

Sunday

December 3, 2017



Mass Intentions

Monday, 12/4

7:00 a.m. Richard Bartilotti, Sr. by
Nancy Escalante

Tuesday, 12/5

7:00 a.m. Norman Luthman by Pat Nagel

Wednesday, 12/6

7:00 a.m. Butch Spagnola by Bill, Pat &
Will Hughes

Thursday, 12/7

9:00 a.m. Catherine Jaworski by the
McDowell family

Friday, 12/8

7:00 a.m. Peter Cummings, Jr. by Nancy
& Rick Chesler & family
Noon John Cashin by Eileen & Lou
7:00 p.m. Anna Rose Assante by
Karen Marble

Saturday, 12/9

5:00 p.m. Antonina Troia by
Escolda Scudiero

Sunday, 12/10

8:30 a.m. Deceased members of the
Byrne & Chingery families by
Karen Marble
10:30 a.m. Parishioners of St. John's &
Christina Shucaj by family

This week our Sanctuary lamp is lit in
memory of **Eugene Rabouin** by **Nancy &
Rick**.

Sunday, November 19

Average needed from weekly offerings to
cover expenses **\$7,000.00**
Regular Collection: \$4,227.55
Children's: \$ 48.71
Under: \$2,772.45

Diocesan Collection: \$692.00

Sunday, November 26

Average needed from weekly offerings to
cover expenses **\$7,000.00**
Regular Collection: \$5,746.09
Children's: \$ 51.95
Under: \$1,253.91

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.**

Feast of

The Immaculate Conception

Please note: **Friday, 12/8**, is the feast of The
Immaculate Conception and a holy day of
obligation. Masses will take place at **7 a.m.,
Noon, and 7 p.m. in the church.**

From the Pastor's Desk

Thank you again for your generosity in filling
the Thanksgiving baskets. The baskets
were brimming over!!

Thank you as well for your participation in
the year's Golf Outing. Our profit for this
year was \$13,325.39.

And our Scrip profit for this period was
\$250.00. Your continued generosity in all of
these fund raisers is greatly appreciated.

This week our Chapel Candle is lit in
memory of **Joan & Ed Marren** by **son 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"



Special Thank You

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

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!



Calendar Raffle

The winner of \$75 for Week 3, ticket #591, is: **Henry Janssen.**



The winner of \$75 for Week 4, ticket #263, is: **Carol Bartilotti.**

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:

Rising Stars at Eclipse Dance Studio for their generous donation of 266 food items for the Thanksgiving baskets

Thank you for your participation!

MARRIAGE BANNS I



Thomas Grace
&
Courtney Ball

Advent Penance Service

Our Advent Penance Service will take place on **Saturday, December 9 at 11 am.** in the **Church.** Multiple priests will be available for confessions.



Altar Rosary Prayer Group

Christmas Luncheon

St. John's Altar Rosary Prayer Group will celebrate Christmas at a luncheon on **Monday, 12/4 at 12 noon** at the **Golden Corner Diner, 313 W. Union Ave., Bound Brook.** The cost is \$20. Please bring your gift for the disabled elderly living at the Raritan Valley Center in Green Brook.

Gift Basket Raffle

Thank you for participating in the St. John's Music Ministry Thanksgiving basket raffle. The winner was **John Saverino**. Our profit from this raffle was \$394, which will be used to help defray the cost of the instrumental musicians for both the Christmas and Easter Liturgies. We are also holding a raffle for a beautiful Christmas basket. **Tickets will be on sale following all the Masses beginning this weekend.** These raffles are in lieu of our annual soup supper.



High School Youth Group

The next Youth Group meeting will be **Sunday, 12/10, 7:00-8:30pm** in the **Parish Center**. Join us to decorate the Parish Center Christmas Tree! Bring a new ornament if you are able to help us refresh the decorations. If you have any questions about Youth Group please email stjohnshsyg@gmail.com

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.



**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.

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.



Diocesan Office For Persons With Disabilities Christmas Party

The Diocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities is preparing for its annual Christmas Party **on Saturday, 12/16, 1:30 pm-3:30 pm** at the **St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane**. We ask that you contact us ASAP to reserve a place for you and/or your group (children/young adults with special needs & their families/caregivers) at (732) 765-6432 or catholicswithdisabilities@gmail.com.

Whole Community Catechesis**Readings for Sunday, 12/3:****First: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7;****Second: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9;****Gospel: Mark 13:33-37**

Lots going on at our December monthly session! We'll begin with a short Advent Prayer Service, followed by a little game time. We're all about Christmas caroling, and will wrap up with the much anticipated COOKIE EXCHANGE!!!

Requesting each family to bring 2 dozen cookies on a plate/tray. If possible, please shoot an email to stjohnpcl@gmail.com and tell me the following:

- Your family name
- Which session you attend (Monday or Tuesday)
- The kind of cookies you'll be bringing

Looking forward to seeing you all this week!

Sharon

**Immaculate Conception Parish****Annual Christmas Concert**

Prepare your heart for the celebration of Our Savior's birth! **Immaculate Conception Parish** located at **316 Old Allerton Road, Annandale**, will hold its Annual Christmas Concert, featuring Fr. Alphonse Stephenson and The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea, on **Sunday, 12/10 at 3 p.m.** The concert will feature popular Christmas music, as well as selections from opera, classical music and Broadway. Information and advance tickets are available by calling (908) 735-7319.

Advent

My hope is that everyone is having a good Advent season. What makes for a good Advent? Why, much of the same things that makes for a good Lent. Prayer, Reconciliation, scripture reading, Holy Communion and even fasting help, they are all great and help brings us closer to God. But have you ever thought of what really makes a worthwhile Advent? If you answered putting the Christ back into Xmas you've nailed it. Although the "baby Jesus" we are familiar with at Christmas is a wonderful sight, we need to remember there is something powerful that lies beneath that image. The image of the baby in the manger is a reminder of what level God is ready to stoop to in order to have us back in His presence and that only He can provide the true joy and happiness to fill the void that the darkness of sin has left. No man can promise joy and happiness like God can. That image of baby Jesus cries out the state of man and his spirit: vulnerable, poor, lowly, fit only to be with animals, and yet God wants more for us. So He came down to our level to show us the way. So it's the things I mentioned before that make for a great Advent: taking care of other's needs, loving others for who they are and not expecting love in return, not judging, reconciling our relationships, helping the poor, you get my drift. Below that very same image lays the powerful one, the King who is to come. The mature Christian version of that same image is the hope that is to come. If we look at the image of Christ as described in John's Book of Revelation, it's anything but cute, and can even be downright scary, and it's meant to be. (RV 1: 13-16) Remember, that image stayed with Jesus to the end...weak. Remember Luke's Gospel? Yep, weak. But as the risen King that is to come that image had to change. Remember, **this** King has to fight! He can't look all cute and cuddly battling the likes of Satan and his Antichrist. The lamb has now turned into the Lion. But if we are ready, there's nothing to fear and we recognize Him for who He is, our loving savior. Are we ready to meet the King this Christmas?

Until next time... have a great Advent and please keep those less fortunate in your prayers ... luv ya! Deacon Phil

