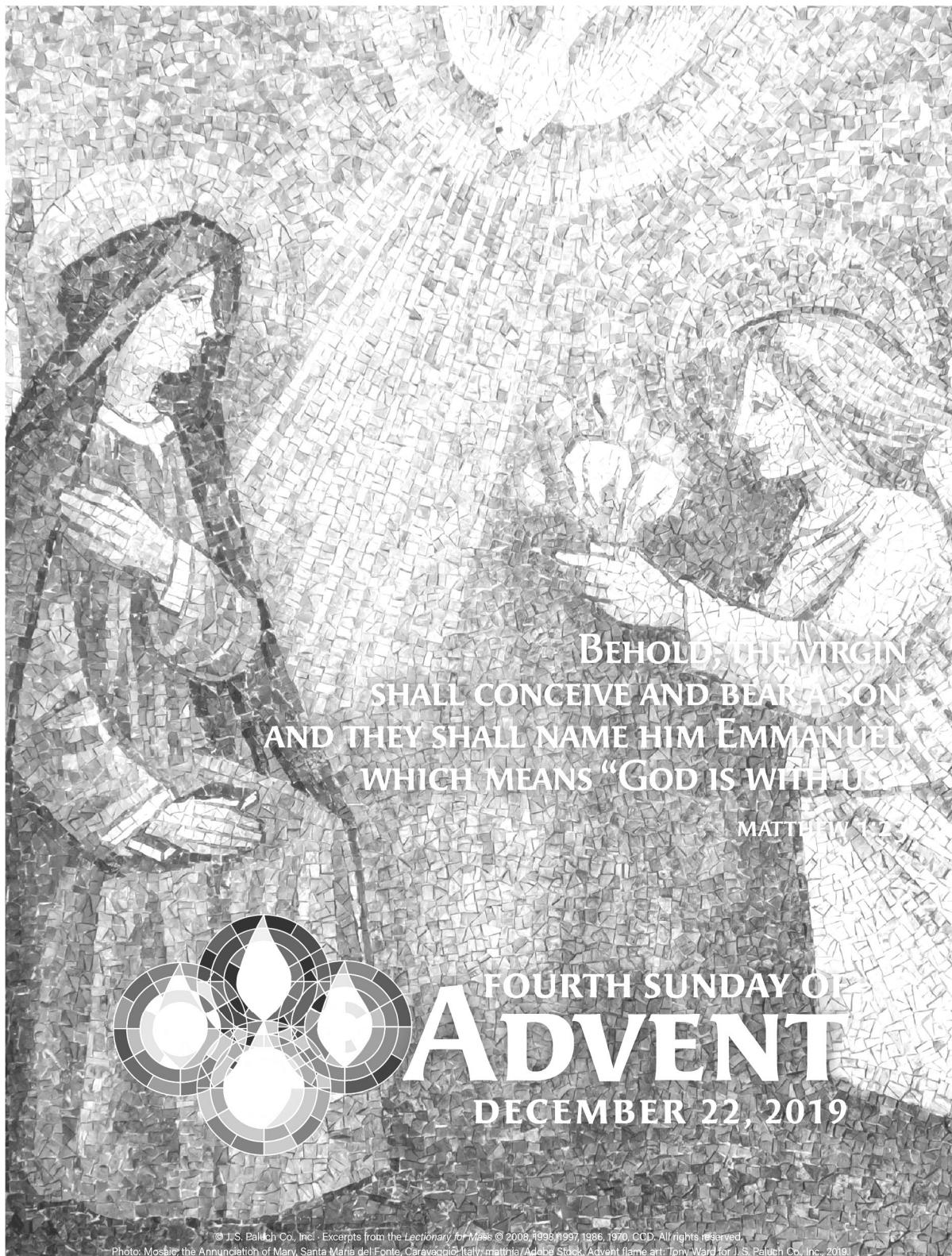


ST. JOSEPH ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

OVER A CENTURY OF CATHOLIC PRESENCE



Rev. James W. McGuffey - Pastor
Rev. Msgr. Pafnouti Wassef - Parochial Vicar
Rev. Sean G. Winters - In Residence
Deacon Ramon Torres - Hispanic Ministry

Deacon George Kimball - Permanent Deacon
Mrs. Roseann Johnson - Principal
Mrs. Marcelle Doherty - Coordinator of Religious Education/Pastoral Assistant
Dr. Thomas Juneau - Director of Music

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2019



PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	December 22
MONDAY	December 23
6:30 PM	Athletic Association, gym
TUESDAY	December 24 ~ Christmas Eve
	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>
WEDNESDAY	December 25 ~ Christmas
	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>
THURSDAY	December 26
	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>
FRIDAY	December 27
8:00 PM	A/A, Alanon, Alateen, church hall
SATURDAY	December 28

PLEASE NOTE: The Parish Office will be closed on December 24, 25, and 26.

