



**The Roman Catholic Parish  
of St. Vincent de Paul**  
250 Bebout Avenue  
Stirling, New Jersey 07980  
Phone: (908) 647-0118 Fax: (908) 647-5992

**We are a Catholic community  
rooted in the Eucharist  
and committed to the poor.**

**Parish Office—908-647-0118**  
In an emergency call  
973-222-0720  
Parish website:  
stvincentschurch.org  
Parish email:  
parish@stvincentschurch.org

**PASTORAL STAFF**

**Fr. A. Richard Carton, Pastor**  
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**Fr. William (Bill) Mooney**  
Weekend Assistant

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**Parish Trustees**  
Alan Tangreti and Timothy Wallisch

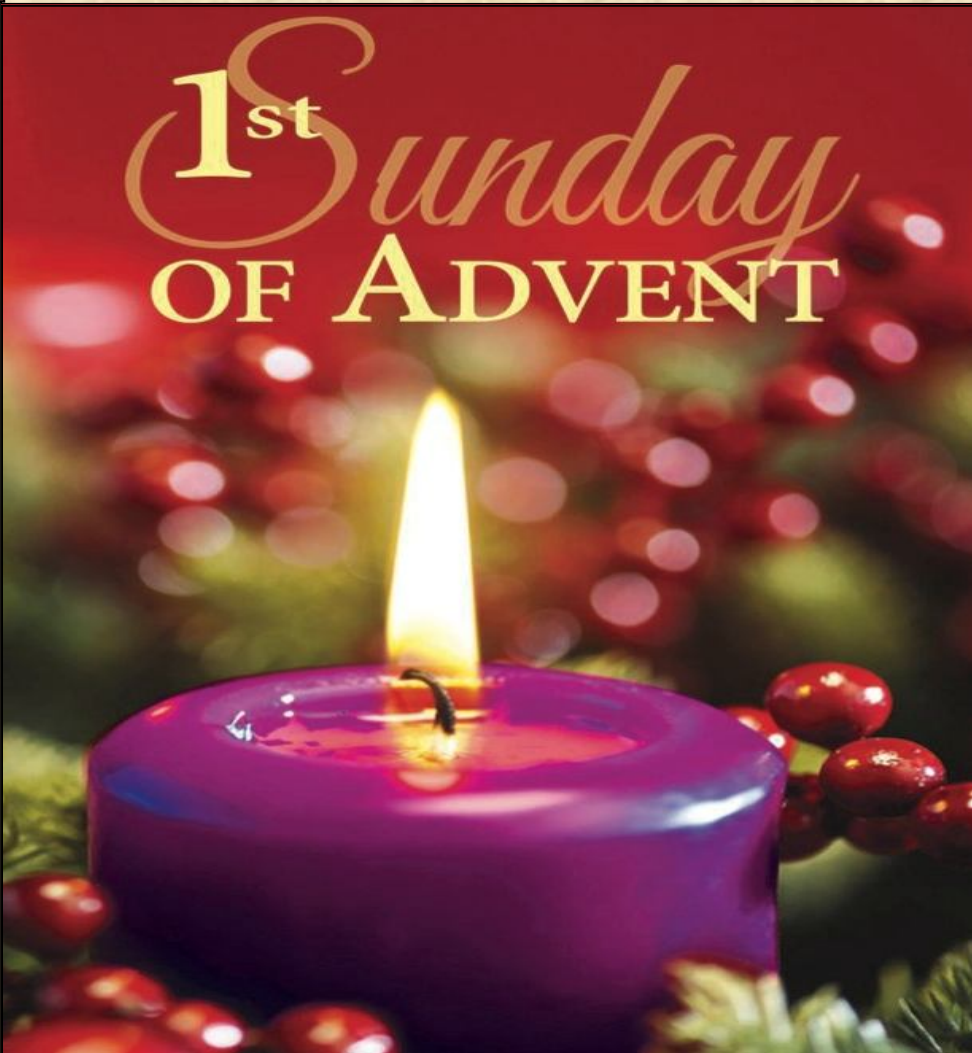
**PARISH OFFICE STAFF**

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**Maria DeLuca** Faith Formation  
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**Teri Kesselmeier**  
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**Sunday Mass Schedule**

