Second Sunday of Lent

"This is my chosen son; listen to him"
Luke 9:35

Church of the Visitation

Church of the Visitation

755 Mantoloking Road Brick, N.J. 08723

Welcome!

The entire parish community extends a warm welcome to all visitors and new parishioners

Rectory Office Phone: 732-477-0028
Religious Education: 732-477-5217
Rectory Fax: 732-477-1274
Rectory Address: 730 Lynnwood Ave. Brick, NJ
Website: www.visitationrcchurch.org

REV. EDWARD H. BLANCHETT, PASTOR, EXT. 201
REV. Joseph Jakub, PAROCHIAL VICAR, EXT. 220

Assisting Priests

Rev. James Sauchelli
Rev. Msgr. Ricardo Gonzalez
Rev. Msgr. Philip Franceschini
Rev. Bernard Mohan
Rev. Msgr. Vincent Doyle
Rev. Richard Carlson

Deacons

Salvatore Vicari, Ext. 218
Edward Fischer
Nicola Stranieri, (*On Leave*)

Staff

Denise Patetta, Ext. 201
Parish Secretary/Bulletin Editor
Vicki Cottrell, Ext. 216
Pastoral/Business Admin
Natalie Bencivenga, Ext. 217
Music Director/Organist
Christie Winters, Ext. 105
Youth/Young Adult Ministry Leader
Christie Winters
Director of Visitation Relief Center
Nancy Grodberg Ext. 219
Coordinator of Religious Education
Dee DeTuro, Ext 219
Religious Education Asst.
Dale Zanetti, Ext.214
Coordinator of Adult Faith Formation
Carl Maurer, Ext 215
Facilities Manager
732-746-3456
Paul Hegadorn
Arnold Vicidomini
Parish Trustees

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Closed 12:30 – 1:30 for Lunch

Parish Registration

The Church of the Visitation is obliged to serve and minister to all baptized Catholics living in our local area. **PLEASE REGISTER** – it assists the staff in knowing you as a parishioner, providing for your needs, informing you of parish programs and activities, and utilizing your gifts and talents in service of the Church and one another. Envelopes for weekly contributions are available to you once you are registered. Please contact Deacon Sal Vicari at ext. 218 to register.

Sacramental Sponsor Certificates

The following is required by Canon Law to be a Catholic Godparent/Sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation. 1. Be at least 16 years of age. 2. Have completed the Sacraments of the Initiation. (Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation) 3. Be a registered and active parishioner living a life of faith. If married, have a marriage that is canonically valid and recognized by the Catholic Church.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Weekend: Saturday 4:00
Sunday: 6:45, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM
Daily: Monday – Friday 7:30 (Daily Chapel)
Tues., Wed., Thur., Sat. - 8:15 AM (Daily Chapel)
Holy Days: See Current Bulletin
Holy Hour: First Fri. of the month 7:00 to 8:00 PM (Church)

Baptism

Parents or legal guardians are encouraged to register 2 months in advance to schedule a baptism. Parents and Guardians are required and sponsors are encouraged to attend the Baptismal Formation Session prior to the Baptism. Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays following the 12:30 Mass at 1:45 PM. Please contact Deacon Sal Vicari at ext. 218 to make arrangements.

Marriages

The Sacrament of Marriage requires a time of spiritual preparation. According to the Common Policy adopted by the Bishops of New Jersey, this preparation requires sessions with a priest or deacon, Focus review, and attendance at a Marriage Preparation Programs such as Pre Cana. Therefore couples should make arrangements with the Church at least 1 year before the planned wedding date and finalizing any social plans. Couples must also verify freedom to marry before dates and arrangements can be made. Please contact Deacon Sal Vicari at ext. 218 to make arrangements.

Anointing of the Sick

Please notify the Parish Office when serious illness occurs and when the sick, aged, or incapacitated are confined to home for an extended period. In an emergency call the Parish office anytime.

Penance/Reconciliation

Saturday from 3:15 to 3:45 PM in the Church or anytime by appointment. A Penance Service is held during Advent and Lent.

