

SAINT JOSEPH

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Weekdays: Monday - Friday at 12:05pm

Saturdays: 5:00pm **Sundays:** 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:30am and 6:00pm

Misa en Espanol todos los Domingos a las 2:30pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 4:00pm-4:30pm *or by appointment*

973-383-1985

JANUARY 8, 2017

Church: 24 Halsted Street
Parish Center: 22 Halsted Street, Newton NJ 07860-2003
www.stjosephnewton.org

OUR PARISH FAMILY IS SERVED BY

Father ST Sutton

973-383-1985 - FatherSTS@gmail.com

Father Alexander Londono, Migrant Ministry
Fr. Alexanderlondono@gmail.com

Father Edward Davey, Pastor Emeritus

**Deacons Gerald Hanifan, Alfred Kucinski
and Thomas Zayac**

Deborah Henegan

Director of Faith Formation (Grades 1-8)

973-383-8413 - Faithformation@stjosephnewton.org

Linda Gorski

Director of Faith Formation (Confirmation)

973-383-8413 - Confirmation@stjosephnewton.org

Kelly Dachisen, Director of Music Ministry
jkdachisen@me.com

Anne Lundgren, Office Manager
973-383-1985 - parishoffice@stjosephnewton.org

Karen Glowatski, Office Assistant
973-383-1985 - secretary@stjosephnewton.org

Sharon Eltzholtz, Bulletin Assistant
973-383-1985 - bulletin@stjosephnewton.org

Robert Lasser, Finance Administrator

TRUSTEES OF THE PARISH

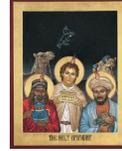
Dorothy Bosi, George Hayek
and Gerard Woodring.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 1/7 5:00pm *Intentions of Paul Reskovac*
Robert Hughes

Sunday 8:00am Luella Murphy
January 8th Father John Vincent Doyle

The Epiphany 9:30am Benjamin Espression
of the Lord Kenneth Ewings



11:30am Father Val Plevyak
Camelia Khoury

6:00pm Edward Metivier
Wladyslaw Kuczek

Monday 1/9 12:05pm Samuel S. Ciccone

Tuesday 1/10 12:05pm Michelina Major

Wednesday 1/11 12:05pm *Intentions of Father ST*

Thursday 1/12 12:05pm Rose Dalton

Friday 1/13 12:05pm Peggy Woodring

Saturday 1/14 5:00pm Janet Greco
Francis & Stella Covell

Sunday 8:00am Robert McDonald
January 15th Helen Sciorra

Second Sunday 9:30am Patricia Cangelosi
in Ordinary Time

11:30am Dominick Ruggiero Sr.
Intentions of Father ST

6:00pm Deacon Georges Sakkal

WEEKLY REMEMBRANCE



The Sanctuary Lamp which burns near the tabernacle, is the reminder of our Lord's presence in the Most Holy Eucharist, burns in loving memory of:

Michael Ternes



The hosts and wine, which become the Holy Body and Precious Blood of our Lord, were given in loving memory of:

Jack Kappelmeier

May they be resting in the joy of God's heavenly kingdom!

"OREMUS PRO INVICEM"

Please remember in your prayers the following members of our parish family who are sick and are in need of the Lord's healing presence:



Aaron Armstrong, Mackenzie Brannan, Ron Byers, Fred Bender, Geraldine Bender, Mary Benziger, Irene Bitsko, Peggy Bopp, Harry Cridland, Jennifer DiNardo, Ted Eis, Pat Fitzpatrick, Ann Flowers, Rocco Fusco, Mary Gregory, Ed Huff, Susan Kadar, Jessica Kirby, Kerri Knight, Lorraine Kraft, Peter Mahler, James Maitilasso, Linda Marucci, Betty Mastrelli, Karen Morrison, Greg Orvetz, Karen Orvetz, Michael Palumbo, Marie Pantaleo, Paul Reskovac, Pedro Rodriguez, Elizabeth Roberts, Michael Ryan, Eleanore Shaffer, Gloria Steets, Carole Sudol, Carol Strand, John Tiger, Kathy VanBruinisse, Gerri VanRiper, Cathy Veluta, Elizabeth Wilburn, Rita & Tom Zimich.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - JANUARY 8, 2017

ARE YOU “RIGID?”

It seems that the Pope’s favorite theme in speaking to the Vatican Radio is one which is very close to my heart and that I have talked about for years; that is “Rigidity.” The Holy Father went as far as to say that those who unbendingly follow the law of God are “pathological” and in need of the Lord’s help. Of course this needs to be put into perspective. Let me give a try at that.

