CONTACT INFO

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

www. stjosephsparish.com

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 held 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 masks 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 <u>FatherHank@sjmillstone.com</u>

EMERGENCIES

Crisis Pregnancy Hotline - 732-516-0911

Suicide Prevention

NJ Lifeline—1-800-273TALK

Teen Crisis Text Hotline—Text 741741

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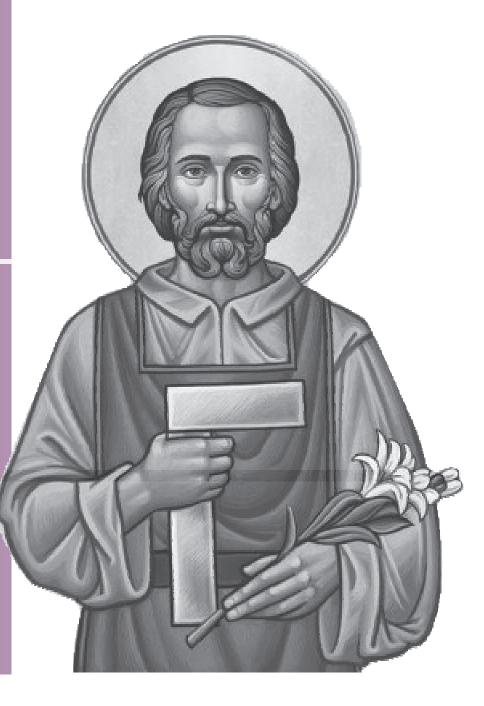
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Priests

Prophets

Kings



December 12, 2021

INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. 8:35 AM Josephine Quinn

R/B Pat & Joanne Gagliardi

Tue. 8:35 AM Mary Matis

R/B Paulette Matis

8:35AM Thomas Reilly.

R/B Rosemary Love

8:35AM Brenda & Gerry Barron & Family (Living)

R/B Jeff & Mary Lawler

Wed. 8:35AM Gerard Salvatore

R/B Donna & Tom Greco

Thu. 8:35AM Margaret Caubet

R/B St. Joseph Parish

Fri. 8:35AM Nancy M. Kamilakis

R/B Fr. Hank

8:35AM Joseph Nicolella

R/B O'Reilly Family

Sat. 4:45AM Carlo Melia

R/B Marietta & Joe Mairana

4:45PM People of the Parish

Sun. 8:00AM Charlotte Politi

R/B Robert & Lucia Engle

Sun. 9:30AM Carol Beggans

R/B Dorothy Gearon

9:30AM Nellie Perone

R/B Barbara. Joe & Connor Perone

9:30AM Eileen Mahoney

R/B Senior Residence Eucharistic Ministry.

Sun. 11:30AM Edward & Kevin Sweeney R/B Sharon Sweeney

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Micah 5:1-4a

Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1: 39-45

- 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 for 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. 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



UPDATED SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS MASSES

More details and any changes will be posted each week. Please continue to watch for these changes or details. Thank You.

Christmas Eve -

2:00 PM IN PARKING LOT 5:00 PM & 8:00PM IN CHURCH

Christmas Day -

8:00 AM & 9:30AM IN CHURCH

11:30AM – HYBRID This Mass will be celebrated indoors and will be broadcast on the parish radio station (88.7). People who have medical concerns about being indoors are welcome to stay in their cars, listen to the Mass, and receive Communion at the regular time.

HEALING PRAYER IN PERSON RETURNS TO CHURCH



- *Healing Prayer is now back to in person healing on the first weekend of each month.
- *Virtual healing is closed.
- *Healing Prayer will take place after all masses.
- *Ministers will meet parishioners in front of the altar after mass.
- *In keeping with COVID precautions, ministers will wear masks and remain 6-feet away from participants.

Our next Healing Sundays are
January 11 &12
(We are skipping New Year's Weekend)
February 5 & 6

December 12, 2021



Dear All, Christ's peace! Great thanks to all who made the Holy Nights such happy events.

This Moment in Prayer

Saturday Confessions and Conversations – Sorry about the recent conflicts The open session is back to 9-10. Appointments are required for the 10-11 period. And remember, we can ALWAYS arrange confession during the week at a time that works for you.

The Book of Mass Intentions – The special period for arranging Mass intentions has concluded. Parishioners have arranged 687 intentions. 114 intentions are available for the "recently deceased" those who have died or will have died between November 2021 and October 2022. Our hope is to leave many open so people can arrange a Mass when a loved one dies. If you have not yet arranged six intentions, you can still arrange more up to six total. If you have already arranged six intentions, you can, pending availability, arrange up to three more after May 1. We will try to accommodate requests for the recently deceased. We will also clarify the process of requesting Mass intentions through the missions. Your devotion to our beloved deceased is inspiring.

In-car at the 11:30 Mass – The FM radio deal stumbled a few weeks ago. Special thanks to the ushers and Eucharistic Ministers who facilitated the outdoor prayer.

