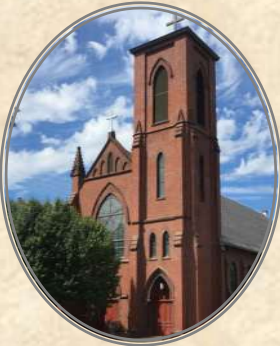


Mary, Mother of the Church Parish

ST. MARY

45 Crosswicks Street
Bordentown, NJ 08505



REV. MARTIN O'REILLY, Pastor
REV. CESAR R. ANSON, Parochial Vicar
REV. J.C. GARRETT, Weekend Assistant

Deacon

Gary T. Richardson

Parish Office: 609-298-0261

Fax: 609-298-7178

Email: info@mmtcp.org

Retired Deacons

Lawrence W. Finn Thomas F. Shea

HOLY ASSUMPTION

1290 Hornberger Avenue
Roebbing, NJ 08554



Parish Emergency # 609-203-5617 (Please Use for Emergencies Outside of Normal Business Hours)

3rd
Sunday
OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025

Readings for the Week

Sunday:

Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7,
8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/
Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

Monday:

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps
25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/
Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday:

ep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3,
6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/
Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday:

Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2,
3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

Thursday:

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2,
12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Friday:

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps
71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/
Lk 1:5-25

Saturday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2,
3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Next Sunday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4,
5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/
Mt 1:18-24

PARISH INFORMATION

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil: Holy Assumption—**4:00 PM**
St. Mary—**5:30 PM**
Sunday: Holy Assumption—**8:00 AM**
St. Mary—**10:00 AM and 11:30 AM**

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Holy Assumption—Saturday - **3:00-3:45 PM**
St. Mary—Saturday - **4:30-5:15 PM**
(Also by Appointment)

WEEKDAY MASS: MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

Holy Assumption—Roebbling **9:30 AM (Tues., Wed., & Fri.)**
St. Mary—Bordentown **12:30 PM (Mon.-Fri.)**
Holy Days: See Mass Schedule in Bulletin for Mass Times

BAPTISMS: Contact Debbie Ullmer-Phillips at the Parish Office, Ext. 112. Baptisms are celebrated on the **1st & 3rd Sundays** of the month at **1:00 PM at St. Mary Church** and the **4th Saturday** of the month at **2:00 PM at Holy Assumption**. Please call the Parish Office to register, provide the required documents, and schedule a Baptism Prep Class.

MARRIAGES: Contact Debbie Ullmer-Phillips at the Parish Office, Ext. 112. Arrangements are to be made at least 1 year in advance.

SICK CALLS/COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Arrangements for Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion for those confined to the home are to be made by contacting the Parish Office. Urgent calls any time during the day, contact the Parish Office, after hours, use the emergency line 609-203-5617.

HOURS FOR PRAYER

- St. Mary Church, Bordentown, is open daily from 7:00 AM to 6:30 PM. (Use Chapel entrance through the side door.)
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel of Saints, Wednesdays from 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM. (Use Chapel entrance through the side door.)
- Holy Hour every Wednesday at 7:00 PM, St. Mary (Main Church), Bordentown.

PARISH REGISTRATION

We welcome new parishioners to the parish, and we ask them to register as soon as possible. If you are not registered, we are not able to issue letters for sponsorship for the Sacraments or character references to schools or for employment. If you move from the parish please notify the rectory.

Wish to join us? Please complete the New Parishioner Contact Form found on the parish website: mmotcp.org, under the ABOUT US Tab, "How to Join Us"

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am-3:00 pm
Friday, 9:00 am-12:00 noon



PARISH MINISTRIES & SUPPORT AGENCIES

Alcoholics Anonymous

Bob H. – 609-784-3233

Altar Linen Ministry

Rose Troyanovich (HA) - charo.troyanovich@att.net
Helene Shea (SM) - hdshea@icloud.com

Altar Servers

Paula Bisson - altarservers@mmotcp.org

Annulment Ministry

Deacon Tom Shea - annulment@mmotcp.org

Bereavement Ministry

Joseph Whitty - bereavement@mmotcp.org

Catholic Charities (Diocese of Trenton)

1-800-360-7711

Church Ushers

Dominick Cipriano – 609-634-2482 (HA)
Frank Scharibone – 609-298-1898 (SM)

