

Sunday

March 3, 2019
Mass Intentions

Monday, 3/4

7:00 a.m. **Angela Tamuzza by
the Kubik family**

Tuesday, 3/5

7:00 a.m. **Roy Hemmingstad by
the Neunert family**

Wednesday, 3/6

7:00 a.m. **Margaret Duane by Cosimo &
Lina Giordano**

Noon **Anne Santaniello by Fran
Furino & family**

7:00 p.m. **Mary & George Zilg by John,
Danielle & Travis Zilg**

Thursday, 3/7

7:00 a.m. **Anna Fitzgerald by
Peggy Ulmes**

Friday, 3/8

7:00 a.m. **Maria Rosa Lainez by
Gladis & Bob Dombroski**

Saturday, 3/9

5:00 p.m. **Roy Hemmingstad by the
Neunert family**

Sunday, 3/10

8:30 a.m. **Parishioners of St. John's &
Roxanne Saverino by father**

10:30 a.m. **Genova Caterina by Aunt
Enza & family**

This week our Sanctuary lamp is lit in
memory of **Ann & Vincent Fitzgerald** by
Jeanne & John Fitzgerald.

This week our Chapel candle is lit in honor
of **Vincent Pileggi, Jr.** by **Rosina Rovito.**

Sacrificial Offerings 2019

Sunday, February 17

Regular Collection: **\$4,370.75**

Children's: **\$ 7.50**

Sunday, February 23

Regular Collection: **\$4, 219.00**

Children's **\$ 29.00**

Catholic Press **\$ 329.00**

FROM MSGR. BENWELL

In just a few days we begin the great penitential season of Lent, a time for personal and parish renewal to help us celebrate Christ's life-giving death and resurrection with pure and transformed hearts. Pope Francis has provided some reflections "to accompany our journey of conversion this coming Lent" and excerpts will appear in this space over the coming weeks.

The Redemption of Creation
The celebration of Christ's passion, death and resurrection, calls us yearly to undertake a journey of preparation, in the knowledge that our being conformed to Christ is a priceless gift of God's mercy. When we live as children of God, redeemed, led by the Holy Spirit, we also benefit creation by cooperating in its redemption. Saint Paul says that creation eagerly longs for the revelation of the children of God. When the love of Christ transfigures the lives of the saints in spirit, body and soul, they give praise to God. They also include other creatures in that praise, as we see admirably expressed in the "Canticle of the Creatures" by Saint Francis of Assisi. Yet in this world, the harmony generated by redemption is constantly threatened by the negative power of sin and death. (Pope Francis)

Blessings for the Lenten season.

- Msgr. Benwell

Girl Scout Blessing

On **Sunday, 3/10**, Msgr. Benwell will bless the leaders and members of the Green Brook/Dunellen Girl Scout Service Unit at the **10:30 Mass**. Members are invited to wear their uniforms for the occasion.

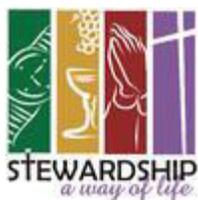
St. John Food Pantry

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 Lectors

Thank you for your participation!



Ash Wednesday Schedule

Ash Wednesday services will take place on **3/6 at 7 a.m., noon, and 7 p.m.** in the **Church.**

Lenten Rules For

Fast and Abstinence

Everyone 14 years of age and older is bound to abstain from meat and meat products on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent, including Good Friday.

Everyone between the ages of 18 and 58 is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting entails eating only one full meal. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to one's needs, but together these two meals should not equal a full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted. *When health or the ability to work would be seriously affected, the obligation to fast does not apply.*

Catholics should not lightly exclude themselves for these prescribed minimal penitential practices.

Mass and Adoration During Lent

Please note that all Masses during the season of Lent will be in the church.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during Lent will be held on Friday, beginning after the 7:00 am Mass. Adoration will conclude with Benediction after Stations of the Cross.

Stations Of The Cross

The ancient devotion of Stations of the Cross will be celebrated on the Fridays of Lent at **7:00 pm in the church.**

Thank You!

The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Assembly #1775 Dunellen, would like to thank the parishioners of St. John's for their support of our third annual Communion brunch held on Sunday, February 10, at Our Lady of Fatima Church. At the Mass and brunch, we honored and celebrated the Deacons of the three parishes we serve: St. John the Evangelist, Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of Mount Virgin. We would also like to thank Monsignor William Benwell, Father Paul da Silva and Father David Skoblow for their participation in the program.

