

## HIS WORD TODAY

by Rev. William J. Reilly

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leapt in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?’”

As we complete our advent preparation, take a minute to see and hear the family reunion of the two cousins. The question of Elizabeth can fall from our lips. Not only ‘how is it that the mother of my Lord should come to me’, but for us, how is it that our loving God should become one with us today? The marvelous question for us ‘can it indeed be that God dwells on earth?’ These final days before Christmas urges us to consider and be serious about His coming and our need to find Him among us.

The biblical words of the greeting above, which we recite so frequently, invite us to discover the real meaning of our Christmas celebration this week.



# 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](http://www.facebook.com/churchofstdenis). You don't need to have a Facebook account to read parish news and updates, but would need one to leave comments and feedback.



## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, December 21, 2024**

8:30 am Dorothy Licitra by the Kemp Family  
 8:30 am Edward Fletcher by the Kemp Family  
 8:30 am Mary Lou Addario by Deacon Gary  
 4:30 pm For the People of the Parish

**Sunday, December 22, 2024**

8:00 am Louis J. Micioni by the Easton Family  
 8:00 am Jeanine Ambrose-Gusler by Eileen & Michael Mahoney  
 8:00 am Rosalind Seamen by Eileen & Michael Mahoney  
 9:30 am Gerald DeDruex by Betsy & Jim Rice & Family  
 9:30 am Joan Clarkin-Heary by MaryAnn Rupertus  
 9:30 am William M. Lee by his Wife & Children  
 10:00 am John Francis Patterson by Marion Lamb & Ray Schwartz  
 10:00 am Mary & Patrick Cleary by Eileen & Jim Rochford  
 10:00 am Jean O'Brien by Eileen & Jim Rochford

**Monday, December 23, 2024**

7:30 am David Zocchi by his Parents  
 7:30 am Patricia & Michael Brunner by Phil Brunner  
 7:30 am Jessica Ciriello by Janet Morrow

**Tuesday, December 24, 2024**

4:30 pm (church) The Koch & Rice Families by Betsy & Jim Rice  
 4:30 pm (church) Ronald & Cecilia Witczak by Karen Witczak  
 4:30 pm (church) Harold Pels by the Stewart Family  
 4:30 pm (church) Patrick Campbell by his Family  
 5:00 pm (chapel) Thomas Crawford by Nancy & Paul Sutor  
 5:00 pm (chapel) Norah Bruther by her Mom & Dad  
 5:00 pm (church) James Donechie by Jane Wehner  
 7:00 pm (church) Christine Mutch by her Husband  
 7:00 pm (church) June M. Smith by Jeanne & Jerry Kaplan  
 7:00 pm (church) Matty Galindo by Barbara Roche & Lou Nieves  
 10:00 pm (church) Marge & Anthony Patullo by their Family  
 10:00 pm (church) William Pavincich by his Family  
 10:00 pm (church) James Coakley by Betsy & Jim Rice

**Wednesday, December 25, 2024**

8:00 am (church) Janice Racioppi by her Family  
 8:00 am (church) Gloria Cancellerie by her Husband  
 8:00 am (church) Anne & Carmine Freda  
 by Ed & Helenbeth Matyas  
 9:30 am (church) Frank & Lucy Falco & Robert Mullin  
 by their Family  
 9:30 am (church) John & Jack Kolon by Kay Kolon  
 9:30 am (church) Gloria Smith by Betsy & Jim Rice  
 9:30 am (church) Bill Truex by his Loving Family  
 10:00 am (chapel) Vincent Greene  
 by Eileen Reilly & Family  
 10:00 am (chapel) Lee Boydman by the Pindar Family  
 10:00 am (chapel) Ronald James Thomas  
 by Jane & Bob Lightbody

**Thursday, December 26, 2024**

No Mass

**Friday, December 27, 2024**

7:30 am Michael Parcaro (55th Anniv.) by Mona Kirk  
 7:30 am Ken O'Donnell by his Wife, Karen O'Donnell  
 7:30 am Anthony C. Majeski by his Loving Family

**Saturday, December 28, 2024**

8:30 am Charles Dullea by Patricia Hennessey  
 8:30 am Joseph Nowak by Lynn & Bill Motzenbecker  
 8:30 am Annette Andrew  
 by Deborah, George & Anna Manginoo  
 4:30 pm Larry DeGrande by Tom & Kerry O'Connor  
 4:30 pm Harold Darcy by Betsy & Jim Rice  
 4:30 pm Deborah DiArchangel by Susan Ratigan

**Sunday, December 29, 2024**

8:00 am Leon & Dorothy Madden by the Jacobus Family  
 8:00 am Larry DeGrande by Sandy DeGrande  
 8:00 am William "Bill" Ritter by Eileen Catalano  
 9:30 am Jillian Ludwig by the Balioni Family  
 9:30 am Jim Kazenmayer by Claire & Ray Moynihan  
 9:30 am Tina O'Donnell by Ed & Helenbeth Matyas  
 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, Penny Broderick, 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, 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, Katherine Geiger, Sharon Gergich, Nicole Giambrone, 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'Keefe, 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 Veronica Garrett, John Ellard, Eileen Marcus, and Bernadette Davis.



