

December 6, 2020

**CONTACT INFO**

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**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

6:00 PM

**Holyday Masses:**

Vigil 5:00 PM

Holyday 8:35 AM & 7:00 PM

**Confessions:**

Saturday 4 - 4:30 PM

or by appointment

**EMERGENCIES**

**Sacrament of Anointing**

Call 908-874-3141

and press 1 for a priest.

**Crisis Pregnancy Hotline**

732-516-0911

**Suicide Prevention**

NJ Lifeline

1-800-273TALK

Teen Crisis Text Hotline

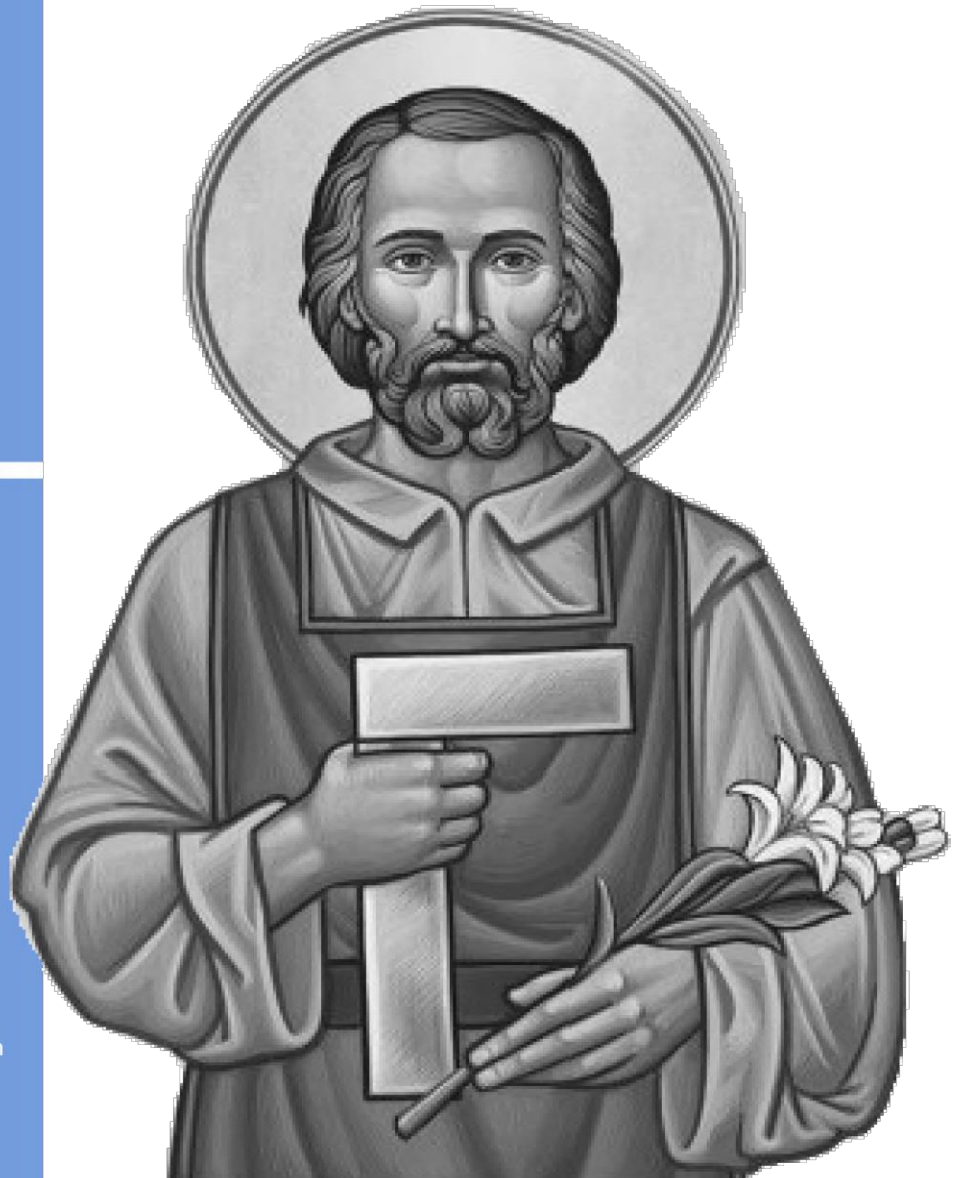
Text 741741

**Emergency Meals**

[emergencymeals@stjosephsparish.com](mailto:emergencymeals@stjosephsparish.com)

**Fr. Hank**

[FHilton@loyola.edu](mailto:FHilton@loyola.edu)



# December 6, 2020

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

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

**MASS INTENTIONS** – Mass intentions are combined as follows:

4:45 Mass will combine the 4:45, 7:15 & 6:00 intentions..

