

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

December 6, 2015

Second Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 5

10:45 am Mass at Heath Village
5:30 pm For Al Arbour by Barron Family

Sunday, December 6

8:00 am For Bill Dondiego by Martin Family
9:30 am For Julie Pecora by Uccardi Family
11:00 am For Norman Milz by Vanko Family

Monday, December 7

8:45 am For Peace

Tuesday, December 8

Feast of Immaculate Conception – Holy Day of Obligation

8:45 am For Olive Seton by McMaster Family
7:30 pm For Parishioners of St. Mark's Parish

Wednesday, December 9

8:45 am For Margaret Rinaldi by Sue Rinaldi

Thursday, December 10

10:30 am Mass at Heath Village

Saturday, December 12

5:30 pm For Bill Dondiego by Monteverde Family

Sunday, December 13

8:00 am For Olive Seton by St. Mark's Heath Village Ministers
9:30 am For A Special Intention by Nyman Family
For Stephen Nichols by Paula Field
11:00 am For Robert DiClemente by Cresci Family & Mom & Dad

MINISTRY SCHEDULE November December 12, 13, 2015

Saturday, 5:30 pm

Celebrant: Rev. Dan Chajkowski
Greeter: Help Needed
Lector: Fred McQuaide
Eucharistic Ministers: Mike & Nancy Lennon
Altar Servers: Sarah Hanifin

Sunday, 8:00 am

Celebrant: Msgr. Joseph Goode
Greeter: Sarah Zeliff
Lector: Tony Cretella
Eucharistic Ministers: Mark Vetterl
Altar Servers: Help Needed

Sunday 9:30 am

Celebrant: Rev. Dan Chajkowski
Greeter: Need Help
Lector: Peter Marley, Zach Michonski
Eucharistic Minister: Eric Woelfel, Gina & Paul Tupaczewski
Altar Servers: Hannah Tupaczewski, Shaeleigh Fleidner-Book, Ryan Weber

Sunday 11:00 am

Celebrant: Rev. Dan Chajkowski
Greeter: Dan Haurey
Lector: Darcy & Tori Caracciolo
Eucharistic Ministers: Ed Michonski, Sue Reilly, Andrew Dunn
Altar Servers: Rachel Schleppey

FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Altar Breads & Wine – In loving memory of Patsy & Philip Marchese by Marchese family.

Sanctuary Lamp – In loving memory of Vito and Marie Benardone by Corry and Benardone families. **Mass Candles:**

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAIN PARISH

Saturday, December 12

5:00 pm Celebrant: Msgr. Ray Lopatesky
7:00 pm Celebrant: Msgr. Ray Lopatesky

Sunday, December 13

7:45 am Celebrant: Rev. Dan Chajkowski
9:15 am Celebrant: Msgr. Joseph Goode
10:45 am Celebrant: Msgr. Peter McHugh
12:15 pm Celebrant: Msgr. Joseph Goode

ST. MARK'S NEEDS \$5,280 PER WEEK TO MEET OUR FINANCIAL OBLIGATION

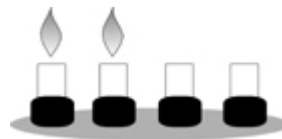
Current Year	Last Year 2014
November 29, 2015: \$2,069.50 Envelopes used: 51	November 30, 2014: \$3,444.50 Envelopes used: 65
On-line for November: \$9,685	On-line For November: \$7,663.75
Supermarket Gift Cards Week of November 29, 2015 Sales: \$2,670 Profit: \$133.50 YTD Profit: \$5,982.50 # of Families: 11	St. Mark's Faith Direct church code is NJ484

FAITH DIRECT...

In this season of Advent, we are continuously preparing ourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth. Why not help our own parish prepare for the coming new year by signing up with Faith Direct? By supporting St. Mark the Evangelist through Faith Direct, both you and our parish can more easily project your future contributions.

You can sign up online at www.faithdirect.net using our church code: **NJ484**, or by mailing a paper enrollment form available in the parish office.

