

December 21, 2025

4th Sunday of Advent



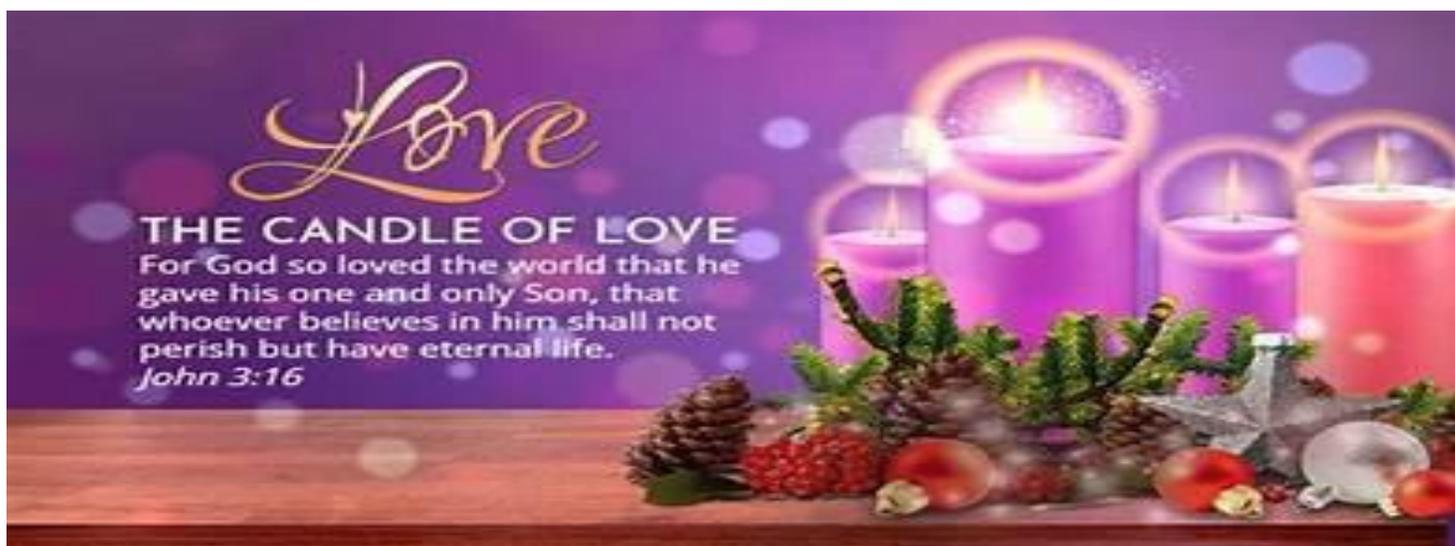
St. Joseph

Catholic Church

*A community of
faith growing in
God's love*

91 Stillhouse Road, Millstone Twp., N.J. 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

frmike@stjosephmillstone.org

Chris Chandonnet, Deacon

chrisstjoseph@optonline.net

Vicki Craig, Pastoral Associate

Vicki@Stjosephmillstone.org

Genevieve Semanchick

Parish Secretary & CRE

jean@stjosephmillstone.org

CONNECT

Phone:

732-792-2270

Fax:

732-792-2271

Website:

www.stjosephmillstone.org

Facebook:

[stjosephchurchmillstone](https://www.facebook.com/stjosephchurchmillstone)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday – Dec. 21

