



We Make Disciples

40 Jackson Road, Medford, New Jersey 08055

Parish Website: www.smlparish.org Parish Email Address: email@smlparish.org



MASS SCHEDULE

Monday—Friday: 7:15 a.m., and 9:00 a.m. Saturday: 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

CLERGY AND STAFF

Reverend Daniel F. Swift, Pastor, father_dan@smlparish.org Reverend Roy Ballacillo, Parochial Vicar, rballacillo@smlparish.org Deacon Ken Motylinski Deacon Joseph Tedeschi

Susan B. Kraemer, Business Administrator Christine Brandt, Pastoral Associate Kerry De Costa, Administrative Assistant Lenora Gange, Administrative Assistant Angela Santoro, Administrative Assistant

Amy Rash, School Principal Mary Pat Scordato, Director

Mary Pat Scordato, Director of Religious Education Kevin Callahan, Minister of Marketing and Evangelization Sister Regina McCalla, SSJ, Liturgy/Music Coordinator Linda Xerri, Parish Youth Minister Harry Meshirer, Parish Bookkeeper

Holly Hicks and Ralph Gallo, Parish Trustees

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

ST. MARY OF THE LAKES ONLINE

Website Address: http://www.smlparish.org Email Address: email@smlparish.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/smlparish School Website: http://www.smlschool.org

Knights of Columbus: http://www.Medfordknights.org

LOCATION, TELEPHONE NUMBERS, FAX

Parish Office	40 Jackson Road	654-8208 x110
Parish Office Fax		975-0137
Parish Health Ministry		654-8208 x610
St. Mary of the Lakes School	196 Route 70	654-2546 x210
St. Mary of the Lakes School		654-8125
Parish Religious Education	196 Route 70	654-2546 x310
Parish Youth Minister	40 Jackson Road	654-2546 x111
Bulletin Editor	40 Jackson Road	654-8208 x131
St. Vincent de Paul Society	1 Jones Road	953-0021

PARISH REGISTRATION: ALL ARE WELCOME "God is rich in mercy, because of His boundless love for us." Ephesians 2:4 tells us God's love knows no boundaries and neither does St. Mary of the Lakes. New parishioners, regardless of where they live, are welcome and encouraged to register at our parish. Registration forms are available at the doors of the church, in the parish office, and on our website at smlparish.org. Click on contact us/registration.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Confessions are heard on Saturdays after 9:00 a.m. Mass and at 4:30 p.m. You may also call the parish office to make an appointment for a different time.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK Please call the parish office anytime or speak to one of the priests after Mass.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the second Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m. Parents must attend a Baptism Preparation Session prior to their child's Baptism. Please call the parish office 609/654-8208, x110 as early as possible to make the necessary arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY Congratulations to our engaged couples. Call 609/654–8208, x110 to make arrangements for your wedding. We suggest you call at least a year in advance.

BECOMING CATHOLIC (RCIA) If you or someone you know is considering becoming Catholic or is/are baptized Catholic but have yet to receive First Communion and/or Confirmation, please call Christine Brandt at 609/654-8208, x113.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION Eucharistic Adoration is offered every Thursday from after 9:00 a.m. Mass to 7:00 p.m., concluding with Benediction on the first Thursday of the month.

MINISTERIAL VISITS The Sacraments are available to anyone confined to home or institution. Please contact the parish office if you know anyone who is unable to get to church.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY The St. Vincent de Paul Society is an all-volunteer ministry with services provided and supported by many of our parishioners. "Vincentians" provide outreach and assistance to anyone in need throughout our parish region. Contact Joe Pasquarella, President. 609/953-0021.

