

## HIS WORD TODAY

by Rev. William J. Reilly

### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

December 29, 2024

“Because you are God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another, forgive whatever grievance you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. Over all these virtues put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect. Christ’s peace must reign in your hearts... Dedicate yourself to thankfulness. Let the word of Christ rich as it is, dwell in you.”

As we will hear much talk about New Year’s resolutions, which often fall on deaf ears or are easily forgotten, reread the recommendation of Saint Paul. Did you know that these virtues are gifts you have been given, but are to be shared? Did you know that you need not spend one penny to possess and give them to others? Did you know that you cannot get them online, or go out to purchase them?

These gifts and virtues we all possess, but sometimes we overlook them. Examine your conscience and conduct to see where they are, and begin the new year aware that you are the chosen to which Paul refers. They are the fruits of the Spirit he mentions in Galatians. Unwrap these gifts and make sure to share them with others. What a New Year’s treat!



# 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.

**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 Mangione  
 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

**Monday, December 30, 2024**

7:30 am Maureen Smith by Adelaide Avena  
 7:30 am Rita Baezler by Susan Leahy  
 7:30 am Josephine by Susan Leahy

**Tuesday, December 31, 2024**

7:30 am Paul Weeks by Fran Weeks  
 7:30 am Ronald James Thomas by Pat & Neil Rothman  
 7:30 am Mary Lou Addario by the Dobin Family  
 5:00 pm Raymond Smith by Joan Smith  
 5:00 pm Bridget Gowen by the Gowen Family  
 5:00 pm Charles Messenger by Jane Bessemer

**Wednesday, January 1, 2025-Solemnity of Mary**

8:30 am Ronald James Thomas by Karlyn Schmiedl  
 8:30 am Randy Haas by Susan Stohrer  
 8:30 am John Edward von Oehsen by Dave Zappulla  
 10:00 am Helen Bourdelais by Ellie & John Fox  
 10:00 am William Coyne by Susan Schenker  
 10:00 am Peter Skarpa by Ellie & John Fox

**Thursday, January 2, 2025**

No Mass

**Friday, January 3, 2025**

7:30 am Allen Bessemer by Kay Kolon  
 7:30 am Jasminka Lasic by Ellie & John Fox  
 7:30 am Peter McGuigan by Jackie Lyons

**Saturday, January 4, 2025**

8:30 am Denise & James Hogan by Deacon Gary  
 8:30 am Billy Slabinski by Deacon Gary  
 8:30 am Peter McGuigan by Lois & Denis Campbell  
 4:30 pm For the People of the Parish

**Sunday, January 5, 2025**

8:00 am Dorothy Ryan by the Walsh Family  
 8:00 am Josephine Gagliardi by Mark & Denise Olear  
 8:00 am Ann Zito by the Quigley Family  
 9:30 am Joan Clarkin Heary  
 by the Knights of Columbus 3231  
 9:30 am Rita Windas by the Galeotafiore Family  
 9:30 am Janice Kircher by the Trengrove Family  
 10:00 am Len Tylka by Michele & Jeff Kellner  
 10:00 am Rita Larkin by Helen & Bob Young  
 10:00 am Tom Mahedy by Kevin & Lynn Reynolds



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, Alyson Honrath, 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 Suaege, 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.



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.)

**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.



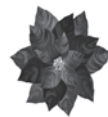
especially USMC Sgt. Jordan Basile, Coast Guard Petty Officer Joseph Beattie, USMC Corporal Patrick Bednarski, USMC Capt. Philip Cahill, Army Major Matthew Cauda, Army PFC Ryan Costello, Air Force 1st Lt. Dominic Celiano, Army Lt. Nik-kole Crosson, Army Captain Dr. Justin Eisenman, Army 2nd Lieutenant 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.

**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 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.

**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 the last two week's bulletins. Thank you to all who made donations to this collection.



