

HIS WORD TODAY

by Rev. William J. Reilly

Second Sunday in
Ordinary Time
January 14, 2024

“John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he said: ‘Behold the Lamb of God.’ The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and he said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’ They said to him ‘Rabbi... where are you staying?’ He said them, ‘Come and you will see.’”

We picture this meeting, we hear the conversation, and Jesus asks us the same question, ‘what are YOU looking for?’ Take time to answer, for we are asking Him to come to us and accompany us on our journey as His disciples. It was Andrew who informed Peter and brought him to Jesus. Jesus had a special job for him. Every disciple of the Lord is another Andrew. To whom can I speak and invite to know Jesus?



CHURCH OF ST. DENIS

MANASQUAN, NEW JERSEY

STAFF

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

Mrs. Eileen Ziesmer, Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Kathleen Bodnar, Parish Cat. Leader
Mr. Mark Mataranglo, Director of Music Ministry
Mr. Ralph Cabrera, Trustee
Mr. Robert Butler, Trustee

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



MASS SCHEDULE:

Weekday Masses: 7:30 AM (Mon.-Tues.-Wed.-Fri.) – St. Denis Church
Saturday: 8:30 AM – St. Denis Church
Saturday Evening: 4:30 PM (fulfills Sunday obligation) - St. Denis Church
Sunday: 8:00 AM & 9:30 AM - St. Denis Church
Mass is shown on the Parish Facebook Page each weekend.
Sunday: 10:00 AM - Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel
Holy Days: See bulletin or website for schedule

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

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

BAPTISM: The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Parents must complete the required preparation with the Pastoral Associate and obtain godparent eligibility letters before a date for Baptism will be given. Please call the rectory for further details.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Saturday, January 13, 2024**

8:30 am Gary Walsh by the Brannick Family
 8:30 am Catherine Basile by Weslee Seraitsky
 8:30 am Wendy Moleski by the Shinnick Family
 4:30 pm Timothy O'Connor by Walking With Purpose
 4:30 pm Deceased Members of the Doherty Family
 by Tom & Kerry O'Connor
 4:30 pm Thomas Roche, Jr. by Barbara Roche

Sunday, January 14, 2024

8:00 am For the People of the Parish
 9:30 am Maureen & James Larkin
 by Tom & Alice Brady
 9:30 am Jay Napolitano by the Reynolds Family
 9:30 am Marie Roche Sweeney by the Prince Family
 10:00 am Leonard & Betty Stankunas by Deacon Gary
 10:00 am Jacqueline Varygiannes by her Family
 10:00 am Toni Jean Matson by Carol Rizzi

Monday, January 15, 2024

7:30 am Florence Fox by Ellie & John Fox
 7:30 am Linda Wynd by Pat & Ken Gallaudet
 7:30 am Linda A. Landrigan by Maryann Crowe

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

7:30 am Joseph Justinic by Ellie & John Fox
 7:30 am Gloria Smith by Jackie Lyons
 7:30 am Sonia Heiber by Nadia Jaworidan
 7:30 am Sherry Garbarino by Michael Tighe

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

7:30 am Jacqueline Varygiannes by her Family
 7:30 am Ron Boedart by Cathy & Hank Trost
 7:30 am Charles Baccaro by Cathy & Hank Trost

Thursday, January 18, 2024

No Mass

Friday, January 19, 2024

7:30 am Mike Bialas by his Dad
 7:30 am Sister Helen Francis Coakley by Gene Bialas
 7:30 am Stella Flynn by Evelyn Tuttle

Saturday, January 20, 2024

8:30 am Mathilda Farrell by Steve & Audrie Mills
 8:30 am Alice Marie Curcio by the Rotonda Family
 8:30 am John Farren, Jerry Ioannidis,
 & Fonzie McCullagh by Peter Greene
 4:30 pm Walter Bronikowski by his Family
 4:30 pm Ronald & Cecilia Witczak
 by their Loving Daughter, Karen J. Witczak
 4:30 pm Sheila Chillingworth by Debbie Campbell