*(Vigil Mass)*  
**Saturday —5:00PM**

**Sunday**  
**8:30AM, 10:30AM**  
**and 6:00PM**

**Confession: Saturday at 4PM  
or other days by appointment.**

**Weekday Mass  
Schedule**

**8:30AM Monday—Saturday**

**"It would be easier for the  
world to survive without the  
sun than to do so without the  
Holy Mass."**

**St. Padre Pio**

**SUNDAY COLLECTION REPORT****The weekend of November 24th and 25th**

Total collected at Masses: \$9,580

Online Parish Pay: \$3,507

**Total Offered: \$13,087****Mortgage Reduction: \$2,834****Thanksgiving Collection for the  
St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry \$2,241**

The **second collection next weekend** will be for our **Diocesan Assessment**. Each parish in the Diocese of Paterson has a responsibility to assist in the operation of various Diocesan ministry offices. **Our parish's assessment this year is \$100,000.** This collection is taken to help us meet this responsibility.

**ADVENT BEGINS TODAY**

Today we begin the New Year of Grace with the Season of Advent. Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

Advent begins with the Sunday that falls closest to November 30th and it ends on December 24th, the eve of Christmas. The Sundays of this time of year are named the First, Second, Third and Fourth Sundays of Advent. The weekdays from December 17th up to and including December 24th are ordered in a more direct way to preparing for the Nativity of the Lord. The liturgical color for Advent is purple, just like Lent-as both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Also, Advent (like Lent) includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas. This penitential dimension is expressed through the color purple, but also through the restrained manner of decorating the church and altar: *"During Advent the floral decoration of the altar should be marked by a moderation suited to the character of this time of year, without expressing in anticipation the full joy of the Nativity of the Lord...(also) the use of the organ and other musical instruments should be marked by a (similar) moderation..." (General Instruction of the Roman Missal n.305 and n.313).*

The third Sunday of Advent is called "*Gaudete*" Sunday and the liturgical color may be rose instead of purple. This is the Church's way of further heightening our expectation as we draw ever nearer to the Solemnity of Christmas.

**MASS INTENTIONS****MONDAY****December 3rd****Saint Francis Xavier, Priest****8:30AM**Jean McDermott (*Living*)

Marilyn Auriemma

Eileen Reges

**TUESDAY****December 4th****Saint John Damascene, Priest and  
Doctor of the Church****8:30AM**Geri Cacciato (*Living*)

Florence Salerno

Joseph Galante

**WEDNESDAY****December 5th****8:30AM**Mary Hurley (*Living*)

Arthur Boyle

Rosemary Wooding

**THURSDAY****December 6th****Saint Nicholas, Bishop****8:30AM**Emma Militante (*Living*)

Helena Rohal

Christine Dos Santos

**FRIDAY****December 7th****Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church****8:30AM**Irene Ochrymowych (*Living*)

