

Angel & Shepherd Alert

We're calling all "Little Angels" & "Little Shepherds"
in the 1st and 2nd Grades to participate in St. Mark's

Christmas Eve Pageant on:



Sunday, December 24, 2023
4:00p.m. Mass.

- All that is needed for an angel is a white robe (which could be a sheet with a hole for their head and a tie at the waist). Halos will be provided. No wings are needed.
- For a shepherd's costume a simple shepherd's headdress is needed (which could be a small towel or piece of fabric held in place with a headband). The shepherds may wear their regular clothing.
- Each participant will also need 2 AA batteries for the candles they will carry.

For more information about costumes, please see me.

PRACTICE WILL BE HELD ON:
Wednesday, December 20
6:00-6:30 p.m.

Any questions, please call Diana Zuna (732) 449-6364 ext. 105.

Please return this portion to Diana Zuna or your child's Catechist.

I WOULD LIKE TO BE AN: (circle one)

LITTLE ANGEL

LITTLE SHEPHERD

Student's Name: _____

Phone: _____ Grade: _____

❄️ Some Thoughts for December 2023 by Marge Loenser

As soon as we think of December, we think of Christmas. It 's such a natural reaction.

The stores remind us of Christmas in November, and Lord help us, we start to get tons of mail from all the charities sending us packs of Christmas cards. It's really hard to stay focused on what most of December really is--Advent; preparation for the coming of the Lord--the Sweet Baby Jesus.

To name a few of the saints in December, on the 6th we celebrate St. Nicholas. Born in 280 AD in an area which is now Turkey, he is one of the few early saints not martyred for the faith. Because of so many miracles attributed to him he was known as Nicholas the "Wonder Worker." All his work for the poor and the sick and his great generosity probably began the legend of "Jolly Old St. Nicholas" or "Santa Claus."

On the 8th we celebrate the great feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On the 9th, St. Juan Diego; he was a native Mexican, who in the 1500's was blessed to behold the appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe (on Tepeyac Hill). On his "tilma" or cloak, there appeared a miraculous image of our Lady as a young native woman, with child. This cloak with the beautiful image is still on display in Mexico City. Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego pray for us.

On the 13th we celebrate St. Lucy of Sicily. She was martyred by order of the Roman Emperor, Diocletian. She is a patron saint of the blind. St. Lucy pray for us. Our biggest celebration, of course, is Christmas Day --the day our Savior, Jesus Christ was born; and the angels sang "Glory to God in the highest and peace to men of good will."

St. Stephen whose feast is the 26th was the first Christian martyr. He was stoned to death for preaching that Jesus Christ was the messiah, and had risen from the dead. On the 27th we celebrate St. John, beloved Apostle and brother of St. James. He is author of the 4th gospel, as well as three epistles and the Book of Revelation. The feast of the Holy Innocents is the 28th. Herod had these babies killed in an attempt to kill baby Jesus who was saved by St. Joseph who was told in a dream to take Mary and Baby Jesus and escape to Egypt. I leave you with this Christmas Poem:

Twas the evening of Christmas and all through the night
Dwelt this sweet gentle silence and the brightness of light!
Shepherds were startled by angels on high,
And were told of a Babe born in Bethlehem nigh.
Hosanna! Come see the Messiah promised from old,
All wrapped up in cloth to keep out the cold.
See Mary and Joseph who dwelt at His side,
While shepherds looked on with their eyes opened wide!
We adore You, we adore You, sweet Baby King,
For to our hearts peace and salvation You Bring!

Serenades to Our Lady of Guadalupe

St. Mark's Spanish Ministry would like to invite you to the:
"Grand Celebration in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe"

Monday, December 11, 2023

Time: 6:30pm



**Come and celebrate Our Heavenly
Mother with us!**

6:30 p.m. Rosary & "Little Angels" Dance

7:10 p.m. Nueva Ilusion Group

7:20 p.m. "Corazones Sin Fronteras" Dance

**7:50 p.m. Blessing of the Children &
song by Elena Roman**

8:00 p.m. Mariachis

9:00 p.m. Refreshments

9:40 p.m. Nueva Ilusion Group

**9:50 p.m. "Corazones Unidos de
Jesús & Maria" Dance**

10:00 p.m. "Pineapple" Dance

10:10 p.m. "Aztec" Dance

10:20 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Play

11:00 p.m. Spanish Holy Mass

**12:00 a.m. Serenades to Our Lady of
Guadalupe**



**St Mark's Catholic Church
215 Crescent Pkwy, Sea Girt NJ 08750**

**For more detail information please call:
(732) 449-6364 ext. 104 & 105**



Because of our printer's early deadlines for our winter bulletins, please email all bulletin articles to cindy@stmarkseagirt.com by the following dates:

December 10th Bulletin by Friday, December 1st.