Like us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/smlparish and follow us on Twitter @SmlParish

Get our parish phone app at the App store or Google play by downloading myParish app

A statement from Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., on the NJ dioceses' plan to establish a victims' program, publish names of credibly accused clergy

Since the establishment of the Dallas Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in 2002 (revised in 2005, 2011 and 2018) and its accompanying Essential Norms, dioceses across the country — including the Diocese of Trenton — have committed themselves to the eradication of the sexual abuse of minors in the Church and its institutions and agencies. In addition, the dioceses of New Jersey entered into an agreement with the Office of the Attorney General of New Jersey and the prosecutors of every county — known as the Memorandum of Understanding — to report every single instance of the alleged sexual abuse of minors in the Church to their offices. Following the review and response of prosecutors, Diocesan Review Boards, composed predominantly of lay professionals, make determinations of credibility to present to the bishop who, in turn, takes immediate, appropriate actions in accord with the Charter and Essential Norms and Canon Law.

Extensive measures for the prevention of the sexual abuse of minors in the Church have been in place here in the Diocese of Trenton for many years, including, but not limited to, criminal background checks, Virtus training, and supervision of everyone who comes into contact with minors. The Diocese's policies, practices and adherence to these preventative measures are audited regularly by both the Diocese and USCCB. Every clergyman must present a "testimonial letter of suitability" from his bishop or religious superior to the Chancery and to the parish, institution or agency before being permitted to participate in any ministerial activity, liturgical, sacramental or otherwise.

In the Diocese of Trenton, an Office of Child and Youth Protection exists in the Chancery with a "24/7" hotline for reporting of allegations of the sexual abuse of minors in the Church that is checked several times a day. A Victims Assistance Coordinator documents every allegation reported and follows up with the allegad victim. All allegations are reported to the county prosecutor. Every alleged victim is invited to present his/her allegation in person to the Diocesan Review Board. No alleged victim deemed credible has ever been refused help by the Diocese of Trenton.

In the past 10 years, over \$9 million has been distributed by the Diocese of Trenton to the victims of the sexual abuse of minors in the Church whose allegations have been determined to be credible. No victim has been required by the Diocese of Trenton to enter a confidentiality agreement as a condition of compensation. Where such agreements have existed, they were requested by victims and/or his/her attorney to protect their identities.

Many victims' advocates groups have recommended that dioceses release the names of clergy credibly accused of the sexual abuse of minors. They believe that the publication of such lists will encourage other victims to come forward and seek healing. The Diocese of Trenton has been considering this action for some time and will join the other dioceses of New Jersey in publishing, early in the new year, a list of clergy credibly accused of the sexual abuse of minors. It is hoped that this action will bring healing and closure to those who have suffered from sexual abuse as minors in the Church and will prompt others so affected to come forward to seek healing.

The Diocese of Trenton will also join the other dioceses of New Jersey in creating its own Victims Compensation Program to assist victims who were sexually abused as minors by a representative of the Church in the Diocese of Trenton. Details surrounding this program, its availability and conditions for access to it are being developed and will be announced as soon as they are available.

We continue to be vigilant in our administration of the preventative measures we have had in place, and I am convinced that these efforts offer the best possible protection available for keeping children and young people safe in our churches, schools and all programs we administer.

With the heaviest of hearts and deep shame, I apologize once more to all victims of the sexual abuse of minors by clergy and other personnel in the Diocese of Trenton. I hope that our latest efforts at transparency and outreach related to such abuse will serve as both a recognition of your deep suffering and an opportunity to begin healing in your lives.

May God bring you peace and may Mary, Mother of the Lord, lead you to the loving embrace of Her Son.

First Sunday of Advent Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 2 - First Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. For Our Parishioners

9:00 a.m. Deceased Members KofC 6520 / KofC 10:30 a.m. Joseph DeQuinque Sr. / The Davis Family