Dignity of Life

Heni Scharibone - dignityoflife@mmotcp.org

Food Pantry

Sue Oros (HA)
Mike Novalis (SM)
foodpantry@mmotcp.org

Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers

Sean Alphonse - salphonse@mmotcp.org

Music Ministry

Jesús Alfonso Gonzalez & Tina Fernandes, Coordinators
musicdept@mmotcp.org

OCIA

Nick Chilelli - OCIA@mmotcp.org

TEEN OCIA

Pat Baylog - pbaylog@mmotcp.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Margaret Rizzo – 609-298-1414

Welcome Ministry

Anne Egan - welcometoourparish@mmotcp.org

Youth Ministry

youthgroup@mmotcp.org



**St. Mary – Ramp Access
(Off Crosswicks Street)**

**Holy Assumption
Elevator Access
(Main Parking Lot)**

Office Staff

Fr. Martin O'Reilly, Pastor.....ext. 116
frmoreilly@mmotcp.org
 Fr. Cesar Anson, Parochial Vicar.....ext. 110
revanson@mmotcp.org
 Margaret Zola, Business Manager & CRE.....ext. 118
mzola@mmotcp.org
 Patty Baylog, Parish Pastoral Coordinator.....ext. 115
pbaylog@mmotcp.org
 Cathy Alphonse, Accounts Payable/Receivableext. 114
calphonse@mmotcp.org
 Sean Alphonse, Administrative Assistant.....ext. 111
salphonse@mmotcp.org

Julie Ann Evano, Front Desk Secretary.....ext. 110
info@mmotcp.org
 Tina Fernandes, Music Coordinator.....ext. 132
musicdept@mmotcp.org
 Jesús Alfonso Gonzalez, Music Coordinator.....ext. 132
musicdept@mmotcp.org
 Tim Hoyt, Maintenance.....ext. 125
 Roy Kerstetter, Maintenance.....ext. 125
rkerstetter@mmotcp.org
 Carol Schulz, Bulletin Coord. & RE Assistant.....ext. 117
cschulz@mmotcp.org
 Debbie Ulmer-Phillips, Parish Secretary.....ext. 112
dulmer-phillips@mmotcp.org

ST. MARY



HOLY ASSUMPTION

Monday, Dec 15—12:30 pm

Thomas Moore rb/Dolores Moore
 Margo & William Moore rb/Dave & Stephanie Salewski

Tuesday, Dec 16—12:30pm

Barbara Connallon rb/The Family
 Albert Coluccio rb/His Family

Wednesday, Dec 17—12:30pm

Nancy Innocenzi rb/Bob Innocenzi
 Mary Silverman rb/Carleen Michaels

Thursday, Dec 18—12:30pm

Veronica Hustak rb/Brother George
 Margaret Wagerik rb/The Hlubik Family

Friday, Dec 19—12:30pm

Tom Haje rb/His Wife
 Jack & Betty Tyrell rb/The Family

Saturday, Dec 20

5:30 pm Celebrant: Fr. Martin
 Ann Ervin (Mass for the Living) rb/Friends
 Dick Langan rb/Deacon Gary & Ginny Richardson

Sunday, Dec 21

10:00 am Celebrant: Fr. Martin
 Jessica Masterson & Robert Ervin, Sr. rb/Brittany &
 Ed Masterson
 Anthony DeLorenzo rb/Wife, Sandy & Son, Anthony

11:30 am Celebrant: Fr. Anson

John Ondo, Sr. rb/John Ondo, Jr.
 Doris Delaney rb/The Family

Tuesday, Dec 16—9:30am

Douglas Tiedemann rb/Carol Schulz

Wednesday, Dec 17—9:30am

Jean & Henry Phillips rb/The Family

Friday, Dec 19—9:30am

Edward & Regina Sadowski rb/Mereno & Marge Angelini
 William Lanza rb/His Wife

Saturday, Dec 20

4:00 pm Celebrant: Fr. Anson
 James Pennacchi rb/Judy Hines
 Doug Tiedemann rb/Jim & Joanne Boldizar

Sunday, Dec 21

8:00 am Celebrant: Fr. Anson
 Virginia Foulks rb/David & JoAnn Foulks
 Thomas & Josephine Nolan & Denise Nolan Groze
 rb/Marian Sulkowski

Offertory Gifts

If you have booked a Mass for a loved one and would like to bring up the offertory gifts, please inform an usher before mass begins.

