DECEMBER 11, 2022

CONTACT INFO

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Fr. Hank FatherHank@sjmillstone.com

34 Yorktown Road Hillsborough, NJ 08844-5139

MASS & CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Daily Mass:

Monday-Friday

8:35 AM

(Wednesday is an Enhanced-precautions mass-6' spacing and masks are encouraged.)

Outdoor Communion Service:

Wednesday	10:00 AM
(This service is h	eld outdoors. Attendees
remain in their car	and tune into FM 88.7.)

Weekend Masses:

Saturday	4:45 PM
Sunday	8:00 AM
(Enhanced	-precautions mass-6'
spacing and ma	sks are encouraged.)
	9:30 AM

11:30 AM (This mass is outside under the tent/attendees may remain in their vehicle as well.)

Confessions:

Until further notice, Confessions are by Appointment only. Typically, Saturday morning between 10am - 12pm. Other times are possible. Email Fr. Hank at fatherhank@sjmillstone.com for an appointment.

Sacrament of the Sick

In Emergency- Please call 908-874-3141 and press 1 for a priest. Non-Emergency-Please email FatherHank@sjmillstone.com

EMERGENCIES Crisis Pregnancy Hotline-732-516-0911

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

Emergency Meals emergencymeals@stjosephsparish.com

PARISH COMMUNITY OF

Saint Joseph

HILLSBOROUGH, NEW JERSEY

Priests

Prophets





MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Mon.	8:35AM Vesta Lomini Malebranche
	R/B Francois Family
Tue.	8:35AM John Polites
	R/B Carlene Tomson & Family
	8:35AM Josephine Quinn
	R/B Joanne Gagliardi
	8:35 AM Allison Hammer
	R/B Rose Anne McDonald
Wed.	8:35AM Mary Matis
	R/B Paulette Matis
Thu.	8:35AM Matthew & Doris McCarthy
	R/B Catherine Yodice
Fri.	8:35AM Rose Marie Craig & James Cleary
	R/B Cleary Family
	8:35AM Terry Reichenberger
	R/B Keelin Glennon
Sat.	4:45PM Harold Keating & Dorothy Blodgett
	R/B Murphy Family
	4:45PM Edward & Kevin Sweeney
0	R/B Sharon Sweeney
Sun.	8:00AM Monica R. McKenzie
	R/B Delroy McKenzie
	9:30AM Carol & Bob Conlin R/B Barbara Dorr
	9:30AM Hian Goei
•	R/B Evie Goei
	9:30AM People of the Parish
	11:30AM John Bozenbury
	R/B Ed & Jackie Wisbeski & Family

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Isaiah 7:10-14 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-24

Behind the Scenes of This Week's Readings Third Sunday of Advent

Today's Mass opens with the words "Rejoice, the Lord is near." Formerly called Gaudate Sunday, taken from the Latin word for *rejoice*, it sets the tone for the last two weeks of Advent. While the readings of the first two weeks of Advent were somber and alluded to the final judgment, the second two weeks are decidedly more upbeat and focus on the joy that should be in our hearts as we remember the birth of our Savior and look to his future coming. To highlight this joy, the priest may wear rose-colored vestments and the third candle in the Advent wreath is also rose or pink. *– Dorothy Gearon*



HEALING PRAYER This Weekend - December 10-11 Immediately after the 4:45 PM, 9:30 & 11:30 AM Masses Next Dates: January 8-9

Third Sunday of Advent



Dear All, Christ's peace!

Penance Service – Our Parish Advent Penance Service was a moment of great grace. Thanks to all who participated. And thanks to the ushers and all who covered the logistics. Great stuff.

Your Loved One's Name Card – The name cards have been relocated from the Trees of Remembrance to the Gathering Space bulletin board. Please take your loved one's card from the bulletin board. Maybe put it on your Christmas tree. For sure, use it as a bookmark in your bible after Christmas.

Mass Intentions -Due to the increase in available mass intentions, there are still several days in January and February not yet assigned. Request one?

The Bell – With great thanks to the parishioners who made it happen, we welcome the bell from the old church to the Gathering Space. After Christmas, we will decide what to name it, where to put it, and when to ring it. Like the naming of "Holy Chow!" this will be a parishwide effort. Meanwhile, get the thoughts going and remember to ring it whenever you can! It might soon be out of reach.

Youth Ministry Christmas Party – The fun begins at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, December 21, the shortest day of the year. We welcome all high school students, especially those who have not yet ventured into a Youth Ministry event. This is a great one.

December Sundays – Christmas 2022 falls on a Sunday. That raises uncertainties about collections. You will receive two envelopes, a Christmas envelope AND a white envelope for the last Sunday of the year. If you can use both, great. If that is too much for this year, totally understood. As always, thanks and blessings.

