

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

Dear Family!

As we continue to thank Mrs. Donna Kucinski for her service to our school and children, we thank her role in preparing the school budget for next year which is approved and presented to the diocese. From the administrative point of view it is vital that the school enrollment be strong (over 180 children) so that the parish finances could be managed better. I am reaching out to you to prayerfully consider enrolling your children in our school, as I mentioned last week in my article, "Our school has the best of facilities and staff and the best part is that our children learn with faith."

I thank you for your generous contribution towards the Pastor's Appeal. As promised we have approved proposals for doors and the projects are underway. I thank the Buildings and Grounds Committee for their hard work and counsel. We will be updating you regularly on the progress of all projects in the Church and School.

The Liturgical Committees met on Saturday for continuing formation in their roles as liturgical ministers. My sincere thanks to all the 52 who attended the talk and lunch. Gatherings such as these are a great boost for the growth of the parish. A special word of thanks to the youth ministry for their youth day gathering at Mercy Hall. I encourage all the youth of the parish to take advantage of this opportunity to join our youth ministry.

Last Tuesday there were nine priests listening to confessions at our Lenten Penance service. While we thank them for their ministry, you are strongly urged to visit the confessional during this season of Lent and receive the Sacramental graces from it. This Monday the Search Committee will be meeting to discuss about the search for a New Principal. And Wednesday we will be talking with all parents to discuss about the state of the school and promise them of transparency for effective leadership. On Thursday '72 Disciples' will be meeting at Mercy Hall and would welcome new disciples to plan for the Eucharistic Renewal in our parish. I urge you to pray for all these committees and members for their readiness to serve the Church.

It is a usual phenomenon that whenever we are faced with communal struggles such as natural calamities or challenges like Coronavirus, we hear people say, 'God is punishing us for our sinfulness'. Our Church and tradition which are based on Scripture always taught us that "Since God is the highest good, He would not allow any evil to exist in His works, unless His

omnipotence and goodness were such as to bring good even out of evil. This is part of the infinite goodness of God, that He should allow evil to exist, and out of it produce good." (St. Augustine, St. Thomas) That is the revelation we receive in our Sunday Gospel this week. The man born blind was considered born totally in sin.

As David is anointed king of Israel in the first reading, we remember our own baptism and in the words of Saint Peter, "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." (1Peter 2:9). The name 'David' means 'Beloved'. We are the beloved of God.

Fr. Antony

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE & MASS INTENTIONS

<u>March 25<sup>th</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup></u>		
March 25 <sup>th</sup>		
4:30pm	Acolyte	Nicholas Socci
	Lector	Lisa DeGerolamo
	Minister	Margie Markus
	Minister	Edward Socci
	Server	Brett Bruckman
	Server	Chimbuza Odimma
March 26 <sup>th</sup>		
7:00am	Acolyte	Dominic Russo
	Lector	Susan Gerhardt
	Server	Oliver McKenna
	Server	Isabella McKenna
9:00am	Acolyte	Cole Rautenberg
	Lector	Rosemary Carnali
	Minister	Eileen Catalli
	Minister	Kelly Perna
	Server	Owen Case
	Server	Erin Case
11:00am	Acolyte	Joseph Cruz
	Lector	Denise Kassick
	Minister	Robert Hopkins
	Minister	Kevin Kassick
	Server	Adam Sretenovic
	Server	Andrew Sretenovic
1:00pm	Lector	Ivan Lam
	Minister	Gladys Jaurides
	Server	Jackie Quizhpi-Garcia
	Server	Miguel Quizhpi-Garcia
5:30pm	Acolyte	Anthony Ventura
	Lector	Nancy Ensley
	Server	
	Server	



**NURSING HOME ASSIGNMENTS**

Lopatcong Nursing Home 3/19 Ed Socci,  
3/26 Bob Hopkins  
Brakeley Nursing Home – Deacon  
Francisco  
Phillipsburg Nursing Home Judy Leone

