# DECEMBER 25, 2022

# **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 h	neld outdoors. Attendees
remain in their ca	r and tune into FM 88.7.)

## Weekend Masses:

Saturday	4:45 PM
Sunday	8:00 AM
(Enhanc	ed-precautions mass-6'
spacing and r	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 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

8:00AM The Rosary is prayed before Mass.
8:35AM Ray Garcia
R/B Nina DeLucia
8:35AM Julia Kelman
R/B MaryAnn Baranowski & Bob Jr.
8:35AM Florence Longo
R/B Jeanine & Jim Cavanagh
8:35 AM Elisa (Gina) Dornheim (Living)
R/B Elisa & Jeremy Goldstone
8:35AM Josephine Villanueva
R/B Rachelle Hanna
8:35AM Paul Jungels
R/B Jim Jungels
8:35AM Anthony & Carmella Maita
R/B McDevitt Family
8:35AM Loretta Cavanagh
R/B Jim & Jeanine Cavanagh
nity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
4:00PM All Parishioners
8:00AM All Parishioners
9:30AM All Parishioners
11:30AM All Parishioners

# DAILY ROSARY

Each morning, Monday-Friday, before Mass at 8 AM.in the church, we pray and meditate on the Mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary. We invite you to join us whenever you are able.

## **READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK**

Numbers 6:22-27 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21



# HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSINGS

The parish offices are closed on Monday, December 26 and reopen on Tuesday, December 27

They will also close at 1:00 PM on Friday, December 30 and reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

# Chrístmas



Every time a hand reaches out to help another... **THAT IS CHRISTMAS** Every time someone puts anger aside and strives for understanding... **THAT IS CHRISTMAS** Every time people forget their differences... **THAT IS CHRISTMAS** 

Anonymous

*Fr. Hank and the Parish Staff wish you and your family a blessed Christmas filled with peace, joy and love!* 

# OUR PARISH FAMILY WELCOMES YOU

Visitor or newcomer? Coming home? Welcome to St. Joseph Parish Community. Although we are a diverse group of people, we aim to be a family gathered in love and mutual respect. We are so very different, yet so much alike. We are young and not so young and everything in between. We are lifelong Catholics, brand new Catholics, and some of us are still seeking a spiritual path. We are saints that often struggle. We are sinners who dare to trust in the mercy promised. But no matter how anyone may try to define you, please know that you have a place – a home here with us. Join us as we celebrate God's redemptive love in the Mass. Join us as we create new friendships in our Spirituality, Bible Study and Prayer Groups. Join us in serving the needs of our brothers and sisters here and wherever God calls us. We are so happy that you joined us today and hope that you will come again. We are all eager to greet and welcome you.

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# **APPALACHIA SUMMER MISSION**

**Thursday, January 19 at 7:00 PM** Join us for an informative meeting To learn about how you can be a part of our parish mission scheduled in June. Questions? Email Jeanine at JCavanagh@sjmillstone.com

# **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



# SAGES ACTIVITIES

Our programs will take a break for the holiday season and return in January.

**COMING IN JANUARY** 

**Exercise**: Drums Alive class begins Thursday, January 12 at 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall

**Tuesday Topics**: Meet Joshua O'Neill, the new Eldercare educator at The Office of Aging and Disability Services on January 17 at 11:15 AM. He will discuss services and workshops offered by the county.

**Monday Funday**: Join us January 23 at noon for lunch, games and a movie. Details and registration to follow

Info: Email AnnaMaria at arealbuto@sjmillstone.com You can also call her at 908-864-0334.



# WHAT IS HEALING PRAYER?

Throughout our Catholic history, we have cared for the sick using both prayer and medical knowledge. Today we see our hospitals using medical science as well as chaplains, healing prayers, and the Sacrament of the Sick. Both Scientific and Religious types of medical care work together to do God's will.

- Healing Prayer is a prayer of Petition with a member of the prayer team for healing or a special intention. It can be requested by a person, their family, or a friend.
- It is a kind of prayer Christians have been making since New Testament times.
- It expects God will heal, although God may not heal what we expect.
- It is not limited to physical healing, but can heal mind, body, spirit and/or soul.
- It may be repeated.
- It often includes a prayer for help and guidance for family members, friends or medical personnel.
- It does not replace normal medical care.
- It is not a sacrament, but a sacramental (like the rosary or benediction).

You are welcome to request healing prayer at our monthly sessions after mass on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

# **Next Healing Prayer**

Immediately after 4:45PM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM Masses January 7-8

For more Information :contact Ann Smith at 908-285-6481. All conversations and prayer requests are confidential.



