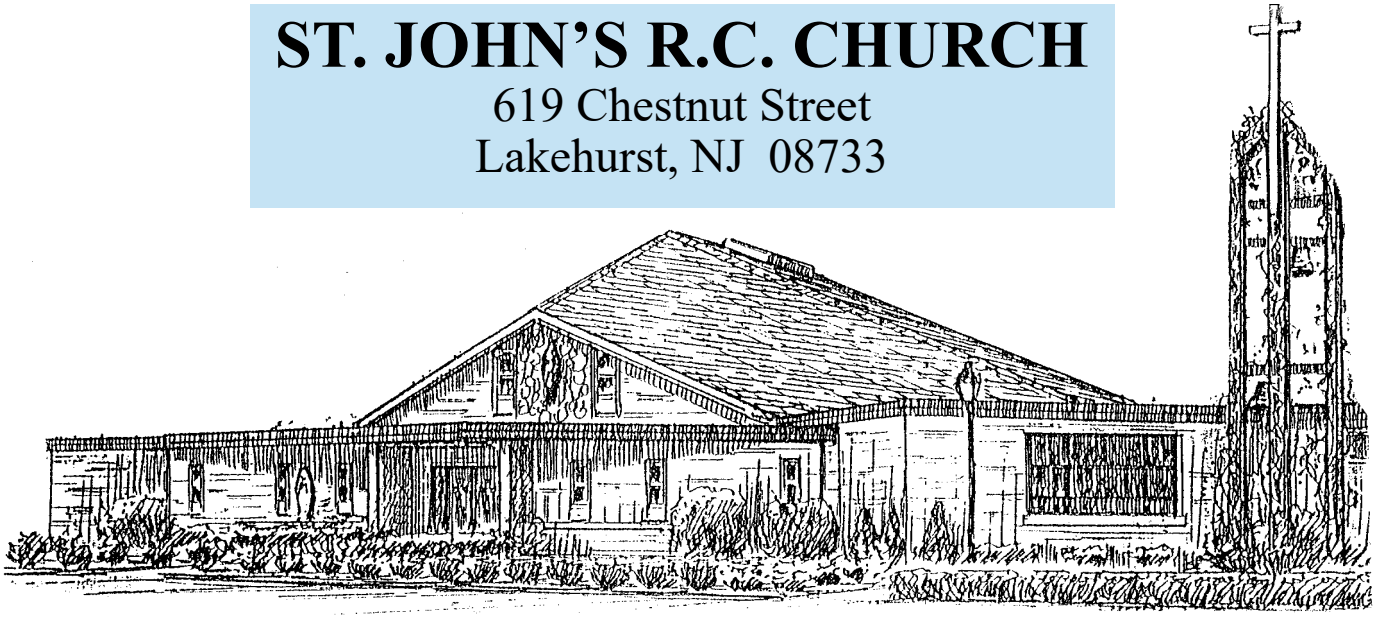
ST. JOHN'S R.C. CHURCH

619 Chestnut Street
Lakehurst, NJ 08733



SERVED BY

Rev. James F. O'Neill, Pastor

Msgr. Elso Introini, retired priest
Msgr. Richard A. Rusconi, retired priest
Rev. George Deutsch, retired priest
Rev. Joseph Murphy, retired priest

Charlie Jannetti, Business Manager
Holly Hartline, Music Director

Gina Innarella, Parish Secretary

GRADUAL REOPENING

Liturgies are livestreamed on our YouTube channel. Masks and social distancing are required.

Daily Mass
8 AM with Rosary at 7:40 AM

Miraculous Medal Novena
Monday after Mass at about 8:30 AM

Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction
Friday at 3 PM

Sunday Mass
Saturday at 4 PM & 6 PM
Sunday at 8 AM, 10 AM, 12 Noon, and 2 PM.

The church is open for private prayer from Monday through Friday, 2 PM to 4 PM.

CONFESSIONS

Fr. Jim is hearing confessions in the parish hall:
Mondays: 2-4 PM and 5:30-7:30 PM
Fridays: 3:15 PM to 3:45 PM
Saturdays during Advent: 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM

MARRIAGES

The Sacrament of Matrimony requires a time of spiritual preparation. The couple should contact the Parish Office one year before the date of marriage. Currently, weddings with up to 100 people are possible.

PARISH OFFICE—CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

The parish office is closed to the public. Please send e-mail or call. If we schedule a meeting, we will meet you out in the parking lot.

