

December 27, 2020

**CONTACT INFO**

Phone: 908-874-3141

Fax: 908-874-7040

[www.stjosephsparish.com](http://www.stjosephsparish.com)

34 Yorktown Road  
Hillsborough, NJ 08844-5139

**MASS & CONFESSION SCHEDULE**

**Daily Mass:**

Monday-Saturday 8:35 AM

**Weekend Masses:**

Saturday 4:45 PM

Sunday 7:15 AM

9:30 AM

11:30 AM

6:00 PM

**Holiday Masses:**

Vigil 5:00 PM

Holiday 8:35 AM & 7:00 PM

**Confessions:**

Saturday 4 - 4:30 PM  
or by appointment

**EMERGENCIES**

**Sacrament of Anointing**

Call 908-874-3141  
and press 1 for a priest.

**Crisis Pregnancy Hotline**

732-516-0911

**Suicide Prevention**

NJ Lifeline  
1-800-273TALK  
Teen Crisis Text Hotline  
Text 741741

**Emergency Meals**

[emergencymeals@stjosephsparish.com](mailto:emergencymeals@stjosephsparish.com)

**Fr. Hank**

[FHilton@loyola.edu](mailto:FHilton@loyola.edu)

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# December 27, 2020

For live streaming or for viewing an archived Mass simply go to the parish web page and click away.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

**MASS INTENTIONS** are combined as follows:

4:45 Mass will combine 4:45, 7:15 & 6:00 intentions.. 9:30 will combine 9:30 & 11:30 intentions..

## **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Mon. 8:35AM John M. Brechka  
R/B Shupper Family  
Tue. 8:35AM Dan Peters  
R/B Tom & Beth Barrett  
.Wed. 8:35AM Stephanie & Jim Higgins –  
20<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
R/B Family  
Thu.. 8:35AM Vesta Lomini  
R/B Francois Family

## **HOLYDAY**

### **Mary, Mother of God**

Thu. 5:00PM George & Rose Hammer and  
Katherine Meager  
R/B Cathy & Dennis Hammer  
Fri. 8:35AM Jean Genco  
R/B Susan Wund  
8:35AM All Parishioners  
Sat. 4:45PM Elenmarie B. Dunn  
R/B Siobhan Dunn  
4:45PM Bob Giegerich  
R/B Garr Stephenson  
4:45PM Mary Bisson  
R/B Charles & Kathy Goszka  
Sun. 9:30AM Anne Wasilyko  
R/B Michelle Laffoon  
9:30AM Albert Toni  
R/B Barbara Tarboux  
9:30AM Shannon Tobin  
R/B Maureen & Tom Buneo  
9:30AM People of the Parish

## **READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK**

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6  
Matthew 2:1-12



## **Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Because of pandemic restrictions, this year the Cathedral Christmas Concert will be available virtually throughout the season beginning on Christmas day. Gather your loved ones and tune in to watch as the handbell choir, trumpet, horn and cello, as well as several vocal soloists, bring their musical gifts and the joy of Christmas to you right in the comfort of your own home. To view the concert, visit [www.diometuchen.org](http://www.diometuchen.org) or [www.stfranciscathedral.org](http://www.stfranciscathedral.org).

The concert will also be made available on the Diocese of Metuchen's social media pages: @diocesemetuchen and on the St. Francis Cathedral Concerts Facebook page.

## **O HOLY NIGHT**



*Christ's Peace.*

*Greatest thanks to all who made our last "O Holy Night" such a terrific experience for so many. Thanks to the ushers, the cocoa folks, the cookie-makers, the book people – all of you outdid yourselves. A huge shout out to all the inspiringly helpful members of our Youth Ministry, and to our Youth Minister (Bob Ferretti) for making it happen. We had a few hundred cars, most with many passengers. God bless you all.*

**Fr. Hank**

# December 27, 2020

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## HEALING PRAYER

Healing Prayer invites anyone who is ill, facing surgery, hurting, anxious, burdened or worried to seek prayer for themselves or others. Jesus working through the minister will bring healing, glory and grace to your soul. God's love guides the ministers as they pray. All sessions are private & confidential.

Healing prayer requests can be not only for yourself but also for family and friends. Requests may cover healing of body, mind and spiritual issues.

Members of our Healing Prayer Ministry have created a virtual option and a phone option which is offered at 10:30AM after the 9:30 Sunday Mass and takes place every other weekend until we are back to normal.

