HOLY MASS
Every Catholic who is able has a serious obligation to worship God at Mass on Sunday or Saturday evening.

Saturday Evening
4:30 pm (fulfills Sunday obligation)

Sunday
7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 am; 1:00 pm (Spanish) & 5:30 pm

Daily Mass
Monday - Friday: 6:45, 8:00 am & 12:10 pm in the Church
Serra Club Mass: 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 6:00 pm
Tuesday: 7:00 pm (Spanish) in the Church (2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month)
Saturday: 8:00 am in the Church

BAPTISM
Infants should be Baptized as soon as possible. Please call the Church Office to make arrangements.

CONFESSION
Pope Saint John Paul II, of blessed memory, said: “Anyone who goes frequently to Communion, must also go frequently to Confession.” Saturdays, 9:00 - 9:30 am and from 3:15 - 4:15 pm or by appointment with one of the priests.

FOR MARRIAGE & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INFORMATION
Please call the Church Office.

DEVOTIONS
Adoration: Monday - Saturday, 8:30 am-11:00 pm; Sunday, 12:00 pm-11:00 pm (Chapel)
Novena (Miraculous Medal): Monday at 7:00 pm (Chapel)
Divine Mercy Prayer Group: Wednesday at 7:00 pm (Parish Meeting Room)
Legion of Mary: Tuesday at 9:00 am & 5:30 pm (Mercy Hall)
Alienta de Vida RCC: Tuesdays at 7:00 pm (Church)
Blue Army Prayer Group: Thursday at 7:00 pm (Chapel)
Cenacles of Life: Tuesday at 7:00 pm and Saturday at 11:00 am in the Chapel

RCIA
Anyone interested in becoming Catholic should contact the Parish Office about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults—a process which helps adults and older teens learn and ultimately enter the Catholic Church. Fr. John directs this process in our Parish and will be happy to help you in this regard.

IMMIGRATION SERVICES, CATHOLIC CHARITIES - DIOCESE OF METUCHEN
Office has relocated to 700 Sayre Avenue, Phillipsburg, NJ. Hours are Mondays only from 1:30 - 7:00 pm. Services are provided in English and Spanish. For information, please call 908-777-3730.
August 22, 2021
A message from Fr. Gilbert

In today’s Gospel reading Our Lord encounters the unbelief of those who follow Him, but are not prepared to follow any farther. The evangelist tells us that “Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray Him.” What a sad knowledge it must have been for Him. May we not be among them. Fortunately, the Twelve Apostles have given up everything to follow Christ and are not prepared to turn back now. Their time spent with Jesus has helped them to grow in the virtue of faith. St. Peter says, “Master to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

As I look back today on my first year of priesthood, all but the first week of which has been spent here at St. Philip and St. James, I see the biggest growth in my spiritual life. Of course the priesthood is one of many vocations that God may call any of us too, all of which are ultimately a vocation to become a saint. If we truly live our vocation, holiness should naturally follow. But it helps to stand in the presence of the Lord Jesus, truly present in the Holy Eucharist, every day at Mass.

The life and work of the priesthood is helping me to grow and it is my desire and hope that it can help you to grow in holiness as well. One of many good books written on the priesthood is one by the title “The Priest is Not His Own.” A priest’s life is lived for the holiness of the people entrusted to him and he grows in holiness through it. This is perhaps most apparent in the fact that other than the Consecration of the Holy Eucharist at Mass, all of a priest’s life is spent celebrating the sacraments for someone else. It is my desire in life to be as available as possible to help you grow in holiness, whether you find that easy or as most of us do, a struggle. Some of the ways this can happen is through frequent use of the sacraments, such as a frequent reception of the Holy Eucharist at Mass and frequent use of the sacrament of Penance.

I also need your prayers to continue to always be faithful and open to the Will of God and His calling both in the joyful moments and in the difficult moments of living this vocation. Please also pray for many more vocations to the priesthood, especially from our parish. And please know of my unceasing prayers for you to Our Lord and His Blessed Mother.

May God Bless you,
Fr. Gilbert

NEWMAN CONNECT
Newman connect is a center that will let your 2021 grads connect to a campus ministry and share the Newman Connect app with them. Students will need their Catholic faith to carry them through the end of the Covid-19 pandemic. By downloading the app it will allow your children to connect instantly to their Catholic campus ministry. The link you can share with your students where they can sign up to get connected to their Catholic campus ministry this Fall, the traditional way, with the campus minister reaching out to them this fall. To sign up go to: http://signup.newmanconnection.com.
WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!
Last weekend we welcomed into the Parish Family through the Sacrament of Baptism, Zayvien Gabriel Wilson, son of Mr. Jason Wilson and Ms. Imlay Trujillo.

