

234 SOUTHERN BOULEVARD CHATHAM, NEW JERSEY 07928

(973) 635-0070 • Fax (973-635-5518) www.corpuschristi.org

Rev. T. Kevin Corcoran, Pastor

ext. 5, frkevin@corpuschristi.org

Rev. Kamil Kiszka, Parochial Vicar

ext. 6, frkamil@corpuschristi.org

Carol Scala, Business Manager

ext. 725, cscala@corpuschristi.org

Paul Carroll, Minister of Music

ext. 716, <u>pcarroll@corpuschristi.org</u>

Alexandra Carroll, Interim Director of Religious Ed

Minister of Evangelization ext. 714, acarroll@corpuschristi.org

Matt Cece, Information Technology

ext. 717, cecem@corpuschristi.org

Brigette Vohden, Presently on Maternity Leave

Rev. Msgr. James T. Mahoney, Ph.D., V.G., Pastor Emeritus

<u>imahoney@corpuschristi.org</u>
Daily Blog: jmahoney.typepad.com

Jim Murray, Youth Minister

ext. 718, corpuschristi@boldym.com

Elizabeth Nowik, Handbell and Children's Choirs

ext. 716, liz@corpuschristi.org

Chris Medeiros, Administrative Assistant and Youth

Protection/Safe Environment Coordinator

ext. 711, <u>medeiros@corpuschristi.org</u>

Bernadette Sherry, Administrative Assistant

ext. 710, <u>bsherry@corpuschristi.org</u>

Ray Maybert & Bill Coe, Maintenance Staff

ext. 721, maintenance@corpuschristi.org

DECEMBER 17, 2023 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

JOY AMIDST DARKNESS

A man stopped at a garage just at dusk one evening because something about the engine needed attention. A mechanic examined the trouble while a helper stood holding a light under the hood. The helper turned away and turned off the flashlight by accident. The mechanic looked up and exclaimed, "Shine your light. What are you here for?"

In the same way, John the Baptist appears to a people who were surrounded in darkness. They did not see God, but only their difficulties and struggles. John's purpose was to shine God's light to them – the light of hope, in the midst of their darkness. And people responded to this light!



During this time of Advent, we are all called like John the Baptist to shine the light that Christ has given to us generously. Maybe we won't stand out by wearing clothing of camel's hair, but we are called to stand out by going the extra mile. By our kindness, our selflessness, our forgiveness, our charity, our faith, our presence, and our concern, we shine Christ's light into our world.

All that is needed is a minimal amount of light to help those around us see beyond their darkness-that there is hope. As disciples, the more that we choose to stand out in this way, the more we will encourage others to radiate this light.

This weekend, we light the rose-colored candle on the Advent wreath - a sign of Joy. This Joy is a byproduct of being witnesses of Christ's light to those around us! Let us shine this light. This is why we are here!

Fr. Kevin

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 16

5:00 pm Carol McGill; Joseph Rea

Sunday, December 17

7:30 am For the Parish

9:00 am Arthur Neff

11:00 am John Kratzer; Charles E. Walsh

6:00 pm Patricia Ann Maiorana Sheehan

Monday, December 18

7:30 am Carol McGill

Tuesday, December 19

7:30 am Marie & Walter Wos, Adrienne Szigety

Wednesday, December 20

7:30 am David Baron, John Sgroi

Thursday, December 21

7:30 am Maureen Alexander; Nicholas Storms

Friday, December 22

7:30 am James Cranden

Saturday, December 23

5:00 pm Gerhard Zok; Charlie Goddard

Sunday, December 24

7:30 am Fernando Nicolas

9:00 am For Our Parish

11:00 am Kathleen Flock; Andrew Flock; Charles E. Walsh

Sunday, Christmas Eve

3:00 pm Mona Curcio (church)

3:00 pm Mary Jarosz (hall)

4:30 pm Louis and Christopher Leggiero (church)

4:30 pm Francis Agnew, Jr. (hall)

7:00 pm Jaime Pinaire; Genevieve & Walter Taverna; Chester T. Karr (church)

9:30 pm For the Parish (church)

Monday, Christmas Day

7:30 am Maureen Alexander; Nicholas Storms;

Carol Ann Behre

9:00 am Marie & Leo Rudnick; Marylee Rudnick Ruerup

11:00 am Stan Feeley

IN REMEMBRANCE

For the week of December 17, Sanctuary Lights burn for a Special Intention. Bread and Wine are offered in memory of Maureen Alexander. Blessed Sacrament Chapel flowers are in memory of Maureen Alexander.