What does love look like? It has feet to go to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of others.

-St. Augustine

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: The Rite of Baptism is celebrated on the second weekend of the month: Saturday at 1:00 PM. Please arrange for the obligatory preparation session by calling the Parish Office.

Pastoral Care of the Sick: The Holy Eucharist and the Anointing of the Sick are available to the sick and shut-ins upon request.

First Penance, First Eucharist, Confirmation: Children are expected to receive a Catholic upbringing in their family life, to worship regularly at Sunday Mass, and to receive ongoing religious education in the years preceding the reception of these sacraments.

Matrimony: Specific times are set for the celebration of marriage during the year. To allow ample time for preparation, please contact the Parish Office at least one year before the intended wedding date.

Holy Orders or Religious Life: If you are considering serving God as a priest, deacon or religious, you may contact your parish priest or deacon; or phone the Office of Vocations at 732-562-2457 for additional information.

"For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven..."

a time to heal... for the sick of our Parish and especially for Mary Wagner, Anthony LaMotta, Chip Cece, Diane Rosa, Joseph Sabol

a time to die... Bernadette Sheridan

God, the Author of Life, help us to nurture and protect this most precious gift. Help us to recognize and defend the dignity of all human life—from the moment of conception until the time You have chosen for our death. Guard us against all temptation to be angry or disrespectful. Deliver us from the evils of hatred and violence in all their many forms. Above all, help us to see Your face in our sisters and brothers whoever they are and wherever they may be. Make us women and men who love peace and who are ready to work for liberty and justice for all. Amen.



"...each according to his or her possibilities, profession, and responsibilities, should feel in themselves an obligation to love and serve life, from its beginning to its natural end. It is, in fact, everyone's duty to welcome human life as a gift to be respected, protected, and promoted, even more so when it is fragile and in need of attention and care, either before birth or when it is in its final stages." -Pope Benedict XVI, *Welcome Life, Before Birth and in its Final Stages*

MASS SCHEDULE

5:00 PM (Saturday evening Vigil Mass)
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 PM
1:30 PM (Spanish)

Monday to Friday: 8:00 AM
Saturday: 8:30 AM
St. Peregrine Mass for the Sick
Second Thursday of the month - 7:00 PM

CONFESIONS

Saturday: 11:00 AM

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Weekdays: 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

MAILING ADDRESS

Parish	School
55 High Street Carteret, NJ 07008	865 Roosevelt Avenue Carteret, NJ 07008

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Parish Office	732-541-8946
Parish Office Fax	732-541-0500
Religious Education	732-969-8767
St. Joseph School	732-541-7111
St. Vincent de Paul Society	732-541-8946
Parish Website:	www.stjosephparishfamily.com
PREP Website:	www.stjosephprep.net
School Website:	www.sjps.net

PARISH SERVICES

Parish Registration: New parishioners are welcome. Please call the Parish Office to register. Please notify us if you move.

R.C.I.A.: Adults inquiring about the Catholic Church with a desire to become Catholic are invited to call the Parish Office for information about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Parish Organizations: Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Ministry to the Poor, Ministry to the Sick & Elderly, RCIA Team, Food Pantry, Hispanic Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Home School Association, Athletic Association, and Catechetical Instruction.

Sponsorship: To act as a Godparent for Baptism or sponsor for Confirmation, the sponsor must be a baptized Catholic, Confirmed, received Communion, and live a morally good life; if married, done so within Church law. Ordinarily the sponsor must be at least 14 years old. A Christian who is a non-Catholic may be a witness for Baptism together with a Catholic sponsor.

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading - Isaiah 7: 10-14

Second Reading - Romans 1: 1-7

Gospel - Matthew 1: 18-24

Trust in God

On this final Sunday of Advent our scriptures focus on the historical birth of Jesus, Who is son of David and Son of God, child and king, Jesus and Emmanuel.

Isaiah the prophet begs Ahaz to ask for a sign, to allow God to offer him reassurance of the survival of the Davidic dynasty. The king hypocritically refuses to “tempt the LORD” in that way (Isaiah 7:12), but the prophet foretells the birth of a son, an heir to the throne, who will prove the Lord’s enduring protection of God’s chosen lineage on the throne of David. The child will be called Emmanuel.

