January 2, 2022

FEAST OF EPIPHANY



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91 Stillhouse Rd., Millstone Twp., NJ 08510 732-792-2270



MASS

Saturday

5:00 PM

SUNDAY

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Mon. Tues. Wed. Fri.

9:00 AM

Masses are also

live streamed

SERVED BY

Rev. Michael P. Lang, Pastor frmlkestjoseph@optonline.net

Chris Chandonnet, Deacon chrisstjoseph@optonline.net

Genevieve Semanchick
Parish Secretary & CRE
Jeanstjoseph@optonline.net

CONNECT

Fax: 732-792-2271

Website:

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Some thoughts from Fr. Mike...

Dear Friends.

Our Christmas celebration started with shepherds in the hilly countryside going to Bethlehem to visit the new born King and continues today with the arrival of the Magi, in splendid regalia and wonderful gifts. Perhaps what attracts our attention the most is that they made their journey guided by a mysterious star, which stopped at an out-of-the-way place with no visible signs of royalty. Those travelers worshiped in simplicity and joy at the feet of the child they found and offered their gifts. The discovery of Christ made all the difference to them, transforming their souls, calling them out of darkness into his own wonderful light.

This story symbolizes the religious journey of all people who are seeking God, using a glimmer of faith to point the way forward. The search for truth always requires leaving the comfort and security of the things we hold on to, whether they be positions, views or anything else, in order to face the unknown. It requires courage, determination and hope as most journeys are long and the pathway may be lined with failure, doubt and confusion. Deep down we experience an uneasiness and a yearning for the kind of freedom and happiness that can only be fulfilled when we experience the presence of God.

Like the Magi, we are called to search and discover the presence of Christ in our lives. It is an on-going search that cannot be completely mapped out or with the expectation that the destination will be expected or even welcomed. What is important and crucial is to be open and receptive in order to read the signs that are presented at any given moment. Christ is being born every day of our lives. Even though God has come to us, we will only find Christ if we search for him and discover him, only if we set out on a journey to meet him.

We must remember that Christ will be encountered in the most unusual and unexpected places. He will be found in the smile of a child, in the painful expression of a person sick in bed, in the bitter tears of a poor person trying to find food for the family and in the happiness and love that fills newlyweds. Whenever we look into the eyes of another person we are gazing into the eyes of Christ. We may not have gold, frankincense or myrrh to bring them, but we can always offer the priceless treasure of the presence of Christ in us.

Peace, prayers and love to all of you,

Fr Míke

Mass Schedule + Readings

Saturday January- 1

5:00pm Joan Cologero 1/10 Mary Jane & Bill Rauscher

Sunday January-2 Epiphany of the Lord

(Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12)

9:00am Billy Herriott Jr. 1/10 The Tkachuk Family

11:00am *Michael Morano* 1/b The Francisco Family

Monday January- 3 The Most Holy Name of Jesus

(1 Jn 3:22-4:6 Mt 4:12-17, 23-25)

9:00am For the People of the Parish

Tuesday January- 4 St Elizabeth Ann Seton

(1Jn 4:7-10 Mk 6:34-44)

9:00am Special Healing Intentions of Jim Kronenthal

r/b The Hill Family

Wednesday January- 5 St John Neumann

(1 Jn 4:11-18 Mk 6:45-52

9:00am Evangelina Diguilio 1/10 John & Lori Neshimka

Thursday January-6 **St Andre Bessette**

(I Jn 4:19—5:4 Lk 4:14-22) NO Mass

Friday January- 7 St Raymond of Penyafort

(1 Jn 5:5-13 Lk 5:12-6)

9:00am Waria Cassers 1/10 Jennifer & Jonathan Koncz

Saturday January- 8 Christmas Weekday

(1 Jn 5:14-21 Jn 3:22-30)

5:00pm *Joan Cologero* 7b Mickie Bautista **Sunday** January-9 **The Baptism of the Lord**

(ls 40:1-5, 9-11 Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7 Lk 3:15-16)