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

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM WALKING WITH PURPOSE!** At WWP 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. WWP is taking a Christmas break. We would love for you to join us in 2025! We will restart on 1/7, 7:30-9pm or 1/8, 12:15-2pm, at the St. Denis Parish Center. WWP, so much more than a Bible study! For more info visit [www.wwpnjshore.com](http://www.wwpnjshore.com)

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**JESUS AND JOCKO-DISCIPLINE=FREEDOM=HOPE**- Men of the parish are invited to a discussion on Tuesday, 21 January at 7 pm in the church. We will be looking at the book "Extreme Ownership" by Jocko Willink and Lief Babin, and the teachings of Jesus, as well as looking into the New Year with resolutions and Hope. (Reading the book is not required.)

**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.



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.



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 will then celebrate every other week: 1/12, 1/26, 2/9, and 2/23. We hope your children will join us!! For more information please contact the rectory.

**ST. DENIS/HOLY TRINITY "AMEN EFFECT" BOOK STUDY**- Fr. Bill and Pastor Mary will lead discussions on "the amen effect: Ancient Wisdom to Mend our Broken Hearts and World" by Rabbi Sharon Brous: Wednesdays, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19 11 am-12pm at Holy Trinity and 7-8 pm in St. Denis Parish Center. Brous writes about the healing power of "showing up" for individuals and the community in times of pain and sorrow, joy and celebration. She offers compelling examples and invites us to consider how to mend broken hearts and rebuild our society in times of loneliness and isolation. Join the conversation! (Check out this interview with the author: <https://streicker.nyc/past-event-recordings>.)

**FIFTEEN:5- A Catholic Community of Faith, Family, and Friends.** Our initial program is for those aged mid 20's through their 40's (single or married). We meet once a month in the St. Denis Parish Center. Our next meeting (tentatively January 25<sup>th</sup>) will be a social event with food, beverages, fellowship, and a short video from *The Search*, followed by discussion. The Search asks where our journey is taking us and what do we really want from our life during this journey. The feedback from our initial meetings has been very positive! Please plan to join us in January to socialize a bit and gain a better understanding of our purpose. Feel free to come with friends and/or family members. FIFTEEN:5 hopes to create a community of peers gaining a better understanding of our faith and living Christian values, especially within the challenges we encounter in everyday life. We plan to accomplish this through programs, events, and activities (including charitable works and family activities). For information, contact the rectory office at 732 223-0287.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** – The Knights of Columbus is dedicated to the mission of our Holy Mother Church starting here, in our parish and our community. We are a fraternity of Catholic men united in charity and patriotism. If you miss fraternity life and want to get out and join with others in charity and Catholic brotherhood, join us. To learn more please call the rectory office.

**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.

**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.

### HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS



The Rectory Office will be closed December 23rd-26th.  
The office will reopen Friday,  
December 27th at 8:30 am.

The office will also be closed  
December 31st and January 1st  
and will reopen Thursday, January 2nd at 8:30 am.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS**—Today's bulletin contains only some of the names of those loved ones who were remembered or honored with Christmas flower donations. Other names were listed in last week's bulletin. Thank you to all who made donations to this collection. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**HENRY B. KING MEDICAL BRIGADE BON VOYAGE PARTY**—The annual HBK Bon Voyage Party for the 32nd Mission to Honduras will take place on Saturday, February 15th, 2025 from noon to 4pm at the Beach Haus Brewery, 801 Main St, Belmar, NJ 07719; <https://beachhausbeer.com/>. The party includes a full buffet lunch, soda, cash bar, coffee, tea and a gift auction. Pre-sale ticket price is \$65 per person, kids are \$10. At the door price is \$70. For information on ordering tickets, please call the rectory at 732-223-0287. Come party with us and celebrate our 32nd mission trip to Honduras which is scheduled for early April 2025. We are excited to announce that we have updated our GoFundMe.com website- (<https://henrybkingmedicalbrigade.com/>).

**VINCENT'S LEGACY**—The Furniture Outreach Conference of St. Vincent de Paul works with the local SVdP Conferences to serve neighbors in need of furniture and household items. Vincent's Legacy accepts donated furniture and household items that are in good condition to redistribute to your neighbors in need. The Furniture Outreach Conference offers many opportunities for you to share your time, talent, and/or treasure, whether you have furniture to donate, 2-5 hours a month to volunteer, or financial support to offer that will help cover warehouse and truck expenses. Visit our website: <https://vincentslegacy.wixsite.com/furniture> or Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FurnitureMinistry.com>. If you have any questions, contact us at: [Furniture@svdptrenton.org](mailto:Furniture@svdptrenton.org) To make a financial contribution, please send a check made out to Vincent's Legacy Furniture Outreach Conference, P.O. Box 526, Manasquan, NJ 08736, or use the DONATE button on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FurnitureMinistry>. For more information or to donate items, please call 609-557-7837.



