

Sunday

February 4, 2018



Mass Intentions

Monday, 2/5

7:00 a.m. Brian Billones by Mom & Dad

Tuesday, 2/6

7:00 a.m. Al Geigel by St. John's staff

Wednesday, 2/7

7:00 a.m. Lillian K. Alford by
Rose Marsjanik & Roger &
Jayne Lendach

Thursday, 2/8

7:00 a.m. Lillian Alford by
John & Liz Hennessy

Friday, 2/9

7:00 a.m. Ted Kotz by Bob Zednick

Saturday, 2/10

5:00 p.m. Katherine Tagliatella &
Josephine D'Ovidio by
Tony & Cathy D'Ovidio

Sunday, 2/11

8:30 a.m. Albert E. Rifino by Bill, Pat &
Will Hughes

10:30 a.m. Antonina & Vincenzo
DiMaggio by Pina Ametta

*This week our Sanctuary lamp is lit in memory of
Lillian K. Alford by Dianne Applegate & family.*

Sacrificial Offerings 2018

Sunday, January 28

Average needed from weekly offerings to
cover expenses **\$7,000.00**

Regular Collection: \$4,988.21

Children's: \$ 67.10

Under: \$2,011.80

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.**



Altar Servers Needed!

We are currently in need of altar servers.
Any boys or girls from 3rd grade and up who
are interested are welcome to serve. If your
child is interested please contact the Parish
Office.

Casino Night



Time Is Running Out! **This
Saturday, from 6:00pm –
11:00pm**, is Casino Night.

There are still a few tickets left for purchase.
Admission is \$35 in and includes a \$70 chip
voucher, hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks and
coffee, and desserts. The event is BYOB.
You can also purchase 50-50 tickets for \$5.
Tickets are available after mass this
weekend. For more details on the event,
please see our website.

*This week our Chapel Candle is lit in memory of
Lillian K. Alford by Dianne Applegate & family.*

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:

Our Church Cleaners

Thank you for your participation!



Calendar Raffle

The winner of \$250 for Week 13, ticket #4 is:
The Payer "kids"

Did You Know?

Much of the educational research over the last 50 years has proved that Catholic Schools are an unquestioned success in every way: Spiritually, Academically & Communally. Statistics tell us that Catholic School graduates emerge as lifelong practitioners of their Faith. Statistics also tell us that the academic strength of Catholic Schools is unassailable, because when learning is done in an environment with moral values, students' test scores and achievements outstrip their public school counterparts. The two FACTORS that affect this are the influence of Catholic Values and the fostering of Faith and Morals. These are the single biggest supports for the success of many young people (Catholics and non-Catholics) educated in our Catholic Schools. So, Catholic Schools are about supporting parents as the primary educators of their children. The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Metuchen will assist you with the means to accomplish this for your children. Come visit us!

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.



**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.

RCIA: 5th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Help Needed!

Jesus, through his words and actions, teaches us that care for one another and compassion for the unfortunate are hallmarks of the Christian. Our care and compassion should also extend to the spiritual well being of others. We Christians tend to take our faith for granted and we overlook possibilities for evangelization. Yet everywhere people struggle with faith issues. Isn't there someone in your life who seems to be searching for spiritual growth...asking questions about God, about Jesus, about the Catholic Church? Bring them to an RCIA Inquiry Session. At Inquiry Sessions, those who are unbaptized, baptized into another Christian denomination, or baptized Catholic who have never received BOTH sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, can inquire about God, Jesus, the Catholic Church and other issues affecting their spiritual life. The Inquiry Sessions are for people who are inquiring about the Catholic Church in order to make a more informed decision about joining the Catholic Family. For more information please call the RCIA office at 732-562-1990 x1633.

Senior Bible Study Classes

The Family Life Office of the Diocese of Metuchen is sponsoring Senior Bible Study Classes on **Wednesdays, 1/24-3/21**, from **10:30 a.m-12:30 pm** in the **St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway**. Registration fee is \$5 per session. The classes, which will concentrate on all three readings of the following Sunday's liturgy and how to use the Bible as a prayer book, will be presented by Fr. Greg Uhrig. For more information or to register, call (732) 562-1990, ex. 1705 or email: amatos@diometuchen.org.

