

January 3, 2021

CONTACT INFO

Phone: 908-874-3141

Fax: 908-874-7040

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34 Yorktown Road
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PARISH COMMUNITY OF

Saint Joseph

HILLSBOROUGH, NEW JERSEY

Priests

Prophets

Kings

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

732-516-0911

Suicide Prevention

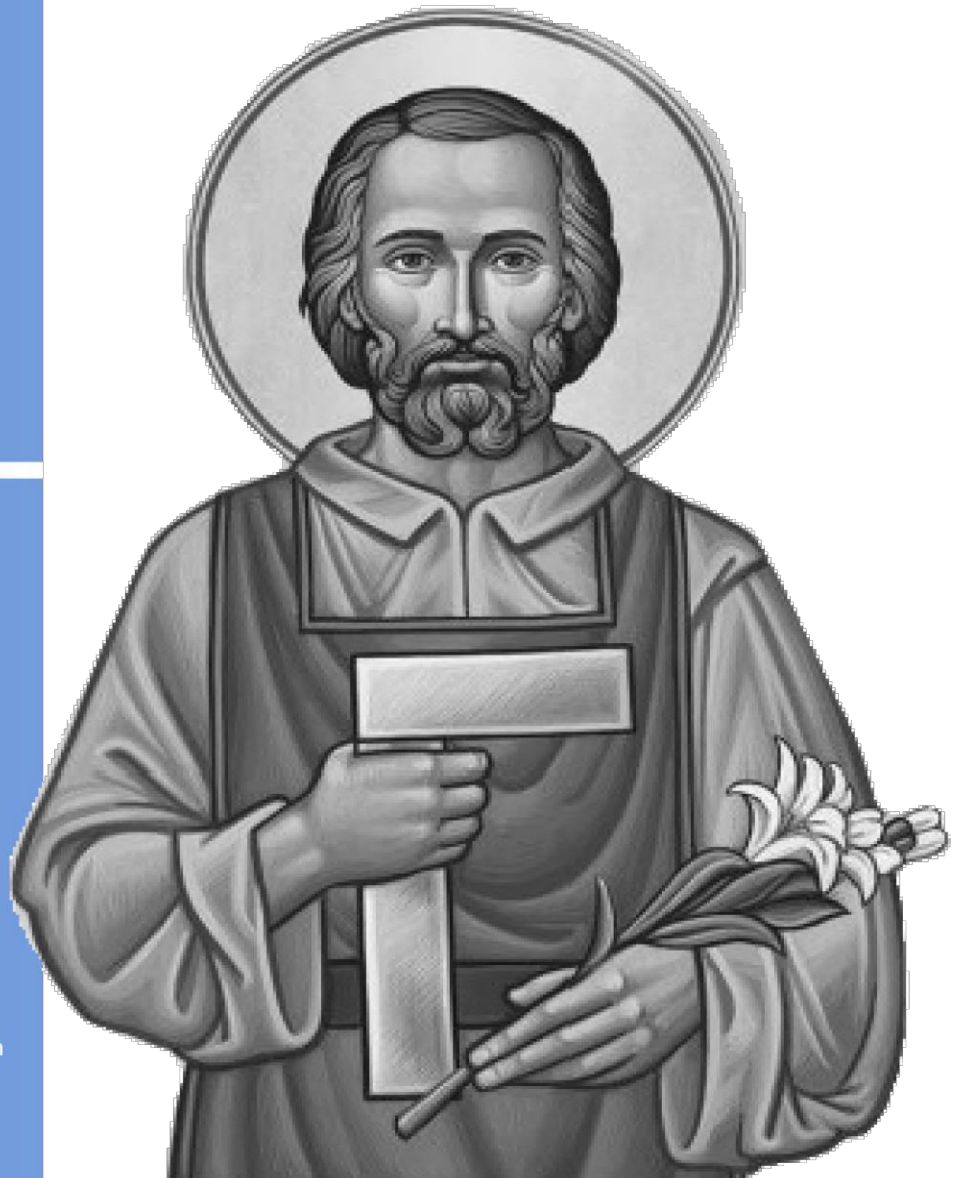
NJ Lifeline
1-800-273TALK
Teen Crisis Text Hotline
Text 741741