In his morning homily at Casa Santa Marta, the Holy Father spoke about the Gospel from Saint Matthew in which Jesus’ healing of a crippled woman angered the Pharisees, leading Him to condemn the leaders of the synagogue as “**hypocrites**.” “This is an accusation Jesus often makes to those who follow the Law with rigidity. The Law was not drawn up to enslave us, but to set us free, to make us God’s children.”

Jesus uses the word ‘**hypocrites!**’ in the Gospel because “Behind an attitude of rigidity there is always something else in the life of a person. Rigidity is not a gift of God. Meekness is; goodness is; benevolence is; forgiveness is. But rigidity isn’t!” he said. (In many cases) “rigidity conceals the leading of a double life.” Those who realize their own difficulty with rigidity, lack the freedom of God’s children: “they do not know how to walk in the path indicated by God’s Law.” They appear good because they follow the Law; but behind there is something that does not make them good. Either they’re bad, hypocrites or they are pathological. They suffer!” He went on to recall the Parable of the Prodigal Son, saying that the elder son showed a certain type of goodness, but behind it was “the pride of believing in his own righteousness.” He too was rigid and conducted his life following the Law but saw his father only as a master.

“It is not easy to walk within the Law of the Lord without falling into rigidity” he added, and concluded with a prayer calling on “our brothers and sisters who think that by becoming rigid they are following the path of the Lord. “May the Lord make them feel that He is our Father and that He loves mercy, tenderness, goodness, meekness, humility. And may He teach us all to walk in the path of the Lord with these attitudes.”

The Pope often also criticizes the “Doctors of the Law,” a theme that he often returns to as well on a regular basis. He once called those who try to unbendingly follow the Law of God people as having “weak hearts” whom he confessed he would like to trip up with banana skins so they would know they are sinners. In June, he said “rigid” people in the Church who tell us “it’s this or nothing” are **heretics and not Catholics**. He has also warned about seminary formation being too rigid to allow for the development of priests.

To understand the Pope’s almost obsessive focus on rigidity and why he holds it in such disdain, it might be helpful to see how he views his ministry, the Church and the world. According to one of his closest advisers, Father Antonio Spadaro, S.J., for Pope Francis, both the Church and the world are in constant

flux, and so his pontificate is one of “discernment of incomplete thought” for which the rigidity of rules is an obstacle. In a remarkable statement, The Holy Father, added that he does not want to teach “a definitive or complete word on every question which affects the Church and the world.” According to Pope Francis “Neither the Pope nor (even) the Church have a monopoly on the interpretation of social realities or the proposal of solutions to contemporary problems.” (*This must make the “uber Catholics” crazy!*)

Papa Francis also sees the Church as a “people of pilgrims” who transcend “any institutional expression, however necessary.” This tension “animates Francis’ reflection with regard to that which he has called ‘the conversion of the papacy.’” (*Again, the conservatives [used in the negative sense] must be ripping their ermine capes and lace surplices in disgust*).

In his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis explains where his aversion to rigidity comes from. He criticizes what he calls a “self-absorbed promethean neo-elagianism” (*how about that for \$35 words?*) This is found among those who ultimately trust only in their own powers and feel superior to others because they observe certain rules or remain intransigently (*which means stubbornly*) faithful to a particular Catholic style from the past.”

“A supposed soundness of doctrine or discipline leads instead to a narcissistic and authoritarian elitism,” he believes, “whereby instead of evangelizing, one analyzes and classifies others, and instead of opening the door to grace, one exhausts his or her energies in inspecting and verifying.”

He further believes that “in neither case is one really concerned about Jesus Christ or others” and argues it is “impossible to think that a genuine evangelizing thrust could emerge from these adulterated forms of Christianity” (*Get those on the right some water before they faint please*).

Elsewhere in the document, he says it is his hope “that we will be moved by the fear of remaining shut up within structures which give us a false sense of security, within rules which make us harsh judges, within habits which make us feel safe, while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: ‘Give them something to eat’ (Mark 6:37).”

So where does that leave you and me? Certainly, as a student of the law, I respect the importance of the Law in the Church and in the life of every Christian. However, one of the most important canons which I learned in my studies was the very last one which states: “...the salvation of souls, which must be the supreme law in the Church, is to be kept before one’s eyes” [*for “...et prae oculis habita salute animarum, quae in Ecclesia superma semper lex esse debet” for you Latin lovers*] (Canon 1752).

(continued on the next page)

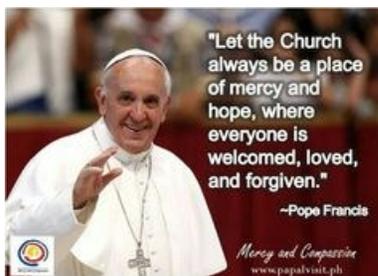
RIGID CONTINUED..