Jacob Ho

Katherine and Patrick McLaughlin

**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Patroness of the United States  
A Holy Day of Obligation**

**FRIDAY 7:00PM (Vigil)**

Melanie Padios

Eileen Reges

People of the parish

**SATURDAY****December 8th****8:30AM**

Edward McMahon

Dorothy and Mary Byrne

Sallye and Kieran O'Doherty

**Second Sunday of Advent****5:00PM (Vigil)**

Anthony LaRezza

Beverly Guldner

Joseph Kinsella

**SUNDAY****December 9th****8:30AM**

Maureen Baldwin

Willard and Gretchen Dolman

Deceased members of the Buziak/McMonagle Families

**10:30AM**

Susie Matinho

Deceased members of the parish

Deceased members of the Ochrymowych Family

**6:00PM**

Lindsay Ireland

Deceased members of the Meade Family

## Thank you for a beautiful celebration.

My sincere thanks to all who made the parish celebration marking the 25th anniversary of my ordination to the Priesthood so extraordinarily beautiful last Sunday. Many people commented that the Mass was beautiful. Several people made mention that the celebration of Mass was like a glimpse of Heaven. The choir was amazing and the response of the congregation was wonderful. One could sense the fact that those who were gathered in prayer know the beauty of our faith and immersed themselves fully in the responses both spoken and sung of the Mass. It was so alive and inspiring to have a church filled to capacity with Catholics so in love with the Lord and it was palpable in the celebration. The choir, under the direction of Elena Bird Zolnick our wonderful Director of Sacred Music, joined by talented professionals of Elena's acquaintance, and the members of our parish choir sang music that truly pierced our souls. We were reminded of the beauty in the treasure of sacred music. It was delightful to see the line of Altar servers in the procession. Any server who wanted to vest and participate was invited to so do so. I think we had 16 or more and then 4 others who served the Mass—beautiful. It is such a gift to see our younger members so involved in the celebration of Mass by their service at the Altar. Deepening their understanding of the Mass and inviting them to love Jesus truly present at every Mass is a gift of faith that will form them for the journey of discipleship. God bless their parents for encouraging them to know, love and serve Jesus in this way.

As many of you saw, the huge tent in the back of the church was the venue after Mass for the reception. I initially requested that we have a simple gathering after Mass, in the hall, with coffee and bagels. The 'committee' who did all the planning smiled and then went ahead with their plans, ideas and hard work. They insisted, when I resisted, that they wanted to honor my priesthood and to give our parishioners an opportunity to come together to celebrate the faith and hope of this parish in the midst of great trials, scandal and hardship for the Church at this time. I am happy that they persisted and *gently* pushed me out of their way to make it happen as they envisioned. Again, the comments from those gathered on Sunday and since were so positive, especially as people related that it was so good to be with other people who they may see at Mass and in other places around the community but do not necessarily have the opportunity to chat with. I was thrilled to listen to a young couple who had given birth recently recount how a parishioner would see them at Mass, had been praying for the couple and their baby but who until Sunday did not have the opportunity to tell them, meet them and chat, and to see the baby. I am sure there are many other stories of that day which have similar themes. My sincere thanks to all those who helped in any way; from planning all that was needed—food, tables, chairs, decorations, setting up the tent, the extra chairs in the church, directing traffic before Mass, the flowers and banner by the Art & Environment Committee, the children who sang and read at the reception, the hundreds of prayers offered and beautifully decorated by our parish children, and the music at the reception by Theresa Guido, and Dan and Shannon Minogue. While many hands made light the work, and I am most grateful for all who helped make the reception so enjoyable for the 600 plus who attended, the following deserve our gratitude for their hard work and contributions —Theresa and Bob Gallic, Lynne and Michael Vreeland, Tim and Randa Wallisch, Lynnette Annunziata, Amy and Mike O' Mullan, Jim and Michele Gallic, Nancy and Bob Lucente, Mike and Monica Wizeman, Lyndsay and John Schlegel, the members of the Rosary Altar Society and the Sister Servants of Jesus from the Shrine who baked desserts, the Knights of Columbus, the members of the youth group with Sr. Niky, Scott Hildebrand for the anniversary cake and cookies, and all who helped with set up, take down, and the clean up afterwards...thank you, thank you and thank you.

Last Sunday, as we do everyday, but Sunday was so beautiful, we center around Jesus following the ancient tradition of the Church which He commanded for us. At Mass we offer ourselves with Jesus to the Father and we are formed by the Sacred Word, fed and nourished by the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus truly present in Holy Communion. This is our lifeline and the great treasure of our faith. As a parish community we assist in the formation of those who seek Christ and who want to unite their lives with Him. What an awesome privilege and challenge this is. I am blessed as pastor to have a staff who support this mission, faithful parishioners who participate so wholeheartedly and who give of their love and service to make this community such a wonderful place to be, grow in faith and worship. I am most grateful to God for 25 years of priestly ministry. It is a ministry that comes with various challenges each day. Those who love Jesus are a great source of encouragement for me in the joys and trials. At the conclusion of my homily on Sunday I referenced a prayer of St. John Vianney, patron Saint of priests who wrote, "I love You Lord, and my only desire is to love You until the last breath of my life. I love You, O my infinitely loveable God, and I would rather die loving You, than live without loving You. I love You Lord, and the only grace I ask is to love You eternally. My God, if my tongue cannot say in every moment that I love You, I want my heart to repeat it to You as often as I draw breath." Peace, Fr. Richard



**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS****Those who serve in the military:**

Calla Ann Armenti, Dylan T. Jones, James Minogue, Stephen J. Campbell, Sean Milde, Frank Fasano, Richard Lister, Eric Leverone, Jay Donato, Frank Messina, Eileen Murphy, Peter Giovanni