Religious Education (CCD)

Our Religious Education and sacramental preparation for our children meets on Sunday from 9:15~10:30 AM in Lake Riviera Middle School, weekday classes are held in the Church Rectory. Pre~registration is required. Please call Nancy Grodberg at 732-477-5217.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

This is the process by which adults become full, active, participating members of the Catholic Church. Please call Dale Zanetti at ext. 214 for more information

We now offer Low-Gluten Host for those suffering from celiac sprue disease

Elevator is located on the side of the Church near the Bell Tower

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY	**FEBRUARY 24**
4:00 PM	Robert Udet, II
SUNDAY	**FEBRUARY 25**
6:45 AM	Mark Domogauer
8:00 AM	People of the Parish
9:30 AM	Thomas McCarthy
11:00 AM	Dominick Mazzara
12:30 PM	Anna Marie Blumensteel
MONDAY	**FEBRUARY 26**
7:30 AM	Marguerite Martinez
TUESDAY	**FEBRUARY 27**
7:30 AM	Thomas Pilovsky
8:15 AM	Robert Waldron
WEDNESDAY	**FEBRUARY 28**
7:30 AM	Eugene Cautillo
8:15 AM	Marie Engle
THURSDAY	**MARCH 1**
7:30 AM	James Tooey, Jr.
8:15 AM	Susan Ottone
FRIDAY	**MARCH 2**
7:30 AM	Raymond Condon
SATURDAY	**MARCH 3**
8:15 AM	Lisa Buch
4:00 PM	Jean Ammerata & Maria Marchitto
SUNDAY	**MARCH 4**
6:45 AM	People of the Parish
8:00 AM	Living & Dec'd members of the Rosary Altar Society Eileen Richel
9:30 AM	Frank Bottazzi
11:00 AM	Deceased Members of the Lech, Vitale & Pecora Families
12:30 PM	Peg & Walter Cymerman

Readings for the Week

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; Lk 16:19-31
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or Ex 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	**FEBRUARY 25**	**LOCATION**
Community Sunday	Beginning after the 8:00 AM Mass	Parish Hall
Masses		Church
Caregivers Recruitment	8:00 AM	Parish Hall
MONDAY	**FEBRUARY 26**	
Rosary for Life	1:30 PM	Chapel
CCD	4:00 PM	Rm. A, B & C
Cub Scouts	6:00 PM	Parish Hall
TUESDAY	**FEBRUARY 27**	
Bingo	11:00 AM	Parish Hall
CCD	4:00 PM	Rm. A & C
Children's Choir	6:00 PM	Church
Alanon	7:00 PM	Parish Hall
Event Development Mtg.	7:00 PM	Rm. B
WEDNESDAY	**FEBRUARY 28**	
Community Luncheon	12:00 PM	Parish Hall
CCD	4:30 PM	Rm. A, B & C
Boy Scouts	6:30 PM	Parish Hall
Contemporary Stations	7:00 PM	Chapel
Youth Choir	8:00 PM	Church
THURSDAY	**MARCH 1**	
Lenten Faith Sharing	9:45 AM	Parish Hall
CCD	4:00 PM	Rm. C
CCD	6:00 PM	Rm. A
Adult Choir Practice	7:15 PM	Church
Lenten Faith Sharing	7:15 PM	Rm. B
AA	7:30 PM	Parish Hall
FRIDAY	**MARCH 2**	
Traditional Stations	4:00 PM	Church
Children of Light	7:00 PM	Parish Hall
Holy Hour	7:00 PM	Church
Cursillo Mass	8:00 PM	Church
SATURDAY	**MARCH 3**	
7th Grade Penitential	11:00 AM	Church
Vigil Mass	4:00 PM	Church
Parish Retreat	5:00 PM	Parish Hall
RCIA	5:00 PM	Parish Hall

Candles for the Week

Blessed Mother Candle is "In Loving Memory" of Cindi Ann Losi
Sacred Heart Candle is "In Loving Memory" of Cindi Ann Losi

Welcome into God's Family

Carson Matthew Winters

Remember Our Sick

"REMEMBERING OUR SICK" LIST IS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE IN NEED OF SPECIAL PRAYERS. THEY WILL REMAIN ON THE LIST FOR FOUR WEEKS. IF EXTENDED PRAYERS ARE NEEDED, PLEASE CONTACT VISITATION'S PRAYER CHAIN AT 848-373-4239.