**+ MASSES FOR THE WEEK +**

**SUNDAY, March 19<sup>th</sup>** Fourth Sunday of Lent  
7:00 – Mary Frances Patterson by Nancy Ensley  
9:00 – Guiseppe & Rosa Carnali by Rosemary Carnali  
11:00 – Frank Rapinesi by Deacon Larry & Carol Bevilacqua  
1:00 (SP)– Emma Espinoza by Maria C. Rossenouff  
5:30pm – John Mamrak, Sr. by Family

**MONDAY, March 20<sup>th</sup> ST. JOSEPH**  
6:45 – Deceased members of the Rossini Family by Ron Rossini  
8:00 – Mass Association Mass  
12:10pm – Anthony Loiacono by Lucy Jiorle

**TUESDAY, March 21<sup>st</sup>**  
6:45 – Justin Cicale by Morning Angels  
8:00 – John Hanni by Neil & Sue Gallagher  
12:10pm – Thomas & Lena Connolly by Margaret & Ed Connolly

**WEDNESDAY, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
6:45 – Dale Briggs by Mac Briggs  
8:00 – Florence & Anthony Rapisarda by Kathleen Clemente  
12:10pm – Joseph & Sue Dudish by Honey Bladies

**THURSDAY, March 23<sup>rd</sup> St. Turibius of Mogrovejo**  
6:45 – Justin Cicale by Millie Michael  
8:00 – Anthony Loiacono by Jim & Jill Martin  
12:10pm – Marion Manasseri by Family

**FRIDAY, March 24<sup>th</sup>**  
6:45 – Robert Loper by Joan McCaffrey  
8:00 – Augusto & Stella Pasquini by Jean Pasquini  
12:10pm – Kevin Mulrine by Merrie Mulrine  
3:00pm Stations of the Cross  
7:00pm – Stations of the Cross  
8:00pm Stations of the Cross in Spanish

**SATURDAY, March 25<sup>th</sup> THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**  
8:00am – Barry Rosnagle by Lorna, Tricia, Wendy & Jaclyn & family  
4:30pm – Diane Trinidad by Escarlen Duran

**SUNDAY, March 26<sup>th</sup>** Sixth Sunday of Lent  
7:00 – John Rafferty by Mary  
9:00 – Yola Marineeli by daughter, Lisa  
11:00 – James Fisk by Gwen Fisk  
1:00 (SP) – Miguel Santillan by Wife & Children  
5:30pm – Sammy Jaurides by Deacon Francisco

**MASS ASSOCIATION**

Eileen Frances Mulzet by Gomes Aversa Family  
Harold Weston by Jean Weston

**PARISH NEWS**

**FAITH AND SERVICE DINNER**



You are cordially invited to the Faith & Service Dinner to Honor

**Camille Indorato Brennan '72 and James Brennan '70 and**

**Kathi Casey Jinks '69 and Roger Jinks**

**Date: April 29, 2023**

**Time: 5:30pm**

**Place: Flynn's On the Hill**

**Dinner Ticket \$70.00**

Please RSVP no later than April 15, 2023, to:  
Margie Markus at 908-859-1244 or by Email:  
[markus.margie06@gmail.com](mailto:markus.margie06@gmail.com)



**WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

*James Tersigni, Robert McGotty, Margaret Stocker, Jamey Perrone, Bob Hannagan, George Abruzzo, Thomas Ernest, Lorraine Wonder, Rachel Clark, Rosa Zerralles, Manuel Venegas, The Pulecio Family, Jasmin Tricoche, Charlotte Meglic, Shirley Emery*

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

**March 12, 2023: \$10,820.00**  
**March 5, 2023 online: \$3,850.50**  
**Total: \$ 14,670.50**  
**Second Collection: \$481.00**



**PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY**

*Christian Finizio, Jack Pike, Michael Vega, Gianni Luzzetti, Lt. Abigail Gage, James B. Collins, Spec. Theodore Bill, Billy Erz, Andrew N. Zellers, Seth Reyes*

If you have a picture of your armed service personnel please send it in.

## **CATECHIST FOR 2023-2024/SPSJ-FAITH FORMATION**

Is God tugging at your heart to do more? Could it be a call to spread His word, to Evangelize? Catechists are at the heart of this mission through Faith Formation. If so, prayerfully consider signing up for the 2023-2024 SPSJ Religious Education (CCD) program as a Catechist. We are also in need of Catechist Aides and Hall monitors. Please reach out to Escarlen Duran (PCL) at 908-454-0112 x 406. (Clearances are required.)