Sunday, January 21, 2024

8:00 am Andrew DeBlock by Eileen & Mike Mahoney
 8:00 am Jean Clelland by Eileen & Mike Mahoney
 8:00 am Intentions of Linda Mertz Cafone & Family
 by Frank & Anita Cafone
 9:30 am For the People of the Parish
 10:00 am Toni Matson by Scott & Cindy Ernst
 10:00 am Maura Philips by Theresa Heslin
 10:00 am Elizabeth O'Connor by Michele & Jeff Kellner

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 Shirley Vetter and Harold Darcy.



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, 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, Haley Keating, Marian Keefe, Catherine Kelleher, Robert Kelleher, Kathleen Kelly, Bill Koch, Celina Koch, Bridget Korn, Christopher Kurtanick, William Liao, Barbara Liggett, Elizabeth Ann Linden, Joan Lipscomb, Nick Ljuljana, Frank Lopez, Linda Lowery, Madison Marmo, Barbara Magda, Linda Matthews, 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 Natirile, 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, Irene Pstrak, 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, Kelan Vorbach, Dee Vulgaris, Siobhan Vuono, Christopher Waters, Erin Waters, Stephen Whyte, Kathy Wicks, Karen Williams, Marilyn Woerner, Patricia Wolfe, Albert Wood, Butch Wright, Eileen Zemo, and Werner Ziesmer.



COMMUNION BREAKFAST WITH GUEST SPEAKER-We are having a great celebration on Sunday the 21st with a Communion Breakfast, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, from 9:30 am – 11:30 am, and we are hosting Fr. Doug Freer as a special guest speaker. Fr. Doug is a priest of the Diocese of Trenton who is a convert to Catholicism. He will share with us his love for the Eucharist which led to his conversion with a special presentation at 11am. The breakfast menu will consist of pancakes, eggs, fruit juice, coffee or tea. All are invited. Save the date and set aside the time to come to the Communion Breakfast.

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.

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

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 business hours.

PARISH COUNSELING SERVICES (PCS)-A joint effort of the Diocese of Trenton and Catholic Charities provides licensed professionals for short term counseling (up to 6 sessions) to parishioners dealing with difficult issues, for example, job-stress, family concerns and bereavement. The fee is \$95 per session if privately paying, \$25 per session if receiving PCS financial assistance, or health insurance if it is applicable and you choose. Contact Father Bill for additional information and referral.

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!



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.



**WEEK OF JANUARY 14, 2024
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
WALTER BRONIKOWSKI
REQUESTED BY HIS FAMILY**

GOD AND GOGGINS – PART 2! SAVE THE DATE! Men of the parish who attended the first talk were so invigorated by the discussion, we are back for a second discussion! Save the Date – Wednesday, 28 February, 7:00pm in the Parish Center cafeteria. Make it your New Year’s Resolution to make a fresh start to make the most of the gift of your life and get to the next level; with God with you, and inspired by David Goggins, you won’t be the same. This time we will bring in more elements of Mr. Goggins’ second book, “Never Finished” and bring in more elements of inspiration from Scripture and the Tradition of the Church.

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 trenton-cursillo@gmail.com or 609-396-8447 x14.

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.

NEXT WEEK’S SECOND COLLECTION WILL BE FOR THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA- For many in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support for the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit www.usccb.org/latin-america

ATTENTION ENVELOPE USERS–A printing error occurred on the January collection envelopes for the Church in Latin America and Black and Native American Missions. Both envelopes are dated January 28. Please know that those two envelopes will be accepted on the weekends of January 21st and January 28th. We are sorry for any inconvenience.



12/31/23-Weekly Collection- \$10,315.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !



Walking with Purpose (WWP) is more than a women's Bible study. WWP is a faith community that laughs, learns, grows, and loves one another as we walk on our faith journeys together.