December 17th Bulletin by Wednesday, December 6th.

December 24th Bulletin by Wednesday, December 13th.

December 31st Bulletin by, Tuesday, December 19th.

Thank you for your cooperation!



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

St. Mark's is looking for ESL volunteers who can donate time to teach English as a second language to members of our hispanic community. Classes will take place on Sundays before the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

If you someone who might be interested in volunteering, contact Peggy Mahoney for more information at margaretmahoney726@gmail.com.

When you help someone learn to speak English, you can change a life!



Christmas Flower Memorial envelopes are now available at church entrances. Flower envelopes can be put in the collection basket, the box on the side altar or rectory mail slot.

It's a beautiful way to celebrate the birth of our Savior and to remember a loved one on Christmas!

ST. MARK'S CHURCH CONFIRMATION CLASS 2024

CONFIRMATION Bake Sale

All proceeds will go to the Madonna House, Good Counsel South Jersey & Trinity Soup Kitchen.

December 9th & 10th
After all Masses

FAMILY ADVENT GATHERING AND BREAKFAST WITH ST. NICHOLAS

We will hear St. Nick's story, an Advent Saint

Sunday
DECEMBER 3RD
10:00 am

Join us after Mass for a delicious buffet breakfast with St. Nicholas. We'll have activities for the children, and an opportunity to receive a gift from him.

All families are invited to attend!

WE INVITE ALL THE CHILDREN TO LEAVE ONE OF THEIR SHOES DOWNSTAIRS BEFORE MASS FOR A SPECIAL SURPRISE FROM ST. NICHOLAS!

Social Concerns Programs

Feeding the Hungry



Are you looking for an easy way to help those in need? Here's one way you can make a difference. St. Mark's Social Concerns Ministry is resuming the Frozen Meals Program for the Center in Asbury Park which was discontinued due to the Covid pandemic. The Center in Asbury Park, Inc., is a volunteer-based New Jersey not-for-profit service organization, providing support services for people living with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers since 1992.

The process is simple! Here's what to do:

- Pick up food trays and lids next to the kitchen refrigerator in Fr. Child's Hall (St. Mark's Church basement)
- Fill the trays with generous portions of food
- Label the tray lids with the contents and date of preparation
- Return the meals to the freezer compartment of the refrigerator in Fr. Child's Hall.

Please use only the trays provided.

St Mark's volunteers will deliver the meals to The Center for distribution to their clients.

Please contact Marybeth or Joe Walsh at 732 449-5656 with any questions. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Mercy Center UPDATE!

THE MERCY CENTER IS NO LONGER ACCEPTING CLOTHING DONATIONS

Mercy Center has an URGENT need for diapers, sizes 3 and up, and baby wipes.

Also needed are: Coffee/Tea • Mayo
Mustard • Ketchup • Deodorant • Toothpaste
Toothbrushes • Soap.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Collecting Travel Size Toiletries



St. Mark's Social Concerns Committee is collecting travel size toiletry items (soap, shampoos, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs etc.) for delivery by volunteers to those in need in the Asbury Park area.

Containers are located at Church entrances. **Thank you!**

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

December 2: Advent Retreat. See page 6.

December 2/3: Second collection is for our Diocesan Assessment. Thank you!

December 2/3: CYO Christmas Wreath Sale after all Masses.

December 3: Family Advent Gathering and breakfast with Santa. See page 13.

December 3: Last day for Christmas Giving Tree donations. See page 4.

December 4: Altar Rosary Society will meet at 11AM Mass. Christmas luncheon to follow.

December 5: Christmas Concert. See page 5.