## **LEGION OF MARY ANNUAL ACIES**

The Legion of Mary Annual ACIES (Reconsecration to Mary) will take place on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:20am with Rosary in five languages before 11am Holy Mass followed by Individual & Collective Act of Consecration to Mary by active and auxiliary members.

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

Our next meeting is on March 26<sup>th</sup> after the 9am mass. Come and join in on the fun activities we have planned and learn and grow in our faith. For any questions please call the church office at 908-454-0112.



## **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

The Knights of Columbus Council #474 will be having their Fish Dinner on March 31<sup>st</sup> in Mercy Hall 4pm to 7pm. The menu consist of baked fish, French fries, coleslaw, macaroni & cheese, green beans pizza, rolls homemade desserts. The price will be \$10 for adults and \$6 for children.

## **CONFESSIONS IN LENT**

As of Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023, revised rite of the Order of Penance is being used in Catholic Churches. It becomes obligatory as of April 16, 2023 on Divine Mercy Sunday. The Church has always stressed the importance of Confession especially in Lent. I have seen long lines on Saturdays in our church. To help people better, we will be starting confessions at 3pm on Saturdays until Vigil mass starts. We will also make Confessions available on Tuesdays (9-11am at the office) and Thursdays (9-11am at the office). You can always call the office and make appointments for confessions at other times.

## **CEMETERY CLEANUP**

The Cemetery will begin their cleanup on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure if you want something back to take it off the grave site and the Mausoleum by that date

## **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](https://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.



## **PASTORS APPEAL**

We are still accepting donations for the pastor appeal. We are currently at \$94,321.00 of the \$120,000 total. We can do it with your help!

## **RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS IN LENT**

As Lent begins, we always wonder what we can “give up”. In addition to giving something up we can do something extra. Our community has major food insecurity problem. Consider donating to the soup kitchen, they can always use Aldi’s gift cards to help defray the cost of Saturday’s lunch. The other idea could be placing nonperishable food in the Blessing Box. Both of these areas would appreciate your Lenten kindness

## **ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

St. Philip & St. James Elementary School is advertising for a school principal starting July 1, 2023 or earlier. Basic qualifications are: Master’s Degree in Education Administration (Education Leadership preferred); NJ Teaching License; 5 years teaching experience; an active Catholic; commitment to community and faith development; interpersonal skills and Leadership qualities that inspire confidence.

## **SCAPULAR INVESTITURE**

On July 16, 1251, the Blessed Virgin appeared to St. Simon Stock, giving him a scapular saying “Receive, my beloved son, this scapular. Whosoever dies wearing this scapular shall not suffer eternal fire. It shall be a sign of Salvation, a protection in danger and a pledge of peace.” The Scapular Investiture will take place Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> after the 4:30pm Mass.



## **MEMORIALS AND FEASTS THIS WEEK**

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Mar 19 Sunday)**

#### **March 20 - Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

“Jesus, Mary and Joseph are in a sense the primordial nucleus of the Church. Jesus is Man and God; Maria, the first disciple and the Mother; and Joseph, the guardian. And we too “We should always consider whether we ourselves are protecting Jesus and Mary, for they are also mysteriously entrusted to our own responsibility, care and safekeeping.” (*Patris corde*, 5). And here there is a very beautiful trace of the Christian vocation: to safeguard. To safeguard life, to safeguard human development, to safeguard the human mind, to safeguard the human heart, to safeguard human work.

The Christian — we could say — is like St Joseph: he must safeguard. To be a Christian is not only to receive the faith, to confess the faith, but to safeguard life, one’s own life, the life of others, and the life of the Church. The Son of the Most High came into the world in a condition of great weakness: Jesus was born like this, weak, weak. He wanted to be defended, protected, and cared for. God trusted Joseph, as did Mary, who found in him the bridegroom who loved and respected her and always took care of her and the Child.

