

HIS WORD TODAY

by Rev. William J. Reilly

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

“My prayer is that your love may more and more abound, both in understanding and wealth of experience, so that with a clear conscience and blameless conduct you may learn to value the things that really matter, up to the very day of Christ. It is my wish that you may be found rich in the harvest of justice which Jesus Christ has ripened in you, to the glory and praise of God.”

As I take the prayer of Paul, and apply it to my life today, may I learn to live what really matters. Try to ignore the commercials telling me what I need to buy for someone else, pray this prayer for them. Try to look deep into your heart and discover what really matters for you. What is my wish for my family, how grateful am I for the gift of health, faith, family and friends? How concerned am I for someone who is ill, who has real material or physical needs, who needs my welcoming hand? This is the real Christmas list.

Paul sent this greeting card to help and encourage. May you too be found richly endowed with real gifts that matter for others in your greetings for others.



CHURCH OF ST. DENIS

MANASQUAN, NEW JERSEY

STAFF

Reverend William J. P. Lago, Pastor
Reverend James Burke, 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
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, December 7, 2024

- 8:30 am James Ahern by his Family
8:30 am Edward Thomas Giaquinto by Grace Bruther
8:30 am Donald Bracken by Art & Peggy Geiger
4:30 pm Ann Marie Callahan by her Loving Family
4:30 pm Jack Cochran
by Tom & Maureen Hughes & Family
4:30 pm Dale Seydel by Sandy DeGrande

Sunday, December 8, 2024

- 8:00 am For the People of the Parish
9:30 am Joan Clarkin-Heary by Betsy & Jim Rice
9:30 am Linda Nolan by Enzo & Rosemarie Priolo
9:30 am Charles E. Starkey by Eileen Kelly
10:00 am Elizabeth & Charles Tynan by Fran & Kevin Kearns
10:00 am Margaret, James & Rachel Kearns
by Fran & Kevin Kearns
10:00 am Lenn, Leonard & Dennis Rhodes
by Fran & Kevin Kearns

Monday, December 9, 2024**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

- 7:30 am Claire Marie Ahern by Tom & Vera Ridoux
7:30 am Ann Larkin by Barby Menna
7:30 am Maureen Smith by Michele & Jim Conrey
12:00 pm Joanne Yost by Thomas & Maureen Hughes & Family
12:00 pm Allen Bessemer, Jr. by Marge & Tim Gryta
12:00 pm Marianne Maddocks by Lois & Denis Campbell
7:00 pm Sister Valerie Noone by Denise Olear
7:00 pm The Lewis & Gearing Families by the Family
7:00 pm Dolores Cooley by the Rotunda Family

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

- 7:30 am Adrienne Kupselaitis by Dawn & Carrie
7:30 am Mary Lou Lytle by Deborah Margl
7:30 am Maureen Smith by Fran Weeks

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

- 7:30 am Frank D'Antonio by Mark & Denise Olear
7:30 am Howard Godfrey by Mr. & Mrs. Sernitsky
7:30 am Sandy Stallone by Carl

Thursday, December 12, 2024

No Mass

Friday, December 13, 2024

- 7:30 am Alan Harrington by Nancy & Paul Sutor
7:30 am John D. Maggs by Edward & Susan Dooley
7:30 am Harold Darcy by Saint Denis Parish

Saturday, December 14, 2024

- 8:30 am Patrice McDermott by Philip McDermott
8:30 am Rita Larkin by Dawn & John Burke
8:30 am James Coakley by Ron & Terry DePasquale
4:30 pm Bill Driscoll by Theresa Driscoll
4:30 pm Mark Lofty by the Lewis Family
4:30 pm Cliff Syby by his Family

