

DECEMBER 17, 2023

### CONTACT INFO

Phone: 908-874-3141  
Web: <https://sjmillstone.com>

**Fr. Hank:**  
fatherhank@sjmillstone.com

**Address:**  
34 Yorktown Road  
Hillsborough, NJ 08844

### MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday Vigil** 4:45 PM  
**Sunday** 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM  
**Monday-Friday** 8:35 AM  
**Holyday Vigil** 7:00 PM  
**Holyday** 8:35 AM & 5:00 PM

*Our church has seven seating sections. Every Mass has two social distance sections. One of those sections requires masks.*

### EUCCHARIST OUTDOORS

**Summer Sundays** 11:30 AM is out doors.

**Non-Summer Sunday** 11:30 AM Mass has an in-car option. Congregants park in the designated area, listen to Mass on the parish radio station, and receive Communion in the car.

**Wednesday** 10:00 AM 20 minutes  
Communion Service in the parking lot, sometimes led by lay minister.

### CONFESSIONS:

**Saturday Mornings** Drive-up Confessions are offered every Saturday morning, typically between 10:00 and 11:00 AM. Always check the "This Week" email to learn if the time has been changed to accommodate funerals or baptisms.

**By Appointment** Email Father Hank for an appointment if you cannot come on Saturday.

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

**After Mass - Individuals** - If you have surgery or a serious diagnosis, please request anointing after Mass.

**After Mass - Group** - There is a group anointing every month after one Mass. Call the office for information.

**In Emergency-** Please call 908-874-3141 and press 1 for a priest.

**Hospital** - Contact the hospital chaplain as soon as possible.

**Home or Nursing Home** - Call Fr Hank at 908-874-3141 and press 1.

**Emergency** - Call Fr Hank at 908-874-3141 and press 1.

### BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, FUNERALS

Please see information pamphlets in the Gathering Space