“In this sense, Saint Joseph could not be other than the Guardian of the Church, for the Church is the continuation of the Body of Christ in history, even as Mary’s motherhood is reflected in the motherhood of the Church. In his continued protection of the Church, Joseph continues to protect the child and his mother, and we too, by our love for the Church, continue to love the Child and His mother” (*ibid.*). (General Audience of Pope Francis, 16th February, 2022)

March 23 - *Optional Memorial of Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop*

#### **March 25 - Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord**

Dear brothers and sisters, today we praise the Most Holy Virgin for her faith, and with Saint Elizabeth we too say, “Blessed is she who believed” (Lk 1:45). As Saint Augustine said, Mary conceived Christ by faith in her heart before she conceived him physically in her womb; Mary believed and what she believed was came to be in her (cf. *Sermo 215, 4: PL 38, 1074*). Let us ask the Lord to strengthen our faith, to make it active and fruitful in love. Let us implore him that, like her, we may welcome the word of God into our

hearts, and carry it out with docility and constancy. The Virgin Mary, by her unique role in the mystery of Christ, represents the exemplar and model of the Church. The Church, like the Mother of Christ, is also called to embrace in herself the mystery of God who comes to live in her. (Homily of Pope Benedict XVI, 26th March, 2012)

## **POPE FRANCIS – GENERAL AUDIENCE**

POPE FRANCIS - GENERAL AUDIENCE -  
Wednesday, 15 March 2023

### **Catechesis. The passion for evangelization: the apostolic zeal of the believer 7. The Second Vatican Council. 2. Being apostles in an apostolic Church**

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on missionary zeal, we now consider the apostolic dimension of evangelization. In the Creed, we profess that the Church is “apostolic”. An “apostle” is literally one who is “sent”. In the Scriptures, we read that Jesus chose the twelve Apostles, called them to himself and then sent them forth to proclaim the Gospel. After his resurrection, he appeared to the Twelve and said: “As the Father has sent me, so now I send you”, breathing upon them the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins (Jn 20:21-22). Within the diversity of ministries and charisms in the Body of Christ, all the baptized are called and sent forth to advance the Church’s apostolate. Those who are ordained have received the mission of teaching, governing and sanctifying in Jesus’ name and authority, yet all the members of the faithful, as sharers in the Lord’s priestly, prophetic and regal office, are called to be missionary disciples, “apostles in an apostolic Church”. May the recognition of our common dignity and equality inspire us to ever greater unity and cooperation in proclaiming, by word and example, the good news of our salvation in Christ.

## **UNBORN PRAYER SERVICE**

On Saturday, Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm in St. Philip & St. James Church, there will be an Unborn Prayer Service. This is a special service for those who have lost a child through miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion. An opportunity to name your child is expressed compassionately and confidentially through prayer. Meditative Prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. For more information, call 908-454-9880.

## DEACONS CORNER

### Curing the Blind

This is the only miracle in the gospels in which the sufferer is said to have been afflicted from his birth. In the time of Jesus certain people did believe that a person's affliction, even if it be from birth, might come from sin that was committed before the person was born. It is a strange idea, and it may seem to us almost fantastic; but at its heart lies the idea of a sin infected universe.

Jesus does not try to explain the connection of sin and suffering. He says that this man's afflictions came to him to give an opportunity of showing what God can do. At its heart is the supreme truth that the Glory of God lies in his compassion, and that he never so fully reveals his glory as when he reveals his pity. To help a fellow person in need is to manifest the Glory of God.

Jesus came into this world for judgement. Whenever we are confronted with Jesus, we at once pass a judgement on ourselves. If we see in Jesus nothing to desire, nothing to admire, nothing to love, then we have condemned ourselves. If we see in Jesus something to wonder at, something to respond to, something to reach out to, and then we are on the way to God. The people who are conscious of their own blindness, and who long to see better and to know more, are the people whose eyes can be opened and who can be led more and more deeply into the truth. Only the people who realize their own weakness can become strong. Only the people who realize their own blindness can learn to see.

A tremendous thing about Jesus is that the more we know him the greater he becomes. The trouble with human relationships is that often the better we know a person the more we know his or her weaknesses and fallings, but the more we know Jesus, the greater the wonder becomes; and that will be true, not only in time, but also in eternity.

God Bless Us WWG1WGA  
Deacon Larry

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2023-2024 TUITION ASSISTANCE – ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS OPEN

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at

<https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>.

Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by no later than **March 31, 2023**. Applications are available in English and Spanish. Families that need assistance completing the online application or need access to a computer to apply should contact their school.

### 2023 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

#### Renewed and Sent on Mission by the Eucharist

This weekend, parishes throughout the Diocese of Metuchen are celebrating Bishop's Annual Appeal In-Pew weekend. Our goal is for every family to participate. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated. Together, we are keeping Christ's presence alive in the world today. Thank you for actively participating in this mission by your financial support. You can find the link to the Bishop's Annual Appeal Video by going to <https://diometuchen.org/BAA>.

### CHRISM MASS

On Tuesday, April 4, 2023 Bishop James F. Checchio will celebrate the Chrism Mass with the priests of the Diocese. At the Mass, all priests make a Renewal of Commitment to Priestly Service, recommitting themselves to their Bishop and to their ministry to God and His People; the Bishop and all Priests then ask the people for a pledge of their prayerful support.

The Bishop will also bless and consecrate the Holy Oils, which each parish received for the rites of anointing. The Oil of Catechumens is used to anoint infants and adults before their Baptism; the Oil of the Sick is used on the forehead and hands of the infirm in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick; and Sacred Chrism is used to anoint the head of the newly baptized, the foreheads of confirmandi, the hands of a priest at his ordination, the head of a bishop at his ordination, and the altar and walls of new churches.

All are encouraged to join in-person (or watch via livestream), the ancient, grace filled Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen at 4:00pm.

To watch the Chrism Mass livestream, visit <https://diometuchen.org/cathedral-livestream>.





# Saints Update

## SUPPORT CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Give the gift of a Catholic education! Contributions to the fund are awarded each July to families who otherwise could not afford a Catholic school education. To contribute, simply put your donation in the collection basket inside a marked envelope.

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SAINTS PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL

# PreKindergarten

**NOW ENROLLING!**

- ✓ Pre-Kindergarten Programs for 3 and 4 year olds
- ✓ Small class sizes, strong academic programs, faith-based curriculum
- ✓ Competitive rates
- ✓ 3, 4, or 5 day, half day or full day
- ✓ After School Care and/or Before School Care available

**CALL NOW FOR MORE INFORMATION!**

908.859.1244 / [sspjnj.org](http://sspjnj.org)

SAINTS PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL

# TRANSFER STUDENT INCENTIVE

**TRANSFER & EXPERIENCE THE "SAINTS DIFFERENCE" WITH 1 MONTH OF FREE TUITION!**

1. Student must have been previously enrolled in a different school, in Kindergarten through grade 8.
2. Student enrolls at SSPJ, records from previously school are transferred, and student completes the 2023-2024 school year.
3. The family of the transfer student will receive 1 month's tuition credit applied to the May 2024 statement.

*Cannot be combined with any other special offer or bonus. All other financial obligations for the 2023-2024 school year must be fulfilled before the credit will be issued. One transfer incentive per family.*

## HELP WANTED

SSPJ School is in search of a full-time technologist. All clearances/fingerprinting required. Responsibilities include monitoring/maintaining computer network, providing tech support, and ensuring that federal/state regulations are followed. Contact Mrs. Kucinski at [kucinski.donna@spsj.org](mailto:kucinski.donna@spsj.org) or 908.859.1244.

## UPCOMING OPEN HOUSES

Join us this Sunday, March 19, for an open house at Saints Philip and James School, from 1:00 - 3:00 PM. We will also hold an open house on Tuesday, April 25, from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Visit [sspjnj.org](http://sspjnj.org) for more info.

## SAINTS SPRINT REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Join us to "Run for J.O.Y." and enjoy a morning filled with fitness, family, and fun on Saturday, April 29. Visit <https://form.jotform.com/230403754822148> to register. Games, face painting, refreshments, food trucks and raffles will also be available during this fantastic event!

## THE LION KING KIDS PRODUCTION

Performances will be held on Friday, May 19th at 7 PM and Saturday, May 20th at 3 PM. Tickets are \$7 (adults) and \$5 (children) and bring a canned food item to donate. We hope that you will join us for a "wild" time!