Sunday, December 15, 2024

- 8:00 am Frank Stankunas by Deacon Gary
8:00 am Joan Clarkin-Heary by Claire Majeski
8:00 am Rustico Castellano by Cindy Ernst
8:00 am Peter Mass by Gary & Charlene Mass
9:30 am Leo Quigley, Jr. by his Family
9:30 am Joan Clarkin-Heary by Joan & Mario Valeriani
9:30 am Linda Nolan by Enzo & Rosemarie Priollo
10:00 am For the People of the Parish



especially Doris Abruzzo, Maiya Andrews, Velma Andrews, Peggy Andrich, Baby Lucy, Bobbie Banks-Grove, Joseph Bartol, Edith Bean, Belle & Ashton, Bernadette Bevan, Stanley Bevan, Joseph Bick, Borgias Family, Holly Boyd, Cathleen Brenner, Lois Brookes, Ann Brown, Karen Brown, Eileen 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, Thomas P. Coyle, Linda Custode, Mary Damico, Christine Danish, Duane Danish, Lauren Davis, Rose DeMarco, Michael Desider, Constance & Hugh Doherty, Lisa Dunfee, Thomas Evans, Thomas Fahey, Chris Faraca, Joseph Fiamingo, Christine Fields Nannette Forkan, Denise Frank, Louise Franzetti, Norma Friel, Madeline Fuccile, John Gallo, Veronica Garrett, Katherine Geiger, Sharon Gergich, Nicole Giambone, Johnny Gondek, Baby Kelly Grace, Phillip Graceffa, Daniel Griffith, 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, Katherine Kelly, Bill Koch, Bridget Korn, Christopher Kurtanick, Kelly Layton, Ann Lehberger, William Liao, Barbara Liggett, Elizabeth Ann Linden, Joan Lipscomb, Nick Ljuljana, Frank Lopez, Linda Lowery, Barbara Magda, Madison Marmo, Linda Matthews, Ronnie Micciulla, Michael McGonigle, Helen McGowan, Michael McNulty, Claire Meachum, Frank Meidenbauer, Peter Merz, Nair Messias, Marylee Monsell, Gloria Moore, Mary Moran, Elizabeth Morgan, Margaret Mullin, Nancy Murphy, Pauline Naturile, Nesbitt Family, Jack Noble, Jennifer Noble, Bob O'Brien, Catherine O'Connor, Sue O'Connor, Mark Olear, Gerald O'Keeffe, Raymond J. O'Meara, Diane Padluck, Wes Pal, Dolores Palmisano, Joanne Panzarella, Joseph Pastore, Danny L. Payne, Charlotte Pentek, Tony Picinich, Mike Pierce, Janice Pinkerton, Lisa Pirrello, Marty Pirrong, Samara Pirrong, Kidron Procyson, Timothy Michal Przywara, Irene Pstrak, Vera Raffetto, Windell Rainey, Leanna Rawson, Joan Regan, 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, Paul Tuyp, Phyllis Van Salders, Riley Veazey, 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED especially Lois Danese, Sheila Dougherty & William Leckey.



walking with purpose
~ SO MUCH MORE THAN A BIBLE STUDY ~

LADIES, COME AND JOIN US AT WALKING WITH PURPOSE! At WWP, we don't exercise—we "walk" on a faith journey together. We gather to learn how our Catholic faith and the teachings of Jesus Christ are relevant to our everyday lives. Together we create an authentic community that laughs, learns, grows, and loves one another. Our Gatherings are offered at St. Denis Parish Center on Tuesdays, 7:30-9pm or Wednesdays, 12:15-2pm. Join us at any time! We are so much more than a Bible study! For more information and to register visit www.wwpnjshore.co

ST. DENIS MEN'S GROUP-The Purpose of our Men's Group is to enrich the lives of men by providing opportunities to enjoy a sense of brotherhood and spiritual growth. We recently kicked off our Fall/Winter Program, *The Bible and the Sacraments*, from The St. Paul Center. As Catholics, we know the sacraments are important. However, many of us never fully grasp how life-changing these "masterworks of God" really are. This program reviews the basic teaching of the Church as to the sacraments meaning and origin, but goes further. It investigates the deeper mystery of the sacraments as illuminated by Sacred Scripture and reveals the sacraments as more than mere earthly rituals. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 6 pm in the St Denis Parish Center. Men will view a short video at home at their convenience and we'll discuss the video during our meeting. If you miss some meetings, you can still participate by viewing the videos at home. Join us to gain a real appreciation for our sacraments. Bring a friend! For info call the rectory at 732 223-0287.

