

## Sunday

December 17, 2017

Mass Intentions

## Monday, 12/18

7:00 a.m. Petra Heleniak by  
The Hummel family

## Tuesday, 12/19

7:00 a.m. Anthony Payer by  
the Geigel family

## Wednesday, 12/20

7:00 a.m. Mary Murray by Pat Nagel

## Thursday, 12/21

7:00 a.m. Anthony Payer by  
Ellen Murphy & Robert Butler

## Friday, 12/22

7:00 a.m. Margot Schilk by  
the Weiss family

## Saturday, 12/23

5:00 p.m. Jerry Ulmes by wife Peggy

## Sunday, 12/24

8:30 a.m. Wayne Hall by Joe Mondoro

10:30 a.m. Roberto Loo Hernandez by  
Manny & Lynn Jacalan

4:00 p.m. Timothy Mack & Mary  
Bielefeld by the Mack family  
& The Gleason family

6:00 p.m. Sylvia Craig by husband

Midnight Ray Applegate by the  
Applegate family

## Monday, 12/25

8:30 a.m. Barbara Zionkowski by  
husband Ed

10:30 a.m. Ted Yanushefski by  
wife Connie

## Sacrificial Offerings 2017

### Sunday, December 10

Average needed from weekly offerings to  
cover expenses **\$7,000.00**

**Regular Collection: \$5,386.74**

**Children's: \$ 46.40**

**Under: \$1,613.36**

**Immaculate Conception: \$977.00**

### 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.**

### From the Pastor's Desk

A special thank you to the youth group for  
decorating the Parish Center for the  
Christmas Holiday!!



### Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Masses are as follows:

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m.,  
6 p.m. and Midnight.**

**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. and  
10:30 a.m.**

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

This week our Sanctuary lamp is lit in  
memory of **Nicolette Pizzigoni** by **Martha  
& John Pizzigoni.**

This week our Chapel Candle is lit in  
memory of **Nina Mondoro** by **nephew Jeff.**

### **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. 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:

**Susan Lester**

Thank you for your participation!

### **Calendar Raffle**

The winner of \$100 for Week 6, ticket #485, is:  
**Mrs. Frances Maurer.**



### **Gift Basket Raffle**

The St. John's Music Ministry is raffling off a beautiful Christmas gift basket. The profits from this raffle will be used to help defray the cost of the instrumental musicians for both the Christmas and Easter Liturgies. **Tickets will be on sale following all the Masses this weekend.** The gift basket raffles are in lieu of our annual soup supper.



### **MARRIAGE BANNS III**



Thomas Grace  
&  
Courtney Ball

### **Fourth Annual Casino Night**



On **February 10**, we will be hosting our Fourth Annual Casino Night. You or your business can support the event by being a donor, sponsoring a table, or donating a prize to the raffle. Contact the Parish Office at (732) 968-2621 to make a donation. Information on tickets for the event will be available in January.

## **Holy Hour For Religious Freedom & Persecuted Christians**

A Holy Hour for Religious Freedom will be held **every Sunday at 7:00 p.m.** in the Eucharistic Adoration chapel in the Our Lady of Fatima Parish Center at 50 Van Winkle Place in Piscataway. Participants are invited to silently pray the rosary and other special prayers for the intentions of Christians world-wide who are being persecuted for their faith.



**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**

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

### **You Can Save Your Marriage!**

Retrouvaille – A lifeline for troubled marriages. Has your marriage become unloving or uncaring –your relationship grown cold, distant– thinking about a separation or divorce? Are you already separated/divorced but (both of you) wish to try again – then the Retrouvaille program may help you. **RETROUVAILLE** (Rediscovery) sponsored by the Family Life Office/Diocese of Metuchen consists of a weekend experience for couples (no group discussions) with six follow-up sessions. The next program is scheduled for the weekend of **February 9-11, 2018**. All inquiries are confidential. For more details please call the Family Life Office 732-243-4573, Rich & Annette Colasuonno 732-236-0671 or Tom & Pat McTague 732-583-4468 (evenings).

### **RCIA Inquiry Session**

SEEKING PEACE - All of us have, at one time or another, felt oppressed, brokenhearted, victimized, imprisoned by feelings or circumstances. The good news is that Jesus has come to heal, to free, to bring peace. Would you like to know more about this Jesus and about the Catholic Church? We invite you to an RCIA Inquiry Session. Inquiry Sessions are open to anyone who is unbaptized, baptized into another Christian Denomination, or baptized Catholic but have never received BOTH Sacraments of Confirmation AND Eucharist. For more information call Sara at RCIA – 732-5621990 X 1633.

### **Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer**

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS: Registration required;** call 908-753-2091 or e-mail: [msmhope@msmhope.org](mailto:msmhope@msmhope.org)

**YEAR END DAY OF PRAYER:** Spend this last day of the year reflecting on the many gifts God has bestowed on you. Day begins and ends with communal prayer. Bring bag lunch. **Sun., Dec. 31, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.** (\$20-\$30 As You Are Able)

### **Pilgrimage to Holy Land and Jordan**

St. Andrew's Parish, Avenel is sponsoring a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jordan from **February 26 -March 9, 2018**. The cost is **\$3,390.00 per person from Newark**. Stops will include: Petra, Jerash, Jericho, Dead Sea, Mt. Nebo, Mt. Carmel, Caesarea, Tiberius, Nazareth, Cana, Mt. Tabor, Bethlehem, Mount of Temptations, Garden of Gethsemane, Jerusalem, Wailing Wall, Upper Room, Holy Sepulcher, Ain Karim, and more. Daily Mass, most meals, superior hotels, professional guides and tour escort included. Contact: St. Andrew church, 244 Avenel Street, Avenel NJ, 732 634-4355 or [www.standrewparish.com](http://www.standrewparish.com). Arrangements by Inspirational Tours, Houston, TX.

## **Whole Community Catechesis**

**Readings for Sunday, 12/17:**  
**First: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11;**  
**Second: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;**  
**Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

**THANKS** to all who attended the December session and made it such a wonderful success! Your involvement in the Advent prayer service, Bible Pyramid, Name That Tune (really Name that Artist!) and the Cookie Exchange was **AMAZING!!!**

Best Blessings for a beautiful Christ-centered Christmas ... see you in 2018!

Sharon



## **THE DEACON BEACON**

*"Do you know or have you heard? The Lord is the eternal God, creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary, and his knowledge is beyond all scrutiny." - Isaiah 40:28, NAB*

Last Sunday we celebrated the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent. It should have been a day of praise. Today is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent. Think of it as a happy Lent. Everything we do is in anticipation of the coming of the King. It's a season of quiet waiting, and we wait with joy. So, do you know or have you heard? It's not like it's a secret you know. That God is eternal and is the creator of all life. Since He is the source of life, He doesn't grow tired, He doesn't get weak. He doesn't suffer from the human affliction. The human body grows weak, faint and weary, but not God. That's why there's a spirit of Christmas...it goes on and on. We never get tired of Christmas. We get weary of the consumerism of it, but not the spirit of it. The Lord helps us out by "juicing" us when we start to get spiritually faint or weary. Christmas is an embodiment of this. It seems, no matter how tired we get of it...we have a little more strength, a little more spirit. We strive to understand its focal point...God. And with that we keep hoping and praying for peace, and joy. Not the kind that quits after the season, but the kind that's just like God...eternal. We have a lot of questions, but we're not listening to the answers. Those answers are all around us. If we just stop, look and listen...we just may see the eternal God in all of it.

Until next time....pray for peace...luv ya!  
Deacon Phil