#### **CONTACT INFO**

Phone: 908-874-3141 Fax: 908-874-7040

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34 Yorktown Road Hillsborough, NJ 08844-5139

### MASS & CONFESSION SCHEDULE

**Daily Mass:** 

Monday-Saturday 8:35 AM

Weekend Masses:

 Saturday
 4:45 PM

 Sunday
 7:15 AM

 9:30 AM
 11:30 AM

**Holyday Masses:** 

 Vigil
 5:00 PM

 Holyday
 8:35 AM & 7:00 PM

**Confessions:** 

Saturday 4 - 4:30 PM

or by appointment

6:00 PM

#### **EMERGENCIES**

Sacrament of Anointing Call 908-874-3141 and press 1 for a priest.

Crisis Pregnancy Hotline 732-516-0911

### **Suicide Prevention**

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Fr. Hank

FHilton@loyola.edu

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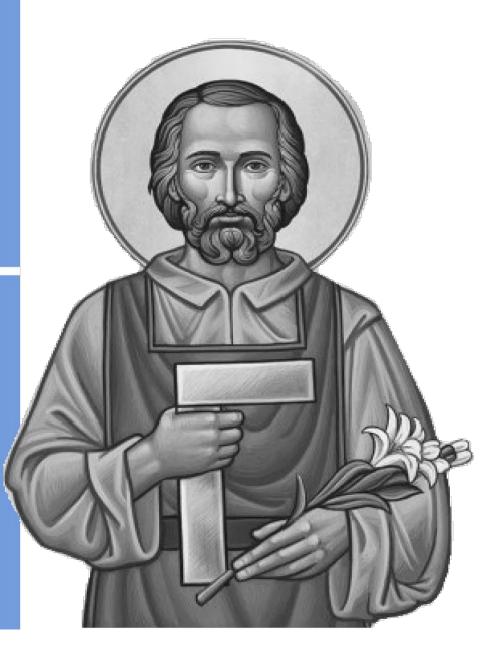
# Saint Joseph

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Weekend Masses are at 4:45 PM on Saturday and Sunday at 9:30 AM. Simply go to the parish web page and click away – for live streaming or for viewing an archived Mass.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

MASS INTENTIONS – Until further notice we will be combining mass intentions as follows: \*at the 4:45PM Mass we will combine the 4:45PM, the 7:15AM & the 6:00PM intentions.
And \*\*at the 9:30AM Mass we will combine the 9:30AM & the11:30AM intentions.

### MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Mon. 8:35AM Florence Madonia

R/B Pat & Bob Matzek

Tue. 8:35AM George Farrell Sr.

R/B St. Joseph Parish

8:35AM Daniel Yurasek-Fraser

R/B Lisa Rossi

8:35AM Elizabeth Pavolony

R/B Susan & John Young

6:30PM Communion Prayer Service

Wed. 8:35AM Marjorie Layton

R/B Phil & Dottie Lukazik

Thu.. 8:35AM MaryEllen Mandy (living)

R/B Kate & Mario Ligouri

10:00AM Communion Prayer Service

Fri. 8:35AM Marjorie Layton

R/B Columbiettes

8:35AM Deceased Members Monarchs

(Carl's HS Classmates)

R/B Connie & Carl Panzera

Sat. 4:45PM Marilyn Keenan

R/B William & Kathleen Keenan

4:45PM Al Wund

R/B Erin & ben Gerberville

4:45PM People of the Parish

Sun. 9:30AM Giovanna Geraci

R/B Geraci Family

9:30AM Sylvia Grosso

R/B LoCicero Family

9:30AM Emilia & Augusto Gomes

R/B Connie & Carl Panzera

9:30AM Emily Forzano

R/B Walter & Florence Berchrich

#### **READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK**

Ezekiel 33:7-9 Romans 13:8-10 Matthew 18:15-20



This Moment in Prayer,
Service and Community

Dear All: Christ's peace!