Emergency Meals

emergencymeals@stjosephsparish.com

Fr. Hank

FHilton@loyola.edu



January 3, 2021

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 Patrick Moore
R/B Walking with Purpose Team
- Tue. 8:35AM Robert Ferretti, Sr.
R/B Bob & Laurie Ferretti & Family
8:35AM Bud & Jerry Conklin
R/B John Conklin
8:35AM Dan Cunning
R/B Pam Cunning
- .Wed. 8:35AM Russell Matis
R/B Marie Paulette Matis
- Thu.. 8:35AM Albert Toni
R/B Suzanne French
- Fri. 8:35AM Rose Cucchiaro
R/B Carmela & Dan Maresca
8:35AM Rosemarie Lati
R/B Rose & Rick Artz
- Sat. 4:45PM Robert Keenan
R/B William & Kathleen Keenan
4:45PM Donald John Reilly
R/B Elaine & Bob Yunker
4:45PM People of the Parish
- Sun. 9:30AM Barbara Quaglietta
R/B Gail Bellas
9:30AM Stefi Straka
R/B Ridi Meyler
9:30AM Elisabetta Armato
R/B Lisa Sabo
9:30AM Albert Toni
R/B Bercarich Family

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Isaiah 55:1-11
1 John 5:1-9
Mark 1: 7-11



Dear All:

Christ's peace and a happy and blessed new year for you and your loved ones!

"The Epiphany Proclamation" is one of our church's more beautiful and less known traditions. It announces, in a prayerful and inviting way, the dates of all the moveable feasts for the upcoming calendar year. It provides a valuable perspective of our brand-new gift of 2021. In the United States, our bishops have articulated it as follows.

The Epiphany Proclamation

Know, dear brothers and sisters, that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy, we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Savior.

On the seventeenth day of February will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the fourth day of April, you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the thirteenth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the twenty-third day of May, the feast of Pentecost.

On the sixth day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

On the twenty-eighth day of November, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

May God give you the grace to look back with great gratitude for all the gifts God has given you, especially during the pandemic, and the grace to look forward with great expectations to all the gifts God wants to give you in 2021.

Along with our parish staff and all members of our leadership councils, I send this with very best blessings for you and your loved ones,

Father Hank

January 3, 2021

This Moment in Prayer, Service and Community

DISMANTLING CHRISTMAS – Now that we are about 95 days away from Easter and 184 away from July 4th, we must up our efforts to dismantle Christmas. This symphony will unfold in three parts:

Retrieve your ornaments from the trees – Your ornaments and ingenuity made the place beautiful. Loads of people loved the beauty. Your effort paid off. So that your ornaments will be ready for next year's trees, please retrieve your ornaments from the trees this weekend. But leave the lights (and the cannoli).

Retrieve your ornaments from the Memorial Hallway – If you cannot come by this weekend to pack up your beautiful decorations, members of the Youth Group will bag them for you. They will then write on the bag the name of the person in whose honor or memory the tree was sponsored. **Weather permitting, all the decorations will be bagged and labeled by next Saturday, January 9.**

Help us restore the church to "Ordinary Time" – Church colors switch from white back to green on Monday, January 11. That means we need to move all the Christmas decorations from the church back to the rectory basement. If you can join the effort on Saturday, January 9, from 9-11am please let me know. We only need a dozen good schleppers. Kindly email me and put "Schlepp," "Lug," "Pack mule," or a similar reference in the subject line. I look forward to your humor!

RECALLING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS – My 7th Christmas with you affirmed my well-established belief in your goodness and afforded marvelous views of your generosity. You outdid yourself with the Advent Giving Tree and the Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Three days after Thanksgiving, you strode into our pandemic Advent. First came the hundred volunteers, masked and socially distant, to install and light our 150 Christmas trees. Then came "Oh Holy Nights," our four Advent Sunday evening celebrations. The volunteer support and the parishioner turnout exceeded the optimistic scenarios. You turned those nights into the stuff of happy and enduring memories. The Grand Lighting of the trees, the exploration of the illuminated Shepherd's Path, the night of Tailgate Caroling (the way of the future) and the grand finale, the visit to Bethlehem and the

Live Nativity, made Advent prayerful and fun. Those nights taught us important lessons that will enrich future Advents.

Your subsequent embrace of pandemic Christmas was every bit as robust as your embrace of pandemic Advent. Ministry leaders recruited and coordinated scores of generous helpers who supported each of the fully-subscribed Christmas Masses. Hundreds of you fully embraced the altered celebrations in church and hundreds more prayed in the novel outdoor celebrations. It has been a season of palpable kindness and love. Who knew a pandemic had the power to elicit the very best of our priests, prophets, and kings?

A FEW OTHER TOPICS –

Our 2021 Calendars – Mistakes happen. An understandable glitch at the printer has delayed the arrival of our 2021 parish calendars. They should be here in two or three weeks.

Avoid the Foggers! – The pandemic requires us to fog the church after every use. It is a burdensome chore completed by good natured parishioners. It is very helpful to them and salutary for your health to stay out of the church for the 30 minutes it takes to fog. We will soon post signs to let you know when the foggers are working.