In Your Charity please pray for the happy repose of the souls of deceased members of the Parish, your friends, relatives and benefactors.

NEXT WEEKEND THERE WILL BE TWO COLLECTIONS PLEASE PLACE YOUR REGULAR WEEKLY DONATION ENVELOPE IN THE FIRST BASKET AND THE ENVELOPE FOR THE COMMUNITY LUNCHEON IN THE SECOND BASKET.

SUPPER WITH THE SAINTS

For those who are hungry or in need of friendship, the last Tuesday (February 27) of each month join All Saints Church at 500 Lake Avenue, Bay Head for food and fellowship. Serving from 4:00~6:00 PM. For additional information call 732-892-5198

The Holy Name Society along with Boy Scout Troop #38 will be hosting a "Pancake Breakfast" with the Easter Bunny on Sunday, March 4 following the 6:45 AM Mass . The Last serving will be before the 12:30 PM Mass. Breakfast only is $7.00 and breakfast and photos with the Easter Bunny is $10.00. All are welcome!

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Offering for the Week of February 18, 2018

Regular	$9,642.89
On Line	$812.14
Total	$10,455.03

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.
THEY MAKE OUR BULLETIN POSSIBLE.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

MITCHELL HNATT - ALLSTATE

Reflections for The Second Sunday of Lent

On the second Sunday of Lent in each Lectionary cycle, the Gospel reading proclaims the story of Jesus' Transfiguration. This event is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his passion. In each case, Jesus takes three of his disciples—Peter, James, and John—to a high mountain. While they are there, Elijah and Moses appear with Jesus.

Elijah and Moses are significant figures in the history of Israel. Moses led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and received from Yahweh the Ten Commandments. In appearing with Jesus at his Transfiguration, Moses represents the Law that guides the lives of the Jewish people. Elijah is remembered as one of the most important prophets of Israel who helped the Israelites stay faithful to Yahweh. Some Jews believed that Elijah's return would signal the coming of the Messiah for the Jewish people. This belief is evidenced in the question posed by Jesus' disciples after they have witnessed the Transfiguration. The appearance of these two important figures from Israel's history with Jesus signifies Jesus' continuity with the Law and with the prophets and that Jesus is the fulfillment of all that was promised to the people of Israel.

On seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses and having witnessed his Transfiguration, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. We notice that Peter has reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus rabbi instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding the disciples to obey him.

In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, Jesus instructs the disciples to keep secret what they have seen until after the Son of Man has risen from the dead. The disciples' confusion continues as they wonder what Jesus means by rising from the dead. The disciples cannot possibly understand Jesus' Transfiguration until they also witness his passion and death. We hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection, even as we prepare to remember Jesus' passion and death. *Loyola Press*

It's amazing how fast things change nowadays. Looking back over my letter last weekend in light of the events of this week: the murder of 17 young people in Florida on Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day (in fact, one of the photos from the scene that has "gone viral" is a grieving parent with ashes on her forehead). I can't help but wonder if some new tragedy may occur between my writing of this letter and its publication next weekend. How can this cycle be stopped?

It has become a predictable pattern: after such an event, there is a renewed call for reforms such as gun control. Although addressing such discussions are outside of the scope of this forum, I believe that such a cycle indicates a basic flaw in how we approach such atrocities. Instead of devoting so much effort into restricting guns as a means of curbing violence, why do we not instead look to approach the root of the problem? I think that Philadelphia Archbishop Charles Chaput, who was Bishop of Denver in 1999, had an interesting perspective:

> "Nineteen years ago I sat with the parents of children murdered in the Columbine High School massacre, and buried some of their dead. Nothing seems to change, no matter how brutal the cost. Terrible things happen; pious statements are released, and the nation goes back to its self-absorbed distractions. We need to pray for the victims and their families because—as I witnessed firsthand at Columbine—their suffering is intense and long lasting. And we need to be angry: angry at our lawmakers for doing so little to prevent these catastrophes; angry at our news and entertainment media for simultaneously feeding off these tragedies and fueling them with a steady stream of sensationalism and moral incoherence; angry at ourselves for perversely tolerating these things, and then forgetting them until the next round of violence." (*America Magazine* 2/15/18)

We reflect, we pray and yes, we get angry. Not for the sake of anger itself but that it may become a driving force to eventually end this repeating horror, ultimately going back to Jesus and the Golden Rule: "Do unto others what you would have them do unto you." Trying to understand why people feel so unloved as to go to such lengths, finding what effect today's family structures and entertainment venues might have on their alienation, and addressing that might be more effective. In other words, instead of responding to senseless violence with ultimately ineffective anger, why can't we try to respond in love: offering healing not only to those impacted by these events, but by trying to prevent the deepening of other, currently unseen, wounds so that *they* don't erupt in such actions in the future?

A seemingly impossible task, but I'm reminded of Jesus' response to a similar situation: "With man, this is impossible, but with God, all things are possible" (Mt. 19:26).

Fr. Ed

FLOWERS/DECORATIONS ENHANCE OUR WORSHIP

As the Easter Season begins to unfold, much of our thoughts are of others. Let us remember those who have touched our lives in some way. Parishioners and guests at Church of the Visitation will have the opportunity to honor family or friends by making a donation toward the purchase of the beautiful Easter flowers/decorations that adorn the altar and sanctuary. If you would like to make a donation in memory/honor of a loved one, envelopes are located in the vestibule of the church. or use the form provided below. Please complete all information on the envelope and place it in the collection basket along with your donation. **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!** A list of donors along with their loved ones names will be published in the bulletin shortly after the Easter Season.

If you have questions or need additional information please call the rectory office ext. 201.

EASTER FLOWER/DECORATION DONATION

I would like to make a donation toward the beautification of the Church for the Easter Season

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

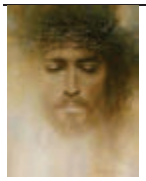
IN THANKSGIVING FOR: _____

PLEASE SELECT ONE FROM THE ABOVE

GIVEN IN LOVE BY:_____ **PHONE NUMBER:**_____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: **$**_____

Please drop in the collection basket or return to the Rectory Office



YOUNG PEOPLE (13 and over)- AND ADULTS

Please join us on Friday, March 16, 2018 at 8:00 PM to witness an unforgettable experience. We bring you a play of healing, presented by the Franciscan Mystery Players of Notre Dame Church. You will be brought into the healing of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ through special lighting, inspirational music, drama, and soul-searching meditations. This moving play connects us with the suffering, sin and goodness in our lives and the power of Jesus to heal.
If you are looking to do something different and unique for Lent, this would be it. Light refreshments will be served. A free will offering will be taken up. Please register at dzanetti@visitationrcchurch.org 732-477-7059 Ext. 214 or our website vistationRCchurch.org.

HOLY HOUR

Join us in Church for
Hour and Benediction

FIRST FRIDAY NIGHT
March 2, 2018
7:00 – 8:00 PM

DINE TO DONATE

Our Dine to Donate program is back just in time for Lent! Pick up a flyer from the doors of our church or print one from our website and visit the Crab Shack on Mantoloking Road Every Friday in Lent from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 10% of your purchase will be donated to the Parking Lot Fund.

ATLANTIC CITY BUS TRIP

The next bus trip sponsored by The Holy Name Society will be on Monday, March 5th. We will depart from the church parking lot at 9:00 AM and return approximately 5:30 PM. For additional information and reservations call Eric at 732-255-1825 or 732-551-8308. All tickets must be paid for in advance to guarantee a seat. Seats are on a first pay basis.

LENT INSTRUCTIONS

During the days and weeks of penance that lie ahead from ***Ash Wednesday, February 14th until Holy Thursday, March 29th,*** the Catholic Church throughout the world commemorates the penitential season of Lent. The model Jesus gave us for "these forty days" was his own experience in the desert and the temptations that followed him there where he encountered Satan face to face. And yet, Jesus, there in the desert, alone, fasting and in intense prayer, beat back the devil and triumphed over temptation, as strong and as unrelenting as it was throughout those forty days.