Children's Liturgy of the Word

9:00AM – Mass

10:00AM - OCIA

11:00AM – Mass

Monday – Dec. 22

9:00AM – Mass

No Religious Education Classes

Tuesday, - Dec. 23

9:00AM – Mass

10:00AM – Prayer Shawl Ministry

No Religious Education Classes

Wednesday – Dec. 24

Christmas Eve

4:00PM – Mass

6:30PM – Mass

Midnight - Mass

Thursday – Dec. 25

Christmas Day

9:00AM – Mass

11:00AM – Mass

Parish Office is closed

Friday – Dec. 26

No Morning Mass

Parish Office Closed

Saturday – Dec. 27

5:00PM – Mass

Sunday – Dec. 28

9:00AM – Mass

10:00AM - OCIA

11:00AM – Mass

Monday – Dec. 29

NO Morning Mass

NO Religious Education Classes

Tuesday – Dec. 30

NO Morning Mass

10:00AM – Prayer Shawl Ministry

NO Religious Education Classes

Wednesday – Dec. 31

NO Morning Mass

Thursday – Jan. 1

HOLY DAY

10:00AM - Mass

Parish Office is closed

Friday – Jan. 2

NO Morning Mass

Parish Office is closed

Mass Intentions + Readings

Saturday December- 20 **Advent Weekday**
(Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38)

5:00pm *Richard Bautista* r/b Mickie Bautista

Sunday December- 21 **4th Sunday of Advent**
(Is 7:10-14 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24)

9:00am *Nick Costagliola* r/b His Family

11:00am *Don Quigley* r/b The Knutson Family

Monday December- 22 **Advent Weekday**
(1 Sm 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56)

9:00am *Ray Kalainikas* r/b Deb Smarth

Tuesday December- 23 **St John of Kanty**
(Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Lk 1:57-66)

9:00am *Cherian Joseph Perumpail*
r/b Val & Babu Perumpail

Wednesday December- 24 **The Nativity of Our Lord**
(Is 9:1-6 / Ti 2:11-14 / Lk 2:1-14)

No MORNING MASS

4:00pm *Dec'd Mbrs of Panariello & Raimondi Families*
r/b M/M Raimondi

6:30pm *Grace Giffen* r/b The Kohlhepp Family

12midnight *Anna Morin & Maria Piccinich* r/b The Family

Thursday December- 25 **Christmas Day**

9:00am *Jason Sawicz* r/b His Family

11:00am *Salvatore Saiya* r/b The Gellman Family

Friday December- 26 **Saint Stephen**
(Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22)

No Mass

Saturday December- 27 **Saint John**
(1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a, 2-8)

5:00pm *Maria Piccinich* r/b The Family

Sunday December- 28
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
(Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 Mt 2:13-15, 19-23)

9:00am *Margaret Sykes* r/b Dan, Jill & Thomas Sykes

11:00am *Don Quigley* r/b The Meyer Family

Sanctuary Candle... this week
Dec'd Mbrs. of the Reilly and Semanchick Families

r/b John & Jean



Some thoughts from Fr. Mike...

Dear Friends,

As we come to the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Gospel places before us Joseph, a quiet and often overlooked figure, yet one who shows us what true love looks like.

Joseph loves Mary not with words, but with **actions**. When faced with fear, confusion, and uncertainty, he chooses compassion over shame, mercy over self-interest. And when God speaks to him in a dream, Joseph responds with trust. Love, in this Gospel, is not sentimental—it is obedient, self-giving, and courageous.

The child to be born will be called *Emmanuel—God with us*. This is the heart of Christmas: God does not love us from a distance. God enters our human story, our messiness, our fears, and our ordinary lives. God's love takes flesh.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, this Gospel invites us to ask: How will we make room for that love? Like Joseph, we are called to welcome Christ not only into our hearts, but into our choices—into how we choose to forgive, how we are patient with others and ourselves, how we care for one another, especially those who are struggling, alone, frightened or burdened by the uncertainties of life.

To our parish family: Christmas may not be perfect this year. Some carry joy, others carry grief, worry, or weariness. Yet the good news is this—Christ comes anyway. He comes quietly, lovingly, faithfully.

May this Christmas remind us that we are never alone. God is with us. And may the love we receive from God be the love we share with one another.

I pray that each of you have a Christmas that reveals God's love to you in the way that you need it at this moment in your life. Whether everything is going well for you or you are experiencing the things that can cause anxiety, fear, sadness or grief, I hope and pray that Christmas will bring you peace, comfort, trust, hope and love. After all, the real point of Christmas is that God loves enough to have taken on human form and come among us to give us the great gift of hope. When we have hope, the other gifts from God become clear.

May God bless each of you at Christmas and fill your hearts with God's love!