12:00 p.m. Kerry Garrett / The Welsh Family

6:00 p.m. Dr. Joseph Sokolowski / The Brandt Family

Monday, December 3

7:15 a.m. Purgatorial Society

David Hurley / Nancy Sanson

9:00 a.m. Judy Abarmovitz (living) /

Judy Clingerman

Tuesday, December 4

7:15 a.m. Mary Pitts / Linda Van Sciver

9:00 a.m. Joanne Marinelli / Her Brother and Niece

Wednesday, December 5

7:15 a.m. Janice Brandenburg /

Kenneth & Gertrude Thompson

9:00 a.m. Jim Endahl / The Karbasian Family

Thursday, December 6

7:15 a.m. Rosalie Menzella / Donna Marie

9:00 a.m. Joseph Brian Quick / The Quick Family

Friday, December 7

7:15 a.m. Thomas Scarduzio / Mary Scarduzio

9:00 a.m. Angela Venti /

Clergy, Staff & Parishioners of SMLCCS

Saturday, December 8 - Immaculate Conception

9:00 a.m. Maria Hwasoon Kim / Stephen Hwang

5:30 p.m. Angela Venti / Gene Brandt

Sunday, December 9 – Second Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. For Our Parishioners

9:00 a.m. Richard Lindgreen / Cheryl Cirelli

10:30 a.m. Renee DeCarlo /

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Di Ventura & Family

12:00 p.m. Catherine Andreatch / John Foley

6:00 p.m. Susan O'Connor / The Angelotti Family

Welcome to St. Mary of the Lakes:
Thomas and Genevieve Walsh;
Gregory and Marianne Gerhartz & children
Jack, Avery and Blakely!

Please pray for the souls of Vincent McGovern and Dave Santaspirt and keep their families in your prayers.



Long-term prayer requests (those over a year old) will not be published individually, but will be prayed for at each Mass, as will the following:

Michelle Allen, Charlie Arnold,

Joseph Aromando, Marty Ball, Ephraim Block, Michael Bryan, Sherri Colan, Brooke Conklin, Lauren Domingo, David J. DiLullo, Ronald DiMaio, Theresa R. Dumas, Jim Endahl, George Fina, Robert Fitzgerald, Margaret Fitzpatrick, Eileen Fuzer, Louis Giansante, Jen Grabowski, Louis Gribaudo, Ed Grieb, Vincent Henry, Sawyer Michael Howarth, Jim Kehoe, Morgan Kelly, Frances McQuillan, Jeanne Murphy, Carol and Steve Newman, Rita O'Connor, Colette Parisi, Ann Petrelli, Jack Pisano, Stephen Porter, Donna Pritchet, Bill Quigley, Kelsie Quinn, Sue Rebel, Garry Roettger, Rachel Russo, Marylynn Skahan, Richard SM,

Leoncia Sullivan, Donna Surman, Richard Szymborksi, Suzanne

PVT John Anderson; 2nd LT Kyle Brandt, USAF; 1st LT Katherine Collins, USA; 1st LT Erin Corcoran, USA; CAPT Kevin Emmons, USA; BG Steve Gilland, USA; MAJ Suzanne Gillern; PVT CM Sean Grannan, USA; LTJG Jeremy Griffin, USN; LTJG

Termano, Jake Urich and Madeline.



Sean Hickey, USN; 2nd LT Waverly Hock, USAF; MAJ William Hock, USAF; Capt. Richard Jordan, USMC; ENS William Jordan, USN; 2nd LT Rachel Kelly, USAF; LT Commander Matthew Knepper, USN; PVT Nicholas Lawrence, USA; GM3 David Lewis, USN; Christopher Macready, USMC; 2nd LT Doug MacDonald, USMC; MIDN 4/D Patrick McKernan, USN; 1st LT Victor Prato, USA; CM Jonathan Ross, USN; ENS Nolan Smith, USN; CAPT Matthew Sturgis, USA; TSGT Adrian Tomkus, USAF.

Offertory Collections for Sunday, November 18, 2018

Donations In Cash	\$3,885
Donations In Envelopes	\$23,557
Average Envelope Gift	\$33
Total Number of Envelopes	809
Second Collection — Human Development	\$4,424
St. Vincent de Paul (Poor Boxes)	\$152

Offertory Collections for Sunday, November 25, 2018

Donations In Cash	\$3,567
Donations In Envelopes	\$22,458
Average Envelope Gift	\$32
Total Number of Envelopes	810
Thanksgiving Day Collection	\$2,838.85
St. Vincent de Paul (Poor Boxes)	\$273

National Stop the Violence Day in Camden







ANNUAL MARCH for LIFE WASHINGTON, D.C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 18 2019

All are welcome to join five area parishes, as we march to demonstrate our commitment for LIFE. Buses will depart from the St. Mary of the Lakes parking lot after the 7:15am Mass.

