

December 20, 2020

CONTACT INFO

Phone: 908-874-3141

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www.stjosephsparish.com

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

6:00 PM

Holiday Masses:

Vigil 5:00 PM

Holiday 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

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Teen Crisis Text Hotline
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Emergency Meals

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Fr. Hank

FHilton@loyola.edu

PARISH COMMUNITY OF

Saint Joseph

HILLSBOROUGH, NEW JERSEY

Priests

Prophets

Kings



December 20, 2020

For live streaming or for viewing an archived Mass, simply go to the parish web page and click away.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

MASS INTENTIONS are combined as follows:
4:45 Mass will combine 4:45, 7:15 & 6:00 intentions.. 9:30 will combine 9:30 & 11:30 intentions..

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. 8:35AM Bill Dorr
R/B Barbara Dorr
7:00PM
Tue. 8:35AM Dan Peters
R/B Sandy Viola & Family
8:35AM Ralph Patrick Zwiebel
R/B Sr. Residence EM Ministry
8:35AM Dr. Joseph Sak
R/B Lorraine Walkiewicz
7:00PM
Wed. 8:35AM
7:00PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thu.. 2:00PM Richard Braungard
R/B Braungard Family
5:00PM Joseph Cresho
R/B Maryann Comiskey & Family
8:00PM Andy Vita, Sr.
R/B Terri & Peter Macor

CHRISTMAS DAY

Fri. 9:30AM Christina Walsh
R/B Lois & Ed Jerzewski
9:30AM Ray Garcia
R/B Avelina Garcia & Family
9:30AM People of the Parish
11:30AM Deceased Matis Family Members
R/B Marie Paulette Matis

Sat. 4:45PM Gerri Weeks
R/B Monica & Brendan McDevitt
4:45PM Daniel Nawracaj Peters
R/B MaryAnn & Bobby Baranowski
4:45PM Anthony & Carmela Maita
R/B McDevitt Family
Sun. 9:30AM Elisa Dornheim (birthday)
R/B Jeremy & Elisa Goldstone
9:30AM Pilar Anduani
R/B Sandy Viola & Family
9:30AM People of the Parish

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:22-40



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.)

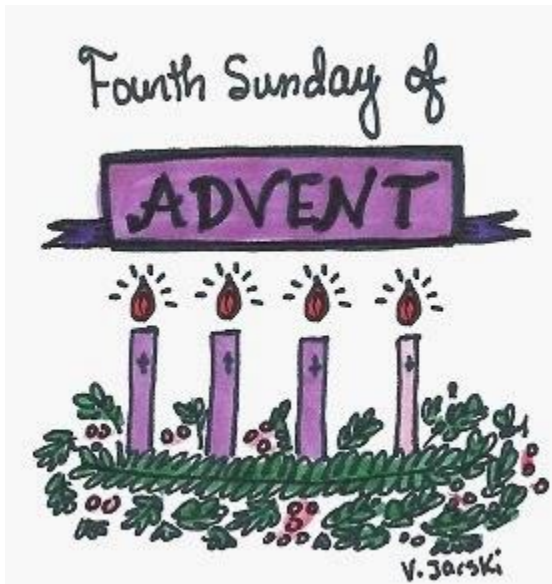
Reservations required for all.



Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Because of pandemic restrictions, this year the Cathedral Christmas Concert will be available virtually throughout the season beginning on Christmas day. Gather your loved ones and tune in to watch as the handbell choir, trumpet, horn and cello, as well as several vocal soloists, bring their musical gifts and the joy of Christmas to you right in the comfort of your own home. To view the concert, visit www.diometuchen.org or www.stfranciscathedral.org. The concert will also be made available on the Diocese of Metuchen's social media pages: @diocesemetuchen and on the St. Francis Cathedral Concerts Facebook page.

December 20, 2020



This Moment in Prayer, Service and Community

Dear All:

Christ's Peace. Think of this as the special Pandemic, Pre-Christmas edition of my weekly letter. We have lots going on for Advent and Christmas. The more you know, the better off you are.