9:00am Special Healing Intentions of Jim Kronenthal

r/b The Hileman Family

11:00am *Jack Bassi* 1/10 Ellen & Frank Marotta

Sanctuary Candle... this week

Al DeRosa r/b Frances DeRosa

To dedicate a Sanctuary Candle in memory of or for the intention of a loved one. Please call the office @ 732-792-2270. The donation is \$10.00

Prayer Chain Contacts:

Patty Hileman 732-446-7651 Mary Costagliola

732-446-4255

<u>Please Keep in your prayers:</u> The sick and the lonely, the safe return of our service men and women, for vocations to the priesthood and religious life and for the hungry and the homeless.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Please note that all classes until January 24 will be Home Study.

MONDAY – January 3 **Session A** grades 1-8 **Home Study**.

Session B grades 1-8- Home Study

TUESDAY – January 4 Session A grades 1-8 Home Study.

Session B grades 1-8- Home Study

MONDAY – January 10 **Session B** grades 1-8 - **Home Study**.

Session A grades 1-8 - Home Study

TUESDAY – January 11 **Session B** grades 1-8 – **Home Study**.

Session A grades 1-8- Home Study

MONDAY - January 17 NO CLASS

TUESDAY - January 18 NO CLASS

MONDAY – January 24 Session A grades 1-7 in class. All of grade 8 – In Class.

Session B grades 1-7– Home Study

TUESDAY – January 25 **Session A** grades 1-7 in class. **All of grade 8 – In Class**.

Session B grades 1-7– Home Study

FOOD COLLECTION

Thank you for your continued generosity with the food donations. There will always be a need for assistance with food for many people so we will continue to collect food, paper goods and toiletries in the bins inside the church entrances. After the first and third Sundays of the month volunteers will deliver the donated items to the Millstone Community Center where they are greatly appreciated and will reach those in need. Thank you again for your generosity.

READER'S CLUB



PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MEETING FOR THE READER'S CLUB HAS BEEN CHANGED TO A VIRTUAL MEETING.

The next book chosen for the Reader's Club is "*The Last* Thing He Told Me" by Laura Dave. *The Last Thing He Told Me* is a gripping mystery about a woman who thinks she's found the love of her life—until he disappears. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 5th at 7:30PM via zoom. To RSVP or for more information about the Readers' Club or to receive emails about meetings, etc. contact Fran -

ambiofran@gmail.com.

LADIES OF ST. JOSEPH

Given the current situation with the Coronavirus spreading, the Ladies of St. Joseph Meeting for January is being canceled out of an abundance of caution. The plan is to resume meetings in February. The Ladies of St. Joseph is the Parish women's group and is open to everyone in the parish. If you would like more information about the Ladies of St. Joseph, contact JoAnn - jannkronenthal@gmail.com.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The Building and Grounds Committee will not be meeting in January.

EMERGENCY HOUSING PROGRAM

Our Parish is participating in the Emergency Housing Program where on Sunday nights up to 12 homeless men will stay at the parish to sleep and be given a meal. There are 7 Houses of Worship that participate in the program. Each House of Worship takes a night to have the men stay. Our night is Sunday. The participants arrive at about 6:30PM on Sunday and leave at 6:30AM on Monday. There are a few volunteer opportunities:

<u>Hosts</u> – 2 hosts from the parish are needed from 6:00PM until about 11:00PM on each Sunday night. Hosts help the participants get settled, hand out air mattresses, sheets, etc., may be needed to help dish out food, help with meal clean-up and are present to help with anything else that may come up.

<u>Wash linens</u> – each week the sheets and towels have to be washed. Once the program is in full swing, we would like to have two people each week to divide the linens, take them home to be washed and return them to the parish. Linens can be picked up any time after 6:30AM on Monday and should be returned by Friday of that week.

<u>Meal preparation</u> – each Sunday the participants are provided with a hot meal. Volunteers are needed to provide the food to be served to the participants. The sign-up list divides the meal into different items. You may sign up for one item or take the entire meal or as much as you wish to do.

