

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays of Advent (December 7, 14 and 21)
11:00 am to Noon and 4:00 to 4:45 pm

MULTI-PARISH PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 pm
St. Mary-Stony Hill Church, Watchung

VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY ~ CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 PM

6:00 PM

11:30 PM CAROL SING

12 Midnight

NATIVITY OF THE LORD ~ CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30 AM

10:30 AM

MASSES DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Sunday, December 29, 2019

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Regular Mass Schedule

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

9:00 AM

Sunday, January 5, 2020

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Regular Mass Schedule

Sunday, January 12, 2020

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Regular Mass Schedule

Mass Intentions

Sunday, 12/1

- 8:30 am Daniel & Kathleen Nunzello by loving grandson Ramoñ
- 10:30 am Parishioners of St. John's & Pat Urenovich by Pat, Bill & Will Hughes

Monday, 12/2

- 7:00 am James McDougal by the Mack family

Tuesday, 12/3

- 7:00 am Mission & Ministries of EWTN by John Kreiss

Wednesday, 12/4

- 7:00 am Mission & Ministries of EWTN by John Kreiss

Thursday, 12/5

- 7:00 am Mission & Ministries of EWTN by John Kreiss

Friday 12/6

- 7:00 am Mission & Ministries of EWTN by John Kreiss

Saturday 12/7

- 5:00 pm Henry Janssen by Barbara Carlisle

Sunday 12/8

- 8:30 am John J. Cashin by Eileen & Lou Capozzi
- 10:30 am Anna Fitzgerald by Bill & Pat Hughes

This week our Sanctuary lamp is lit in memory of **Michael Duggan** by **Margaret Huber**.

This week our Chapel candle is lit in memory of **Jerry Biro** by **Elizabeth Biro**.

**With Grateful Hearts ~
Thank you Sharon Sweeney ~
Welcome Patricia Hummel**

In his First Letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul says, "I always thank my God for you because of his grace given to you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way – with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge – God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you." We echo these words as we bid farewell to Sharon Sweeney who has served our Parish Religious Education program and thank her for sharing her gifts and talents with us. We also take this opportunity to welcome Patricia Hummel who will coordinate the program for the remainder of the year.

**The Solemnity of
the Immaculate Conception**

This year, December 8 (normally a holy day of obligation), is the Second Sunday of Advent. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to Monday, December 9, 2019. The obligation to attend Mass, however, does not transfer.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Next weekend, we will have a second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps hundreds of religious communities care for their aging members. Please join in thanking thousands of Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need.

St. John Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry is in need of the following: dry pasta, rice, cereal, canned tuna and chicken, low/no sugar canned fruit, no/low sodium canned vegetables and soups, tomato sauce and fruit juice. Food donations support our parish food pantry, for our neighbors in need as well as FISH Food Pantry on New Market Road in Piscataway. Thank you for your continuous 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 Parish 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”.

Time, Talent and Treasure



Fostering stewardship is a way of life. Everyone in our parish benefits from the sacrificial gift one makes of time, talent and treasure. With grateful hearts we thank:

Our Ushers

for their efforts.



Giving Tree

Our Angel Giving Tree is in place in the Church vestibule. Please select your angel and return your gift to the Parish Center or Church by **December 15, 2019**. Blessings and thanks as we prepare for our Savior’s birth.

Special Thank You

The weekly and special Thanksgiving food collections have been so generous that our Thanksgiving Baskets were brimming over. Thanks to our church family for making this happen!
 – Mary Lou Chingery



Prayers for Our Service Members

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

- U.S. Navy Reserve 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 Spec. 4 Timothy Francisco**
- U.S. Marine LCpl. 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.

Free Advent Reflection series from Immaculate Conception Seminary

Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology invites you to celebrate the truth, the goodness and the beauty of the Advent season through our Advent video reflection series. Sign up to receive an e-mail each day of Advent with a video reflection on that day's reading, offered by our inspiring faculty and administration. Experience the Lord with us this Advent season. Click here <https://www.shu.edu/theology/immaculate-conception-seminary-advent-series.cfm>

Amazing Possibilities

Dynamic Catholic is offering a free and totally awesome daily video program, sent straight to your email, that will help you prepare for Christmas like never before! You can sign up at <https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever>.

Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer

UPCOMING PROGRAMS: Registration required; call 908-753-2091 or email: msmhope@msmhope.org

ANSWERED PRAYERS – AN ADVENT EVENING OF RECOLLECTION

The Gospel of John proclaims "... the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn 1:14). Come and ponder this revelation and discover how God answers prayers. A light supper is included.

Wed., Dec. 4, 5:30 -9 p.m. (\$50-\$60 as you are able)

Presenter: Jim Choma, VP for Catholic Mission & Chief Development Officer at Saint Peter's Healthcare System

First Sunday of Advent – God Comes to Meet Us!

A Reflection by Pope Francis

Today we begin our Advent journey, the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes near to encounter us, and to verify our longing for God; to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ's return to us in the celebration of Christmas. We remember his historic coming in the humility of the human condition. But he enters our hearts each time we are willing to receive him, and he will come again at the end of time to "judge the living and the dead." therefore, we must always be watchful and await the Lord with the hope of encountering him. In today's Gospel, Jesus exhorts us to stay awake, "For you do not know the day your Lord will come." The person who takes heed does not let himself or herself be overwhelmed by distraction or superficiality amid the worldly din, but lives in a full and conscious way, with concern first and foremost for others. The watchful person is one who accepts the invitation to keep watch, that is, not to be overpowered by discouragement, by the lack of hope, by disappointment, and at the same time to ward off the allure of the many vanities with which the world is brimming and for which, now and then, time and personal and familial peace is sacrificed.

For reflection: How might I be more attentive to God's presence with me this Advent?