The cost for adults is \$20 and for students \$15.

Students under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult and have parental permission. For those unable to walk in the march, arrangements have been made for you to stay at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Sandwiches from Murphy's in Medford will be provided for the ride home. Your choice of Roast Beef, Turkey or Veggie. Please bring a bag lunch for the ride down. We will make only a brief stop at either the Maryland or Chesapeake House rest stop.

For more information or to reserve your seat please contact: Gene Kotowski 609-238-6807 or email at eugenekotowski@aol.com

When leaving a message, please provide your sandwich selection and whether you'll be staying at the Basilica or attending the March.

Thanks & God Bless!

BURLINGTON COUNTY DIOCESAN RESPECT LIFE

The New Jersey Assembly is scheduled to vote soon on Bill A 1504, which would legalize doctor assisted suicide. Any form of suicide is against both natural law and the commandments of God.

You can learn about this proposal and its many serious unintended consequences by looking at what the New Jersey Catholic bishops think about it and then forwarding your comments to your local state lawmakers.

To visit the bishop's web site, open your browser to https://njcatholic.org/ and click "Take Action Now" and then click the "Contact Your Legislators" block. Fill out the form and click "Send Message.

Thank you for standing up for LIFE!



Volunteer Seamstresses Needed

Heaven's Baby Angels is an all volunteer, labor of love organization that sews, knits and crochets baby bereavement

outfits from donated wedding gowns and yarn. These outfits are for those babies that pass away during pregnancy or following delivery. In a little over a year this local chapter has provided outfits for more than 500 "baby angels" to local hospitals and new hospitals are signing up monthly. Please help us if you can. Gowns and patterns are provided.

For more information about the program visit: https://heavensbabyangels.shutterfly.com or email Sally at optifre173@comcast.net

Second Collection on Christmas For MLK Day of Service

There will be a second collection on Christmas for the Martin Luther King Third Annual Day of Service event at the school hosted by our Y.E.S. ministry. Last year, over 200 parishioners gathered on the National Day of Service to make 2,043 bagged lunch meals, which were distributed to area social service agencies such as Cathedral Kitchen, Joseph House, Christian Caring Center, St. John's Hospice, New Jerusalem and Oaks Integrated.

Checks should be made payable to St. Mary of the Lakes Church - with Y.E.S. in the memo line.

Oplatek, The Christmas Wafer

Christmas Wafers are available at the doors of the Church for as long as supply lasts for those who participate in the Polish, Solvakian and Lituanian custom.





S.M.A.R.T.

Desserts and Volunteers Needed for Trenton Soup Kitchen Saturday, December 22

St. Mary of the Lakes Parish will be preparing and serving Christmas Dinner for 450 guests at St Mary's Cathedral Diocesan Soup Kitchen at 151 N. Warren St. in Trenton.

Volunteers are encouraged to attend. Please be at the Trenton Soup Kitchen at 11:15 a.m. If you are unable to attend, we have a Dessert Drop off on Friday, December 21, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Parish Office. Please bring your favorite cookies, brownies, or other finger foods.

Cookies are the Favorites!

Directions to the Soup Kitchen are available at the Parish Office during the Dessert Drop-Off.

For those who plan to attend, there also will be a 7:15 a.m. Mass celebrated at St. Mary of the Lakes Church on December 22 prior to our departure to Trenton. This is an annual tradition for St. Mary of the Lakes Parish and an excellent opportunity for Community Service hours.

Come celebrate the Christmas spirit and share with the underserved!

Please contact Barbara or Rick Gillespie at 856-985-8330 with Cookie drop off questions, or Tom Plantulli 609-654-0958 with Trenton Soup Kitchen input.

Thank you!

A Gentle Reminder . . . Use Your Envelope!

