

Sunday

January 13, 2019



Mass Intentions

Monday, 1/14

7:00 a.m. Henry Janssen by
Matt & Terry Kurzius

Tuesday, 1/15

7:00 a.m. Pat Nagel by
Eileen & Lou Capozzi

Wednesday, 1/16

7:00 a.m. Pat Wenzel by
Lynn & Gary Guthreau

Thursday, 1/17

7:00 a.m. Rose Talarico by
Julie Robitaille

Friday, 1/18

7:00 a.m. Kurt Demmeble by
John & Jeanne Fitzgerald

Saturday, 1/19

5:00 p.m. Arthur & Pat Nagel by family

Sunday, 1/20

8:30 a.m. Ray Applegate by
Nina DiQuollo

10:30 a.m. Robert St. Laurent by family

*This week our Sanctuary lamp is lit in memory of
Anthony Marsjanik by family.*

*This week our Chapel candle is lit in memory of
Anthony Marsjanik by family.*

Sacrificial Offerings 2019

Sunday, January 6

Regular Collection: \$5,979.43

Children's: \$ 19.85

Solemnity of Mary \$ 150.00

Together in Charity \$ 333.00

Poor Box Collection

Monies collected in the poor boxes located in the Church entryway are used for the needy in our parish. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. **Please be as generous as your means allow.**

Time, Talent and Treasure



Fostering stewardship is a way of life. Everyone benefits from the sacrificial gift one makes of his/her time, talent and treasure. We gratefully acknowledge and salute:

The following members of The Art and Environment Committee for decorating the church for our Christmas liturgies:

**Chantal Reffler
Susie Chapleski
Kate Guzzi
Terry Kurzius
Joan Nowicki
Sylvia Switzer
John Haas
Roer Reffler
Steven Reffler**

Thank you for your participation!

FROM MSGR. BENWELL

Once again, I wish you all a Happy New Year. Borrowing from the Secular Franciscan greeting, may 2019 bring you "Peace and All Good!" I also want to express my deep gratitude for the cards, gifts, and sweets so many of you sent me, but especially for the promise of your prayers in the new year. I hope you will understand if I shared some of the cookies and candy with others. I tried my best to consume it all—as my latest blood test (unfortunately) proves!

I also thank you most sincerely for your generosity to the Christmas Collection, which totals to date \$24,654.34.

* * *

On a more bittersweet note, the first week of January marked the end of Dianne Applegate's service as our parish secretary. Dianne has begun a new "career" as a full-time Grandma to her first grandchild, Olivia. The parish secretary is often the first person people speak with when they have a parish need, question, or concern. St. John's is very fortunate that our first point of contact the past dozen years was Dianne. She was unfailingly friendly and understanding and always endeavored to be helpful. Thank you, Dianne. So many will miss you.

Our new parish secretary is Susan Kovach. For 14 years and until this August, Susan worked at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Piscataway, where she was the executive assistant to the vicar general (me), the chancellor, and to the director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection. Susan brings to her new role great enthusiasm, energy, and pastoral experience. She and her husband, Dan, are active parishioners of the Cathedral parish in Metuchen. Welcome, Susan, we're happy to have you as part of our parish family.

* * *

Through my oversight the annual Together in Charity Collection was not announced the weekend of December 29-30, prior to the scheduled collection last weekend. This is an extremely important collection, funding Catholic Charities' Emergency Assistance Program (EAP). When parishes cannot meet urgent and basic needs of their parishioners, the EAP steps in to help. Please know that the target of EAP funds is not simply the urban areas of our diocese. In the last year, the EAP aided 53 or 54% of our parishes (including St. John's). Altogether, the EAP helped 400 households throughout the Diocese, which included 605 adults and 574 children: a total of 1,179 individuals! Please consider being generous to the Together in Charity Collection—you can drop off your envelope in the regular collection at any Mass this month. Thank you and blessings for the week ahead.

- Msgr. Benwell

Foundation For Catholic Education
Special Collection

The second collection **next weekend, 1/20**, is for the Foundation for Catholic Education, which provides scholarships to financially-deserving children attending a Diocese of Metuchen Catholic elementary or high school. Over 100 deserving children are enrolled in one of our schools today thanks to your generous support of last year's collection. Hundreds of families, hoping to give their children the gift of a Catholic school education, will seek financial assistance from the FCE Scholarship Program for the 2019-20 school year. Your gift will send a child to Catholic school, changing a life forever! Please be as generous as your means allow.

Congratulations Laura Murray!

Congratulations go out to our parishioner **Laura Murray** who was recently honored with the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Borough of Dunellen in recognition of all of her volunteer work for the town. We're very proud of you, Laura!

