

Saint John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

1282 Yardville - Allentown Road • Allentown, N.J. 08501

www.StJohnRomanCatholic.org

The Holy Season of Lent

*Ash
Wednesday
February 14*



*Remember man that thou art dust
and unto dust thou shall return.*

Genesis 3:19



Saint John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

1282 Yardville-Allentown Road Allentown, NJ 08501

www.StJohnRomanCatholic.org



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Quinquagesima Sunday

February 11, 2024

Sacrament of Confession

Confession is offered on Wednesday from 5:45pm-6:45pm and on Saturday from 4:00pm-4:45pm. Confession is also available by request and as announced on our website. Please contact the Pastor by email at FrMikeWallack@gmail.com with any questions.

Contact Information

Parish Website

StJohnRomanCatholic.org

Parish Office

Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Saturday 9:00am - Noon

Office Email: stjohallentown@gmail.com

Office Phone: 609-259-3391 Fax: 609-508-1407

**For an emergency requiring a priest,
please call (609) 538-4126**

Clergy and Parish Staff

Very Rev. Michael Wallack, Pastor

Email: FrMikeWallack@gmail.com

Mr. Philip Clingerman OCDS, Deacon

Email: clingermanocds@gmail.com

Mr. Paul DeGrazia, Deacon

Email: pauldegraz@gmail.com

Mr. Joseph Hepp, Deacon

Email: jjhepp@yahoo.com

Mr. Michael Scannella, Deacon

Email: sfscdeacon@gmail.com

Mrs. Dorothy Conway, Business Manager

Email: sjbbusiness@optimum.net

Mrs. Lauren Walters, Coordinator of Religious Education

Email: sjbrcre@gmail.com Phone: (609)259-3586

Mr. Peter Carter, Director of Music

Email: sjbmusicdirector@gmail.com

Mrs. Jo-Anne Ruff, Bookkeeper/Cemetery Coordinator

Email: sjbbookkeeper@optimum.net Phone: (609)508-1715

Holy Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday, February 10	8:00 AM 5:15 PM	Gloria Lupo (d), requested by the Havardansky Family Daniel Ilijasic (d), requested by Sal Petito
Sunday, February 11	9:00 AM 11:00 AM 12:30 PM	People of the Parish Michael Argondizza (d), requested by Bob and Carol Pinto Jonathan and Midori Ruff (l), requested by the Floyd Family
Monday, February 12	7:00 PM	Donald Pegg, Jr. (d), requested by Bob and Carol Pinto
Tuesday, February 13	8:00 AM	Reid MacFarlane (d), requested by Joseph Bellanca
Wednesday, February 14	8:00 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Jeannie Middendorf (d), requested by Pellini Family Joe and Geri Loria (l) on the Occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary, requested by their Children Calvin Lee (l), requested by the Lee Family
Thursday, February 15	8:00 AM	Joseph Chepega (d), requested by Carol and Thomas Toporek
Friday, February 16	8:00 AM	The Bielawski Family (l), requested by the Family
Saturday, February 17	8:00 AM 5:15 PM	Donna Drew (d), requested by Mike and Gloria Havardansky Cynthia Italiano (d), requested by the Collier Family
Sunday, February 18	9:00 AM 11:00 AM 12:30 PM	Sam Damiano (d), requested by Kay Damiano People of the Parish Robert Swart (l), requested by Jo-Anne Ruff

LENT

prayer • fasting • almsgiving

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

The coinciding this year of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day has prompted some to ask about a dispensation from Lenten restrictions. Please note that the **Diocese of Trenton is not issuing a dispensation from the required obligation of fasting and abstinence from meat on this Ash Wednesday, February 14.**

Saint John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church



Ash Wednesday Schedule February 14, 2024

7:00am Prayer Service

8:00am Mass

Noon Prayer Service

5:00pm Mass

7:00pm Traditional Latin Mass

Ashes will be distributed at all of the above.