Being a Godparent or Confirmation sponsor is a privilege reserved for practicing Catholics, that is, those who attend Mass weekly.

Since Father Dan's arrival, he has asked in letters of welcome, mailings and from the pulpit for everyone to track their weekly attendance by using their envelopes.

If you are an electronic giver, please use your envelope and check the box that indicates same. Also, when envelopes arrive in the mail, you may want to put them in the glove compartment in your car if you are in the habit of forgetting your envelope.

If you are asked to be a sponsor, Father Dan will be required to put in writing that you are a weekly communicant.

As we all know, once you've lost your credibility, you've lost everything. For that reason, Father Dan is unwilling to sign his name to something he does not know is true.

Thanks for your cooperation!



Another Gentle Reminder ...

Please, if you forget your envelope ... no problem. St. Mary of the Lakes is here to help. We have envelopes for you to use located at *all* of the entrances. This is a picture of what they look like, if needed. **Thank You!**

Last Scripture Class Rescheduled for December 6



Due to the November 15 snow storm, the last scripture class will now be Thursday,

December 6, at 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the

Parish Meeting Room.



Altar Server Rehearsal and Installation Mass Rescheduled

Due to the November 15 snow storm, the altar server rehearsal is now Thursday, **December 13**, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. and the Installation Mass is Sunday,

December 16 at 10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 16, 2018 10:30 am to 12:30 pm SML SCHOOL AUDITORIUM



PLEASE JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST WITH SANTA IN THE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM HOSTED BY OUR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 6520 & YES MINISTRY TEENS

**Breakfast ** Pictures with Santa **Music **Grab Bag

Please RSVP for planning purposes to yes@smlparish.org with number of guests attending.







Celebrating 60 years of Catholic Education



Missed the opportunity on Giving Tuesday?
There's still time to donate!
For 64 years our SML Lakers have been blessed with outstanding students,

dedicated faculty and strong community ties. We give our values, traditions and treasure so that all Lakers may receive a quality Catholic education that remains affordable, available and exceptional.

Everything we do is focused on uplifting our students to be their best, achieve their goals and serve God. Your donation on this Annual Day of Giving enables the next generation of Lakers to change the world.

Please consider helping support St. Mary of the Lakes Technology and TV goal for Giving Tuesday by making a donation either online at smlschool.org or by sending a check to the Main Office labeled "Giving Tuesday - Technology and TVs."

Thank you in advance for your support

Shopping Online? Use AmazonSmile

amazonsmile You Shop Amazon Gives.

AmazonSmile provides an easy way to direct funds to St. Mary

of the Lakes Church and School! When you use AmazonSmile 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases are donated to the charitable organization of your choice. There's no additional cost to you!

K Thanksgiving Show



Pre K Story Time





Mission Club Toy Drive

The SML Mission Club is sponsoring a Toy Drive for Catholic Charities of Burlington County. We are collecting new toys/gifts for children ages toddler to teen. Toys are due by Friday, **December 14**. Thank you for supporting our Mission Club in this outreach.

Save the Date- SMLS Science Fair

St. Mary of the Lakes Annual Science Fair is **January 29** at the SMLS Gymnasium. It is a school-wide (K-8), non-competitive event. It is an outstanding opportunity for students to learn, create and present independent group research.



St. Mary of the Lakes Catholic Church and School and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church and School

Pilgrimage to

Fatima and the Camino de Santiago

with Father Dan Swift and Father Joel Wilson

12 Days October 2-12, 2019

Pilgrimage to Fatima Bus Tour

and/or

Walking el Camino de Santiago

Cathedral of St. James

Daily Mass



For More Information Contact:
Select International Tours at
800-842-4842 kristine@select-intl.com
www.selectinternationaltours.com