Low Gluten Hosts & Other Special Needs

Low-gluten hosts are available for those who have difficulties with Celiac Disease and other similar disorders. Please approach the priest or an usher 15 minutes prior to the beginning of Mass to be directed as to how you can receive safely. If you or a family member have a special need when attending Mass, please let us know by calling our Parish Office at 609-298-0261.

**Pope's Prayer Intentions for December 2025 - For Christians Living Amidst War or Conflict**

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.



Dear Friends in Christ,

This weekend we celebrate what is known as, '**Gaudéte, rejoice!**' because the Lord is near and the fourth Sunday of Lent says, '**Laetáre, Jerusalem, be joyful, Jerusalem, and all who love her!**' because she herself is loved by the Lord. The first two weeks of Advent is a time of penance and clearing the mind, heart, and soul of all earthly distractions and sinfulness. The last two weeks is a time to prepare to '**rejoice,**' and '**be joyful**' because our Lord is coming.

Is it possible for us to get our heads around the idea that 'Our Lord' is coming? The challenge for all of us, especially for us who have seen many Christmases, is that the spirit of Christmas is lost on us. A common cry is 'how commercial' it has become. The message all around us seems to be spend, spend, spend. The challenge for us as Christians is to try and not get swallowed up in this commercialism and loose sight of what Christmas is truly about. The Knights of Columbus have a wonderful sign as you come off Crosswicks Street, and on my back porch stating: '**Keep Christ in Christmas.**' For us to keep Christ in Christmas we first must ask, 'what does Christ's coming mean to me? Will his coming, or will I allow his coming, to have any impact on my life? Can I rejoice, can I be joyful and accept that I am loved by the Lord?

One of the saddest things I experience in confession is when people tell me that the sin they have committed is so unforgivable that not even God could forgive them – I quietly cry, I feel God's sadness. The birth of Jesus is a wonderful occasion, but the birth is only the beginning of the story, a story we all know that ended with Christ's suffering and death on the cross. Among the final words Jesus spoke were, 'Forgive them Father, they don't know what they do.' Think about it, these people physically brutalised Jesus and crucified him and he forgave them, could any sin we commit top that? Do not let anything that you have done keep you from experiencing God's love and compassion.

Another sad experience I have in confession is when people come and say I don't have any sins to confess. The only thought that comes to me is, who are you comparing your life to? I know confession is not just about telling our sins, it really is coming into the presence of God's love, to feel God's embrace, to experience God's compassion and allow God to affirm us with the words, 'I am your God, and you are my child.' I honestly believe if we are to fully experience and appreciate the '**Gaudéte**' and '**Laetáre**' of Christmas we need to remove the 'Stuff' that prevents us from rejoicing and truly experiencing the joy of Christ in our hearts and lives. Come to the wonderful sacrament of Reconciliation this Advent.

Advent/Christmas Confessions: December 16, St Mary Church, Bordentown @ 7pm-8pm & December 18, Holy Assumption Church, Roebing @ 7pm – 8pm

Holy Hour at St Mary Church

Since Covid we have had adoration on a Wednesday evening from 7pm – 8pm. Having adoration is a beautiful and wonderful experience, but having it at a time that best suits the greatest number of people is also necessary. The numbers on a Wednesday evening are small, and it is felt that 7pm on a Wednesday is too late, especially during the winter months. So, beginning **January 8, 2026, the Holy Hour will move to Thursdays at 1pm**, following the 12:30 Mass. We will try to keep it close to the Wednesday evening Holy Hour, the rosary followed by the Miraculous Medal novena. We will continue to pray for your intentions, so please send them to the office as usual. I would also ask if the people who would normally pray the rosary before Mass on Thursday wait and pray it after Mass during the Holy Hour. I am hoping this time will allow more people to join us for the Holy Hour on Thursdays of each week beginning January 8, 2026.

May God bless you as we move into the last days of Advent and become more aware of the coming of Christ.

