

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 9, 2007**

**MONDAY**

**7:00 AM Edward Marren by Family**

**TUESDAY**

**7:00 AM William Benwell by Pat, Bill & Will Hughes**

**WEDNESDAY**

**7:00 AM Bernadette Wojciechowski by Pat & Jack Walsh**

**THURSDAY**

**7:00 AM Vincent Pileggi by Sister**

**FRIDAY**

**7:00 AM Carl Stackwick by Mr. & Mrs. Frank Slawinski**

**SATURDAY**

**5:00 PM Leo & Dorothy Michael by Daughter (VIGIL)**

**SUNDAY**

**8:30 AM Parishioners of St. John's & Ron O'Hehir**

**10:30 AM Wayne Hall (4<sup>th</sup> Annv.) by Mom & Dad**

**SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS 2007**

Average needed from Weekly Offerings to cover expenses \$6,800.00  
Collection, December 2, 2007 \$5,942.91

**UNDER \$ 857.09**  
The following are some expenses paid this past week:

Medical Insurance \$2,203.00  
Religious & Other Supplies \$1,601.00  
Utilities \$ 264.00  
Maintenance \$ 690.00

Last week's Children's Collection amounted to \$40.00.

**ROSARY CORNER**

The Rosary is prayed every weekday following the 7 AM Mass and Novena.

**ALL ARE INVITED:**  
**BLOCK ROSARY:**

Monday, 7:00 PM at 511 Lincoln Avenue  
Wednesday, 8:00 PM at 607 Third Street

**WHAT IS A BLOCK ROSARY?** Neighbors gathering in each other's homes for a half-hour to pray the Rosary for Peace in the World, for the Local Community and for each other's intentions. Please consider having a Block Rosary in your home. For more information, call Maureen Shea at 968-0136.

**BLUE ARMY ROSARY CELL**

Where: 511 Lincoln Ave., Dunellen  
When: Every Tuesday – 10:30 AM  
All are welcome. Bring your children & grandchildren.  
For more information, call Maureen Shea at 968-0136.

**ST. JOHN FOOD PANTRY**

Our Food Pantry for those less fortunate is in need of the following food products: Dry pasta, tomato sauce, canned soups, canned meats, canned vegetables and canned fruit. Thanks to all those who have been so generous in the past.

**ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED**

Those Parents who have children Grade 4 and above who show an interest in being Altar Servers contact Mr. Peter

Brannon at the Pastoral Center, 732-968-2621.

FROM THE LYONS DEN

Prominently displayed in our Sanctuary area this Advent Season is the Jesse Tree.

This symbol tells the story of the people and events that led up to the birth of Jesus.

The idea for this “tree” comes from the prophet Isaiah – “A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse.” This “shoot” is to be a leader filled with God’s Spirit.

The following symbols and their significance can be found on the Jesse Tree:

1. An Apple - Adam and Eve, Genesis 9:15-17.
2. An Altar of Sacrifice - Abraham, Genesis 12:2, 22:12.
3. A Ladder - Jacob, Genesis 28:12, 15.
4. A Lion - Judah, Genesis 49:8, 10.
5. A Coat - Joseph, Genesis 37:23-24.
6. Wheat Tied In A Bundle - Ruth, Ruth 2:12.
7. A Burning Bush - Moses, Exodus 3:10, 16:4, 20:2-3.
8. A Budding Flower - Isaiah 11:1, I Samuel 16:1.
9. A Lyre - King David, 2 Samuel 7-12.
10. A Lamb/Shell - John the Baptist, Luke 1:76-77.
11. A T-Square/Saw - St. Joseph, Husband of Mary, Matthew 1:20.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

“DO YOU KNOW” A needy Person or Family?  
Could one of your neighbors benefit from assistance with food and/or other essentials? Please call the Pastoral Center, 968-2621, in confidence, and we will do whatever we can to help. Please continue to bring men’s toiletries – toothbrushes, and large and medium thongs-slippers for the Ozanam Men’s Shelter – Articles may be left in the vestibule – Thanks for not forgetting the “guys”.

**SPREADING THE WORD –SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 9, 2007**

*We must be good stewards of God’s gifts to us, receiving them gratefully and cultivating them with care, lest we be the ones about whom John the Baptist speaks today, cautioning us, “Every tree that does not*

*bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”*

*See Matthew 3:10*

ART & ENVIRONMENT

The Art & Environment Committee will gather after 10:30 AM Mass on December 23<sup>rd</sup> to decorate the church for the Christmas season. All are invited to help. Thanks for your acts of stewardship.

