

Sunday

December 16, 2018



Mass Intentions

Monday, 12/17

7:00 a.m. Anna & Francis Nowicki by
Joan & Ed Nowicki

Tuesday, 12/18

7:00 a.m. Butch Spagnola by wife Jackie

Wednesday, 12/19

7:00 a.m. Pat Nagel by Catholic
Daughters Court Regina
Coeli #940

Thursday, 12/20

7:00 a.m. Wayne Hall by father Joe

Friday, 12/21

7:00 a.m. Anthony Payer by
Andy & Yvonne Murray

Saturday, 12/22

5:00 p.m. Joseph Honnig by Parr family

Sunday, 12/23

8:30 a.m. Tagliatella & D'Ovidio
families by Tony & Cathy
D'Ovidio

10:30 a.m. Barbara Zionkowski by
husband Ed

*This week our Sanctuary lamp is lit in memory of John
Carlisle by mother Barbara.*

*This week our Chapel candle is lit in memory of
Richard Bartilotti, Sr. by Barbara Carlisle.*

Sacrificial Offerings 2018

Sunday, December 9

Regular Collection: \$4,811.78

Children's: \$ 43.00

Holy Day: \$1,103.00

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.**

THANK YOU FROM BISHOP CHECCHIO

Dear Msgr. Benwell -- Please extend my sincere thanks to the parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Parish for their generous response to the 2018 Bishop's Annual Appeal. With final gifts totaling \$31,302.92, your parish achieved 97.82% of its \$32,000 goal.

It is our mission, as a diocesan family, to bring Christ's message of hope and love to everyone we meet. Together we are *Lighting a Fire in the Heart of Our World*. God bless you and be assured you have my heartfelt gratitude and prayers.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Monday, 12/24 – 4 p.m., 6 p.m., Midnight

Tuesday, 12/25 – 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

Office Holiday Schedule

The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday 12/24** and **Tuesday 12/25** as well as **Monday 12/31** and **Tuesday 1/1**.

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"



Giving Tree

Our Angel Christmas Giving Tree is now up in the church vestibule. Details for gifts and return dates are noted on the angels. Gifts may be left in the church vestibule or brought to the Parish Center during business hours. Be certain to note the dates for return so no child will be disappointed. May your expression of love bring you peace this blessed season!

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:

Maureen Spadato
for coordinating the Religious
Education Candy Sale



Congratulations, Matthew Nielsen!

Congratulations to parishioner Matthew Nielsen, who, with his Court of Honor this Sunday, 12/16, formally receives the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest achievement attainable in the Boy Scouts of America! Matthew has been a St. John's parishioner all his life and has served the parish as an altar server and assistant for Children's Liturgy of the Word. Matthew's Eagle Scout Project helped our great veterans—he oversaw construction of a memorial plaque for our town's VFW post and the repair of the walls of its upstairs hall. We are all very proud of you, Matthew.

Gift Basket Raffle



St. John's Music Ministry is holding a raffle for a beautiful Christmas Gift Basket. **Tickets will be on sale this weekend after all Masses.** Proceeds will help pay for our instrumental musicians for the Christmas and Easter liturgies.

OPLATEK Christmas Wafers are available in the Church Sacristy and the Parish Office. The suggested offering is \$3.00.

Ozanam Shelter Needs Your Help!

Ozanam Shelter is housing 50+ children ranging from infant-17 years old. They are in great need of diapers, baby wipes, baby ointment, and cases of bottled water. **Please drop off items to the Parish Center and label them "OZANAM."**

Best Advent Ever

Join our parish for BEST ADVENT EVER, a free email program from Dynamic Catholic that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during the busy holiday season. Each day of Advent you'll receive an email with:



- Short, inspirational videos from Allen Hunt, Matthew Kelly and the Dynamic Catholic team.
- Practical tips for your everyday life.
- Real-life stories to encourage you in your faith journey.

To sign up visit:
BestAdventEver.com/Christmas18



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.

Rosary Corner

ALL ARE INVITED

The Rosary is prayed every weekday following the 7:00 a.m. Mass and Novena.

BLOCK ROSARY: Monday, 7:00 p.m., 511/515 Lincoln Ave.; Wednesday, 10:00 a.m., 607 Third St.
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 information, call

Maureen Shea at 968-0136.

BLUE ARMY ROSARY CELL

Where: 511 Lincoln Avenue, Dunellen

When: Every Tuesday – 10: a.m.

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

Adopt-A-Priest Program

Have you prayed for your priest today? To adopt a priest or for more information, please call Maureen Shea at 968-0136.

Spirit & Truth, Linden

Join Catholics in their 20s, 30s & 40s for Holy Hour & fellowship at **8:00pm Fridays**. Location:

McGuinness Center next to St. John the Apostle, Ridgeview Terrace at Valley Road, Clark, NJ. Visit <https://m.facebook.com/groups/6354198182?ref=bookmarks> for more info and updates.



Be Bold, Get Cold!

Bishop Ahr Polar Plunge

The Sixth Annual Bishop Ahr High School Polar Plunge is scheduled for **Sunday, January 27, 2019!** Please support this important fundraising event. You can learn more about it by visiting our website: bgahs.org/polarplunge. Thank you for your continued support!

Marriage Encounter Weekend

In this season of Thanksgiving, why not celebrate your marriage and its many blessings by attending a 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.

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.

Travel In The Footsteps of St. Paul

This year gift the gift of travel! Journey with Rev. John P. Alvarado, pastor of the Church of the Sacred Heart, South Plainfield, NJ on a pilgrimage to Greece, the Greek Isles and Ephesus in Turkey — **IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL, September 22-October 1, 2019**. Travel by land and sea visiting Thessaloniki, Central Greece, Athens, Mykonos, Patmos, Crete, Ephesus, Santorini, Corinth and more. **Peter's Way Tours**, code: 9490, www.petersway.com, 800-225-7662. For full details visit the TRAVEL link at: churchofthesacredheart.net.

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY

by Rev. William J. Reilly

Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018

“Everyone should see how unselfish you are. The Lord Himself is near. Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude. Then God’s own peace which is beyond understanding will stand guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”...“The crowds asked John ‘What are we to do?’...the people were full of anticipation...”

At the midway point of Advent, we too can ask the question the crowds put to John the Baptist. We might preface it with another question: ‘What have we done thus far?’ What is the Lord asking of me during the next ten days? St. Paul is quite clear telling his audience to focus on the Lord, offering prayer, petitions and expressions of gratitude. Do not fall into the trap of routine or busyness, without a moment each day of prayer that God’s peace may reign in your heart. Our novena of preparation can consist simply by turning to the Word of God, reflecting on the mystery of Jesus’ coming, and how we want Him to find us when we celebrate His birth. Then God’s own peace will be really with us.