Sign-up sheets for each of the areas requiring volunteers are located on the large bulletin board in the entryway of the church. Thank you for your consideration in helping with this program and allowing our parish to reach out to those in need. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Mike.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CATECHISTS

We are very much in need of several people willing to serve as substitutes in our Parish Religious Education Program when a Catechist is unable to be present. If you are willing to serve as a substitute teacher in the Religious Education Program, please contact Jean at the Parish Office at Jeanstjoseph@optonline.net 732-792-2270.

SHOP AT AMAZON - SUPPORT THE PARISH

Help support the parish by designating St. Joseph

Church as the charity you wish to support. Eligible purchases will result in Amazon donating a portion to the parish. You do have to designate St. Joseph Church, Millstone Twp. as your charity. You also have to use the Amazon Smile site instead of the normal Amazon site.

Go to http://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-6103657

(a direct link) or go to our website and click the link. Thanks for your support!

BAPTISM BIBS

While the practice of giving out Baptism bibs has been suspended during the pandemic, we will soon begin using Baptism bibs again at our celebrations of the Sacrament of Baptism. If any of those who have so lovingly made the Baptism bibs can continue, that would be very much appreciated. New people who would like to make the bibs are also welcome. If you would like to see a sample, please see Fr. Mike. The Baptism bib is a symbol of the newly Baptized child putting on Christ. The purpose of having parishioners make the bibs instead of using prepackaged felt bibs, is to demonstrate that we are all connected in faith and as community. While making the bibs, many have prayed for the child who will receive it. If you have questions or just want some more information, give Fr. Mike or see him after Mass. Thanks!

604

BAPTISMS

Baptisms are celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 12:30 PM. Up to four families will be scheduled for each celebration of Baptism. If you would like to schedule Baptism for your child, please call the parish office 732-792-2270.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Please sign up to serve at Mass. Now that everyone will be coming forward to receive the Eucharist again, Eucharistic Ministers will be needed at each Mass. If Deacon Chris is present, we will need 2 Eucharistic Ministers. If Deacon Chris is not present, we will need 3 Eucharistic Ministers. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board outside of the library. Thanks

ALTAR SERVERS

While we are still not at the point of being able to have Altar Servers serve as normal, we are safe to allow one Altar Server to carry the Cross in procession at Mass at the start and end of Mass. The Altar Server would carry in the Cross and then sit with his/her family and then then carry the Cross for the recessional at the end of Mass. If your child is an Altar Server and willing to do this, you may simply let Fr. Mike know when you arrive at Mass – if no one else is already doing it, then your child may do be the Cross bearer. Please note that you will have to arrive at Church early enough to give your child enough time to put on the Alb. Thanks!

Parish Giving

A convenient way to donate is through online

Parish Giving. This is offered free of charge to you so that you may make donations by credit card or transfer from your checking account. Check it out at www.stjosephmillstone.org and click on "Contribute/Donate" then click on the link for Electronic Giving. You can then set up an account or choose a onetime donation without an account. If you have any questions about this, please email or leave a message for Fr. Mike

RCIA - Rite of Initiation of Adults

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a wonderful faith journey for those who wish to be Baptized, those who are Baptized and are now interested are interested in joining the Catholic Church and those who have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation). The RCIA is a journey of faith where people are encouraged to discern God's call in their lives. It is not a typical classroom setting. Our Catholic beliefs are introduced and explained and participants in the RCIA are encouraged to see how our beliefs, practices, Liturgies and Sacraments can have an impact in everyday situations. Anyone and everyone is invited to "come and see" to find out if the RCIA process is what you are being drawn to in your life. RCIA sessions are ready to resume, although at this time the meetings will be help outdoors or via Zoom. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Fr. Mike – frmikestjoseph@optonline.net or 732-792-2270.

