

DECEMBER 24, 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

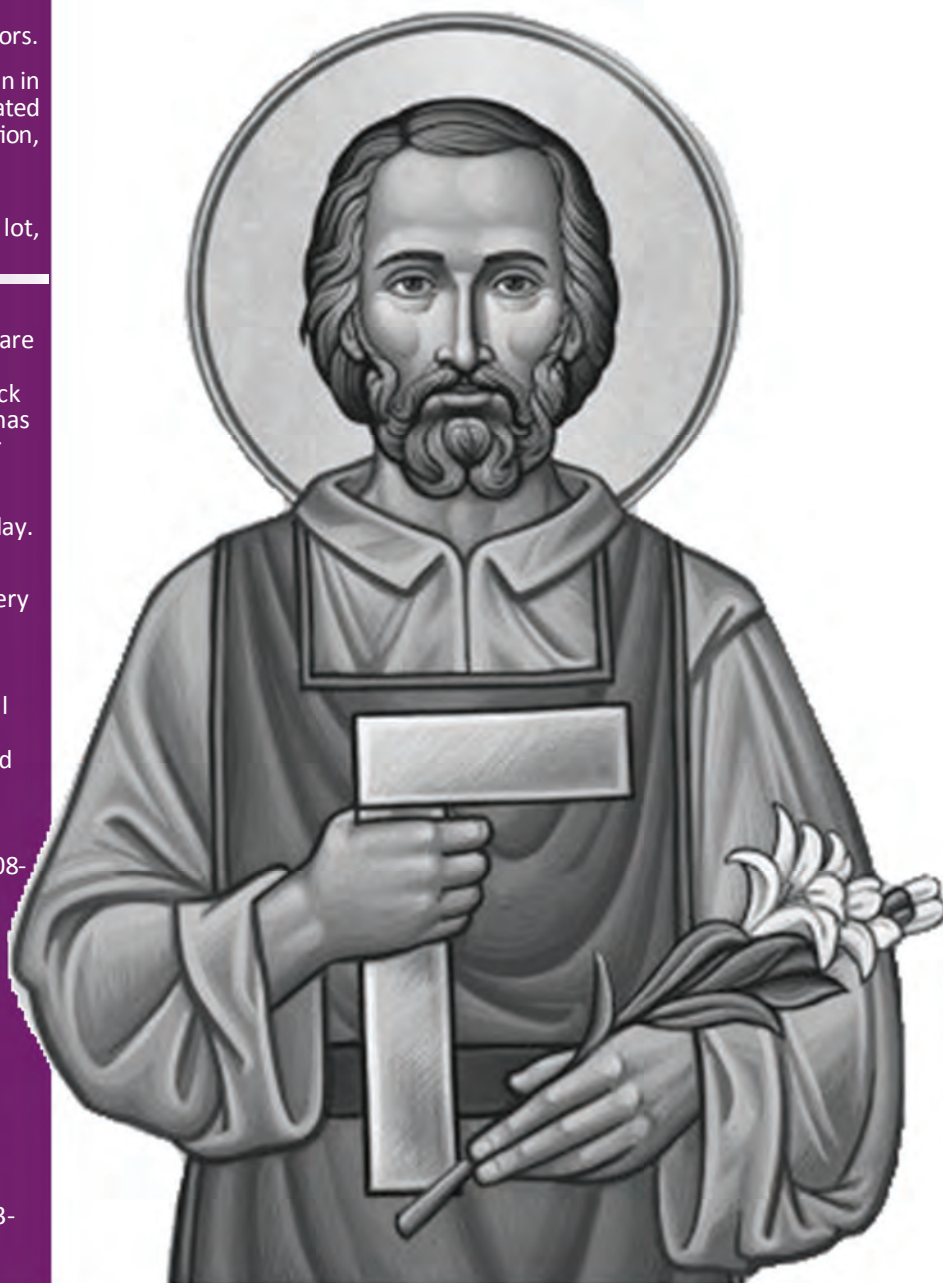
Saint Joseph

HILLSBOROUGH, NEW JERSEY

Priests

Prophets

Kings



December 24, 2023

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

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

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
Tue.	8:35AM Florence Longo R/B Jeanine Cavanagh
	8:35AM Michael Giampietro R/B Peter Giampietro
	8:35AM Fred & Madeline Wilcox R/B Jack Peterson
Wed.	8:35AM Julia Kelman R/B MaryAnn & Bobby Baranowski
	8:35AM Elisa Dornheim (Living) R/B Elisa & Jeremy Goldstone
	8:35AM Olga Colantuono R/B Michael DeLucia
Thu.	8:35AM Joseph V. Greco R/B Tom & Donna Greco
	8:35AM Katherine Sipperly R/B Helene Dillon
Fri.	8:35AM George & Rose Hammer R/B Cathy & Dennis Hammer
	8:35AM Anthony Sitarik R/B Dennis & Denise Sitarik
Sat.	4:45PM Dink Lee & James Lee R/B Michael & Lily Jansky
	4:45PM Theresa Dahl R/B Jody & Ron Pihokker
	4:45PM Richard Reede R/B Kral Family
Sun.	8:00AM People of the Parish
	9:30AM Salvatore Tuzzeo R/B Barbara & Peter Shubiak
	9:30AM Margaret McGough R/B Buist Families
	9:30AM Anna Rossi R/B Toni Rossi & Family
	11:30AM Loretta Cavanagh R/B Jeanine Cavanagh
	11:30AM Katherine Meagher R/B Sean & Keelin Glennon

Mary, Mother of God – Holyday

Sun.	7:00PM All Parishioners
Mon.	8:35AM All Parishioners
	5:00PM All Parishioners

WEDNESDAY HOLY HOUR

after 8:35AM Mass

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Luke 2:22-40

Christmas



*Every time a hand
reaches out to help another...*

THAT IS CHRISTMAS

*Every time someone
puts anger aside
and strives for understanding...*

THAT IS CHRISTMAS

*Every time people forget their
differences...*

THAT IS CHRISTMAS

Anonymous

*Fr. Hank and the Parish Staff
wish you and your family
a blessed Christmas
filled with peace, joy and love!*

OUR PARISH FAMILY WELCOMES YOU

