

December 19, 2021
3rd Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat. Dec. 18	5pm	Ann Marie Lagan Richard Kelly Stephen Gentile
Sun., Dec. 19	7:30am	Paul Glanville, Sr.—35 th Anniversary
	9:00am	Bill Murphy
	10:30am	Santo Santofiore May & Harold Williamson
	12:00pm	Picone Family
Mon., Dec. 20	12:10pm	Rita Hudak
Tues., Dec. 21	12:10pm	Elvira Caroselli
Wed., Dec. 22	12:10pm	Ronald Burrows—10 th Anniversary
Thurs., Dec. 23	12:10pm	Phyllis Bonanno
Fri., Dec. 24	4:00pm	Edward Zinckgraf Robert & Claire Zinckgraf Alma Thrum
	6:00pm	Joe Kowalski
	11:00pm	Robert Gerhold
Sat., Dec. 25	8:00am	Phyllis & Francis D'Annunzio Deceased Members of the DeRienzo Family
	10:00am	Gerard Palumbo & Ana Russo
	12:00pm	The Jordan & Barry Families
Sun., Dec. 26	7:30am	Bob Thomas
	9:00am	B. Anderson
	10:30am	Antonio & Angela Gabriele Gerard Palumbo
	12 noon	Ronald Harris

Please remember in your prayers . . .
Our Family & Friends

Anne Benson, Ed Schrak, John O'Leary, Marie Loughlin, Steve Hogan, Mary Maffeo, Tony Loughlin, Robert Taylor, Sandra Buck, Judy Taylor, Eileen Lagan, Stephen Burke, Marie E. Logan, Bill Warrick, Miah Tully, Michael O'Connor, Barbara Bock, Barbara Trzaska, Debbie Dallemolle, Florence & John Luckey, Rosemary Paulison, Jackie Donnelley, Colleen Dillion & Family, Jerry Warrick, Rose Marie Warrick, Baby Emma Scannelli.

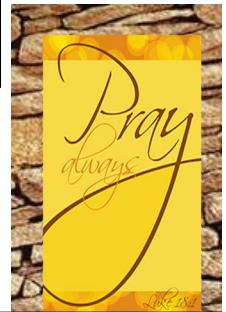
(Unless you notify the parish office, names will rotate off the list in three months.)

All those who service in defense of our Country, both at home and abroad

The deployed airmen of the 914 Air Refueling Wing,
SSGT Blake Reidinger **LT Kelsey Bergh**
PO1 Timothy Butchko **MJR Gary Windt**
LT Patrick Leahy **LT Ryan Feeney**
MJR Stephanie Sittman **SSGT Thomas Sittmann**
LTR Andrew McGuinness **SSGT Eric Wright**
LCDR Daniel M. Leahy **LT Mark Van Ordn**
LT Mark C. Leahy **MSGT T.J. Hopkins**
LT Kian Frederick Stewart **LT Tyler Huhn**
DC1 Alexander V. Fernandez **CPL Irvin Carithers**

The Sanctuary Candle
honors the memory of
Elvira Caroselli

We offer our prayerful condolences to the family and friends of **Rudolph DiGiacomo**, who was called home to the Lord this week. We pray that **Rudolph** rests peacefully with the Lord.



HOLIDAY CHEER & "CHRISTENING" OF THE SVC

Join us on **Sunday, December 26**, in the newly-renovated St Virgil Classroom (SVC). We will be hosting "coffee and" after all Masses so that you can see our new meeting room and enjoy a little holiday cheer with the priests and staff!

This Week at St. Virgil's >>>

Sunday, December 19

Children's Choir Rehearsal, 12-12:45, TC
Youth Band Practice, 5 – 6pm, Church
Gr 7 & 8 FISH, 6:30-8:30pm, TC

Tuesday, December 21

Novena to St. Virgil following the 12:10 Mass
Rosary Hour, 7pm, Church

Thursday, December 23

Children's Choir Rehearsal, 4-5pm, Church
Youth Band Rehearsal, 6-8pm, Church
Divine Mercy, 6:30pm, ZOOM
Bible Study, 7pm, SVC

Friday, December 24

There is no Mass at 12:10pm.
Children's Mass at 4pm
Family Mass at 6pm
Christmas Vigil at 11pm

Saturday, December 25

Masses at 8am, 10am, & 12noon
There is NO VIGIL MASS at 5pm.

Rosary Hour
Join us for our daily praying of the Rosary immediately following the 12:10pm Mass.



On Tuesday, December 21, we will host the family Rosary and Holy Hour. Please note, we will begin at 7pm. We invite all of our Parish families to join us for this beautiful recitation of the Rosary & Holy Hour. Confessions available.