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time will be reflecting with their families and catechists about how the sacrament empowers us to live out our mission of being forgivers and reconcilers. Join them by reflecting on your experience of being a forgiver and reconciler.

Please keep our young people in your prayers as they receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation next Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at the 10 AM Penance Service: *Kalin Barrett, Joseph DelVecchio, Frank Demaio, Glen Diamond, Julia Duggan, Alex Fash, Michael Habeeh, Jan Iglesias, Anthony Iparrguirre, Anthea Kiang, Arthur Kopacz, Natalie Lizak, Ciro Lowder, Jeanette Mastrogiovanni, Sharfaraz Noor, Emily Pellicano, Matthew Piccirilli, Kyle Piekarski, Jillian Rentenberg, Sidney Shannon, Matthew Tolomeo, Rosaura Torres, Kenneth Tunison, and Luke Tunison.*

ST. JOHN PARISH MISSION

ST. JOHN PARISH MISSION COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP – St. John Parish will be hosting a parish mission from March 7-10, 2008. This year’s theme will be “*Fellowship in Faith.*” A committee is forming to coordinate and plan the details of the mission. Anyone who is interested in helping out is invited to our first meeting on Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held at 7:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room in the Pastoral Center. This will be a short term commitment, and there are a variety of jobs to be done. If you are not able to make the meeting, but are interested in helping out, please call Sue Lester at 732-752-1109.

ST. JOHN CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNER

Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Glenn White \$100.00  
 Congratulations to our winner!  
 Extra calendars may be obtained at the Parish  
 Center or by contacting Joanna Kelly at (732) 968-  
 4324.

**STEWARDSHIP**

**WANTED! ASSISTANCE & GENEROSITY**  
 Your help is needed in order to get St. John Church ready  
 for Christmas. Pews will be cleaned on Thursday,  
 December 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM in the church. If you are  
 interested in supporting this outreach please call Anne  
 North at 732-968-0711.

**TIME, TALENT & TREASURE**

fostering Stewardship as a way of life

**This week's Stewardship of Time & Talent Salute.**

Everyone benefits from the sacrificial gift one  
 makes of his/her time, talent, and treasure, we  
 gratefully acknowledge and salute:

Jean Amatelli and Mary Benwell for  
 cleaning our church on a weekly basis.

Thank you again for your participation!

**THE GIVING TREE**

“Angel” gifts need to be returned to the Parish  
 Center during office hours Monday through  
 Thursday or to the Church **BEFORE NOON ON**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>** in order for the child to  
 receive his/her gift. Thank you for your cooperation.

**DIOCESE OF METUCHEN**

**YOUTH & FAMILY GUADETE SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
 CELEBRATION**

Come and Rejoice on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, December  
 16<sup>th</sup>! Ceili Rain, with music hits from both secular and  
 Christian pop music with their slightly Irish flair, will be  
 sharing their music and true faith stories at St. Cecelia

Church, Iselin (exit 131 off Garden State Parkway).  
 Sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Youth & Young Adult  
 Ministry and Family Life Office for all! Mass will be held  
 at 2 PM followed by the concert. Tickets are \$5 per person  
 with maximum \$20 per immediate family and can be  
 purchased at the door. Help keep focused in preparing for  
 Christ at Christmas! For more information call 732-562-  
 1990 ext. 1631.

**2007 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL – “DISCIPLES OF  
 CHRIST...STEWARDS OF HIS GIFTS”**

O’Come, O’Come Emmanuel are the words all of us  
 recognize as we celebrate the Advent season. As  
 Christmas nears you are asked to make a special effort to  
 remember the 2007 Bishop’s Annual Appeal. If you have  
 yet to make your gift, can you do so today? During the  
 past year hundreds of parish school-aged children learned  
 more about Jesus through our parish Religious Education  
 Program. This program receives guidance, curriculum  
 standards and support from the Diocesan Office for  
 Religious Education that is supported by the Bishop’s  
 Annual Appeal. Please be as generous as your means  
 allow.