Monday to Friday:	8:30 AM to 3:00 PM
primary phone:	732-657-6347
parish website:	stjohnlakehurst.com
e-mail:	office@stjohnlakehurst.com
fax:	732-657-8690

GRADE SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Ms. MaryAnn Dempkowski,
Director of Religious Education
Religious Ed Office: 732-657-2348

COMMUNION CALLS

We're not yet ready to bring Holy Communion to the homebound.

SICK CALLS—ANOINTING OF THE SICK

In case of serious illness or accident, please call the Parish Office to request the Anointing of the Sick.

EMERGENCIES

For emergencies outside of office hours (such as when someone is dying or has died), please call and leave a message at 732-930-1690.

BAPTISMS

Preparation for first-time parents is required and will be done on-line and over the phone. Please contact the Parish Office for arrangements. We can do a baptism with up to 100 people present.

PARISH REGISTRATION

Families moving into or out of the parish are asked to call the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 12th, *Our Lady of Guadalupe*
4:00 PM Angela Wade (21st anniv. rem.)
John Nocera (6th anniv. rem.)
6:00 PM Veronica Butler
Margaret Lynch

Sunday, December 13th, *3rd Sunday of Advent*
8:00 AM Jeffrey Jable
10:00 AM Rose & Anthony Matteo
Kathleen Ward
12:00 PM People of Parish
2:00 PM Diane Clifford
Gus & Angelina Caracappa

Monday, December 14th, *St. John of the Cross*
8:00 AM Robert Borthwick (1st anniv. rem.)
Domenico Tarabocchia

Tuesday, December 15th
8:00 AM Helen Farrell

Wednesday, December 16th
8:00 AM Laura Rodriguez
Dennis Felice

Thursday, December 17th
8:00 AM Mary Conlon

Friday, December 18th
8:00 AM Phelix Blaszka

Saturday, December 19th
8:00 AM Michael Borseso

4:00 PM Sophie Walczak (birthday rem.)
Frank Ratajczik (Christmas rem.)
6:00 PM John M. Surck, Jr. (birthday rem.)
Dec. mem. Lynch, Thompson,
& Glussi Fam.

Sunday, December 20th, *4th Sunday of Advent*
8:00 AM Klara "Kitty" Smaller
Robert Proto
10:00 AM Ted Kurdes
Theresa Downey
12:00 PM People of our Parish
2:00 PM Michael Bucciero

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers may be purchased for any occasion. If you are placing an order, please do so 2 weeks in advance, by calling Joan Toth of the Rosary Altar Society at 732-657-4938. Thank you for your participation.

CANDLES for Dec. 6th—Dec. 12th, 2020

SANCTUARY CANDLE
In loving memory
of
James Morin

SACRED HEART
In loving memory
of
Michael Ferrara
(wedd. anniv. rem.)

SHRINE CANDLE
In loving memory
of
People of our Parish

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially:
Week 1: People of our Parish

Week 2: Jonas Walworth, Billie Markowitz

Week 3: People of our Parish

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THE DECEASED:
People of our Parish

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

Call 732-657-6359 for assistance or to volunteer. Food can now be donated before Mass (see schedule) and when the church is open: Monday through Friday, 2PM to 4PM. Place donations in the blue bin in the parish hall.

PARISH MINISTRIES

Rosary Altar Society
Angela McNeill, 732-657-1728

Religious Article Store
Victor Bala, 732-691-2291

Youth Group
Lori Downing, ldowning@easeton.org

Sign Language
Not yet available because of COVID-19.

Nursing Home Ministry, Ushers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
Joe Pittarelli, 732-323-8469

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Week of December 8, 2019:	$ 13,084
Week of December 6, 2020:	$ 12,603
Cash:	$ 1,667
Checks:	$ 9,522
Electronic Giving:	$ 1,414

WEEKLY DONATIONS

Visit our website, stjohnlakehurst.com, to donate on-line. Or you can mail in your contributions to:

St. John's Church
619 Chestnut St.
Lakehurst, NJ 08733

We also have a new drop box at the main entrance of the Parish Center. Thank you for your willingness to donate!!

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS COLLECTION—DEC. 12TH & 13TH

Make a difference. "Every dollar makes a difference in covering our expenses," says a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING-2020

Dear Parishioners…

This year our "Gift Giving" will be very different due to Covid-19. Since it is not recommended for us to do a lot of exchanging things back and forth, we will not be able to do the "Traditional" tags on the tree for you to take and shop for. Instead we will be asking for "**Gift Cards"** parents will do their own shopping. Right now, this is the safest way we can go about helping these families. Aside from our St. Vincent de Paul families that we assist all year, we also always help our Senior Residents at Arbor Care. We will do the same for them.

