

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays of Advent (December 7, 14 and 21)  
11:00 am to Noon and 4:00 to 4:45 pm

MULTI-PARISH PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 pm  
St. Mary-Stony Hill Church, Watchung

VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY ~ CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 PM

6:00 PM

11:30 PM CAROL SING

12 Midnight

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NATIVITY OF THE LORD ~ CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30 AM

10:30 AM

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MASSES DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Sunday, December 29, 2019

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Regular Mass Schedule

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Wednesday, January 1, 2020

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

9:00 AM

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Sunday, January 5, 2020

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Regular Mass Schedule

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Sunday, January 12, 2020

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Regular Mass Schedule

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Sunday, December 8**

8:30 am John J. Cashin  
by Eileen & Lou Capozzi  
10:30 am Anna Fitzgerald  
by Bill & Pat Hughes

**Monday, December 9**

7:00 am Marion Daly  
by Lynn & Gary Guthreau

**Tuesday, December 10**

7:00 am Marilyn Lillis  
by Mary Snyder

**Wednesday, December 11**

7:00 am Robert Snyder  
by Mary Snyder

**Thursday, December 12**

7:00 am George Weiss  
by Family

**Friday, December 13**

7:00 am Marion Pianko  
by the Szulczewski Family

**Saturday, December 14**

5:00 pm Marilyn Scherr  
by John Saverino

**Sunday, December 15**

8:30 am Donna Kugelman  
by Terry & Matt Kurzius  
10:30 am Robert Maddalena  
by Janet & Ed Webber

*This week our Sanctuary lamp is lit in memory of  
Clotilda D'Souza by the Miller family.*

**Sacrificial Offerings 2019**

**Sunday, December 1**

Regular Collection: \$5,862.49

**A Message from Father Alphonsus**

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to a parish-wide meeting which will take place on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the Church. At this meeting, Mr. John Fitzgerald, the chair of the Finance Council and myself will present to you, the parishioners, the financial status of our parish. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Yours in Christ,

*Father Alphonsus*

**2019 Bishop's  
Annual Appeal Status**

From Bishop Checchio

*Dear Father Alphonsus,*

*Please extend my sincere thanks to the parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Parish for their generous response to the 2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal. With final gifts totaling \$30,593.16, your parish achieved 95.6% of its \$32,000 goal. I am confident that extra attention to implementing the key components of the Appeal parish plan will lead to greater success in the upcoming campaign. God bless you and be assured you have my heartfelt gratitude and prayers.*

**St. John Food Pantry**

Our Food Pantry is in need of the following: dry pasta, rice, cereal, canned tuna and chicken, low/no sugar canned fruit, no/low sodium canned vegetables and soups, tomato sauce and fruit juice. Food donations support our parish food pantry, for our neighbors in need as well as FISH Food Pantry on New Market Road in Piscataway. Thank you for your continuous 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 Parish 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 in our parish benefits from the sacrificial gift one makes of time, talent and treasure. With grateful hearts we thank:

**Our Eucharistic Ministers**

for their efforts.



**Immaculate Conception Prayer**  
*from the Liturgy of the Hours*

Father,  
you prepared the Virgin Mary  
to be the worthy mother of your Son.

You let her share beforehand  
in the salvation Christ  
would bring by his death,  
and kept her sinless  
from the first moment of her  
conception.

Help us by her prayers  
to live in your presence without sin.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus  
Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God  
forever and ever. Amen.

**Giving Tree Reminder**

Please return your unwrapped gift to the Parish Center or Church by December 15. Thank you!

**Advent Penance Service**

The Multi-Parish Penance Service will take place at St. Mary-Stony Hill in Watchung on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 beginning at 7:00 pm.



**Prayers for Our Service Members**

Please pray for the following parishioners who are currently serving in the Military:

- U.S. Navy Reserve 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Casey Wenzel**
- U.S. Army Spec. 4 Timothy Francisco**
- U.S. Marine LCpl. 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.

**Bus Trip to the Rally for Life in Trenton**

The Diocese of Metuchen’s Office of Human Life and Dignity will be running a bus trip to the Rally for Life in Trenton, NJ on Wednesday, January 22, 2020. The bus ride is free of charge, but since space is limited all passengers must reserve their seats. Passengers will board the bus at the Diocesan Center in Piscataway at 9:30 AM. The Rally at the State House begins at 11:00 AM and ends at 1:00 PM. Passengers will attend a small reception afterwards. The bus will bring everyone back to the Diocesan Center around 3:00 PM. If you have any questions or would like to reserve a seat please email amarshall@diometuchen.org or call 732-562-1543.

**Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Following Bishop Checchio’s consecration of the Diocese of Metuchen to Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12, he has asked that pastors likewise consecrate their parishes on the Third Sunday of Advent.



**Second Sunday of Advent – When Do I Meet Jesus?**

*A Reflection by Pope Francis*

Life is a journey; it is a path to meet Jesus. It is for the Christian to continually encounter Jesus, to watch him, to let himself be watched over by Jesus, because Jesus watches us with love. Our whole life is an encounter with Jesus; in prayer, when we go to Mass, when we receive Communion, when we do good works, visit the sick, help the poor, when we think of others, when we are not selfish, when we are loving – in these things we always meet Jesus. But you might say, “I am such a sinner. How can I encounter Jesus?” Scripture tells us that the people whom Jesus most sought out were the greatest sinners. And those who believed themselves to be righteous criticized him for this! Jesus’ response answers our concern, “I came for those in need of salvation and healing...” We continue to prepare for the one who will bring us healing and salvation.

*For reflection: For what do I most need to ask forgiveness from Jesus and others today?*