Peace, prayers and love,

Fr. Mike



NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

Please note that we have new email addresses:

Fr. Mike – Frmike@stjosephmillstone.org

Vicki (Pastoral Associate) – Vicki@stjosephmillstone.org

Jean (Parish Secretary and CRE) Jean@stjosephmillstone.org

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
4:00PM, 6:30PM and Midnight

DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
9:00AM and 11:00AM



LECTORS

The new workbooks are in. Please pick up your copy in the Sacristy. Thanks!

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

The sign-up sheet for Christmas is on the bulletin board outside of the library. Please sign up to help at Christmas Mass. Thanks!

ALTAR SERVERS

The sign-up sheet for Christmas is on the bulletin board outside of the library. Please sign up to serve at Christmas Mass. Thanks!

OPLATEK



For those who use it during your celebrations, Oplatek – the Christmas Wafer – is available in the Parish Office.

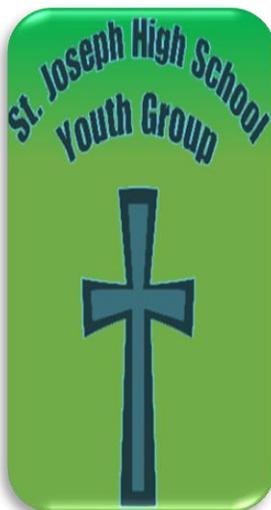
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



Anyone who would like to contribute toward the decorations/flowers for Christmas in memory or in honor of a loved one will find envelopes on the table at the entrance of the church. List the names of those you wish to have remembered. All those listed on the envelopes will be remembered at our Christmas Masses.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP (HSYG) NEWS



HSYG November Gathering Night – The HSYG’s next Gathering will be on Wednesday, January 21st from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Come and join us as.

Our HSYG Gathing Nights are “Come as you are and come when you can.” Youth are welcome to invite their friends. Youth participants do not have to be members of St. Joseph Church or Catholic. All youths in the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades are welcome!

The HSYG is open to all youth in the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades. Youth are encouraged to bring their friends as all are welcome! If you have any questions concerning the HSYG, please contact Virginia Schlegel at 732-816-8422 or rgsch71@aol.com .

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP (MSYG) NEWS



MSYG November Gathering Night – The MSYG’s next Gathering Night will be on Wednesday, January 7th form 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Come and join us for a night of fun, food, friendship, and faith. MSYG Gathing Nights are “Came as you are and come when you can.” Youth are welcome to invite their friends to come and join them in the fun, food and fellowship. Youth participants do not have the be members of St. Joseph Church or even Catholic. All youths in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades are welcome!

MSYG Web Page - Please check out the Middle School Youth Group’s web page at: <https://stjosephmillstone.org/middle-school-youth-group> for additional information or to complete the online youth registration form to receive direct communications about our future events.

The MSYG is open to all youth in the 6th, 7th or 8th grades. If you have any questions concerning the MSYG, please contact Leslie Tkachuk at 732-794-2556 or latkachuk@aol.com.

HOLY DAY – JANUARY 1

Thursday, January 1, 2026 is a Holy Day of obligation for the Solemnity of Mary. Mass will be celebrated at 10:00AM.

BAKE SALE



The Ladies of St. Joseph will be holding a bake sale on Sunday, February 8 after both Masses. It will be a great time to pick up your Super Bowl desserts. Any donations of baked goods will be greatly appreciated and can be dropped of in the Parish Hall that day. For any questions, contact Jo Ann at Jannkronenthal@gmail.com.

PARENT CHILD BREAKFAST



The Parent-Child Breakfast will be held on Sunday, February 1 after the 11:00AM Mass. Tickets are just \$5.00 per person. There will be a delicious breakfast, door prizes, and a raffle for basketball tickets – so plan to join us! It is a wonderful opportunity to make memories with your child(ren). Tickets are available at the parish office or to reserve your spot or if you have questions, contact Dave at dcerulosr@gmail.com.