This Moment in Service

Ministry Food Pantry –. A new parish ministry will be providing much needed help to area food pantries. The ministry is less about collecting food and more about helping the pantry's managers sort the goods, throw out whatever is past due, clean the shelves, pack the bags, etc.

Respect Life – Go to the Moses for more information about how you can pray and fast to support the spread of respect for life.

Who is better than you? – The numbers have become even more impressive since the last report.

Our Thanksgiving Food Collection – We were hoping for enough filled grocery bags to provide Thanksgiving dinners for 175 families. You provided Thanksgiving dinners for 290 families.

Our Advent Giving Tree for Neighbors in Need The ministry hoped parishioners would donate about 400 gift cards with a value of about \$10,000. You donated 545 cards with a value of \$14,845.

Our Advent Giving Tree for Families in Appalachia – The ministry put out 360 gift tags. A significant portion of you included two gifts in each bag – e.g., the request was for size 8 boy's snow boots, but you provided size 8 snow boots AND size 8 sneakers. Remarkable stuff. Ministry members wrapped all the gifts this week and the van took them away this morning.

This Moment in Community

Setting up the Christmas Trees – Terrific thanks to the 125 parishioners who turned out to set up the 200 Christmas trees. You completely outdid yourselves. We should enter a contest for fastest and friendliest tree set up. GREAT thanks too to the Knights who grilled the cheese and stirred the soup. That was one fun day.

Decorating the Trees – Blessings for all who decorated their trees . You have created a beautiful display.

Tik Tok, The Dance – I confess, I first learned about this in October. (Those of us without children or grandchildren sometimes learn a little late about what is cool!) The Tik Tok dance videos are a regular "phee-nom." After one of our utes teaches us the 30-second line dance, it will be videoed and posted on our parish YouTube station. We have no current plans to post it on Tik Tok – but we are making no promises about what might happen!

Help – We can still use a few more people to help at the Holy Nights events. There are a few jobs that need doing. Please check out the helpers' signup sheet at https://www.signupge-

nius.com/go/10c0f4aa9af23a2f5c70-ohholy

Online Giving Migration – If you are having any lingering problems with your online giving, owing to lingering problems from the diocesan-wide software migration, please check in with Monica McDevitt. You can call her at the office or email her at mmcdevitt@stjosephsparish.com

Looking forward to seeing you at Mass and at O Holy Nights! And with all best blessings.

Father Hank

December 12, 2021



CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES

Thanks in advance for helping. Last year, the pandemic got in the way of collecting donations for the Christmas flowers. This year, we have some catching up to do. The envelopes will be available from this weekend until January 10 on the Moses Table and can be dropped in the collection baskets.



TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS

Jonathan and Diana Andes
Audrey, Elizabeth
Robert and Ingrid Cappadona
Kristen

Helen Dolan

Abigail, Hallie, Jack

Peter and Barbara Dagostino Anthony and Judith Ferrazzano

Evie Goei

Carol Jichetti

Peggy Kime

Paul and Rosemarie Mezzo

Glenn and Stacie Monroe

Cole

Peter and Suzanne Mora

Joseph

JUScpi

Guadalupe and Noe Moreno-Vega

Julian, Sofia

Stephen and Maryann Rhodes Mary Jane Tranzillo Timothy and Wallace Veracco

IN MEMORIAM

Angela Laurenzi, 95, mother of parishioner Barbara Servidio, died on November 25.

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



SAGES ACTIVITIES

Drums Alive – Exercise Class:

Thursdays, at 10 AM.

Last class was on December 9.

Chair Exercise and Dance Class -

will begin on Thursday, January 6

Winter Monday Fundays from 1:30- 3:30 PM in Parish Hall. Various activities including movies, poker, board games and mahiong, etc.

Christmas Crafts – December 6– with Corks Plus, poker, mahjong, board games and other Christmas fun.

General Information: To learn more about SAGES and all options for our over-55 parishioners, visit our website at SAGES Senior Min-

istry http://sjmillstone.com/sages

For more info contact

AnnaMaria at 908-874-2141 e3xt 240 or arealbuto@stjosephsparish.com

Preparing the Way for Christ

with Dr. Scott Hahn December 14 at 7 PM

Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen

As part of the Diocese of Metuchen's 40th Anniversary celebration, the Diocese will welcome Dr. Scott Hahn to the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen, where he will present an evening on the Holy Season of Advent through the lens of evangelization. All are welcome to attend, though registration is required. Admission is free and donations are appreciated. To learn more or to register, visit: diometuchen.org/40



HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES

Due to the increased demands of UPS and FedEx, the bulletins must be shipped as early as possible from the printer to ensure timely delivery to our parish.

Info for the December 26 bulletin must be sent by Tuesday evening, December 14.