### NEW PARISHIONERS

Please see information pamphlets in the Gathering Space

### VARIA

**Suicide Prevention Hotline** - Call 1-800-273-TALK

**Teen Crisis Text Hotline** - Text 741741

## PARISH COMMUNITY OF

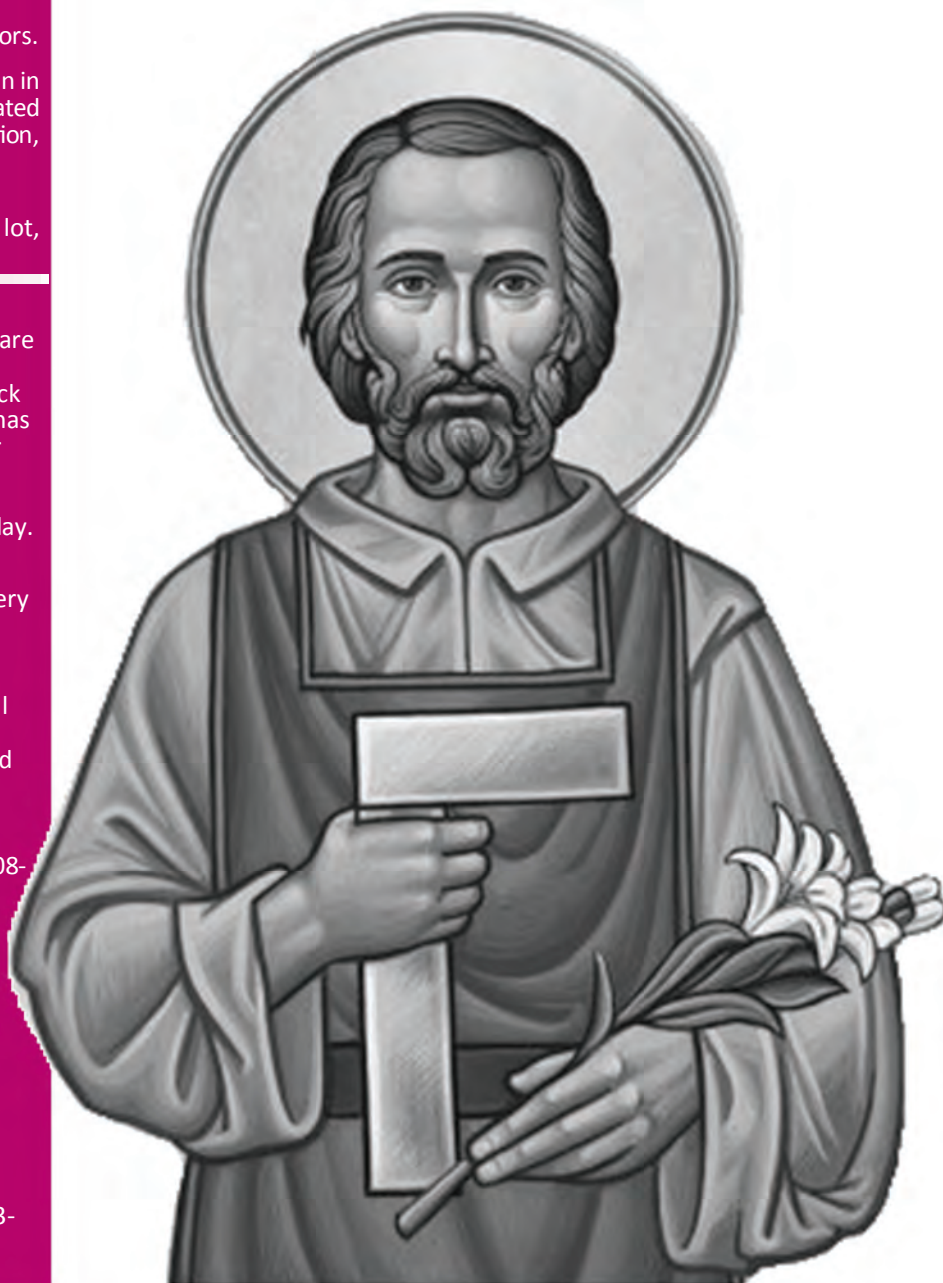
# Saint Joseph

## HILLSBOROUGH, NEW JERSEY

Priests

Prophets

Kings



# December 17, 2023

8:00AM *The rosary is prayed before Mass.*  
*Open to all. You are always welcome to join us.*

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Mon.	8:35AM Jim Conlon R/B St Joseph Parish & Staff
.	8:35AM Msgr. Robert Zamorski R/B St Joseph Parish & Staff
.	8:35AM Mary Martino R/B Taberbero Family
Tue.	8:35AM Mary Sweeney R/B Kolomatis Family
	8:35AM Rosemarie Fetchku R/B Barone Family
	8:35AM Philip Andrew Bagnell R/B John Conklin & Family
Wed.	8:35AM Bill Yodice R/B Cathy Yodice
..	8:35AM Peter Bellas R/B Gail Bellas
	8:35AM Deceased Members of McCarthy Family R/B Cathy Yodice
Thu.	8:35AM Nick Visco R/B Connie Visco
	8:35AM Richard Braungard R/B Galayda Family
	8:35AM Michael P Sexton R/B Cleary Family
Fri.	8:35AM Steve DeStefano R/B Bill Jannone
	8:35AM Carmella & Anthony Maita R/B Monica McDevitt
	8:35AM Edward Markey, Sr. R/B Laura Iarkowski
Sat.	4:45PM Edward & Kevin Sweeney R/B Sharon Sweeney
	4:45PM Helen, John & Donna Lochow R/B Maureen Matson
	4:45PM Helen Saladini R/B Billy & Gail Joseph
Sun.	8:00AM Christina Onka Pankowski R/B Jo-Ann Delaskio
	8:00AM Julia Farnoly R/B Sal & Carol Longo
	9:30AM Nancy Stewart R/B Barbara & Peter Shubiak
	9:30AM Lucy Minder R/B St Joseph Ministries
	9:30AM Joan Murphy R/B Richard & Ann Michalcik
	11:30AM Thomas (TJ) Pope R/B Jeff & Kathy Pope
	11:30AM People of the Parish

