It is a unique opportunity

POINSETTIA & WREATH SALE-The Catholic Daughters will hold their annual Poinsettia & Wreath Sale on the weekend of December 2nd & 3rd after all Masses. Beautiful 12"-15" Poinsettias with 6-8 blooms (still only \$10) and lovely decorated live wreaths (\$30) will be for sale. Order forms will be included in next week's bulletin. Pre-ordering is strongly encouraged. Proceeds from the sale will be used to support the CDA's many charitable endeavors and scholarships. Thank you for your support!

YOU ARE INVITED TO WALK WITH MARY ON HER WAY TO BETHLEHEM- From her "Yes" response to God's messenger in Nazareth, to her visit with her cousin Elizabeth in Jerusalem, to those days journeying to Bethlehem before giving birth to her baby boy, Mary's story is one of faith, of love, and of hope. All are welcome to join her on her journey. Come... Walk and pray with Mary as she waits in expectation, knowing her world and our world would never be the same.... Monday, December 4, 11 am & 7 pm in St. Denis Church.



November 5, 2023

Weekly Collection-

\$11,145.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !

PARISH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

The rectory office will be open Monday and Tuesday only this week. Morning Mass is at 7:30 am on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday only. Nothing is scheduled at the parish on Thursday and Friday. Our regular parish schedule resumes Saturday, Nov. 25th.
Happy Thanksgiving!



**WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19, 2023
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MARILYN BIALAS
REQUESTED BY HER FAMILY**

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE- The Manasquan Ministerium will be holding its annual Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, 19 November at 4:00 pm 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.

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.

ESL NEEDS YOU! When you help someone to learn to speak English, you change a life. Join other volunteers at the English As A Second Language (ESL) program on Sundays before the Spanish Mass at St. Mark’s in Sea Girt. Experienced tutors can guide you. For more information please email Peggy Mahoney at margaretmahoney726@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.

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:

coffee and apple juice.

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!

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 trentonkursillo@gmail.com or 609-396-8447 x14.

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

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!

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



“I am the good shepherd... I know mine and mine know me” says Jesus in the Gospel. The Good Shepherd is concerned about, cares for and protects the sheep, and fulfills the obligation of relationship. The relationship requires us disciples to “lay down our lives”.

Shepherding is serious business. It means that we cannot run away, but rather commit ourselves to good deeds, such as caring for the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the poor, forgiving those who wrong us and loving others as God loves us. These good deeds are the very “stuff” of our everyday living and loving-in our families and in our service to the poor.

To those served, Vincentians are expected to give the same deep and serious thought that they give to their own families. Sharing does not consist merely in the distribution of material goods; it also implies that our personal resources and potential of mind and heart and time and influence, are placed at the service of others. Sharing means taking part in the joys and sorrows, and in the worries and hopes of others. It equally involves a readiness, on the part of the Society’s members to accept help, suggestions, advice, encouragement and collaboration.

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 January 19, 2024 at 7 pm 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

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 50/50 RAFFLE TICKET SALE- At all Masses on November 25th and 26th the Knights of Columbus will be selling 50/50 raffle tickets. The drawing is on December 2nd. In concert with this we will be holding our membership drive. Last year's winner was from St. Denis. Thank you in advance for your support.

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.

2023 MONMOUTH COUNTY SIMBANG GABI- Inherited by the Filipinos from the Spaniards, the Simbang Gabi (Night Mass) is a Catholic devotion of offering a Mass each night for nine consecutive days in joyful anticipation of Christmas Day. All are welcome to this festive Novena of Masses. Each night consists of 6:30 pm Rosary, Confessions, Eucharistic Adoration, and 7:00 pm Mass. The following churches are participating:

Tuesday, December 12, at Saint James, Red Bank
Wednesday, December 13, at Saint Ann, Keansburg
Thursday, December 14, at Saint Catherine, Farmingdale
Friday, December 15, at Holy Innocents, Neptune
Saturday, December 16, at Holy Family, Union Beach
Sunday, December 17, at Saint Dorothea, Eatontown
Monday, December 18, at Saint Benedict, Holmdel
Tuesday, December 19, at Saint Clement, Matawan
Wednesday, December 20, at Saint Mary, Middletown

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

God Bless you this Thanksgiving. The world is so unsettled and it is a difficult time for so many people (whether concerns in one's personal life or for the greater global community). As Disciples of the Risen Christ, we are called to be a people of faith and hope and thanksgiving – at all times. I often think of the quote from the prophet Habakkuk: "For though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit appears on the vine, though the yield of the olive fails and the terraces produce no nourishment, though the flocks disappear from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, Yet I will rejoice in the LORD and exult in my saving God. GOD, my Lord, is my strength." Habakkuk 3, 17-19.

