

**The Nativity of The Lord
December 24, 2023**



The Rectory Office will be closed on December 25th and 26th

St. Mark's Catholic Church

Fr. Miguel Virella, SVD, Pastor

Fr. Carlos Castilla, Parochial Vicar

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

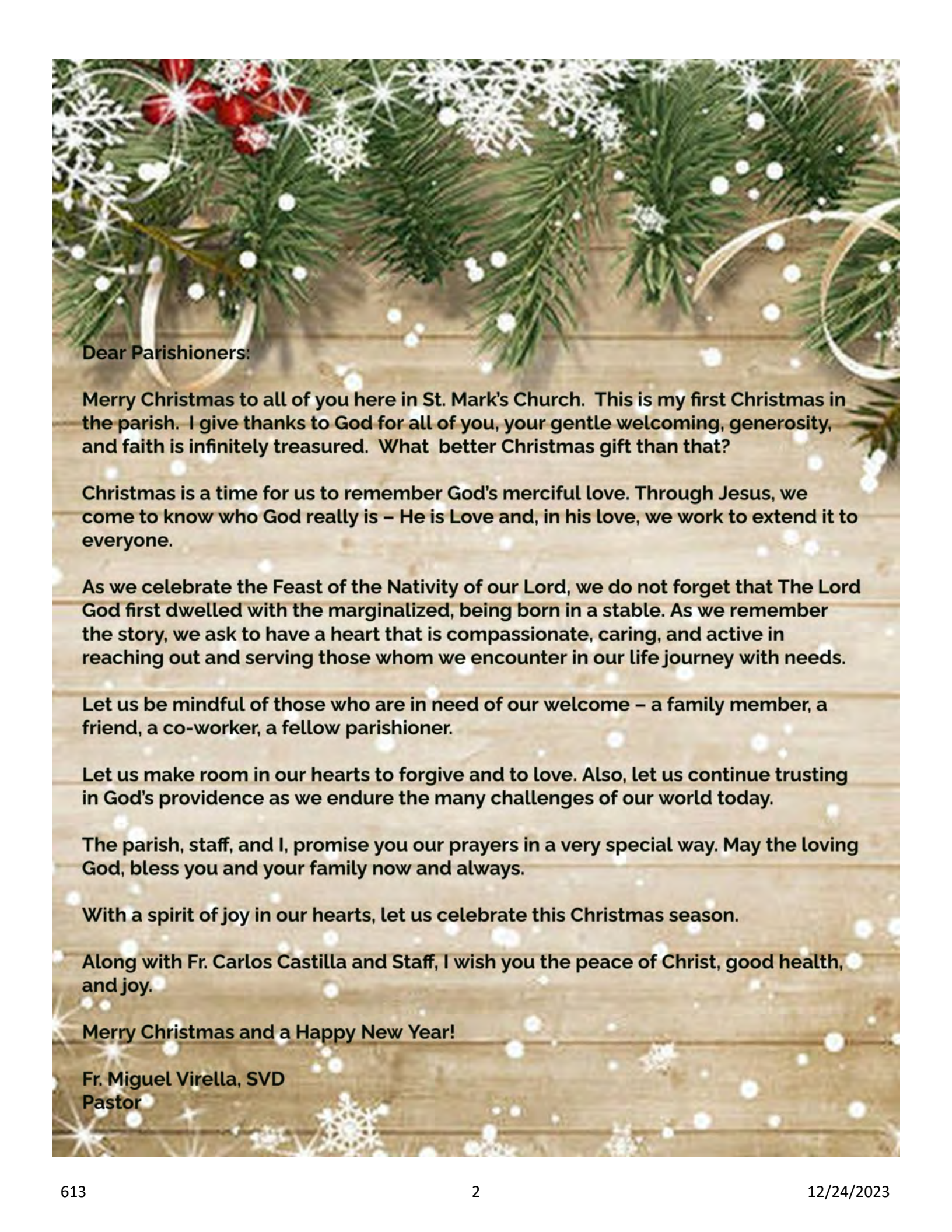
Bereavement Ministry 718-637-1162

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



Dear Parishioners:

Merry Christmas to all of you here in St. Mark's Church. This is my first Christmas in the parish. I give thanks to God for all of you, your gentle welcoming, generosity, and faith is infinitely treasured. What better Christmas gift than that?

