

Sunday

March 18, 2018



Mass Intentions

Monday, 3/19

7:00 a.m. Clifford Vail III by Mom & Dad

Tuesday, 3/20

7:00 a.m. Elizabeth Mary Wallace by
Deacon Michael &
Barbara Gleason

Wednesday, 3/21

7:00 a.m. In honor of Maria Petravičiute
by father Amuras

Thursday, 3/22

7:00 a.m. George Weiss by family

Friday, 3/23

7:00 a.m. Johnnie Tan by
Juanita Brewer

Saturday, 3/24

5:00 p.m. Deceased members of St.
John's – 85th anniversary of
Sheenan Funeral Home

Sunday, 3/25

8:30 a.m. John Carlisle by
mother Barbara
10:30 a.m. Ted Kotz by family

*This week our Sanctuary lamp is lit in memory of
Marisjean Cunningham by her children.*

Sacrificial Offerings 2018

Sunday, March 11

Average needed from weekly offerings to
cover expenses **\$7,000.00**
Regular Collection: \$5,777.96
Children's: \$ 15.91
Under: \$1,222.04

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.**



Holy Week Schedule

The schedule of services for Holy Week is
as follows:

**Palm Sunday – 3/24, 5pm; 3/25, 8:30,
10:30**

Holy Thursday – 3/29, 7 p.m.

Good Friday – 3/30, 3 p.m.

Stations of the Cross – 3/30, 7 p.m.

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil - 3/31, 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday - 8:30, 10:30 and 12 noon.

**PLEASE NOTE: The Blessing of the Food
will take place on Holy Saturday, 3/31, at
12 noon in the CHAPEL.**

*****There will be no Children's Liturgy of
The Word on Palm Sunday, 3/25 or
Easter Sunday, 4/1.*****

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 and Spanish.

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"

Easter Baskets

We welcome donations of hams, turkeys and non-perishable items to include in our Easter baskets for families in need. Bring donations to the **Church or Parish Center by Monday, 3/26.**

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 Lectors

Thank you for your participation!



Congratulations to **Bill Patronick**, who was the winner of the St. John Music Ministry St. Patrick's Day Gift basket!



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.



Easter Egg Hunt

Please join us outside the Parish Center for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on **Easter Sunday, 4/1, following the 10:30 Mass**. All children 9 and under are welcome to participate.

Altar Rosary Group Meeting

St. John's Altar Prayer Group will meet on **Monday, 4/2 at 7pm**. The rosary will be prayed in the Church and the meeting will follow in the Auditorium. Coffee and cake will be served and you are welcome to invite a friend. Please use the elevator.

Stations of The Cross

Bishop George Ahr High School invites all who are

interested to join in praying the Stations of the Cross on **Tuesday, 3/27** at **7 p.m.** in the **BGA Little Theatre**. You are also invited to join us for a Simple Soup Supper served before the Stations in the BGA Cafeteria from 5:30-6:30 p.m. So that we can prepare for supper call 732-549-1108, ext. 648 and let us know the number of people who will be joining us. There is no cost but a free will offering will be accepted and given to Elijah's Promise and TASK – the soup kitchens where the BGA students volunteer.

Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer

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

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.rwjuhdonorclub.org or contact Harry Buttito at 732-207-8193 or @jofrdy@aol.com. Walk-ins welcome! Please eat and bring a photo ID.



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
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.

St. Pio Comes to

The Diocese of Metuchen

Come and venerate the official relics of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his passing, **Tuesday 4/17** from **9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.** in the **Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, 32 Elm St., Metuchen**. Bishop James. F Checchio will lead a prayer service at 1 p.m. A Mass in honor of St. Pio will be celebrated at 7 p.m. by Fr. Timothy A. Christy, Vicar for Evangelization and Communications for the Diocese. For information about the public veneration, please call 732-548-0100 or email info@stfranciscathedral.org.



5th Sunday of Lent - Visions

Sometimes, as a people we have a tendency of forgetting **what** and **who** is the Church. Hopefully, this will help... It was my first homily after ordination and it was about **The Church**: "During formation one of my classmates asked me what I thought about Church, I told him to let me sleep on it and I'd give him an answer the next time we had class. That night I had a dream. In my dream I walked into a beautiful church. The floor was made of diamonds; the walls, windows and ceiling were made from beautiful jewels. The altar was made from solid gold, and on the altar was a golden chalice; levitating above the chalice was the Holy Eucharist. In the front pew was a man, a woman, a child, a levitating infant, an old man and a woman in a wheelchair. As I was admiring the beautiful church a voice boomed from the altar, "Son of man, what do you think of my Church? I answered, "Lord, it's beautiful with diamond floors, with walls, windows and ceilings made of beautiful jewels and a golden altar with a gold chalice." "Enough!!" Boomed the voice; "is that what you see? Have I taught you nothing?" At these very words there was a huge explosion! The stained glass windows exploded outward, the ceiling started to fall and crumble, fire broke out and destroyed everything in sight. After the smoke cleared, all I saw was a broken down altar made from clay, the gold chalice was now a tin can, but the Eucharist was still levitating above it, and untouched was the man, woman, child, infant, old man and woman in the wheelchair. The voice came again from the altar, "now son of man...what do you see?" I replied, "I see a man and a woman. I see a child and an infant. I see an elderly man and a woman in a wheelchair, worshiping you O Lord." "Yes", the voice replied, "this is **my** Church, not a building or structure, but the very people that stand before me, that cry out to me, that praise me, that receive my body and blood. That are baptized as my children, with water and the Holy Spirit. This is what my Son has taught; this is **The Church**. My spirit does not come upon brick, stone or wood...but into the heart and soul of men and women...as one body; and so I am with them, as they are with me". So you see,

churches are nice to look at and worship in...but the focus should be on God and his Son, and the real Church...is in the pews. **Until next time**...may Jesus keep you smiling, may God's grace shine on you and always remember to pray for one another. Luv ya!

- Deacon Phil

Whole Community Catechesis

Readings for Sunday, 3/18:

First: Jeremiah 31:31-34;

Second: Hebrews 5:7-9;

Gospel: John 12:20-33

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

Just a reminder...

Both sessions (Monday 3/19 and Tuesday, 3/20) will meet in the **Church at 6pm**. PLEASE be timely. We will be watching the Eighth Grade Passion Play. After the play, we will return to the Auditorium for a Lenten Retreat with a guest speaker.