Our Youth Ministry will be collecting gently used coats Friday, Saturday, and Sunday,

December 30- January 1.

Please do not bring or leave coats at the church or parish offices before these dates. Thank You.

# December 25, 2022



# **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.

# Save the Dates: EVENTS for PARENTS & CHILDREN open to all parents and children including those who do not attend CCD.

## Book Reading Sunday, January 22 from 10:45AM – 11:10AM Parish Hall

A reading of a new, soon to be published book called **CROW THE COURAGEOUS: BADGE OF COURAGE**. It is a book where the readers becomes a part of the story by writing in their own names and using the provided stickers to complete the story and has an optional interactive board game.

Presented by Jim Samartino,. author and parishioner. This presentation is part of the opening prayer time for Sunday CCD class but the event is open to all.

Reservations: A Sign-Up Genius will go out in beginning of January.

## Art Class for Grades 4 – 6 Sunday, January 29 from 12:15 – 2:15 PM Parish Hall

# Presented by parishioner James Lew

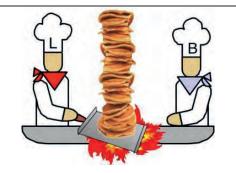
Theme of Painting: Valentine's Day Process: James will provide guided instruction of the picture.

Cost: Nominal Cost to cover the materials and pizza

Both of these events will have a Sign-Up Genius go out in January. For more information, please contact Jim Jungels at 908-864-0369.

## **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>.



# PANCAKE BREAKFAST

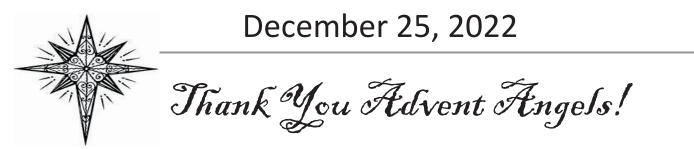
Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs Hashbrowns, Coffee

Sunday, January 8, 2023 Serving from 8:30 AM until 12 PM St. Joseph Parish Center

Your GENEROUS Donations accepted at the door Sponsored by our parish Knights of Columbus Proceeds from this event will support: St. Joseph Youth Ministry Catholic Heart Workcamp Trip July 16-22, 2023 Supporting Registration Fees Goal \$2,500

# CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2023-2024 TUITION ASSISTANCE ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS OPEN

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at <u>https://online.factsmgt.com/aid</u>. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by no later than **March 31**, **2023.** Applications are available in English and Spanish. Families that need assistance completing the online application or need access to a computer to apply should contact their school.



As we celebrate the "the coming of the Christ child"... GOD WITH US....I take pause to reflect on the many ways I experience GOD WITH US through this season and the many liturgical seasons throughout the year.

In a world full of suffering, poverty, pain, toil, exhaustion, unrest, anger, and violence we are often left waiting... and wondering... what might happen next. Advent in the time of waiting for peace... the Prince of Peace to arrive... the Word made flesh to dwell among us... and we wait, and we pray that He comes to us. We wait, and we pray that He comes to us... and some may doubt, and some may question.

I do not question or doubt. Not because I am faith filled or fearless, however, because of YOU. Each of you, who time and time again show me Emmanuel... OUR GOD IS WITH US. And I know that the "reason for the season" lights up the dark of danger and we begin to see the "star of God's peace" over us all. I see the star as you selflessly serve on bended knee... tending in a myriad of ways... to the needs of the many and the many needs of the world. GOD WITH US is here in you, as you recognize that we are a "called out people" to reflect God's light and love.

In the waiting... sometimes we can see more clearly... love more dearly the "reason for the season" as it is evident all around us ... even in the harshness of daily trials and tribulation. Listen for the sound of Christmas bells... look for the flakes of goodness falling upon our heart, mind, soul, and spirit... even as we walk... or drive through the valley of darkness...Emmanuel... GOD IS WITH US.

Angels we have heard on high... are singing and fluttering all around us... it is a matter of believing. God with us... in us... and through us is the reason for the season. You make this self-evident through your prayers of action... your prayers of love and generosity in abundance.

We receive God's gift of unconditional love and mercy each and every day. Some days we are desperate and recognize incredible blessings! Other days goodness blends into the landscape of our expectant waiting... and becomes hidden in white on white... so much so that we are blinded to the power and presence of the Prince of Peace.