Ash Wednesday is a day of **FAST** (only one full meal, for those between the ages of 18 and 59) and **ABSTINENCE** (no meat, from the age of 14) for all Baptized Roman Catholics in the United States.

Lenten Friday Stations of the Cross and Benediction followed by Confessions

7:00pm (beginning February 16)

Please join us for Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on all of the Fridays of Lent. Confession will be available after Benediction

Saint John the Baptist Church Information

New Parish Office Hours

Beginning February 12, 2024, the Parish Office will be open for business Tuesday through Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm, and on Saturday, 9:00am to Noon. We hope that adding Saturday morning hours will be helpful to many of our Parish families.

Sanctuary Lamp

Offerings for your intentions are available on a weekly basis for the Sanctuary Lamp, which burns night and day before Our Lord, truly present in the Tabernacle.

*The Sanctuary Lamp is offered this week
for Peter McFarlane (d)
requested by Ginny and Doug*

Weekly Collection

Sunday, February 4, 2024: \$9,924.00

February Maintenance and Repair: \$1,693.00 (as of 2/9)

We are grateful for all donations received in the collections, through Online Giving, and via mail and direct drop-off.



A Note From Our Pastor

My Dear Parishioners,

The healing of a leper narrated in the Gospel of this Sunday's Mass must have moved people very much, and it figured frequently in the preaching of the apostles. The fact that it is related in great detail by three of the Evangelists makes this clear. Saint Luke provides the detail that the miracle was performed in a town, and that the disease was in an advanced state. The leper was covered with it: a man full of leprosy, Luke says. At that time leprosy was an incurable condition. The limbs of the leper became gradually affected by the progressive illness, which would produce disfigurement to the face, hands and feet, and great suffering. For fear of contagion lepers were driven away from built-up areas and forbidden to use the highways.

As we hear in the First Reading of the Mass, they were pronounced legally unclean. They had to keep their heads uncovered and wear torn clothes to distinguish themselves, and were obliged to make their presence known when they passed close to any inhabited place. People fled from even members of their own families. Their affliction was generally held to be a punishment from God for their sins. Thus it is strange to find this leper inside a city. Perhaps he has heard of Jesus and has been eagerly looking for a chance to approach Him.

At last he has found him and breaks the strict precept of the old Mosaic Law in order to speak to Him. Christ is his hope, his only hope. It must have been an extraordinary scene. The leper knelt before Jesus. If you want to, he said, you can make me clean. If you want to ... Perhaps he had prepared a longer speech, explaining things ... but in the end this simple blurted-out aspiration, filled with trust, with sincere sensitivity, is enough: 'Si vis, potes me mundare', if you will, you can ... These few words, stammered out, are in a fact a powerful prayer.

Jesus took pity on him, and the three Evangelists describe the surprising gesture of Our Lord: He stretched out His hand and touched him. Until now, everyone had recoiled from him in dread and loathing, but Jesus, who could have healed from a distance as He had done on other occasions, not only did not draw away from him, but even touched his leprosy. It is not hard to imagine Christ's affection and the gratitude of the leper when he saw Our Lord's gesture and heard his words: I will; be clean.

Peace,
Fr. Mike

Local Food Bank Donations

Monthly food bank donations of nonperishable and non-expired food are collected on the first weekend of each month. **The next collection will be March 2-3.** Containers will be available for your donations at all of the entrances to the Church. Thank you for your continued generosity to this important outreach to those most in need.



Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church Knights of Columbus Council 7333

Email: AllentownKnights@gmail.com

Dear Brothers,

Our **February Breakfast** will be this Sunday, February 11 after the 9:00am Mass. All are invited!

The next **Monthly Business Meeting** will be on Monday, February 12 beginning at 7pm in the Knights Hall. Please join us.

Our **Annual Loaves and Fishes** outreach at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption in Trenton is on Saturday, February 17. Please see the flyer in this bulletin for more information.