We enter the desert of Lent like Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit, to face our devils, our temptations head on. But we are not alone. The Lord Jesus Christ is with us. And so, too, is the Church, the entire community of faith observing Lent. Here is what the Catholic Church in the United States requires of us as baptized Catholics:

1. **The days of FAST (only one full meal) and ABSTINENCE (no meat) are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. No dispensations are granted on these solemn days except for reason of sickness or those provided in canon law below.**

St. Patrick's Day, March 17, falls on a Saturday this year.

2. All other **Fridays of Lent** are **days of ABSTINENCE (no meat).**

Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to FAST (only one full meal) as above. From the age of 14, people are also obliged to ABSTAIN (no meat: this obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat).
The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious one for Catholics. Failure to observe one penitential day in itself is not considered a serious sin. It is the failure to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of penitential days, that must be considered serious

Why are some RCIA participants dismissed in the middle of the Mass? On Saturday at the 4:00 pm Mass, those adults preparing to be baptized into the Catholic Church are dismissed at the end of the Liturgy of the Word (after the Homily, and before the Creed). This will continue each Sunday until Easter when, at the Easter Vigil, those who are ready will join us at the Table of the Eucharist for the first time. The parish is not sending them out because they are somehow "unworthy" to stay for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, but because they are not yet ready. Although they cannot yet come to the table of the Eucharist, Mother Church still has an obligation to feed those who have entered into a relationship with her through the Rite of Acceptance which was celebrated recently. God's Word is their only food during this period. Instead, of staying through the Liturgy of the Eucharist where we set the table and then present the changed bread and wine in the Eucharist, we send them forth from the Liturgy. The participants depart from the Mass with the Catechist and some people from the RCIA team to discuss the Mass readings for that Sunday and to experience more fully the impact of the Scriptures in their lives. This time is known as "Breaking open the Word." *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the one who belongs to God may be complete, equipped for every good work.* (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Please pray for all our Candidates who will be entering fully into the life of the Church at the Easter Vigil.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS AND SENIORS NEEDING ASSISTANCE!

Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey

Visitation Parish, is a member of the Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey (CVCJ) coalition, providing free service to our frail elderly, is in need of volunteers who can spare a few minutes a week or an a few hours a month! Caregiver Volunteers provide:

- transportation to medical appointments
- do grocery shopping for you
- make reassuring phone calls, friendly and pet visits to reduce social isolation
- respite care for families caring for loved ones with chronic illness, dementia or Alzheimer's

Volunteers in this ministry choose any assignment they are most comfortable doing, on their own schedule and time frame.

Visitation CVCJ volunteers will be at Community Sunday, February 25, 2018 to answer any questions you have about volunteering **And** how to receive services.

All volunteers participate in an orientation, undergo a background check and drivers abstract, and receive supplemental insurance coverage while volunteering. ***There will be a new volunteer orientation at Visitation Church Rectory (lower level) Wednesday, March 14 @ 10 am.*** Additional dates are listed on the CVCJ website www.caregivervolunteers.org. For more information, please call 732-505-2273.

LENTEN FAITH SHARING GROUP

4 Thursdays in Lent - ***FORGIVEN***!

St. Paul says that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Sin—and the resulting guilt—is a universal experience. Maybe we try to justify our sins and ignore the guilt. Maybe we can't see a way out. But that guilt isn't meant to be ignored or to consume us. Guilt is a wake-up call, and God wants to use it to draw us mercifully back to himself.

Come and join us on Feb. 15, 22, Mar. 1 and 8 on Thursday mornings at 9:45am. (Parish Hall) or Thursday evenings (Rectory Meeting Room B) at 7:15pm. for a walk through the Sacrament of Penance. Our Facilitators on Thursday morning are Mary and Ken Hicks and our Facilitator on Thursday evenings is Dee Bringhurst. Light refreshments. Please pre-register at 732-477-7059 ext. 214, so that we have enough food and supplies.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Our prayers help us remember that we are totally dependent on God. In prayer we recognize and express the sovereign nature of our Creator. No Christian Prayer can occur without the action of the Holy Spirit. It is this action that unites the whole Church. The Church is a community. It expresses its nature as a community in its coming together in prayer.