**Those who are ill:**

Jim Curran, Sharon Baker, Jennifer Pellecchia, Rhoda & Ike Blake, Denise Garcia, Rick and Susan Olkusz, Claudia Jardim, Cecile Fountain Jardim, Eric Garcia, Rita D'Angelo, Jim Fittin, Sandra Fittin, Jane Moran, Frank Critelli, Cathy Bogner, John Daglian, Parker Watson, Annette McGrory, Lou Aroneo, Lucy Bustillos, Paula Matchen, May Hill, Caitlin Shea, Bill Wallisch, Larry Oster, Nanci Gamba, and Elizabeth Early

**Those who have died to this world**

Louis Garubbo and Charlie Kenworthy

**Requiescat in Pace**

May all the faithful who have departed this world rest in your eternal peace. Amen

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY****First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9**

Baruch tells Jerusalem to rejoice because of God's plan to bring his exiled people back to Jerusalem. He emphasizes God's power and describes his plan to lower mountains and fill gorges to make their journey easier.

**Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11**

Paul encourages the Philippians to love each other completely. He hopes that their love and understanding will continue to grow so that they are prepared for the return of Christ.

**Gospel: Luke: 3:1-6**

Luke describes the work John the Baptist carried out to help people prepare for the birth of Jesus. Luke also discusses who was in power at the time, which helped historians to figure out the exact dates of certain events, including Jesus' birth.

**THE JESSE TREE**

This Advent the Art and Environment Committee debuts a new Jesse Tree banner. The meaning of the Jesse Tree as an Advent tradition stems from a passage in Isaiah: "But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse and from his roots a bud shall blossom." The Jesse Tree reminds us (through the use of symbols) of the roles played in Salvation History, from Adam and Eve in Genesis to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. This week the symbols are:

**Adam and Eve:** The apple represents the temptation and our separation from God.

**Noah:** Although God destroys the world for its sinfulness, in his mercy He saves us through Noah and his ark. The rainbow marks God's covenant with Noah.

**Abraham:** God had a close relationship with Abraham and promised him his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky.

**Isaac:** At God's command, Abraham was to sacrifice his son Isaac. At the very last moment an angel of God deterred Abraham from proceeding, directing Abraham instead to sacrifice a ram which was stuck in the thickets.



The votive candle before the statue of the Blessed Mother is for the living and deceased members of the **McDonald Family**.

The votive candle before the statue of Saint Joseph is for the living and deceased members of the **Steger Family**.



**Reborn through the waters of Baptism and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we embrace:**

**Alex Marie Thompson**

daughter of Daniel and Kelley

**claimed now for the fullness of eternal life.**



**A Christmas Concert** will be presented by the **musicians of St. Vincent de Paul Parish**. The concert will take place in the church on **Saturday, December 15th at 7:00pm**.

The concert will feature a guest choral group, *Magnificat*, as well as different ensembles and soloists from our parish. A suggested donation for tickets is \$20 and will be collected at the door. Proceeds will benefit the music ministry and music scholarship program which encourages and fosters high school musicians from the community.

Come and enter into the Christmas spirit by singing along to some of your favorite carols and enjoy a concert of festive Christmas music! Contact the parish office or Elena Zolnick at elenatbird@gmail.com for questions.

**FAITH FORMATION CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

Our Faith Formation students will be presenting their annual **Christmas Pageant** on **Sunday, December 9th** at **2:30pm** in the Church. The students are very excited! All parishioners and friends are invited.

**CHRISTMAS PIE SALE**

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Christmas Pie Sale. A large selection of fresh baked 10 inch pies, sticky buns babka and gourmet apple filled horseshoes will be available. Order forms may be found in the vestibule of the church, on our website and will be in the bulletin next weekend.

**Pre-paid orders will be accepted through Sunday, December 16th and you can pick up your order on Sunday, December 23rd in the gym from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.**

The Knights of Columbus Thanksgiving Day Food Drive in support of St. Agnes Parish, Paterson was an overwhelming success. Over 160 turkeys were donated by the members of our community. Without your generosity none of this would be possible. The Knights and the parishioners of St. Agnes humbly thank all of you who donated and helped share the spirit of Thanksgiving.