Saint Augustine inadvertently tormented his mother. He did not set out to make Saint Monica miserable. He just did. His uninspired habits and self-destructive lifestyle almost robbed her of hope. A cause for hope finally materialized when Augustine was 30 years old and shipped off from his home in Algeria to what is now Italy. His time in Milan crossed his path with Saint Ambrose. Augustine first pursued Ambrose, not to learn about religion, but to get some pointers about public speaking, a practice at which Ambrose excelled. That conversation culminated in Augustine becoming a priest and then a bishop. For the last 40 years of his life, Augustine served the church in extraordinary and long-lasting ways. In 1298, Pope Boniface VII named Augustine one of the first four "Doctors of the Church". The other three were Gregory the Great, Ambrose, and Jerome. Discouraged parents take heart! And remember that the least likely candidates are sometimes the best influences on young people.

#### THIS MOMENT IN PRAYER: SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Most of today's edition focuses on prayer in general and on our shared sacramental life in particular. In April I asked you to consider four stages of the pandemic: Stage I, the initial onset of social distancing; Stage II, the continuation of social distancing; Stage III, the initial reduction in social distancing; and, Stage IV, the elimination of social distancing.

Looking back, it would have been better to label Stage III "Integration of social distancing with established parish practices." That is what we are now doing – integrati social distancing into our established parish practices. We are not reducing social distancing. Neither are we suspending most physical gatherings for prayer, service, and community-building – as we did in the pandemic's earliest weeks. Sacraments and experiences of shared prayer are re-emerging in socially distanced forms.

BAPTISMS – The pandemic forced us to postpone 12 infant baptisms. During the pandemic, with thanks to God, several babies have arrived. Two of those families have started to arrange baptisms. Thus, we are in the very fine position of having to schedule 14 infant baptisms. Chances are that we will soon identify a few dates

**SUNDAY MASS** or baptisms under the tent and a few more for baptisms indoors. Since we cannot baptize more than one baby at each celebration, we will have a series of baptisms, probably at half-hour intervals. It will be different, and it will be excellent.

CONFESSIONS – This has been one of the pandemic's best gifts. The Saturday morning parking lot confessions might be the way of the future. The prospect unsettles some people, but I am glad to report that the satisfaction rate is close to 100%. A classic case of "different and excellent." Give it a try if you have not already. I take reservations by email starting Thursday afternoons.

– We resumed Sunday Masses with a congregation in mid-July. At first, we had congregations at both the Saturday evening Mass and the Sunday at 9:30. Both Masses were open to about 90 people and had about half that number. Because the Masses have become so labor-intensive – extra ushers, sanitizers, Safety Committee, tech folk and a few others – we understandably ran into labor constraints. Prudence seemed to dictate that we go with one Mass. Doing so could accommodate all who want to attend a weekend Mass and it reduced our demand for volunteers. We expect to add an additional Sunday Mass starting September 20 – under the tent at 11:30. You guessed it – different and excellent.

**OUR VIRTUAL CONGREGATION** – Who knows what to make of the numbers or the deeper stats? As a little bit of a quantitative type, the fluctuations interest me. What is clear and what does matter is that, through the livestreamed Masses, God helps many people experience deeper peace. They will continue.

FIRST COMMUNIONS – Forty-five children were scheduled to make their First Communions last spring. Thirty of them will be making their First Communions at specially designated 12:30 Sunday Masses in September – 15 on September 13, and 15 more on September 20. Both of those Masses will, of course, have strict protocols in place. Nine children will make their First Communions at the regularly scheduled weekend Masses. Between October 4 and 18, three Masses will have two First Communions and one will have one. One child made her First Communion before her family moved away. Six have deferred until Spring.

CONFIRMATIONS – Sixty-two young people were scheduled to be confirmed by Bishop Checchio in the spring. I will confirm 21 of them in the parking lots on Friday, September 18, and 21 more the following Friday night. Both events have rain days scheduled for the next mornings. There will then be one indoor ceremony for 10 youngsters at 9:00 am on October 3 and another ceremony for nine more at noon that day. That adds up to 61. One more will be confirmed next year. Like the First Communions, this year's Confirmations promise to be different and excellent.

WEDDINGS – The pandemic forced us to postpone eight weddings. One wedding, a convalidation with twelve people present, took place under the tent a few

weeks ago. Some of the couples have postponed their weddings until next year. A few have opted to get married civilly and then have their marriages convalidated in the church. Scaled-down weddings, with everyone wearing masks and with social distancing in place, can now be celebrated in the church or under the tent.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK - This has not been one of the pandemic's great gifts. Anointings now fall into two categories. The first group consists of mobile people. Most people in this group are getting anointed before surgery. They come to church at a convenient time and are anointed with the person and I both wearing a mask. The oil is applied with a Q-tip which is subsequently burned. The second group consists of people who cannot come to church. If they are at home, I can anoint them, with great precautions in place. (The prospect of infecting a sick person horrifies me.) People in hospitals or long-term health care facilities involve greater restrictions. Just last week, I went to anoint two different people who reside in health care facilities and was assured that there would be no impediments. In both instances, however, I was not allowed to come within six feet of the person. So, the sessions were about prayers for the sick rather than an actual anointing. I am sure God understands.