The Knights continue to lead the **Holy Rosary** at the Wednesday Holy Hour from 5:45 to 6:45pm. All are invited to attend and participate. **Due to the Ash Wednesday Mass schedule, we will not have a Holy Hour on February 14.** The next Holy Hour will be on February 21.

Peace and Love!

Dan Nazzaro, Grand Knight



Our Next Family Breakfast!

Sunday February 11, 2024
after 9:00am Mass until 11:00am
Church Hall

Join us for our Family Breakfast!

Treat your family to delicious pancakes, bacon, eggs and more! Healthy options also available. Our monthly Family Breakfast is FREE to all who attend.



Please join us in the Knights Hall
on Saturdays!

- ◆ 6:30 AM - Breakfast and Fellowship
- ◆ 7:00 AM - Inspiring video
- ◆ 7:30 AM - Small Groups

Please contact Jim Hannon at 609-577-4643 with questions about this spiritually-enriching opportunity for men.

Upcoming First Aid Classes

Gene Stabulis, a parishioner and a Knight of Columbus member will be conducting First Aid classes. For more information on these classes, please contact Gene to receive this invaluable training:

Gene@battalion1consultants.com or 877-380-9911



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
Saint John the Baptist Conference
president1svdp@gmail.com

Appeals for assistance should continue as always, through the Parish Office phone at 609-259-3391 and also through the SVdP email (president1svdp@gmail.com). Thank you to all of our parishioners for your continued support!

The Sacred Music of the Mass Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon:	Be my protector, O God	
Kyrie:	Mass XVI	100
Gloria:	Heritage Mass	192
Responsorial Psalm:	I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble	
Gospel Acclamation:	A great prophet has arisen in our midst	
Offertory Antiphon:	Blessed are you, O Lord	
Offertory Hymn:	Lord of All Hopefulness	622
Sanctus:	Roman Missal Chant	127
Memorial Acclamation:	Roman Missal Chant	128
Agnus Dei:	Roman Missal Chant	132
Communion Chant:	They ate and had their fill	
Communion Hymn:	Lead, Kindly Light	607
Recessional:	Faith of Our Fathers	520

The Antiphons can be found in the 2024 Source and Summit Missal, while the hymns and the Ordinary of the Mass are in the St. Michael Hymnal. Both are available in the



Saint John the Baptist Fifty Plus Club

Tuesday, February 13, 2024
1:00 PM in the Church Hall



Our February meeting will be on Tuesday, February 13 at 1:00PM in the Church Hall. We are pleased to have again **KARL DENTINO and his Ragtime music** to entertain us. As usual, we will have coffee and dessert to celebrate Mardi Gras before the start of Lent.

It's that time of the year to once again celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. We will meet at LaPiazza at 1pm on **Wednesday, March 13 for our traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage Luncheon.** It will consist of salad, pasta purses with pesto sauce, corned beef, cabbage, Irish soda bread, chicken with veggies, soda, coffee and cake. WOW! The cost will be only \$38/person. Please sign up and pay at our February Mardi Gras meeting on February 13, 2024.

A Promise to Protect

The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the Diocesan Abuse Hotline: 888-296-2965 or via email at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org.

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament



Every Monday from Noon until Benediction at 6:45pm
The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass follows at 7:00pm

All are invited to come and spend some time with our Blessed Lord! For more information, contact Margaret Longto at 609-259-2859.



First Friday Divine Mercy Chaplet

Friday, March 1, 2024
3:00pm in Church

We will honor Our Lord by praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. All are invited to join us.

Saint John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church



FIRST FRIDAY/FIRST SATURDAY TWO HEARTS VIGIL OF REPARATION

Friday, March 1, 2024

9:00pm Traditional Latin Low Mass
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (First Friday)
10:00pm Exposition, Confession, Prayers, Rosary

Saturday, March 2, 2024

Midnight Traditional Latin Low Mass
Immaculate Heart of Mary (First Saturday)

America Needs Fatima Public Square Rosary



Every 2nd Saturday of the Month
Noon
In front of our outdoor
Blessed Mother Statue

Next Public Rosary: Saturday, March 9, 2024

For more information, please contact Aggie at 609-501-3515

Looking for Faith-Based Catholic Counseling?