Gifts for the Homebound – 70 Christmas gifts will be delivered next week. Our gifts go out 6 times a year so our homebound know they are not forgotten. If you are aware of a parishioner who cannot come to church and should be contacted, please email AnnaMaria at arealbuto@sjmillstone.com

Wheelchairs Available – Great thanks to those who pointed out our need for wheelchairs at the north end of the Memorial Hallway. Some parishioners with physical challenges find it hard to walk from there to church. If that is too much of a walk for you, use the wheelchairs that are now parked by those doors

With great gratitude and best blessings,

Father Hank

POOR BOX

12-4: Social Concerns Emergency Relief

This week the Poor Box, through your generous donations will support our Parish **Social Concerns Emergency Relief** services. This provides those in most need of financial support by making a one-time payment of PSEG, rental assistance, security deposit or other basic living expenses. This charity work not only provides for basic needs but restores hope to *the least of these.*

HOLY C.H.O.W.

With God's great grace, more and more people are coming to receive food from Holy C.H.O.W! We currently serve 12 casseroles each week. We will probably go to at least 16 in the new year. If you can help serve, email Michelle at mclaffoon@comcast.net

Two Types of Helpers Needed – We also need people to prepare the food on Tuesdays from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm – to get it from the freezer, into the oven and into the warming boxes. Our goal is to create four teams of three that work once a month. If you might help with this project, please email or call Gail at gail-bellas@comcast.net or 908 240-2031. It could be a particularly good ministry match for someone who does not yet participate in a Social Ministry and wants to "start slow."

OPPORTUNTIES TO HELP

The Pregnancy Aid Center

The center, located in Raritan, serves needful women and families. Our parishioners help two Wednesdays each month by sorting, organizing, and packing donations. This is another great option for folks who are just starting their Social Ministry commitment. Questions? Email Marianne at mgenn.3@gmail.com or Jeanine at jcavanagh@sjmillstone.com

Food Pantry

Our parishioners also provide logistical support, once a month, for the food pantry in Perth Amboy. Might this be a good job for you? Email Terry at terrytulee25@gmail.com

IN MEMORIAM

Frank J. Lutzky, Jr., 88, brother of parishioner Richard and brother-in-law of parishioner Barbara Lutsky, died on November 28..

Please pray for his eternal rest and for all who mourn his death..



Our Youth Ministry will be collecting gently used coats Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, December 30- January 1.

Thank You

What a superb job you did. Only folks with hearts as generous as yours could provide the 400 gifts – shoes, coats, games, and toys – that will transform Christmas for scores of children. What a sight it was to see the boxed-up fruits of your efforts lined up in our memorial Hallway. Thanks to all who contributed gifts, and big, special thanks to all members of the Advent Giving Tree Ministry and to the elves who wrapped the packages for delivery. You have outdone yourselves. The gifts will be shipped out and distributed, by our folks, on December 17 in Kentucky and West Virginia.



This is the schedule of the times of Christmas masses as of now. More details and any changes will be posted each week. Please continue to check for any changes in this schedule . Thank You.

Christmas Eve -

- 4:00 PM will also be livestreamed
- 6:00 PM
- 9:00 PM

Christmas Day –

8:00 AM

9:30 AM – will also be livestreamed

11:30 AM will also accommodate people in cars and will be broadcast to these people on the parish FM station. Communion will be brought to these people. This option is intended primarily to serve those people whose health prevents them from being in crowds.



SAGES ACTIVITIES Sages Christmas Party & Talent Show: Wednesday, December 14 at 12:00. Join us for a special hot lunch , Talent show and Christmas festivities.. The poker group has the option to play after the talent show. Registration required. Our programs will take a break for the holiday season and return on January 12. Info: Email AnnaMaria at arealbuto@sjmillstone.com You can also call her at 908-864-0334.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES

Would you like to make a donation towards our Christmas Memorial Flower Program in remembrance of a deceased loved one or to honor someone? Your contributions will provide for next year's flowers – just like last year's contributions provide for this year's. The envelopes will be available in the Gathering Space. You may drop them in the baskets on the way out of church... Names will be posted in the bulletins after Christmas.

Thank you for helping to make our church beautiful for Christmas



Please consider joining us for the Annual Diocesan Respect Life Mass. Bishop James F. Checchio will be the celebrant. Youth who have been active in pro-life volunteering will be recognized. There will be a light reception immediately following the Mass. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact

amarshall@diometuchen.org or 732-562-1543.

O HOLY NIGHTS!