Visitor or newcomer? Coming home? Welcome to St. Joseph Parish Community. Although we are a diverse group of people, we aim to be a family gathered in love and mutual respect. We are so very different, yet so much alike. We are young and not so young and everything in between. We are lifelong Catholics, brand new Catholics, and some of us are still seeking a spiritual path. We are saints that often struggle. We are sinners who dare to trust in the mercy promised. But no matter how anyone may try to define you, please know that you have a place – a home here with us. Join us as we celebrate God's redemptive love in the Mass. Join us as we create new friendships in our Spirituality, Bible Study and Prayer Groups. Join us in serving the needs of our brothers and sisters here and wherever God calls us. We are so happy that you joined us today and hope that you will come again. We are all eager to greet and welcome you.

December 24, 2023

HOLY C.H.O.W. MINISTRY Christian Hospitality on Wheels



HOLY C.H.O.W. has completed one year and 3 months since it began serving in Manville in September 2022. We have served over 3500 meals to more than 2000 people in Manville. And our ministry consists of over 150 parishioners.

Tuesday at 5:30 PM the food truck pulls into Manville and serves hot meals to our patrons there. Through the combined effort of detailed planning and operations, casseroles, bread and roasted vegetables are served.

Our planning and operations begin with a 17 person Leadership Team that meets every other month. On the first weekend of every month, 50 casserole pans are handed out with tested recipes attached. Those casseroles are kept frozen in our freezer, and when ready for use are defrosted and baked each Tuesday morning by the Holy CHOW Kitchen Crew.

Combined with stocking the food truck, baking the casseroles, roasting the veggies, and sorting the breads and sweets donated by Panera Bread in the early morning, the food truck driver is ready to roll by 5 pm to meet the crew in Manville, open its doors at 5:30, say grace with our patrons, and serve the food.

