

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

HOPE



©JPPC

St. Mark's Catholic Church

Fr. Miguel Virella, SVD, Pastor

Fr. Miguel Valle, Parochial Vicar

Dr. Joseph V. Stillo, Deacon

Michael Keary, Deacon

Rectory Hours

Monday-Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:30 PM

Sunday 8 AM, 10 AM, and 12 Noon
5PM in Spanish

Daily Masses

**Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet
after Daily Masses**

Monday-Friday at 7:30 AM and 11 AM
Saturday 7:30 AM Only (No 11 AM Mass
on Saturdays)

Devotions and Novenas

Miraculous Medal Novena after daily
Masses on Wednesdays

Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays after
7:30 AM Mass.

Benediction at 10:45 AM

1st Fridays Spanish Adoration
beginning at 7 PM.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays 3:30 PM to 4:15 PM and
Thursdays after the 7:30 AM and
11 AM Masses

Rectory Office 732-449-6364

Bulletin	Ext. 114
Religious Education	Ext. 105
Social Concerns	Ext. 108
Spanish Ministry	Ext. 104 or Ext. 105
Weddings	Ext. 100

Ministries

Altar Rosary Society	732-528-6948
Bereavement Ministry	718-637-1162
CYO	732-685-6011
Music Ministry	908-415-0212
Rosary Makers	732-245-8405

215 Crescent Pkwy, Sea Girt, NJ 08750 • Phone 732-449-6364 • www.stmarkseagirt.com

† This Week's Mass Intentions

Monday, December 2

7:30 AM

† Lorraine Ciemniecki by William Wright
11:00 AM

† Living & Deceased Members of
St. Mark's Altar Rosary Society

Tuesday, December 3

7:30 AM

† Julia Buonocore by Family
11:00 AM

† Norman Heinle, 1st Anniversary by Kenah Family
† Thomas Jappe by Kathleen Jappe

Wednesday, December 4

7:30 AM

† Fr. Michael Lambeth by Geri Zalom
11:00 AM

† Frank Summerville by Patricia Healey

Thursday, December 5

7:30 AM

† Robert DeFalco by Friends
11:AM

† Margaret Carey by Kenah Family
† Mr. & Mrs. Pruneau by Bertucci Family
† Bernard Kelly by Mary Kelly

Friday, December 6

7:30 AM

† Dorothy Wright by Family
† Lorraine Ciemniecki by Stan Ciemniecki
11:00 AM

† Jack and Dolores Rosa by Linda Rosa

Saturday, December 7

7:30 AM

† Jack and Ida Donnelly by Family
4:30 PM

† William Brown by Brown Family
† John & Marion Heffernan by Marion Reilly
† Robert Gobins by Theresa M. Henry

Sunday, December 8

8:00 AM

† Bob Phillips by Pat Phillips
† Dolores Rosa by Deacon Joe Stillo
10:00 AM

People of the Parish
12 Noon

† Emory C. & Elizabeth A. Smith by Betsy Smith
† Ruth E. Burke by Gaeta Family
† Stephen Williams by Dr. Robert Belott
5:00 PM
Fausto Zaragoza by Juana Zaragoza



St. Mark's Bereavement Ministry

Our Bereavement Ministry helps those who are grieving the loss of a loved one during their most difficult times. They meet on Wednesdays at 11 AM at St. Mark's.

Please call Sue Nolan at 718-637-1162 for more information. All are welcome!

Readings for the Week December 1, 2024



Monday Is 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9 Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Mt 15:29-37

Thursday Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday Is 29:17-24 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Mt 9:27-31

Saturday Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday Bar 5:1-9 Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Lk 3:1-6.





Please pray for our sick: Marilyn Woerner, Barbara Peter, Ann Lehberger Joan Trutneff, Kevin Motzenbecker, Tom Ort, Kenneth Thorne, Mary Bogan, Peggy O'Brien, Patty Accavallo, Donna Brundage, Daniel DeSeno, Thomas Weeks, Jan Soriano, Nadine Piccolo, Patti & John Hillenbrand, Raymond Burghart, Joan Langlois, Robert Czech, Janet Thomas, Bruce Bogan, Sr.

Please Note: Names will remain on the sick list read at mass for 4 weeks and then removed unless the requester calls to remain on the list for another 4 weeks. To ensure the consent of the person whose name appears here, the pastor's policy requires that only they or a family member may request a name be added to this list. Names will remain in the bulletin until the person or family request it be removed.

Eternal Rest grant onto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Please remember in your prayers those of our diocese, parish, friends, and family members who have recently died.