- Men's Gospel Reflection Group: Meets every Monday morning at 6 a.m. at the Jackson Road Entrance of the church. Contact Gerry Burke at geraldburkemdjd@comcast.net
- Knights of Columbus Basketball Team: The KofC basketball team is practicing on Tuesday nights from 8-9:30 p.m. at the St. Mary of the Lakes School gym. Contact Coach Scott Lattimer at sclattimer@aol.com
- Parish Pickup Hoops: There are pickup games at the St. Mary of the Lakes School gym at 8 p.m. every Thursday. Contact Kevin Callahan at Kcallahan@smlparish.org for more information.
- That Man Is You (TMIY): For the 4th-straight year,



men of St. Mary of Lakes have joined men at St. Joan of Arc in this powerful men's program (see below) every Friday morning. Contact Charlie McGee at

cmc109@comcast.net or go to: www.stjoans.org/tmiy/

Now that we have "Black" Friday out of the way ...
We can start focusing on Advent "Purple"





Men come join us. Pedata Hall at St. Joan's, every Friday at 6:00 a.m. Sign up or just show up. www.stjoans.org/tmiy/

FEED MY SHEEP CASSEROLE MINISTRY

Feed My Sheep Casserole Ministry is in need of homemade casseroles. Food should be home cooked and include a protein source such as beans, chicken or beef. We ask that



the casserole be pre-frozen upon delivery to the Emmaus Center during regular business hours. We then distribute the food to Christian Caring Center, New Jerusalem or L.U.C.Y- lifting up Camden's Youth. Service hours are given to students who shop and prepare the food.

For more info contact yes@smlparish.org. Aluminum pans, lids available in the parish office.

Knights of Columbus



Last Chance to Get Your Christmas Dedication Trees!

The Knights have introduced a fund-raiser this year that hopefully will become an annual Christmas tradition at St. Mary of the Lakes: Christmas Dedication Trees.

Loved ones are being memorialized with a Christmas tree that will line the church grounds. The Knights will adorn your tree with Christmas lights and a laminated card with your loved one's name. You have the option of placing personal decorations on the tree as well.

All proceeds benefit the Knights charitable activities and SML school. Mark your calendar for the tree lighting ceremony on Sunday, **Dec. 9**, immediately after the Christmas Choir Festival. Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies, too. Last chance to get your tree this week!

Call now Bill Scheffold at 856-912-1301.

Flower/Sign Sales Benefit Knights' Charitable Activities

The Knights of Columbus will be selling flowers and "Keep Christ in Christmas" yard signs and magnets at all Masses on **December 8 and 9.**

Poinsettias will be available for just \$5.00 each. And for only \$5.00 each for your car and yard, you can remind those around you of the true reason to celebrate the Christmas season.

All proceeds benefit the many charitable activities of the Knights. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Knights in Action

If you want to help those in need, serve your parish and grow in your faith, then join the Knights.

For more information, contact Bill Mazzio at williammazzio@yahoo.com or visit www.medfordknights.org.

Clothing and Toy Drive for Trenton Area Soup Kitchen

The Knights of Columbus are collecting new or gently worn coats, hats, gloves, other clothing items, and toys. You can place items in the bin at the Jackson Road entrance of the church before **December 17**. The Knights will take the donations to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen and give them to adults and children on December 22 - the day he St. Mary of the Lakes Apostolic Reach-Out Team will prepare meals for guests of the soup kitchen.

Vivat Jesus!





Eucharistic Adoration

Anyone interested in signing up for a Eucharistic Adoration hour can go to www.smlparish.org For more information, contact Natalie Stone at mazzunat007@msn.com or Diana Kenworthy at dkenworthy1@gmail.com





Our Lady of Guadalupe SMLS Prayer Service









"We didn't realize we were making memories, we just knew we were having fun."
- Winnie the Pooh

Where the fun and memories begin ...

St. Mary of the Lakes Carnival

June 25 — June 29, 2019



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Tuesday, **December 11** at 10:30 a.m. in the School's Parish Meeting Room (the entrance is in the rear of the school).

Questions call Rosemary Peters at (856) 574-4098.



Parish Office Snow Closing Policy

The Parish Office snow closings follow the school. If school is closed, the parish office is closed. If school has a delayed opening, the parish

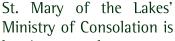
office has a delayed opening.

