

Sunday, November 19

Sunday

December 2, 2018
Mass Intentions

Regular Collection: \$ 4,308.25
Children's: \$ 39.20
Campaign for Human Development
\$652.67

Monday, 12/3

7:00 a.m. Gerald Buczynski by
St. John's parish

Sunday, November 26

Regular Collection: \$ 4,689.96
Children's: \$ 39.25

Tuesday, 12/4

7:00 a.m. Pat Nagel by Ruth Payer
& family

From Msgr. Benwell

A new Liturgical Year begins this weekend as we enter the Advent Season. A good way for you to start this new year of grace might be to receive the grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. On the Saturdays of Advent (12/8, 15, and 22) confessions will be heard in the church from 11 am until Noon, in addition to the regular time of 4-4:45 pm.

Wednesday, 12/5

7:00 a.m. Theresa Desposito by
Mary Lou Chingery

Thursday, 12/6

7:00 a.m. Pat Nagel by Richard &
Judy Ziets

Friday, 12/7

7:00 a.m. Pat Nagel by Ruth DeLayo
& family
7:00 p.m. Joan Belmont by
Msgr. Benwell

Since it is the patronal feast of the United States, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, 12/8, is always a Holy Day of Obligation. **Masses for the Holy Day will be celebrated at 7 pm on Friday, 12/7, and at 9 am on Saturday, 12/8. Mass on Saturday evening, 12/8, is Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent.**

Saturday, 12/8

9:00 a.m. Parishioners of St. John's
5:00 p.m. John Cashin by Eileen &
Lou Capozzi

You may have noticed that November was the month of the annual headcount. As required by the Diocese, we counted all who attended Mass on the four weekends last month. The number of worshippers in our church in November totaled 1,804, which averages out to 451 persons on a weekend. The most popular Mass was the 10:30 on Sunday morning (737), followed by the 8:30 on Sunday (535) and the 5:00 Mass on Saturday evening (532). Finally, my Secular Franciscan Fraternity is having an Advent Mission next Sunday afternoon, 12/9. The announcement on the next page has more information. All in the parish are invited. There is no cost to attend. My prayers for a Blessed Advent Season.

Sunday, 12/9

8:30 a.m. Anthony Payer by the
Yavorski family
10:30 a.m. Parishioner's of St. John's &
Helene Ford by Sue Ellen &
Dennis Bibby

- Msgr. Benwell

*This week our Sanctuary lamp is lit in memory of
Esolda Scudiero by St. John's staff.*

*This week our Chapel candle is lit in memory of Henry
Janssen by Barbara Carlisle.*

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"



Special Thank You

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



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:

The Rivera children for making Thanksgiving cards

Thank you for your participation!

Advent Spiritual Mission

The St. Anthony of Padua Secular Franciscan Fraternity invites all to an Advent Mission in **our church next Sunday, 12/9**, from **3:30 to 5 pm**. The afternoon will include presentations by Capuchin Franciscan Friars Fr. Francisco Arredondo (also a Missionary of Mercy) and Br. Lombardo D'Auria; adoration and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament; and the opportunity for sacramental confession. Admission is free. For more information, please contact Italia Ragucci Testa, OFS, 732-604-9449.



Coffee & Doughnut Reception

The monthly Coffee & Doughnut reception will take place this **Sunday, 12/2, after the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses in the Church auditorium**. All are welcome to join us!

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.



Congratulations to **Peggy Ulmes**, the winner of our Thanksgiving Gift Basket!

MARRIAGE BANNS II & III



Christopher Kopko
&
Laura Bullard



Candle Lighting Ceremony

Sheenan's Funeral Home cordially invites you to join in their annual Candle Lighting Ceremony in which we commemorate our loved ones. The ceremony will take place on **Sunday, 12/2** from **12-1:30 p.m.** at **Sheenan's, 233 Dunellen Ave.** Light refreshments will follow.



Altar Prayer Group Christmas Party

St John's Altar Prayer Group will hold their Christmas Party on **Tuesday, 12/4** at **12 noon** at **Carpaccio's Ristorante** on **Rt. 28 in Middlesex**. The cost is \$21. If interested please call Santa at (732) 968-5281.

Scrip Orders Due

Scrip orders are due on **Monday, 12/3**.

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

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."**



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.

Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer

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

DO YOU KNOW THE PATRONESS OF ALL THE AMERICAS? OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Many U.S. Catholics think the feast of our Lady of Guadalupe is just for Mexicans, but Mary under this title has been declared the special patroness of all Americans. Come and learn why her message is relevant today. **Wed., Dec. 12, 7-9 p.m.** (\$20-\$30 as you are able). Presenter: Sister Eileen Smith, RSM

Religious Ed Parents--Please note that our next session (December 3rd /4th) will be a full family session. The children will not go to the classrooms and therefore do not need their books and folders.

Our service collection this month is blankets /throws for the homeless children in the Ozanam Shelter and the homeless community along the railroad.

Blankets/throws should be brought to the session. Thanks in advance for your generosity!

Parents in possession of the Jesus or Mary backpacks are reminded to return the backpacks at the December session so that another child can have it for the next month.

Kudos To Our Confirmandi!

A big shout out of thanks to 20 of our 7th and 8th graders who boxed the food contributions made by our families for those in need in our parish. These students organized the food, checked expiration labels, made special boxes based on medical needs (diabetes), and boxed the ingredients for a wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner. Eleven copy paper boxes were filled to the brim for our parishioners in need. There was also food left over for the church pantry. A true example of our students as the "KINGS" they were baptized to be!!!

Confirmandi Mass

Our 8th grade Confirmandi will host the **10:30 Mass** on **Sunday, 12/9**. The students will act as, greeters, readers, gift bearers, choir members, and the like. An example of service to our church community, all 22 of the eighth graders will be taking part in this mass. Please support their efforts and attend this special mass.

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=bookmark> for more info and updates.

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.



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!