Private prayer is good. But prayer as a community adds another dimension to the experience of prayer. Joined as a community, we experience the Body of Christ as members of the Church. You may recall that as a Church we believe the Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

Traditional Stations of the Cross are available every Friday at 4:00 PM in the Church.

Contemporary Stations of the Cross are held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM during Lent in the quiet of the Daily Chapel. They provide time for meditation as well as a dialog between Christ and each one of us. As we follow the stations, each meditation is an authentic application of Jesus' suffering to our personal lives. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend some time in the presence of God and experience the depth of the Lenten Season. The prayers used in this encounter help us connect Christ's last steps on this earth to our own daily lives.

Living Stations of the Cross will be held at 11:00 AM on Good Friday.

Holy Hour is available every first Friday of every month at 7:00 PM in the Church. Join us for Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction on March 2nd to add meaning to your Lent.

THOUGHTS FOR LENT

Giving up something for Lent? Changing a bad habit? Reconciling a broken relationship? You know the drill. – It's Lent people. Let's go. This is the season where we get to clean ourselves up. It's a perfect time to be better; a time of purification and enlightenment; an opportunity of penance. We take the time to look at what is wrong as well as what is right with us. Cleansing and illuminating.

Denying ourselves something for Lent is fasting. We give up some small item and offer it as a sacrifice to God. When we deprive ourselves, we are reminded of what deprivation Jesus encountered for us. We might even give up a bad habit that inhibits us from really turning completely to God-what a way to deepen our relationship with Him!

So, give up those cookies, or make sure you are on time for meetings, add that new prayer exercise, or start a road of forgiveness and reconcile with that person. Whatever the sacrifice, whatever the act, know that it is making you a better person and that you can join that sacrifice with the sacrifice of others. It may feel like loss at first, but what you will gain is indescribable.

PALM

With Palm Sunday just around the corner, some of you may be wondering what you should do with last year's palm once you receive this years. There will be a basket at the doors of the church for Palm. You may drop off your old Palm to be burned at this year's Easter Vigil.

LENTEN FOOD COLLECTION

One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God. However, sometimes we need to feed people before they can hear or see God in their life. This Lent as we are going to share our "bread" with our community. We are requesting that everyone bring a non-perishable food item to the Mass that they attend. The gifts that are most needed are peanut butter and jelly, canned meats such as tuna, canned meals and paper products. There will be a basket in the Narthex and baskets by the doors. You can place your items in the basket in the Narthex or at the door that you come in.

Each week during Lent a basket containing a food item will be brought up in our procession of gifts by a member of the parish family. These gifts – along with all of the food collected at the doors of the church will be given to our St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry to assist the poor and afflicted.

STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES, MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

If you wish to reach a staff member via e-mail, please find a list of each staff's email address below:

REV. EDWARD H. BLANCHETT ~ PASTOR
pastored@visitationRCchurch.org
REV. JOSEPH JAKUB ~ PAROCHIAL VICAR
frjakub@visitationRCchurch.org
DEACON SALVATORE VICARI
deaconsal@visitationRCchurch.org
VICKI COTTRELL ~PASTORAL/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
vcottrell@visitationRCchurch.org
DENISE PATETTA ~ PARISH SECRETARY/BULLETIN EDITOR
dpatetta@visitationRCchurch.org
CARL MAURER ~ FACILITIES MANAGER
cmaurer@visitationRCchurch.org
NATALYA BENCIVENGA ~ MUSIC DIRECTOR
nbencivenga@visitationRCchurch.org
NANCY GRODBERG ~ RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR
ngrodberg@visitationRCchurch.org
DEE DETURO ~ RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSISTANT
ddeturo@visitationRCchurch.org
DALE ZANETTI ~ ADULT FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR
dzanetti@visitationRCchurch.org
RICHARD SCHULER ~ BOOKEEPER
rschuler@visitationRCchurch.org
CHRISTIE WINTERS – YOUTH/ YOUNG ADULT COORDINATOR
cwinters@visitationRCchurch.org

