

## Sunday

December 9, 2018



Mass Intentions

### Monday, 12/10

7:00 a.m. Roberto Loo Hernandez by  
Lynne & Manny Hernandez

### Tuesday, 12/11

7:00 a.m. Pat Nagel by Ann M. Hill

### Wednesday, 12/12

7:00 a.m. George Weiss by family

### Thursday, 12/13

7:00 a.m. Pat Nagel by Peggy Ulmes

### Friday, 12/14

7:00 a.m. Helen & Ted Chesler by  
Chesler family

### Saturday, 12/15

5:00 p.m. Petra Heleniak by  
Maryann & Rod Hirsch

### Sunday, 12/16

8:30 a.m. Richard Bartilotti, Sr. by  
Barbara Carlisle

10:30 a.m. Parishioner's of St. John's &  
Donna Rabke by Sue Ellen &  
Dennis Bibby

*This week our Sanctuary lamp is lit in memory of  
Larry & Betty Engel by St. John's choir.*

*This week our Chapel candle is lit in honor  
of Ed & Carol Markey by the Kelly family.*

## Sacrificial Offerings 2018

### Sunday, December 2

Regular Collection: \$ 6,701.36

Children's: \$ 30.75

Retirement Fund for Religious \$1,439.00

### 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.**

### 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.



### Advent Spiritual Mission

The St. Anthony of Padua Secular Franciscan Fraternity invites all to an Advent Mission in **our church this 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.

### Scrip Profit

Our Scrip profit for this month is **\$200.00**.

### **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 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:

### **Amuras Petravicus**

Thank you for your participation!



### **Advent Penance Service**

St. John's will be participating in a multi-parish Advent Penance Service on **Thursday, 12/13, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary-Stony Hill Church, 225 Mountain Blvd., Watchung.** We hope you can join us to celebrate this sacrament of God's mercy and healing. Fr. Brian, along with several brother priests, will be available to hear individual confessions following the Penance Service. We look forward to sharing this evening with friends from our neighboring parishes.

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

### **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](http://BestAdventEver.com/Christmas18)

### **St. Mary's Slavic Dinner**

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church will resume their Slavic Dinners on **Wednesday, 12/12 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM**. The dinner will be held in the **St. Mary Parish Center, 1900 Brooks Boulevard, Hillsborough, NJ**. The cost is \$15.00 for adults (ages 9 and up) and \$5.00 for Children (8 and under) and includes all you can eat Pirohi, Stuffed Cabbage, Kielbasa and Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes, salad, dessert and beverage.

Each month a special entrée will be specially selected and prepared by St. Mary's chef John Pagano. Dinners are held on the second Wednesday of every month throughout the year. Orders to go are available. For more information contact: St. Mary's at 908-725-0615. The dinner in January will be held on January 9, 2019.

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

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS: Registration required;** call 908-753-2091 or email: [mshhope@mshhope.org](mailto:mshhope@mshhope.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

### **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."**



### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### **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.

**Confirmandi Mass**

Our 8th grade Confirmandi will host the **10:30 Mass** on this **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](http://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](http://bgahs.org/polarplunge). Thank you for your continued support!

**HIS WORD TODAY**

*by Rev. William J. Reilly*

**Second Sunday of Advent - December 9, 2018**

**"In every prayer I utter, I rejoice as I plead on your behalf at the way you all have continually helped promote the gospel from the very first day. I am sure of this much, that he who has begun the good work in you will carry it through to completion, right up to the day of Christ Jesus....My prayer is that your love may more and more abound...that you may learn to value the things that really matter up to the very day of Christ."**

How many are busy writing greeting cards to relatives, friends and acquaintances? The thoughts expressed, speak of a deep, deep concern for the joy of Christ's presence to touch their lives. At times we might not think twice about the reason for sending a card. Consider the reasons St. Paul referred to as he wrote the Philippians. He wrote about his prayer for this new Christian community. He offered encouragement for them to grow in their lives as disciples of the Lord. That prayer motivates us as we begin this second week of Advent. Advent reminds of the past coming, but directs us to today and tomorrow where the Lord is leading us. May we find a quiet moment to reflect upon Paul's wish for us today as we anticipate the coming of Christ with His grace and peace. May we seek out the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of our advent.