### THIS MOMENT IN PRAYER: OUR SHARED PRAYER

communion Services – Participation in our two weekly Communion Services has been steady. Since they first began in mid-June, we have averaged about 50-60 people per service. The Communion Services provide a fine option for those who are eager to receive but still have concerns about being indoors with scores of people. The Communion Services are also very labor-intensive and the entire parish is grateful to the ushers, EMs, tech folk and others who make the Communion Services happen.

FUNERALS – Al Wund's funeral on March 19 was the last funeral before the severe restrictions set in. Colette Galette's Memorial Mass was the first of our funerals without a physical congregation but with an online congregation. We had a few more such services after Colette's. Some were on Zoom (invitation-only congregation) and some were via YouTube (anyone can join). During the pandemic's worst days, most services were conducted in funeral homes and were limited to 10 people. We are back to having funerals in church, albeit with very strict protocols in place.

**ADORATION** – This is also done by request. People who want to pray before the monstrance email me and I arrange it in the chapel window so people can pray while in the Divine Mercy garden.

**HEALING PRAYER** – With great thanks to the members of this ministry, I am happy to share the news that they are doing Healing Prayer online every other Sunday. These are some great apostles. *(continued on next page)* 

YOUTH GROUP – Since the start of the pandemic, our intrepid Youth Minister, Bob Ferretti, has been holding virtual gatherings with our young people. Each of the Sunday night gatherings includes shared prayer and some beautiful music – generally provided by Rea Larangeira in Orlando. True. Starting in September the youth group will be going under the tent.

THURSDAY NIGHT "FIRESIDE PSALMS" – This program has developed a moderate-sized and incredibly devoted group of participants. Most of the folks come from our parish but it has been great fun to watch the congregation grow in unexpected geographic directions. It is one of my favorite parts of the week.

WALKING WITH PURPOSE – Many of the ladies in our women's bible study have continued to meet in the "off-season" via Zoom. The ministry is planning to do this year's bible study virtually, with an occasional socially distanced gathering.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Per recent announcements here, a new men's bible study, based on the scripture commentary "Sacra Pagina," will begin this fall. The best night for the meetings is currently under reconsideration, given other events planned for the autumn.

I am certain I am forgetting some relevant news about this third stage in our pandemic life of sacrament and prayer. The above news is a cause for great gratitude. We are making large strides in the Stage III project – integrating social distancing into our established practices. That happens ONLY because God is so good and so many of you are willing to work extra hard to keep us connected in prayer and sacrament. God bless all of you.

#### Meanwhile, in other news . . .

CATHOLIC GENTLEMEN – THINK OF JOINING OUR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS. You can travel far and wide and never meet a finer or more hard-working batch of Knights. They are like nothing I have encountered anywhere else. Plus, they are great fun. I sometimes sneak into the gatherings just to get some laughs. They work hard, play well, and serve marvelously. So, check out the Millstone Knights of Columbus as they welcome new members to help with activities that support St. Joseph's Parish, local communities, and area charities. Make a difference by joining a group of over 2 million men worldwide. The Knights are offering free membership for the first year until the end of August. Please contact Bryan DeLisi bryandelisi@comcast.net with any questions.

PARISH RECORDS UPDATE – Remember not too long ago, when everyone was asked to pick up a copy of their parish records, update them and then return them? Work on that project has been proceeding steadily and we will have more to report next week. Stay tuned.

Enjoy August's last weekend. How did that happen? Anyhow – I send this with greatest blessings and tremendous gratitude. Fr Hank

#### IN MEMORIAM

Rev. J. William Mickiewicz, 83, passed away on August 13. Fr Bill was one of our Daily Mass Celebrants until about a year ago when his physical ailments made it difficult to continue. He also helped at our Penance Services. Please pray for his eternal rest and for consolation for his family and for all who mourn him...