MONTHLY OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

The collection November was \$121,326

The breakdown is as follows:

	November 2023	November 2022
Sunday Offertory	\$59,656	\$46,209
Online Giving	\$63,631	\$61,509
Less Fees	<u>-\$1,961</u>	<u>-\$2,064</u>
Net Online Giving	s \$61,670	\$60,043
Total	\$121,326	\$105,564

We thank you for your generosity and support of your parish home here at Corpus Christi. It is through your generosity that we are able to share our parish vision of Christ's Joy, Hope and Healing Received and Shared.

DECEMBER 17, 2023 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Today

Lighting of the Advent Wreath at all Masses

10:00 am Mary's Little Helpers 4:00 pm Christmas Pageant

6:00 pm Chargers Christmas Party

Monday, December 18

1—3 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30—7:15 pm Confessions

7:30 pm RCIA

Tuesday, December 19

4:45 pm Junior Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 20

1—3 pm Eucharistic Adoration 4:15 pm Teen Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:00 pm BOLD Middle

Thursday, December 21

7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 22

4:00 pm Children's Christmas Choir Rehearsal

PRESIDER'S SCHEDULE

December 16/17

Saturday 5:00 pm Fr. Kamil (livestreamed)

Sunday 7:30 am Fr. Kevin
Sunday 9:00 am Msgr. Mahoney
Sunday 11:00 am Fr. Kevin (livestreamed)

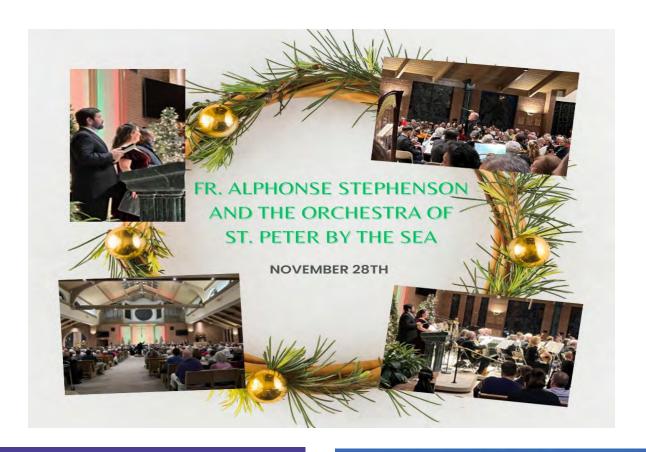
Sunday 6:00 pm Fr. Kamil

December 24

Sunday 3:00 pm Fr. Kevin (church)
Sunday 3:00 pm Msgr. Mahoney (hall)
Sunday 4:30 pm Msgr. Mahoney (church)
Sunday 4:30 pm Fr. Kamil (hall)
Sunday 7:00 pm Fr. Kamil (church)
Sunday 9:30 pm Fr. Kevin (church)

December 25

Monday 7:30 am Fr. Kamil (church) Monday 9:00 am Fr. Kevin (church) Monday 11:00 am Msgr. Mahoney (church)



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Kevin Franken, Sr. Adriana Martins, Eugene Iannocelli, Everett Farren, Ann Zerga, Cheryl Maiorini, Alfri Rundio, Barbara Marvin, Beth Cintron, Andrew White, Adeline Lombardi, Caitlin Murray, Giovanna Tagliaferri, Nancy Merola Miller, Ann Gilroy, Stephanie Windsor, Rosemarie Moeller, Connie Prince, Anna West, Patti Mahoney, Robert Bruce, Richard Terranova, Diana Nazelli, Elizabeth Yanis, Peter Paul Perla, Timothy Finnegan, Mary Mulhall, Jim Tsakonos, Denis Schreiber, Carmela Mino, Ron Leonardis, Jonathan Schwanwede, Angie Dincher, Virginia Lutz, Keith Thomas, Max Leyn, Victor Rispoli, JoAnne Feliciti, Christine Marinello, John Dory, Margaret DiPopolo, John Savarese, Jade Navarro, Carol Lovelock, Betty Ann and Ron Henning; Nancy McKiernan, Maire O'Donnell, Amy Hefele, Brian Carpenter, Amy Wert, Arlene Winsch, Steve Karasoulis, Terry Stephen, Louis Panello, John Cristofano George E. Blake, Peter Newell, Ken McCaffrey, Ruth White, Heather Nicole McGuire, Valeria Capurro, James O'Connell, Gina McCarthy, Josephine Dymowski, Eileen O'Boyle, Cathy Hansen, Owen Moran, Jim Haggerty, Jan Kerr, Vince Di Roberto, Kathleen Bekiaris, Bailey Buell, Nancy Thompson, Suzanne Sersun, Ann Martin White, Kris Zingone, Bill Walsh, Matty Constantino, Susan Koole, Debbie Sisser, Deirdre Hatton, Chris Conlan, Deborah DeMarzo, Pat Fitzpatrick, Edward Schuh, Jeffrey Guerriero, Mary Houlihan, Ralph Lopez.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE GONE HOME TO THE LORD...





CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



Sunday, December 24—Christmas Eve

3:00 pm Mass in the Church Children's Choir and Handbells Christmas Prelude music begins at 2:30 pm (livestreamed)

3:00 pm Mass in the Hall (in person only)

4:30 pm Mass in the Church Handbells

Christmas Prelude music begins at 4:00 pm (in person only)

4:30 pm Mass in the Hall (in person only)

THERE IS NO 6PM MASS

7:00 pm Mass in the Church (in person only)

<u>9:30 pm Midnight Massin the Church and livestreamed</u> Corpus Christi Choir Christmas Prelude music begins at 9 pm

Monday, December 25—Christmas Day

7:30 am Mass Quiet Mass in the Church (in person only)

9:00 am Mass in the Church (in person only)

11:00 am Mass in the Church with Corpus Christi Choir (livestreamed)



Monday, January 1—Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

7:30 am Mass (in person and livestreamed)

9:00 am Mass (in person only)

7:30 pm Mass (in person and livestreamed)



Holy Day

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS



JOIN CORPUS CHRISTI AND THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHATHAM
FOR A COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PAGEANT ON
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH AT 4:00 PM

COMBINED CHILDREN'S PROGRAM, LIVE ANIMALS, MUSIC, AND FELLOWSHIP!

Begins on the front lawn of the Presbyterian Church



EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN US!



Christmas Party

On December 2, Parcells Council celebrated at our annual Christmas Party, which was attended by Knights, wives, parishioners and Fr. Bob, Fr. Kevin and Fr. Kamil. St. Patrick parishioners in attendance were happy to see Fr. Kamil, who had spent a year at St. Patrick starting in 2018.

In years past, the party was held in the Parrott Mill Inn, but since 2014 it has been at the Paca Club in New Providence. The event includes food, beverages, Christmas music and a surprise musical guest, all for a modest \$30 per person.

Awards were presented for: active **Newcomer** (Patrick O'Donnell), **Wife of the Year** (Lauren Migliozzi), and the **Jerome Medina Service Award** for distinguished service to the council over many years (Pat Ficcio). It was topped off with the surprise musical guest, Jimmy Buffett.

To learn more about the Knights of Columbus in the Chathams, call John Kelly 201-213-6967. To become a Knight, visit www.kofc.org/joinus.



JB4

"My husband and I have been parishioners here for 21 years. We relocated to NJ from Chicago. The East Coast seemed like a foreign place to us at the time, but eventually the big pieces of our new life fell into good order. One of the biggest pieces was finding a parish community that resembled the vibrant, welcoming communities of our previous 2 churches. No doubt about it, Divine intervention played a role in leading us to CC.

Val Coffey Pastoral Council Ministry Leader



The first Christmas season as parishioners we were introduced to the beauty of many holiday traditions in this parish. One of my favorite CC traditions continues to be the soaring Christmas tree in our lovely atrium. At first glance, the sight of all the colorful, handcrafted angel ornaments that adorn the tree brought great delight. But it took another year or 2 before we learned that the tree had a story. Ladies from the early years of the parish were the crafters of these special angel ornaments and the larger creche ornaments that are surrounded by them. When we learned more details, we realized that this special tree in our parish's physical midst was inspired by the beloved Angel Tree at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Visiting that highly reverent exhibit in NYC is spiritual and breathtaking each and every time.

I am looking forward to pausing to reflect around the Christmas tree quite soon, as it will be soaring in the atrium again very soon. The photo I have chosen to include captures myself with a dear friend, Hertha, whom I happened to meet several years ago while we separately admired the CC tree. She, too, was fascinated by its beauty. She was a parishioner and resident of Juniper Village, and loved to attend 11 AM Sunday Mass in our church. At the time, she was 89 years young, sharp as could be, highly computer skilled, and a wicked Scrabble opponent. She is no longer with us, but her memory is a blessing to all who knew her. May you each experience the many joys of this season of anticipation and take delight in sharing your favorite holiday traditions with loved ones and friends."



Brian McAuliffe Knights of Columbus Ministry Leader "Knowing my past life, God gave me a strong Irish Catholic wife, put me across the street from St. Patrick church and got me into the Knights of Columbus! Deirdre and I start our days in prayer, including the daily Mass readings and the Bible in a Year podcast. We are also blessed to be able to spend all holidays with our large, local, Irish Catholic family. In the Advent season we contemplate God's abounding love, saving this broken world through His only son's terrible sacrifice for our sins."