O Holy Nights

This Sunday – Our Live Nativity – The final installment of “O Holy Nights” will be one fine evening. Each car will be guided down Yorktown Road to the entrance point. Near the door to the parish hall, parish elves will check your registration time (see below), provide Saint Jo-coa for each passenger, give you a copy of “I Heard God Laugh” (this year’s parish book) if you have not already received one, and some fun stickers for any kids in the car. You will then proceed down the line of lighted trees and JUST before the woods, turn right into the recently plowed fire road behind the church. Driving down the road, you will encounter live re-enactments (staged by humans from our Youth Ministry and animals from local herds) of the Annunciation, the Journey to Bethlehem, the Shepherds in the Field, and the Nativity. As you pass the north side of the Parish Hall, you will catch glimpses of Bethlehem projected onto a big screen. All the while, your FM radio station (88.7) will be playing Nativity scripture passages (read by members of our Youth

Group) and Christmas music. You will be very glad you experienced it.

This Sunday – Registration— We have had to shuffle things around a bit. Some had already registered for the event. Since the early registrations, changes in government guidelines have encouraged us to change the registration process. We will admit cars in batches. The batches will enter at 15-minute intervals. Please go to <https://www.stjosephsparish.com/o-holy-nights-advent-2020> to register. Those of you who had registered for the original 4:30 and 6:30 sessions have already received notice of your new times. Thanks for your help with this.

Last Sunday – Tailgate Caroling – Greatest thanks to all who made the night so excellent. Thanks to Matt Viola, Randa Rydzy and all the choir members who led us in song. Thanks to all the food truck folks who delivered the Saint Jo-coa to the cars. Thanks to the ushers who did a bang-up job. And greatest thanks to all the participants who made it a night to remember. Superabundant thanks to those who decorated their cars, set up tailgate situations, and poured great amounts of merriment into the night. Clearly, tailgate caroling is now a thing. A completely marvelous thing.

Christmas Masses

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR EVERY CHRISTMAS MASS:

Pre-Christmas Christmas Masses – Understandably, all the Masses on Christmas Eve, as well as the 9:30 Mass on Christmas morning were fully subscribed very quickly. (NB – Please pardon the phrase “sold out” on the registration page. Many of us find it both bothersome and inaccurate. Regrettably, the phrase is baked into the software.) Anticipating this, **we have scheduled Pre-Christmas Christmas Masses for this coming week. While the 8:35 am Masses will be the Masses for the day, there will also be a 7:00 pm Mass that will use the readings and prayers for Christmas. I strongly encourage you to come to one of those evening Masses if you have been boxed out of the others.** Regardless of the day, it helps to hear the story. Above all, it helps to receive the Body of Christ whose Incarnation we celebrate. Your pandemic flexibility can make the pre-Christmas Christmas Mass the center of a most beautiful evening.

(continued on next page)

December 20, 2020

Christmas Mass Precaution Levels – We are trying to accommodate every level of concern about the virus. We trust that everyone will have a chance to hear the Word and receive the Eucharist in a setting that matches their level of precaution.

Extraordinary Precautions – The parking lot Masses (2:00 pm Christmas Eve and 11:30 am Christmas Day) are the absolute safest Masses. You never come close to other people and have only momentary exposure to the Eucharistic Minister who visits your car.

Extra Precautions – the Tuesday evening 7:00 pm Mass and the 9:30 Mass on Christmas morning are Seraphim Masses with extra precautions. Please expect the following practices – which are implemented for the well-being of all, especially the most vulnerable, who are deeply consoled by the knowledge that potentially dangerous interactions are minimized:

Masks and social distancing are required from the moment you leave your car.

Your temperature will be taken when you enter the church.

You need to sit where the ushers direct you, at the time they direct you.

You need to stay in your seat the whole time. If you need to get up, you will have to wait outside the church.

Standard Precautions – The 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm Masses on Christmas eve will be Cherubim Masses with standard precautions. Masks and social distancing are required from the moment you exit your car.

Christmas Collections – My sincere thanks to those who have asked for guidance for giving to the Christmas collections. We rely on the Christmas collection for nearly 10% of our yearly income and we rely on it to pay all our insurance bills at year's end. You have four basic options for contributing.

Online Giving – If you are an online giver, you need to instruct your account to make a Christmas contribution, in addition to whatever you have instructed it to do for weekly contributions. By next Tuesday, we will have instructions posted on the parish web page for those who are contributing to the Christmas collection online for the first time.

Parking Lot Giving – It seems slightly rough, but I haven't heard anything better. For those of you participating in the parking lot Masses, there will be a big (carefully guarded!) barrel at the check in. Please use it to deposit your envelope or other gift.

Collection Baskets in Church – If you are participating in one of the in-church Masses, there will be baskets located in the Gathering Space on your way out.

Office Visit or Mail – if none of the above works for you, you can always mail your Christmas envelope, put it in the black mailbox by the Parish Hall door, or bring it to the office. GREAT thanks for supporting the church when it is not so easy to do.