This combined with the warning from Saint Paul to the early Church living in Corinth "The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law" (1 Corinthians 15:56) gives me great care and concern when dealing with the law and when being pastoral with people who attempt to abide by it.

Anyone that knows me knows that I am not someone who takes the law, whether it is canonical law, civil law or liturgical law, lightly. However, returning back to the Holy Father's "getting after" those who are rigid, is no different than the Lord Himself getting after the "religious" of His time. We must remember that the Pharisees and the Sadducees were very "religious" and law abiding people and yet, it was these very people that Jesus railed against the most; NOT the divorced, not the sexual promiscuous and not even the thieves, but those who thought themselves better than the rest (*and I am NOT saying that the former is acceptable*). However, one does not have to throw the baby out with the bath water, but for God's sake (*pun intended*) do you not think that we should at least change the water once in a while?

Again, one of my favorite themes is the dirty word "change." I return to this theme again and again because there are so many people that just do not get it. When we begin to "change" our ways to being welcoming and not pushing away; When we "change" our ways to being inclusive and not exclusive; When we "change" our ways of building up and not tearing down; When we "change" our ways from being rigid to being, merciful, tender, good, meek and humble; maybe then and only then, will we be fulfilling the Law of Love which Jesus demands from each and every one of us, from the Pope right down to the bishops, priests, deacons, religious, all of you in the pews and even those who chose to stay away each and every week.

I am praying for you and your families this New Year, that we truly will be a church of welcome and hospitality where "All Are Welcome" at this table of the Lord as we continue to our commitment of "Working harder to work together to make a difference."



P.S. Someone gave Father a beautiful set of silver angel cufflinks for Christmas. However, the card was misplaced and he does not know who was the generous giver. Can you please let him know in person or via email. Thank you!

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Monday, January 9

4:05pm Faith Formation (*School*)

6:50pm Faith Formation (*School*)

Tuesday, January 10

4:05pm Faith Formation (*School*)

Wednesday, January 11

6:00pm R.C.I.A. (*Parish Center*)

Thursday, January 12

1:00pm Legion of Mary (*Parish Center*)

Sunday, January 15

Hospitality after 9:30 Mass

10:30am Confirmation Class (*School*)

2:30 Spanish Dinner (*Community Center*)

WEEKEND READINGS

January 15, 2017

The Prophet Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 1:1-3

The Gospel of Saint John 1:29-34

PARISH WEEKEND DONATIONS



Christmas Collection \$28,509

(total given to date)

January 1st Collection \$9,054

Online Giving \$456

Total: \$9,510

Attendance: 645

Please remember that our parish weekly collection goal is \$10,000/week.

MARCH FOR LIFE

The Don Bosco Knights of Columbus Council #7784 will hold the March for Life Bus Trip to Washington, DC on Friday, January 27, 2017. The bus will pick up parishioners from Saint Joseph Church at 6:20am in the Public Parking Area on South Park Drive, Newton (*located behind Shop Rite and Weis Supermarkets*). **The cost for the trip is \$25 per person.** To register, please complete the form and mail with payment, check payable to Knights of Columbus Council 7784, to Mrs. Jennifer Durso, Office Manager, Our Lady Queen of Peace, 209 US Highway 206, Branchville, NJ 07826. For more information call 973-948-3185.

Name _____ # People _____

Parish _____

Email address _____

Cell Phone # _____ Amt. Enclosed _____

BASKETBALL CONTEST



Basketball Freethrow Contest
Saint Joseph Community Center
Saturday, January 21st
2:00-4:00pm

It is for girls and boys age 9 to 14. You will need parental permission and signature on the entrance form. There is no entrance fee, no fee to compete, free refreshments and giveaways. Winners will be announced at 4:00pm.

BLOOD DRIVE

On Saturday, January 21, 2017 from 7:45am-1:45pm Saint Kateri Parish, 427 Stanhope Road., Sparta will hold a Blood and Platelet Drive in the Downstairs Community Room.

Eligible blood donors are between the ages of 17 to 75 (*or older with a doctor's written permission*), weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and are in good health. Blood donors can register on-line at www.tinyurl.com/StKateriBloodDrives or call Mary Stanek at 973-770-0429. Platelet donors can call Melissa O'Malley at 201-317-5160.

YOUTH SUB SALE



Saint Joseph Church's Mission Trip SUPER BOWL SUB SALE - February 5, 2017. We will again be holding our Super Bowl Sunday Submarine Sale.

Forms will be available in the rear of the Church starting this weekend.

Orders can be handed in, called, emailed or snail mailed in. The teens will be handing out and collecting orders after all Masses on January 28th and 29th.

ROSARY



The Rosary is prayed each Sunday morning at 7:30am (*just before the 8:00am*) Mass. **"All Are Welcome"** to join us as we pray for our parish community, our Church and our world.