

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



Parish Communities of
St. John Vianney & St. Thomas the Apostle
St. John Vianney 973-697-6550 - St. Thomas the Apostle 973-208-0090
Website: www.ststthomasjohn.org

SAINT JOHN VIANNEY & SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE



Pastor's Corner
Feast of the Holy Family
28 December 2025

God seems to like surprises! Even with all of the very powerful and influential people that have existed in the world, it turns out that the greatest and most long-lasting unit of change is the nuclear family: father, mother and children bonded together in mutual love and respect. The nuclear family is also known to Catholics as the Domestic Church. Healthy and functional Domestic Churches are absolutely necessary for the health, well-being and growth of communities around the world and our human society in general.

According to the 2024 ORDO, “Family life is rooted in the unconditional love of God as witnessed by [Jesus, Mary and Joseph,] the Holy Family.” [1] According to Meghan Larsen-Reidy (Loose-Leaf Lectionary for Mass by Liturgical Press) “Today, in the Catholic Church we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family and are reminded about another set of parents who saw incredible potential in their son. Mary and Joseph cared so much about Jesus’ future that they were willing to upend their whole life to ensure that [He] survived Hero’s reign of terror. This ordeal took place they had made some other major sacrifices and been asked to trust in God’s plan. They had both accepted an unexpected pregnancy and journeyed to Bethlehem for the census, where there had been no room for them to stay. Mary had delivered her baby in a place meant for animals after traveling for days. Lowly shepherds and magi had come to visit her son, the King [of kings]. Mary and Joseph had already been asked so much, and now the angel of the Lord told Joseph, ‘Rise, take the child and [His] mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you.’ Mary and Joseph obeyed because they trusted that this was the best option to ensure a better future for their child. Their decision paved the way for Jesus to grow and to flourish, and none of their lives (or our lives) were the same because of it.” [2]

Jesus was not only obedient to God, the Father. He was also obedient to His parents, the Blessed Virgin Mary and His foster-father, the carpenter, St. Joseph. **(I hope that the young folks are listening!)** Jesus, in His human nature, grew in wisdom, age and grace before the LORD. The proper balance of a nuclear family cannot be overstated when it comes to the existence of a healthy society. Such a healthy family unit is needed to provide its members with the support that each member needs to weather the storms of life. A strong Domestic Church can endure great hardships because each member can depend on the others to help see them through the hard times. Single parent households have also been successful with healthy families as the result, but this positive outcome is more difficult to attain when the father and the mother are not both present and mutually supporting each other and their children with heartfelt love, concern and care.

For the Holy Family, faith and trust in God was the norm across the board. Fidelity to God was a key component of their relationship with God just as it was with Abraham and Sarah. The biggest surprise of all is what God can do with normal everyday families, families just like most of our families – ones that are not famous, wealthy, noteworthy or unusual in any way. However, the children of such families grow in wisdom, age and grace before God thus becoming solid, moral, respectful and thoughtful human beings because of the atmosphere provided by their loving parents within the solid framework of the Domestic Church. It is no wonder that children raised within such an environment tend to become excellent parents and solid contributors to society themselves someday.

I have said it many times before, make no mistake – the health of the family unit – the Domestic Church, within communities locally and societies globally, has a noteworthy and lasting effect on the health and well-being of our communities, our nation and our world. The global impact is enormous!

Saturday, December 27th

4:00 pm (St. John Vianney)
† Ralph Benincasa Jr. by Joan & Rich Hotchkiss
5:00 pm (St. Thomas the Apostle)
† Fely Miralles by The Miralles Family

Sunday, December 28th The Holy Family

8:00 am (St. John Vianney)
The wellbeing and good health of Anna Bonk by Daniela Szaflarski
9:00 am (St. Thomas the Apostle)
† Living and Deceased Family & Friends of the Cokinos & Sullivan Family by Kathy & Nick Cokinos
10:00 am (St. John Vianney)
† Jim & May Gilroy by Judy & Skip Diller
11:00 am (St. Thomas the Apostle)
† Christopher Ashman by Bob & Terry Ashman

Monday, December 29th

6:30 pm - Eucharistic Adoration (St. Thomas the Apostle)
7:30 pm (St. Thomas the Apostle)
No intentions for this Mass
Novena to St. Peregrine immediately following Mass

Tuesday, December 30th

8:00 am (St. Thomas the Apostle)
No intentions for this Mass

Wednesday, December 31st

8:00 am (St. Thomas the Apostle)
No intentions for this Mass
4:00 pm (St. John Vianney)
† Christopher Ashman by Bob & Terry Ashman

Thursday, January 1st Mary, Mother of God

New Year's Day
10:00 am - Mass (St. Thomas the Apostle)
Our family and friends, living and deceased by Jeannie and Eric Stroud
12:00 pm - Mass (St. John Vianney)
No intentions for this Mass
7:00 pm - Mass (St. John Vianney)
No intentions for this Mass
7:30 pm - Mass (St. Thomas the Apostle)
† Peggy Zajdel by Jim Zajdel