Christmas is a time for us to remember God's merciful love. Through Jesus, we come to know who God really is – He is Love and, in his love, we work to extend it to everyone.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, we do not forget that The Lord God first dwelled with the marginalized, being born in a stable. As we remember the story, we ask to have a heart that is compassionate, caring, and active in reaching out and serving those whom we encounter in our life journey with needs.

Let us be mindful of those who are in need of our welcome – a family member, a friend, a co-worker, a fellow parishioner.

Let us make room in our hearts to forgive and to love. Also, let us continue trusting in God's providence as we endure the many challenges of our world today.

The parish, staff, and I, promise you our prayers in a very special way. May the loving God, bless you and your family now and always.

With a spirit of joy in our hearts, let us celebrate this Christmas season.

Along with Fr. Carlos Castilla and Staff, I wish you the peace of Christ, good health, and joy.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Fr. Miguel Virella, SVD
Pastor**



**Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24**

8:00 AM

- † Deceased Members of the Passalacqua Family by Family
- † Grace Salandra by the Clarke Family
- † Antonio Scala by Virginia Garcia

10:00 AM

- † Justin Hunter by Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Stillo
- † Dr. Franklyn & Cay Gerard by Catherine Burke
- † James Allen Jordan by Wayne and Denise Dreyer

12 Noon

People of the Parish

2:00 PM (Spanish)

- † Maria del Carmen Cartagena by Family

4:00 PM

- † Stephen Joseph Bohacik by the Bohacik Family
- † Antonio Oliveira by the Longo Family
- † Thomas Critchley by the Critchley Family

6:30 PM

- † John Shine by Jean

8:00 PM (Spanish)

- † Gilma Garcia by Patty D'Andrea

**Christmas Day
Monday, December 25**

8:00 PM

- † Julia Buonocore by Family
- † Eileen Scatuorchio by the O'Meara Family
- † Clare and Albert Blaha by Ed and Judy Blaha

10:00 AM

- † Brian Kearney by Maryann Keller and Family
- † Jillian Ludwig by Saint Mark's CYO
- † Nelson Kaczmarczyk by Mary Bogan

12 Noon

- † Suzanne Smith by Carol Rizzi
- † John P Tedesco by Plante-Tedesco Family
- † Edward Shalhoub Jr. by Williesia Bonora

2:00 PM (Spanish)

Francisco Monsalve by Gisela Garcia

Tuesday, December 26

7:30 AM

- † Rocco Ferrante, Jr. by Abrahamson & Molinaro Family

11:00 AM

- † Caroline Viggiano by Diana Zuna
- Abel Garcia by Virginia Garcia
- † Walter Flaherty by Nancy Shalhoub

Wednesday, December 27

7:30 AM

- † Joseph & Margaret Azzarella by Margaret Azzarella

11:00 AM

Patti Byrne by Maureen Burch
Marlene Marturano by Janne Vecchione

Thursday, December 28

7:30 AM

- † Jillian Ludwig by Judy and Ed Blaha

11:AM

- † Barbara J. Toscano by Beatrice Riccardo
- † Lawrence W. Keary by Sandra & Mike Keary
- † Bernie Craig by Bob, Kara and Shannon Brown

Friday, December 29

7:30 AM

- † Dorothy Wright by Family

11:00 AM

- † Humphries Family by Jerry Flynn
- † Michael Manning by The Lowry Family
- † Tom Quigley by Cathy McHugh

Saturday, December 30

7:30 AM

- † Austin Behnken by Family
- † Jillian Ludwig by St. Mark's Religious Education Program

4:30 PM

- † Helen G. Malloy by Family
- † Frank Walsh by Marybeth and Joe Walsh
- † Julia Dellisola by Charles & Adriana Weidel

Sunday, December 31

8:00 AM

- † Cathryn Falcone by The Family
- † Tony Lopez by Kathleen Derella
- † Robert Petito by Irene and Leo Hurley

10:00 AM

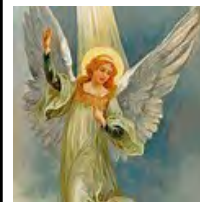
- † Dan Mulay by Joan Pisano
- † Jillian Ludwig by The Doster Family
- † Thomas McLaughlin by Pat & Joe Casey

12 Noon

People of the Parish

5:00 PM

Jacqueline Spencer by Family



A special thank you to the Bohacik family for donating the beautiful angels that adorn the altar.