FAITH FORMATION>>>

Faith Formation January Schedule

Children's Mass 9:00-10:00 (Mandatory)	2 nd grade In-Person Classes 10:15-11:45	K-6 In Person Meetings/Retreats 10:15 - 11:45am
January 9 & 23	January 9 & 23	-----
Youth Mass 12noon	Confirmation Grades 7-8 5-9pm	FISH Grade 9 5-9pm
December 24 January 9	December 19 January 9	January 23 January 2

RCIA each Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Tracy Center

PARISH HAPPENINGS>>>

Singers & Instrumentalists Grades K – 8

Come join St. Virgil's Children's Choir for Christmas Eve



Rehearsal Schedule:

Sunday, 12/19, 12-12:45pm, Tracy Center
Thursday, 12/23, 4-5pm, Church

Mass: Friday, December 24, at 4pm

To sign up, contact Nina Rangel at YouthMinister@StVirgilParish.org.



Due to its proximity to the holidays, the
Rosary Society will not meet in January.
Wishing all a Blessed Christmas!



Bring Your Baby Jesus To Church

On Christmas Eve, December 24, children are invited to bring the Baby Jesus (Bambinelli) from their creche at home to be blessed just prior to the 4pm Mass.

St. John Paul II began a tradition early on in his papacy where he invited the children of Rome to assemble in St. Peter's Square on the Third Sunday of Advent during his Angelus address. He asked them to bring their little statue of the baby Jesus that would be placed in their Nativity set at home. John Paul II blessed the figurines of those present and told them to assemble before the manger scene with their family in a spirit of prayer. Both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have continued the tradition, and in recent years it has started to spread to other places outside of Rome.

We would like to add this beautiful tradition to our parish family, one that sanctifies the home with the baby Jesus and makes his arrival in the manger scene an even more joyous event.

A new Year! And A NEW BIBLE STUDY!!!

Starting on Thursday evening, January 6, at 7PM the St. Virgil Bible Study will begin a new study: "**The Acts of the Apostles**". Just bring your bible and join us either live in SVC or on Zoom.

Jesus has returned to Heaven and the Apostles and disciples are hiding in the upper room - afraid they will be killed next. How did they become brave enough to 'speak out' and share the Good News, that the Messiah had come and opened the gates of Heaven to all who come to believe! (And how did they fit 120 people in that room?) Where did they meet for celebration of the Eucharist? How did they change their Jewish rejection of Gentiles to a warm welcome of them? Did they follow Jesus command to start in Jerusalem, then Judah (where is Judah?) and then the world?

Come and find out how our roots grew. Let us know you are coming or just drop in. Contact the St. Virgil Office, [\(973\) 538-1418](tel:(973)538-1418), or call Phil Alcock at 973-538-6045.

To all my friends at St. Virgil's and particularly **PRIME TIME**: I will be stepping down from the leadership position of Prime Time as of January 1st. I have much going on in my life right now that needs more of my attention and I am trying to shuffle some of my responsibilities around. If anyone is interested in taking the helm of this wonderful group of senior members of St. Virgil's that meets just once a month, please talk with Fr. Michal or myself and let's work together for a smooth transition. I look forward to talking with anyone who is interested, and ask that our Lord bless all of us as we walk into the future together. Blessings on you all. **Kathy Sisler.**

PARISH GIVING >>>

Thank you for your continued generosity. Parish income for the weekend of December 11/12, 2021 was

Collection	In Pew	Faith Direct	Total
Regular 12/4-5	\$6,229	\$2,551	\$8,780

The holiday season is one of the largest giving seasons for our church. Our online giving provider Faith Direct is generously providing a donor match program to help us increase recurring giving. Online gifts help reduce costs and our time spent handling other forms of payment.

For every first offertory gift from a new recurring donor that is added between November 1 and December 31, Faith Direct will match that first gift, up to \$50, with a maximum match of \$1,000 for our church. To be eligible for the matching gift, more than one installment must be set-up and the first recurring gift must be transacted by December 31.

We appreciate your generosity and your support of our church. We prayerfully ask that you consider helping us meeting this goal by creating your recurring online gift today. Please consider using Faith Direct, an online giving service where you can donate the amount you currently give each Sunday through an online medium. Use parish #NJ732. You can also use your cell phone and "text to give" at 973-221-9551 and follow the instructions for a one-time gift.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACHES>>>



Star of Bethlehem

This is the last week we will be collection gift cards for the Star of Bethlehem.

The trees with gift card requests through tomorrow. Anyone wishing to contribute to this outreach program can select an envelope from one of the trees on either side of the altar and purchase the gift card requests.