Fr. Martin

Meetings & Events of the Week

Dec 17

7:00pm SVDP—Parish Office, Upstairs



BLESSING OF THE BABY JESUS AT MASS

The Blessing of the Baby Jesus figure from your home nativity will take place at all the Masses on the weekend of December 20-21.



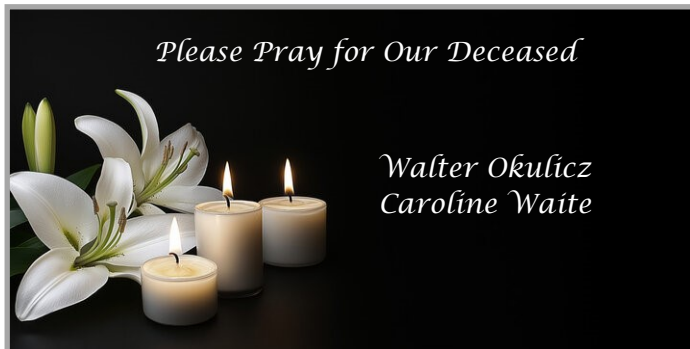
Please keep the statue with you in the pew as the blessing will take place during Mass.





For the Sick...

Nichole Lynn Cochran, John & Amy Oldham and Baby J.T. Oldham, Robert Sobon, Kelly Sobon, Neil Jantos, John Oros, Rebekah Henderson, David Bemiss, Carlos Jayme, Walt Szazvay, Jillian Ruffini, Anne Darrow, Zhi Han Chen, Zhi Ying Jin, Stephen Lueckel, Andrew Lisanti, Susanne Hallas, Walter Schleher, Caitlyn S., Arlene Chaty, Teddi Millerline, Mary Merritt, Ken Cunningham, Michael Fitzgerald, and all the sick of the parish.



Heartfelt gratitude for your generosity! "Thank you very much for your donations, always," says Sister Olivia Bellegante, 93, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in St. Louis, Missouri. Your gift directly impacts thousands of senior religious, providing the support they need in their later years.
Learn more at retired.religious.org.

Sacrament of Reconciliation/ Confession

Special Christmas Schedule

Tuesday, December 16, from 7-8pm
St. Mary Church, Bordentown

Thursday, December 18, from 7-8pm
Holy Assumption Church, Roebling



OFFERING

AN ACT OF WORSHIP

November 30, 2025/Weekly	\$ 17,450
Thanksgiving Day	1,482
Misc. Other Contributions	<u>2,912</u>
	\$ 21,844

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND SUPPORT.

PLEASE NOTE: THE DECEMBER 7, 2025 CONTRIBUTIONS WERE NOT AVAILABLE WHEN THIS BULLETIN WAS SUBMITTED FOR PRODUCTION. THEY WILL BE PUBLISHED IN A SUBSEQUENT BULLETIN.

Upcoming Donation Designations

- Dec 14 **Weekly**
Dec 21 **Weekly**
St. Vincent DePaul: Helps the poor and needy in our local communities.
- Dec 25 **Christmas**
Dec 28 **Weekly**
Jan 1 **Solemnity of Mary:** The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God is a feast day of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the aspect of her motherhood of Jesus Christ, whom Christians see as the Lord, Son of God.
- Jan 4 **Weekly**
Building Maintenance: Keeping our places of worship warm, dry and comfortable.

CONSIDER ON-LINE GIVING

To Sign Up go to www.mmotcp.org, scroll down to the On-Line Giving lock, and follow the instructions.

2025 Annual Catholic Appeal Progress

Thank you to all who donated to our Catholic Appeal 2025. Because of your generosity, we have met our goals allowing us to receive the maximum benefit back to the parish.

Chapel of Saints

Open Daily 7:00am-7:00pm for Personal Prayer



HOLY HOUR

ST. MARY CHURCH—WEDNESDAYS—7:00PM
ROSARY, NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE
MIRACULOUS MEDAL, BENEDICTION





MMOTGP FOOD PANTRY
CHRISTMAS
FOOD DRIVE
DECEMBER 1ST – 19TH

ITEMS NEEDED
 HAMS
 WALMART GIFT CARDS

HELP US SPREAD JOY
 THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
 M-W-F 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
 TUESDAY 6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
 THURSDAY 9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE
2025

CHRISTMAS EVE
 St. Mary Church
 4:00 pm (Children's Mass) & 8:00 pm
 Holy Assumption Church
 6:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY
 St. Mary Church
 8:00 am & 11:30 am
 Holy Assumption Church
 9:30 am

The Intentions for all Masses on
 Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are
 the names listed on the Christmas
 Flower Remembrance Boards.