Lauren Rigal Mary's Little Helpers, Faith Formation, Parish Council Ministry Leader

"I always look forward to Advent as a season of preparation and expectation. As the days grow shorter and colder, I treasure this time to bring family closer and to deepen our prayer life together in special ways. My family and I enjoy Advent traditions that bring us great comfort as we focus on the Holy Family and look forward to the celebration of the

birth of our Lord. We pray the St. Andrew Christmas Novena together every day from November 30 through Christmas, and every day from December 1, we gather around our Family Bible and read a chapter from the Gospel of St. Luke. By Christmas Eve, we have read all 24 chapters of St. Luke's account of Jesus's life. It has been a wonderful way to prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas!"

Cindy Sartorius Faith Formation Ministry Leader

"The Advent season is a time to reflect on the past year. I love decorating the house for the holidays. It's a

time I think more about relatives that have passed away because of the decorations that I inherited. My parents volunteered their time to Corpus Christi which has influenced me to follow in their footsteps."

"As a mom of three school age children, life this time of year is hectic. Advent is a Ministry Leader chance for our family to try and slow down and remember what this season is really about. We try to spend more time in prayer. We enjoy reflecting on the year we had and how the kids have grown. We also make more of an effort to help people in need. As a catechist at Corpus Christi, Advent is a great way for me to share to my class the importance of the season."



Anne Sartorius Faith Formation Ministry Leader

"Advent season is very important to me and my faith journey. It brings me closer to Jesus and my Faith. The best part of this season



is getting the house decorated with my family. I like to give my time to what is important which is helping others and serving the Lord. I love teaching the children of the parish all about Jesus and God and why it's important to serve them and help others that are in need of help. Everything that I'm doing is part of my faith journey to become a religious sister."

"Losing my mom last year during Advent was sad, but having the family together for Christmas to support each other and celebrate the traditions she had begun gave us peace. I now have a better understanding of what it's like to lose someone so special. Her passing inspired me to help others as they go through the grieving process."



Katie Horan Bereavement Service Ministry Leader

3rd Sunday of Advent: Gaudete Sunday

Advent Wreath Lighting



Page 8 - 603 Corpus Christi

Faith Formation

Grades Pre-K to 6

Contact: Alexandra Carroll

email: acarroll@corpuschristi.org

Grades 7—10

Contact: Jim Murray

email: corpuschristi@boldym.com

High School Service Coordinator

Contact: Jim Murray

email: corpuschristi@boldym.com

FAITH FORMATION 2023-2024

NEXT CLASSES ARE IN 2024:

JANUARY 7TH & 8TH JANUARY 21ST & 22ND



UPCOMING FAMILY EVENTS:

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PCCT SUNDAY 12/17 4:00 PM

PARISH PANCAKE BREAKFAST SUNDAY 1/28 AFTER MASSES

ADORATION/RECONCILIATION FAMILY PRAYER NIGHT MONDAY 1/29 5:15 PM

SIGN UP FOR



CONTACT ALEXANDRA CARROLL WITH ANY QUESTIONS

MASS. CLASS. FAMILY EVENTS.



Questions about BOLD? Contact Jim Murray at 973-370-2532 CorpusChristi@boldym.com

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

There is a lead up time before special joyous events that actually become a major part of the occasion. Note the excitement in engaged couples as the day of their wedding draws near. Or that of a jubilant city of sports fans as the victory parade for their team is scheduled. Or the jump up and down kind of anticipation among children as Christmas approaches.

This weekend features a joyful liturgical respite from our Advent penance as the great feast of the Nativity draws near. In many parishes the priest will wear rose-colored vestments, the color derived from mixing the purple of penance with the white of joy.

I daresay this time period I've described has such built-in excitement to it that afterward there is bound to be a kind of letdown that settles in. It is not completely such, but just enough to remind us that such "highs" are usually passing, much like a beautiful high note in a cherished musical composition.

All is not lost, however. What can override a letdown is a kind of afterglow. The warm recall that in our more peaceful moments invites us to savor the memory of it all. We look back on that wedding day and smile. Or we recall that parade and the pride we felt. We relive that Christmas morning chaos with pajama clad grandchildren. Above all is the lasting joy of knowing that God is definitely with us in all the moments of our lives, good and bad. News headlines all about the awful things we humans do to each other should not deter us. For on this "Gaudete" ("Rejoice") Sunday, we are better off enjoying relief from the dark side of human existence to the wonderful decision God the Father made to send His only Son to us in the person of a little Child. Our ultimate redemption from our sins is available.

Here is an apt comment on joy and laughter from the renowned G.K. Chesterton: "It is really a natural trend to lapse into taking oneself gravely because it is the easiest thing to do...for solemnity flows out of men naturally. But laughter is a leap. It is easy to be heavy; hard to be light. Satan fell by force of gravity."

God love you and help you make that leap!



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