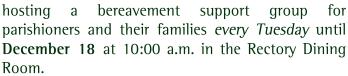
When the Governor declares a state of emergency, SML always follows his directive and the parish office and school are closed, and Masses/confession are cancelled.

Otherwise, Father Dan will decide if Masses/ confession are cancelled based on the condition of the parking lot and sidewalks.

Father's decision will be noted in the greeting when you call the parish office as well as posted on the parish website.

Bereavement Support Group





Please contact the parish office at 609-654-8208, x110 to attend.



Sign Up for the SML Weekly Newsletter Email Blast

The SML Weekly Newsletter is being sent to registered parishioners. If you haven't received an email blast, please send your name and email address to:

Kcallahan@smlparish.org

If you would like to unsubscribe to the email blast, please scroll down to the bottom of the email blast and click on **Unsubscribe**





Offerings at Francis House of Prayer Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center Box 392 • Rancocas, NJ 08073 609-877-0509 or FHOP@verizon.net

ADVENT RETREAT DAY LASTING HAPPINESS IN A CHANGING WORLD Monday, December 3 - 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Advent is such a special season of grace, often lost in the shuffle of the Christmas rush! We will travel through Advent this year with *The Book of Joy*. It is a perfect companion for this stressful season. It may become first on your list of Christmas gifts for others too. I am certain that your Advent Season will be greatly enriched by this choice. I can't think of a better way to enjoy this holy time! Donation \$35, includes book and lunch.

PERSONAL RETREAT DAY

Wednesday, December 5 – 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Take a day away from the busyness of your life to rest a while in the Lord and experience God's presence. Come to Francis House for silence, personal prayer and optional spiritual direction. The day begins and ends with a brief prayer together. Donation: \$10; \$40 with spiritual direction. Please bring a bag lunch.

BE BORN IN ME MAKE MY HEART YOUR BETHLEHEM

Wednesday, December 19 - 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

This retreat morning will allow you the time and space to celebrate Christmas spiritually, as most of us do not have that opportunity on the day itself. Spending this time with God makes a huge difference in the final days before Christmas, as you continue your preparation for the feast and will enhance your entire Christmas Season. "I'll hold you in the beginning, you will hold me in the end. Every moment in the middle, make my heart your Bethlehem. Be Born in Me." (Battistelli) Donation: \$20, lunch included.

To register, call 609-877-0509. Please check www.FHOP.org for directions and for our other offerings!





St. Vincent de Paul

Items needed for Food Pantry

As we begin Advent we are called to "wait"

in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives. Wherever you live in our parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they look to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. They are, in effect, looking to you.

You can help the poor the celebrate the grace of God's love this Christmas by taking a shopping bag as you exit the church today. Fill it with some of the items listed below and bring it next weekend to the white van in the church parking lot.

This month the food pantry is in special need of canned fruit, pasta, canned vegetables, cereal, meals in a can (e.g., SpaghettiOs), apple juice (half gallon), spaghetti sauce (jars), peanut butter, jelly, boxed potatoes, tuna fish, and macaroni and cheese.

SVDP Christmas Gifting

Trying to provide a nice Christmas for loved ones is especially difficult for people already struggling to pay for food, clothing, and fuel. With your help, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul can help make a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Our annual Christmas Gifting program is **December 14** – **16** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day. We need volunteers to help in gifting our guests at the Caring Center on Jones Road on Dec. 14 and 15 as well as to make home deliveries on Dec. 16. Whether you are available for one day or all three, we need you!

Training for Christmas Gifting — which is different than Thanksgiving and is for both new volunteers and those who helped us at Thanksgiving — takes place at the Caring Center on Monday, **December 3**, at 1:00 p.m. and Wednesday, **December 5**, at 7:00 p.m. You only need to attend one of the sessions. If you wish to volunteer, please **call St. Vincent's at 609-953-0021 and select option 2**.

We welcome back former volunteers and look forward to meeting new ones.

SVDP Advent Giving Trees

During Advent we are called to wait in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to bless our lives. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul invites you to make a tax-deductible donation to help children in need in our area celebrate God's love this Christmas.