**Sundays, January 10 & 24**

To participate in the virtual meeting, click on <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7692788835> and follow the directions. You can also engage the healing prayer over the phone by calling 1-929-205-6099 and then the ID number key in 769-278-8835#.

**If you need healing prayers before the Sunday dates please contact Ann Smith at 908-285-6481 or at [annsmith46@hotmail.com](mailto:annsmith46@hotmail.com).**

## CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

Sincere thanks to those who have asked for guidance for giving to the Christmas collections. We rely on the Christmas collection for nearly 10% of our yearly income and we rely on it to pay all our insurance bills at year's end. You now have two options for contributing:

**Online Giving** – If you are an online giver, you need to instruct your account to make a Christmas contribution, in addition to whatever you have instructed it to do for weekly contributions. We have instructions posted on the parish web page for those who are contributing to the Christmas collection online for the first time.

**Office Visit or Mail** – and if that doesn't work for you, you can always mail your Christmas envelope, put it in the black mailbox by the Parish Hall door, or bring it to the office. GREAT thanks for supporting the church when it is not so easy to do.

## CONTRIBUTION LETTERS

Each year, we send you a letter, for your tax reports and other records, about how much you have contributed in the calendar year. To keep it simpler for you and for our office, we are happy to email those letters. If you would like to receive yours by email, please email your name, address and envelope number to [mmcdevitt@stjosephsparish.com](mailto:mmcdevitt@stjosephsparish.com) Please send that email from the email account to which you want your contribution letter sent.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

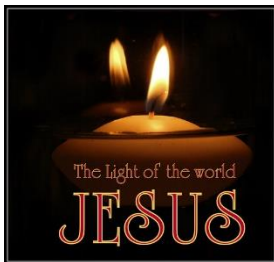
'Tis the season to join. This is a very productive and very fun organization. During the pandemic, and on both sides of it, the Knights are the parish's "go-to-guys." They get it done for the parish and they have many hearty laughs while doing so. Our chapter is truly exceptional. If you think this might be your season to join, email Bryan DeLisi, the ministry leader, at [bdelisi@stjosephsparish.com](mailto:bdelisi@stjosephsparish.com). Tell him Fr. Hank sent you!

# December 27, 2020

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## TOGETHER IN CHARITY COLLECTION

On the weekend of January 2/3, 2021 the annual "Together in Charity" collection will be taken up at all Masses. The proceeds of this collection help to fund Catholic Charities' Parish Assistance Program, which provides 24 hour / seven-day-a-week assistance to parishes faced with individuals and families with serious and urgent financial, housing or medical needs. In 2020, almost half of the parishes in the Diocese availed themselves of this program. See Bishop Checchio's letter on page 5 and please give generously to this collection and contribute to making this a blessed new year for a family or individual in crisis.



### *Light of the World:* Keeping Christmas Alive

The birth of Jesus Christ brings great joy and light, even amidst the difficult times in which we are all living. This Christmas season, we invite you to joyfully welcome Christ into your lives and celebrate His birth, not just on Christmas day, but throughout the Christmas season.

To celebrate the birth of our Savior, priests from around the Diocese of Metuchen will share their personal reflections on how we can celebrate the miracle of His birth and keep Christmas alive throughout the entirety of this joyous season. For more information or to sign-up to receive these reflections, which will be delivered straight to your email inbox everyday throughout the Christmas season visit [lightingheartsonfire.org](http://lightingheartsonfire.org).

## LOOKING FOR A GREAT SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD OR GRANDCHILD?

Learn more about St. Matthias School's wonderful PreK 3—8th grade school! We are located in Somerset, NJ and our website is [www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info).

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## DEDICATION ANNIVERSARY

On December 12, the Diocese of Metuchen marked its one-year anniversary of consecration to Jesus through Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In celebration of this spiritual milestone, the faithful of the diocese were invited to participate in a Season of Renewal, a week-long series of virtual events leading up to the first anniversary of the diocesan consecration. While the events have concluded, recordings of the events can be viewed here, including the praying of the rosary for renewal, led by Bishop Checchio: [lightingheartsonfire.org/renewal](http://lightingheartsonfire.org/renewal). Please see and pray the Prayer of Renewal on the next page.

### *Keeping Christmas All Year!*

Every time a hand reaches out to help another...that is Christmas!

Every time someone puts conflict aside and strives for understanding...that is Christmas!