Mary Mother of the Church Parish
 Music Ministry
 presents

**The Wonder & Music
 of Christmas**

A FESTIVE CONCERT DEDICATED TO THE
 GREATEST EVENT - THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST.

DECEMBER 21, 2025 AT 6 PM

St. Mary Church
 45 Crosswicks St.
 Bordentown, NJ

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

ALL ARE WELCOME



**Special Blessing of
 Toys**

December 25, 2025
 Holy Assumption Church
 9:30 am Mass

To All Children:
 You are invited to bring
 your favorite small toy
 you receive for
 Christmas to Mass on
 Christmas morning and
 receive a special
 blessing.



PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF OTHERS AND REMEMBER TO
 TURN YOUR CELL PHONE OFF OR SWITCH TO SILENT
 MODE BEFORE MASS BEGINS. THANK YOU!



PARISH 2025 ADVENT "GIVING TREE"

**GIFTS ARE DUE TODAY
DECEMBER 14, 2025**



The link for **SignUp Genius** will be found on our Parish website home page and Facebook.

Return your generous gifts under either "Giving Tree" in Holy Assumption or St. Mary by **December 14th** in time for their holiday deliveries. Your generosity will have a real and lasting impact on so many of God's less fortunate children and families. As always, we would be happy to help you with questions by contacting mzola@mmotcp.org.

Corona Self-Help Centre Inc. **BLUE ANGELS**

Supports recovery options for drug addicts.

1st Way of Burlington County and Good Counsel Homes **PINK ANGELS**

Supports disadvantaged mothers for the needs of their new-born babies.

MMOTCP Food Pantry **BLUE MITTENS**

Provides food for those less fortunate. These items are staples of what they need.

Martin House **GREEN TREES**

Provides gifts for 8 families that we sponsor.

Mount Carmel Guild **YELLOW CROSSES**

Provides "a helping hand" to impoverished individuals by helping stock their shelves.

St. Vincent de Paul **PURPLE MITTENS**

Provides "a helping hand" to those families financially in need within our Parish.

Tabor House **WHITE TREES**

A residential recovery house for men where the dignity to addiction is restored.

[2025 Advent Giving Tree SignUp](#)



St Vincent de Paul Christmas Card

We would like to extend our thanks to all the Parishioners who supported our current wreath and grave pillow sale and announce a third edition of our annual **"Thinking Of You" Christmas card!**

Ever stumped at times, trying to find a gift for someone you love or care deeply for at Christmas? Consider giving them a gift of charity... Our Christmas Giving card would not only acknowledge your love for the recipient but also your recognition of their spirit of generosity and love of neighbor.



(Inside)

May the Prince of Peace and His Holy Mother keep you in their care this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

A Christmas donation has been sent to the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Mary, Mother of the Church Parish, Bordentown, NJ, in recognition of your spirit of generosity, kindness and love of neighbor. The gift will provide food, shelter and support to families in need.

Cards are available at all entrances to our churches as well as at the parish office.

Advent



In today's Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." This is what Advent is all about, for we are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas. Your monetary gift and/or your gift to the parish Giving Tree for the St. Vincent de Paul Society will help the poor celebrate the grace of God's love this Christmas.

If you or anyone you know in our local communities needs assistance, call our Confidential Helpline at 609-298-1414.



.....Religious Education News.....

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 14.....Sunday RE Classes and Mass 8:45-10:45am

December 16.....Tuesday RE Classes 6:00-7:15pm

December 21.....Sunday RE Classes and Mass 8:45-10:45am

December 24.....Christmas Eve Mass 4:00pm – 2nd RE students act out the Gospel reading

January 5.....Monday Monthly RE Classes 6:00-7:30pm

January 6.....Tuesday RE Classes 6:00-7:15pm

January 11.....Sunday RE Classes and Mass 8:45-10:45am

January 13.....Tuesday RE Classes 6:00-7:15pm

January 25.....Sunday RE Classes and Mass 8:45-10:45am

January 27.....Tuesday RE Classes 6:00-7:15pm

January 31..... 2nd Graders First Penance Retreat 9:30-11:30am

BABY JESUS MASS – DECEMBER 24TH AT 4:00PM St. Mary Church

Our Parish will once again be performing during the Christmas Eve Gospel with our 2nd Grade RE children. Flyers have been sent home asking for participants. There are no speaking parts and costumes will be provided.