Please remember St. John Parish needs to achieve 85%  
 of our goal which amounts to \$27,285.00 in order not to  
 take money from our savings to complete our parish’s  
 responsibility to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

<u>GOAL</u>	<u>TOTAL PLEDGED</u>	<u>TOTAL PAID</u>
32,100.00	22,937.00	19,070.25

<u>SHORT OF GOAL</u>	<u>TOTAL DONORS</u>	<u>%PLEDGE TO GOAL</u>
13,029.75	158	71.45

Thank you!

**CATHOLIC FAITH-SHARING SUPPORT GROUP FOR  
 GAYS AND LESBIANS**

This parish-based group is open to Catholics and people of  
 all denominations as a follow-up to: issues raised in our  
 diocesan Synod, inquiries made at the parish, and offers to  
 help organize such a group. Discussion, prayer, support  
 and faith-sharing will be modeled after “Always Our  
 Children” support groups, based on the U.S. Catholic  
 Bishops Pastoral (1997). Meetings will be the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Wednesdays of each month in The Annex at Sacred Heart  
 Church, South Plainfield from 7:30-9 PM. This group  
 welcomes gay and lesbian adults 21+ and parents & friends  
 of gays and lesbians. Confidentially assured. This is not a  
 therapy counseling or advocacy group. Rev. John  
 Alvarado and Sr. Kathleen Rooney, SSJ will be the  
 spiritual moderators, though will not necessarily be at  
 every meeting. For information contact Bruce at 908-755-  
 2072. For directions to the church see

[www.churchofthesacredheart.net](http://www.churchofthesacredheart.net)

from 10:30-12:15 PM). Please call Fr. Tom Ganley at 732-545-4200 x 120 or Angie Tirso (Activity Director) at x137 if you want to help at other hours of the day. Thank You and May God Bless You.

### MOUNT ST. MARY

Mount St. Mary House of Prayer, Watchung, will offer the following programs. To register, call 908-753-2091 or e-mail: [mshope@att.net](mailto:mshope@att.net)

#### COME TO THE STABLE DAY

An annual tradition, includes prayer, blessing of the Christmas tree, community, refreshments on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 2 PM-4 PM.

#### YEAR-END DAY OF PRAYER

A personal quiet day to reflect on the past year. Day begins with communal prayer; labyrinth available in Mercy Hall. Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 9:30 AM-3 PM. Bring bag lunch. (Free-will offering)

### ST. MARY CHURCH

St. Mary Sunday Dinner Program would like to say a big "thank you" to everyone who helped make our Coat Give-Away such a success. We had at least 165 people attend and most of them were able to find a coat they liked. We also gave out new gloves and hats to all of our guests. Without the help of many churches and individuals this would not have been possible. Our dinner program serves a hot meal every Sunday from 3 PM to 4 PM for the needy of the area. Thanks again.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus is hosting a Community Breakfast on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 8 AM and 12 NOON. The Community Breakfast will be held in the school cafeteria of Our Lady of Fatima Church at 501 New market Rd., Piscataway. All are welcomed. Breakfast will include bacon, eggs, omelets, sausage, pancakes, french toast, cereals, danish, assorted juices, coffee and tea. The cost is \$20 per family, \$7 for adults and \$4 for children ages 5 through 12. children under 5 are free. For additional information call 732-968-2544.

**ST. JOHN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE**  
NEW AMOUNTS FOR THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN  
AS  
OF 11/15/2007:

AMOUNT PLEDGED:	\$301,105.00
PLEDGE PAYMENTS:	\$202,939.54
BALANCE:	\$ 98,165.46
DONATIONS/FUNDRAISING	\$ 16,140.00
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!	

THE SECOND COLLECTION FOR THIS WEEKEND DECEMBER 8/9 WILL BE THE DIOCESAN COLLECTION RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS WHICH BENEFITS ELDERLY WOMEN AND MEN RELIGIOUS. MORE THAN 19,000 RELIGIOUS HAVE LESS THAN 20 PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT NEEDED FOR PROJECTED COSTS OF LIVING AND HEALTH CARE. ....THE SECOND COLLECTION FOR NEXT WEEKEND DECEMBER 15/16 WILL BE FOR BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE....THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY....

**2008 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT EITHER THE DOLLAR PLANET STORE IN MIDDLESEX (NEAR ACME) OR AT THE PASTORAL CENTER. THE COST IS \$25.00. THE BOOK MAKES A WONDERFUL BIRTHDAY OR CHRISTMAS GIFT.....**

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to assist our residents on coming to Mass and other activities here at McCarrick Care Center. Your help is greatly needed any day (Sunday-Thursday)