Do you see what I see? I pray that you see what I see clearly... the radiance of GOD WITH US evidenced in your charity... your love on the altar of your life. I thank and praise GOD for this evidence of His love always. It is hope that pulls us from despair. We can despair for others and stay there, a dark and lonely place. Your love received and given freely and generously, restores hope. You are the **glad tidings of comfort and joy**... you are the **joy to the world** that our world so desperately needs. Your love of God in action is the Infant Christ being born again and again... and so we celebrate His love so radiantly born in you.

The words of St. Athanasius ring so true, the essence that is you... "He became what we are that he might make us what he is." Clearly, I see Christ in you... Emmanuel... GOD WITH US.



With love and prayers of gratitude,

*Jeanine Cavanagh The Office of Social Ministry* 

#### Sunday, Dec 25, 2022

#### Jubilee, every day!

Christmas is the only day of the year designated as "merry." While most birthdays are declared "happy" in the celebration of life, the birth of God among us recommends merriment: a festival of delight, high spirits, good fellowship, and feasting. Yet Saint Théophane Vénard observed that our faith asks even more of us: "Try to fulfill each day's tasks steadily and cheerfully. Be merry, really merry. The life of a true Christian should be a perpetual jubilee, a prelude to the festivals of eternity." Capture the spirit of Christmas in your being. Resolve to bring joy to the world, every day of the year.

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) TODAY'S READINGS: Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (14); Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (16). *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."* 

#### Monday, Dec 26, 2022

### A day for renewed commitment

Advent is full of anticipation that finally culminates on Christmas. But once the Savior is here, there's no time to wait to start Christianity's mission. So today we honor the first martyr of the faith, Saint Stephen, who was stoned to death. One of the first followers of the apostles, chosen by them to serve as a deacon, Stephen preached and performed miracles and forgave his attackers (Saul, later Saint Paul, among them) before dying. As we get ready to start a new year, let Stephen inspire you to reflect on your baptismal call to spread the gospel and how you might renew your efforts in word and witness.

FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696). "You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved."

### Tuesday, Dec 27, 2022

#### Love remains

What should your true love gift you on the third day of Christmas? How about the reminder that Saint John was the "beloved disciple" of Jesus? So beloved that Jesus—even as he was dying on the cross—entrusted his own mother to John's tender care: "Woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother'" (John 19:26). As the dust settles on our often hectic celebrations of Christmas, remember that "faith, hope, and love remain . . . but the greatest of these is love." So don't fret if your holiday feast doesn't include a Martha Stewart masterpiece; simple love should be the main course—and makes for the best leftovers.

FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697). "Beloved: What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen . . . and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life."

#### Wednesday, Dec 28, 2022

#### Dry every tear

In the midst of celebrating the great octave of Christmas we are reminded that Jesus was born into a world much like our own: filled with violence and terror, impacting especially the most vulnerable. Pope Francis stated in his 2016 address for the Feast of the Holy Innocents: "Christmas is ... accompanied, whether we like it or not, by tears.... It is the sobbing of mothers bewailing the death of their children in the face of Herod's tyranny and unbridled thirst for power. Today too, we hear this heart-rending cry of pain, which we neither desire nor are able to ignore or to silence." How shall we respond, to bring some comfort to those who grieve?

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698). *"Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you."* 

#### Thursday, Dec 29, 2022

#### No disposable lives

"Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?" Those words are attributed to King Henry II. This provocative question signaled to Henry's armed forces that Bishop Thomas [Becket] of Canterbury should be killed. And so he was. Catholic teaching tells us that every single life is precious, whether a bishop or a pauper. On this memorial of Saint Thomas Becket, consider ways our community can reject the notion of ridding ourselves of turbulent human beings—be they convicts, the bedridden, or other troublesome or inconvenient lives.

MEMORIAL OF THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202). "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel."

### Friday, Dec 30, 2022

#### All in the family

Families come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. One thing they all share, however, is that they are not perfect. "Perfect families do not exist," said Pope Francis in a 2015 address. "This must not discourage us. Quite the opposite. Love is something we learn; love is something we live; love grows as it is 'forged' by the concrete situations which each particular family experiences. Love is born and constantly develops amid lights and shadows." As we remember the Holy Family, let us also recommit ourselves to this kind of love within all our family experiences.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 (17). *"And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection."* 

### Saturday, Dec 31, 2022

#### Slow down to celebrate

Part of the wisdom coming to us from our long church tradition is found in the realization that some mysteries take a while to unfold. That is why during the Christmas season we celebrate the great mystery of God in the world for an entire octave, the eight days between Christmas and the solemnity tomorrow of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. As we approach the end of this great celebration, ponder for a few moments how the mystery of this event has unfolded for you this year. And take a moment to feel the joy of Christmas once again.

SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18 (204). "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."



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

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