SENSORY FRIENDLY SUNDAY MASS, celebrated by Bishop David O'Connell, will take place on December 15th at 2 pm at the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine, 61 Georgia Road in Freehold. Families are welcome to attend this Mass adapted to accommodate individuals with Autism or other sensory needs. All are invited afterwards for a Christmas party. Please email if you can attend so we have enough refreshments at holyinnocentsociety@dioceseoftrenton.org. Please join us to celebrate the Christmas season.



especially USMC Sgt. Jordan Basile, Coast Guard Petty Officer Joseph Beattie, USMC Corporal Patrick Bednarski, USMC Capt. Philip Cahill, Army Major Matthew Cauda, Army PFC Ryan Costello, Air Force 1st Lt. Dominic Celiano, Army Lt. Nikkole Crosson, Army Captain Dr. Justin Eisenman, Army 2nd Lieutenant Brendan Ertle, USMC Corporal Hunter Fancher, USAF Airman 1st Class Tristan Fancher, Army Major Sean Fessenden, USMC PFC Joseph J. Foley Jr, US Army 2nd Lt. Valerie Goodwin, US Army 2nd Lt. Christopher Halmi, US Army 2nd Lt. Mia Halmi, USAF Cadet Thomas Halmi, USMC Captain Diego Heinzerling, Lt. Jg. Mary T. Herman, Navy LS2 Nora N. Honrath, Navy Lt. Commander Rachael M. Honrath, US Army Airborne Private Zachary Hoyle, US Army 2nd Lt. Allison M. Ingraham, Air Force Academy Cadet 2nd Class Slade Kelling, USMC Lance Corporal Laura Licata, Navy E4 Patrick Moynihan, USMC Private Robert E. Mullin IV, Navy CM Taylor Nesbitt, Contractor Benjamin Ostrow, Army Lt. Brian Quinn, Coast Guard Seaman Anthony Scala, Air Force Major David Smith, Army Private 1st Class Cody Svenson, Air Force 2nd Lt. Jason Trischitta, Army Matthew Van Pelt, Navy Captain Colin S. Walsh, Navy LL. Edward P. Windas, and USN LTJG Michael Zimmerman.

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 is in the Gathering Space of the Church as well as at the Beach Chapel. 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 next weekend, December 14 & 15. We truly appreciate your tremendous support as do the worthy charities and families benefitting from the Giving Tree.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD-Participating children, ages 4-10, will be seated with their families for the Introductory Rites of the Mass. The group will be dismissed to their gathering space downstairs to share an age-appropriate reflection on the Sunday readings. Everyone will rejoin their families prior to the Liturgy of the Eucharist. We will celebrate Children's Liturgy of the Word every week for ADVENT. We hope your children will join us!! For more info please contact the rectory.

ACTIVITY FROM THE GRANDPARENTS GUILD- "**Make An Advent Chain**" An Advent chain will help your grandchildren count the days until Christmas. Making the chain is fun.

- Let the children help you cut one strip of purple construction paper for each day of Advent.
 - Use a pink strip for the third Sunday of Advent and a white strip for Christmas.
 - Some families like to write something special on each strip, such as "Do something nice for someone." "Say a Hail Mary for someone who is sick." "Read a book about a saint."
 - Your grandchildren can brainstorm other things to write. Use paste or tape to loop the strips into a chain.
- Let your grandchildren take the chain home. They can detach one link every day and read the message as they wait for Christmas. If you enjoy this faith-based activity, please consider joining us on January 21, 2025 at 11:00 am for the next meeting of the St. Denis Grandparents Guild.