LEGION OF MARY LIBRARY
August is the month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Legion of Mary Library has a wonderful selection of books & videos for the entire family to choose from. Although the library is currently not opened, please see information on Formed.org where similar resources can be found.

PILGRIM VIRGIN MARY STATUE
Pilgrim Virgin Statue Visitation is to encourage the family to pray together, especially the rosary. Two members of the Legion of Mary will bring the statue of Our Lady of Fatima to your home and pray the rosary with you and leave the statue for one to two weeks along with reading material. Contact Mary Ann at 732-539-4592 or Camille at 908-319-2719 to schedule your visit.

FORMED…A GREAT WAY TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR FAITH!
FORMED is a collection of Catholic Bible studies, talks, movies, and other programs for people who want to learn more about their Catholic Faith. Anyone in our parish can access it by following three simple steps: (1) Google formed.org. (2) Scroll down to where it asks if your parish already subscribes and indicate yes. It will ask you to enter your parish code, which is GMKZ4Q (all capitals). (3) You will then be asked to set up your own account by establishing your own password.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS
“If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:15
When we commit to serve the Lord, we must be willing to become a disciple in the work of the Lord. A disciple is a person who spends time in prayer every day, joyfully participates in charitable works and generously supports their local parish and Church mission. If we say we serve God, we must actually do something and not merely talk about it!

PARISH FAMILY COMMUNION BREAKFAST
Celebrate Mary’s birthday at a Parish Communion Breakfast, sponsored by the Legion of Mary with breakfast prepared by the Knights of Columbus, in Mercy Hall on Sun., September 19, 2021 after the 9am Mass. Cost is $1 per person or $5 per family. Please call the church office for reservations.

MUSIC DIRECTOR NEEDED
Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Great Meadows, is looking for a new Music Director. He/She will be required to play and sing at the 5pm Mass on Saturdays, and at 7:30am & 10am on Sunday mornings. If you are interested or know of someone that would play and sing please contact Eileen in the parish office, at 908-637-4269.

SPSJ OVER’S 50’S CLUB
We will be meeting on Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 1pm in Mercy Hall. Bring a friend(s)! Membership is due ($5) and can be paid at the September 1st meeting. Business meeting, refreshments, socializing, and Bingo! Upcoming trips...down payment MUST BE PAID at the Sept. 1st meeting to secure your reservation ($10 down payment for EACH trip). October 12th...LaGreci’s Mazeltov w/vocalist Lisa Sherman plus Hilarious Comedian. November 18th...Hanover with the Jersey Dreamers Holiday Show. See you on September 1st and let’s have a record turnout, been too long! Any questions please call Dolly at 908-454-1067.

SILVER & GOLD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
You are cordially invited to celebrate your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary with the Church of Metuchen and renew your marriage vows with Bishop James F. Checchio at a special Evening Prayer Service at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen on Sunday, October 17, 2021 at 3:30pm. Couples who celebrated their Silver or Gold anniversary in 2020 are also invited to attend. Registration is required. Please register online at: https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-celebration. If you are unable to access, please contact your parish secretary or the Family Life Office at 732-562-1543 or amarshall@diometuchen.org. Registration will close on October 7, 2021. Although no fee is required, in the past many Jubilarian couples have given a donation of gratitude to the Church in memory of this special occasion. Donations of Gratitude may be made online at https://www.diometuchen.org/donation-silver-and-gold or by calling 732-562-1543.

PRAYERS FOR LIFE, LIBERTY & MARRIAGE
Come join us on Saturday, August 28th, after the 8am mass for our prayers for Life, Liberty & Marriage. Let us pray for an end to abortion, religious liberty, and authentic marriages.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER
With summer winding down, why not treat yourself to a Marriage Encounter Experience? A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. Join us from the comfort of your home via Zoom for eight evening sessions, 7:00-9:30pm, presented on Monday & Thursday evenings from September 27-October 21. Phone Tom & Ruth DeFalco at 732-904-9636 for application and information or visit us at www.wwme.org for more information.