WWP is a safe place where you will discover authentic friendships and meaningful discussions, as your heart is transformed by the Word of God. **We gather on Tuesday evenings, 7:30 pm or Wednesday afternoons, 12:30 pm at the St. Denis Parish Center.** For more information and to register, go to www.wwpnjshore.com

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS is an international order of Catholic men who are called to lead the faith, protect our families, serve others and defend values in a busy changing world. The St Denis/St Mark's Council #3231, founded in 1949 will be holding a membership drive at all Masses on January 20th and 21st. Whether you become an individual member or a member of our council you will find that Knights of Columbus membership brings Catholic men together in a powerful way. If you would like to join today simply go to KofC.org/joinus and enter our preferred local council four digit number: 3231. Please consider joining the other 128 members of our Council. Any questions, please contact scottyabercrombie@gmail.com. Thank you.

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.

ALS PRAYER GROUP- For those impacted by Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS) The Holy Innocent's Society of the Diocese of Trenton is sponsoring a weekly virtual prayer group. The group will meet via Zoom every Monday at 10:00 am. For more info or to register, email: holyinnocentsociety@dioceseoftrenton.org with the subject line "ALS". Please include your name and telephone number.

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 info please email: margaretmahoney726@gmail.com.

DEMENTIA / ALZHEIMER SUPPORT GROUP-Manasquan United Methodist Church is having a Dementia/Alzheimer Support Group for families and caregivers every 3rd Monday of each month at 5 pm. If you or someone you know is in need of support, please have them join. All are welcome!

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



NO DONATED ITEMS CAN BE ACCEPTED FOR THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS DUE TO RENOVATIONS IN THE CHURCH BASEMENT NEAR THE PANTRY.

Monetary donations are always welcome! Please make checks payable to: SVDP/St. Denis Conference.

On the memo line please write: "Food Pantry". Thank you!



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

Christopher Frank Chinnici

Evelina Jennifer Mauricas

Kevin Liam McDermott

May the grace of the sacrament remain with them always.

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. 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 if you would like more information..

PROJECT CHILD FIND (1-800-322-8174) is a free referral service to use if you have concerns about your child's development. All calls are confidential and toll-free. For children ages birth-2 years contact the New Jersey Early Intervention System at 888-653-4463. Project Child Find was established by the New Jersey Department of Education through I.D.E.A., Part B funds from the U.S. Department of Education.

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 January 18, 2024 at 7 pm in the Parish Center.

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



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>

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT- February 16-18, 2024: *Healing the Wounds of Abortion* The psychological and spiritual wounds of abortion can be sharp, deep and crippling. You may feel a deep numbness and may not be able to name the pain or recognize any of the symptoms. It can also have a devastating impact on the father or grandparents of the aborted child and friend/s of the mother. You do not have to continue to hide in shame and fear. Rachel's Vineyard's Retreat is a chance to focus on this painful time in your life through a supportive non-judgmental process, in an atmosphere of confidentiality, understanding, and compassion. It is designed to help both women and men experience the mercy and compassion of God. If you have suffered through an abortion and have isolated yourself from healing and forgiveness, you might consider attending one our retreat weekends. For more information, contact the rectory office at 732-223-0287. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

CELEBRATION OF MEDIEVAL MUSIC- The Society of St. Cecilia at St. Anthony of Padua presents St. Hildegard of Bingen (A Celebration of Medieval Music) with soloist, Melissa Thornton on Sunday, 2/4/24 at 3:30 pm at St. Anthony of Padua Church, 28 Oratory Way, Red Bank (please use Chestnut Street entrance). Admission is a Free Will Offering. The church is handicapped accessible.