† Robert Coogan

May the angels lead you into paradise.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMEBER

- Dec. 2: Altar Rosary will meet after the 11 am Mass. The Rosary will be recited & luncheon with music to follow. See below.
- Dec. 3: St. Mark's Christmas Concert (bilingual). See page 8.
- Dec. 7: Advent Retreat at St. Mark's Church. See page 5.
- Dec. 7/8: Our CYO will be selling Christmas Wreaths after all Masses. See page 9.
- Dec. 7/8: Dec. 8: Last day to donate to the Christmas Giving Tree. See page 10.
- Dec. 10: Social Concerns Christmas Luncheon. See page 7.
- Dec. 11: Serenades to Our Lady of Guadalupe. See below.
- Dec. 24: Christmas Nativity Play at 4pm Mass. See page 12.

Altar Rosary Society will meet on **Monday, December 2nd** after the 11 am Mass. The Rosary will be recited afterward, followed by a luncheon and music with John Heiserman and Frank Banafato.



Due to an early printing deadline, the collection total for the weekend of December 1, 2024 was unavailable. This information will be included in next weekend's bulletin.

The Diocese of Trenton presents

George Frideric Handel's

Messiah

Part One

featuring the combined
choirs of the Diocesan Festival Choir &
the Choir of the Red Bank Oratory
with the Orchestra of St. Cecilia
under the direction of Shawn Mack

Sunday December 8, 2024 3:30 p.m.

Admission: Adults \$20
Seniors & Students \$15
under 8 free

(Tickets may be purchased
at the door or in advance online at
<https://dioceseoftrenton.org/diocesan-festival-choir>)

For Further Information contact
St. Aloysius Church
935 Bennetts Mills Road,
Jackson, NJ 08527
Phone: 732-370-0500

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"

Wednesday, December 11, 2024
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Come and celebrate Our Heavenly Mother with us!

6:00 p.m. Rosary & "Little Angels" Dance
Nueva Ilusion Group

"Corazones Sin Fronteras" Dance #1
Songs by Elena Roman

"Corazones Sin Fronteras" Dance #2
Blessings of the Children

8:00 p.m. Mariachis

9:00 p.m. Refreshments

Flor de Pina Guadalupada" Dance
"Aztec" Dance

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

Some Thoughts for December, 2024 by Marge Loenser

Yeah, It's December! It's got to be our favorite month of the year because December lights up our brain with thoughts of "CHRISTMAS." But let's not get ahead of ourselves because it also means Advent, and Advent begins December 1st. Advent, from the Latin word "Adventus" means "arrival," or "coming." I know Santa Claus is "coming" to town, but "Santa" is small potatoes compared to the "coming" of Baby Jesus. And when we think of Baby Jesus we think of His beautiful Mother Mary, whose Immaculate Conception we celebrate on December 8th. What that simply means is that at the very moment of Her conception in the womb of St. Anne, Almighty God gave her the privilege of being born free of original sin. The only human being other than Jesus, Himself, to be granted such a privilege.

Another great celebration is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the 12th. Our Lady appeared in Mexico to a peasant man whose name was Juan Diego. She told him to tell the bishop to build her a shrine on the hill of Tepeyac. Our Lady performed a miracle for the skeptical bishop by imprinting her image of an young Indian princess (maybe an Aztec) on Juan's tilma., or cloak. This miracle is still there for us to visit in Mexico City, Mexico.

Some of the other saints we celebrate this month: St. Lucy on the 13th who is a patron saint for curing eye diseases. I say a prayer to her each morning for my friends with eye problems; St. Stephen, first Christian martyr on December 26th. My dear friend Stephanie's birthday. How would you like to have been born the day after Christmas. I must say she might have felt "outshone" but it never dampened her spirit as I consider her to be the epitome of the "Energizer Bunny" when it comes to serving the Lord. I get weary just thinking all she does for her church and those in need. We have St. John on the 27th. He was brother to St. James and son of Zebedee--fishermen all. He wrote the forth gospel after the martyrdom of James. He is the only apostle not martyred , but spent his old age on the Isle of Patmos writing the gospel and four letters. His writings are to me beautiful poetry.

The 28th is the Feast of the Holy Innocents --sweet babies murdered by Herod who thought he could kill the baby Jesus when he found out from the Magi, that the babe was considered to be a great King of Israel. Thank you St. Joseph for following the angel's directions and taking the Child Jesus and His Mother and fleeing to Egypt. It is also the birthday of another dear friend of mine, Vione who is quite the "prayer warrior"--has prayed for so many people, I can't begin to count. Beside that I can always count on her to laugh at my corny jokes. She is able to make lemonade when life throws lemons at her.