**Daily Mass Readings****Monday**

Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11

**Tuesday**

Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

**Wednesday**

Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

**Thursday**

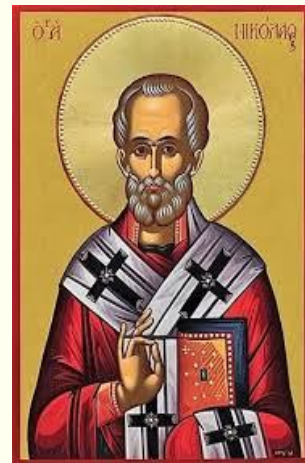
Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

**First Friday**

Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

**Saturday**

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

**CHRISTMAS COOKIES FOR THE HOMEBOUND**

We are happy once again to continue with what has become a parish tradition for over 20 years, our Christmas Cookie Project to benefit the homebound in our parish. It would be wonderful if our bakers would **drop off** their cookies in the narthex on **Wednesday, December 12th.**

All types of homemade cookies are appreciated. Please contact Ellie Alber at 908-204-8988/elliealber@gmail.com or Ann Ryan at 908-580-9740/alr222@me.com if you can contribute. Thank you for furthering the mission of St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING**

If you would like to participate in our Christmas Flower offering, please use the envelope that was provided in your monthly packet or use the form below and return to the parish office. If you have any questions please contact Vera at the Parish House 908-647-0118/vcastagna@stvincentschurch.org

**Offerings are due no later than December 16th**

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Gifted by: : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_



**Mass Schedule for Christmas Eve and Day**

Monday, December 24th—Christmas Eve: 4:00pm and 6:00pm

Tuesday, December 25th—Midnight, 8:30am and 10:30am

**Confession**

Saturday, December 22nd from 3:00pm to 4:45pm

**Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God**

Monday, December 31st—Vigil: 5:00pm

Tuesday, January 1st—10:30am



## St. Vincent de Paul Middle School Night

Celebrating  
the Christmas Season  
with prayers,  
fun activities, games  
& fellowship

### Friday December 21

At 7:00 pm

JPII Center

Bring a friend and \$5

RSVP to:

[srniky@stvincentschurch.org](mailto:srniky@stvincentschurch.org)



### BRIDGES OUTREACH



Our next Bridges Run will be **Friday, December 14th**. Please consider donating the needed supplies to make sandwiches and fill goody bags or the homeless by visiting:

**[www.perfectpotluck.com](http://www.perfectpotluck.com)**

**Coordinator: bridges**

**Password: 2323**

**Please bring donated items to the church meeting room.** Monetary donations are welcome. Thank you for your support of Youth Ministry and the Bridges Run Mission.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHRISTMAS CARDS

If you pre-ordered St. Vincent de Paul Christmas cards, your order is available for **pick up after Masses this weekend and next weekend**. During the week, orders can be picked up at the parish office. For questions contact Tim Wallisch at 908-524-7311.



Our **Advent Giving Tree** is now available in the Church vestibule. You are invited to select an Advent Angel from the tree, purchase the requested gift and return it to the church meeting room **no later than December 10th**. Please attach the Angel securely to the unwrapped gift. There will also be a box available to collect gift certificates. The gifts collected will be distributed to Catholic Charities, Paterson, St. Agnes Church, Paterson, and Bridges Outreach. For questions please contact Sr. Elsa at 908-295-4944/ [srelsacsb@aol.com](mailto:srelsacsb@aol.com).

### HERE I AM LORD!



As the year comes to an end, and many are planning on how to make a final year-end charitable contribution that has the most impact, please consider the many lives that are helped because of the support given to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. These are your neighbors, your friends, our senior priests and seminarians and urban school students. All of us can play a part in the Bishop's Annual Appeal-as either a contributor to the cause or as a recipient of its mission-and all are blessed as a result. Please make the Bishop's Annual Appeal a priority in your year-end philanthropy. Gifts can be made by check, credit cards, through gifts of securities or on-line at [www.2018appeal.org](http://www.2018appeal.org). If you are 70.5 or over and have an IRA, you can receive a tax benefit by instructing your IRA investment manager to donate your required minimum distribution to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Please consult your financial advisor for more information.