Compassionate and Christ-centered therapists are available at **Main Street Counseling, LLC**. In-person and Telehealth options are available.

Allentown Office

12 N. Main St, Allentown, NJ 08501

Pennington Office

106 Sträube Center Blvd, Suite F110 Mailbox
Pennington, NJ 08534

Hamilton Office

1540 Kuser Rd #A3, Hamilton, NJ 08619

Website: <http://mainstreetcounselingnj.com/>

Phone: 609-208-3053

If interested, please go to the website, click "contact us", complete intake form and in the "Therapist requested" section please write in Carla Delre, MS, LPC and/or Jacqueline Hofmann, MS, LAC, NCC to request a Catholic provider.

Carla Delre, MS, LPC

NJ Counseling License #37PC010046008

Jacqueline Hofmann, MS, LAC, NCC

NJ Counseling License #37AC00704400

Devotion to the Holy Family

Holy Hour

Adoration

Confession

Holy Rosary



Next Holy Hour: Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Due to our February 14 Ash Wednesday Mass schedule, we will not have a Holy Hour or Confessions on February 14.

Our next Holy Hour (with Adoration, Confession, and the Rosary) will be on February 21 from 5:45pm until Benediction at 6:45pm. The 7:00pm Traditional Latin Low Mass will follow Benediction.

Saint John the Baptist Church



"Take 5 Minutes" Lenten Challenge

The 2024 Magnificat
Lenten Companion
is now available
at all Church entrances.

The suggested donation is \$1.00.

2024 Lenten Regulations

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During the days and weeks of penance that lie ahead, from Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024 until Holy Thursday morning, March 28, 2024, the Catholic Church throughout the world commemorates the penitential season of Lent ending with the Sacred Triduum of Holy Week. The model Jesus gave us for “these 40 days” was his own experience in the desert and the temptations that followed him there where he encountered Satan face to face. And yet, Jesus, there in the desert – alone, fasting and in intense prayer – beat back the devil and triumphed over temptation, as strong and as unrelenting as it was throughout those 40 days.

We enter the desert of Lent like Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit, to face our devils, our temptations head on. But we are not alone. The Lord Jesus Christ is with us. And so, too, is the Church, the entire community of faith observing Lent. Here is what the Catholic Church in the United States requires of us as baptized Catholics:

1. The days of **FAST (only one full meal)** and **ABSTINENCE (no meat)** are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. No dispensations are granted on these solemn days except for reason of sickness or those provided in canon law below. **ALL OF THE OTHER FRIDAYS OF LENT are days of ABSTINENCE.** The Pastor of a Parish has the faculty to give a dispensation to individual parishioners in his parish and the Diocesan Bishop alone has the authority to dispense groups of Catholics but only for a serious reason.

2. Those who are automatically dispensed from fast and abstinence regulations outside the age limits noted below include the physically or mentally ill, especially individuals suffering from chronic illnesses, such as diabetes. Also included in the dispensation are women who are pregnant or nursing. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting.

3. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to **FAST (only one full meal)** as noted above. From the age of 14, people are also obliged to **ABSTAIN (no meat)**: this obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat.

4. The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious one for Catholics. Failure to observe one penitential day in itself is not considered a serious sin. It is the intentional failure to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of penitential days, that must be considered a serious matter.

5. The obligation, the privilege really, of receiving the Eucharist at least once a year – often called “Easter duty” – for those in the state of grace should still be fulfilled during the period from the First Sunday of Lent, February 17-18, 2024 to Trinity Sunday, May 25-26, 2024. However, the Church’s law does permit this precept to be fulfilled at another time during the year when there is a just cause.

