



## ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

7200 Lancaster Pike • Hockessin, DE 19707 • (302) 239-7100

### CELEBRATION OF MASS

Monday – Friday: 8:30 AM • Saturday: 8:30 AM, 5:00 PM • Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Live streamed Mass Sunday at 9:30 AM on  
St. Mary's website: [www.smachurch.com](http://www.smachurch.com)

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### PASTOR: VERY REV. JOSEPH J. PIEKARSKI, V.F.

Associate Pastor: Rev. John Enemu

Weekend Assistant: Rev. James B. Smith

Deacons: John Giacci, Larry Brecht, Joseph Jackson,  
Joseph LoPorto, Larry Morris

### PARISH OFFICE STAFF

Daniel DiGiacobbe, Business Manager	ext. 11
Annette Fad, Parish Secretary	ext. 33
Sandy Fiscella, Director of Religious Ed.	ext. 18
Flora Giacci, Receptionist	ext. 10
Deacon John Giacci, Director of Liturgy	ext. 32
Matthew Jewell, Director of Music	ext. 16
Cindy Krebs, Director of Preschool	ext. 34
Denise Troise, Bookkeeper	ext. 14

### PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

PREP: Grades 1 through 8 • Confirmation: Grade 9  
Sandy Fiscella, DRE (302) 239-7100, ext. 18.

### ST. MARY'S PRESCHOOL

Ages 2 through Pre-K.

Cindy Krebs, Director (302) 239-7100, ext. 34.

### RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:30 PM or by appointment.

### BAPTISM

During a Mass or Sunday afternoon at 1:00 PM.

Baptisms are scheduled the second  
and fourth Sundays of the month.

Baptism classes are every other month.

Please call Parish Secretary for details  
(302) 239-7100 ext. 33.

### MARRIAGE

Contact Parish Secretary before a wedding date is finalized.  
The diocese requires one year of preparation.

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Contact the Parish Office, (302) 239-7100.

### ST. PATRICK'S CEMETERY

Contact Daniel DiGiacobbe (302) 239-7100, ext. 11.



*From Fr. Joe...*

On this first Sunday of Lent, Noah, in our first reading, endured the forty-day devastation of the flood. In a similar way, the Spirit took Jesus, in the Gospel, into the forty-day trial of the desert. Satan conspires to make Jesus compromise His relationship as the Son of God with His Father. But Jesus remembers how the flood ends with God's promise being fulfilled.

Last Wednesday, we entered the holy season of Lent. Originally Lent wasn't always 40 days, as it first started out as only a few days of fasting and in some cases, a mere 40 hours of preparation before Easter. According to the norms established by the Church Council of Nicaea in 325, the Western Church adopted the date for Easter to be celebrated each year **on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the first day of spring or vernal equinox. Thus, the date of Easter changes each year.**

**Lent was extended to 40 days to commemorate Jesus' retreat in the desert.**

**It is a penitential time to prepare the Christian by prayer, fasting and alms giving for the Easter celebration. We enter the period of purification for our High Holy Days.**

The six Sundays in Lent are not considered part of the official "Lenten fast" (every Sunday is a special remembrance of the Resurrection of Christ), and so if you subtract six days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday, when Lent is completed and we enter the Passion of the Lord, you get the full 40 days of Lent. Let us take advantage of this sacred season.



**Mass Intentions**

Monday      February 19, 2024

8:30 a.m.      Thomas J. McClatchy

Tuesday      February 20, 2024

8:30 a.m.      Dina Robertson

Wednesday      February 21, 2024

8:30 a.m.      Jeri Riley

Thursday      February 22, 2024

8:30 a.m.      Raymond Radulski

Friday      February 23, 2024

8:30 a.m.      Helen Gambogi

Saturday      February 24, 2024

8:30 am      **Velma Travers**  
**Charles Poplos**  
**Gail Giles**  
**Geno and Phyllis Torres**  
**Carmela Pala**  
**John F. Sobieski, Jr.**