LADIES OF ST. JOSEPH



The Ladies of St. Joseph (our Parish Women's Group) will meeting on Tuesday, January 6 at 7:00PM. The meeting will be held at the Rectory. All women of the parish are welcome to be part of the Women's Group. If you have any questions, please contact JoAnn - jannkronenthal@gmail.com. For dates and times of meetings and events visit the website at <https://www.stjosephmillstone.org/ladies-of-st-joseph>.

MEN'S GUILD



The Men's Guild, the Parish Men's Group, will meet on Tuesday, January 13 at 7:00PM. The meeting will be held at the Rectory. We welcome all men of the Parish. Come and meet the other guys and find out about the activities for the coming year. If you are not able to make every meeting – no worries – come when you are able and lend a hand with our activities. If you have questions, please contact Dave - dcerulosr@gmail.com.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE



The Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 13 at 7:00PM at the Rectory. Any member of the parish who would like to be a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee or find out more information is welcome to attend the meeting. For more information about the Buildings and Grounds Committee contact Tom tbaber@moneymailer.com.

GIVING TREE



Thank you to everyone who brought in gifts for the Giving Tree. Thanks to your generosity I am sure there will be many happy children at Christmas.

OCIA – ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



The OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults – *formerly known as the RCIA or Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*) is a faith journey for those who wish to be Baptized, those who are Baptized and are interested in joining the Catholic Church and those who have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation). The OCIA 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 OCIA 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 OCIA process is what you are being drawn to in your life. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Fr. Mike – frmike@stjosephmillstone.org or 732-792-2270.

50/50 RAFFLE



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Men's Guild 50-50 raffle. Congratulations to Anny Najecki who won the prize which was \$5,065.00. Your support of the raffle helps the Men's Guild to continue to help those in need and support the parish with needed projects. Thanks for your support.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD



Children's Liturgy of the Word is offered on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. At the 9:00AM Mass and the 11:00AM Mass children up to 12 years old have the opportunity to hear the Gospel and a message in terms that are relevant to children. The Message is reinforced with some type of activity. Children's We can always use more adult volunteers to help with Children's Liturgy of the Word. If you are interested in helping, contact Vicki – 732-793-2270 or vicki@stjosephmillstone.org.

FOOD COLLECTION



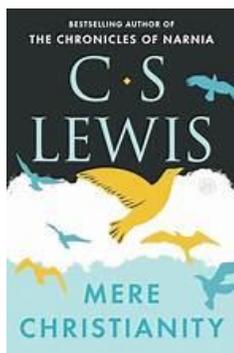
Thank you for your continued generosity with the food donations. There will always be a need for assistance with food for many people so we will continue to collect food, paper goods and toiletries in the bins inside the church entrances. After the first and third Sundays of the month volunteers will deliver the donated items to the Millstone Community Center where they are greatly appreciated and will reach those in need. **Please check food for expiration dates or "best by" dates – items past the date cannot be given to others so please do not bring food that is past the expiration date.** Thank you again for your generosity.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



The Prayer Shawl Ministry gathers to knit or crochet shawls that are given to those who are sick or going through difficulties in life. The purpose of the shawl is to offer encouragement and to allow the individual to be wrapped in the prayers of those who made the shawl. Especially in challenging times, it is good to know that we are not alone and can wrap ourselves in the prayers of others. If you knit or crochet you are welcome to join us. We meet every Tuesday at 10:00AM. You can make shawls from home as well. If you are in need of some comfort and would like a prayer shawl, just let us know. We will pray for you and do our best to get a shawl to you. For more information, or to request a shawl, please contact Pat - 314PMCD@gmail.com.

READER'S CLUB



The next book chosen for the Reader's Club is ***Mere Christianity*** by C.S.Lewis. *Mere Christianity* explores the core beliefs of Christianity by providing an unequalled opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to hear a powerful, rational case for the Christian faith. A brilliant collection, *Mere Christianity* remains strikingly fresh for the modern reader and at the same time confirms C. S. Lewis's reputation as one of the leading writers and thinkers of our age. The book brings together Lewis' legendary broadcast talks during World War II. Lewis discusses that which everyone is curious about: right and wrong, human nature, morality, marriage, sins, forgiveness, faith, hope, generosity, and kindness. The meeting date will be Thursday, January 8 at 7:30PM. For more information about the Reader's Club or to RSVP contact Fran - ambiofran@gmail.com.