I want to encourage all Catholics, especially those who are conscious of serious sin, to go to Confession and to make use of the sacrifices and traditions that have always been part of our Lenten practices in the Church. We do, indeed, fast and pray with the Lord Jesus and with our fellow Catholics. May this Lent be a time of penance leading to grace and joy for us all at Easter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend David M. O’Connell, C.M.
Bishop of Trenton

DIOCESE OF TRENTON
MERCER COUNTY STATIONAL CHURCHES
LENT, 2024

Please join us for our 7:00pm Mass on Monday, February 26 as we are joined by many visitors from the Diocese!



St. John the Baptist Church, Allentown, is the fourth on the list of the 2024 Station Churches of Mercer County. Mass will be celebrated here on Monday, February 26 at 7p.m.

Schedule for 2024 Station Churches of Mercer County

- Feb. 16 – 7 p.m., St Joseph Church, 540 North Olden Ave., Trenton
- Feb. 20 – 6 p.m., St. Anthony of Padua Church, 251 Franklin St., Hightstown
- Feb. 22 – 7 p.m., St. Paul Church, 216 Nassau St., Princeton
- Feb. 26 – 7 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 1282 Yardville-Allentown Rd., Allentown**
- Feb. 27 – 7 p.m., St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral, 151 North Warren St., Trenton
- Feb. 28 – 7 p.m., Incarnation Church, 1545 Pennington Rd., Ewing
- Feb. 29 – 7 p.m., Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 3816 East State St. Ext., Hamilton
- March 5 – 7 p.m., St. David the King Church, 1 New Village Rd., Princeton Junction
- March 6 – 7 p.m., St. James Church, 11 E Paul Ave., Trenton
- March 7 – 7 p.m., Holy Cross Church, 227 Adeline St., Trenton
- March 8 – 6 p.m., Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 137 W. Upper Ferry Rd., West Trenton
- March 11 – 7 p.m., St. George Church, 1370 River Rd., Titusville
- March 13 – 7 p.m., St. Anthony Church, 626 S Olden Ave., Trenton
- March 14 – 7 p.m., St. Joachim Church, 19 Bayard St., Trenton
- March 19 – 7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 343 South Broad St., Trenton,
- March 21 – 7 p.m., St. Ann Church, 1253 Lawrence Rd., Lawrenceville
- March 22 – 7 p.m., St. Raphael Church, 3500 South Broad St., Hamilton
- March 25 – St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral, 61 Georgia Rd., Freehold (Mass of Chrism at 7:30 p.m.)

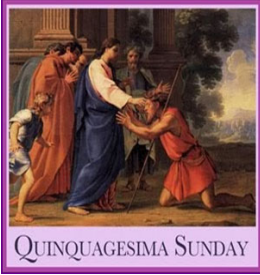
From the Trenton Monitor, February 2024:

Faithful of the Diocese and beyond are welcomed to spend part of their Lenten observance by going on a local pilgrimage in Mercer County. Once again, the Catholic parishes in Mercer County are adapting a centuries-old Roman tradition that traces its roots as far back as the late second and early third century by inviting others to visit their churches and celebrate evening Mass during Lent. It had been the practice that every year during Lent, Catholics living in Rome made an ancient pilgrimage to the basilicas and churches located throughout the city. A different “station church” was designated each day for Catholics from around the city to gather for Mass early in the morning as a visible reminder of the unity of the Church.

