

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2009



MONDAY

7:00 AM Vincent Pileggi, Jr. by Sister

TUESDAY

7:00 AM Dickie McAuley by Michele Rabouin

WEDNESDAY

7:00 AM Barbara Haythorn by The Clark Family

THURSDAY

7:00 AM Angela & Vincent Pileggi by Daughter

FRIDAY

7:00 AM Barbara Haythorn by Tony & Ruth Payer

SATURDAY

5:00 PM D'Ovidio Tagliatella Families by Tony (VIGIL) & Cathy D'Ovidio

SUNDAY

8:30 AM Wayne Hall by Mom & Dad

10:30 AM The Parishioners of St. John's

SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS 2009

Average needed from weekly offerings to cover expenses \$6,800.00
Collection, December 6, 2009 \$7,497.87

OVER \$ 697.87

Children's Collection for last week amounted to \$131.35

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY.

ROSARY CORNER



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

ALL ARE INVITED:

BLOCK ROSARY:

Monday, 7:00 PM at 515 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 – 10:00 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 –THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 13, 2009

Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."

(See Luke 3:11)

Dear St. John's Catholic Church,

The Ozanam Inn wants to thank you for all that you have done for our residents. We want you to know how appreciative we are for your generous donation of toiletries and flip flops for the men of the Ozanam Inn.

It is because of people like you supporting us; we are able to continue our mission to supply the needs of the homeless. Again many thanks.

Sincerely,
Nicole Fernandez
Program Supervisor



THANKSGIVING BASKETS

The generous spirit of so many parishioners helped to bring Thanksgiving dinner to those who might otherwise have done without. Thanks and God's blessings to all!

The Social Concerns Ministry

THE GIVING TREE

Our Christmas "Giving Tree" will be in place on the weekend of November 28th and 29th. All details for gifts and return date are noted on the "Angel". Children were told to list their "wishes".....know that you can choose to grant the "wish", or select some thing that you would feel appropriate. As always your kindness and generosity are so appreciated. Gifts may be left in the vestibule of the church or brought to the Parish Center. **ALL "ANGEL" GIFTS MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 12TH AND 13TH.**

ST. JOHN ACTIVITIES/FUNDRAISING

FUNDRAISING RAFFLE!!!

Framed Picture THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS by a parishioner of St. John's, Mary Zink (Costa)..Limited edition Crelee Print certificate included. Raffles will be sold weekends of December 12/13 & December 19/20 after all Masses. Raffle will be held Mon Dec 21st. (Cost per raffle ticket \$2.00)

SCRIP FUNDRAISER

Scrip orders are to be picked up on Wednesday December 11th at Parrish Center 1-3 pm or 6-7 pm at Parrish Center. Use St. John Scrip Fundraiser to get gift cards for all your everyday expenses like food, clothing and other essentials. Scrip gift cards are perfect Christmas gifts for those hard-to-shop friends and family members. For more information call Pat Nagel at 732-718-5197 or Anne North at 908-616-1546.

CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNER

December 7, – William S. Pochick, \$125.00
Congratulations to our winner!!!



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 Counters

Thank you again for your participation!



YOUTH GROUP MINISTRY

St. John Youth Group will meet every Sunday in the church auditorium from 5:00 – 7:00 PM. For details please call Joe and Kathy DeVecchio at 732-668-6801.

DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

2009 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL – BECAUSE WE ARE CHURCH

<u>GOAL</u>	<u>TOTAL PLEDGED</u>	<u>TOTAL PAID</u>
29,800.00	23,382.99	20,478.83
<u>SHORT OF GOAL</u>	<u>TOTAL DONORS</u>	<u>% PLEDGE TO GOAL</u>
6,417.01	176	78.5

Ministering to those experiencing pain, confusion and fear, and those preparing for death is the role of the clergy assigned to Hospital Ministry. They respond to calls at every hour of the day and night providing sacramental and pastoral presence in hospitals and health care facilities throughout the diocese. Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal helps to support this important pastoral ministry.