A NIGHT OF WORSHIP- All are welcome for Praise and Worship and Adoration at 7:00 pm on 2/9/24 at the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine, 61 Georgia Road in Freehold. A concert will follow with Dana Catherine, singer-songwriter and speaker. For more information about Dana visit-
www.danacatherinemusic.com@danacatherinemusic.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY- When: Thursdays Feb. 15, 22, 29, March 7,14, & 21 Time: 9:30-11 am Where: St. Pio Church Hall in Lavallette 103 Washington Ave Who: All are welcome What: Discovering who you are in Christ- We are all called to holiness, but what does that mean? It's not what you think. This book offers you a weapon of truth so that you can stand in your identity as a child of God. It gives personal examples and practical suggestions that motivate and inspire, while convinces attainable transformation. Cost: \$12 To Register: send a check made payable to St. Pio's Church to Dawn Rusinko 103 Washington Ave Lavallette NJ 08735 For more information please contact the rectory office at 732-223-0287.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER BILL

Many of the rooms in our parish center are dedicated to various saints of the U.S.A. Our Religious Education office is dedicated to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who founded the first Catholic School in our country. I share the following with you from a conference to her spiritual daughters. May it help us in our commitment to doing God's will in our everyday life:

I will tell you what is my own great help. I once read or heard that an interior life means but the continuation of our Savior's life in us; that the great object of all his mysteries is to merit for us the grace of his interior life and communicate it to us, it being the end of his mission to lead us into the sweet land of promise, a life of constant union with himself. And what was the first rule of our dear Savior's life? You know it was to do his Father's will. Well, then, the first end I propose in our daily work is to do the will of God; secondly, to do it in the manner he wills; and thirdly, to do it because it is his will. ...

You think it is very hard to lead a life of such restraint unless you keep your eye of faith always open. Perseverance is a great grace. To go on gaining and advancing every day, we must be resolute, and bear and suffer as our blessed forerunners did. Which of them gained heaven without a struggle?...

What are our real trials? By what name shall we call them? One cuts herself out a cross of pride; another, one of causeless discontent; another, one of restless impatience or peevish fretfulness. But is the whole any better than children's play if looked at with the common eye of faith? Yet we know certainly that our God calls us to a holy life, that he gives us every grace, every abundant grace; and though we are so weak of ourselves, this grace is able to carry us through every obstacle and difficulty.

But we lack courage to keep a continual watch over nature, and therefore, year after year, with our thousand graces, multiplied resolutions, and fair promises, we run around in a circle of misery and imperfections. After a long time in the service of God, we come nearly to the point from whence we set out, and perhaps with even less ardor for penance and mortification than when we began our consecration to him... Be above the vain fears of nature and efforts of your enemy. You are children of eternity. Your immortal crown awaits you, and the best of fathers waits there to reward your duty and love. You may indeed sow here in tears, but you may be sure there to reap in joy.

SACRED HEART ENTHRONEMENT NETWORK- Do you want more peace in your family, blessings on your undertakings, and a more perfect faith life? Jesus is standing at the door and knocking. Open the door for Him! Join our nationwide campaign to invite the Sacred Heart of Jesus into your home, classroom, or business. Visit www.SacredHeartRevival.com for more information on the graces of the Sacred Heart and sign up today.

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**



The Rectory Office will be closed
Monday, January 15th in observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
The office will reopen
Tuesday, January 16th at 8:30 am.

ST. DENIS GRANDPARENTS' GUILD- Everyone is cordially invited to join us at our next meeting on January 16, 2024 at 11 am at the St Denis Parish Center. Light refreshments will be served, coffee, tea, and... As we begin the New Year, we would like our focus to be not only on our grandchildren, but on ourselves as well. *In old age they still produce fruit.* (Psalm 92:14) Yale Professor, Becca Levy suggests that we examine how our society in general reflects on aging. How often do we see seniors and the elderly in anything but a productive contribution to society? Notice how often elders are portrayed in the media as weak, vulnerable, and often times disrespected. Levy suggests that we can change that image by highlighting goals and opportunities that clearly define, in a positive way their attributes, thereby improving their physical and mental health. *Joining the St. Denis Grandparents' Guild reminds us of what we do on a daily basis, without the accolades. (Loving and praying for our grandchildren). However, it is important that we have a good support system for ourselves as well. Our Mission Statement clearly emphasizes our vocation as grandparents. "We are called to model a Christian way of life for our grandchildren, as well as being supportive of each other."* Pope Francis reminded us in his speech before a gathering of senior citizens on October 15, 2016 of the following: "You are an important presence because your experience is a precious treasure...Your maturity and wisdom, accumulated over the years, can help younger people in search of their own way, supporting them on the path of spiritual growth". For more information please contact St. Denis Rectory.