Looking ahead to the start of the 2024 pilgrimage, which is set to begin February 16, Msgr. Dennis Apoldite, sees it as an “opportunity for us to glean a bit of history as we make our way to the various churches throughout the county. As we move from church to church, we can imagine the thousands of people who have journeyed to these churches especially during the Lenten season to offer the prayer and worship. We can unite our prayers with theirs and join our voices with this great crowd of witnesses who over the past 200 years have found many ways to give glory to God, and public witness to their Catholic faith,” said Msgr. Apoldite, who is pastor of Sacred Heart Parish and Episcopal Vicar of Mercer County. Msgr. Apoldite reflected on the Mercer County parishes that are participating in the 2024 pilgrimage, saying that each church has a special history and its own particular treasures. “Each has been the place of Baptisms, Confirmations, weddings, funerals and a place where countless numbers have encountered God,” he said, noting that the churches are welcome to plan their evening as they wish. Extending an invitation to all prospective pilgrims, Msgr. Apoldite said, “Join in as many visits you are able and ask God’s blessing upon on all who journey with you during this Lenten pilgrimage of 2024.”



The Diocese of Trenton Celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass



Quinquagesima Sunday Solemn High Mass

V. Rev. Michael Wallack, Celebrant
Mr. Philip Clingerman, Deacon
Mr. Michael Scannella, Subdeacon

Mass Intention

Jonathan and Midori Ruff (I)
requested by the Floyd Family

Music Intention

The repose of the soul of Rev. Jason Kulczynski (d)
requested by St. John's Parish and the TLM Family

Lunch Convivium Today

Please join us after Mass today for a wonderful lunch Convivium downstairs in the Church Hall! There is no charge, and it is a great opportunity for fellowship and fun. Be sure to visit the showcase for Traditional Latin Mass missals, mantillas, books, rosaries and more.

Saint John the Baptist
Roman Catholic Church

Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2024

Solemn High Mass
7:00pm

*Remember man
that thou art dust
and unto dust
thou shall return.*

Genesis 3:19



2024 Spring Ember Days

Wednesday, February 21, 2024
Friday, February 23, 2024
Saturday, February 24, 2024



Ember days are certain days of annual fasting for the special sanctification of the four seasons and for obtaining God's blessing on the clergy, for whose ordination the Ember Saturdays are specially set apart. The Propers of the Masses reflect the Season in which they occur and include additional Lessons said before the Gospel. In the Traditional Catholic calendar, the Ember Days fall on the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday **after the first Sunday in Lent**, after Pentecost Sunday, during the third full week of September, and after the third Sunday of Advent.

All are invited to join us on Wednesday, February 21 at 7:00pm and on Friday, February 23 at 8:00am for our Spring Ember day Traditional Latin Low Masses.

The Sacred Music of the Mass

Processional:	Lead, Kindly Light	607
Sprinkling Rite:	Asperges Me	207
Introit:	<i>Esto mihi</i>	
Kyrie:	Mass XI	117
Gradual:	<i>Tues Deus</i>	
Tract:	<i>Jubilate Domine</i>	
Credo:	Credo I	212
Offertory:	<i>Benedictus es Domine</i>	
Offertory Motet:	Ubi Caritas - Carter	
Sanctus:	Mass XI	119
Agnus Dei:	Mass XI	120
Communion:	<i>Manducaverunt, et saturati sunt nimis</i>	
Communion Motet:	Do Not Be Afraid - Stopford	
Marian Anthem:	Ave Regina Caelorum	443
Recessional:	Be Still, My Soul	451

We are grateful to Sacred Music Director Peter Carter, our Schola Cantorum and our Choristers for this afternoon's beautiful Sacred Music.

Mater Ecclesiae Parish and Rev. Robert Pasley, our friends in Tradition in Berlin, NJ (in the Diocese of Camden), will be having their annual **Saint Patrick's Day Celebration** on Saturday, March 9. Tickets are now on sale and are available on a "first come-first served" basis. Please see the ad below for contact information.

LUCKY you!

