

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 23, 2007



Mass Intentions

CHRISTMAS EVE

- 5:00 PM Elsie Pajunas by Nancy, Rick, Ricky & Mallory
- 10:00 PM Sylvia Craig by husband, George

CHRISTMAS DAY

- 8:30 AM Gerard E. Cunningham by Family
- 10:30 AM Parishioners of St. John's & Kathleen Callahan

WEDNESDAY

- 7:00 AM Marion Maier by Joe & Marion England

THURSDAY

- 7:00 AM Theodore Chesler by Rick, Nancy, Ricky & Mallory

FRIDAY

- 7:00 AM Ed Marren by Ruth & Tony Payer

SATURDAY

- 5:00 PM (VIGIL) Frederick H. Bowe by Wife & son, Frederick

SUNDAY

- 8:30 AM Parishioners of St. John's & Frances DeSimone
- 10:30 AM Minnie Hall by Dianne & Ray Applegate & Family

SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS 2007

Average needed from Weekly Offerings to cover expenses	\$6,800.00
Collection, December 16, 2007	<u>\$4,274.36</u>
UNDER	\$2,525.64

The following are some expenses paid this past week:

Medical Insurance	\$ 781.00
Religious & Other Supplies	\$ 907.00
Utilities	\$ 275.00
Copier Expense	\$ 249.00

The IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLECTION amounted to \$774.00.

The RETIREMENT FOR RELIGIOUS COLLECTION amounted to \$1,244.25.

Last week's Children's Collection amounted to \$23.00.

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.

FROM THE LYONS DEN

On behalf of myself, Fr. Krystian, Deacon Mike and the Staff at St. John's, I would like to take the opportunity to wish all our parishioners and their loved ones a Joyous, Peace-filled Christmas. May the Infant Savior bring love and blessings into your home this coming year....

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.

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".



ART & ENVIRONMENT

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



CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Many Thanks to all who responded so loving with gifts for the children on our "Angel Tree". May your Christmas be a blessed, joyous one.

ST. JOHN CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNER

Monday, December 17th, Eileen Marren \$100.00
Congratulations to our winner!
Extra calendars may be obtained at the Parish Center or by contacting Joanna Kelly at (732) 968-4324.

SPREADING THE WORD –FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 23, 2007

When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child, Jesus and His mother, Mary. God grant that I may be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

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:

*Frances Criscuolo, Yolanda Giacomarra,
Kathryn Kelly, Lourdes Manaois and Peggy Ulmes
for taking care of the chapel & church linens.*

Thank you again for your participation!

DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

2007 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL – "DISCIPLES OF CHRIST....STEWARDS OF HIS GIFTS"

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	23,845.00	20,497.00
<u>SHORT OF GOAL</u>	<u>TOTAL DONORS</u>	<u>%PLEDGE TO GOAL</u>
11,603.00	168	74.28

Thank you!

A lesson learned during Advent

Julie Reynolds of Snohomish, Washington, tells of one Advent season when all her young children came down with chicken pox. Everything planned was put on hold or forgotten altogether. They missed many church and community activities as well as get-togethers with family and friends.

But Julie discovered something during her forced hiatus. She had time to do things with her children. The children were well enough to engage in some family activities that the normal Christmas rush might have prevented.

She read Christmas stories to the children. The kids used blankets, walking sticks and other objects to reenact the story of the holy family traveling to Bethlehem. They had time together to discover the joy of family fellowship and to think seriously about the meaning of Christmas.

Julie recalled other Christmases when she had been so busy shopping, decorating, cooking and running about that she missed Jesus. She said, "I completely missed celebrating the joy of His birth in my own heart. And the emptiness I have felt at those times brought a sorrow and regret deep in my soul."

No more! Now she deliberately schedules "open days" on her calendar, especially during Advent. They are days for waiting upon God, praying, listening and enjoying the peace of God. And they are days of truly being with her family, keeping the bond strong, and the relationships in good repair. Now, she recalls with gratitude the lesson she learned during that Advent years ago.

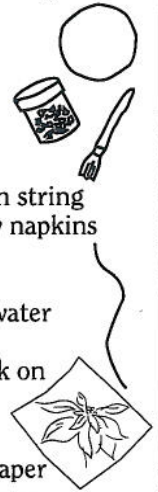


Make Christmas Ornaments

Make Christmas ornaments for your tree or to give as gifts.

Materials you need:

- ★ a Styrofoam ball
- ★ glitter
- ★ white craft glue
- ★ a small art brush
- ★ fishing line or thin string
- ★ decorative holiday napkins
- ★ scissors
- ★ large paper-clip
- ★ small amount of water
- ★ small paper cup
- ★ newspaper to work on



Directions:

1. Lay out the newspaper to cover your work area.
2. Open a napkin all the way and cut out the design.
3. Put some glue in the paper cup and mix in a few drops of water to thin it. Use the brush to stir.
4. Spread some of the thin glue on one half of the ball.
5. Place the napkin's design (face out) on the glued half of the ball. Press gently to smooth.
6. Carefully brush glue over the picture.
7. Repeat on the other side of the ball.
8. Roll the ball in the glitter.
9. Let dry completely.
10. Use the paper-clip to drill a hole through the ball.
11. Thread the fishing line or string through the hole and tie the ends to make a big loop.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES, DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

It's All About Families...Children Grow Best In Families...11, 200 children in New Jersey this Christmas will be without their families wishing they could be in a loving safe place. Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen is in need of homes to keep kids feeling safe and loved not only at Christmas but throughout the year. Children of all ages and backgrounds are in need of loving, nurturing homes. Call Today! 1-866-247-HOME (4663).

DEALING WITH DIVORCE

Someone in your family facing it? A self-help support group is being formed at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen for those who are in the early stages of a separation/divorce experience. The group will be meeting Thursday evenings for ten weeks beginning January 10th from 7:30-9:30 PM. There is no fee. Pre-registration is required. Please register no later than January 3rd. For further information please call Vickie 732-548-3170 (after 5:30 PM).

MOUNT ST. MARY

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

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 31st, 9:30 AM-3 PM. Bring bag lunch. (Free-will offering)

GRIEF RECOVERY

Learning a process to deal with grief. Gentle 4-step experiential process for resolving the grief caused by loss. Sunday, January 13th, 1:00-5:30 PM (\$45). Mary Jo Kearns, RSM.

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...

PREGNANCY RESOURCES

There are many resources available to assist women who may need help during an unplanned pregnancy. Whether the need is emotional, spiritual, financial or medical there is help available. This information might save some lives. This is a partial resource list. Services are free and confidential.

Action Pregnancy
77 Paterson St.
New Brunswick, NJ
732-828-1166

Life Choices Resource Center
503 Main St.
Metuchen, NJ
732-516-0911

Pregnancy Aid & Information Center
4 E. Main St.
Raritan, NJ
908-526-8121

The Pro-Life Office, Diocese of Metuchen
732-562-1990 ext. 1629 or 1543 or visit
www.pregnancycenters.org



Christmas Schedule:

Christmas Eve: 5:00 PM
10:00 PM

Christmas Day 8:30 AM
10:30 AM

*Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
(Holy Day of Obligation)
December 31st (Vigil) 5:00 PM
January 1, 2008 9:00 AM*