The trees near the altar have envelopes with suggested donations from \$5 - \$50 based on the number of children in a family. Put your check in the envelope (made payable to *Society of St. Vincent de Paul*), seal it, and place it in the collection or in the gray box marked St. Vincent's. You also can drop off the envelope at the Caring Center on Jones Road or mail it to SVDP at PO Box 1131, Medford, NJ, 08055 by **December 21**.

You also have the option of taking a decoration from the tree at the Jackson Road entrance and purchasing the item written on it. Please place your *unwrapped* gift under that tree by **December 9**.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and God bless you for your continued support. Rest assured that St. Vincent's all-volunteer staff practices wise stewardship of donations.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, call SVdP at 609/953-0021.

ADVENT EVENING OF REFLECTION

Join us on Monday, **December 3**, at 7 p.m. in the Church for an evening of Taize prayer, which originated in Taize, France and includes hymns, prayers and quiet time. Give yourself



an early Christmas present. Take time from the Christmas hustle and bustle to spend time with the Lord in quiet prayer and song.

For more information please contact Christine Brandt cbrandt@smlparish.org



75th Anniversary Christmas Ornament

Keep the memory alive of our 75th anniversary celebration for many future years by purchasing a Christmas ornament at the parish office. Cost is \$15.00.



Glory to God Prayer Group

During construction of the Emmaus Center, Glory to God Prayer Group meets every **Tuesday** from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the home of Marianne Perkins.

Contact Marianne (609) 760-9221/ marnperk@gmail.com

Rosary Prayer Groups

- Weekdays following morning Masses except Thursday and after 9:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday in the Church
- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 3:30 p.m. in the Church
- Wednesday Morning, 9:30 a.m., Legion of Mary in Rectory Dining Room

St. Mary of the Lakes This Week

Sunday, December 2 - First Sunday of Advent

- RCIA / 8:30 a.m. / PMR
- AA Meeting / 7 p.m. / PMR

Monday, December 3

- Men's Gospel Reflection Group / 6 a.m. / JRE
- Taize Advent Prayer Service / 7 p.m. / Church
- KofC Officer's Meeting / 7:30 p.m. / FMR

Tuesday, December 4

- Bereavement Support Group / 10 a.m. / RDR
- Liturgy Committee / 10 a.m. / FMR
- Children's Choir Rehearsal / 7 p.m. / Church
- Choir Rehearsal / 7 p.m. / Church

Wednesday, December 5

- Children's Choir Rehearsal / 7 p.m. / Church
- Choir Rehearsal / 7 p.m. / Church
- Parish Pastoral Council / 7 p.m. / RDR

Thursday, December 6

- Benediction follows Exposition at the end of the 9:00
 a.m. Mass followed by all day Adoration / Church
- Prayer and Bible Study / 10 a.m. / RDR
- Children Choir Rehearsal / 3 p.m. / PMR
- Miraculous Medal Novena / 6:30 p.m. / Church
- Reposition of Blessed Sacrament after the 6:30 p.m.
 Novena / Church
- Scripture Study / 7 p.m. / PMR

Friday, December 7

• Littlest Disciples / 6 p.m. / PMR

Saturday, December 8-Immaculate Conception

- KofC Christmas Flower/Sign Sale / 6:30 p.m. / Church
- Cantor Practice / 10:15 a.m. / Church

Sunday, December 9 - Second Sunday of Advent

- KofC Christmas Flower/Sign Sale / After all Masses / Church
- RCIA / 8:30 a.m. / PMR
- KofC Christmas Tree Lighting / 3:30 p.m. / Church
- AA Meeting / 7 p.m. / PMR
- High School YES Meeting ? 7 p.m. /PCR

SML Room Abbreviations

FMR = Flex Meeting Room (*Rectory*)

JRE = Jackson Rd. Entrance

PCR = Prep Conference Room

PMR = Parish Meeting Room (located in the back of St. Mary of the Lakes School)

RDR = Rectory Dining Room

SA = School Auditorium