REMINDER: Ash Wednesday is March 6. The Knights will host "Lenten Fish Fry Dinners" on **Friday March 8** and **every Friday through Good Friday, April 19** at the council home located at **647 Grove Street, Dunellen**. Dinner will be served from **5:00PM - 7:00PM**. Please join us for good food, fun, & fellowship!



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 2nd Lt. Casey Wenzel
U.S. Army Spec. 4 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.

2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal

Help Build a Civilization of Love

Twenty-four percent – \$1.7 million dollars – of the funds raised by the 2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal is earmarked for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen. Through more than 100 programs, Catholic Charities serves those most in need of our assistance. If you have yet to make your pledge to this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal, you will have the opportunity to do so the weekend of March 16/17, which has been designated as **Bishop's Annual Appeal In-Pew Weekend**. Help us reach our target of 100% participation. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated.

An invitation to the Men of the Parish

Silent retreats create a sacred, meditative atmosphere that is perfect for knowing God better, listening to Him and coming to a better understanding of ourselves. Consider making a silent retreat at the **Loyola Jesuit Center in Morristown, 3/8-3/10**. The retreat begins with supper at 7:00 pm on Friday and concludes on Sunday at 12:30 pm. For more information or to register, call Tony Pugliesi, 908-419-8392.

Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer

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

TO BEAR THE BEAMS OF LOVE **Lenten Day of Recollection**

As we embark on our Lenten Journey, what better way for each of us to begin this graced season than to allow God to speak to us, and come to know ourselves as Beloved! *Lunch is included.*

Sat, Mar 9, 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. (\$45-\$55 as you are able); Presenter: Honora Nicholson, RSM
Sister Honora has served in parish ministry and Community leadership and has extensive experience in leading retreats and small faith sharing groups.

Just a Reminder...

Our March Monthly Sessions will be held on **Monday and Tuesday, March 11th and 12th** in the **Auditorium**. Looking forward to seeing you then!

Pilgrimage With Bishop Checchio

You are invited to join our bishop on a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico, in preparation for the Consecration of our diocese to Our Lady of Guadalupe. The pilgrimage will take place from **October 20-24**. For more information, call 732-562-1990 or email

Evangelization@diometuchen.org.

Diocesan Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration is held in the **chapel of the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 11:45 am**. Mass follows at 11:45. Adorers and intercessors are needed. For more information or to volunteer, call Laura Ferreras, 732-529-7932. To submit a prayer request, email Adoration@diometuchen.org or call 732-765-6445.

Treasures Of The Church at OLMV

On **Saturday, 3/16, at 12:30 pm**, Our Lady of Mount Virgin parish, Middlesex, will be hosting a presentation on, and an exposition of, Sacred Relics, called Treasures of the Church. Father Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross will be here with a very special Vatican collection of over 150 relics, including St. Maria Goretti, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska. Those attending will be able to examine and venerate each relic. In the Church's history many miracles and healings have been worked in the presence of relics, and many have been healed through ministry.

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE
SUNDAY READINGS

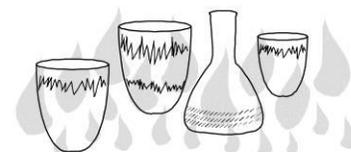
HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

**Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
March 3, 2019**

“As the test of what the potter molds is in the furnace, so in tribulation is the test of the just. The fruit of the tree shows the care it has had, so too does one’s speech disclose the bent of one’s mind. Praise no one before he speaks for it is then that people are tested...a good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good.”

The scriptures use so many images to teach us, form us, and lead us. Consider for a moment... the potter shapes an object, maybe your coffee mug, a vase to hold a spring flower, or even ourselves. (Abba, Father). Soon trees will begin to bud, and the care we give them now, pruning, trimming, fertilizing, will produce long awaited fruit. The words we use, reflect how we feel, what we know and what we desire.

We need not limit ourselves to the image of a tree, but apply the teaching to our own way of life. How we walk the path of holiness according to the teaching of Pope Francis is found in the beatitudes. Our words, our thoughts, our good works are the steps we take on that path, accompanied by God’s grace and the support of one another.



the test of the potter is in the furnace