I spoke with the Recreation Director and she feels Gift Cards for **"Walmart"** would be best and she will do the shopping. They have 60 residents there, so **we will need 60 Walmart Gift Cards.** Whatever amount you wish to purchase is totally up to you. The store usually gives a receipt with the gift card, if you could please put the Gift Card and the Receipt in an envelope, mark your envelope Arbor Care and put it in our Security Box outside the Parish Center that would be great. Thank You so much!

For our St. Vincent de Paul Families **we have 60 Children** that we need to help.

The stores that we recommend for Gift Cards are: Walmart, Target, Old Navy, Dollar General, Dollar Tree and Dollar Store.

Again, you can put the Gift Card and the receipt in an envelope, mark your envelope S.V.D.P. Children and place the envelope in the Security Box outside the Parish Center that would be awesome. As usual, Thank you sooooo much for your love and generosity at this difficult time of year for these families. May you be enriched with abundant blessings,
Mary Ann Dempkowski

May you be enriched with abundant blessings,
Mary Ann Dempkowski

PLEASE PRAY for all our parishioners and friends who are serving in the military, as well as our police, firefighters, first responders, and all who are put in harm's way for our protection:

AC1 Megan Downes USN LCPL Jacob C. Kes
CW5 Thomas Oroho
Capt. Meghan Oroho
CPL George Daly IV SPC Brian Mc Nichol
Major Corey J. Smith Spec.Corinne McGrath
Major Kenneth R. Dougher II Major Brian Kossler
CPO Michael M. Miehle W5 Darren S. Kesty

CAREGIVER VOLUNTEERS

http://caregivervolunteers.org

Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey (CVCJ) is an interfaith nonprofit agency dedicated to providing supportive services to seniors, veterans, the elderly disabled, individuals with dementia, and caregivers of loved ones with chronic illness, enabling them to live independently and with dignity in their own homes.

For more information about CVCJ or to volunteer, please call the CVCJ office: 732-505-2273 or email us at info@caregivervolunteers.org

BACK BY POPLUAR DEMAND: 2020 -2021 50/50 SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE!

Saint John's longest standing fund raiser is back. This is the enhanced program started last year. The Raffle supports our education bound youths - 18 students last year.

Four (4) prizes are paid quarterly. The last **16 winners** received prizes averaging **$340**!!

The drawing months remain December, March, June, and September; prize percentages are:
1st Prize - 20%; 2nd Prize - 15%; 3rd Prize - 10%; 4th Prize - 5%. (all cash prize money is based on the number of participants)

Please complete and return the Form below with your contribution to the Parish Center or drop it into the collection basket. Quarterly / monthly participants must submit a new form for each drawing. No coupons necessary, we retain and process Forms. Use Form here as you choose.

ST. JOHN'S PARISH 50/50 SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE

I am pleased to support our **2020-2021 Raffle**. I have enclosed $140.00 for the year.
Alternately, I will send $15 /month or $40 /quarter at my option going forward.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

☐ Annual @ $140 ☐ Quarterly @ $ 40
☐ Monthly @ $ 15

On behalf of our Students we are pleased to say "Thank You" to everyone that makes this program possible. Please feel welcome to share it with your neighbors, friends, and associates – the more that play the more that is paid!! NEXT DRAWING, DECEMBER 2020.

Pope Francis announces "The Year of St. Joseph"
by Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M.
Tuesday, December 8, 2020 8:46 AM

Today, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, His Holiness Pope Francis has used the feast day to declare the year ahead, beginning today, the "Year of St. Joseph," her blessed spouse and the foster-father of the Lord Jesus. In an apostolic letter released today entitled "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), marking the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as "Patron of the Universal Church" by Blessed Pope Pius IX, Pope Francis indicated that the "aim of this apostolic letter is to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtue and his zeal." The Holy Father noted that "after Mary, the Mother of God, no saint is mentioned more frequently in the papal magisterium than Joseph, her spouse. My predecessors reflected on the message contained in the limited information handed down by the Gospels in order to appreciate his central role

in the history of salvation."

Commenting on the apostolic letter, the Vatican News Office explained that "The Holy Father wrote Patris corde against the backdrop of the Covid -19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

Throughout the document, the Holy Father describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

In a separate decree, Vatican Apostolic Penitentiary has announced that a plenary indulgence is attached to the faithful who commemorate St. Joseph throughout his special year "with prayer and good works."

The plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the Pope's intentions) to Christians who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of St. Joseph on these occasions and manners indicated by the Apostolic Penitentiary:

- The plenary indulgence is granted to those who will meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord's Prayer, or take part in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph. "St. Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us", the decree reads, "to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God's will."