ROSARY FOR LIFE- St. Mark's Altar Rosary Society will be presenting a Rosary for Life after the 11 am Mass on Friday, January 19. They will be reciting the joyful mysteries with inspirational meditations. Please join us as we pray in union with the March for Life in Washington DC.

NORWAY TRIP- Come join us October 29-Nov. 13, 2024 as we travel to London, Salisbury, Oxford and take the Queen Mary Ocean Liner Cruise to Norway and the Northern Lights. For more information call the Rectory Office at 732-223-0287.

INFORMATION NIGHT FOR DIVORCED AND SEPARATED- The information night will provide you with all the details you will need to help you decide if you would like to attend one of our upcoming 12-week programs. During this informative session, we will be introducing our team which consists of people who are divorced, who have attended a 12-Week Program and who have been trained and certified as facilitators to run a program called, "Surviving Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family". We will also be introducing you to the 12-Week program so that you can decide if it is right for you. You will get a sense of how the program works, the format for each meeting, topics to be discussed and how to heal through this challenging time in your life. Our primary, collective goal is to bring about healing in your own time and support you along the way. The website to learn more about the program can be found by visiting www.MyLifeChangeCoach.com and clicking on the Divorce Ministry tab. February 1, 2024(Thursday) 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm St. Leo The Great Parish Center Meeting Room 50 Hurleys Lane Lincroft REGISTRATION REQUIRED! **To Register/Email:** Michele Coppola Wilson healingheartsfromdivorce@gmail.com

STANDING TOGETHER FOR Life

**FRIDAY
JANUARY 19, 2024**

Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine, Freehold

<i>Mass for Life</i>	<i>Lunch & Seminar</i>
11:00 a.m.	12:30-3:30 p.m.
CELEBRATED BY Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M.	FEATURING 5 Expert Panelists
All are Welcome	Advanced Registration Required

For full information about the day's events, visit:
dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life

STANDING TOGETHER FOR LIFE – MASS FOR LIFE; LUNCH & SEMINAR- On Friday January 19, 2024, the faithful of the Diocese of Trenton will come together in prayer and solidarity to proclaim the sanctity of all human life! All are invited to an 11 am *Mass for Life* celebrated by Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., in St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral, 61 Georgia Rd., Freehold. No registration is needed for the Mass, seating is first come, first served. Mass will be livestreamed on [Youtube.com/trentondiocese](https://www.youtube.com/trentondiocese). The Mass will be followed by a *Lunch & Seminar* in the Co-Cathedral's Dentici Hall. A panel of local expert speakers will offer practical, actionable, ideas and resources to take back to parishes where they can be immediately applied to build a culture of life in a spirit of inter-ministry collaboration and radical solidarity with vulnerable pregnant women and families. Advanced registration to attend the *Lunch & Seminar* is required by January 10, 2024. Full details for the day's events, including a registration link for the *Lunch & Seminar* can be found here: dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life. Questions, contact Belem Perez bperez@dioceseoftrenton.org

Diocesan Youth Conference

ON PURPOSE

"For this purpose have I come."
/Mark 1:29-39

DYC Saturday Feb. 3rd 10am-5pm

www.doyouth.org/dyc

THE DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE, Feb. 3, 2024, is a gathering for ALL teens in the 8-12th grades of the Diocese of Trenton. It is an exciting day filled with great music, powerful talks, fun service projects and more! Most importantly it is a chance to connect with other Catholics teens beyond your parish or school and grow in your faith! Please visit www.doyouth.org/dyc for more information.

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