## Third Week of Advent



### Rejoice Sunday

#### Behind the Scenes of This Week's Readings Third Sunday of Advent

Each of the four weeks in Advent has been given a name to signify its specific theme:

- Week 1 – Hope
- Week 2 – Peace
- Week 3 – Joy
- Week 4 - Love

Today's Mass opens with the words "Rejoice, the Lord is near." Formerly called *Gaudate* Sunday, taken from the Latin word for *rejoice*, it sets the tone for the last two weeks of Advent. While the readings of the first two weeks of Advent were somber and alluded to the final judgment, the second two weeks are decidedly more upbeat and focus on the joy that should be in our hearts as we remember the birth of our Savior and look to his future coming. To highlight this joy, the priest may wear rose-colored vestments and the third candle in the Advent wreath is also rose or pink.

This year the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on December 24 when we will celebrate Christmas Eve at the evening masses and begin the Christmas Season on our 2024 Liturgical Calendar..

#### WEDNESDAY HOLY HOUR

after 8:35AM Mass

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
On the Main Altar of the Church.**

#### READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-112, 14a, 16  
Romans 16: 25-28  
Luke 1:26-38

#### READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

Isaiah 52:7-10  
Hebrews 1:1-6  
John 1:1-18

#### Christmas - Nativity of the Lord - Holyday

Sun.	4:00PM All Parishioners
	6:00PM All Parishioners
	9:00PM All Parishioners
Mon.	8:00AM All Parishioners
	9:30AM All Parishioners
	11:30AM All Parishioners

# December 17, 2023



## HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Please continue to check for any changes to this schedule which will be posted each week in Father's weekly letter on Friday and in the bulletin.. Thank You.

**Please note: The masses on Sunday morning, December 24, are for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. They are not Christmas masses.**

**Masses for Christmas are the following:**

**Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24**

4:00 PM - will also be livestreamed.

6:00 PM

9:00 PM

**Christmas Day – Monday, December 25**

8:00 AM

9:30 AM - will also be livestreamed.

11:30 AM will also accommodate people in cars and will be broadcast to these people on the parish FM station. Communion will be brought to these people. This option is intended primarily to serve those people whose health prevents them from being in crowds.

**Holyday Masses - Mary, Mother of God**

**Sunday, December 31 – 7:00PM**

**Monday, January 1 – 8:35AM & 5:00PM**

**Please note that the morning masses on Sunday, December 31, are for the Feast of the Holy Family and not the holyday on January 1**



**Pray our High-tech, High-inspiration Shepherds'**

**Path** – This year's Christmas Prayer Path is new and inspired. The entrance is across from where the Christmas trees start on Yorktown Road. The setting (lights on the floor of the woods) is beautiful, and the content is inspired. Bring your smart phone, scan the QR codes at each stop, and get immersed in the story of our salvation. The lights are on every night from 4:00 to 10:00 pm. Please go to our parish webpage for more information and directions before you head over to wander and wonder.

## HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSINGS

The parish offices will close at 1:00 PM on Friday, December 22 and reopen on Tuesday, December 26 at Noon

The offices will also be closed On Monday, January 1, New Year's Day

*Have a safe and happy holiday!*



## CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES

Would you like to make a donation towards our Christmas Memorial Flower Program in remembrance of a deceased loved one or to honor someone? Your contributions will provide for next year's flowers – just like last year's contributions provide for this year's. The envelopes will be available in the Gathering Space. You may drop them in the baskets on the way out of church... Names will be posted in the bulletins after Christmas. Thank you for helping to make our church beautiful for Christmas.



## SAGES ACTIVITIES

For more information or to register for events contact AnnaMaria at [arealbuto@sjmillstone.com](mailto:arealbuto@sjmillstone.com) or 908-864-0334.