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!



The Rectory Office will be closed on Monday, December 25th, Tuesday, December 26th and Monday, January 1st..

Ministry Schedule December 30/31, 2023

	Saturday 4:30 PM	Sunday 8:00 AM	Sunday 10:00 AM	Sunday 12 Noon
Celebrant	Fr. Carlos	Fr. Miguel	Fr. Carlos	Fr. Miguel
Readers	Tom Malloy	Peggy Hardiman	Bob Cicenía	Dan Finn
Eucharistic Ministers	Anthony Granato Pat Holt Lynn Jelliff	Gary Cademartori Pat Cademartori Anna Nuzzi	Richard Norris Jim Sheridan Kelly Uliano	Debbie Dunn Helen Hopkins Minister Needed
Ushers	Anthony Granato, Walter Henry, Joe Walsh	Pat Ahern, Leo Hurley, Bob O'Neill, Glenn Skola	Rich Siderko, Jim Sheridan	Richard DeGrootte, Howard Flood



Please pray for our sick: Raymond Burghart, Henry Bossett, Robert Coogan, Donovan Leso, Kirra Gibson, Paul Shea, Patrick Esposito, Mary McCarthy, Marilyn Bird, Kevin Hamilton, Lorraine Cierniecki, Laurie Langell Syby, Vivian Wilson, Gloria Cancellieri, Joan Cantley, Marybeth Richards, Millie Abraham, Caitlin Wason, Brian Nall, Marilyn Woerner, Nancy O'Neill, Steven VanWickle, Clement Bramley, Steve Adcox, Lester Wolf, Jeremy Pavlich, Joan Langlois, Linda Ryan, Danny Suskenich, Bob Patrignelli, Teresa Corcoran, John Cinciarelli, Michael Sheridan, Erik Rofi, Dr. William Burns, Robert Czech, Janet Thomas, Edward Morea, Rosalie Renda, Alice Healy, Benjamin Ohlweiler, Robert MacPherson, Jake Gilbert, Bill Lesniak, Jim Bogan, Bruce Bogan, Sr., Ken Hauck.

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.

† Barbara Notte
† Mary Ann Wahlers
† Dr. James P. Cashman
† Arthur D. Martin, Jr.

May the angels lead you into paradise.



Thank You! We are so grateful to all those who financially sacrifice each week to support our parish and its ministries!

We would especially like to thank all of those who faithfully use their weekly parish contribution envelopes and those who give online through the Parish Giving Program. **The collection total for December 16/17, 2023, \$12,996.**



Readings for the Week December 24, 2023



Monday, December 25, 2023 (Vigil) Is 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

Monday, December 25, 2023 (Night) Is 9:1-6 Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14

Monday, December 25, 2023 (Dawn) Is 62:11-12 Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12 Ti 3:4-7 Lk 2:15-20

Monday, December 25, 2023 (Day) Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18

Tuesday, December 26, 2023 Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday, December 27, 2023 1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Thursday, December 28, 2023 1 Jn 1:5—2:2 Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8 Mt 2:13-18

Friday, December 29, 2023 1 Jn 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 Lk 2:22-35

Saturday, December 30, 2023 1 Jn 2:12-17 Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 Lk 2:36-40

Sunday, December 31, 2023 Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40.

ST. MARK'S CHURCH

Christmas Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023

4:00 PM (Children's Christmas Pageant)

Celebrant: Fr. Miguel

Reader: Connie Duffy

Eucharistic Ministers: Connie Duffy, Pat Holt, Anna Nuzzi

6:30 PM

Celebrant: Msgr. Flynn

Reader: Rose Crimmins

Eucharistic Ministers: Dan and Rose Crimmins

8:00 PM Spanish

Christmas Day, December 25, 2023

8:00 AM

Celebrant: Fr. Carlos

Reader: Robert Cavazini

**Eucharistic Ministers: Pat Scatuorchio,
Gary and Pat Cademartori**

10:00 AM

Celebrant: Fr. Miguel

Reader: Joe Stillo (and Eucharistic Minister)