Matthew’s reference to this history in his description of the birth of Jesus highlights the contrast between the faithless refusal of trust shown by Ahaz, and the complete trust in God shown by Mary and Joseph in bringing about the birth of Jesus Christ.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Mal 3: 1-4, 23-24; Lk 1: 57-66

Tuesday: 2 Sm 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1: 67-79

Vigil of Christmas: Is 62: 1-5; Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25; Mt 1: 1-25 or 1: 18-25

Wednesday: *The Nativity of the Lord*

Night: Is 9: 1-6; Ti 2: 11-14; Lk 2: 1-14

Day: Is 52: 7-10; Heb 1: 1-6; Jn 1: 1-18 or 1: 1-5, 9-14

Thursday: Acts 6: 8-10, 7: 54-59; Mt 10: 17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1: 1-4; Jn 20: 1a, 2-8

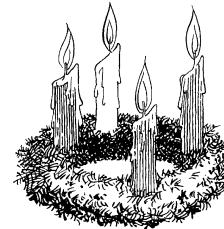
Saturday: 1 Jn 1: 5-2; Mt 2: 13-18

FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR TROOPS

Almighty God, those who take refuge in You will be glad and forever will shout for joy. Protect these soldiers as they discharge their duties. Protect them with the shield of Your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of Your love enable them to return home in safety, that, with all who love them, they may ever praise You for Your loving care. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Remember in your prayers the members of our Armed Services, especially: *Taylor Setar, daughter of Greg and Terry Setar; Thomas Rapp, grandson of Jeanette Miller; Justin Lurker, grandson of Helen Lurker; Robert Michnowiez, nephew of Helen Lurker; Justin Molarz, grandson of Susan Molarz; Andrew Weaver, grandson of Joanne Halkovich; Darren T. Dreboty, son-in-law of Jacqueline Eak; James Molnar, grandson of Alice Benson; Elizabeth Brito and Lisa Marie Brito, daughters of Ivette Brito; Raymond Torres, son of Deacon and Mrs. Ramon Torres.*

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



They shall name Him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” —Matthew 1: 23

ADVENT PRAYER

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to Your promises and ever close to Your Church: the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to His return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which His presence will bestow, for He is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

A REMINDER . . . For many people who have recently suffered the loss of a loved one, the holidays can pose a real challenge. Take the extra time to give a call, drop a note, or have a cup of coffee together. It will be a gift well received!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve ~ December 24

5:00 PM - *Children's Mass*

9:30 PM - *Christmas Carols*

10:00 PM - *Midnight Mass Readings*

Christmas Day ~ December 25

8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

12:30 PM - *Spanish Mass*

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS SCHEDULE

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

December 31, 2019

Vigil - 7:00 PM

January 1, 2020

8:00 AM and 9:30 AM

EUCARISTIC ADORATION

Thursdays - 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Church Chapel

In a world where there is so much noise, so much bewilderment, there is a need for silent adoration of Jesus concealed in the Host. Be assiduous in the prayer of adoration and teach it to the faithful. It is a source of comfort and light, particularly to those who are suffering.

-Pope Benedict XVI

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

-Matthew 1:24

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

PRAY AND FAST FOR VOCATIONS

MY VOCATION PRAYER

God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I never may know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I have a part in a great work. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do His work; I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling. Amen.

-Cardinal John Henry Newman

Saints and Special Observances This Week

Sunday:	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
Monday:	<i>St. John of Kenty; Hanukkah begins</i>
Tuesday:	<i>Vigil of Christmas</i>
Wednesday:	<i>The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)</i>
Thursday:	<i>St. Stephen; Kwanzaa begins;</i>
Friday:	<i>St. John</i>
Saturday:	<i>The Holy Innocents</i>

STRESS IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage?

RETROUVAILLE is a Lifeline to help couples heal and renew their marriages. The Program consists of a weekend experience for married couples (no group discussions) with six follow-up sessions. The next weekend will be held **February 21-23**. For more information and to register, call Rich Colasuonno at 732-236-0671, Annette Colasuonno at 732-672-0748, or email 3024@retrouvaille.org

Independent Victim Compensation Program

As announced in February, the Diocese of Metuchen – along with the four other Roman Catholic Dioceses in New Jersey (Newark, Trenton, Camden, and Paterson) – established an *Independent Victim Compensation Program (IVCP)* to compensate those who, as children or young adults, were sexually abused by a priest or deacon of the Diocese. **The IVCP began accepting claims on June 15 and will conclude on December 31, 2019.** Victims of clergy sexual abuse of a minor can begin the process of utilizing the program by going to www.njdiocesesivcp.com and reviewing the protocol for submitting a claim.