### **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 Leo Cunningham**  
**Requested by His Family**

**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.

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



Vincent de Paul was canonized by Pope Clement XII in 1737 but Pope Leo honored him as patron saint of all charitable societies in 1885. It was the death-bed confession of a dying servant which opened Vincent's eyes to the crying spiritual needs of the peasantry of France. This was a crucial moment in the life of a man from a small farm in France, who originally became a priest with little more purpose than to have a comfortable life. The Countess de Gondihose whose servant he had helped-persuaded her husband to endow and support a group of missionaries who would work among the poor tenant farmers and county folk.

After working for some time in Paris among imprisoned galley slaves, Vincent returned to be the leader of that group-now known as the Congregation of the Mission, or the Vincentians. These priests with vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and stability, were to devote themselves entirely to the people in small towns and villages. Later, Vincent established confraternities of charity for the spiritual and physical relief of the poor and sick of each parish. From these, with the help of Louise de Marillac, came the Daughters of Charity to help the sick in the city. He organized the rich women of Paris to collect funds for his missionary projects, founded several hospitals, collected relief funds for the victims of war, and ransomed over 1200 galley slaves from North Africa. He was also zealous in conducting retreats for clergy at a time when there was great laxity, abuse and ignorance among them.

Remarkably, Vincent was by temperament a quick tempered and testy person-even his friends said so. He said later in life that except for the Grace of God he would have been "hard and repulsive, rough and cross". But he became a tender and affectionate man, very sensitive to the needs of others, and would become the patron saint of our society which bears his name.

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.

## Christmas and New Year Schedule

### 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

Tuesday, Dec. 31-

St. Denis Church 5:00 pm

Wednesday, Jan. 1-

St. Denis Church 8:30 am & 10 am

**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.

## WORD OF LIFE -- provided by Mary's Child Pro-Life Ministry

"O Blessed Mother, at the angel's word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own. By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations... Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

Prayer for Radical Solidarity ([www.respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity](http://www.respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity))

### **ACTION CENTER**

**MASS FOR LIFE with Bishop O'Connell** at 11:00 AM on Friday January 24<sup>th</sup> at the Co-Cathedral in Freehold. Immediately following, there will be **LIFE EXPO!** featuring life affirming organizations and groups that support human dignity from womb to tomb, and everywhere in between. This dynamic exhibit hall will offer attendees opportunities for learning, networking and engagement while fostering new friendships, strengthening bonds with our community, and enjoying delicious refreshments!

**FACING UNPLANNED PREGNANCY??** Need Help? Contact Birthright @ 800-550-4900 or locally @ 732-747-7600 for assistance with testing, doctors, food, housing, counseling, and other services at little or no charge.

**THE MISSION OF MARY'S CHILD MINISTRY** is to defend the truth of Jesus Christ. Each human being is a gift from God, made in His image and likeness, worthy of dignity, respect, and protection from conception until natural death. We raise our prayers, concerns, and funds in support of this Truth, and we support organizations that consistently live and value the Gospel of Life. If interested in this ministry, contact the rectory for our parish Pro-Life representative.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITES:** [dioceseoftrenton.org/respect-life-ministry](http://dioceseoftrenton.org/respect-life-ministry) USCCB: [uscgb.org/prolife](http://uscgb.org/prolife) OR [respectlife.org](http://respectlife.org)

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER BILL

We celebrate this Fourth Sunday of Advent, and with just a few days before Christmas, may you have moments of peace and prayer in-and-amidst the preparations. Please share our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Schedule with your family and friends. We pray for a joyful celebration of the birth of Jesus and peace on earth.

We have been focusing on "The Gift of God Within" this Advent – the Gift of God Within our being, through the indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity at our Baptism. Now, as we remember the fact that Jesus was born for us and walked this earth, we focus on "The Gift of God Within" this Christmas – the Gift of God within the context of the human condition and within all the aspects of our life. God is experienced within our thoughts, decisions and actions that are done through, with and in Jesus. God is present to us within the good times and difficult times we experience, within all the moments and contexts of our day, as long as we are aware, consciously aware of God's presence. This is the way that we can "keep the spirit of Christmas" every day. May God bless us in our Christmas Season that begins this week.

As we look to these coming days, please be aware the rectory office staff will be on holiday from Dec. 23-26. Please plan accordingly. I will be working the 23-25<sup>th</sup> (till 1pm), so if a need arises, call the office and leave a message and I will do my best to help you.