Merry Christmas to all and as Tiny Tim said: "May God bless us all, everyone."

Love,
Marge



**Next Weekend's Ministry Schedule
December 7/8, 2024**

	Celebrant	Deacon	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Usher
Saturday, 4:30 PM	Fr. Valle	Deacon Mike, Preaching	Sue Hannon	Connie Duffy Sandra Keary	Anthony Granato Walter Henry Joe Walsh
Sunday, 8:00 AM	Fr. Miguel	Deacon Joe, Preaching	Peggy Hardiman	Gary Cademartori Pat Cademartori	Pat Ahern Leo Hurley Bob O'Neill Glenn Skola
Sunday, 10:00 AM	Fr. Miguel	Deacon Joe, Preaching	Todd Leonhardt	Jay Lorenzo Richard Norris	Jim Sheridan Rich Siderko
Sunday, 12:00 PM	Fr. Miguel	Deacon Mike, Preaching	Jim Welsh	Sandra Keary Minister Needed	Richard DeGroot Howard Flood

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 15th Bulletin by Wednesday, December 4th.

December 22nd Bulletin by Tuesday, December 10th.

December 29th Bulletin by, Friday, December 13th.

January 5th Bulletin by, Tuesday, December 17th.

Thank you for your cooperation!



Fr. Alphonse's Christmas Concert at St. Michael's Church on Sunday, December 22, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. in the Upper Church

For more information or concert tickets visit www.stmichaelnj.com.

Mercy Center UPDATE!

PLEASE NOTE: The Mercy Center is no longer accepting clothing donations; however, there is an urgent need for canned soup.



Additional items needed are:
Diapers, size 4 and larger, and baby wipes, Coffee/tea, Mayo, mustard, ketchup, salad dressing.

Thank you for your support in helping our community!



St. Joseph's Rosary Altar Society
is sponsoring a bus trip to the
RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

Join us as we leave from St. Joseph's Campus at 3:00pm, January 3rd on a Deluxe Coach bus for the Big Apple. Orchestra seat tickets. Cost is \$145. Food & sightseeing are on your own. First come first serve.

Make checks payable to "Rosary Altar Society" and send to:
Donna West, 9-B Cardinal Street, Manchester, NJ 08759

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CELL NUMBER: _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____
TICKETS: _____ EMAIL: _____

Parish Mission Statement: We, the Parish Family of St. Mark's in our quest to follow the Gospel of Jesus Christ, are building a faith-based community that assists all people in life's journey to be open to God's love and to share His joy. We are further committed to address the spiritual, physical, emotional and social needs of all people through service to individuals, families, parish and the greater community. As responsible stewards using our individual gifts, we promise to celebrate, renew and strengthen our faith, and to live our lives as a reflection of Christ's love for others. St. Mark's is designated as a Center for Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Trenton.

Advent Retreat: Journey Through Advent to the Place of Nativity

Join us at St. Mark's Church for a meaningful Advent retreat led by Father Martin Padovani on Saturday, December 7th from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM.

The retreat will be conducted in English.

There will be a fee of \$10 Per person.

Lunch will be served.

All are welcome to attend.

To register, please fill out the form below and drop it in the mail slot at the rectory or call us at 732-449-6364.

Name:

Phone number:



Let us come together in reflection and anticipation this Advent season!

Joy Peace Hope Love

ADVENT



Prepare for this season
of hope and expectation by
Giving Online to
St. Mark's Church.

Please visit our website
www.stmarkseagirt.com
to sign up today!

Give Now! Scan this QR
Code with your smartphone
for easy, secure online giving.
Thank you!



Parish Giving offers secure flexible Online Giving for our parishioners who would like to make their donations online using a credit card or bank transfer. You never have to bring cash or checks to church. Online Giving helps the church save money and plan the budget.

CYO CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE



For many worthy charities.....

Madonna House, Good Counsel Homes, Metanoia Manor,
Missionaries of Charity and Ugandan Missions.....

DECEMBER 7TH & 8TH AT ALL MASSES

\$30 DONATION-THANK YOU!

Christmas Giving Tree

The Christmas season is now upon us and The Giving Tree committee, through the Social Concerns ministry, is asking for your support. The response has always been exceptionally generous and we hope this year's efforts will continue to show our desire to share with others. St Mark's will continue to sponsor the residents of HABcore, Mother of Mercy Parish, Epiphany House, Mercy Center and Madonna House.