Please go to www.sjmillstone.com to register for each evening and to secure your place.

Be sure to watch for changes in this schedule.



SHEPHERD'S PATH

Sunday, December 11, 5 PM

Test Your Knowledge; Stroll the path and encounter our young shepherds. There is a new path, closer to the tent and shepherds along the way will quiz you on your knowledge of Jesus' birth. We will provide Christmas Carnival Games for the little ones and a chance to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus. AND FOR THE FIRST TIME – WE ARE BRINGING IN AN ICELESS SKATING RINK. WE ALSO PROVIDE THE SKATES. Skating for young families will go from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. Open skating goes from 5:15 to 7:00PM.



LIVE NATIVITY

Sunday, December 18, 4 PM Drive thru' and experience the true meaning of Christmas. Registration Required.

Presented by our Youth Ministry. Listen on the parish radio station while soaking up the view of the Annunciation, the Birth of Christ, and more holy moments. Register at <u>www.sjmillstone</u> for your preferred time, between 4:00 and 6:30 PM..



Catholic Girl Scouts, come join us! GIRL SCOUTING IN FAITH

A GATHERING Day is normally held each year for Catholic Junior, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts who would like to work on a religious medal program. During that day, scouts accomplish several requirements towards their respective medals.

This year's Girl Scout GATHERING Day will be held on Saturday January 14, 2023 from 9:30AM until 3:30PM at St. Bernard of Clairvaux, 500 Route 22 East, Bridgewater. Breakfast and lunch will be provided along with scouting activities and fellowship. The cost for the program is \$15.00

Religious Girl Scout Medals are offered at each scout level with activities and requirements, just like with regular girl scout badge work. Daisy and Brownie programs are completed within the family. Junior, Cadette and Senior medal programs are completed largely in a group environment with adult advisors. Daisy.....God is Love Brownie.....God and Family Juniors.....I Live My Faith Cadettes......Marian Medal Seniors and ambassadors......Spirit Alive

Contact **domgirlscouts@gmail.com** for further information on any of the Catholic Girl Scout programs or to request a registration form.

CHAMPIONS FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Champions for Catholic Charities is a community of individual and corporate benefactors who support the vital services for our neighbors in need provided by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen. Catholic Charities serves over 56,000 people each year through more than 100 programs in the New Jersey counties of Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Warren.

YOUR financial support means a place to live... food on the table...health and wellness support...safe and affordable childcare... help with an addiction or problem...and so much more.

Please prayerfully consider joining our team today and become a Champion for Catholic Charities!

See how at diometuchen.org/champions

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Please send info for the bulletin no later than Friday, 8 days prior to the weekend you want the article to appear, directly to <u>stjoebulletin@yahoo.com</u>. **Please watch for very early deadlines during December**

Mount St. Mary House of Prayer

1651 US Hwy. 22, Watchung, NJ 07069

Program Offerings

Information and Registration for all Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer offerings can be found on our website: <u>www.msmhope.org</u>. You may also call us at 908-753-2091 or email us at <u>msmhope@msmhope.org</u>

SACRED TIME, SACRED SPACE

A personal, quiet day to enjoy God's presence. Day begins with communal prayer. Bring a bag lunch. Wednesday, December 13 from 9:30am-3pm and January 25

(\$20-\$30 as you are able)

DRUMMING ECSTASY CIRCLE

Music is one of the most glorious gifts of God. God uses drumming to enhance His powers to improve our health, lives—the essence of our being. Learn how to connect deeply with God through Rhythm.

2nd Wednesday of each month from 1:30-3pm December 14, January 11, February 8 Presenter: Barbara Woodzell (\$20-\$30 as you are able)

MAN TO MAN

Men have unique roles in life...husbands, fathers, grandfathers, the single life and religious life...We're pushed and pulled in a thousand directions by responsibilities, stress, loss and by joys. Where can we find time to reflect on the loss and gain of our lives? For all men—young, old and in between. Join our group over coffee or tea for life affirming discussions and prayer to find God in our lives and to make a difference in our own worlds.

4th Tuesday of the Month Tuesday, December 27th from 7-8:30 both at the House of Prayer and on Zoom Freewill offering

YEAR-END DAY OF PRAYER

Spend this last day of the year reflecting on the many gifts God has bestowed on you. Day begins and ends with communal prayer. Bring a bag lunch. **Saturday, December 31, 9:30 a.m.--3 p.m.**

(\$20-\$30 as you are able)

VIRTUAL COMFORTABLE CUP OF TEA

Join us on Zoom for an hour of lectio divina, prayer, conversation and small group sharing.