**Monday Fundays** – see you in the New Year! Mark your calendars for January 15 and January 22. Details to follow.

**Exercise** – Our exercise class will take a Christmas break and resume on January 4 with Salsa. Both chair and stand options are available. Join us Thursdays at 10:00am. No registration required.

**Homebound Gifts** – Please contact AnnaMaria at [arealbuto@sjmillstone.com](mailto:arealbuto@sjmillstone.com). If you know someone to whom the parish should reach out but is not yet doing so. We want every parishioner – especially those who cannot get themselves here – to know they are cherished members of this community. Help us find them.



# December 17, 2023

## "This Week"

Are you receiving 'This Week,' the e-letter that Father Hank sends out every Friday? It is the best way to stay current on timely parish news, especially when it comes to late-breaking announcements or big news for the upcoming weekend. Simply sign up and it will appear in your email each Friday. Go to our parish homepage at [www.sjmillstone.com](http://www.sjmillstone.com) and sign up and start receiving updates.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Daniel J. Nelson**, 26, son of parishioner, Tammy Nelson, died on December 1.

*Please pray for his eternal rest and for all who mourn his death.*

## 2024 BOOK OF MASS INTENTIONS

The Parish Book of Mass Intentions is now open. In the Gathering Space you will find (a) the form to submit and (b) the schedule of office hours for arranging Mass intentions. And, if proper pronunciation of your loved ones' names is important to you, feel free to approach the lectors before the Mass at which you have a scheduled Intention, to let them know how to pronounce the name. They are a kind and helpful group.

## ADULT ENRICHMENT COURSE

### "The Theology of the Eucharist"

The Office of Ongoing Faith Formation will be offering a free-of-charge Adult Enrichment Course entitled "The Theology of the Eucharist" on **twelve consecutive Thursdays starting January 4 through March 21, 2024 from 10 am to 11:30 am**. The course will be offered at the St. John Neuman Pastoral Center located at 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ. The classes will be presented by Fr. Glenn Comandini, S.T.D. and will include a lecture and Q & A. There is a \$15. fee to attend which covers all 12 sessions. You may register online at [www.diometuchen.org/faith-formation](http://www.diometuchen.org/faith-formation) (please register only one time for all 12 classes). For more information, please email [amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org) or call 732-562-1543.

## Annual Diocesan Respect Life Mass & Pro-Vita Awards

Bishop Checchio will celebrate the Annual Respect Life Mass on Sunday, **January 21, 2024 at 12 noon at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen**. All are welcome!



St. Joseph Advent Giving Tree ministry wishes to thank all of our wonderful parishioners for their continued generosity and support of the gift card program for local agencies, as well as for the gifts for the children in Appalachia, West Virginia, and, this year, the children in the Ozanam Shelter here in Edison, NJ. A report of your generosity will be shared in the coming weeks. Blessings for a Merry Christmas!  
*Dianne Speronello and The Advent Giving Tree Ministry*

## GOING FORWARD

### POST-CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

**COATS** -In cooperation with the Sisters of Saint Joseph who oversee a Neighborhood Center for needy residents in Camden, we plan to have a coat drive in January which will run from January 13 to January 28. Watch for more information.

**SNEAKERS** – In cooperation with Gigi's Playhouse, one of our local organizations, we will be collecting lightly used sneakers from March 1 to March 24. Save your good kicks and watch for more info.

**To better serve the many requests we encounter, we plan to schedule these drives every other year ending in an even number.**



## Rosary for Life - with Bishop Checchio Friday, January 19, 2024

In solidarity with those  
at the March for Life in Washington, DC

Meet at St. James Parish parking lot at 1 pm  
369 Amboy Ave, Woodbridge  
(following the 12:10 pm Mass)

# December 17, 2023

## LITURGICAL MUSIC NEWS

The Diocesan Festival Choir is seeking new members in all sections (SATB) to join those who already give generously of their time to serve the Church as Liturgical Musicians. The choir prayerfully renders music from all periods, with a focus on Renaissance polyphony and Gregorian chant. Rehearsals are on the three preceding Tuesdays for any particular Diocesan liturgical event; rehearsals are typically held at the Cathedral of Saint Francis in Metuchen. Interested persons may set up an interview/audition by contacting Christopher Deibert, Director of Diocesan Liturgical Music, at [cdeibert@diometuchen.org](mailto:cdeibert@diometuchen.org).