Liturgical Ministries

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION distributes Holy Communion at Masses, as well as to the homebound, hospitalized, nursing home, and senior housing residents. 732-477-9672, ext. 216 – *Vicki Cottrell or vcottrell@visitationrcchurch.org*

LECTORS enhance the community's celebration of the Mass by meaningful reading of God's Word and by providing direction and overviews during the Liturgy. 732-477-9672, ext. 216 – *Vicki Cottrell or vcottrell@visitationrcchurch.org*

LITURGY TEAM meets monthly to plan liturgical and worship services that are meaningful and spiritual. *732-477-9672 ext. 217 Natalya Bencivenga or nbencivenga@visitationrcchurch.org*

ART AND ENVIRONMENT TEAM visually enhances the celebration of the Mass by providing decorations that highlight the liturgical seasons. – *Fr. Ed* 732-477-9672, ext. 201

MUSIC MINISTRY spiritually enhances the celebration of the Liturgy. We are always seeking individuals who would like to share their gift of music through songs and prayers. 732-477-9672, ext. 217 - *Natalya Bencivenga or nbencivenga@visitationrcchurch.org*

USHERS promote hospitality by assisting parishioners, taking up collections and preparing Offertory gifts for presentation at Mass. 732-262-4186 – *Kathy Cifelli*

VISITATION ALTAR SERVERS TEAM see Youth Ministry

Sacrament Preparation

BAPTISMAL TEAM assists the Priests and Deacons with Baptismal Formation Sessions, as well as the actual ceremony. 732-477-9028 - *Donna Stawicki or Baptism@visitationRCchurch.org*

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is the process used to welcome those who wish to complete some or all of the sacraments of initiation in the Church. 732-477-9672, ext. 214 - *Dale Zanetti or dzanetti@visitationrcchurch.org*

Education and Evangelization Ministries

ADULT FAITH FORMATION provides educational and growth opportunities for parish adults. 732-477-9672, ext. 214 - *Dale Zanetti or dzanetti@visitationrcchurch.org*

BIBLE SHARING offers day and evening sessions to all who wish to deepen their understanding of Scripture. 732-477-9672 ext. 214 - *Dale Zanetti or dzanetti@visitationrcchurch.org*

EVANGELIZATION TEAM promotes and fosters evangelization in all ministries by reaching out and encouraging all to live life as active Catholics. 732-477-9672, ext. 218 - *Deacon Salvatore Vicari or* ext. 214 - *Dale Zanetti or dzanetti@visitationrcchurch.org*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CCD) meets on Sunday from 9:15 to 10:30 AM in the Lake Riviera Middle School and weekdays in the church rectory during the school year. Pre-registration is required. 732-477-5217- *Nancy Grodberg or ngrodberg@visitationrcchurch.org*

Prayer Groups

CHILDREN OF LIGHT CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP meets weekly to pray and work for spiritual renewal. 732-255-2728 - *Paul Rollis or paulr63@juno.com*

PRAYER CHAIN is for anyone who feels the need for prayer or would like to join the group. 848-373-4239.

Pastoral Care Ministries

BEREAVEMENT TEAM is in the process of reforming. Contact Fr. Ed at the rectory or info@visitationRCchurch.org.

FUNERAL LITURGY MINISTRY helps plan liturgy for funeral masses. 732-477-5217 – *Nancy Grodberg.*

VISITATION CAREGIVERS provide supportive services to the frail elderly and homebound in our community such as friendly visits, food shopping, transportation to medical appointments and respite care for families. 732-505-2273 ext. 211- *Mary Malagiere or marym@caregivervolunteers.org*

Social Ministries/Activities

BINGO is held in the Parish Hall on Tuesdays at 11:00 AM 732-475-0589– *Cathy or Bingo@visitationRCchurch.org.*
EVENT DEVELOPMENT TEAM meets as needed to develop and implement social activities (such as the Gift Auction and Wine Tasting/Art Auction) for the purpose of raising money for the building fund. 732-477-9672, ext. 216 – *Vicki Cottrell-vcottrell@visitationrcchurch.org*