**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS WERE DONATED IN MEMORY/HONOR OF:** Dorothy & Leon Madden, Adelaide & Clarence Jacobus, Robin Liboff, Anne & Carmine Freda, DiGrigoli/Rosell/Whitney Families, McNamara/Polak/Fletcher Families, Rose Goya, Jean & Dominic Orlando, Martin & Theresa Flanagan, Artie Bohse, Russell/Atchison/Plaskon Families, Jack Curtis, Don Bush, Laurie Curtis, Joe Lyttle, Tom & Barbara Powers, Arline Lyttle, Mildred Powers, Jack Kobes, Lamattina Family, Koch/Rice Families, James Devane, Francis O'Connor, Richard Trimble, Roger Salerno, John Coleman, Elizabeth Ann Dunn, Margaret & Jim Kinsley, Sally & Tom Canzano, Estelle Spillane, James M. Spillane, Catie Poland, Kathleen Grace, Agnes Testa, Joseph Testa, Edwin Mullen, Mr. & Mrs. Spinosa, Collis/Walters Families, Mr. & Mrs. L. Mandio, Alfred Manzi, Mr. & Mrs. John E. Skinner, Mr. & Mrs. William Leber, Bud & Ellie Molyneaux, Dan & Liz Finn, Dennis Ludwig, Dick Ludwig, and Jillian Ludwig.



### **HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**

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

**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.

**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/>).

**ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CELEBRATION**- You are invited to attend a celebration in honor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton on her feast day, Jan. 4th, at the 4 pm Mass at St. Margaret Church. A reception will follow in Duffy Hall, 3rd Ave. in Spring Lake.

**SURVIVING DIVORCE, HOPE AND HEALING FOR THE CATHOLIC FAMILY**- St. Leo's in Lincroft is pleased to announce its continuing ministry for Separated and Divorced Catholics. It is called "Surviving The Holidays" Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family" ([www.catholicsdivorce.com](http://www.catholicsdivorce.com)). St. Leo's will be hosting an information night on Thursday, January 16, 2025 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Parish Hall located at 50 Hurleys Lane, Lincroft, NJ. This information night will help you decide if you would like to attend our upcoming 12-week program starting in March of 2025 on Thursday nights. All the details will be provided to you at the information night. If you would like more information about our offerings, please check out our Ministry page at: <https://www.mylifechangecoach.com/divorceministry>. All are welcome! To register or if you are interested and would like more information, please email Michele Coppola Wilson at [healingheartsfromdivorce@gmail.com](mailto:healingheartsfromdivorce@gmail.com).

### **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  
The Iskra, Hrankowski,  
Sisko & Webster Families**

**FAITH FORMATION AND PARISH MINISTRY CONFERENCE**- All those in parish ministry are invited to attend the Diocese of Trenton's Faith Formation and Parish Ministry Conference on March 29, 2025 which will be held at St. John Vianney High School in Holmdel. We will have over 30 workshop speakers in both English and Spanish. Our keynote speakers will be Chris Padgett (English) and Fr. Agostino Torres, CFR (Spanish). Bishop David M. O'Connell will be our celebrant for Mass. There will be something for everyone, from catechists to OCIA teams, to pastoral care ministers. Registration opens Sunday, December 29th with an early registration fee of \$25.00. Go to [www.dioceseoftrenton.org/hope2025](http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/hope2025) for more information.

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



Admission into heaven is something money cannot buy. The only currency that has any value to secure our entrance is that of love. In a world where so many things can be bought with money, our minds often center more on money than love. What Jesus is trying to tell us is that money is a good servant-but a bad master. When money is employed as a servant, it can bring joy and comfort to millions and especially to those who have little or none of it. Our goal as members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, is to enable money to be a servant of the poor, but also to demonstrate the love of Christ to those we help. But let money become our master, let it take first place in our lives and it can become a tyrant. It can harden our hearts and blind our vision of the supreme realities of our existence.

Millions of "dollars" passed through the hands of St. Vincent and he made every cent a good servant. Vincent regarded the money which he received or possessed as the "patrimony of the poor", and so it was always to be used for the benefit of the poor. The parishioners of St. Denis in their generosity, continue to make it possible for us to make every dollar a "good servant" for the poor.