December 9/10: Confirmation Bake Sale after all Masses. See page 12.

December 10: Second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Please give generously to those who served the Church so faithfully!

December 11: Serenades to our Lady of Guadalupe. See page 12.

December 12: Social Concerns Christmas luncheon. See page 7.

December 24: Christmas Eve Pageant. See page 9.

Offerings at Francis House of Prayer: Spiritual direction, a one-on-one conversation with a spiritual director about God in your life, is always available. We offer the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius on a monthly and weekly basis, many opportunities to learn and practice contemplative prayer, reading programs on St. John of the Cross and other Carmelite Saints, and contemporary writers.

For programs or to register call Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center and Retreat House 609-877-0509 or FHOP@verizon.net or [CLICK HERE](#).

St. Joseph By the Sea—Our programs are offered to enrich, renew and deepen one's interior communication with the Lord in an atmosphere of prayer, quiet and solitude. The scenic environment of the Atlantic Ocean and Barnegat Bay provides additional contemplative opportunity. **Current brochure can be found on our website at www.sjbsea.org or [CLICK HERE](#).**



Saint Leo the Great Bereavement Ministry A Way Forward

For anyone suffering from the loss of a loved one, we are offering 6 weeks of guided grief sessions for adults: December 7, 14, 21, January 4, 11, 18 at 11am or 6pm in the Parish Center, 50 Hurleys Lane, Lincroft, NJ.

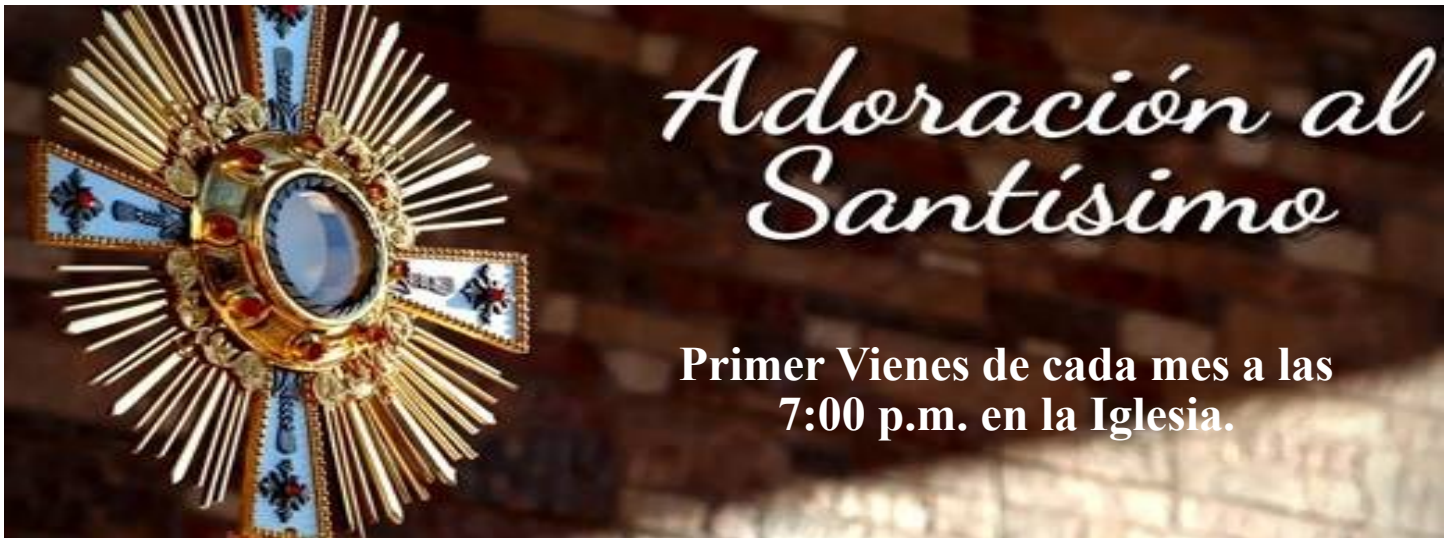
Registration required stleothegreat.com/bereavement.

Iglesia de "San Marcos" Apostolado Hispano
Misa Dominical: Domingo 5:00 p.m.