First Friday, January 2nd

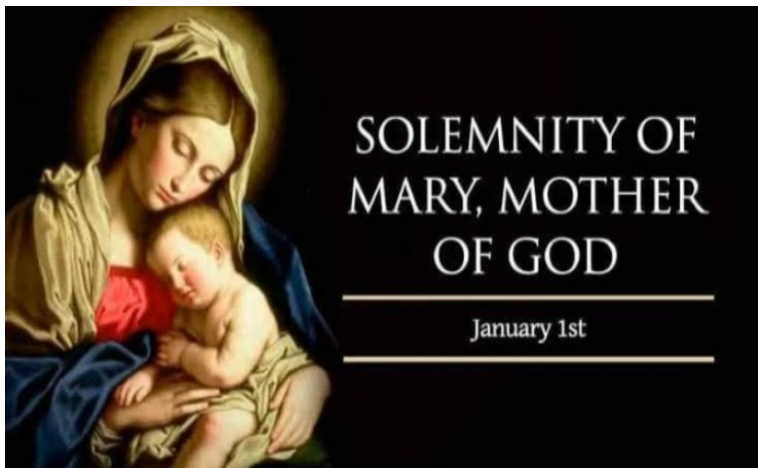
8:00 am (St. Thomas the Apostle)
No intentions for this Mass
Holy Hour immediately following Mass
12:00 pm (St. John Vianney)
No intentions for this Mass
Holy Hour immediately following Mass

Saturday, January 3rd Most Holy Name of Jesus

4:00 pm (St. John Vianney)
No intentions for this Mass
5:00 pm (St. Thomas the Apostle)
No intentions for this Mass

Sunday, January 4th Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 am (St. John Vianney)
Frank Cerullo, for healing by Mary Buda
9:00 am (St. Thomas the Apostle)
No intentions for this Mass
10:00 am (St. John Vianney)
No intentions for this Mass
11:00 am (St. Thomas the Apostle)
No intentions for this Mass
6:00 pm (St. John Vianney)
No intentions for this Mass



SAINT JOHN VIANNEY

New Year's Eve (Vigil Mass)

Wed, Dec 31 - 4 PM

New Year's Day (Holy Day of Obligation)

12 Noon, 7 PM

SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

New Year's Day (Holy Day of Obligation)

10AM, 7:30 PM

From Fr. Martin...

**SCHEDULE FOR NEW YEAR
SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**



New Year's Eve Mass:
Wednesday, Dec. 31 at 4:00 PM
***No Noon Mass that day**
New Year's Day Masses:
12:00 Noon and 7:00 PM



FROM FR. MARTIN...

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. It is a beautiful moment to reflect on our own families, whatever their shape or circumstances, and to ask the Holy Family to watch over our homes with faith, patience, and love. Next Sunday we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. There will be music at the 8:00 AM Mass, and as we did last year, we will bless chalk for the traditional Epiphany blessing of our homes. The chalk may be used to mark our doorways with the inscription 20 + C + M + B + 26, invoking Christ's blessing upon our households. The blessed chalk will be available to take home after all the Masses. I encourage everyone to continue this meaningful tradition of prayer and faith in the home.

**FIRST FRIDAY MASS
& HOLY HOUR**

Join us for First Friday Mass at 12:00 Noon this **Friday, January 2nd**. A Holy Hour will follow. All are welcome.

NEW PARISH INITIATIVE!!

We are happy to introduce a new parish initiative beginning in the New Year. Starting **Sunday, January 4**, the Knights of Columbus will lead the Rosary on the **first Sunday of each month at 9:15 a.m.**, between the morning Masses. All are warmly invited to join us for about 20 minutes of prayer together as a parish family. More new initiatives are coming soon, so please stay tuned.

ST. JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH

**COFFEE
AND
DONUTS**



**AFTER 10AM MASS
FIRST SUNDAYS
OF THE MONTH**



**<--SCAN TO JOIN OUR
YOUTUBE CHANNEL**

**SCAN TO LEAVE US
A REVIEW
ON GOOGLE -->**



**COFFEE AND DONUTS
NEXT SUNDAY!!**

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month, and we will host Coffee and Donuts after the 10:00 AM Mass. All are welcome to come down to the church basement for some fellowship, conversation, and a chance to catch up.



Mark your calendars...our next **STA / SJV Potluck** will be at STA on January 25, [snow date TBD!](#) The theme will be "A family heirloom recipe...something your mother or grandmother made" or one of your family recipes that everyone loves. However, you don't have to follow the theme; feel free to bring anything you want. ~ Lynn & Michelle



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT—December 21, 2025

SAINT JOHN VIANNEY

SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

No information at the time of bulletin submission

Acts of Kindness

Outreach to the Homebound

Let's remember our parishioners who are homebound, in assisted living, or in nursing homes with a card, visit, or phone call to brighten their day.