Services

ANNULMENT TEAMS are available to assist a parishioner in rectifying his/her marital status in accordance with the law of the Catholic Church and enable parish members to participate in a full Christian life 732-477-7059 ext. 218 – *Deacon Salvatore Vicari, 848-333-2671 – Eleanor Troiano,* 732-477-7059 ext. 103 *Joan Olden*

Social Concerns

COMMUNITY LUNCH provides lunch Wednesdays each week to members of the parish and community. 732-255-2835 - *Isabel Kronicz or fkronicz@comcast.net*
RESPECT LIFE focuses on pro-life issues and needs through education and support of other organizations in support of pro-life issues. The group gathers weekly to recite the Rosary. 732-262-2047 – *Charles Pocher*
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL operates the Thrift Shop in the old church and manages the funds from the poor boxes to assist the less fortunate in our parish and the surrounding community. Donations of nonperishable food are accepted at the doors of the Church to assist the hungry of the community. 732-477-9672, ext. 160

Youth Ministries/Activities

CHILDREN'S CHOIR welcomes all from 3 to 12 years of age to share their love for Jesus through music. No tryouts are required. 732-477-9672 ext. 217 – *Natalya Bencivenga or nbencivenga@visitationrcchurch.org*
VISITATION ALTAR SERVERS TEAM provides assistance to the Priest in celebration of the Mass and other liturgical celebrations Open to all adults and boys and girls third grade and higher who have received their Holy Communion 732-477-7059 ext. 221 – *Fr. Jakub or frjakub@visitationRCchurch.org*
VISITATION YOUTH MINISTRY provides a safe place for high school teenagers to come together, meet new people, and have fun while serving God and the community. For additional information please contact 732-477-7059 ext. 105 – *Christie or cwinters@visitationrcchurch.org*
VISITATION YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY provides an opportunity for all between the ages of 18 to 39 looking to grow and deepen their faith in Catholicism to join our local Catholic young adults community. For additional information please contact 732-477-7059 ext. 105 – *Christie or cwinters@visitationrcchurch.org*

Temporal Welfare

BUILDING AND GROUNDS TEAM works to improve and enhance the appearance and safety of the existing church, former church, rectory building, and the associated grounds. The goal of this team is to adhere to all current safety and building codes and ensure that the house of God is maintained in an appropriate manner. - *Fr. Ed* 732-477-9672, ext. 201
FINANCE COUNCIL oversees the financial aspects of the parish 732-477-9672, ext. 216 – *Karen Smith*

Organizations

AA MEETINGS are held on Thursdays at 7:30 PM in the parish hall.
ALANON MEETINGS are held on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the parish hall.
CUB SCOUT PACK #38 is sponsored by the Rosary Altar Society, 609-703-4493 - *Jason Worth or jworth127@gmail.com*
BOY SCOUT TROOP #38 is sponsored by the Holy Name Society.732-997-8933 – *Benjamin Brouwer or benmbrouwer@gmail.com*
HOLY NAME OF JESUS SOCIETY promotes respect for the Holy Name of Jesus and His Holy Catholic Church. Society members attend the 8:00 AM Mass and meet monthly 609-234-4437 – *Richard Bencivenga or visitation.holyname@gmail.com*
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #836 work with the local parish and contribute many hours of volunteer work to our community annually.*732-600-1029 – Andrew Kelly or andrekelly3@me.com*
ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY honors the Blessed Virgin Mary to secure her patronage through the daily recitation of the Rosary for the spiritual benefit of the parish community. Members attend the 8:00 AM Mass and meet monthly. 732-295-1812 – *Rose Marie DiGiovanni or digioro1@yahoo.com*

Consult the Parish Events Calendar on our parish website (www.visitationRCchurch.org) for the most current schedule of meeting dates, times, and locations. Information in the Calendar of Events section of the bulletin is current as of bulletin publication.

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