God Bless You,
Fr. Joe





THE YEAR OF MERCY

December 8th is the feast day of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Mary chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus was conceived without sin to be a highest honor of our race as she brought Jesus forth into the world. This is also our National Feast Day because when our country was declared no longer a mission territory it was put under the protection Mary of the Immaculate Conception by Pontifical designation and decree.

This year the feast takes on another meaning for the Catholics of the world. December 8th was declared by Pope Francis as the day on which a Year of Mercy would begin. Pope Francis announced an extraordinary Year of Jubilee, a Year of Mercy, to highlight the Catholic Church's "mission to be a witness of mercy." Pope Francis said, "No one can be excluded from God's mercy." In his official proclamation the first line reads, "Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy." This is the theme throughout this year as the church celebrates the mercy of God in various ways. The Year of Mercy will conclude on the Feast of Christ the King, November 20, 2016.

In Rome last week the Pope opened the Jubilee doors at the church of St. John Lateran. These doors are opened by the Popes when a jubilee year begins as a sign of all are welcome to come to the church and experience the power of God. The rite of the opening of the Holy Door is intended to symbolically illustrate the idea that the Church's faithful are offered an "extraordinary path" toward salvation during the time of jubilee.

One of the novelties for the upcoming Jubilee Year of Mercy is that for the first time Holy Doors will be designated in every diocese throughout the world. In our diocese there are two locations designated by Bishop Serratelli, the Shrine of Pope John Paul II in Holy Rosary Parish in Passaic and St. Margaret of Scotland Parish in Morristown. These doors will be opened on December 13th and members of the diocese are invited to visit and pray during this Year of Mercy.

Bishop Serratelli has written a Pastoral Letter on the Year of Mercy. It is available in the Beacon this coming week and also on the diocesan website www.patersondiocese.org. As we begin this Year of Mercy I invite you to ponder what "Mercy" means to you. "The Lord is kind and Merciful." --- Fr. Joe

A NEWLY DEVELOPED WEBSITE...

During the past few months the parishes of the diocese of Paterson have been encouraged to update their websites with a company that specially provides Catholic news and information as well as enabling each parish to get more information on their sites. The newly devised St Mark's website went "live" this week. The way to reach it is the same go to www.stmarksnj.org to see the new site. This is still a work in progress. It will take a while for the staff and me to learn the new features...Fr. Joe

THE PILLARS OF STEWARDSHIP...

The first pillar of stewardship is Hospitality. It means having an attitude of welcome in the church community of all people. Do you come to church with a smile letting others know we are a friendly and welcoming church?

DECEMBER 8- (Tuesday) Holy Day of Obligation...

The Feast day of Immaculate Conception of Mary is our national feast day. In May 1846 the 22 bishops of the United States, yes only 22, met in Council in Baltimore and they asked the Pope to dedicate our country to Mary under the title of "The Immaculate Conception of Mary". On July 2, 1847 Pope Pius IX granted the request and this day became our national feast day. Our national feast day also happens to fall within the same week as our Mexican neighbors celebrate the Feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. Let us come together and pray for our country on this day. We will have two masses on December 8th 8:45 am and 7:30 pm.

SERVING CHRIST IN OTHERS... Bishop's Annual Appeal The Bishop's Appeal Campaign is in need of your help? If you have not made a pledge, please make one. For your convenience, you can make an online gift at www.2015appeal.org.

"HOMELESS JESUS"...

Last Sunday during the 11 a.m. Mass Deacon Ray Chimileski of St. Luke's and director of the "Chill Out" organization that seeks to help the homeless, presented St. Mark's community with a miniature statue of "Homeless Jesus" in thanks for St. Mark's community participating in the outreach to the poor. We are planning to place the statue on a shelf in the gathering space where we keep the containers for the food and other items that are donated to the poor and needy. Stop by and see the miniature of this famous statue that was presented in full size to Pope Francis and resides in Rome. It will be a visual reminder that when we give of our resources to others we should do so as we see the face of Jesus in those in need.

