

Sunday

December 23, 2018



Mass Intentions

Monday, 12/24

- 4:00 p.m. Deceased members of the Bielefeld & Gleason families by Gleason family
6 p.m. Ann & Francis Nowicki by Nowicki family
Midnight Ray Applegate by Dianne

Tuesday, 12/25

- 8:30 a.m. William Drumgould by Barbara Carlisle
10:30 a.m. Antonio & Julia Troia and Ted Yanushefski by their families

Wednesday, 12/26

- 7:00 a.m. Gerard E. Cunningham by his children

Thursday, 12/27

- 7:00 a.m. Eugene Rabouin by the Chesler family

Friday, 12/28

- 7:00 a.m. Pat Nagel by Mary Lou Chingery

Saturday, 12/29

- 5:00 p.m. Frances Terry & Eileen Dosch by daughter & sister

Sunday, 12/30

- 8:30 a.m. John & Ann Cashin by Eileen & Lou Capozzi
10:30 a.m. Parishioners of St. John's & Tony Payer by Sekora family

Sacrificial Offerings 2018

Sunday, December 16

Regular Collection: \$4,869.48
Children's: \$ 26.50

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.**



Christmas Mass Schedule

Monday, 12/24 – 4 p.m., 6 p.m., Midnight
Tuesday, 12/25 – 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

* Our St. John Choir will hold a Carol sing-Along in Church at 11:30 pm on December 24th just before our Midnight Mass. Please join us in singing our beloved Christmas Carols.*

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**.

New Year's Day Mass

Mass on New Year's Day, **Tuesday 1/1**, will take place at **9 a.m.** in the church.

This week our Sanctuary lamp is lit in memory of Gerard E. Cunningham by his children.

This week our Chapel candle is lit in memory of Ray Applegate by Dianne.

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"

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 Knights of Columbus

Thank you for your participation!



Coffee & Doughnut Reception

The next monthly Coffee & Doughnut reception will take place **Sunday, 1/6, after the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses in the Church auditorium.** All are welcome to join us!

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



**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.

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."

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=bookmark> for more info and updates.

Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer

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

Mon., Dec. 31, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (\$20-\$30 as you are able)



Be Bold, Get Cold!

Bishop Ahr Polar Plunge

Bishop Ahr High School's 6th Annual Polar Plunge, sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, will take place on **Sunday, 1/27** with participants **in the water at 1 p.m.** on **Sea Bright Municipal Beach by Tommy's Tavern, Sea Bright, NJ.** The more cash, the more teachers splash! Visit: bgahs.org/polarplunge to either register to participate or make a donation.

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.

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE
SUNDAY READINGS

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.

HIS WORD TODAY

by Rev. William J. Reilly

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018**

“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby stirred in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and cried out in a loud voice: ‘Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. But who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?’ ... ‘Blessed is she who trusted that the Lord’s words to her would be fulfilled.’”

What a wonderful family reunion. Two expectant mothers meeting, greeting, celebrating imminent births. St. Luke points out the presence of the Holy Spirit, even before the Pentecost event. The question posed by Elizabeth ‘who am I?’ ...can be changed for us today. Who am I that my Lord and Savior should come to me? A loving Father saw our need, and in concern for us, sent, not the mother or our Savior, but the saving Lord Himself. How frequently we pray the words of Luke in the Hail Mary. As we complete our advent may the question of Elizabeth and my question be answered. As we approach the feast of the birth of Christ this week, may we live the visitation event, greeting others in the name of the Lord, recognizing His presence among us in our needy world. The two holy women rejoiced in Christ's presence, and so do we. Reflect for a few moments on the biblical basis of the Hail Mary.

*He shall
bring peace* 