## Save-the-Date Choices Matter

### Critical Life Issues Conference

Saturday, March 16, 2024

9 am to 3:30 pm

St. John Neumann Conference Center  
Piscataway, NJ

**2024**

**Choices Matter**  
A CRITICAL LIFE ISSUES CONFERENCE

Saturday,  
March 16

at the  
St. John Neumann  
Pastoral Center  
Piscataway, NJ

- Opening Mass with Bishop Checchio at 9:00 a.m.
- Conference 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**SPEAKERS, EXHIBITS,  
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Learn more at [www.diometuchen.org/choicesmatter](http://www.diometuchen.org/choicesmatter)

## Stress In Your Marriage?

- Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage?
- Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse?
- Have you thought about separation or divorce?
- Does talking about it only make it worse?

RETROUVAILLE is a Lifeline to Help Couples Heal and Renew their Marriages sponsored by the Office of Family Life, Diocese of Metuchen, NJ.

RETROUVAILLE consists of a weekend experience for married couples (no group discussions) with four follow-up sessions. The upcoming weekend is **February 2 – 4, 2024**. All inquiries are confidential. For further information, please contact Rich Colasuonno 732-236-0671 or Annette Colasuonno 732-672-0748 or email [3024@helpourmarriage.org](mailto:3024@helpourmarriage.org).

## BULLETIN DEADLINE

Please send info for the bulletin no later than Friday, 8 days prior to the weekend you want the article to appear, directly to [stjoebulletin@yahoo.com](mailto:stjoebulletin@yahoo.com) Thank You

## \*\*\*EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINES\*\*\*

For 12/31bulletin, submit material by  
Wednesday, **December 20**

## LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?

To meet the increased needs of the community, Catholic Charities Food Pantry and Thrift Store, located in Phillipsburg, needs volunteers for the following:

### Food Pantry, Open M-F, 10am-3:30pm

- Unpack donated and purchased food
- Soft & stack food on our pantry shelves
- Prepare grocery bags for our clients
- Break down empty boxes & carry to trash bins
- Provide basic case management services and have an awareness of local resources or be willing to learn

### Thrift Store, Open M-F, 11am-4pm

- Sort & put donated items on the shelves
- Price items donated to the store
- Help customers with any questions about items purchased.

**Contact:** If interested, please call Maria Hunter at 732-738-1315 or email [mhunter@ccdom.org](mailto:mhunter@ccdom.org)

More Volunteer opportunities are available at [ccdom.org/volunteer](http://ccdom.org/volunteer).

**Sunday, Dec 17, 2023**

### Oh, Antiphons!

At evening prayer tonight, the church begins to invoke seven names for Jesus traditionally called the O Antiphons. These names—Wisdom, Sacred Lord, Flower of Jesse's Stem, Key of David, Radiant Dawn, King of All Nations, Emmanuel—suggest to us how the stories of the Old Testament foreshadow the arrival of God-With-Us. As Mary Winifred observes in *Hasten the Kingdom: Praying the O Antiphons of Advent*: "The Word, which joyfully shouted all the galaxies into being, left All Power and came silently into the womb of a young girl." Seek to encounter Jesus today in wise people, books, and practices.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (O WISDOM)

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28 (8). "[John] came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him."