ADORATION AND BENEDICTION...

2nd Monday each month at Our Lady of the Mountain Church 7-8 p.m. The theme this month will be the Year of Mercy.

SIGN UP TO LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH...

Families, individuals, couples take your turn and help light the advent wreath before each of our masses on the weekends during advent...check the poster in the gathering space to see what masses are still available.

BLESSING OF EXPECTANT PARENTS...

We will be offering a blessing for expectant/adopting parents at all masses on the weekend of Dec. 19 & 20 please invite members of your families and friends who might like this blessing.

ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL...

Last month I was seeking parishioners to put their names forward for nomination for the elected positions (2) on the St Mark's Parish Advisory Council (PAC). Since only two people offered their names I have accepted them for the elected positions. Ed Michonski, has served a term already on the council and is willing to serve another term. In addition Laureen Smith submitted her name too. I usually ask the nominees to write a summary of their involvement at St Mark's to give you an idea of who serves on this council. Even though we will not need to have a formal election this year I wanted to share with you the parish involvement of each person who represents you in the elected positions. You can see a list of the full membership on the parish council members on the website under the tab "About".

Laureen Smith writes:

I've been a parishioner since 1987 before we had any place of worship we could call our own. It's been a beautiful journey being an active member of the St. Mark's family and watching our church community grow.

My ministerial vocations began as a lector around 1990 and continued for many years. I also served on what would now be called the parish council during Fr. Ed's tenure. In addition, I served our parish youth as a teacher in our CCD program. I am currently a Eucharistic Minister and conduct communion services for our seniors at Heath Village.

Ed Michonski writes:

Along with my wife Ellen, and four children (ages 8-16), I've been a parishioner of St. Marks for 6 years. I am a Eucharistic minister and have been a regular member of both the men's bible study and Cornerstone groups. I have been involved in the SYM program as a catechist for both 9th and 10th graders. Last summer I helped initiate and lead a study into JPPII's Theology of the Body for our High School teens. I believe in Church as community and as such make it a point to be involved in helping out where I can; such as with the parish picnic, decorating the church for Christmas, or helping to run fund raisers such as wine/beer tasting nights. I hold a special place in my heart for retreats and have volunteered at a retreat house conducting retreats for young married couples and families with young children. I believe that St. Marks has a special spirituality not found in all parishes. I have seen from programs like the Lenten Wednesday night Faith sharing that our community can be strong and the Holy Spirit vibrantly present when given the chance. I believe that we need to do everything we can to strengthen the friendship and love between the members of our community to create an environment where new families and individuals not only feel welcome, but are enthusiastic in joining!

The Parish Advisory Council helps me in planning for the parish in various ways. You are welcome to contact any of the members with your suggestions or comments. You can read the recent minutes of the meeting also on the parish website as mentioned above.

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 6 ...IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES.

Down through history, God provided us with a roadmap. He foretold various signs and conditions through His prophets. These prophets spoke of things that mankind should watch for so that the Messiah would be recognized and believed. These signs or prophecies were given to us in the Old Testament written hundreds of years before Jesus' birth. There are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament that Jesus fulfilled through His life, death and resurrection. For example - A Messenger would prepare the way for the Messiah

The Fulfillment

Luke 3: 3-6

"He went throughout [the] whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

About the prophesy - The Book of Isaiah, the longest book of the Bible, contains 66 chapters divided into three sections. Section 2, chapters 40-55 are known as the Book of Consolation and were written around 550 BC. Israel had endured a lengthy exile and the good news in Isaiah's prophecy was that it was near its end and God's justice will triumph. The Lord's coming will bring redemption and forgiveness of sins. The "Lord" for whom Isaiah is preparing the way, is God. The "Lord" for whom John is preparing the way, is Jesus. By placing the words of Isaiah on the lips of John the Baptist, Luke is teaching that Jesus is God.

EVANGELIZATION...