Eucharistic Ministers: Richard Norris, Jim Sheridan

12:00 NOON

Celebrant: Fr. Carlos

Reader: Sue Hannon

Eucharistic Ministers: Sue Hannon, Helen Hopkins

2:00 PM Spanish

Social Concerns Christmas Party



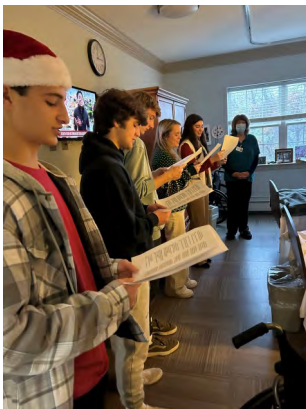
December 12, 2023



CYO News by Mary Reilly



Christmas Caroling



Question: What is the greatest gift you will give this Christmas...and how well do you think it will be received?

The more I ponder this question, first personally as a wife, mother and grandmother, and then as a youth minister, I kind of am stuck in the present

moment because of where I was today with the CYO. Since 1999 it's been a joy being there with the CYO each year as they go Christmas caroling in various senior care facilities in our area. From 2020-2022 we

were no longer able to do this—due to covid—what else? This year we were invited back. And what an invitation it was!!!!!!!!!!!!

The first room in which the CYO sang looked like a recreation room (our CYO over the years have led exercise classes there so I immediately recognized it.) There were only about half a dozen or more of the elderly residents in that room when we arrived. All looked anxious to hear the kids sing.

The CYO angels did not disappoint. They sang Deck the Hall, Jingle Bells, Silent Night, Joy to the World, Silver Bells and many other Christmas favorites. I could see in the faces of the residents how much they enjoyed every single carol.

Then we went to private rooms to sing to various people there. The joy on their faces was indescribable. I realized that for them this was the greatest of all: young people visiting the old —and often forgotten. Perhaps these beautiful people wait every day for visitors that often do not come. Maybe they long for the lives that they had in their youth but of course those days will never come again either. What did come to see them were a few beautiful teenage youth who gifted them with their time, talent and their treasure, and above all these with their love.

(Did I mention that the staff was gleaming too and singing along with us as we went caroling down every hallway!!!!!!!!!!!!)

I can't imagine how the Holy Family of Bethlehem felt when in their isolated and often lonesome surroundings they were suddenly visited by gentle shepherds and then later the magnificent Magi—who gifted them with gold, frankincense and myrrh. The CYO gifts of gold to the elderly were their presence, their frankincense the songs they sang, and their myrrh the beautiful homemade Christmas cards they gave to the residents.

Yes, I think this may have been the best Christmas gift given to our elderly friends who were visited by an angelic choir on Dec. 17. It was definitely the best Christmas gift I received this year.

A blessed and joy-filled Christmas to all from St. Mark's CYO angels!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Yes they are!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

STANDING TOGETHER FOR Life

Friday, January 19, 2024

Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine, Freehold

Dear Respect Life Friends,

A diverse community of the faithful of our diocese will come together once again on January 19 in prayer and solidarity to proclaim the sanctity of all human life at the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine, Freehold. We sincerely hope you will consider joining us!

This 2nd annual *Standing Together for Life* day of events will consist of:

- **Mass for Life with Bishop O'Connell to begin at 11 a.m.** All are welcome, first-come first-serve seating – Let's pack the Co-Cathedral!
- **Lunch & Seminar from 12:30 – 3:30 pm**, pre-registration is required and seating is limited. Registrations are coming in fast now, so **act quickly** if you wish to attend!

This year, you will hear from an interdisciplinary panel of local experts offering valuable insights to help increase your ability to support pregnant moms and babies in your neighborhoods and to fight the deep seeded abortion culture in New Jersey. Our panelist will cover *pro-life advocacy* in NJ, *effective outreach* for challenging situations, proven *parish based collaborative approaches* and teaching the basics of *human dignity and God's plan for sexuality*.

If you're already registered, consider inviting some others from your parish who are involved in social concerns, St. Vincent de Paul, Food pantry, K of C, Altar Rosary, etc – collaboration between ministries has proven to be very effective in improving outreach to local vulnerable pregnant moms in our local NJ communities.

Full details for *Standing Together for Life* events, including the registration link for the Lunch Seminar may be found by visiting dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life, which can also be found using the QR code below.