FIFTEEN:5-A Catholic Community of Faith, Family, and Friends. Our initial highly rated program, **THE SEARCH**, is for those aged mid 20's through their 40's (single or married). The Search asks where our journey is taking us and what do we want from our life during this journey. We meet once a month. Our meetings consist of fellowship, refreshments, and a short video followed by discussion. **Our next meeting will be at 7 pm, December 12th, in the St. Denis Parish Center.** If you miss a meeting, no worries, just join us when you can. FIFTEEN:5 hopes to create a community of peers supporting one another in meeting the challenges we encounter in everyday life, gaining a better understanding of our faith, and living Christian values. While our initial program is for young adults, we plan to accomplish this through programs, events, and activities (including charitable works and family activities) for all age groups.

KINDNESS CAFÉ— We can't wait to see you at our new location— 305 Hwy. 71 in Spring Lake Heights at **Manasquan Bank**. Freshly brewed coffee and delicious baked goods are served. The Kindness Café is open Mondays, Tuesdays, & Wednesdays from 8:30 am–11:30 am Our mission is to provide employment opportunities in a supportive and uplifting environment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our aim is to foster a sense of belonging, dignity and purpose for our employees and community. Please stop in for a cup of kindness after Mass!



IN LOVING MEMORY OF VINCENT GREENE
REQUESTED BY EILEEN REILLY & FAMILY

EUCHARISTIC 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.

JERSEY SHORE CHORALE- Come hear the Jersey Shore Chorale of men and women of all ages, many with professional music backgrounds, performing a wide variety of seasonal favorites from the classical to traditional carols. 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 Sun., Dec. 8 at 4 pm United Methodist Church, 23 Church St., Manasquan. Tickets sold at the door. Adults: \$15. Seniors: \$10. Students and children are free.

2024 MONMOUTH COUNTY SIMBANG GABI—Inherited by the Filipinos from the Spaniards, the Simbang Gabi (Night Mass) is a Catholic Devotion of offering each night for the nine consecutive days in joyful anticipation of Christmas. All are welcome to this festive Novena of Masses.

- 6:30 pm Rosary prayer followed by the Holy Mass
 - Dec 12, Thursday-St Dorothea Church, Eatontown
 - Dec 13, Friday-Holy Innocents Church, Neptune
 - Dec 14, Saturday-St Mary’s Church, Middletown
 - Dec 15, Sunday-St Margaret Church, Spring Lake
 - Dec 16, Monday-St James Church, Red Bank
 - Dec 17, Tuesday—St Rose Church, Belmar
 - Dec 18, Wednesday-St Catherine of Siena, Farmingdale
 - Dec 19, Thursday-St Benedict Church, Holmdel
 - Dec 20, Friday 6 PM-St Robert Bellarmine, Freehold
- (All are invited to the reception and fellowship, Barong recommended)



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)

Questions or special food needs?
Please call our hotline number at 732-223-138
Pantry hours: Tuesdays: 1PM–3PM

There is a menu of food options available at curbside for pick up.

ALL DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED.

ITEMS NEEDED AT THIS TIME:

Boxed milk (most needed), mac & cheese, ramen noodles, canned fruit, peanut butter, & jelly. Cash and check donations are welcome and can be left in the envelopes with the donated food. Please include “Food Pantry” in the memo section of checks.

****Please Check Expiration Dates****

Items may be left in the shopping cart in the Gathering Space in the Main Church, or in the plastic box at the Beach Chapel.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF FRANK FALCO
REQUESTED BY
HIS DAUGHTER & GRANDCHILDREN



Get in the Holiday Spirit and join the St. Denis Music Ministry as we present our **1st Annual Christmas Carol Sing Along!** A Christmas carol sing along featuring St. Denis musicians, cantors and members of the parish choir....and YOU! **Sunday December 15th 2024 at 3:30 pm** in St. Denis Church

FOOD PANTRY THANKS– Thank you to all the parishioners who generously donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Food Drive. It was a huge success! We fed over 40 families. We also have enough donations to be used for Christmas dinners. We couldn’t do what we do without you!

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



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

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

If you have an interest in seeing how you can help those in need, come to the Society’s next meeting on January 16, 2025 at 7 pm in the Parish Center.