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 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.

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, 732-968-2621, in confidence, and we will do whatever we can to help. Please continue to bring men's toiletries, tooth brushes, and large and medium thongs or slippers for the Ozanam Men's Shelter. Articles may be left in the vestibule. Thanks for not forgetting the "guys"

Angel Giving Tree and Christmas

Generous donations of more than 100 gifts made Christmas wishes come true!



Many blessings and thanks to our parish family for remembering those less fortunate.



Mark Your Calendar!

Casino Night is February 9

The Seventh Annual Casino Night is soon approaching! This popular event includes roulette, craps, black jack, and a raffle. Admission is \$35 and includes a \$70 chip voucher, hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks and coffee, and desserts. The event is BYOB. You can also purchase 50-50 tickets for \$5. Must be 21 and over to participate. Event and raffle tickets will be sold after all masses.

We are also seeking donors and gift donations for the event. Contact the Parish Office at (732) 968-2621 to make a donation. You can also donate a gift from St. Johns Amazon Wish List at <http://bit.ly/StJevDun>. Additional information is on the parish website.



**Pray
for the
Military**

Prayers for Our Service Members

Please pray for the following parishioners who are currently serving in the Military:

U.S. Navy Lt. Michael Bartilotti
U.S. Army Pvt. Luke Harshaney
U.S. Army Pvt. Raymond C. Pizzigoni
U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Ed Sella
U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Paul Frabizzio
U.S. Marine Mer. Cpl. Thomas Tyler Lizak
U.S. Army Pfc. Sean Parente
U.S. Marine Pvt. Dante Parente
U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Casey Wenzel
U.S. Army Recruit Timothy Francisco
US Marine Pvt. Stephen Wright
U.S. Marine Pvt. José Citron

If there are any other military members you would like to be included in our prayers, please contact the Parish Office.

HAPPY NEW YEAR from Religious Education!!!

Our families worked arduously at our December session making polar fleece blankets for the 48 children living at the Ozanam Shelter. We also collected enough blankets to give the shelter a supply for their next batch of residents AND have enough for the homeless men who live along the railroad. Additionally, one of our moms had stockings filled with goodies dropped off to me and I delivered them on Christmas Eve. When I arrived, the shelter was having a "Pajama Day" and all the kids were cuddled up in their blankets watching a Christmas movie eating popcorn. It was a beautiful sight to see. And a wonderful tribute to our families who are living out their anointing as "Priest, Prophet, and King."

Through January 13th, we are collecting socks for the Catholic Charities Homeless Men's Shelter. Please leave socks in the basket (under the table on the left) at the entrance to the church.

Best Blessings for a happy and healthy New Year! - Sharon

Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer

UPCOMING PROGRAMS: Registration required;

call 908-753-2091 or e-mail:

msmhope@msmhope.org

MID-WINTER MUSINGS

"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness?"- *John Steinbeck*

Warm your soul with reflections on hope in winter, with an opportunity to journal and share your own musings. **Wed., Jan. 23, 9:30-11:30 a.m. OR 7-9 p.m.** (\$20-\$30 as you are able)

Facilitator: Mary Jo Kearns, RSM

Vatican II and

The Church of The Third Millennium

The Office of Ongoing Faith Formation is pleased to present Vatican II and The Church of The Third Millennium, **10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.** on three consecutive **Wednesdays, 1/23, 1/30 and 2/6** in the **St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway**. Based on a video series entitled Vatican II and The Church of The Third Millennium with Dr. Richard R. Gaillardetz, Ph.D., this course, presented by Fr. Greg Uhrig, will offer an opportunity to reflect on and discuss the challenges facing the Catholic Church today. Open to all ages. No charge and no registration required. For more information call (732) 529-7933 or email guhrig@diometuchen.org.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held **January 25-27**. Early registration is advisable as space is limited. Phone **1-732-904-9636** for registration and information. Visit us at: www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org for more information.

Diocese of Metuchen

Mental Health Support Group

A Catholic prayer & support group for families affected by mental health issues will take place at **St. Patrick's Church in Belvidere, NJ** on the following **Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.: 1/9, 2/6, 3/13, April-December, 1st Wednesday of every month**. Elaine Eckard, president of the Warren County chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), the nation's largest grassroots organization on mental illness, will serve as the facilitator. It is our hope that our newly formed support group will offer spiritual support and many beneficial tips on how to cope with this health issue that continues to be misunderstood in our culture. For more information please call our Diocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities, 732-765-6432 or email: catholicswithdisabilities@gmail.com.