For questions, kindly contact our administrative assistant, Belem Perez 609-403-7133 bperez@dioceseoftrenton.org.

Building a culture of life is the work of the whole church and each of us play a unique role. Thank you for your efforts and for standing together with us for life.

We hope to see you on January 19!



ROSARY FOR LIFE

On Friday, January 19, 2024, St. Mark's Church will present a ROSARY FOR LIFE, sponsored by the Altar Rosary Society following the 11 AM Mass. Inspirational meditations of the joyful mysteries will be recited. We are doing this in conjunction with the National Right to Life March in Washington D.C.

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. 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.

Christmas Flower Offering



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!

*The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes once more.*



ONLINE GIVING SIMPLIFIED.

Your generosity and support helps our parish grow in faith, love and support.

Visit our website today at www.stmarkseagirt.com
for information and to sign up.

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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. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and plan the budget. Check out the website listed for benefits and details.

613 St. Mark Sea Girt NJ 08750



Hark!

*...the herald
angels sing,
glory to the
new born
King!*

Painting by William Bouguereau
©JFPC

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!**



walking with purpose

Ladies, join us in the new year!

Walking with Purpose (WWP) is more than a women's Bible study. WWP is a faith community that laughs, learns, grows, and loves one another as we walk on our faith journeys together. WWP is a safe place where you will discover authentic friendships and meaningful discussions, as your heart is transformed by the Word of God.

We gather on Tuesday evenings, 7:30pm or Wednesday afternoons, 12:30pm at the St. Denis Parish Center. Our next sessions start January 9th and 10th.

For more information and to register, go to www.wwpnjshore.com.

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](#).

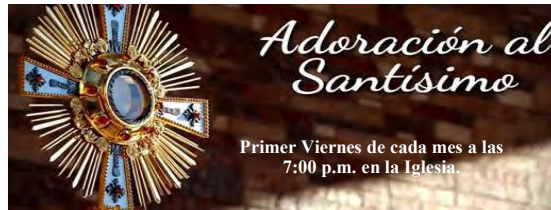
St. Joseph By the Sea—Our programs are offered to enrich, renew and deepen one's interior communication with the Lord in an atmosphere of prayer, quiet and solitude. The scenic environment of the Atlantic Ocean and Barnegat Bay provides additional contemplative opportunity. **Current brochure can be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

Study Theology at Georgian Court University!

All programs can be completed remotely. Master of Arts or a Graduate Certificate in Theology, with concentrations in Pastoral Ministry or Mercy Spirituality. Not sure? Take one or two classes on a non-matriculating basis to see if our programs are right for you. Generous financial aid available. New semester begins January 16, 2024. There is still time to apply. Contact department chair Johann M. Vento for more information: jvento@georgian.edu. We look forward to getting to know you and talking about your interest in studying theology.

If you recently changed your address, email address or phone number, please let us know so we can update our records. Thank you!

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.