Carmela (Mel) Houlihan

6 Aztec Trail

Oak Ridge, NJ 07438



Tess Martin

200 Bristol Glen Drive

Apt. 414

Newton, NJ 07860

If you would like to add someone's contact information to this list, please email it to Lynn at

dmccart4@optonline.net

or call 973-970-5335.

Pastor's Corner cont: The vast majority of our social ills: violent crime; drug addiction; theft; various forms of abuse, etc., are related directly or indirectly to the dissolution of the traditional nuclear family unit within modern society. **The perfect example of the Domestic Church is the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph.** The Holy Family provides us with a superb example to emulate. Even though everything that was happening to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph was not fully understood by them, *they learned to place their total faith and trust in God's Divine Providence.* With God, all things are indeed possible!

The gold standard for family life will always be the Holy Family – Jesus, Mary and Joseph. **It goes to show that one does not have to understand everything to be successful as a parent and as a family.** *Faith and trust in God along with fidelity to God can go a long way towards great success in family life!* **Be well and may God bless you and your family abundantly!**

Prayerfully Yours in the Lord Jesus,

Fr. Ben

[1] Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours and Celebration of the Eucharist (Paulist Press ORDO), Copyright 2023, Paulist Press, Inc., Mahwah, NJ, Pg.25.

[2] Loose-Leaf Lectionary for Mass, Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN, 2025, Order of St. Benedict, Pg. 23h. [3] Loose-Leaf Lectionary for Mass, Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN, 2025, Order of St. Benedict, Pg. 24h.

NOTE: "Meghan Larsen-Reidy lives in Pittsburgh, [PA] with her husband and four lively children. She currently serves as pastoral associate of Mary Queen of Peace Parish in Pittsburgh and has previously served as a college campus minister, a teacher, a director of religious education, and a youth minister. She is a graduate of Saint Mary College Notre Dame, Indiana." [3]

NICK'S HOPE

COUNTRY LINE DANCING FUNDRAISER!

Saturday, January 31st
Doors open at 6:30 PM • Dancing begins at 7:00 PM

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BLESSING OF HOMES

Tuesday marks the time for the annual Blessing of Homes. If you would like to have your home blessed, please contact the Rectory at michelle@ststthomasjohn.org or 973-208-0090 (STA) or 973-697-6550 (SJV) to set up an appointment, when we can come and bless your home:

Chalk is used to mark: **20 + C + M + B + 26**

Over doorways. The numerals consecrate the New Year. The initials remind us of the legendary names of the magi – Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar – and also stand for the Latin motto –

Christus mansionem benedicat
("May Christ bless the house").



THE LIVING FLAME FOR THE SANCTUARY LAMP

By every tabernacle in the world, a flame is kept burning continuously in honor of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Called the Sanctuary Lamp, this light flickers day and night before the Eucharistic Lord calling us to prayer and reminding us, in the words of the patriarch Jacob, that "surely the Lord is in this place." (Genesis 28:16) It is a mark of honor to remind the faithful of the presence of Christ, and is a profession of their love and affection.

If you wish to have the Living Flame beside the Blessed Sacrament in memory of a loved one, to honor a special occasion or a special intention, January—March 2026

please email massintention@ststthomasjohn.org .

Duration is one week

Become a Member of the K of C Star Council #5510 in 2026!!!

Knights of Columbus Council #5510 from St. Thomas the Apostle is a great way to give back to your community, enhance your faith, or simply enjoy the social aspect of being a Knight!

By volunteering as little as 1-10 hours a year, or if you are at the time of your life where you can contribute more, either way the Knights of Columbus would be very grateful.

Make our New Year's Resolution by being part of something special – Join the Star Council!!!

For more information, please call or text Dan Stefans at 973-760-0012.




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"TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON"

A TIME TO BE HEALED

Prayers for the sick: Kathy Brennen, Kevin Wickert, Fumiko Lutz, Patricia Carapola, Gail Brennan, Richard Lavelle, Stephen Vecchiotti, Vincent Ottani, Darlene Kolakovic, Kenny Miscisak, Emily Schmidt, Tim Lambert, Nancy, Sebastian Drellick, Frank Weber, Carole DeCepoli, Bert DeLuca, Maryellen Leppard, Kelly Cokinos Fleming, Sophia Brandt, Elaine M., Joey Dyl, Teresa Nussbaum, Antionette Volpe, Paul Pini, Jimmy Bariso, Joanne, Noreen Schuk, Katherine Kaiser, Danielle Peece, Chris Day, Carmela Houlihan, Sharon VanDyke, Karen McCarthy, Robert Martin, Ashlyn Lausch, Jim, Barbara Eckert, Sandor Heitler, Kevin Corman, Lily, Nicholas Falzarano, Paul Farruggia, Val Ciaburri, Thomas Sharkey, Lisa Litterri, Lynn Hall, Norbert Kalokira, Michael Savage, Guy Bakera, Shannon Murphy Flannery, Brenda, Debra Williams Robarge and Joe Stanley.