Info for the January 2 bulletin must be sent by Tuesday evening, December 21

Please send all information directly to stioebulletin@vahoo.com

Thank You, Dorothy, stjoebulletin@yahoo.com

O HOLY NIGHTS!



SHEPHERD'S PATH

Sunday, December 12, 5 PMTest Your Knowledge; Stroll the path and encounter our young shepherds.



LIVE NATIVITY

Sunday, December 19, 4 PM
Drive thru' and experience the true meaning of Christmas. Registration Required.
The big finale presented by the youth group starts at 4:00 PM (so people who don't drive at night can visit). Sign-up times will be required and refreshments will flow.

All evenings will feature Christmas cookies and the World's Best St. Joe Cocoa.

Sunday, Dec 12, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Queen of Mercy, watch over us

Often, we seek guidance, wondering like those around John the Baptist: What should we do? The answer's a simple one: show mercy. Our adversaries, family members, and we ourselves may be in need of such compassion. When La Virgen Morena (the Brown Virgin) appeared to Juan Diego in Mexico and left her image on his cactus-fiber cloak, her promise of mercy to all who appealed to her was sealed on the Americas. Our Lady of Guadalupe, now patroness of Mexico and empress of the Americas, extends her reign across two continents and around the globe. Respond with mercy today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18 (9). "The crowds asked John the Baptist, 'What should we do?""

Monday, Dec 13, 2021

MEMORIAL OF LUCY, MARTYR

I can see clearly now

In these darkening days of December, the Scandinavian festival of light held on Saint Lucy's feast day is a cheerful sight to brighten spirits. In these countries—and wherever Scandinavians are found—girls dress as Lucy in long white gowns with wreaths of candles on their heads, carrying sweets in procession as songs are sung. Similar practices can be found in Italy and Croatia. Whether you belong to those ethnicities or not, why not incorporate the festival into your family holiday traditions? Saint Lucy is the patron and protector of eyesight—ask her to help you focus yours, to see more clearly the coming of the radiant king.

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27 (187). "By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave you this authority?"

Tuesday, Dec 14, 2021

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

Carried by love

Saint John of the Cross was named a doctor of the church for his profound, poetic writings on Christian mysticism. As a spiritual phenomenon, mysticism is difficult to explain. Central ideas, though, connect love and suffering. Today, pause to remember the tragic school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary and contemplate this meditation by John and remember to love: "I saw the river over which every soul must pass to reach the kingdom of heaven, and the name of that river was suffering. And I saw a boat which carries souls across the river, and the name of that boat was love."

TODAY'S READINGS: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32 (188). "Then will I remove from your midst the proud braggarts, and you shall no longer exalt yourself."

Wednesday, Dec 15, 2021

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Jesus, our justice and our peace

The coming of Jesus into the world was ultimately the coming of true justice and peace. In today's psalm, these two virtues are said to have "kissed" when the Messiah arrived on Earth. What an incredible image! Every promise of God finds its yes in the One who frees us from sin and death. In the gospel reading, Jesus proves by his miraculous love that he is the long-hoped-for Messiah. Today, remember that as we anticipate Christmas, the

fulfillment of all our hopes and dreams is the justice and peace of Jesus. Perhaps not what we expected, but what we need!

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23 (189). "Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven."

Thursday, Dec 16, 2021

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Differently blessed

Today's first reading refers to an idea repeated many times in the Bible: that children are a blessing from God. Catholic teaching on situations where bearing children is not possible is not the inverse, however. The church has never taught that infertility or any other limitation is a punishment or "curse" from God. To the contrary, Catholic tradition emphasizes that persons in every situation or condition deserve our full attention, respect, and caring concern. How can you practice empathy toward those whose family life has taken a less common direction?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30 (190). "Among those born of women, no one is greater than John; yet the least in the Kingdom of God is greater than he."

Friday, Dec 17, 2021

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O WISDOM)

Make the wise choice

Today the church begins to sing the O Antiphons to accompany the Advent evening prayer of Mary's Magnificat. These short, sung phrases remind us of our need for salvation and our desire to embody the divine characteristics of our Savior. Today we pray for knowledge. This is not the knowledge that wins arguments around the dinner table, but the knowledge that shines a light on who we are, where we came from, and what we are called to do. It is the knowledge that comes with discernment and brings us peace. May wisdom be our teacher.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17 (193). "O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!"

Saturday, Dec 18, 2021

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O SACRED LORD)

Walk each other home

The theme for this year's International Migrants Day is "Reimagining Human Mobility." U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres calls upon citizens of the world to "seize the opportunity of the recovery from the pandemic to implement safe, orderly, and regular migration and enable migrants to build more inclusive and resilient societies." Today's O Antiphon recalls the migration of Israel from Egypt to Palestine and asks God to guide the movement of peoples. Because we all can trace our ancestry back to migrating people at one time or another, it is appropriate today to pray for people on the move seeking new homes and new lives in new lands.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25 (194). "And they shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us."

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



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