If assistance is needed, encourage the person to call our direct hotline and leave a message (732-223-1383). If you would like to donate, checks can be made payable to: SVDP/St. Denis Conference.



**The Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**has been moved to
Monday, December 9th this year.
It is a Holy Day of Obligation
Masses will be celebrated at:
7:30 am, 12:00 pm, & 7:00 pm**

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.

CURSILLO is all about building long-term Christ-centered relationships with God and others through prayer and a focus on authentic Christian living. Contact trentoncursillo@gmail.com

ADVENT SILENT DIRECTED PRAYER WEEKEND- Join us Dec. 13-15, 2024 at the Sisters of Saint Joseph's Center For Spirituality, 21 Main St. in Ocean Grove. We seek during this season to be ever more attuned to God who invites us to pause in the graced rhythm of silence and rest. Come away during this Advent weekend to renew your heart and soul. The donation is \$70. Register now via email S. Joanne Cassidy at jcassidy@ssjphila.org

BLOOD DRIVE- The Manasquan Elks are sponsoring a Blood Drive on Monday, 12/16/24, 12 pm-5pm at 17 Stockton Blvd. in Manasquan. All presenting donors will receive a long sleeved Red Cross tee shirt (limited quantity). Appointments are preferred. Schedule your blood donation today by calling 800 RED CROSS.

WORD OF LIFE --

provided by Mary's Child Pro-Life Ministry

"Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother." Learn how at respectlife.org/support-her. USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting"

ACTION CENTER

PRAY THE ROSARY TO OUR LADY OF FATIMA. Please join us in prayer at St. Catherine's in Spring Lake at the statue of Our Lady of Fatima on the 13th of every month at 8:30am., come rain or shine. Our Lady of Fatima told us to repent, fast, and pray the rosary to bring peace to our country & the world. Over 100 years later we again need her intercession to her Son to help us. Please join us. *Prayers are a most powerful resource for Moms in Need.*

HEALING THE WOUNDS OF ABORTION -- If you have suffered through an abortion and have isolated yourself from healing and forgiveness, you might consider attending one of our retreat weekends. For more information, contact Judy Warkiewicz at 732-536-6871. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

VISIT OUR WEBSITES: dioceseoftrenton.org/respect-life-ministry USCCB: usccb.org/prolife OR respectlife.org

CONFUSED ON PRO-LIFE ISSUES? The Catholic Church maintains that LIFE is the pre-eminent social justice issue while the media instead tells a story of much needed healthcare and women's reproductive rights. What is the truth? Take a copy of the pamphlet in the back of the church titled "Why We're Pro-life by Trent Horn" for a concise summary from a Catholic viewpoint on each question surrounding abortion.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER BILL

This Advent our focus is on "The Gift of God Within". What is that gift? God's presence. In Jesus, God walked the earth. Through the Sacraments of Initiation, God dwells in us. God unites us to Himself at the level of our souls through the incarnation of Christ. The Incarnation of Christ, as the Catechism states is "the fact that the Son of God assumed a human nature in order to accomplish our salvation in it." We celebrate the presence of our Lord with us through His birth from Mary. God prepared for the birth of our Lord by preparing Mary through the miracle of the Immaculate Conception! As the Catechism states: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin".

We usually celebrate this on Dec. the 8th, but since it is a Sunday, the feast is moved to Monday the 9th and is truly a beautiful way to celebrate the gift of God within. This Holy Day of Obligation is the patronal feast of our country. As Catholics in the U.S.A. we are called upon to pray for our country, and our tradition in the U.S. is to invoke our Blessed Mother under the title of The Immaculate Conception to intercede with us to God for the U.S.A. Masses will be at 7:30 am, noon, and 7 pm.