During the summer months, parishioners tend the vast parish garden and gather the produce that we hand out at the food truck. Our fresh produce is also much appreciated and enjoyed! We also use this produce to provide fresh roasted vegetables as well as coleslaw and other vegetable dishes.

Our casseroles, overseen by our dietician, are created to offer a wholesome and healthy meal. Every week we offer a beef and chicken selection.

Every person who works on the food truck attends 2 hours of training. We cover food handling, serving, understanding the ministry and all aspects of the operation, and most importantly, an appreciation and gentle understanding of the people we serve each Tuesday..

We cannot thank the parish and all the Holy C.H.O.W. Team enough for their dedication and on-going development of this ministry. Every week brings new challenges and ideas that continually make this a dynamic ministry fulfilling our mission statement: to serve a meal to those who are hungry in the local area, and to engage our parishioners in a common cause while building community.

*Thank you to all who continually share their time and resources to serve our neighbors and keep this food truck ministry running. – Michelle & Chris Laffoon
And the Holy CHOW Ministry Team*

SENIOR REDIDENCE EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY: *Filling the Spiritual Void*

For those who are no longer a regular part of a Catholic faith community due to life changes and physical limitations, receiving the Eucharist each week becomes a blessed event which they cherish. The residents in our local assisted living and rehab facilities have a deep devotion to the Eucharist and joyfully look forward to having the Body of Christ spiritually nourish them each week.

We'd love to have you join us! No formal commitment. Try it and see. Shadow one of the existing ministers to experience what we do. You will be amazed at how inspiring and rewarding this ministry can be. For more info, contact Terri Macor 908-917-2376 or vettegirl53@comcast.net.



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

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSINGS

The parish offices closed for Christmas,
And will 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 the Christmas season..

December 24, 2023



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. .



SAGES ACTIVITIES

For more information or to register for events contact AnnaMaria at 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. 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.

"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 and sign up and start receiving updates.

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 (please register only one time for all 12 classes). For more information, please email amarshall@diometuchen.org or call 732-562-1543.

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)

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 Thank You

EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINES

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

December 24, 2023

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.

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

More Volunteer opportunities are available at ccdom.org/volunteer.

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.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

The Garden Club of New Jersey Scholarship Awards provide financial aid to students and promote the study of Horticulture, Floriculture, Landscape Design, Botany, Plant Pathology, Agronomy, Environmental Science, City Planning, Land Management, and related subjects. APPLICATIONS must be submitted on the required GCNJ Application Form and should be typed or hand-printed. All documents specified in the Application Form, plus the Financial Information Form, must be submitted with the Application. These two Forms can be found on the Club's website www.gardenclubofnewjersey.org.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ALL DOCUMENTS IS JANUARY 15th.

The materials can be either mailed or emailed.

If mailed, the materials should be sent in one envelope (if possible) to:

Kathleen Mullarkey, Scholarship Chair
GCNJ Scholarship Awards
32 Foster Street, Red Bank, NJ 07701

If emailed, the materials should be sent in one file (if possible) to:

kmullarkey1130@gmail.com

Scholarships will be awarded at the GCNJ's Annual Meeting in the spring.

BASIS FOR AWARDS

to be enrolled as a full-time student in the fields noted above. Academic excellence, evidence of future contribution to the field(s) of study listed above, extracurricular activities, work experience in these fields, academic honors, and financial need.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

High School Seniors, Undergraduates, and Graduate Students majoring or preparing to major in a field of study relating to the environment or those listed above and who are enrolled as a full-time student. High School Seniors must show acceptance to a college or university. Prior Recipients may reapply as long as they continue

IN GOD'S IMAGE

God's Image, the Catholic Faith Sharing Group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people at Church of the Sacred Heart, South Plainfield, meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00PM. Our next meeting is January 10 and will be both in person and online. Please email for more information. The group is open to LGBTQ adults, 18 and over, and their families. All are welcome for faith sharing, prayer, conversation and support. For more information, contact Fr John at 908 291 1194 or the group may be reached via email at sacredheartigi@gmail.com.