5:00 p.m.      Parishioners

Earl Girardi

Sunday      February 25, 2024

7:30 a.m.      Kathleen (Cathy) Perry

9:30 a.m.      Carol DiBattista

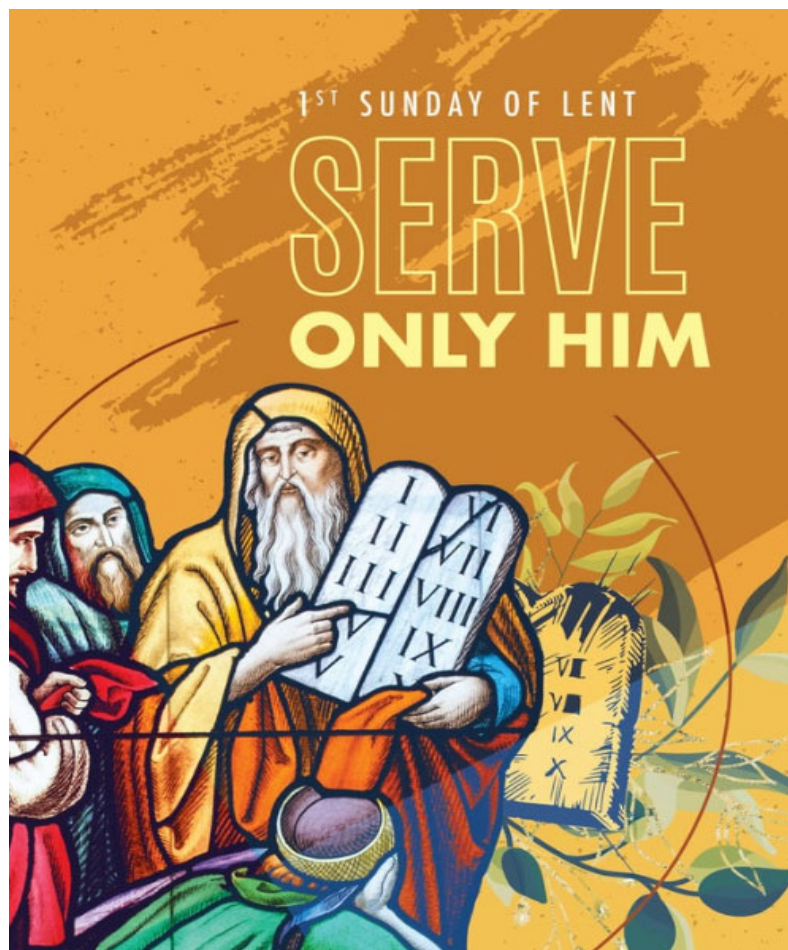
11:30 a.m.      Paul Bruxelles



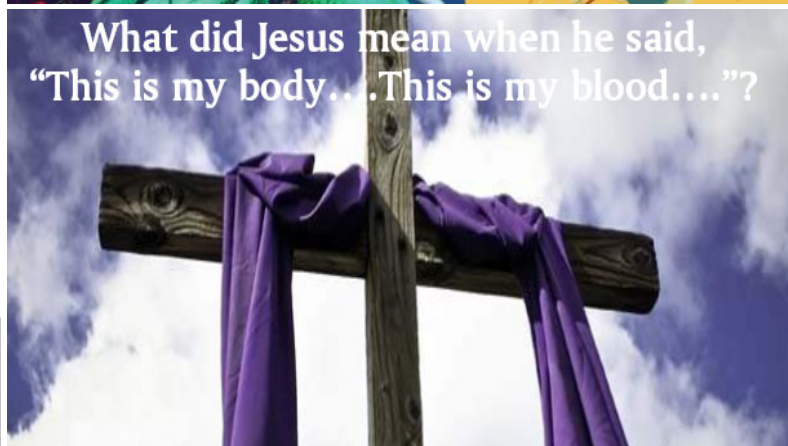
***In your charity, please pray for all  
who have gone before us and  
all the deceased of  
St. Mary of the Assumption.***