A TIME TO MOURN

Prayers for the deceased: Joan DeVito, Al Cannarozzi, Jr., Angelina (Angel) Pappianne, Frank Wilpert, Jeffrey Ryan, Frank Scillieri, Etzer Jerome, Rita Rugel, Alice Warren, Joseph T. Murphy, Joseph F. Dooley, Patricia (Pat) Snouffer, Amy Snouffer, Joan Myszka, Crescia (Chris) Osborne, Ray Troxell, Barbara Runz, Joseph Carabillo, John R. Gadbois, Elizabeth A. O'Donnel, Tommy Gigante, Thomas Joyce, Richard "Dick" Martin, James (Jim) Cerullo, Jr., Mario Provenzano, Richard Alheidt, William H. Osbun, Lynn Padula Brennan, Daniel Morales, Joseph Spagna, Carol Corazza, Amy Alheidt, Dominick Restuccia, Helen Engle, Stanley Fautas, Robert Michael Allender II, Alfanso Bruccoleri, Anthony (Tony) Campana, Elaine J. Marone, Delores Carhart, Lynda McTigue, Karen Dulfer, Joe Carrier, William "Bill" Feuss, John Golden, Noreen Nuzzo, William Marone and Ed & Grace Battaglia, Richard Sandervan, Rosina Gleeson, Mary Ann Castiglia, Rich Day, Dolly Petrosino, Dorothy Konner, Diana J. Matthews, June Day, Joseph Farawell, Anne Cooper, Peter Joyce, Tommy Klein, Andy Dambach, Rick DeYoung, John Gleason, Dolores M. Urcinole, Angela Feldman, Brenda Nussbaum, Frank Bagnati, Anthony Tran, Zdzislaw Lewicki, Jack Furman, Lillian Agovino, Courtney Sanchelli.

A TIME FOR PEACE

We pray for those in our parish who are+ currently serving in the armed forces especially: Staff Sgt. Antoino Lettizia, USMC, OSSN (SW) Anthony S. Gambuti, US Navy, Captain Andrew Verdes, Haley Kerrison Lt1, Army, 2nd Lt. Clara Fetter, USMC, USAF Airman Andrew Babich, Chaplin Major Jhon Madrid, Airman Gianna Perez, USAF and Lt. Col. Colleen O'Brien, Army, Paul Letizia Sergeant USMC, Sergeant Thomas J. Soules III, US Army, PFC Thomas Young, Army National Guard and PFC Thomas Young, Army, PFC Kyle Peters, Army, Nicholas Roberts, US Navy, Petty Officer Miguel A. Rodriguez USN and Ret. Master Chief Miguel Rodriguez, USN *In honor of the Military serving our country at home and abroad, we invite you to recite three (3) Hail Mary's for their safety. We also pray for the family and friends of those listed above.*

BAPTISM

Baptisms are held at both parishes. If you are a first time parents you must attend a Baptism Preparation class. Baptism Classes are held Mondays at STA 7:00pm and Saturdays at SJV 10:00am check our website for dates.

For more information and to register for Baptism: www.ststjohn.org

MARRIAGES

Prior to your booking of the reception, please call the Parish Office 1 year in advance of the wedding date to allow for proper pre-marital preparation.

Knights of Columbus Council Meetings

St. John Vianney Council #12649 meets at Saint John Vianney the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

Joseph Lamb Council #5510 meets on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Wiegand Farm.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP: A parishioner is one who belongs to the parish family. As such, they are registered and committed through participation in the life of the parish. In order for marriages to be administered and for Sponsor Certificates, recommendations, etc. to be issued by the office, the person requesting must be a registered online: ststjohn.org and active member of Saint John Vianney or Saint Thomas the Apostle.

We request that you register when you move into our community so that we may be of service to you. Please use the QR code register.

"If any person may have been abused by any priest, they should immediately contact their local County Prosecutor's Office and Diocese's Victims Assistance Coordinator: Dr. Ken McNeil at 973-879-1489. You may also be in touch with either of the Diocesan Response Officers: Rev. Msgr. T. Mark Condon, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, 973-777-8818 Ext. 205 or Sister Theresa Lee, FMA, Chancellor / Delegate for Religious, 973-777-8818 Ext. 248. The entire text of the Policy of the Diocese of Paterson in Response to Complaints of Sexual Abuse is available on the diocesan Web site: www.patersondiocese.org.

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