This year we will only be collecting cards from ShopRite, Acme, Wal-Mart or Kohl's.

Please place the envelope with the enclosed gift card in one of the collection boxes near the trees. ***Please mark the amount on the gift cards.***

The gift cards are distributed to local charities which provide emergency shelter, food, clothing, and medicinal needs to families in desperate need. When Christmas comes, and children are told "Things are scarce this year", our gift cards come to the rescue. To think that it is our gift cards that come to the rescue helps us to understand the true meaning of Christmas.

Thank you in advance for your kind generosity.



Operation Chillout Homeless Veteran Outreach Winter Backpack & Emergency Response Fund Drive

Operation Chillout thanks our donors for supporting the virtual Summer Supply Drive! With your help, donations received through the online gift registry and cash contributions enabled us to deliver over 40,000 bottles of water, 500 new tee shirts and several hundred baseball caps for homeless veterans, both men and women.

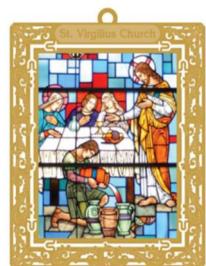
Due to our concerns about the availability of several items in the coming months, we will purchase the backpack components in advance and hope that donations will cover the cost. The winter drive will be conducted online at www.operationchillout.org. For \$25 you can "purchase" a backpack filled with warm winter gear.

Other suggested donations are \$10 for the OCO Rapid Response Team or \$10 for the Emergency Supplies Fund. Our Rapid Response Team is available 24/7/365. Based on information received from our automated hotline about a homeless veteran, the team provides free transportation, basic needs, temporary housing and then arranges access to case management services and longer-term housing solutions. On the gift registry, you can support this service as well our emergency supplies fund for \$10 each. You will receive an online receipt for your donation.

To report a homeless veteran, please call our hotline at 908 509 1462.

If you would like to support our activities but prefer not to give online, please write a check to Operation Chillout, Inc., place it in an envelope marked "Operation Chillout" and drop the envelope in the collection basket.

Please be as generous as you can to make the winter months a little more comfortable for those who have so little and have many challenges to face.



Stained Glass Christmas Ornaments

Bring home one of St. Virgil's beautiful windows for your Christmas tree this year! These beautiful ornaments are replicas of the stained glass windows here in Church. All are suitable as Christmas Ornaments or as window suncatchers. Actual size is 2 x 3 3/4.

Ornaments will be sold in the Speedwell Avenue vestibule starting the weekend of November 20/21 and continuing through December 18/19. With the exception of the Ascension window which is \$25, the other nine in the collection are \$20 each. All profits will be used to further the Music Ministry. Thank you for your support!

Lynch Creek Farms Fund Raiser

Need the perfect gift or decorations for the holidays? Fresh centerpieces, Christmas Wreaths, garland and table tops. Now is the time to purchase elegant evergreens through Lynch Creek Farms to support Saint Virgil's Parish. Free shipping to any location! You choose the ship date and St. Virgil's will receive 15% profit on every order. To place your order call 1-888-426-0781 or order online at www.lynchcreekfundraising.com/c/276548 and mention Group #276548.



Christmas Eve 4pm Children's Mass 6pm Family Mass 10pm Christmas Vigil	Christmas Day 8am, 10am, 12noon (There is no 5pm Vigil Mass Christmas Evening).
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New Year's Eve Vigil Mass at 5pm	New Year's Day 9am 5pm Vigil Mass for Sunday 1/2
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Around the Diocese >>>

The Compassionate Friends-Parsippany Chapter; A Self-Help group for bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents, will be meeting on Thursday, January 13, 2022, at St. Christopher Church, in Parsippany. This month's program is "Learning To Cope In The New Year". For more information please call Lily Capriglione at: 973-568-4164 or email: lilycap1972@gmail.com

30 Bible Verses about Letting Go of Things You Can't Control

"There is nothing like being grateful for what you have to take your mind off what you wish you had or believe you should have. It is also perhaps the purest way to let go of what you can't control, as your entire focus shifts to what has been provided for your life instead of what is lacking."

Online internet searching yields countless help sites and articles. Most point out that there are seven to ten key steps to "letting go of control."

But there is no better place to look for support to let go of things you can't control: ***The Bible.*** Certainly, at this time of year where "crazy" prevails, pause for a moment or two to read and meditate on these Bible passages that can help you to let go of old attitudes and build a better future.