Necrology – Stay tuned for more info about fixing or adding entries to our parish necrology.

Christmas Decorations – Extra special thanks to all who made the Church so beautiful this year.

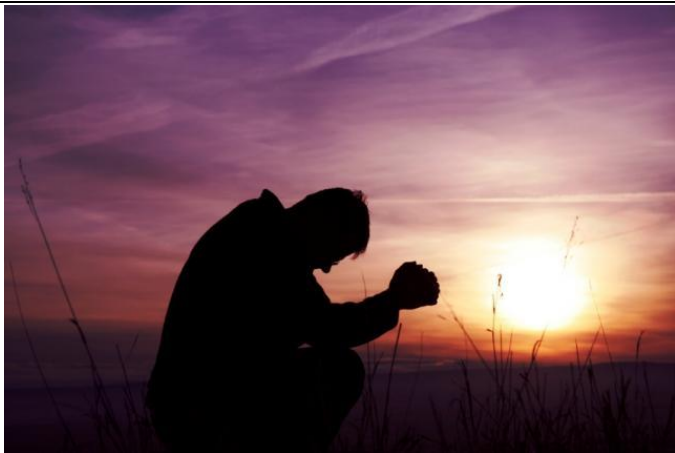
The Christmas Collection – Thanks to all who have done so much to push the Christmas Collection in the right direction. If you have any problems making an online contribution for Christmas, contact Monica McDevitt and she will explain how to give. You can also mail in your gift. GREAT thanks.

Christmas Flower Funds – That one fell through the cracks. *Mea Culpa*. But we will work it out. Remember, any given year's contributions to Christmas Flowers pay for the following year's arrangements. We still have plenty of time to fund the 2021 Christmas Flowers, and to record the names of those they honor.

With all best blessings for the remainder of your winter break, and with blessings for your mental reviews of 2020. I hope you will recall many experiences of love and grace that might not have occurred were it not for the pandemic.

Father Hank

January 3, 2021



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 & 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.

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.

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. Tell him Fr. Hank sent you!

IN MEMORIAM

Laurence (Larry) Douglas Hunt, 91, father of parishioner Anne (Robert) Cappabianca, died on December 25, 2020.

Joseph Greco, 95, father of parishioner Tom (Donna), died on December 26.

Please pray for their eternal rest and for consolation for their families and for all who mourn their deaths.

What is Christmas?

Every time a hand reaches out to help another...that is Christmas!

Every time someone puts conflict aside and strives for understanding...that is Christmas!

Every time people forget their differences and realize their love for each other...that is Christmas!

Keep Christmas all year!

January 3, 2021

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, 48 percent of the parishes in the Diocese availed themselves of this program. Please give generously to this collection and contribute to making this a blessed new year for a family or individual in crisis.

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DEDICATION ANNIVERSARY

On December 12, our Diocese marked its one-year anniversary of consecration to Jesus through Our Lady of Guadalupe. In celebration of this spiritual milestone, the faithful of the diocese were invited to participate in a week-long series of virtual events leading up to the first anniversary of the diocesan consecration.

While the events have concluded, recordings of the events can be viewed here, including the praying of the rosary for renewal, led by Bishop Checchio: lightingheartsonfire.org/renewal.

Please see and pray the Prayer of Renewal in the column to the right.

Prayer of Renewal of Consecration

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of God, and Mother of the Church of Metuchen, you who were chosen by the Father from all eternity, to offer the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus Christ, as the one pleasing sacrifice back to God; and, whom that same Son, at the moment of his agony gave the Church, you as Mother forever:

listen to the prayers of your children, who cry to you, and intercede for us before your Son in heaven.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, today, we renew our consecration of ourselves to you, for you do not abandon any person who loves your Son, Jesus, but instead accompany the Christian people in true discipleship.

O most beautiful Virgin, each day we entrust ourselves, and our diocese, to your powerful intercession for you have never forsaken the prayer of faith, but constantly show to your Son the sorrows of your heart, that He may have favor towards all who turn to you.

Help us, Joyful Mother, through your example of living the Gospel, to faithfully proclaim Jesus Christ to be Savior of our lives; and lead us, by your overflowing grace, to return, with you, to the throne of your Son; where, with you as our Queen and Mother, we shall forever enjoy fellowship with Him and all the saints.

Therefore, assist us in our prayer to the Father, that we, as the Church of Metuchen, may be renewed as missionary disciples, to set hearts on fire here in our Diocese of Metuchen so that, the world may come to know the love of Christ that will transform all people.

Mother of the Americas
and Star of the New Evangelization,
pray for us.
Amen.

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