MATER ECCLESIAE

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY EVENT

Saturday, March 9th

FROM 6:30-10:30PM
DOORS OPEN 6PM

ADULTS 21 & OLDER \$40
CHILDREN 12 TO 20 \$25

TICKETS MUST BE PAID FOR BEFORE EVENT
ONLY 250 TICKETS AVAILABLE!
TICKET SALE STARTS JAN. 22ND

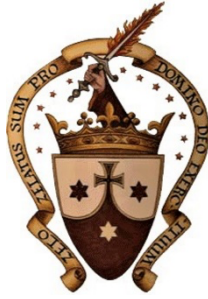
TRADITIONAL IRISH BUFFET
OPEN BAR (21 & OLDER)
BASKET AUCTION
50/50 AND DJ
SPECIAL APPEARANCE:
FRALINGER STRING BAND

QUESTIONS AND TICKETS, CONTACT
(856)596-7627 or angel.kisses@comcast.net

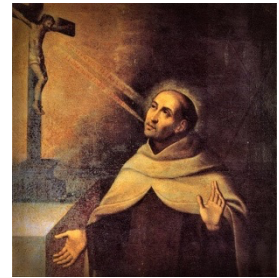
JM+JT



OHM Teresa of Ávila



With zeal have I been zealous for the Lord God of hosts. 1 Kgs 10:19



OHF John of the Cross

The Carmelite Corner

QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY

READINGS:
1 COR 13:1-13
LK 18:31-43

V. Praised be Jesus Christ...

R. Now and forever!

*Esto mihi in Deum protectorem,
et in locum refugii, ut salvum me facias:
quoniam firmamentum meum et refugium meum es tu:
et propter nomen tuum dux mihi eris,
et enutries me.*

**Be Thou unto me a God, a Protector,
and a place of refuge, to save me;
Thou art my strength and my refuge:
and for Thy Name's sake Thou wilt lead me,
and nourish me. [Ps 30:2]**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we are in the “pre-Lent” period, roughly “fifty days” before Easter [Latin: *Quinquagesima*]. We now are earnestly preparing our way for Holy Lent. This week we return to the first letter of Paul to the Church at Corinth. As mentioned last week, Paul fraternally corrects the Corinthians, as they were very smug about their “spiritual excellence.” Paul is chastising the Corinthians, for their attitudes regarding Christian living, so poor in the context of faith, hope, and [particularly] charity.

From the Gospel of Luke, we find the first of three predictions of the passion. Apparently, this prediction was so shocking to the disciples that they could neither contextualize scripture nor understand that Jesus was to be this “suffering servant.” We, too, are being prepared for these events, once again – will WE get it? How does the Gospel of today hang with the epistle? There are a couple of things going on here. *Caritas super omnia* [charity above all] – Jesus predicts the highest form of ἀγάπη [*agape*] love – total, sacrificial, unconditional love, even unto death. The scene shifts toward Jericho; the blind man hears the commotion, and he asks what is going on. The man, no doubt, has heard of the wonders that Jesus has performed; in faith and hope, he asks for pity [charity]. The man wishes to regain sight; Jesus rewards his faith. We have the thread of faith, hope, and charity throughout our readings of today – a ‘type’ of Our Lord cleaning up our imperfections and redeeming us. From our very souls, do we exclaim, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”? And how well do we see the face of the suffering Christ in our brothers and sisters?

The Carmelite knows that the world is full of folks who do not have a sense of their own wretchedness [including ourselves] – indeed, sinfulness of any type is wretched. Sin is adultery against the marriage of Christ and His Church. We pray for all God’s children – that all humanity will have fidelity to the Bridegroom. We pray for the proper formation of conscience – that we act on it, and, if unsure, NOT to act [out of concern for not offending Our Lord]. We enter Holy Lent praying that the world would regain sorrow for sin – profound regret for it – a firm purpose of amendment.

To Jesus Christ be all glory!

*“‘Abyss calls to abyss.’ It is there in the very depths that the divine impact takes place,
where the abyss of our nothingness encounters the Abyss of mercy,
the immensity of the all of God.*

*There we will find the strength to die to ourselves and,
losing all vestige of self, we will be changed into love.”*

~ from “I Have Found God”, Vol. 1 ~ S. Elizabeth of the Trinity [Élisabeth Catez ~ 1880-1906] OCD, V.