Sunday, Dec 24, 2023

An embarrassment of riches

Every so many years, we experience this happy collision of observances: the last Sunday of Advent blossoms into Christmas Eve in a single day. Which means next week, the Feast of the Holy Family will roll into the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God by nightfall. It's a mad scramble for presiders, preachers, choirs, and liturgists to keep up with the whole, holy mess of these occasions. Parishioners too will be obliged to untangle the remarkable Mass schedule this landslide of liturgies creates. Consider it a cheerful reminder that liturgy gathers us into mysteries that are not finite but everlasting.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38 (11). *"Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."*

Monday, Dec 25, 2023

The wonder of it all

In the early church, Christmas was actually not a major feast, but over the centuries it grew in importance, and Saint Francis of Assisi catapulted its popularity in 1223 by creating the first nativity scene in a cave with live animals. Christmas Midnight Mass was celebrated there and it was a huge hit with the whole town. The tradition of the Christmas crèche was born. Francis loved Christmas, considering it the "Feast of Feasts," because God chose to take the humble form of a poor baby. Let the wonder of the Incarnation imbue your day.

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

TODAY'S READINGS: Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 (13); Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (14); Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20 (15); Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (16). *"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord."*

Tuesday, Dec 26, 2023

For the love of Saint Stephen

On this second day of Christmas, consider words about true love—and Saint Stephen—from Saint Fulgentius, a North African bishop of the sixth century: "Love was Stephen's weapon by which he gained every battle, and so won the crown signified by his name. His love of God kept him from yielding to the ferocious mob; his love for his neighbor made him pray for those who were stoning him." Celebrate the Christmas octave with the same steadfast love the first Christian martyr showed his persecutors.

FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696). *"They could not withstand the wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke."*

Wednesday, Dec 27, 2023

Through thick and thin

Beloved! That's what we know about today's saint—John the apostle is the "disciple whom Jesus loved." John was the last apostle to leave Jesus at the cross and one of the first to discover his Resurrection on Easter Sunday. He earned the title of evangelist by writing the fourth gospel (likely with help from his

followers). His account of Jesus' life has a more spiritual and mysterious air than those of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. But that doesn't mean he's otherworldly—after all, John is the patron saint of loyalty and friendships. Honor him today by visiting with a friend.

FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697). *"What we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us."*

Thursday, Dec 28, 2023

Mortal consequences

Amid the Christmas festivities, today the church has a somber reminder of the infants in the vicinity of Bethlehem who were slaughtered by King Herod in his fruitless effort to destroy Jesus. They were "collateral damage" that paved the way for Christianity, a faith that confesses to protecting the most vulnerable. In honor of the Holy Innocents, we might consider the many innocents who die prematurely because of lack of healthcare, pollution that results in disease, and isolation that leads to early death. Strive to be a force for life.

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698). *"God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all."*

Friday, Dec 29, 2023

The Catholic bucket list

Gift-giving at Christmastime is a common custom. Whether it's at home under a lit tree or at the secret Santa party at work, it's fun to give and receive. "Experience" gifts are becoming more a part of this custom: tickets to see a ballgame, an art class, a hiking trip. Experience gifts can be given any time, and we can even treat ourselves. Since it's the season of Christmas, let's think of Catholic experiences that we'd enjoy and create a kind of "Catholic bucket list." See the pope? Run a food pantry? Visit Assisi? Take a scripture class? Spend the rest of the Christmas season creating your own list.

FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202). *"It had been revealed to [Simeon] by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord."*

Saturday, Dec 30, 2023

What is the purpose of life?

This age-old question has as many answers as there are questioners. For Catholics though, there is one simple answer: love. But when is love ever simple? Deep love can be complicated and even gut-wrenchingly hard. It can bring pain, longing, disquiet, questioning, loneliness, and sacrifice. Yet, "The pain that comes from deep love makes your love ever more fruitful," writes Henri Nouwen. Love is our purpose, and we join with those celebrating Kwanzaa who are reflecting this day on the principle of Nia, that is, purpose.

SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40 (203). *"Whoever does the will of God remains forever."*

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



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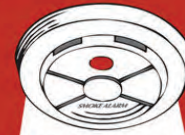
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