Fr. Carlos Castilla, Vicario Parroquial
frcarlos@stmarkseagirt.com
Teléfono: (732) 449-6364 ext. 122.

Directora del Ministerio de Religión
Diana Zuna Nieves
diana@stmarkseagirt.com
Teléfono: (732) 449-6364 ext. 105

Ministerio Hispano
Patty D'Andrea
Spanishministry@stmarkseagirt.com
Teléfono: (732) 449-6364 ext. 104



Dando la bienvenida al tiempo de Adviento y Navidad.

Únase a nosotros para un concierto bilingüe que celebra el nacimiento de Jesús con canciones y lecturas bíblicas a cargo de nuestro de Ministerio de Música en de San Marcos.

Martes 5 de diciembre de 2023 a las 6:00 p.m.

¡Todos son bienvenidos, los esperamos

Después del concierto habrán refrigerios en el sótano de la Iglesia.

Mañanitas a la Virgen de Guadalupe

La parroquia Católica de San Marcos, Sea Girt
les hace una cordial invitación:

A la Gran Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Lunes, 11 de Diciembre 2023

Comenzando a las 6:30 p.m.



Programa:

Rosario

Danza de los "Ángeles"

Grupo Nueva Alianza

Danza "Corazones sin Frontera"

Danza "Flor de Piña"

Bendición a los niños

Mariachis

Refrigerio

Danza "Corazones Unidos de Jesús & María"

Danza "Azteca"

Historia y Apariciones

Santa Misa

Mañanitas a la Virgen

Serenatas a la Virgen



Ven a Festejar con Nosotros a

Nuestra Madre Celestial

Para más información llamar a la
oficina (732) 449-6364 ext. 104 o 105.

NOVENA A LA VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE

DICIEMBRE 2023

IGLESIA SAN MARCOS

SEA GIRT, NJ



DICIEMBRE 3	ROSA ROBALINO	83 CHURCH STREET MANASQUAN	(203) 923-6272
DICIEMBRE 4	BETTY CHAVEZ	3304 HERBERTSVILLE ROAD PT. PLEASANT	(732) 894-6252
DICIEMBRE 5	BRIDGET LUNA	254 SPRUCEWOOD DRIVE BRICK	(732) 569-0127
DICIEMBRE 6	ESMERALDA RAMIREZ	2005 STRATFORD AVE NEPTUNE	(732) 740-0277
DICIEMBRE 7	ROSARIO RAMIREZ	642 SANTRICE COURT BRICK	(732) 674-8636
DICIEMBRE 8	MODESTA ARIAS	GRUPO DE ORACIÓN- IGLESIA SAN MARCOS	(848) 246-5293
DICIEMBRE 9	LORENA ESPINOZA	717 BEAVER DAM ROAD PT. PLEASANT	(732) 895-6787
DICIEMBRE 10	MARIA MERLIN	642 OCEAN ROAD PT. PLEASANT	(732) 822-7427
DICIEMBRE 11	IGLESIA SAN MARCOS		

Obra de Navidad 2023



Invitamos a todos los actores, angelitos y pastorcitos en las clases de Religión
a participar en la Obra de Navidad de San Marcos el:

Domingo, 24 de Diciembre

Misa en español 8:00 p.m.

*San Marcos proveerá todos los disfraces para la obra.

Ensayos en la Iglesia:

1. Martes, 19 de diciembre de 5:30-6:30 p.m.

2. Miércoles, 20 de diciembre de 7:00 -8:15 p.m.

* Maria, José, Ángeles grandes, Reyes Magos y pastor grande, deberán hablar español
para poder participar, ellos tendrán partes en la obra que tiene que memorizarse.

Cualquier pregunta, llame a Diana Zuna al (732) 449-6364 ext. 105

Devuelva esta porción a Diana Zuna o al catequista de su hijo (a).

ME GUSTARÍA SER UN: (circule uno)

MARIA

JOSE

ANGELES (3 grandes)

REYES MAGOS (3)

PASTOR (1 grande)

ESTRELLA

ÁNGELITOS

PASTORCITOS

Nombre del niño (a): _____

Teléfono: _____ Grado: _____

Catequista: _____