

DECEMBER 18, 2022

## CONTACT INFO

Phone: 908-874-3141

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

**Fr. Hank**

FatherHank@sjmillstone.com

34 Yorktown Road  
Hillsborough, NJ 08844-5139

## PARISH COMMUNITY OF

# Saint Joseph

## HILLSBOROUGH, NEW JERSEY

### MASS & CONFESSION SCHEDULE

#### Daily Mass:

Monday-Friday 8:35 AM

*(Wednesday is an Enhanced-precautions mass-6' spacing and masks are encouraged.)*

#### Outdoor Communion Service:

Wednesday 10:00 AM

*(This service is held outdoors. Attendees remain in their car and tune into FM 88.7.)*

#### Weekend Masses:

Saturday 4:45 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM

*(Enhanced-precautions mass-6' spacing and masks are encouraged.)*

9:30 AM

11:30 AM

*(This mass is outside under the tent/attendees may remain in their vehicle as well.)*

#### Confessions:

Until further notice, Confessions are by Appointment only. Typically, Saturday morning between 10am - 12pm. Other times are possible. Email Fr. Hank at [fatherhank@sjmillstone.com](mailto:fatherhank@sjmillstone.com) for an appointment.

#### Sacrament of the Sick

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

Non-Emergency-Please email [FatherHank@sjmillstone.com](mailto:FatherHank@sjmillstone.com)

### EMERGENCIES

**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)

Priests

Prophets

Kings



# December 18, 2022

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- Mon. 8:35AM Sarah & Herman Jerzewski  
R/B Lois & Ed Jerzewski
- Tue. 8:35AM Jeffrey Bergner  
R/B John & Lisa Rossi
- 8:35AM John Brechka  
R/B Shupper Family
- 8:35 AM Edward J. Markey  
R/B Laura Iarkowski
- Wed. 8:35AM David Jerzewski  
R/B Lois & Ed Jerzewski
- Thu. 8:35AM Michael Giampietro  
R/B Peter Giampietro
- Fri. 8:35AM George & Rose Hammer  
R/B Cathy & Dennis Hammer
- 8:35AM Christina Pankowski  
R/B Jo-Ann & Tom Delasko

### Nativity of the Lord - Holyday

- Sat. 4:00PM All Parishioners  
6:00PM All Parishioners  
9:00PM All Parishioners
- Sun. 8:00AM All Parishioners  
9:30AM People of the Parish  
11:30AM All Parishioners

### READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Isaiah 62:11-12      Titus 3:4-7  
Luke 2:15-20

### BEHIND THE SCENES OF THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL

#### Matthew 1:18-24

In Biblical times marriage among the Jewish people was more of a contract between two families and had little to do with love or romance. In today's Gospel we hear that Mary and Joseph are betrothed and, under Jewish law, considered legally married. The couple usually lived apart for about a year while the groom prepared his home for his bride, at which time she moved in and they began living together. If the groom suspected that his wife had been seduced or raped, he could initiate divorce proceedings. -Dorothy Gearon

## HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSINGS

The parish offices will close  
at 1:00 PM on Friday, December 23  
and reopen on Tuesday, December 27

They will also close  
at 1:00 PM on Friday, December 30  
and reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

*Have a safe and happy holiday!*

## Fourth Sunday of Advent



Dear All, Christ's Peace!

**Mass Intentions** – The increase in the number of available Mass intentions has increased the number of requests AND created several days in January and February that are not yet assigned. Request one?

**Holy C.H.O.W!** – The ministry has had a very good opening season, thanks to you. More people are relying on Holy C.H.O.W! Our January request for casseroles will be for more than we are currently collecting.

**Kitchen Helpers** – Can you help us get the food from the freezers to the ovens to the truck on Tuesdays from 11:00-2:00? Round up two friends and become a once-a-month team. Or volunteer on your own. Questions? Contact Gail: gail-bellas@comcast.net or 908-240-2031.

**The Advent Giving Tree** – Your gifts have been wrapped, loaded, and shipped to Dunlow, West Virginia. Our parishioners will distribute them to 200 children next week. GREAT work on your part.

**Youth Ministry Christmas Party** – Get there as close as you can to 7:00 pm on Wednesday, December 21, the shortest day of the year. We welcome all high school students, especially those who have not yet ventured into a Youth Ministry event. This is a very good party.

**December Envelopes** - Because Christmas falls on Sunday, we will have understandable questions about envelopes. You will receive two, a flowered one for Christmas and a white one for the last Sunday of the year. If you can use both, great. If that is too much for this year, totally understood. Blessings either way.

**Wheelchairs Available** – If you use the electric doors at the Memorial Hallway's north end, and if you find the walk to church a bit too long, maybe use the wheelchair that is now parked there.

**Decorating Your Tree** – The more I learn, the more I love our tree decorators. The love, imagination, and devotion behind the decorations are astounding. What great tributes to the deceased and to the living.