***+Joan R. Owen, sister of  
Parishioner, Richard Ridgway***

**FOR PARISHIONERS WHO NEED  
GLUTEN FREE HOST PLEASE GO TO  
THE PRIEST AT COMMUNION.**



**What did Jesus mean when he said,  
“This is my body... This is my blood....”?**



**LENTEN MISSION**

**INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST  
BIBLICAL ROOTS IN SEDER / PASSOVER**

**Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30 am or 7:00 pm**

**St. Mary's Room**

**Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30 am or 7:00 pm**

**St. Mary's Room**

**“Jesus presence in the “Breaking of the Bread”**

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

God said to Noah and to his sons with him:  
"See, I am now establishing my covenant with you  
and your descendants after you  
and with every living creature that was with you."  
(Gn 9:8-10)

### Psalm:

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who  
keep your covenant. (Ps 25)

### Second Reading:

It is not a removal of dirt from the body  
but an appeal to God for a clear conscience,  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Pt 3:21)

### Gospel:

He was among wild beasts,  
and the angels ministered to him. (Mk 1:13)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

In the desert, Jesus endured forty days of hardship and temptation. But he did not endure it alone: "the angels ministered to him," the Gospel tells us. Remember that you do not face Lent alone. God is beside you in your journey to the desert.

## Observances for the week of February 18, 2024

- Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Lent
- Monday:** Presidents' Day
- Wednesday:** St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Thursday:** The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
- Friday:** St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr
- Next Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Lent



## Saint of the week

St. Pius X's devotion to the Eucharist was truly inspiring! He lowered the age of First Communion to seven years old, encouraging young hearts to encounter Christ early-on. He also advocated that everyone, regardless of their social class, should have access to the Eucharist.

## Prayer for Lent

Dear Jesus,

This is the first Sunday of Lent, and I want to commit myself more deeply to you this season. Inspire me with the Lenten penances you most desire, the ones that help me to grow ever nearer to you. Amen.



In today's Gospel, Jesus overcomes the temptations to wealth, power and esteem. As we begin Lent, may we open our hearts to the grace of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist 32 families, providing \$12,000.00 in food, utility, rent and other bills.

God Bless You!

### Location

St. Mary of the Assumption  
Church (Parish Hall)  
7200 Lancaster Pike,  
Hockessin, DE

## Friday Fish Fry



Each Friday During Lent: 2024  
Feb 16, 23 & March 1, 8, 15 and 22

Dinner Served 5 – 7 PM

### New Pricing

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- Single Dinner \$14
- Double Dinner \$19
- Kids Dinner \$5\*

\*Fish Sticks and Fries

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### Menu

Main Dish	Sides	Other
• Baked Flounder	• French Fries	• Tossed Salad
• Fried Flounder	• Mac n Cheese	• Clam Chowder
• Crab Cake	• Green Beans	• Seafood Gumbo
	• Cole Slaw	



Did you know that St. Joseph Church on French Street in Wilmington was founded by the *Josephites* in 1889? The religious order of *St. Joseph's Society of the Sacred Heart*, otherwise known as the *Josephites*, "is a religious community of Catholic priests and brothers, committed to serving the African American community through the proclamation of the Gospel and [their] personal witness." While the *Josephites* no longer serve here in the Diocese, St. Joseph Church in Wilmington remains a vibrant community of predominantly African American Catholics.

### KNOW THE GOSPELS

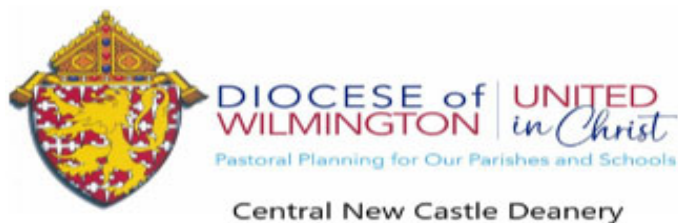
For another reason, it is far worse to deprive the mind in that way than to starve the body. But why? Because if the body is not sufficiently fed, nature begins to make a clamor about it. The starving body fights fiercely for food and in the end sees that it gets it. But on the other hand, if we allow the supernatural life to languish; it does not assert itself. It yields to the starvation, and that yielding becomes progressive. In other words, the less spiritual nutriment we get the less we desire. There is the further complication that in the measure that the supernatural flickers low in us, the natural comes in with overwhelming influence and in fact takes complete control.

Therefore, it is what we might accurately call a life and death matter that the intellect be fully nourished in regard to the life of Our Lord.