Immaculata Admissions Event

Join us at Immaculata High School for our 2018 Winter Admissions Event on **Thursday, 3/1** from **6:30-8:30 p.m.** and experience the Immaculata difference. RSVP requested. For information check our website: www.ImmaculataHighSchool.org/Difference.

Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer

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

SO, YOU WANT TO CHANGE THIS LENT!

This day of recollection will focus on Lent as a transformative, healing experience. The day includes prayer, presentation, time for quiet and faith-sharing, concluding with Mass at 4 p.m. Lunch is included.

Sat., Feb. 10, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. (\$45-\$55 As You Are Able) Presenter: Eileen P. Smith, RSM

Valentine's Day is Every Day

No reason why Valentine's Day should be just one day each year. Why not give your spouse a gift that lasts every day? 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 **April 20-22**. 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.

Holy Mass in Spanish

Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish, (**600 Harris Ave, Middlesex, NJ**), invites you to celebrate the Holy Mass in Spanish **Every Sunday at 1:30 pm**. For more information please call the parish office at 732-356-2149 ext. 1001.

NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL MONTE VIRGEN, (**600 HARRIS AVE, MIDDLESEX, NJ**), TE INVITA A CELEBRAR LA SANTA MISA EN ESPANOL TODOS LOS **DOMINGO** A LA **1:30 PM**. Para más información puedes llamar a la oficina parroquial 732-3256-2149 ext. 1001.

Whole Community Catechesis

Readings for Sunday, 2/4:

First: Job 7:1-4, 6-7;

Second: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23;

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Just a reminder:

The February sessions will be held next week— **Monday, Feb 5th** and **Tuesday, Feb 6th** in the Auditorium at 6pm.

Please bring Blessing Bag collection items with you this month or in March.

Family Catechesis will be hosting this month's Parish Monthly Reception on Sunday, February 4th. Please join us!



Jesus heals
the broken hearted

Discover the Joy of being a Hospice Volunteer

If you have a warm heart, a listening ear, and the gift of compassion, you can make a difference in the life of a hospice patient or family member. VNA Health Group is inviting individuals interested in becoming hospice volunteers to join our team in Monmouth, Middlesex and Ocean Counties. There are many rewards and opportunities available to hospice volunteers though home visitation, companionship, administrative support, pet therapy, or any alternative therapies (i.e. Reiki, Meditation.). We are also seeking volunteers interested in providing support calls to our patients and family members from our offices in Holmdel or Toms River. Training will be provided by members of the Hospice team. **Please call Pauline De Palma, BSW (732) 224-6933 or email your contact information:**

pauline.depalma@vnahg.org For more information about VNAHG volunteer services visit www.vnahg.org



THE DEACON BEACON

Praise the Lord for his Divine Mercy

So what's up?

Questions. Asking this of teenagers is like a prelude to the sinking of the Titanic...be careful what you ask for. Actually it usually goes quite well and the children are satisfied with the answers. Here's one: If I believe in God, why should I go to church? This is not a question to get angry or frustrated about. At some point in our lives most of us may have asked this. It is a question of discernment. Which is my answer?

A) It's biblical. (It is)

B) Jesus went to worship (Synagogue), and if it's good enough for him, well it's good enough for me! (He did)

C) As Christians we believe in the "second" baptism, which is baptism by the Holy Spirit. This baptism is given to strengthen and edify the **Church**. (I didn't make this up...please read Acts of the Apostles). Imagine the Holy Spirit stopping by and giving us a gift that he asks us to share. Instead we throw it in a chest. Each day he gives us a gift...we throw it in a chest keeping it to ourselves. Who are we strengthening? Who are we edifying? Sure we believe in God, but so did the Pharisees and Sadducees. It may not be today, or tomorrow, next week or even next year that someone may need us to share this gift with them. And when the time comes, where are we? Last year I said these exact words in a homily. After Mass a woman came up to me crying...she said, "thank you so much for preaching that today. I stopped going to church for ten years. A month after coming back a woman standing next to me at Mass was crying. I don't even know why I did it, but during the sign of peace, I hugged her and said...Jesus loves you and so do I. I've never done that before. The young lady hugged her back even more and started crying even harder. Afterward she revealed that she was planning to kill herself that very night and came to church wanting to hear that someone loved her or she would go through with it." Nuff said.

Until next time...may Jesus keep you smiling, may God's grace shine on you and always pray for peace...luv ya! Deacon Phil