If you are 70 ½ years of age or older, you may directly transfer up to \$100,000 TAX-FREE (Federal Tax) to a qualified charity. St. John the Evangelist Parish, a parish school, Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Metuchen are qualified charities. These Charitable donations count toward your required annual minimum withdrawal. This distribution neither generates taxable income nor a tax deduction – so this may also benefit non-itemizers. Your IRS manger may charge a small fee for the transfer. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

A CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS

Join us for our annual cathedral concert of Advent and Christmas music: Sunday December 20th at 5pm at St. Francis, Main Street, Metuchen. No tickets required but an offering will be taken for the Cathedral Music Ministry.

KEEP IN THE KNOW

Learn about important legislative issues. Check out diocesan, office and parish events. Be inspired by articles in The Catholic spirit. Over 18,000 people click on each month. Visit: www.diometuchen.org.

THE SECOND COLLECTION FOR THIS WEEKEND DECEMBER 12/13 WILL BE THE DIOCESAN COLLECTION FOR THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS. YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION SUPPORTS THE CARE OF ELDERLY AND FRAIL RELIGIOUS AND HELPS PROVIDE SUCH BASICS NECESSITIES AS PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND MEDICAL SERVICES. THE SECOND COLLECTION FOR NEXT WEEKEND DECEMBER 19/20 WILL BE FOR UTILITIES. PLEASE BE AS GENEROUS AS YOUR MEANS ALLOW.

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

COME TO STABLE DAY

Prayerful Preparation for Christmas! An annual tradition, includes prayer, blessings of the Christmas tree, community, refreshments.
Sunday, Dec 20, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

YEAR END DAY OF PRAYER

A personal quiet day to reflect on the past year day begins with communal prayer. Thursday, December 31st, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Bring bag lunch. (\$20)

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNT
WARREN**

OLM Neighbor to Neighbor Employment Network meets in the Father Peter Room every Wednesday at 7:00 PM. We are open to anyone; employed, unemployed, underemployed or those willing to help others find positions. Our aim is to mentor job seekers and match them with employers. Come strengthen your individual network. Join us if you can and bring a friend. For further information please call 908-647-1075 or e-mail www.olmwarren.org.

CHRISTMAS LUMINARIES

Dunellen Luminaries in conjunction with Troop 29 will be welcoming the birth of Christ by once again offering luminaries to those who want to support this Christmas Eve tradition. The cost is \$5.00 per dozen which includes 12 candles and bags. Sand is available in the four parks in Dunellen. Net proceeds go to Dunellen Luminary Fund (charitable contribution) and Boy Scout Troop 29 (operating expenses). For further information please contact Chris Quinn at 732-310-2256.



**SCHEDULE OF
HOLIDAY SERVICES**

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve: 4:00 PM
6:00 PM
12:00 MIDNIGHT

Christmas Day: 8:30 AM
10:30 AM

*Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
(Holyday of Obligation)*

December 31st (Vigil) 5:00 PM
January 1, 2010 9:00 AM

THE 2010 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE PARISH CENTER OR DOLLAR PLANET IN MIDDLESEX. THE COST IS \$30.00. EACH BOOK ALSO INCLUDES PACKAGE OF FOUR “BONUS SAVINGS CARDS”. ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS MAKE A GREAT BIRTHDAY OR CHRISTMAS GIFT.



**Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2009**

HIS WORD TODAY

by Rev. William J. Reilly

“Everyone should see how unselfish you are... Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude”... ‘What ought we to do?’... ‘Teacher, what are we to do’... ‘What about us?’... Using exhortations of this sort, he preached the good news to the people.”

Continuing our Advent journey, we assemble with the crowds, the tax collectors and the soldiers, and pose our questions to John. They echo those asked by the groups above. John’s response is directed to us, for he preached the ‘good news’ the imminent coming of Jesus Christ.

This time of the year, when the word “giving” takes on so many meanings all of us should pause to consider great gifts. The first is the gift of God sending His son to live among us, because of our needs. In prayer I offer my expression of gratitude for Him and for everything I have. It is all gift.

The second gift is my response to our generous God, returning something of myself, in prayer to Him and in service to others. I turn to those in need of loving hands, a listening heart, and supporting smile or some material help. My gift can be expressed in countless ways and its valued enhanced when I make it my expression of gratitude. A modern spiritual writer expressed it this way: “Gratitude is the memory of the heart.”

My saying for the week: “Then God’s own peace which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts.”