Our next collection for "Buildings and Grounds" will be donated to St. John Vianney Parish in the diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida which was hardest hit by the hurricanes in October. They are still having Mass in tents. We also send our prayers to them in solidarity, as so many people reached out to St. Denis Parish after Hurricane Sandy. Moneys sent to the U.S. Bishop's Conference from Catholics across the U.S. after Sandy, were used to recondition our church basement just last year! Please be generous as your Christmas budget permits. Together we always do amazing things for people in need. If you would like to donate directly, please visit: www.dosp.org/disaster-relief-fund or go to Catholic Charities and search Milton. Thank you for your sacrificial giving to those in need.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION- Join Father Bill as he presents "Praise of Glory"- reflecting on God within us with St. Elizabeth of the Trinity. This discussion will take place in the church on Wednesday, December 11th at 11 am and again at 7 pm. All are welcome to attend.

BUILDING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE COLLECTION- Next weekend our second collection will be donated to St. John Vianney Parish in the diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida which was hardest hit by the hurricanes in October. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



November 24, 2024

Weekly Collection-

\$13,289.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !

What Are You Doing for Advent 2024?

The Gift of God Within Us!

For Your Personal Spiritual Journey:

Magnificat Advent Companion and other prayer and reflection pamphlets on various tables in the Church Gathering space

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel- Advent daily devotional – Henri Nouwen

Pilgrims of Hope- Reflections on Hope for the Jubilee Year by Pope Francis

FORMED.org –for Advent Reflections sign up through our parish website

(access code: PDZVN8 to sign up the access through your email)

USCCB.org – the US Bishops website has many Advent offerings

For Your Communal Spiritual Journey & Adult Faith

“Praise of Glory”- reflecting on God within us with St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

Wednesday, Dec. 11th @ 11am & 7pm at the Church - Fr. Bill

First Annual Christmas Carol Sing Along

A Christmas Carol Sing Along featuring St. Denis musicians, cantors, members of the parish choir.....and YOU!

Sunday, December 15th @ 3:30 pm in St. Denis Church

Parish Nativity Pageant – Sunday, December 21st during the 4:30 pm Mass

Confessions

Saturdays, December 15th & 22nd – 3:30 pm - 4:15 pm

Monday, Dec. 16, 2024- 11 am-1 pm & 6 pm-8 pm

You are encouraged to call the Parish Office and set up an appointment up to December 19th for Confession with Father Bill to prepare your heart

Be With Jesus at Adoration from 11am until 8pm

Monday Dec 16th on our parish Advent Penance Day

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA, a DowneySide Adoption fundraiser, will take place Sunday, December 15th, 9 am-12 pm at St. Pio of Pietrelcina Church Hall, 103 Washington Ave. in Lavallette. Enjoy some fun activities such as photos with Santa, story time, face painting, crafts and more. There will be raffles every hour. The cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for kids, and under 4 years of age are free. Advanced tickets can be purchased at the DowneySide website: Downeyside.org For more information contact drusinko@downeyside.org.

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.

Christmas and New Year Schedule

Advent Spiritual Programs

See bulletin or website for details

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday, Dec. 16 @ 11am-8 pm

Confessions

Saturdays, Dec. 14 & 21 @ 3:30 pm - 4:15 pm

Monday, Dec. 16 @ 11 am-1 pm & 6 pm-8 pm

or by appointment up to Dec. 20

Christmas Concert in St. Denis Church

Sunday, Dec. 15 @ 3:30 pm

Christmas Eve Masses- Tuesday, Dec. 24

St. Denis Church- 4:30 pm, 7 pm, 10 pm

Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel- 5 pm

Christmas Day Masses- Wednesday, Dec. 25

St. Denis Church- 8 am & 9:30 am

Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel- 10 am

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Wednesday, Jan. 1

St. Denis Church- 8:30 am & 10 am

Mass for Life & Life Expo

CELEBRATED BY



Bishop David M.
O'Connell, C.M.

PRAY, CONNECT, ENGAGE

Embrace the transformative power of the Eucharist, foster solidarity, and take decisive action to nurture a culture of life that honors every stage from womb to tomb.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Join us for a special Mass celebrated by Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M.
- Engage with local organizations dedicated to upholding and promoting human dignity throughout all stages of life.
- Enjoy delicious refreshments, fostering new friendships, and strengthening bonds within our community.

Friday
JANUARY 24
11:00AM

Co-Cathedral of
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