9:30 will combine the 9:30 & 11:30 intentions..

## **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

- Mon. 8:35AM Patricia Cunning  
R/B Pam Cunning
- Tue. 8:35AM John Bodnar  
R/B Lois & Ed Jerzewski
- 8:35AM Theresa Bray  
R/B Joanne & Peter Haid
- 8:35AM Inge Galajda  
R/B Galayda Family
- Wed. 8:35AM Onofrio & Grace LoFaso  
R/B Figorotta Family
- Thu.. 8:35AM Richard Gottlick  
R/B larkowski Family
- Fri. 8:35AM Marjorie Layton  
R/B Connie & Carl Panzera
- 8:35AM Mike Sullivan  
R/B Meghan Bogado
- Sat. 4:45PM Kevin & Bryan Canavan & Family  
R/B Ginny Jackson
- 4:45PM Josephine Quinn  
R/B Pat & Joanne Gagliardi
- 4:45PM People of the Parish
- Sun. 9:30AM John Polites  
R/B Carlene Thomson & Family
- 9:30AM John Koval  
R/B Koval Family
- 9:30AM Linda Clough  
R/B Whiteside Family
- 9:30AM Mary Matis  
R/B Marie Paulette Matis

## **READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK**

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

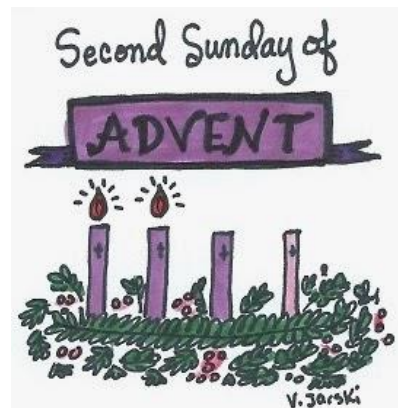
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

## **THURSDAY'S FIRESIDE PSALM**

**Thursday, December 10**

Psalm 8 (eight)



## *This Moment in Prayer, Service and Community*

Dear All: Christ's Peace!

*The lights on the 100+ trees are on every night from 4:30-10:00 pm. Come and enjoy!*

*What say you?*

*Our "O Holy Nights" events are all mapped out. Judging by last week's turnout and the current registrations for upcoming events, the response will continue to be very strong.*

*But here is the challenge. The statewide spike in infections has prompted the governor to reduce outside gatherings, starting Monday, to a maximum of 25. This Sunday is not a problem. We can still have 150 folks at both the 4:30 and 6:30 sessions. Scores of people will be able to enjoy our remarkably beautiful, prayerful, and fun "Shepherd's Path." The evenings of caroling and the live nativity might have to change.*

*Several considerations come into play. Because they are church gatherings, our events are exempt from the attendance limits. We could, in theory, have hundreds of people here. But what about the gap between "can" and "should." Life is full of pursuits we can undertake but should not.*

*I, who tend to go overboard on the safety concerns, am not overly concerned about the safety factor. We are all outdoors. Everyone is wearing masks. And, judging by last week, people are doing a great job of social distancing. "Safety" is not the question. "Example" seems to be the most pressing question.*

*In this, as in all things, we want to "know what Jesus wants, want what Jesus wants, and do what*

# December 6, 2020

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*Jesus wants.” We discern which example Jesus wants us to set. As with all discernment processes, we specify our options. We enjoy three: full steam ahead, bag it, go to Plan B. And as with all discernment processes, we try to identify those things that keep us from knowing, wanting and doing what Jesus wants. Are we so invested that we stop asking what Jesus wants? Are we so concerned about the virus that we stop asking?*

*Each option (full steam, bag it, Plan B) provides an example for our parishioners and others. And so, I ask you, “What say you in the matter of ‘O Holy Nights’ for December 13 and 20: full steam ahead, bag it, or Plan B?” Before you propose a solution, please list at least one positive and one negative example that each option generates. Then, as we do in all discernments, imagine yourself standing before Jesus (during His public ministry), telling Him of your decision. Try it with each option. Which brings you the most peace?*