### **HEALING PRAYER**

Healing Prayer invites anyone who is ill, facing surgery, hurting, anxious, burdened or worried to seek prayer for themselves or others. Jesus working through the minister will bring healing, glory and grace to your soul. God's love guides the ministers as they pray. All sessions are private and confidential.

Healing prayer requests can be not only for yourself but also for family and friends. Requests may cover healing of body, mind and spiritual issues. If you would like more information call Ann Smith at 908-285-6481.

Members of our Healing Prayer Ministry have created a virtual option and a phone option. This option will be offered at 10:30AM after the 9:30 Sunday Mass and will take place every other weekend until we are back to normal.

Next Session: Sunday, September 6
Healing Prayers after the 9:30 liturgy.
There will be another session
September 20 at the same time.

To participate in the virtual meeting, click on https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7692788835 and follow the directions.

You can also engage the healing prayer over the phone by calling 1-929-205-6099 and then the ID number key in 769-278-8835#.

Go to <a href="https://www.stjosephsparish.com/healing-prayer">https://www.stjosephsparish.com/healing-prayer</a> for complete details

For questions please call Ann Smith at 908-285-6481 or e mail her at annbsmith46@hotmail.com.

### SAGES CALENDAR



### MORE PICNICS ADDED

Our picnics continue to be a victory for masked, socially distanced *bonhomie*,,,and so

### The fun continues into September.

### **SAGES PARKING LOT PICNICS**

There are now openings at our socially distanced picnics on September 10 &17 iin the church parking lot.. New start time is 11:30AM. And there will be live entertainment. Groups will be kept to a safe max of 25. masks are a must and we will provide you one if needed. Please register with AnnaMaria at arealbuto@stjosephsparish.com or 908-874-3141 ext 240 or at. https://forms.gle/mK3TKTM5YTgFtyiHA

#### SAGES BACKYARD VISITS

Still a bit concerned about joining groups? Not a problem. Let the gathering come to you – at a safe distance. Backyard visits with our stay-at-home folks continue. Please reach AnnaMaria (see above) to request a visit and your favorite lunch!

### OUR CHAIR EXERCISE CLASSES continue online at

www.stjosephsparish.com/sages

### LIFE-GIVING WOUNDS FALL RETREAT

Life-Giving Wounds, a Catholic apostolate dedicated to the spiritual healing of adult children of divorce or separation, will host an online retreat this Fall. Taking place over seven Thursday evenings, from Oct. 1 to Nov 12, the retreat will include six live presentations, guided small group discussions, and an evening of live-streamed Eucharistic Adoration with live music. Retreatants will also receive a Retreat Guide and Retreat Journal. \$75 early-bird, \$100 after Sept. 20, \$50 college students. More information and registration here: https://www.lifegivingwounds.org/onlineretreat

#### IN GOD'S IMAGE

In God's Image, in its 14<sup>th</sup> year, the Catholic Faith Sharing Group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people at Church of the Sacred Heart, South Plainfield, meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00PM. Our next meeting is September 9 and will be on Zoom. Please email for more information. The group is open to LGBTQ adults, 18 and over, and their families. All are welcome for faith sharing, prayer, conversation and support. For more information, contact Fr John at 908 756 0633, ext 125 or the group may be reached by contacting 908 822 5895 or by emailingsacredheartigi@gmail.com.

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Be the difference to a family struggling with housing and food insecurity. Tickets are on sale now for the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Somerset County's annual fundraiser. The Holiday Calendar Raffle draws seven winners each week in November and December 2020, and January 2021.

All tickets are reentered for each weekly drawing, giving ticket holders multiple chances to win! Each day of the three-month period has a designated value of \$30 to \$100. Winners will receive a check in the mail after each drawing.

Tickets are \$10 and are available by calling 908-704-1920 or emailing <a href="mailto:Karen@ihnsc.org">Karen@ihnsc.org</a>. You may also stop by the office, 98 West End Avenue in Somerville, during regular business hours, or learn more at our website <a href="https://www.ihnsc.org">www.ihnsc.org</a>.

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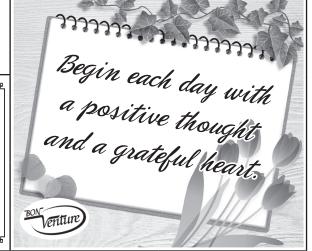
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