In giving thanks to God, even in difficult times, we see good in the midst of hardship, we see hope at work in the world – God's grace in nature and in people of good will and good action. We pray that we would be a people that others would give thanks to God for – "we are the light of the world, let our light shine before all, that they may see the good that we do and give glory to God." (Don't forget the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service is this Sunday at 4:00 pm at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, in Spring Lake.)

I give thanks to all who participated in the St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Food Drive and also the Thanksgiving Gift Card Collection for children in Monmouth County (\$1,500 worth of gift cards given. The social workers of DCPD were blown away and so very thankful). Preparations for our Christmas outreach programs are now underway, see elsewhere in the bulletin for the Giving Tree and Faith and Blue Toy Drive!

This weekend commemorates "World Day of the Poor." As we pray for the poor and act for the poor, this weekend we also have the USCCB Annual Second Collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). This collection supports the domestic anti-poverty programs of the USCCB, attempting to foster a culture of life and hope in needy communities across the nation. 75% of the collection is used for grants provided by the USCCB. 25% is used by the Diocese for grants serving the poor made locally by the DOT Office of Catholic Social Services. People have continued to circulate false statements about the use of CCHD funding for non-Catholic causes. The USCCB has fully investigated and publicly responded, attempting to refute these false attacks. Your generosity is appreciated.

Please note the parish office will be closed on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week. Also note that after Wednesday morning Mass (7:30 am) nothing will take place at the parish at all until Saturday morning Mass at 8:30 am. I pray you and your family have a blessed time being together this Thanksgiving.

ATTENTION EXPERIENCED SEWERS-Would you like a meaningful opportunity to use your skills? "The Memory Care Project– Bear Hugs"? Visiting Nurse Association Health Group offers hospice patient families a special service: Memory Bears crafted from the garments of a loved one, by a team of skilled volunteer seamstresses. VNAHG offers the Bear Hugs Program through its joint venture with RWJ Barnabas Health Hospice. For more information about becoming a volunteer seamstress, please contact Pauline DePalma, BSW, Director of Volunteer Services at Pauline.depalma@vnahg.org.



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 for dates, registration, directions and for our other offerings! All programs will be offered online and in-person unless otherwise indicated.

Upcoming Offerings:

ADVENT RETREAT DAY Monday, November 27

9:30 am – 1:00 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.

BE BORN IN ME MAKE MY HEART YOUR BETHLEHEM

Tuesday, Dec. 5 9:30 am – 1:00 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

WHAT ARE YOU REALLY WAITING FOR?

Tuesday, Dec. 12 9:30 am – Noon Every year the Season of Advent arrives reminding us that all of life requires a certain kind of waiting. Often, we go through the motions of Advent with our eyes fixed on the calendar date of 12/25 when the waiting ends! This year, let's try to search our hearts and ask the question, "What am I really waiting for?" Who knows, I might discover I already have all I need. Led by S. Marie. Donation: \$20

CENTERING PRAYER WEEKEND RETREATS

Feb. 23 – 25 7 pm Friday – 1 pm Sunday 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. Donation: \$175/\$75 non-refundable deposit with registration. Commuters are welcome, all meals included. Led by S. Marcy.

COAT DRIVE- The Manasquan Woman's Club is hosting a Coat Drive on December 2, from 10 am to 2 pm at the club located at 62 Main Street in Manasquan. Please consider donating a gently used or new coat, either for women, men or children. All coats will be distributed through Jersey Cares.

DONOVAN CATHOLIC PRESENTS "OUR TOWN"-

The Performing Arts Department at Donovan Catholic presents its fall production, "Our Town". Show Time is 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

ARCADIAN CHORALE CONCERT-

All are all invited to join the Arcadian Chorale for its 2023 holiday celebration of: *"Infinite Majesty!"*, featuring contemporary works by Elaine Hagenberg, Karl Jenkins and Dan Forrest plus holiday selections and a community carol sing with the Matawan Regional High School Vocal Academy. The concert will be performed on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 4:00 pm at St. Rose of Lima Church, 16 McLean St. in Freehold. Group sales are available. Please check the website for ticket information: www.arcadianchorale.org.

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 info 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, Dec. 22, 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 bonzrep@comcast.net or office@saintpetersonline.org. Get your tickets early, this event will sell out.

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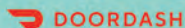


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