Loaves and Fishes Event is Next Week!

If you signed up to prepare Baked Ziti:

On Thursday, February 15:

- ◆ Cook the Baked Ziti using the recipe we distributed in the pan and lid we provided.
- ◆ Refrigerate Baked Ziti overnight.

On Friday February 16 between 4PM and 6PM:

- ◆ Return the refrigerated Ziti to St John's.
- ◆ Representatives will be collecting the Ziti in the parking lot at the rear of the church.

If you signed up to help serve at the event on Saturday, February 17:

- ◆ Arrive at St. Mary's Cathedral in Trenton by 8:30AM.
- ◆ The Cathedral is at 151 N. Warren Street in Trenton.
- ◆ Limited parking is available behind the Cathedral accessed via Bank Street.
- ◆ If you know others who have signed up to work the event, please consider car pooling.

If you have new socks to donate:

- ◆ Place new socks in the baskets located in the Church vestibules.

Thank you for your support of this outreach to those in need.

**You can also sign up or ask any questions by calling or texting
Rob McLaughlin at 908-672-3906.**



27th Annual

CATHOLIC MEN FOR JESUS CHRIST CONFERENCE



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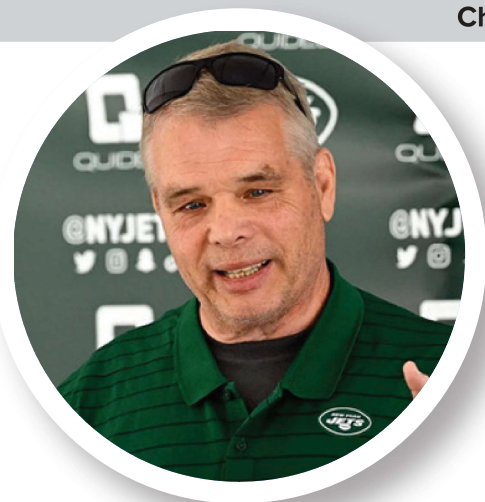
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023 | 8 AM - 3 PM

Doors open at 8 AM for bagels and coffee; Lunch also included



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Check out this great line-up of speakers!



Joe Klecko

New York Jets NFL Hall of Famer is an American former professional football player who was a defensive lineman in the National Football League (NFL), primarily with the New York Jets and was a member of the Jets' famed "New York Sack Exchange". He also appeared on EWTN Life On The Rock show. He is a member of Catholic Athletes for Christ and speaks on the subject of manhood and faith. Klecko was a guest on Blessed2Play hosted by Ron Meyer where he talked about his Catholic faith and career in the NFL.



Bishop David M. O'Connell, CM

We are pleased to have our Bishop, the Most Reverend David M. O'Connell, return as the presider and homilist for celebration of the Holy Mass.



Tim Glemkowski

Catholic Evangelist

Tim Glemkowski is the CEO of the National Eucharistic Congress. Previously, he served in the Archbishop's Office for the Archdiocese of Denver as the Director of Strategy, helping to set up the archdiocese for a time of apostolic mission. Tim authored Made for Mission: Renewing Your Parish Culture, which was released in Fall 2019 through Our Sunday Visitor. He is an international speaker who has also consulted for many organizations, dioceses, and parishes. His writing has appeared in numerous print and web-based theological and catechetical publications. Tim and his wife, Maggie, live in Littleton, CO with their four young children.



Xavier Reyes-Ayral

Speaker, Author, Evangelist

Best selling author of, "Revelations - the hidden secret messages and prophecies of the Blessed Virgin Mary," along with being a nationally sought after podcast guest and speaker. He studied eight years in France under the Churches world renown expert and theologian on Mariology, Fr. René Laurentin. He's a 4th degree Knight of Columbus and Grand Knight, but, most of all, a devoted husband, father and Catholic Man for Christ and His Church.

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