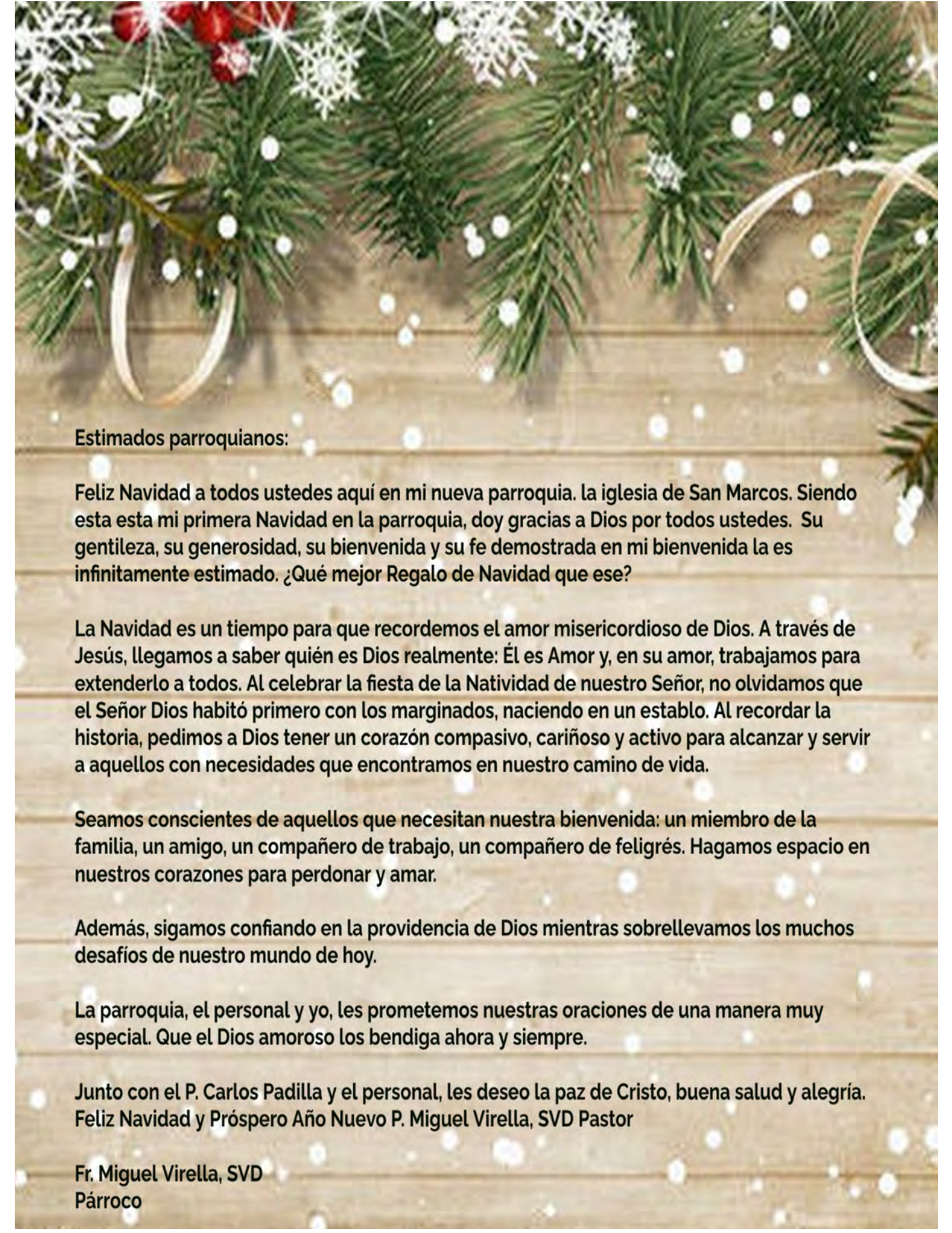
Directora del Ministerio de Religión
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Ministerio Hispano
Patty D'Andrea
Spanishministry@stmarkseagirt.com
Teléfono: (732) 449-6364 ext. 104



Serenades to Our Lady of Guadeloupe





Estimados parroquianos:

Feliz Navidad a todos ustedes aquí en mi nueva parroquia. la iglesia de San Marcos. Siendo esta esta mi primera Navidad en la parroquia, doy gracias a Dios por todos ustedes. Su gentileza, su generosidad, su bienvenida y su fe demostrada en mi bienvenida la es infinitamente estimado. ¿Qué mejor Regalo de Navidad que ese?

La Navidad es un tiempo para que recordemos el amor misericordioso de Dios. A través de Jesús, llegamos a saber quién es Dios realmente: Él es Amor y, en su amor, trabajamos para extenderlo a todos. Al celebrar la fiesta de la Natividad de nuestro Señor, no olvidamos que el Señor Dios habitó primero con los marginados, naciendo en un establo. Al recordar la historia, pedimos a Dios tener un corazón compasivo, cariñoso y activo para alcanzar y servir a aquellos con necesidades que encontramos en nuestro camino de vida.

Seamos conscientes de aquellos que necesitan nuestra bienvenida: un miembro de la familia, un amigo, un compañero de trabajo, un compañero de feligrés. Hagamos espacio en nuestros corazones para perdonar y amar.

Además, sigamos confiando en la providencia de Dios mientras sobrellevamos los muchos desafíos de nuestro mundo de hoy.

La parroquia, el personal y yo, les prometemos nuestras oraciones de una manera muy especial. Que el Dios amoroso los bendiga ahora y siempre.

Junto con el P. Carlos Padilla y el personal, les deseo la paz de Cristo, buena salud y alegría. Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo P. Miguel Virella, SVD Pastor

Fr. Miguel Virella, SVD
Párroco