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!

CHOIRS, CANTORS AND MUSIC MINISTRY



Do you like to sing? Do you use your voice to praise God? The parish choirs would love to have you join either the St. Choir or the Children's Choir. You do not need to be a professional singer. If you have a good voice and feel comfortable in leading singing, why not use your talent to be a Cantor at Mass? Can you play an instrument and are willing to put your talent to use as we gather to celebrate Mass? Perhaps you would like to join the contemporary group. These opportunities do not demand a lot of time – just a commitment and willingness. If you would like to become part of a choir, serve as

a Cantor or lend your musical abilities, you can email Kristine at kris0373@aol.com or sign up by visiting our parish website <https://www.stjosephmillstone.org/music-ministry>

Let us always be willing to praise our loving God.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Please sign up to serve at 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

LIVE STREAM OF MASS –

Masses are live streamed on Vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/event/106444>, on our parish website at www.stjosephmillstone.org/live-stream on our Facebook Page (*although it seems that Facebook and Vimeo are not working well together so it is best to use YouTube or Vimeo*)

www.facebook.com/stjosephchurchmillstone and on the Parish YouTube channel

www.youtube.com/c/StJosephChurchMillstoneTwp

BAPTISMS

Baptisms are celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 12:30 PM (There are no Baptisms during Lent). 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.

BAPTISM BIBS



At the Sacrament of Baptism for infants, a white Baptismal bib is given to each child as a symbol that they have been clothed with Christ. We have been blessed with parishioners who have lovingly made the bibs. This gives it a special meaning since they come from members of the community. 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, contact Fr. Mike or see him after Mass. Thanks!



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

LEGION OF MARY

Do you have a devotion to the Blessed Mother? Do you pray the rosary? The Legion of Mary, an international Catholic Ministry, will enrich your spiritual growth as well as benefitting others. We meet on Wednesdays after the 9:00AM Mass. Anyone in the parish is invited to come to find out more about the Legion of Mary. If anyone is interested in taking the Visiting Pilgrim statue of Mary to their home, contact Claire – 732-995-0969.

TRANSPORT PEOPLE FROM MILLSTONE MANOR TO CHURCH

On Sunday mornings, some of our parishioners transport residents of Millstone Manor to our Church for Mass. There is a need for some additional drivers to fill in the schedule. If you are willing to help, or want to find out more information, please contact Mickey at brunonap@AOL.com. THANKS

RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE



Thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of February 6-8, 2026 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, call 215-766-3944 or visit www.MarriageHelpDelVal.org. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

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.



The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan Abuse Hotline: 1-888-296-2965 or via e-mail at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org. The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.

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	MASS TIMES
<p><i>Rev. Michael P. Lang - Pastor</i> frmike@stjosephmillstone.org</p>	<p>Saturday Evening - 5:00 PM</p>
<p><i>Chris Chandonnet, Permanent Deacon</i> Chrisstjoseph@optonline.net</p>	<p>Sunday Morning - 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM</p>
<p><i>Vicki Craig, Pastoral Associate</i> vicki@stjosephmillstone.org</p>	<p>Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri - 9:00AM</p>
<p><i>Jean Semanchick, Parish Secretary & Coordinator of Religious Education</i> Jean@stjosephmillstone.org</p>	<p>Holy Days: as listed in the bulletin</p>
<p><i>Kristine Reide, Music Ministry Leader</i> Kris0373@aol.com</p>	<p>Confessions: Confessions take place on Saturdays after the 5:00PM Mass or anytime by appointment.</p>

BAPTISM – The Sacrament of Baptism is normally celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:30 PM. 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.

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

Sick Calls – 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

Registration – 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.

Sponsor Certificates – 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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Read Parishioner Peter Grandich booklets for free online at petergrandich.com/suggested-readings



To advertise in our bulletin please contact Fr. Mike - 732-792-2270 or frmike@stjosephmillstone.org Very reasonable rates.