

**HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

DECEMBER 28, 2008



MONDAY

7:00 AM Ronnie Gray (1st Annv.) by Clem Santy

TUESDAY

7:00 AM All Souls in Purgatory by Lina Giordano

WEDNESDAY

**7:00 AM In Honor of the Petravicus Family by
Amuras Petravicus (Spiritual Bouquet)**

**5:00 PM Helen & Ted Chesler by Rick, Nancy,
(VIGIL) Ricky and Mallory**

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY
(HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION)**

**9:00 AM In Honor of Amuras Petravicus Family
(Spiritual Bouquet)**

FRIDAY

**7:00 AM John M. Drobnak by Mr. & Mrs. John
Moran**

SATURDAY

**5:00 PM Angela Ahern by Joan & Ed Nowicki
(VIGIL)**

SUNDAY

**8:30 AM Parishioners of St. John's & Edward
Sheenan**

10:30 AM Joseph Wojtach & Marion Schrieber

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: 515 Lincoln Ave., Dunellen

When: Every Tuesday – 10:00 AM

All are welcome. Bring your children & grandchildren. For more information, call Maureen Shea 732-968-0136.

ST. JOHN FOOD PANTRY

Our Food Pantry for those less fortunate is in need of the following food products: Dry pasta, cereals, tomato sauce, canned soups, canned meats, canned fish, canned vegetables and canned fruit and juice. Please note that all foods that are donated to St. John's will be brought to the FISH Food Pantry located on New Market Rd., Piscataway. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

Those parents that have children who show an interest in being Altar Servers contact Deacon Michael Gleason at the Pastoral Center, 732-968-2621.

**SPREADING THE WORD – HOLY FAMILY –
DECEMBER 28, 2008**

“Whatever you do,” says St. Paul to the Colossians, “...do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through Him.” And so it is that we offer our gifts in the Eucharist “through Him, with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit.”
(See Colossians 3:17)





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:*

Our Altar Servers

Thank you again for your participation!



BIBLE STUDY

THE BIBLE AND THE SACRAMENTS

Continuing our "Journey through Scripture, a six-week study of the Sacraments of the Catholic Church and their biblical roots will begin on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.

Learn why the sacraments are foundational to the Christian life and how they are our 'stairway to heaven'. Come to understand their Old Testament roots and New Testament institution. The six-week study will cover the Sacraments in general, the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism and Confirmation), the Eucharist (2 weeks), the healing Sacraments (Confession and Anointing of the Sick), and the vocation Sacraments (Matrimony and Holy Orders).

The course will again be presented by Paul Major, a parishioner of Our Lady of the Mount in Warren. Paul has a Master of Arts in Theology, with a concentration in Sacred Scripture, from Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology in South Orange, NJ and Certification in "Journey through Scripture" courses from the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology at the Franciscan University, Steubenville, OH.

BASEMENT RENOVATION

The Building Committee has begun construction on the new Handicap Accessible Bathrooms for the Parish hall in the basement of the church. A bulletin board has been set up in the rear of the church showing the progress that has been made.

We are asking that parishioners consider donating their time, talent or treasure toward this project. Anyone wishing to make a donation should remove the appropriate price tag from the board, and return it to the Parish Center or drop in the collection basket.

We would like to thank the many parishioners who have already contributed to this project which will make a fine addition to our facility for 2009!



THE DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

2008 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL - CONTINUING THE MISSION OF CHRIST

<u>GOAL</u>	<u>TOTAL PLEDGED</u>	<u>TOTAL PAID</u>
37,600.00	21,120.50	19,699.25
<u>SHORT OF GOAL</u>	<u>TOTAL DONORS</u>	<u>% PLEDGE TO GOAL</u>
17,900.75	165	56.17

Thank You!

It's not too late to contribute to the 2008 Bishop's Annual Appeal. Your gift helps to support more than 25 Diocesan ministries serving people every day throughout Middlesex, Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren counties. Thank you for your prayerful consideration,

RAINBOWS - A SUPPORT GROUP FOR CHILDREN

Are you a parent who worries about the devastating effects your child or children have experienced or are currently experiencing due to death, divorce or loss in your family? Why not give them a chance to join a peer support group for children (5 to 12 years of age). The children meet in small groups of three to five children according to their age level with a trained facilitator. With the assistance of the facilitator they will learn to put their feelings into words and begin the process of working through their grief. A Rainbows program will be held every Tuesday for 6 weeks beginning January 6, 2009 at 6:30 PM at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen. If you have any questions or know a child or children in need of this program, please contact Vicki Caterino, Rainbows Coordinator (732) 548-3170. Rainbows is available at no cost to the children or their families.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES, DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

All I want for Christmas.... Over 10,000 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 to Become A Foster Parent! 1-866-3247-HOME (4663) It's All About Families...Children Grow Best In Families.

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 evening for ten weeks beginning Thursday, January 8, 2009 from 7:30-9:30 PM. For more information please call Vickie 732-548-3170 (after 5:00 PM). There is no fee. Pre-registration is required. Please register no later than January 2nd.