LIVE STREAM OF MASS –

Masses continue to be live streamed at https://vimeo.com/event/106444, on our parish website at www.stjosephmillstone.org/live-stream on our Facebook Page www.facebook.com/stjosephchurchmillstone and on the Parish YouTube channel www.youtube.com/c/StJosephChurchMillstoneTwp

COVID19 RESTRICTIONS

MASS RELATED POLICIES

- Masks are optional, but are strongly encouraged at this point because of the Delta variant. Those who are not vaccinated and children under 12 are more strongly advised to wear a mask indoors for both their safety and the safety of others.
- The cry room and the loft will remain closed at the present time.
- Out of an abundance of caution, the Presentation of the gifts of Bread and Wine will still be omitted.
- We will continue to use a basket at the back of the church for offertory donations.
- The Sign of Peace will continue to be exchanged by a wave or nod.
- At the time of Communion, everyone will come forward to receive.
- Communion will be offered only in the hand.
- Priest/Deacon/Eucharistic Ministers will sanitize hands and wear a mask for the distribution of Communion.

Masses will continue to be live streamed

STAY CONNECTED - FIND THE LATEST NEWS

Don't forget to stay in touch with parish events through social media. Find out what is going on at our website at www.stjosephmillstone.org. Connect with the parish on Facebook. Give our page a like to keep informed about events. You can find the parish page on Facebook at St. Joseph Catholic Church Millstone Twp. NJ or @stjosephchurchmillstone. Stay informed – stay connected!

HELP US TO BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU

The Parish uses Flocknotes which is a program to send out email and text messages to parishioners. This will allow us to stay in touch about parish events, emergency closings and important information. To benefit from this, you must sign up with your cell phone number and/or email address. In the present time, it is important that we have a way to get news out to everyone. We will use Flocknotes to let parents know if Religious Education classes are canceled and we send out reminders about scheduled closings for holidays, etc. It is easy to be on the notification list – just text the code sjmill to 84576 and follow the prompts. You may also go to our website to be included – stjosephmillstone.org/flocknotes. Just enter your information and follow the prompts. You can then select the groups that you want information from. All information is confidential. Others are not able to view your information. Please remember that email and text message will be sent from Flocknotes. Thanks!

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office: 732-792-2270

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30AM - 2:30PM Mailing Address: 91 Stillhouse Road

Millstone Twp, NJ 08510

WWW.STJOSEPHMILLSTONE.ORG

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Michael P. Lang - Pastor frmikestjoseph @optonline.net

Chris Chandonnet, Permanent Deacon Chrisstjoseph@optonline.net

Jean Semanchick, Parish Secretary & Coordinator of Religious Education
Jeanstjoseph@optonline.net

Kristine Reide, Music Ministry Leader Kris0373@aol.com

MASS TIMES

Saturday Evening - 5:00 PM

Sunday Morning - 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri - 9:00AM

Holy Days: as listed in the bulletin

Confessions: At this time, Confessions are

Offered by appointment only.

<u>BAPTISM</u> – The Sacrament of Baptism is normally celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:30 PM. Parents are asked to register for a Baptism Preparation Session prior to the Baptism. Baptisms must be scheduled in advance by calling the Parish Office. Sponsors must obtain Sponsor forms from their home parish – Sponsors must be active practicing Catholics. The Sacrament of Baptism is not celebrated during the Season of Lent.

<u>Marriage</u> – Diocesan policy requires that arrangements for Marriage be made one (1) year in advance of the wedding. Refer any questions to the Pastor.

<u>Sick Calls</u> – Please contact the Parish Office when someone is seriously ill requiring a visit by a Priest. If someone is unable to attend Mass on a regular basis and would like to receive Communion please call the Parish Office

<u>Registration</u> – We are glad you are here and want you to feel like a full member of the parish. Registering as a parishioner helps us to know who you are and to stay in touch. Registration is required for sponsor forms.

<u>Sponsor Certificates</u> – This is a form required to be a Godparent or Sponsor for Confirmation. To receive a form, the following is required: -Be a registered, active (attends Mass) member of the parish (for at least 6 months); be at least 16 years of age; must have completed the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation; If married, have a valid marriage within the Church.

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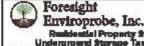
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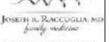
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