*Overthinking? Maybe. Good practice? For sure. I know what I want Him to want me to want, but that is not how it works. What say you in the matter of O Holy Nights? Have fun discerning and discussing.*

## *This Moment in Prayer*

**“O Holy Nights” – The Shepherds’ Path** – The scene is set and it is fantastic – and it will be fun and safe. Once again, shared prayer will be at 4:30 and 6:30. Then walk the path, enjoy the 100+ trees, and enjoy the world’s best cocoa. Remember to wear sturdy shoes you don’t mind getting a little dirty. And bring a flashlight. Also, all masks all the time! (Check out complete details on following page.)

**No More Registration for Communion Services** – Starting with this Sunday’s service we will no longer require registrations for the Communion Services (10:00 am Wednesday and 11:30 am Sunday). If you need special accommodations at the services, please call the office at least 24 hours in advance. Thanks!

## *This Moment in Service*

**Take a Break’** – So many parishioners – dozens of ministry members and hundreds of contributors – pitched in to make the Advent Giving Tree and the Thanksgiving Food Drive tremendously successful. How about for a week or three, you consider yourself all caught up on parish-sponsored service? Good for you!

## *This Moment in Community*

**Our Volunteers: Profiles in Generosity** – Consider just a few of the projects that are working beautifully because our church abounds with large-hearted, generous volunteers.

Both of Sunday Evening’s “O Holy Night” sessions relied on about 50 volunteers – to run the food truck, plug in the lights, direct traffic, play music, check names, distribute books and wreaths, and clean up.

The clearing of the “Shepherd’s Path” occurred because about 25 people showed up with chain saws, shovels, clippers, rakes, leaf blowers, compasses, and great attitudes.

The distribution of Christmas gifts to 98 of our mobility-limited and/or senior parishioners has been a success because 25 folks agreed to play Santa to deliver the gifts. The responses have been heart-warming.

CCD is bubbling along (virtually) because nearly 60 adults are either teaching or doing the background work required to run a large-scale virtual program.

We can conduct Communion Services and celebrate Mass because dozens of people are serving as traffic directors, temperature takers, foggers, sacristans, and safety managers.

The place looks like it does because 100 volunteers installed the trees and the lights and nearly 100 families have come to decorate the trees.

The list goes on. This pandemic continues to elicit adventures that reveal vast clouds of goodness.

**Knights of Columbus** – ‘Tis the season to join. This is a very productive and very fun organization. During the pandemic, and on both sides of it, the Knights are the parish’s “go-to-guys.” They get it done for the parish and they have many hearty laughs while doing so. Our chapter is truly exceptional. If you think this might be your season to join, email Bryan DeLisi, the ministry leader, at [bdelisi@stjosephsparish.com](mailto:bdelisi@stjosephsparish.com) Tell him I sent you.

*I am looking forward to seeing you at one of our Eucharist events – and hoping many of you enjoy the shared prayer and the Shepherd’s Path on Sunday night. Please give some thought to the discernment options – full steam ahead, bag it, Plan B – and ask God to guide us in the paths of what God wants. With enormous thanks all best blessings,*

**Father Hank**

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## *“Oh, Holy Nights”*

**LAST SUNDAY** – Greatest thanks to everyone who made the first Sunday evening of Advent such a happy and memorable one. Scores of people made it happen. To each of helper, great blessings and thanks. Hundreds of people participated. To each participant, great blessings and thanks.

**THIS SUNDAY** – This Sunday evening we will have another round of evening prayer, 140 lighted trees, and socially distanced refreshments. This week’s extra special event will be “The Shepherd’s Path”

*The Shepherd’s Path* – Participants are encouraged to walk the beautifully illuminated path in the woods. Several socially distanced and masked shepherds will be posted along the way, posing questions and sharing fun facts that path-walkers might want to keep in their hearts and minds as they make their way to the life-sized creche. All are encouraged to take the walk and then to head to the food truck for some more of that delicious hot chocolate. Remember . . .

**Shoes** – Wear sturdy shoes that you do not mind getting a little dirty.

**Flashlights** – The lights along the path will be beautiful, but it might be helpful to bring your own flashlight.

**One-way Traffic** – We have created a new path at the south end of the parking lot. We originally intended to use the prayer path, but that would have required two-way foot traffic, which did not seem like a good idea.

