

Sunday

March 11, 2018



Mass Intentions

Monday, 3/12

7:00 a.m. **Marijean K. Cunningham by her children**

Tuesday, 3/13

7:00 a.m. **Emilio Billones by son & daughter-in-law**

Wednesday, 3/14

7:00 a.m. **Lilian Alford by Hummel family**

Thursday, 3/15

7:00 a.m. **Francis Malik by Szulczewski family**

Friday, 3/16

7:00 a.m. **Brian Haas by the Weiss/Santullo family**

Saturday, 3/17

5:00 p.m. **Timothy J. Mack by Mary Ellen Mack**

Sunday, 3/18

8:30 a.m. **William Hill by Ann M. Hill**

10:30 a.m. **Dorothy Trice by Peggy Ulmes**

This week our Sanctuary lamp is lit in memory of **Richard Bartilotti, Sr.** by **Rich & Carol Bartilotti.**

Sacrificial Offerings 2018

Sunday, February 25

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

Regular Collection: \$7,646.50

Children's: \$ 45.00

Over: \$ 646.50

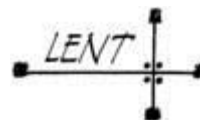
Poor Box Collection

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.**



St. Patrick's Day Gift Basket Raffle

The St. John's Music Ministry will be raffling off a beautiful gift basket for St. Patrick's Day. **Tickets will be on sale before and after all masses this weekend.** Cost is \$1 for 1 ticket, \$2 for 3 tickets and \$5 for 10 tickets. Proceeds will go toward hiring instrumentalists for our Triduum liturgies. Take a chance and see if you've got the luck of the Irish!



Lenten Penance Service

Our Parish Lenten Penance Service will be held at **St. Joseph's in North Plainfield** on **Thursday, 3/22** at **7:30 p.m.** Confession will be available in English, Spanish, Polish and Italian.

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:

Trudie Mackie for coordinating our Calendar Raffle

Thank you for your participation!

Scrip Profit

Our scrip profit for this month was \$168. Thanks for your participation!

Youth Group Meeting

The next Youth Group meeting will be **Sunday, 3/18, 7:00-8:00pm** in the **Parish Center**. We will be working on two service projects in preparation for Easter. All teens 9th - 12th grade welcome. For more information or if you have any questions about Youth Group please email stjohnshsyg@gmail.com



Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry

The Knights of Columbus will be holding their Lenten Fish Fries on all Friday's during Lent, beginning on **2/16 through 3/30**. They will be held between **5:30 - 7:30 PM** at the **Council Home on Grove Street, Dunellen**. All are welcome to attend.

2018 Bishop's Annual Appeal

Lighting a Fire in the Heart of Our World

To date, the Development Office has received pledges totaling \$18,514.92 and payments totaling \$16,195.13 from 87 parishioners. This represents 57.9% of your \$32,000.00 goal. Thank you for your efforts!



Save The Date!

The St. John's Music Ministry will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo with a Tex-Mex style supper fund raiser on **Saturday, 5/5** immediately following the 5 o'clock Mass. Mark your calendar now and join the fiesta. You're guaranteed to find plenty of delicious food and a whole lot of fun!

Knights of Columbus Blood Drive

The Knights of Columbus will be holding a blood drive on **Thursday, 3/22**, from **2 pm-7:30 pm** at the **Knights of Columbus Building, 647 Grove Street, Dunellen**. All donors will receive a t-shirt and a chance to enter a raffle of 1 to 4 gift cards. Please schedule your appointment today! www.rwjhdonorclub.org or contact Harry Buttito at 732-207-8193 or @jofrdy@aol.com. Walk-ins welcome! Please eat and bring a photo ID.



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 Lnc. Cpl. Thomas Tyler Lizak

If there are any other military members you would like to be included in our prayers, please contact the Parish Office.

Chrism Mass

Bishop James F. Checchio will celebrate the Chrism Mass with the priests of the Diocese on **Monday, 3/26 at 7:30 pm** in the **Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen**. At this Mass, the Bishop will bless the Holy Oils which each parish receives for the rites of anointing and all priests will make a renewal of commitment to priestly service, recommitting themselves to their Bishop and to their ministry. The Bishop and all priests then ask the people for a pledge of their prayerful support. All are strongly encouraged to join in this ancient, grace-filled Chrism Mass.

Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer

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

DESIGNER POCKETBOOK BINGO FUNDRAISER

Mount Saint Mary's House of Prayer will be holding their Designer Pocketbook Bingo Fundraiser on **Friday, 4/13** in **Mercy Hall, 1645 U.S. Highway 22, Watchung**. **Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and games start at 7 p.m.** Admission, which includes 20 bingo sheets, is \$40 per person and is **NOT SOLD AT THE DOOR**. Bring your own food and beverage, bottled water available for purchase. Bring your own stampers (stampers will be available for purchase). Additional bingo sheets will be available for purchase. Reservations for tables of 8-10 will be held at the door; must know the reservation name when checking in. No one under 18 years of age permitted. No smoking permitted. **For more information or to make a reservation, call 908-753-2091 before 4/2.**

St. Joseph Triduum

To honor St. Joseph on his Feast Day, the Shrine of St. Joseph will celebrate for three days with multiple events. On **Saturday, 3/17** a Mass will be dedicated to families of all ages emphasizing – "St. Joseph the Family Man" at **5:30 pm** in the **Shrine Chapel**, followed by fellowship and light refreshments hosted by the Filipino Community and the Alasy Awit Choir. On **Sunday, 3/18** our St. Joseph Devotions will be dedicated to "St. Joseph, Patron of Healing and Hope" at **3pm**. This service will include an Anointing of the Sick in the **Shrine Chapel**. On **Monday, 3/19** we will be honoring our patron, St. Joseph, with three Masses in the **Chapel – 8am, Noon and 7pm**. The Noon Mass will be dedicated to "St. Joseph – Man of Prayer". The 7 pm Mass will be dedicated to "St. Joseph, Man of Hospitality". This Mass will be followed by a St. Joseph's Table in the Auditorium, where all are invited to bring their favorite breads and desserts to be blessed and to share. Everyone is invited to participate in all of these celebrations. The Shrine of St. Joseph is located at 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, New Jersey. For further information please contact us at (908) 647-0208 or visit our website www.stshrine.org.

Whole Community Catechesis

Readings for Sunday, 3/11:

First: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23;

Second: Ephesians 2:4-10;

Gospel: John 3:14-21

Adult Faith Formation will be having a
Bible Study on Saturdays from 10-11:30am
beginning April 7th.



"THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE"

\$20 for the book (\$5 additional if you need a
Bible)

Please register no later than March 25th

stjohnpcl@gmail.com

The March sessions will meet on **March 19/20 at 6 pm** in the **Church**. Please be timely. The 8th graders will be performing The Passion Play for us at 6pm. Immediately following, we will return to the Auditorium for a Lenten Retreat of Prayer and activities (parents and children) with Eileen Hanrahan.

Please bring any contributions to the McCauley Hall Blessing Bags to this session.

See you soon!



THE DEACON BEACON

4th Sunday of Lent

"In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit". **The Bible**

Connection... When I was growing up we had one of those huge, white Catholic Bibles. You know the one with the pictures showing you the breakdown of the Mass. Oh come on, you remember. It was a great centerpiece, that held certificates for baptism, Confirmation, etc. but it was never opened to be read...ever. I don't think today's Catholic households are much different either. My children each received a bible as a gift from the parish when they received the Sacrament of Confirmation. You'd be surprised at all the wonderful uses, none of which include reading. Examples are: a door stop, a window stand, a leveler, a dust collector...you get the picture. Unlike yesterday, today's Catholics are encouraged to "break" open the word of God. Where prayer helps us to communicate with God, the Bible helps us to learn about Him, as well as Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We've always thought that our Protestant brothers and sisters had one up on us when it comes to scripture reading...phooey! The truth is that anyone through prayer and consistent reading can unlock the secrets of scripture and see how they pertain to us today. It's like breathing, once you start, it becomes a part of your life. Even reading the great stories can enhance us spiritually, we just need the desire to learn about God. If you're stuck and want help, I'm around. How about our teens? You guys up for a Bible study? Look my peeps...even if you read a verse, sentence, or a chapter...God's word will enhance your spiritual life. Here's the trick: pick a time of day to read and stick with it. Usually the morning works best, along with prayer. Read a verse, sentence, paragraph or chapter. There are also scripture guides, the daily readings, and scripture meditation books and magazines that help. Always, always...pray before you read. The Bible was "inspired" by the Holy Spirit, so it's only fitting to pray for the Spirit to guide you and reveal God's mysteries. There is so much that can be said about this subject...hmmm sounds like a sequel coming.

Until next time... may Jesus keep you smiling, may God's grace shine on you and always pray to God our Father, in the name of Jesus His son, through the Holy Spirit...luv ya!
Deacon Phil