Philippians 3:13-14
Proverbs 4:25-27
1 John 1:9
Ephesians 4:31-31
John 8:35
2 Corinthians 5:17
Isaiah 43:18-19
Isaiah 26:3
1 Peter 5:7
Proverbs 3:5-6
John 8:32
Matthew 6:14-15
Colossians 3:2
Jeremiah 29:11

Exodus 23:20
Romans 8:28
Proverbs 3:5
Ephesians 4:26
Isaiah 43:1
1 Corinthians 9:24
Job 17:9
Pasm 46:10-11
Psalm 62:8
James 4:7
John 10:10
Isaiah 43:18
Philippians 4:6
Proverb s 29:11

The Diocese of Paterson presents:

THE YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

Sunday, January 9, 2022

Inauguration of the Year
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

visit rcdop.org/year-of-the-eucharist

Catholic Charities

A reminder:

Catholic Charities, Helping During the Holidays

Please remember that we are always only a phone call or email away, especially during this time of year which can be challenging for many. We can help if you, a parishioner, or friend has nowhere left to turn. We will always do all we can to help those in need, and if we cannot help directly, we likely know someone who can.

Email info@ccpaterson.org or call/text:

- Monsignor Herb Tillyer, Catholic Charities Board President at 201-452-1739 (cell)
- Scott Milliken, Catholic Charities CEO at 201-303-6341 (cell)
- Chris Brancato, Catholic Charities Development Director at 201-315-6806 (cell)

Evangelization Corner

Advent is a time of anticipation - anticipation of what we believe is going to happen in the future. Advent 2021 has provided an opportunity for us to look forward with anticipation focusing on hope and faith, peace, and joy during a time when recent events may have changed the way we now perceive things.

The focus during the first week of Advent 2021 was hope. On the first Sunday, we lit the first purple colored candle- the “*Prophecy Candle*” which symbolizes hope. It is hope that is based on the faithful assurance or trust, that God is sending us a savior that will lead us through the darkness into the light. It was a time of reflection and affirmation; a time to plan for the coming of a savior knowing that He would deliver us from slavery to sin.

On the second Sunday we lit the “*Candle of Peace*,” sometimes called the “*Bethlehem Candle*,” and our focus changed from the development of a plan for Advent to preparing our hearts as we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus and ready ourselves for His triumphant second coming. The lighting of the candle of

peace reminds us of all the ways that Jesus gives peace to us and to all who believe in him.

Last Sunday, ‘Gaudete Sunday,’ we lit the “Candle of Joy” (sometimes call the “Shepherd’s Candle”) and rejoiced with hopeful and joyous anticipation for the coming of the Lord and we were invited to reflect on the joy that comes from our faith in Jesus. A joy in the knowledge that we are sharers and participants in this narrative and that the story of Christ is our story.

On this the fourth Sunday of Advent 2021 we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we await the birth of Jesus. During this, the last week leading up to Christmas, let us pray that we may remember again God’s gift of Jesus to the world and know that God’s love for all people is the reason for this gift. “*For God so love the world that he gave His only son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life.*” (Jn 3:16)



There are still some people who are not loved by anyone. This can make it more difficult for them to understand God’s love. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we have a responsibility to share the story of Advent with others. The story of God’s gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love that can only be brought alive through our telling of it and showing it through how we live our lives.

Although Advent 2021 and Christmas 2021 are the preparation and celebration of His first coming, they are also reminders to prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ; to be awake and watchful so that when He comes again, He will not find us asleep.

May the Lord’s peace be with you always!

Evangelization Ministry

Weekly Reflection 4th Sunday of Advent

Entrance Antiphon: Isaiah 45:8

1st Reading: Micah 5:1-4a

Responsorial Psalm 80:2-3,15-16, 18-19

2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Communion Antiphon: Isaiah 7:14

When we started Advent, we spent some time looking at the “joy” that Luke brings to the Christmas readings. It is possible to focus on that one term alone to bring the most uplifting meaning to this beloved feast. (The term “joy” occurs more often in the writings of Luke than in John, and more than in those of Matthew and Mark combined.)

Only the gospels of Luke and Matthew give us an accounting of the birth of Christ. It is Luke who helps us see such joy in his telling of this most meaningful event. Any of us who have been present at the birth of a child can testify to the joy it brings. Let us wrap that term of joy on the great gift of this day, as well as appreciate the humanity of Mary and Joseph. We can only imagine how they must have felt as human beings, both living the joy, yet also experiencing the fear in Christ’s birth, given Herod’s proclamation.

All of today's readings allow us to pull together the expectations, which are palpable from Luke's account of Mary's visit to Elizabeth and their realization that our Savior was about to come.

Lord, whatever problems we may today, may we all experience the joy of Christ’s birth, and receive your blessings this Christmas.