There is so much going on at church these days – in prayer, service, and community-building – but I wanted to share the above today – and leave much of the other good news for next week or beyond.

One more thing – your contribution letters. Each year, we send you a letter, for your tax reports and other records, about how much you have contributed in the calendar year. To keep it simpler for you and for our office, we are happy to email those letters. If you would like to receive yours by email, please email your name, address and envelope number to mmcdevitt@stjosephsparish.com Please send that email from the email account to which you want your contribution letter sent.

With great thanks, all best blessings, and great confidence that our pandemic Christmas will be outstanding – oh so different and oh so excellent as we recall, in a most profound way, that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it – never has, never will. Amen.

Father Hank



*May the blessings of Christmas
Arrive early,
Stay late,
And leave you and your loved ones
the gifts of Peace, Joy
and Good Health.*

Merry Christmas!
from Fr. Hank and the Parish Staff

December 20, 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 & 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, January 10 & 24

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.

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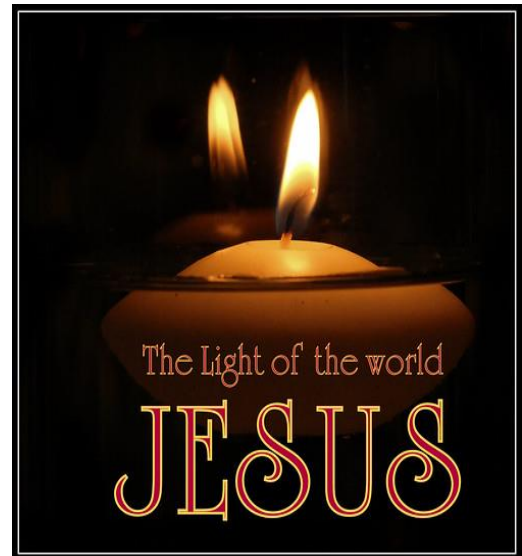
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TOGETHER IN CHARITY COLLECTION

On the weekend of January 2/3, 2021 the annual "Together in Charity" collection will be taken up at all Masses. The proceeds of this collection help to fund Catholic Charities' Parish Assistance Program, which provides 24 hour / seven-day-a-week assistance to parishes faced with individuals and families with serious and urgent financial, housing or medical needs. In 2020, almost half of the parishes in the Diocese availed themselves of this program. See Bishop Checchio's letter on the next page and please give generously to this collection and contribute to making this a blessed new year for a family or individual in crisis.



Light of the World: Keeping Christmas Alive

The birth of Jesus Christ brings great joy and light, even amidst the difficult times in which we are all living. This Christmas season, we invite you to joyfully welcome Christ into your lives and celebrate His birth, not just on Christmas day, but throughout the Christmas season.

To celebrate the birth of our Savior, priests from around the Diocese of Metuchen will share their personal reflections on how we can celebrate the miracle of His birth and keep Christmas alive throughout the entirety of this joyous season.

For more information or to sign-up to receive these reflections, which will be delivered straight to your email inbox everyday throughout the Christmas season visit lightingheartsonfire.org.



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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

December 14, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we continue to celebrate this season of Christmas, it is a special joy to announce over and over the wonderful truth that God has made His home among us in His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. While the world quickly moves on in a never ending chase for the next exciting thing, we are called to reflect again on the truth that God is with His people. Because we celebrate Christmas...what does that mean for the rest of the year?

This year we are more challenged than usual with emergency needs that arise from people coming to our parishes for additional help. This fund as you know is used solely for those who show up in need of emergency assistance. Every year we have a special opportunity to participate in an annual local collection: *Together in Charity*. The collection funds our Catholic Charities' Emergency Assistance Program, which aids parishes when individuals and families are faced with urgent financial, housing, or medical needs beyond a parish's capacity to meet.

In this year recently announced by Our Holy Father to be a year dedicated to St. Joseph the Universal patron of the Church, we may take inspiration from his protective role for the whole family of God's people; especially the most vulnerable. Jesus may be found in the face of a senior citizen who cannot afford a prescription or single mother in need of a car repair. The Faith is alive when we reach out in love to meet the needs of all who come to us. Your monetary donation, as your means allow, will be a great expression of our local Church of Metuchen responding to Jesus' words: "What you do the least, you do unto me."

As we move forward in hope into a new year, may we do so with an eye to not leaving anyone without our help and love.

With renewed best wishes, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Bishop of Metuchen

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