Pope Francis has designated 2025 as a Year of Jubilee. The Jubilee Year of Hope will be opened by the Holy Father on Dec. 24 at St. Peter's Basilica. In our Diocese, beginning with Solemn Opening of the Holy Year Masses, Bishop O'Connell will designate the diocesan Cathedral and Co-Cathedral as pilgrimage churches. The opening Mass in St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral will be Dec. 28, celebrated at 5:30 p.m. in both English and Spanish. An opening Mass in St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral, Freehold, will be Dec. 29 at 10 a.m. Something to celebrate, and more information to follow.

**ONLINE GIVING**-To help support our parish more easily we offer online giving! For information or to sign up, go to our parish website [www.churchofstdenis.org](http://www.churchofstdenis.org) and click on "Online Giving".



December 8, 2024

Weekly Collection- \$9,317.00

2nd Collection (Religious Retirement)- \$4,003.00

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !**



## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS WERE DONATED IN MEMORY/HONOR OF:

Michael Marinaro  
Frank Marinaro  
Vincent Gabriele  
Angelina Gabriele  
Leonard Muti  
Rose Muti  
Nancy Dugan  
James Dugan  
Vincent Dugan  
Elvira Vario  
Pasquale Vario  
Mary Giaimo  
Charles Giaimo  
Agnes Madia  
Frank Madia  
Rose Barberio  
Anita Giaimo  
Nada Justinic  
Joseph Justinic  
Florence Fox  
Jack Fox  
Dennis Fox  
Nancy Fox  
Ron Kyser  
Ronald Witczak  
Cecilia Witczak  
Blanche Bielinski  
Charles Witczak  
Matilda Jurek  
Lucy Soriano  
Joseph Soriano  
Robert Tilton  
AnnaMae Tilton  
J. Earl Tilton  
Lillian Walling  
James Walling  
Charles Palmer Sr.  
Charles Palmer Jr.  
Joseph Fariello  
Rose Fariello  
Anthony Fariello  
Robert Lewis  
Jenny Lewis  
Ellen Palmer  
Rose Claffey  
Mary Chase  
Angie Chosey  
Tillie Onorato  
Frances Ciavolino  
The Collis Family  
The Walters Family

Rose Gallagher  
Daniel Gallagher  
Teresa Gallagher Wentzell  
Rosemary Gillespie  
Nora Mullins  
Mr. & Mrs. William O'Connor  
Erin & Bronwen Doherty  
Edward O'Connor  
The Coder Family  
The Newman Family  
Benjamin Wilhelm  
Dorothy Wilhelm  
Joan Wilhelm  
Albert Wilhelm  
Dominick DeStefano  
Josephine DeStefano  
Antonia (Nina) DeStefano  
Alfio DeStefano  
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**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.


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

**THE END OF THE YEAR RETREAT** Tues., 12/31/24 9:30 am– 2 pm- Since God gives us life and time and is Lord over all, it seems appropriate to end the year in prayer. Francis House offers time, space and quiet for naming the graces of 2024 and expressing gratitude to God. The day will focus on our goals, hopes and desires for 2025. We reverently say farewell to 2024 and cordially welcome 2025 as a gift from God. Please bring your lunch. Donation: Love Offering

**EVENING (ZOOM ONLY) OFF TO A PRAYERFUL START FOCUSING THE NEW YEAR** Thurs., 1/2/24 7– 8 pm Start out 2025 with an evening zoom retreat to set the direction for the year. “Well begun is half done,” they say, and establishing a direction is essential for the journey. Where am I going in 2025? What is the desire of my heart, and God’s as we begin this year together? Donation: \$15, includes materials.

**SETTING THE DIRECTION FOR 2025** Friday, 1/3/24 9:30 am – 1 pm A new year is born! The first task at any new birth is to name the baby! We will give 2025 a name and choose a goal or practice for each month to assure it is true to its name! Does that sound appealing, grace-filled, and helpful to you? Donation: \$25, includes lunch. Zoom: \$20


**(ZOOM ONLY) FIRST BELONG TO GOD A RETREAT WITH POPE FRANCIS** 9 Wednesdays 3–4:30 pm or 7–8:30 pm Jan. 22 & 29 Feb. 12 & 26 March 12 & 26 April 9 & 23 May 7 If your soul needs light and peace and hope this program is for you. The time commitment is well worth it and to make it easier for you we are offering it both in the afternoon and the evening. Pope Francis’ writings give witness to the depth of his understanding of world issues and Ignatian Spirituality for today. We will use *First Belong to God* by Austen Ivereigh. Donation: \$150



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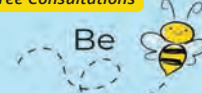
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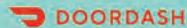


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