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.

## New Year Mas Schedule

### 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.

**BLESSED SAINT 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.

### WORD OF LIFE --

provided by **Mary's Child Pro-Life Ministry**

"Dearest St Joseph... Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life —especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life ([www.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph](http://www.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph))

#### **ACTION CENTER**

**SIGN-UP FOR ACTION ALERTS at**  
[www.humanlifeaction.org](http://www.humanlifeaction.org) AND <https://www.votervoicenet.com/USCCB/home> AND <https://nycatholic.org/faith-in-action>

Our legislators have begun to bring abortion legislation to a vote without customary comment periods and discussion before voting. We need to mobilize quickly and respond immediately to their actions. Please sign up directly for action alerts so you can update legislators immediately about proposed legislation.

**FIRST FRIDAY MASS & ADORATION---** It was the special desire of our Lord Jesus Christ, revealed to Blessed Margaret Mary, that the first Friday of each month be consecrated to the devotion and adoration of His most Sacred Heart. Join us after 7:30AM Mass to pray the rosary for the unborn, the protection of our country, peace throughout the world, and the special intentions recorded in the prayer book by parishioners. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament @ noon at St. Denis.

**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: [usccb.org/prolife](http://usccb.org/prolife) OR [respectlife.org](http://respectlife.org)

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER BILL

Happy Feast of the Holy Family and may the New Year bring you and your family many blessings! We begin the New Year celebrating The Feast of Mary the Mother of God, The Octave of Christmas. We will celebrate this Holy Day of Obligation with Masses on Tuesday, Dec. 31 at 5 pm and Wednesday, Jan.1 at 8:30 and 10 am (all at the Church!) It is a wonderful way to start the New Year with prayer and offering the Sacrifice of the Mass as we ask for God's grace in 2025. As we conclude 2024, we pause to look back at the spiritual life of our parish and the celebration of the Sacraments (and in relation to the previous year):

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Baptisms	81	71
First. Comm.	70	73
Confirmation	75	70
Weddings	40	40
Funerals	67	61

In addition, we celebrated many private receptions of the Sacrament of Confession, many Communion visits to the sick or homebound, and many receptions of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. We welcomed new people into the parish, and sadly said goodbye to some people as well. We have 3,093 families registered. I am happy to report that we are seeing more people at Masses! Our St Denis celebration and Spaghetti Dinner was sold out this year! Our Religious Education Program serves 495 children in our parish. Many thanks to the many volunteers who make all of this possible!

I invite you to continue to participate in the life of the parish. If you are new to the parish or have not been to one of our events or faith offerings you are most welcome to join us! We would love to see you! It is my hope that you will find a special place here at St. Denis where you can grow in your faith.

As we begin the New Year I continue to keep all of you in prayer and let all of us continue to pray for the success of our Parish and all we do to make it so. As always we ask St. Denis for his continued intercession that all we do is done for "the greater glory of God". Blessed New Year to you.

**MASS INTENTIONS** for the weekend, as well as the coming week, can be found on our parish website on Friday mornings [www.churchofstdenis.org](http://www.churchofstdenis.org)

**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 15, 2024**

**Weekly Collection- \$10,931.00**

**2nd Collection (Building Repairs for**

**St. John Vianney Parish in Florida)- \$11,152.00**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !**



STANDING TOGETHER  
FOR *Life*

# Mass for Life & Life Expo

CELEBRATED BY



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

Friday  
**JANUARY 24**  
11:00AM

Co-Cathedral of  
St. Robert Bellarmine,  
Freehold

## 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.

**All are Welcome • No RSVP needed**



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



# OPEN HOUSE



**JANUARY 26**  
12 - 2PM

**Preschool – 8th Grade**

Tour classrooms, meet our caring teachers, and explore how we create a nurturing environment for your child to thrive academically and socially!



**Engage**  
Engage with our innovative educators.



**Tour the Campus**  
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