There are several ways to contribute:

Online gift donations: We have set up online gift registries through [Amazon](#) and [Target](#). You can choose toys, books or pajamas for kids, or a special gift for an adult recipient.

Link to [Target](https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/stmarks) registry: <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/stmarks>

Link to [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/registries/g/guest-view/2ELFBMAU9JXZ1) registry : <https://www.amazon.com/registries/g/guest-view/2ELFBMAU9JXZ1>

Gifts will be shipped directly to the Social Concerns and dropped off at our charities. We ask that online orders are placed by Sunday, December 8th to ensure they arrive on time.



Amazon Registry



Target Registry

Gift Card donations: There are a variety of Gift Card Tags on the tree in the entrance to the church. (Target, Dunkin Donuts, etc) After purchase please drop off at the rectory mail slot or mail to 215 Crescent Pkwy, Sea Girt, NJ 08750. Return by Sunday, December 8th. You can also purchase Target gift cards that will be shipped directly to the Social Concerns through the Target registry link.

Monetary donations: We are accepting cash or check donations. We will shop on your behalf. Checks can be made out to St. Mark's Social Concerns with "Giving Tree" noted in the memo. Please put in an envelope and drop off at the rectory or mail to 215 Crescent Pkwy, Sea Girt, NJ 08750. Return by Sunday, December 8th.

Please reach out to Tricia Levin at stmarksgivingtree@gmail.com with any questions.

Thank you and God Bless you for your generosity

St. Mark's Church

Christmas Concert

Bilingual



Ring in the Nativity to celebrate the Advent Season with
St. Mark's Christmas Concert on:

Tuesday, December 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

Immediately following will be a family social with joyful
Christmas music by Frank and John in Fr. Child's Hall

Sign up now to have your children sing Christmas Carols
& participate in the concert as shepherds and angels.

Please RSVP to the Rectory @ 732-449-6364

215 Crescent Parkway
Sea Girt NJ 08750



ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024
4:00 P.M. MASS

Practices will be held on:

Monday, December 9 from 5:30-6:30 P.M. (Church' basement)

At this practice, we will assign roles, practice the play, and discuss costumes.

Tuesday, December 17 from 5:30 – 7:00 P.M. (Church)

This will be the final dress rehearsal, we will be practicing with the Readers, Little Angels, Little Shepherds and Choir.

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

Please return this bottom section to your Catechist.
I would like to be in the Christmas Pageant!

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

SESSION: _____ CATECHIST: _____

I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE AS: Circle one

Narrators (2 needed)
Mary **speaking part*
Angels (3 needed) **speaking part*
Wise Men (3 needed) **speaking part*
Joseph

Innkeeper
Baby Angel (1 needed)
Big Angels (2 needed)
Big Shepherds (2 needed)
Star Angels (2 needed)

Angel & Shepherd Alert

We're calling all "Little Angels" and "Little Shepherds" in the 1st and 2nd Grades to participate in St. Mark's Christmas Nativity Play on:



Tuesday, December 24, 2024
4:00 p.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 the costume, please see me, I will be able to help you!

PRACTICE WILL BE HELD ON:
Tuesday, December 17
6:30-7:00 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: _____

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.

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!**

THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and to its own policies and guidelines 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: 1-888-296-2965** or e-mail abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org.

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](#).**

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](#).

Volunteers Needed: Downey Side Adoption is a non-profit organization dedicated to placing children in the foster care system with forever families through adoption. Nearly 500,000 children across the United States are in need of a family. We rely on donations and fundraising efforts to keep adoption fees as low as possible.

We need your help! If you have time and a passion for helping children, please consider volunteering to help on one of our committees.

To get involved, please email our Director at DRusinko@downeyside.org or call 732-359-8434. Your support can make a difference!

ARE YOU SEPARATED OR DIVORCED?

DO YOU NEED HELP GETTING THROUGH THE HOLIDAY THIS YEAR?

St. Leo the Great Parish is pleased to announce that it is offering a "Surviving the Holidays" Seminar in December this year that will be offered for anyone that is divorced and/or separated.

*This year our "Surviving the Holidays" Seminar will be held on **Wednesday, December 11th, 2024 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm** at St. Leo The Great located in Lincroft.*

Please know that this Seminar has been offered since 2014 and it has helped many people. We are laypeople that have been through divorce, and we had found this program helpful to us. We would like to bring it to you and help you!

If interested or if you need any more information to decide if you want to attend, please email Michele Coppola Wilson at healfromdivorcetoday@gmail.com. We would be happy to answer any of your questions.

We hope you can join us!