FIRST PENANCE RETREAT

Our 2nd Graders will have their *First Penance Retreat* on January 31 from 9:30-11:30am in St. Mary School. Reminders will be sent home. First Penance Retreat is for the child and one parent. No siblings please; we do not have the room. The children will receive the *Sacrament of Penance* February 13 or 15 at 6:30pm in St. Mary Church.

The forgiveness of sins committed after Baptism is conferred by a particular sacrament called the sacrament of conversion, confession, penance, or reconciliation. To return to communion with God after having lost it through sin is a process born of the grace of God who is rich in mercy and solicitous for the salvation of men. One must ask for this precious gift for oneself and for others.

The spiritual effects of the sacrament of Penance are:

1. Reconciliation with God by which the penitent recovers grace
2. Reconciliation with the Church
3. Remission of the eternal punishment incurred by mortal sins
4. Remission, at least in part, of temporal punishments resulting from sin
5. Peace and serenity of conscience, and spiritual consolation
6. An increase of spiritual strength for the Christian battle

ACT OF CONTRITION

*Oh my God, I'm sorry for all my sins, for not loving others and not loving you.
Help me live like Jesus and not sin again. Amen.*

EMERGENCY CLOSING

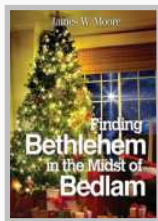
In the event of inclement weather, a message will be sent through Flock Notes and posted on our Parish Facebook page. Emails will be sent but are not guaranteed.

Phone #: 609-291-8281

M. Zola x118, Email: mzola@mmotcp.org

C. Schulz x117, Email: cschulz@mmotcp.org

Promise to Protect: To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children, call your local law enforcement agency or Child Abuse Hotline: 1-888-296-2965 or via email at: abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org



Third Week of Advent Love Came Down in Bethlehem

We are a people who live in a time almost total dedicated to the concept of power, especially to run all our machines, from cars to computers. Power is a watchword of our time. But what is the most powerful force in the world? What is the strongest force on earth? Is it military might or political clout? Is it influence or money or position? How would you answer that question? The Bible says it is love. In our modern world, we give so much time, energy, and effort chasing after the wrong kinds of power; and then along comes Christmas. We find Bethlehem, which calls us back to the power of love.

The world teaches us that we can find power in position and fame and money, and this is true to a degree. The problem is, the power associated these things is fleeting and doesn't last. Leaders will come and go, fads will flourish and fade, military establishments will rise and fall; and money can buy many things but not one extra minute of a person's life. But God's truth and love will remain because love is more powerful than all of these.

God's love came down in Bethlehem when Christ came to us in this world in the power of love. The Word of God became flesh and blood and was wrapped up in a person named Jesus, who came and dwelt among us full of grace, full of truth, full of love. He could have chosen the way of might or clout or fame or wealth or force; but instead, he chose the way of love. He came to live in love, the most powerful force in the world, that we might live meaningfully.

There is a quote about the power of love by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a paleontologist and priest: *"Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire."*

Focus for the Third Week of Advent

We find Bethlehem when we discover the strength and power of love given to us through Jesus. This week look for ways the power of love is at work in your life. Consider how you might demonstrate love in your words and actions to others.

Advent Prayer

O God, help me to see and to believe that love is the most powerful force in all your creation. Help me to find ways, day by day, to love others as you love us. In Christ, I pray. Amen

Excerpt from "Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam" by James W. Moore

SPS PTA CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

NOVEMBER 24TH - DECEMBER 20TH

TREE BROTHERS
STEWART'S DRIVE-IN
4524 US -130 BURLINGTON, NJ 08016

CHRISTMAS TREES
+
FRONT DOOR WREATHS
+
GRAVE BLANKETS

DONATIONS BACK TO SPS:
\$5 FOR EVERY ITEM OVER \$30
\$10 FOR ANYTHING OVER \$120

 TAGGING FOR LATER
PICK-UP IS AVAILABLE!