Note particularly that the Gospels are full of His very words, actually column after column of His speeches and sayings and conversations. These show him forth in a way which otherwise would not be realizable. No amount of telling us about Our Lord would substitute for that listening to the very words of His lips. Oh, do not deprive your minds of that intellectual treat and your soul of that heavenly food.

-from *Mary Shall Reign* by Frank Duff—Submitted by the Legion of Mary





**United in Christ**.....The nine parishes in The Central New Castle Deanery are: Corpus Christi, St. Matthew, Holy Spirit, St. Peter New Castle, O.L. of Fatima, St. Paul Delaware City, St. Catherine of Siena, St. John the Beloved and St. Mary of the Assumption. The surveys collected from these parishes were reviewed by our Deanery Leadership Team. The goal of this Assessment Phase was to gather as many parishioner and constituent responses from the Ten Major Themes of the Diocesan Synod Process. The deanery provided a total of 1053 responses, of which St. Mary of the Assumption provided 319. The results of our parish were published in the bulletin before the holidays. We are now in the Discernment Phase where the deanery team identifies the three emerging themes from the feedback of the initial ten. 1) Increase Youth Engagement. 2) Re-engage non-participating parishioners. 3) Increase a sense of community through small groups by invitation and marketing. On February 21st, our team will meet to begin the work of achieving these goals. Thank you again to everyone who partook of this survey. Keep the pastoral planning process for our parishes and schools in your prayers.

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to the 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal—Shining the Light of Christ. Our St. Mary of the Assumption Parish had a goal of **\$269,000** and total pledged was **\$292,968.06**. **\$290,650.83** is collected.

Your outstanding participation is greatly appreciated by Bishop Koenig, the ministries of our Diocese and myself. God reward you hundredfold....again...**Thank You!**

### Need a Ride???

Fellow Parishioners!!! Do you occasionally need a ride to Church for Mass or perhaps elsewhere? As one of the service organizations of our parish, The Knights of Columbus may be able to help. Contact, John Ryan, Community Director for the council. You may contact him at, 302-507-7915.

**Join us every Sunday for the 9:30 a.m. Mass Live-streamed**  
<http://www.youtube.com/c/smachurch>

## PARISH CALENDAR

### Monday February 19, 2024

**\*\*Parish Office Closed\*\***

8:30 a.m. Mass (C)  
 7:00 p.m. Parish Choir Rehearsal (C)

### Tuesday February 20, 2024

8:30 a.m. Mass (C)  
 10:00 a.m. Divine Will Prayer Group (CF)  
 7:00 p.m. Parish Bell Choir Practice

### Wednesday February 21, 2024

8:30 a.m. Mass (C)  
 9:30 a.m. Monthly Sages Committee Meeting (CF)  
 10:00 a.m. Ladies Guild Meeting (M)  
 11:00 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Committee Meeting (J)  
 7:00 p.m. Parish Choir Rehearsal (C)

### Thursday February 22, 2024

8:30 a.m. Mass (C)  
 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 803 meeting (H)

### Friday February 23, 2024

8:30 a.m. Mass (C)  
 9:00 a.m. Legion of Mary (CF)  
 9:15 a.m. Mother's Prayer group (CP)  
 5:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus  
 Lenten Fish Fry Dinner  
 Stations of the Cross (C)

### Saturday February 24, 2024

8:30 a.m. Mass (C)  
 3:30 p.m. Confessions (CP)  
 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass (C)

### Sunday February 25, 2024

7:30 a.m. Mass (C)  
 9:30 a.m. Mass (C)  
 OCIA Penitential  
 Children's Liturgy of the Word (CF)  
 OCIA Breaking Open the Word (M)  
 11:30 a.m. Mass (C)  
 12:30 p.m. Legion of Mary Junior Praesidium (CF)  
 1:00 p.m. Scheduled Baptisms

### Parish Rooms:

**Coffee Run Room (CF), St. Mary Room (M)  
 Chapel (CP), Church (C), St. John Room (J),  
 Hall (H), Gathering Space (GS)**

### 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



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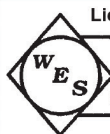
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