What does the word mean to you? Some images that might come to mind are priests in pulpits, revival tents, etc. Yet it is a common error to restrict the meaning of evangelization to preaching. Actually many people are evangelizing without knowing it: mom and dad teaching their children Gospel Values by embodying them in their daily lives; worker in a library being friendly to students and listening to their needs or an elected official seeking to work for better housing for the poor and many more. And you, how do you evangelize?

WHY WE ARE CATHOLIC...

We are Catholic because we believe:

God calls Moses from the midst of a bush that burns without being consumed: "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." God is the God of the fathers, the One who had called and guided the patriarchs in their wanderings. He is the faithful and compassionate God who remembers them and his promises; he comes to free their descendants from slavery. He is the God who, from beyond space and time, can do this and wills to do it, the God who will put his almighty power to work for this plan. The Catechism of the Catholic Church 205

50+ CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON...

The buffet luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9th 12pm at Shabo's Italian Restaurant (next to New York Pizza), 57 Main St., Chester. For those who would like to participate there will be a \$15 gift exchange. We are asking for all to respond call Mary Scarda 852-9089 or Barbara Burke 876-3557. Hope to see you there for this special holiday luncheon.

AN INFORMATIONAL SERIES: to Help Understand and Care for Our Parents and Ourselves as They/We Age St. Luke Church, Long Valley

December 6, 2015 12:15 to 1:30 PM Taking the Next Steps: Understanding Palliative Care, Hospice, and Preparing for the End of Life Guest Speakers: Marie Peppas, Hospice Nurse
January 24, 2016 12:15 TO 1:30 P.M. ---- LAST OF THE SERIES

EXPERIENCING GOD'S MERCY AFTER DIVORCE...

Join us at Assumption Parish in Morristown on December 9 at 7:00 p.m. for a presentation on Experiencing God's Mercy after Divorce. Hosted by Msgr. John E. Hart, the evening will include a talk about the changes in the annulment process and we will hear from Vince and Monica Frese of divorcedcatholic.com on how they experienced God's abundant mercy through the difficult period of their individual divorces and afterward. The event is free, but we ask that you register at www.assumptionparish.org, or email assumption@assumptionparish.org, or call the parish office at 973-539-2141 to let us know you are coming. We look forward to seeing you there.





FIRST RECONCILIATION...

On Friday evening December 4th, our 2nd grade students, listed below received the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. We are so pleased and proud of them, and their wonderful families. May God continue to richly bless them as they continue to grow in their faith:

Gabriella Anthony, Lydia Amento, Olivia Astacio-Banda, Jared Bermeo, Luke D'Acanti, Julia Davo, Shane Fleidner-Book, Gavin Gauker, Piper Heike, Kaia Jackson, Maya Jaross, Carter Lindert, Jana Manuel, Karlie Mase, Antonio Montella, Kelly Morgan, Nate Pinto, Maura O'Shea, Jordan Roehrig, Catherine Salloum, ThienanTran, Gerry Vanko, Addison Weber

DYFS CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE GIFTS...

Your unwrapped gift with the angel tag attached to the package is due no later than Wednesday, December 16th. Please remember to check off your name. God bless you for making a child happy this Christmas.

ANTIOCH FOOD SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE POSTED IN GATHERING SPACE!

As always, our candidates, Peers and team could use your help in feeding us while we are on this year's Antioch Retreat. This beautiful tradition has helped us to have a wonderful Antioch experience, year after year. Please take a moment to sign-up for a much-needed food item. Your support is very much appreciated! Thank you.

ST MARK'S EPIPHANY POT LUCK LUNCH –

EARLY NOTICE – SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY JANUARY 3RD AFTER THE 11 A.M. MASS ...

This is a fun time for the whole family...Help us welcome our newest parishioners... mark your calendar Jan. 3, 2016. Sign-ups to start December 5th

A CHOICE OF TWO CONCERTS...Sunday December 6th --- Hope you can attend at least one of these for an inspiring afternoon concert.

St. Mark's will host a Free invitational Christmas Concert at 4 p.m. at St. Mark's Church...