ADORATION
Eucharistic Adoration has been extended to 7pm Monday – Friday, starting after the 12:10pm Mass in the Church. You are invited to come and spend one hour once a week with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. To sign up, contact Deacon Enock at 908-310-8990 or enockberluche1@gmail.com or Camille Rapinesi at 908-319-2719 or camillebates@verizon.net.
COVID-19 VACCINES

It is probably no surprise for you to hear that our priests are getting an increased number of questions about the morality of the various Covid-19 Vaccines that are available. Because of this, and the reality that many companies are considering, or have already, required their employees to be vaccinated, we thought it prudent to share once again the following information. The first is some guidance on some of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which, if available, are morally preferable to the one from Johnson and Johnson. This is offered as a help in forming your conscience on this matter, according to the teaching of the Church. The other is a template for a letter to some pharmaceutical companies requesting that they use more moral means to produce vaccines in the future. Please feel free to consult any of our priests if you have any questions about this.

Dear _______________

I am (or We are) writing to thank you for the outstanding work ___________ (company) has done in vaccine research and development. I, along with millions of Americans, appreciate and support your ongoing efforts to develop effective, safe and widely available vaccines against serious, potentially fatal infectious diseases.

However, I ___________ along with many Americans must also strenuously object to the unethical and unnecessary use of tissue, cell, or cell lines derived from voluntary abortions or human embryos in vaccine design, development or production.

While many will consent to receiving such morally tainted vaccines for the common good we do so under duress due to their association with the exploitation of innocent human life, no matter how remote.

As a nation, we must all work to restore the fundamental principle that the dignity of every human life must be defended from its inception to natural death. This duty is particularly significant for the pharmaceutical industry, whose mission is to safeguard life and health without compromising fundamental ethical standards.

I implore you to work expeditiously toward the goal of developing safe and effective vaccines for the welfare of all without human exploitation and thereby avoid placing anyone in the position of having to choose between being vaccinated against a serious disease or violating his or her conscience.

Sincerely,

(Your name)

Letters like this may be sent to resources such as:

The FDA
The Honorable Stephen M. Hahn, MD
Commissioner
US Food & Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

Pfizer:
Angela Hwang, President
Pfizer Biopharmaceuticals
235 East 42nd St.
New York, NY 10017

Moderna:
Stephen Hoge, MD, President
Moderna Global Headquarters
200 Technology Square
Cambridge, MA 02139


Johnson and Johnson: https://www.ccc-consumerscarecenter.com

GOING TO RUTGERS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

The Catholic Student Assoc. at The Catholic Center at Rutgers, located at 84 Somerset Street on the College Avenue Campus, is looking forward to welcoming you to the New Brunswick/Piscataway campuses. Please note the following information:

Mass Schedule

Sunday Masses
Saturday Vigil, 5:00pm, St. Peter’s Church
8:00am St. Peter’s Church, 94 Somerset St.
10:00am St. Peter’s Church
12:00pm St. Peter’s Church
12:00pm Busch Student Center (beginning 9/26)
6:00pm St. Peter’s Church
(St. Peter’s is in between the Catholic Center and Barnes & Noble) CAC

Daily Mass
7:30am St. Peter’s Church
12:15pm The Catholic Center Chapel (located inside the Catholic Center)

Opening Activities
Monday, Aug. 30: Luau, 6pm, The Catholic Ctr.
(Immediately following RU Involvement Fair)
Wednesday, Sept. 1: CSA Night, 8pm at The Catholic Center: Welcome to Rutgers!!
Thursday Sept. 2: Tailgate for RU football, 3:30 at Buccleuch Park; look for the CSA flag!
Sunday, Sept. 5: Opening Mass, 6pm St. Peter’s Church
Monday, Sept. 6: Beach Day at the Jersey shore. Leaving CC parking lot at 9:30am. Join us!!

Check us out at the Involvement Fair, Aug. 30! Visit us online at www.rutgerscatholic.org, www.stpeternewbrunswick.org

Also check us out on Facebook: Rutgers Catholic Student Association.