**Registration** – Once again, given the strong interest in O Holy Nights and the guidelines for outdoor gatherings, registrations will be required for both the 4:30 and the 6:30 sessions.

**THE TREE LIGHTS** – So that everyone who wants to see the trees can do so at a convenient time, we will be leaving the tree lights on each evening from 4:30 to 10:00 pm. In order to minimize mishaps, please come all the way down Yorktown Road, turn left at the very end so that the tree lights are to your right. Enjoy!

## SCHEDULE AND RESERVATIONS *“Oh, Holy Nights”*



**Sundays. 4:30 & 6:30 PM**

**We will open the registration for the later session on the following Sundays only after the early session has been fully subscribed.**

Sunday, December 6, 4:30 pm  
Advent Week 2 - Prayer Path

Sunday, December 13, 4:30 pm  
Advent Week 3 - Caroling

Sunday, December 20, 4:30 pm  
Advent Week 4 – Nativity



## CHRISTMAS MASSES

**MASSES** – We will celebrate our Christmas Masses in the parking lot and in church. The parking lot can accommodate 100s of people (who will stay in their cars). The church can accommodate 104.

### **Christmas Eve** –

Mass in the parking lot, 2 pm; Mass in church, 5 pm and 8 pm

### **Christmas Day** –

Mass in the parking lot, 11:30; Mass in church, 9:30

### **December 21-23 (M-W)** –

8:35 am Mass in the church, using the readings of the day.

7:00 pm, using the readings for Christmas midnight (Bethlehem, etc.)

# December 6, 2020



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.

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

**Sundays, November 29  
December 6 & 20**

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#.

**If you need healing prayers before the Sunday dates please contact Ann Smith at 908-285-6481 or at [annsmith46@hotmail.com](mailto:annsmith46@hotmail.com).**



## **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY**

Tuesday, December 8: 8:35 AM Mass

On this feast we honor Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and we ponder the blessedness bestowed upon her as the Mother of God. We recognize Mary as full of grace, the model of motherhood, humble, willing to do whatever God asks of her. We also ponder how we are blessed through Mary, for in giving herself to be the mother of Jesus, Mary becomes the mother of us all.

**Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen**

## **IMMIGRATION SERVICES PROGRAM CITIZENSHIP DAY**

Are you interested in applying for your U.S. Citizenship and meet one of the following requirements:

**\*\*Have been a lawful permanent resident of the United States for at least 5 years?**

**\*\*OR Have been a lawful permanent resident of the United States for at least 3 years and obtained residency through a U.S. citizen spouse?**

Call 732-324-8200 to schedule an initial consultation. **SPACE IS LIMITED.**

Initial consultations will establish eligibility and provide a document checklist.

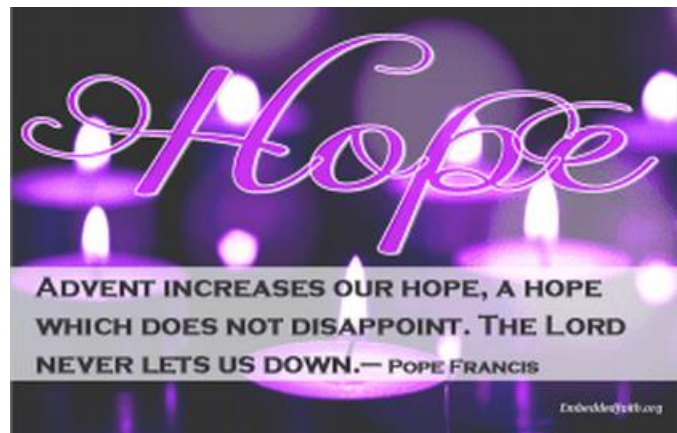
**Appointments are available in  
Perth Amboy or New Brunswick  
December 15**

## **From the Diocese of Metuchen's Office of Child and Youth Protection:.**

The findings of the investigation into the Diocese of Metuchen's files regarding McCarrick and other information about the measures in place to combat abuse in the diocese, can be found here:

[diometuchen.org/healing](http://diometuchen.org/healing).

Anyone who has been harmed in any way, by any member of clergy, employee or volunteer of the Catholic Church, is encouraged to notify law enforcement by calling 1-877 NJ ABUSE and is also urged to reach out to the Diocese of Metuchen's Director of Child and Youth Protection at (908) 930-4558..



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