Every time people forget their differences and realize their love for each other...that is Christmas!



# December 27, 2020

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## Prayer of Renewal of Consecration

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of God, and Mother of the Church of Metuchen, you who were chosen by the Father from all eternity, to offer the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus Christ, as the one pleasing sacrifice back to God; and, whom that same Son, at the moment of his agony gave the Church, you as Mother forever:

listen to the prayers of your children, who cry to you, and intercede for us before your Son in heaven.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, today, we renew our consecration of ourselves to you, for you do not abandon any person who loves your Son, Jesus, but instead accompany the Christian people in true discipleship.

O most beautiful Virgin, each day we entrust ourselves, and our diocese, to your powerful intercession for you have never forsaken the prayer of faith, but constantly show to your Son the sorrows of your heart, that He may have favor towards all who turn to you.

Help us, Joyful Mother, through your example of living the Gospel, to faithfully proclaim Jesus Christ to be Savior of our lives; and lead us, by your overflowing grace, to return, with you, to the throne of your Son; where, with you as our Queen and Mother, we shall forever enjoy fellowship with Him and all the saints.

Therefore, assist us in our prayer to the Father, that we, as the Church of Metuchen, may be renewed as missionary disciples, to set hearts on fire here in our Diocese of Metuchen so that, the world may come to know the love of Christ that will transform all people.

Mother of the Americas  
and Star of the New Evangelization,  
pray for us.  
Amen.

From the Diocesan Office of  
Human Life & Dignity:

## NEW JERSEY REPRODUCTIVE ACT

On October 8, 2020, The Reproductive Freedom Act (RFA) S3030 was introduced in the New Jersey State Senate and was referred to the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee. If passed, the RFA would codify into New Jersey law the findings of Roe v. Wade, meaning that abortion would remain legal in New Jersey even if the case were overturned by the Supreme Court. The RFA would also strip safeguards and regulations on the abortion procedure, making New Jersey a more dangerous place for women and their unborn babies. The Assembly companion bill is A4848.

The Diocesan Office of Human Life & Dignity has been working closely with the New Jersey Catholic Conference (NJCC) on this issue to develop resources and monitor the bill. Here is the link to NJ Catholic Conference's updated Reproductive Freedom Act resource page: <https://njcatholic.org/reproductive-freedom-act>. Please check this website frequently for updates. Also, please make sure to sign up on the above website to receive action alerts

A webinar has been recorded which focuses on providing an overview of the legislation, an update on the bill's legislative status, and suggestions on action steps people can take at this time. This is something you can use to help educate family, friends and fellow parishioners. You are encouraged to watch it so you can understand the radical nature of this measure. The link is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kshuo78QZdA&feature=youtu.be>

For more information contact:

[human.life.and.dignity@diometuchen.org](mailto:human.life.and.dignity@diometuchen.org)

Thank you!



## DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

St. John Neumann Pastoral Center • P.O. Box 191, Metuchen, New Jersey 08840-0191  
P: 732.562.2458 • F: 732.562.1427 • E: office.of.the.bishop@diometuchen.org

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

December 14, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we continue to celebrate this season of Christmas, it is a special joy to announce over and over the wonderful truth that God has made His home among us in His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. While the world quickly moves on in a never ending chase for the next exciting thing, we are called to reflect again on the truth that God is with His people. Because we celebrate Christmas...what does that mean for the rest of the year?

This year we are more challenged than usual with emergency needs that arise from people coming to our parishes for additional help. This fund as you know is used solely for those who show up in need of emergency assistance. Every year we have a special opportunity to participate in an annual local collection: *Together in Charity*. The collection funds our Catholic Charities' Emergency Assistance Program, which aids parishes when individuals and families are faced with urgent financial, housing, or medical needs beyond a parish's capacity to meet.

In this year recently announced by Our Holy Father to be a year dedicated to St. Joseph the Universal patron of the Church, we may take inspiration from his protective role for the whole family of God's people; especially the most vulnerable. Jesus may be found in the face of a senior citizen who cannot afford a prescription or single mother in need of a car repair. The Faith is alive when we reach out in love to meet the needs of all who come to us. Your monetary donation, as your means allow, will be a great expression of our local Church of Metuchen responding to Jesus' words: "What you do the least, you do unto me."

As we move forward in hope into a new year, may we do so with an eye to not leaving anyone without our help and love.

With renewed best wishes, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA  
Bishop of Metuchen



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