Mass Celebrants for Aug. 28th and 29th
4:30pm – Fr. Gilbert
7:00am – Fr. John
9:00am – Fr. Pat
11:00am – Fr. Pat
1:00pm – Fr. Gilbert
5:30pm – Fr. John

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

August 15th: $8,213.00
Food for the Needy: $225.00
SPSJ School: $806.00
Assumption: $1,971.00

July Online Contributions: $13,655.50

Parish Capital Campaign
Total Pledged as of 7/2/21: $1,526,168.66
Total Collected as of 7/2/21: $1,357,557.98

Have you considered online giving? If interested in signing up for online giving, please go to: https://spsj.churchgiving.com
+ MASSES FOR THE WEEK +

SUNDAY, Aug. 22nd  21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:00 – Julia & Al Madden by Mary & Bill
9:00 – John Finegan by Family
11:00 – John Natisin by Deacon Larry & Carol Bevilacqua
1:00 (SP) – For the People of the Parish
5:30pm – Protection of the unborn babies & their families by Gowey Family

MONDAY, Aug. 23rd  St. Rose of Lima
6:45 – Tom Sciascia by Mary Kaulius
8:00 – Frank B. Pollogruto (A) by Rose Bladies
12:10pm – Bernard Fey, Sr. by Wife & children
7:00pm – Mass Association Mass

TUESDAY, Aug. 24th  St. Bartholomew
6:45 – Mary Bronico by Fran Ludwig
8:00 – Josephine DeMonti by Flynn Family
12:10pm – Romano Family by Mom

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 25th  St. Louis & St. Joseph
6:45 – Jean Casey-Wood by Mary & Bill Duaimie
8:00 – Thomas Sciascia by Ed & Dolly Duffy
12:10pm – Maximillion Spann by Joan Fasanello

THURSDAY, Aug. 26th
6:45 – Nicholas Stefano, Jr. by Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Fabs
8:00 – Barry Rossnagle by Ed & Dolly Duffy
12:10pm – Kimberlee Pisarek by JoAnn Scott

FRIDAY, Aug. 27th  St. Monica
6:45 – Josephine & Carmello Merlo by Family
8:00 – Nancy Tarsi by PCHS Class of 1973
12:10pm – Anne Harrison by Eileen Catalli & Family

SATURDAY, Aug. 28th  St. Augustine
8:00 – Barbara Shaneberger by Mary Brogan
4:30pm – Blessing on Fr. Gilbert’s 1yr Anniversary by Gowey Family

SUNDAY, Aug. 29th  22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:00 – Bill & Jean Duaimie by Bill & Mary
9:00 – Sebastian Orchulli by McQuade Family
11:00 – Irene Fimiano by Grace & Frank Stettner
1:00 (SP) – For the People of the Parish
5:30pm – Kimberlee Pisarek by Breann & Emilee

+ MASS ASSOCIATION INTENTIONS +

Monday, August 23rd  St. Rose of Lima
Suzanne Schafer by Eileen Catalli & Family
Tom Sciascia by Eileen Catalli
Richard Guidi by Woolf Family
Mary Bronico by Kay & Jim Lennon
John Stout by Kay & Jim Lennon
Mary J. Reilly Sullivan by Volk Family
Barbara Havas by Barbara Murry
Paul Leone, Sr. by Nancy Ensley
Mary Esposito by Laura Arnold
William Berlinski by Larura Arnold
*Sp. Intentions JoAnn Timmons

+ MINISTRY SCHEDULE +

Aug. 28th and 29th

Saturday Aug. 28th
4:30pm  Acolyte: Josh Romero
        Lector: Lisa DeGerolamo
        Minister: William Casey
        Minister: Frances Ludwig
        Server: Chiezmuzo Odimma

Sunday Aug. 29th
7:00am  Acolyte: Dominic Russo
        Lector: Judy Leone
        Server: Isabella McKenna
        Server: Oliver McKenna

9:00am  Acolyte: Ricky Krouse
        Lector: Theresa Duaimie
        Minister: Maria Gural
        Minister: Kelly Perna
        Server: Andrew Sretenovic
        Server: Adam Sretenovic

11:00am Acolyte: Peter Diaz
        Lector: Denise Kassick
        Minister: Carol Bevilacqua
        Minister: Robert Hopkins
        Server: Anthony Diaz
        Server: Thomas Diaz

5:30pm  Acolyte: Gabriel Adams
        Lector: Susan Gerhardt

NURSING HOME TEAMS
All care Centers – No services will be held
Warren County Division of Aging and Disability Services is seeking Volunteers to deliver pre-packaged meals to home bound seniors in Phillipsburg and nearby areas.

Please contact 908-475-6591 to sign up to be a volunteer and serve our seniors. (Made possible by funding through ACL)