First and Third Thursdays of each month from 3-4pm on Zoom

Freewill offering

Sunday, Dec 11, 2022

'Tis the season to be generous

Seasonal gift-giving was originally an expression of generosity toward the needy. These days, gift-giving has become many other things, including a source of anxiety or obligation, mindless consumerism, one-upmanship, and often, an annual occasion of snowballing debt. The gifts Jesus brings are different—they are restorative, occasions of good news. Consider offering gifts that fill hearts, not closets. Heifer International, World Wildlife Fund, and PlanUSA are among the many organizations that accept donations in directed ways to honor your loved ones.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11 (7). "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk . . . and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."

Monday, Dec 12, 2022

We're good enough for God

The appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Saint Juan Diego in December 1531 is reminiscent of the appearance of the angel Gabriel to Mary. Juan and the young Mary were both understandably overwhelmed by what was asked of them. In the Gospel of Luke, Mary is "greatly troubled at what was said." According to later accounts, Juan told Our Lady to pick someone of higher standing as messenger, since he was a "man of no importance." But by accepting the challenge, a Jewish peasant girl became the Mother of God, and an indigenous Mexican persevered in getting a church built in Our Lady's honor. Today, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City is the mostvisited Catholic shrine in the world. Think you're not good enough for God's plan? Trust that God equips us all for what we're called to do.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47 (690A). *"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."*

Tuesday, Dec 13, 2022

Follow the light

Lucy, whose name means "light," is a great saint for these darkening days of Advent. Her name and example personify the "light" mentioned throughout the Bible, not only Isaiah's promises of a future messiah—"people who walk in darkness will see a great light"—but Jesus, who called himself the "Light of the World", while also calling us the same. Scandinavian celebrations of Lucy, with a crown of candles on her head, remind us that she fed persecuted Christians hiding in the catacombs, affixing candles to her head in order to use both hands to serve. How will you be a light to the world today?

MEMORIAL OF LUCY, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32 (188). *"Take refuge in the name of the Lord."*

Wednesday, Dec 14, 2022

In the darkness, a great light

One of multiple doctors of the church celebrated this month, Saint John of the Cross was a renowned priest and friar in Spain, descended from a line of *"conversos"* (Iberian Jewish converts to Catholicism). A contemporary of another Carmelite saint, Teresa of Ávila, John was, like her, a mystic whose writings have lived far beyond his own lifetime as classics of European literature. His seminal work, the poem "Dark Night of the Soul," is the basis of a widely held tenant of spirituality involving spiritual distress as a part of searching and growth. (We all have our "dark nights of the soul.") His "Ascent of Mount Carmel" is likewise widely revered. In this season of holy joy as we celebrate the approach of the Messiah, may we likewise honor the legacy of the humble Catholic friar of Jewish descent whose profound and mystical faith has inspired millions the world over.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, CARMELITE PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23 (189). "And Jesus said to them in reply, 'Go and tell John what you have seen and heard.""

Thursday, Dec 15, 2022

The greatest gifts are priceless

The tradition of Christmas gift-giving can be uncomfortable for those wanting to take seriously Catholic teaching about the environment and consumerism. Fortunately, more and more people are open to alternatives: gifts of time or special skills, gifts made from household items, gifts to charitable causes in loved ones' names. How can you celebrate creatively, in keeping with the spirit of Christmas?

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30 (190). "I tell you, among those born of women, no one is greater than John."

Friday, Dec 16, 2022

Truly right and just

The prophet Isaiah tells the Israelites to "observe what is right, do what is just." No easy task, often leading us to ask for some guidance. Fortunately, Jesus showed us the way. As we await the celebration of Christ's coming, take a moment to ponder some of the examples of right and just living Jesus gave us, such as caring for outcasts, being a healing presence, praying, evangelizing, and forgiving. Simply put, follow Christ's advice to love God and your neighbor as yourself and to count your blessings, and let Christ take care of the rest.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 56:1-3a, 6-8; John 5:33-36 (191). "These works that I perform testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me."

Saturday, Dec 17, 2022

Dip into God's wisdom

Today we begin the recitation of the O Antiphons. The church sings these seven lines during evening prayers (vespers) on the last seven days of Advent, and also uses them as the Alleluia Verse during the daily Mass. Each antiphon is a title for Christ taken from the Book of Isaiah. They go back to an unknown source some 1,500 years ago in medieval Europe, and all begin with "O," thus known as the "O Antiphons." Take an opportunity today to connect to this ancient tradition by enjoying sung versions and explanations of the antiphons on the internet, starting with today's antiphon, O Wisdom.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O WISDOM)

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17 (193). "The mountains shall yield peace for the people, and the hills justice."



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow-a day at a time

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