Through the saving waters of Baptism, we welcome the following children who have begun their initiation into the Roman Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist:

Jackson Charles Portik, Juliet Rose Gil, Carter James Lodato, Jackson Sixto Gendrano, Aiden Michael Ago, Austin James Kolakowski and Ethan Christopher Myrick

We remember these children, their parents and their godparents in our prayers as they have begun their journey toward full communion in the Roman Catholic Church.

THE SECOND COLLECTION FOR THIS WEEKEND DECEMBER 27/28 WILL BE OUR PARISH COLLECTION TO HELP DEFRAY THE COST OF OUR INSURANCES & ASSESSMENTS....THE SECOND COLLECTION FOR NEXT WEEKEND JANUARY 3/4 WILL BE FOR UTILITIES....PLEASE BE AS GENEROUS AS YOUR MEANS ALLOW....

ST. JOHN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

NEW AMOUNTS FOR THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AS OF 12/17/08:

AMOUNT PLEDGED:	\$301,105.00
PLEDGE PAYMENTS:	\$252,769.30
BALANCE:	\$ 48,335.70
DONATIONS/FUNDRAISING:	\$ 17,425.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

MOUNT ST. MARY

Mount St. Mary House of Prayer, Watchung will offer the following programs. **Registration required**; call 908-753-2091 or e-mail: msmhope@msmhope.org

YEAR-END DAY OF PRAYER

A personal quiet day to reflect on the past year. Day begins with communal prayer. Wednesday, December 31st, 9:30 AM-3:00 PM. Bring a bag lunch (Free-will offering)

ST. BERNADETTE CHURCH
PARLIN

A Charismatic Healing Mass will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2009, 7:30 PM at St. Bernadette Church, corner of Princeton and Villanova Rds., Parlin. Rev. Bill Halbing, Pastor of St. Antoninus Church in Newark, will

be the Presider. Praise and Worship begins at 7:00 PM with His Branches Praise Band. Individual healing prayer will be available. For additional information, please call 732-721-2772.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

A Men's Prayer Breakfast featuring Fr. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R. will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2009 from 8:00-9:30 AM at Koinonia Academy, 1040 Plainfield Ave., Plainfield. A full free breakfast will be served. No tickets required. A free-will offering will be taken. The speaker, Fr. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R., is known and loved around the world for his bold and powerful witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This prayer breakfast is sponsored by The People Of Hope, A Catholic, Charismatic, Covenant community serving the Lord and one another for over 30 years – and still growing. **All men and young men of high school age and older are welcome** – come join us for breakfast, prayer and fellowship. For more information, please call Joe Burke at 908-771-0018 or David Skrzyniarz at 732-653-5015.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS
OF THE AMERICAS

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Regina Coeli #940 is a national Catholic organization dedicated to prayer, good works and the helping of others less fortunate. CDA is an opportunity to make new friends, to have fun while enriching your life as well as the lives of those less fortunate, and to engage in spiritual activities. Regular meetings are once a month, September to June, on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. The next meeting will be January 13th, and is held upstairs in the St. John the Evangelist Parish Center, Dunellen. For more information, please call Audrey Spenard 908-561-8050 or Beth Willoughby 732-752-8396. All Catholic women 18 years and older are welcome.

LIFENET

ATTENTION HOCKEY FANS!! Tickets are available for the Sunday, January 4, 2009 Devils vs. Ottawa Senators game at 5:00 PM at the new Prudential Center in Newark. Seats are in a private luxury glassed-in box. Tickets are \$120.00 per seat, and includes great food and drink. This would make a great Christmas present for a hockey fan! The proceeds go to LIFENET, a NJ Pro-Life Educational Organization, to help them carry out their vital work. If you can't make this game, but would like to buy tickets for a future Devils game, we can put you on a "List to Notify". To reserve your January 4th tickets, or to get on the list to notify, call 201-804-8331 or e-mail lifenetok@yahoo.com.



THE HOLY FAMILY
DECEMBER 28, 2008

HIS WORD TODAY

by Rev. William J. Reilly

“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 grievances 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....” “The child grew in size and strength, filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.”

Three days remain in the current year. How many times will people hear discussions about ‘new year’s resolutions’. Some are serious about change; others will forget pledges and promises within a few days. As we approach a new year let’s create a plan.

Because of the richness of St. Paul’s letter today, why not revisit the gifts and virtues which he wished others to have, and search out whether they are found in our own lives. I wonder if they are Christmas gifts we forgot to open.

On this family day please reflect for a moment. Of the seven virtues mentioned above, who in my family seems to have mercy or kindness? Who is it who possesses patience and meekness?

Where is humility or forgiveness found? These are essential elements in family life. How blessed I am to find them manifest in others.

The next questions may be more difficult. Of the seven virtues mentioned which ones do I reflect in my dealings with others? Do I see that I can heal through mercy, bring others together through kindness, lead by being a person of the beatitudes, and share serenity and tranquility through my patience. Before the year runs out, at least in my prayer, who do I wish to forgive or from whom to seek forgiveness. Am I ready to build 2009 based on these virtues and the love which is the mortar to unite these bricks as one?

As I consider my family and family relationships I too, like the Christ child, -the gift - will grow in strength, wisdom and grace. Thanks be to God for the graces of 2008. Lord I ask your abundant life in 2009.