**BE SURE TO MENTION
ST. PAUL SCHOOL**



Our parish's very own Cantor and Music Coordinator, Tina Fernandes, has released a sacred music album with voice and piano titled: "Faith with God's Grace". The \$20 CD will be available for purchase in the Parish Office during business hours.



Recitation of the Rosary

St. Mary Church: Monday thru Friday, 12:00 pm

Holy Assumption Church:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday - 9:00 am

Saturday 3:00 pm (Except 1st Saturday of the Month)

First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

First Saturday of each month—Holy Assumption—2:30 pm



Offerings at Francis House of Prayer

Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center and Retreat House
84 Walnford Road • Allentown, NJ 08501
609-877-0509 or FHOP@verizon.net

ININ-PERSON ONLY**THE CHRISTMAS STORY – THE CHOSEN**

Wednesday, December 17 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

It is so familiar, ever ancient, ever new! We will view the Christmas episode, share its message, spend some time in prayer and enjoy a fabulous lunch. What a great Advent morning as we grow in appreciation of the gift of Christ's coming into our lives. Donation: \$25, lunch included

THE END OF THE YEAR RETREAT

Wednesday, December 31 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Since God gives us life and time and is Lord over all, it seems appropriate to end the year in prayer. Francis House offers time, space and quiet for naming the graces of 2025 and expressing gratitude to God. The day will focus on our goals, hopes and desires for 2026. We reverently say farewell to 2025 and cordially welcome 2026 as a gift from God. Please bring your lunch. Donation: Love Offering

GOD CANNOT FILL AN OCCUPIED SPACE!
CLEANING UP & CLEANING OUT

Tuesday, January 6 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Is it time to make a little more room for God in your life? Do you find yourself complaining, "I have too much stuff!" Is decluttering one of your desires for 2026? We are each going to make a plan to clean up and clean out, to simplify and enjoy life more, to have a lighter grasp and a freer heart for the more important things of life. Step by step, with the support of a partner and prayer, we will be clutter-free by Easter! With God's help, we can do it! Donation: \$25, includes lunch. Zoom: \$20.

ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES**Altar Rosary Society**

Donna Frappolli-609-221-1957

Holy Name Society

Paul Ordog - pordog29@gmail.com

Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Mercer County

609-393-9922

Knights of Columbus

Ron Scully - grandknight@kofc570.org
609-760-6637

Legion of Mary

Kathleen Fetch - lom@mmotcp.org

Secular Franciscan Order

Maria Schultes - FranciscanorderHA@mmotcp.org

Word of Life Prayer Group

Ginny Olsen-609-947-3336



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22 Trenton Road
Browns Mills, NJ 08015-3236

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Fax: 609-893-8056

Parish Bookkeeper

Saint Ann Parish in Browns Mills, New Jersey is seeking a part-time Bookkeeper. This individual will be responsible for managing the parish's financial recordkeeping, including monthly closing, posting journal entries, administering payroll, and processing accounts payable and receivable.

Job Qualifications

This successful candidate will work closely with the Pastor and must be able to maintain confidentiality and have excellent problem solving, communication, and interpersonal skills. Proficiency in WORD and Excel; prior payroll processing experience with knowledge of Paylocity and ParishSOFT/Connect-Now a plus.

This is a part-time, hourly position. The hourly rate offered will be based on experience and qualifications and will range from \$22.00 - \$27.00. This position requires a degree in Accounting or Finance and at least three years of experience as a bookkeeper/accountant.

No telephone calls will be accepted. Please e-mail your résumé, two professional references, one personal reference, and your salary requirements too:

Angela Gitto
Director of Human Resources
Positions@dioceseoftrenton.org
Father Pierre Claver (Fleury) Lunimbu, SVD
Pastor
clunimbu@stannschurch.org

GAUDETE SUNDAY**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." In times when the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy.



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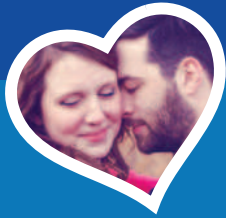
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