**The Bell** – Keep imagining – What should we name it? Where should we put it? When should we ring it? For now, remember to ring it whenever you want – three rings per day for the confirmed, two for the others!

With great gratitude and best blessings

**Father Hank**

# December 18, 2022

## POOR BOX

### Social Concerns Emergency Relief

Your generous donations will support our Parish **Social Concerns Emergency Relief** services. This provides those in most need of financial support by making a one-time payment of PSEG, rental assistance, security deposit or other basic living expenses. This charity work not only provides for basic needs but restores hope to *the least of these*.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP

### The Pregnancy Aid Center

The center, located in Raritan, serves needful women and families. Our parishioners help two Wednesdays each month by sorting, organizing, and packing donations. This is another great option for folks who are just starting their Social Ministry commitment. Questions? Email Marianne at mgenn.3@gmail.com or Jeanine at jcavanagh@sjmillstone.com

### Food Pantry

Our parishioners also provide logistical support, once a month, for the food pantry in Perth Amboy. Might this be a good job for you? Email Terry at terrytulee25@gmail.com



Our Youth Ministry will be collecting gently used coats  
**Friday, Saturday, and Sunday,  
December 30- January 1.**

Please do not bring or leave coats at the church or parish offices before these dates. Thank You.

## APPALACHIA SUMMER MISSION

Thursday, January 19 at 7:00 PM

Learn about how you can be a part of our parish mission scheduled in June.

Questions? Email Jeanine at JCavanagh@sjmillstone.com



## CHRISTMAS MASSES

### Christmas Eve -

4:00 PM – will also be livestreamed

6:00 PM

9:00 PM

### Christmas Day -

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.

Hopefully, the following information will help you formulate plans that work for you and your loved ones.

### Christmas Eve -

4:00 PM – Traditionally, this is the most attended Mass of the year. It is hard to predict if that pre-pandemic popularity will return. The music will be provided by a children's choir and the Mass will be livestreamed. We will start to seat people in the Parish Hall as soon as we reach seating capacity in the main church.

6:00 PM – Traditionally, this Mass has the lowest attendance on Christmas Eve. Music will be led by a cantor and pianist accompanied by flute and trumpet.

9:00 PM – The full choir leads the music at this Mass. Carols begin at 8:30 PM.

### Christmas Day -

8:00 AM – This Mass is the least crowded of the Christmas Day Masses. Music will be led by a pianist/cantor.

9:30 AM – This Mass will also be livestreamed. Music will be led by a cantor and pianist accompanied by flute and trumpet.

11:30 AM – The music at this Mass will be the same as at 9:30 AM.

**Restricted Seating** – At every Mass, there will be space for people who have health concerns:

Section Three – People will sit in every other pew, with or without masks.

Section Four – People will sit in every other pew and will wear masks.



# December 18, 2022



## SAGES ACTIVITIES

Our programs will take a break for the holiday season and return in January.

### COMING IN JANUARY

**Exercise:** Drums Alive class begins Thursday, January 12 at 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall

**Tuesday Topics:** Meet Joshua O'Neill, the new Elder-care educator at The Office of Aging and Disability Services on January 17 at 11:15 AM. He will discuss services and workshops offered by the county.

**Monday Funday:** Join us January 23 at noon for lunch, games and a movie. Details and registration to follow

Info: Email AnnaMaria at [arealbuto@sjmillstone.com](mailto:arealbuto@sjmillstone.com) You can also call her at 908-864-0334.



## 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.



## RESPECT LIFE MASS

**Sunday, January 22, 2023,  
12:00 Noon**

### Cathedral of St. Francis Assisi, Metuchen

Please consider joining us for the Annual Diocesan Respect Life Mass. Bishop James F. Checchio will be the celebrant. Youth who have been active in pro-life volunteering will be recognized. There will be a light reception immediately following the Mass. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact

[amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org) or 732-562-1543.

# O HOLY NIGHTS!



## LIVE NATIVITY

**Sunday, December 18, 4 PM**

**Drive thru' and experience the true meaning of Christmas. Registration Required.**

Presented by our Youth Ministry. Listen on the parish radio station while soaking up the view of the Annunciation, the Birth of Christ, and more holy moments. Register at [www.sjmillstone.com](http://www.sjmillstone.com) for your preferred time, between 4:00 and 6:30 PM..



## Catholic Girl Scouts, come join us!

### GIRL SCOUTING IN FAITH

A GATHERING Day is normally held each year for Catholic Junior, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts who would like to work on a religious medal program. During that day, scouts accomplish several requirements towards their respective medals.

This year's Girl Scout GATHERING Day will be held on Saturday January 14, 2023 from 9:30AM until 3:30PM at St. Bernard of Clairvaux, 500 Route 22 East, Bridgewater. Breakfast and lunch will be provided along with scouting activities and fellowship. The cost for the program is \$15.00

Religious Girl Scout Medals are offered at each scout level with activities and requirements, just like with regular girl scout badge work. Daisy and Brownie programs are completed within the family. Junior, Cadette and Senior medal programs are completed largely in a group environment with adult advisors.