**Monday, Dec 18, 2023**

### Pray for safe passage

Today's O Antiphon of Advent, the second of seven leading up to Christmas Eve, is "O Sacred Lord and Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!" Today is also International Migrants Day, which recognizes the contributions of migrants, their challenges, and their human rights. Migrants number in the hundreds of millions the world over—some by choice but many forcibly displaced. Jesus and his family became migrants fleeing for their lives soon after the birth that we are preparing to celebrate. Make safe migration and the humane treatment of migrants everywhere your prayer intention with this O Antiphon.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O SACRED LORD AND LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL)

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25 (194). "When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home."

**Tuesday, Dec 19, 2023**

### Grafted onto Jesus' family tree

Near Bethlehem stands an olive tree scientists say is 5,000 years old. It's not uncommon for olive trees to reach the ripe old age of 900+ years in Mediterranean countries. Once they grow so old that they stop bearing fruit, olive trees are cut down to mere stumps. But that stump? Leave it alone for a couple of years, then suddenly new shoots spring forth. A shoot or root in this context does not symbolize fragility but rather hardiness and promise. Such are the descendants of the House of David, a spiritual family tree that includes Jesus and us. If you don't mark Advent with a Jesse tree, review the tradition—and pray the Jesse Tree Litany, a version of the Litany of the Saints.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O FLOWER OF JESSE'S STEM)

TODAY'S READINGS: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25 (195). "Though you are barren and have had no children, yet you will conceive and bear a son."

**Wednesday, Dec 20, 2023**

### Stand together

On this International Human Solidarity Day, enacted by the U.N. in 2005, we remember Blessed Michael Piaszczyński, who in the early 1900s taught at the diocesan seminary of Lomza, Poland. Modest and compassionate, Father Piaszczyński had a deep respect for Judaism and even invited rabbis to speak at his school.

During World War II he was imprisoned by the Nazis and often shared his bread with elderly Jewish inmates. Piaszczyński died in the camp in 1940. He was beatified by his compatriot, Pope John Paul II, in 1999. What are small ways you can show solidarity with your fellow humans, especially those who seem different from you?

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KEY OF DAVID)

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38 (196). "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."

**Thursday, Dec 21, 2023**

### Radiant reminders

Monks, nuns, and others who take part in evening prayer are now chanting the O Antiphons, a rich series of references to the coming Christ recited from December 17-23. Today's antiphon proclaims: "O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death." Look around you today and seek out the many lights associated with Christmas: Advent candles, strings of light, Posadas candles, fires for holiday gatherings. Let each one remind you of the light of Christ coming into the world.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O RADIANT DAWN)

TODAY'S READINGS: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45 (197). "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

**Friday, Dec 22, 2023**

### The "O Hail No" antiphon

Few have direct experience of royalty, and so the words "queen" and "king" might do little other than remind us of some TV or streaming series. For some though, the terms hit hard because within their culture, people experienced oppression and violence from ruling classes. Singing the O Antiphon, "O King of All Nations," then, might not evoke a hopeful experience of God. How might we tap into the deeper meaning of the antiphon? What words and images can help us experience the longing for God who brings peace and right relationship, who removes barriers that divide, and who breathes life into our tired bodies?

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KING OF ALL NATIONS)

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56 (198). "My spirit rejoices in God my savior."

**Saturday, Dec 23, 2023**

### We stand corrected

John Kanty (1390-1473) was a Polish priest, philosopher, physicist, and theologian. He helped develop early scientific theories of inertia that Newton would later use to formulate his laws of motion. Kanty's theories also helped Galileo figure out the orbital motions of the planets around the sun. During Kanty's time, the Catholic Church taught the geocentric model that the planets and the sun orbited around the Earth. In 1632 Galileo's work was condemned by Pope Urban VIII, and he was placed under house arrest for the rest of his life. Kanty was canonized in 1767, around the same time Rome finally capitulated to Galileo's heliocentric model of the solar system. Give thanks for the church that corrects its faults.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF KANTY, PRIEST (O EMMANUEL)

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66 (199). "Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed."

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time*



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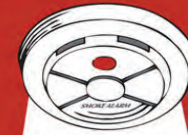
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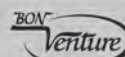
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