The Diocesan Choir of the Diocese of Paterson will also be performing a Christmas Concert at 4 p.m. in St. Peter the Apostle Church Route 46 West and Baldwin Road. Parsippany, NJ

A UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GIFT...

Go to the website: www.heifer.org/catalog if you want to give a family gift to some poor family in need of animals to help with their basic needs. For as little as a \$10 donation you can share in the purchase of various farm animals for the poor in various countries. Check out the website Heifer International works in areas of livestock & agriculture to develop programs that alleviate hunger and poverty.

AN INFORMATIONAL SERIES: to Help Understand and Care for Our Parents and Ourselves as They/We Age at **St. Luke's, L.V...** **December 6, 2015** 12:15 to 1:30 PM Taking the Next Steps: Understanding Palliative Care, Hospice, and Preparing for the End of Life Guest Speakers: Marie Peppas, Hospice Nurse **January 24, 2016** 12:15 TO 1:30 P.M. ---- LAST OF THE SERIES. Taking Care Financially & Legally: Using Foresight to Maximize Care and Financial Security. Guest Speakers: Matt Farley, Financial Planner & Tim Duffy, Attorney.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Baruch tells Jerusalem to rejoice because of God's plan to bring his exiled people back to Jerusalem. He emphasizes God's power and describes his plan to lower mountains and fill gorges to make their journey easier.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Paul encourages the Philippians to love each other completely. He hopes that their love and understanding will continue to grow so that they are prepared for the return of Christ.

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Luke describes the work John the Baptist carried out to help people prepare for the birth of Jesus. Luke also discusses who was in power at the time, which helped historians to figure out the exact dates of certain events, including Jesus' birth.



All-powerful and ever-living God the lasting health of all who believe in you, hear us as we ask your loving help for the sick; restore their health that they may again offer joyful thanks in your church.

Randi Alloway, John Andaloro, Tony Atkins, Charlie, Baby Natalia Rose Bassett, Kenneth Bernisky, Luz Bracero, Paul Buckley, John Callaghan, Arlene Cichlar, Hannah Clark, Emily Condit, Kaitlin Cross, Natalia Danilczuk, Daniel DePaul, Krish Dharia, Charles & Ellen Eichler, Connie Elliott, Larry Fine, George Foehner, Joseph Forlini, Elaina Grace Gaffin, Ann Geary, Barbara Gotterdam, Louie Gutierrez, Helen Greenly, Harper Lynn Granito, Regina Hague, William Heimsly, Bob Hodiern, Donna Jennings, Laurel Jilek, Claudia Kallmeyer, George Karabin, Kevin Kay, Russell H. Keller, Mary Anne Kindt, Raymond McCarthy Jr, Mary Koenig, Jean Koenig, Mara Lak, Christina Lanaris, Lenore, Maryann Litori, Ann Loughney, Helene Mackie, Anthony Marino, Norman Milz, Marie Molloy, Irene Maruggi, Raymond McCarthy, Jr., Jonathon McClelland, Harold & Mary McKay, Kathy Minichini, Robert Neilson, Sr., Maryanne & Jack Newell, Girard Nolte, Jr., Jim Owens, Dennis Paradise, John Parker, Arlene Parikh, Nicky Pilosi, Martha Towne Riley, Clifford Reynolds, Ryan, Jillian Elizabeth Sayer, Tommy Scheffler, Ann Senftinger, Kurt Shubert, Rhonda Soto, Judy Stone, Debbie Trepkau, Debra Vitale, Anne Walsh, Robert Ron Werner, Marie Zimbile,

COMMUNITY NEWS

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP RECREATION....

Letters to Santa, Arrangements have been made with Santa to accept mail delivery to the North Pole. Letters should include child's first and last name and complete return address. Place the letter in the red drop box at the Recreation Office or mail to 50 Rock Road, LV. 07853 Attn: Santa Clause; Deadline is Dec. 17. For more information on these events call (908) 876-5941 or visit www.wtmorris.org