- The indulgence can also be obtained by those who, following St. Joseph's example, will perform a spiritual or corporal work of mercy. St. Joseph "encourages us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence and loyalty in carrying out our duties," the decree notes.

- The recitation of the Holy Rosary in families and among engaged couples is another way of obtaining indulgences, in order that "all Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was in the Holy Family."

- Everyone who entrusts their daily activity to the protection of St. Joseph, and every faithful who invokes the intercession of St. Joseph so that those seeking work can find dignifying work can also obtain the plenary indulgence. On 1 May 1955, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph "with the intent that the dignity of work be recognized by all, and that it inspires social life and laws, based on the fair distribution of rights and duties."

- The plenary indulgence is also granted to the faithful who will recite the Litany to St. Joseph (for the Latin tradition), or the Akathistos to St. Joseph (for the Byzantine tradition), or any other prayer to St. Joseph proper to the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church ad intra and ad extra, and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution. Because, the decree notes, "the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt shows us that God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he runs away, where he experiences rejection and abandonment."

In addition to these, the Apostolic Penitentiary grants a plenary indulgence to the faithful who will recite any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, for example, "To you, O blessed Joseph" especially on "19 March, on 1 May, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, on St. Joseph's Sunday (according to the Byzantine tradition) on the 19th of each month and every Wednesday, a day dedicated to the memory of the saint according to the Latin tradition."

Amid the ongoing Covid-19 health crisis, the gift of the plenary indulgence is also extended to the sick, the elderly, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave their homes.

They too can obtain the plenary indulgences if they are detached from any sin and have the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions and recite an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, offering to God the pains and hardships of their lives.

The Diocese of Trenton will begin planning special opportunities to celebrate the universal patronage of St. Joseph throughout 2021.

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PICK OF THE WEEK

December 13, 2020

WATCH

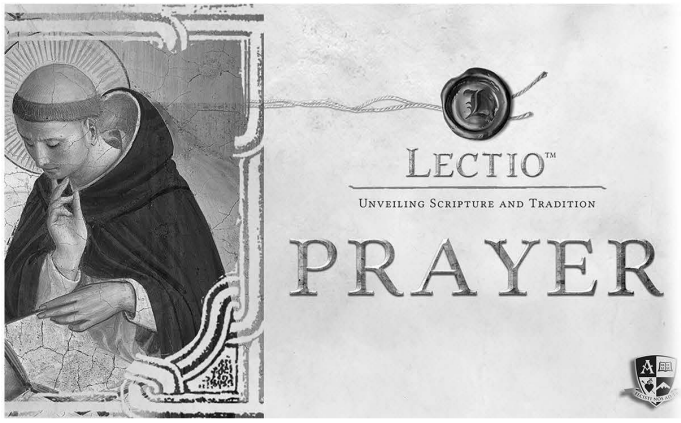
SAINT TERESA OF ÁVILA: A STUDY IN PERSEVERANCE

Both St. John of the Cross and his dear friend St. Teresa of Ávila lived heroic lives of prayer. In honor of these spiritual masters, enjoy this film depicting the Carmelite way of life and the virtue of perseverance.

LEARN

LECTIO: PRAYER—AN INTIMATE DIALOGUE

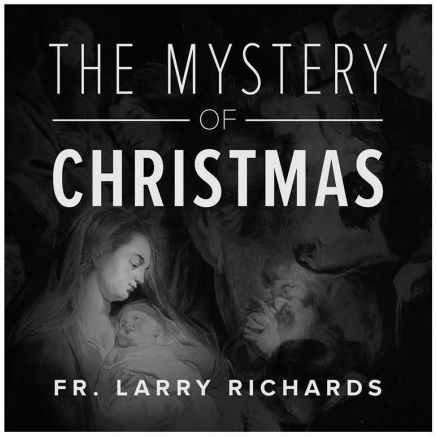
St. John of the Cross, Doctor of the Church, had a deep desire to help others grow in prayer. In honor of this mystical saint, join Dr. Gray as he dives into the simplicity and mystery of prayer.



LISTEN

THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS BY FR. LARRY RICHARDS

In this talk, Fr. Larry Richards reminds us that in the mystery of Christmas, God gives humanity his greatest gift—the gift of his Son to the world.



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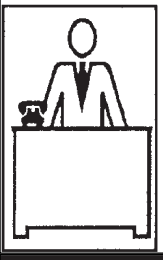

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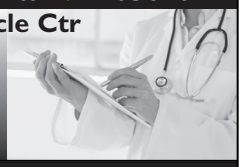

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