Bus Trip to the RALLY FOR LIFE in Trenton Wednesday, January 22, 2020

The *Diocese of Metuchen's Office of Human Life and Dignity* will be running a Bus Trip to the *Rally for Life* in Trenton, NJ on Wednesday, January 22, 2020. The bus ride is free of charge, but since space is limited all passengers must reserve their seats. Passengers will board the bus at the Diocesan Center in Piscataway at 9:30 a.m. The Rally at the State House begins at 11:00 a.m. and ends at 1:00 p.m. Passengers will attend a small reception afterwards. The bus will bring everyone back to the Diocesan Center around 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions or would like to reserve a seat, please email amarshall@diometuchen.org or call 732-562-1543.

Mount St. Mary House of Prayer, Watchung, will offer the following program...

YEAR-END DAY OF PRAYER – Spend this last day of the year reflecting on the many gifts God has bestowed on you. Day begins and ends with communal prayer. Bring bag lunch. Tuesday, **December 31**, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (\$20-\$30 as you are able).

Registration required. To register, call 908-753-2091 or email: msmhope@msmhope.org

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

If you are new to our Parish or our community or have lived in the neighborhood and attend Mass here but have never registered, we invite you to become an official member of St. Joseph Church. It is important to be a registered member of a parish. Registration is your statement that you belong to a particular faith community where you are known, your faith is strengthened, and your relationship with God is nourished and given expression.

When you are registered, actively involved, and a Catholic in good standing, the Parish is able to provide you with testimonial certificates to be a sponsor for Baptism and/or Confirmation.

If you would like to register with St. Joseph Parish, please fill in the information below and place this form in the collection basket or the Parish Office mail slot and a Registration Card will be mailed to you.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mass Intentions



SATURDAY	December 21 5:00 PM George Sabol
SUNDAY	December 22 8:00 AM Chappy Thatcher 10:30 AM Joseph and Evelyn Sandor 12:00 PM David Mastromonico 1:30 PM Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish
MONDAY	December 23 8:00 AM Paul Pizzano
TUESDAY	December 24 8:00 AM Nan and Bob Balewicz Christmas Eve 5:00 PM Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish Children's Mass 10:00 PM Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish Midnight Mass Readings
WEDNESDAY	December 25 ~ Christmas Day 8:00 AM Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish 10:30 AM Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish 12:30 PM Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish Spanish Mass
THURSDAY	December 26 8:00 AM Julia A. Harrison 11:30 AM <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
FRIDAY	December 27 8:00 AM Jaime Bernabe, Sr.
SATURDAY	December 28 8:30 AM Patricia Ziccardi Heller 5:00 PM Henry and Marie Ostrowski
SUNDAY	December 29 8:00 AM Janet Fritz 10:30 AM MaryEllen Bansbach 12:00 PM Fred Grigni 1:30 PM Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish

INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 22-28

The **Altar Bread and Sacramental Wine** have been donated in loving memory of *Mike Gervino*.

The **St. Joseph Church Sanctuary Lamp** burns in loving memory of *Mike Gervino*.

The **Pieta Lamp** burns in loving memory of *Virginia and Richard Taglieri*; requested by their Family.

The **Saint Joseph Lamp** burns in loving memory of *Stanley Gilbert*; requested by his Family.

Merry Christmas To All

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the town,
St. Joseph was searching, walking up roads and down;
Our Lady was waiting, so meek and so mild, while Joseph
was seeking a place for the Child.

The children were nestled, each snug in their beds, the grown-ups
wouldn't bother, "There's no room," they said; when even the innkeeper sent them away,
Joseph was wondering, where they would stay? He thought of the caves in the side of
the hills, "Let's go there," said Mary, "It's silent and still."

The moon on the breast of the new fallen
snow, made pathways of light for their
tired feet to go; and there in a cave, in a
cradle of hay, our Savior was born on that
first Christmas Day!

The Father was watching in Heaven
above, He sent for His angels, His
couriers of love. More rapid than eagles
God's bright angels came; rejoicing and
eager as each heard His name.

"Come Powers, Come Cherubs, Come
Virtues, Come Raphael, Come Thrones
and Dominions, come Michael and
Gabriel; now fly to the Earth, where My
poor people live, announce the glad tiding
My Son comes to give."

The Shepherds were watching their
flocks on this night, and saw in the
heavens an unearthly light. The Angels
assured them, they'd nothing to fear, it's
Christmas they said, the Savior is here!

They hastened to find Him, and stood at
the door, till Mary invited them in to
adore. He was swaddled in bands from
His head to His feet, never did the
Shepherds see a baby so sweet!

He spoke not a word, but the shepherds
all knew, He was telling them secrets and blessing them too;
then softly they left Him, The Babe in the hay, and rejoiced
with great joy on that first Christmas Day.

Mary heard them exclaim as they walked up the hill, "Glory
to God in the Highest, Peace to men of good will!"

—Sister St. Thomas, B.N.D. de N



**Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light
and peace! -Pope Francis**