Contact [domgirlscouts@gmail.com](mailto:domgirlscouts@gmail.com) for further information on any of the Catholic Girl Scout programs or to request a registration form.

# December 18, 2022

## CHAMPIONS FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Champions for Catholic Charities is a community of individual and corporate benefactors who support the vital services for our neighbors in need provided by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen. Catholic Charities serves over 56,000 people each year through more than 100 programs in the New Jersey counties of Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Warren.

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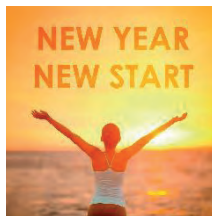
Please prayerfully consider joining our team today and become a Champion for Catholic Charities!

See how at [diometuchen.org/champions](https://diometuchen.org/champions)

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2023-2024 TUITION ASSISTANCE ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS OPEN

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at <https://online.factsmgmt.com/aid>. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by no later than **March 31, 2023**. Applications are available in English and Spanish.

Families that need assistance completing the online application or need access to a computer to apply should contact their school.



## YEAR-END DAY OF PRAYER Saturday, December 31, 9:30 AM.--3 PM

Mount St. Mary House of Prayer  
1651 US Hwy. 22, Watchung, NJ 07069

Spend this last day of the year reflecting on the many gifts God has bestowed on you. Day begins and ends with communal prayer. Bring a bag lunch. (\$20-\$30 as you are able). Register at [msmhope@msmhope.org](mailto:msmhope@msmhope.org) 908-753-2091 or email us at [msmhope@msmhope.org](mailto:msmhope@msmhope.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).

## Mount St. Mary House of Prayer

1651 US Hwy. 22, Watchung, NJ 07069

### Program Offerings

Information and Registration for all Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer offerings can be found on our website: [www.msmhope.org](http://www.msmhope.org). You may also call us at 908-753-2091 or email us at [msmhope@msmhope.org](mailto:msmhope@msmhope.org)

### SACRED TIME, SACRED SPACE

A personal, quiet day to enjoy God's presence. Day begins with communal prayer. Bring a bag lunch.

**Wednesday, January 25 from 9:30am-3pm.**

(\$20-\$30 as you are able)

### SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGS VIDEO CLUB

There are many great spiritual masters of our time. Richard Rohr, OFM and others have works that have touched millions of God-seekers. Join this monthly video club and share your insights and prayerful responses to the works of Fr. Rohr and others.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month 10-11:30 a.m. at the House of Prayer and on Zoom**

**January 13, February 10**

(\$20--\$30 / session as you are able)

### DRUMMING ECSTASY CIRCLE

Music is one of the most glorious gifts of God. God uses drumming to enhance His powers to improve our health, lives—the essence of our being. Learn how to connect deeply with God through Rhythm.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 1:30-3pm**

**January 11, February 8**

Presenter: Barbara Woodzell

(\$20-\$30 as you are able)

### MAN TO MAN

Men have unique roles in life...husbands, fathers, grandfathers, the single life and religious life...We're pushed and pulled in a thousand directions by responsibilities, stress, loss and by joys. Where can we find time to reflect on the loss and gain of our lives? For all men—young, old and in between. Join our group over coffee or tea for life affirming discussions and prayer to find God in our lives and to make a difference in our own worlds.

**4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the Month**

**Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30 both at the House of Prayer and on Zoom**

Freewill offering

### VIRTUAL COMFORTABLE CUP OF TEA

Join us on Zoom for an hour of lectio divina, prayer, conversation and small group sharing.

**First and Third Thursdays of each month from 3-4pm on Zoom**

Freewill offering

## Sunday, Dec 18, 2022

### Welcome!

Most folks live in the land of their birth. Only one in 30 migrate, and for many reasons. They may marry a non-national and relocate to make a life together. Jobs may move overseas. But most often, people migrate under forces they can't control: military conflicts, natural disasters, extreme poverty, or other dangers. Migration may not be chosen, but it doesn't have to spell doom to those who depart or those who receive them. Migrants have knowledge, networks, and skills to share. U.S. history proves it as does the history of our faith. As Yahweh told the Israelites: "You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt" (Lev. 19:33-34). On this International Migrants Day, O Sacred Lord, give us the spirit of welcome and openness so we may each find our way to you.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (O SACRED LORD)

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24 (10). "The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it."

## Monday, Dec 19, 2022

### Cherish your roots

Today's O Antiphon—"O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!"—invites us to meditate on the theme of Jesus' genealogy and our spiritual ancestry. Jesse was the father of King David, and God told the prophet Nathan that David's royal family would last forever. Jesus is the enduring branch that grows out of the root of Jesse, the fulfillment of a hope past and present. When we belong to Christ, we belong to the rest of the tree, too—a family that includes God and humanity. Christmas brings people together, biologically related or not—let the longing of this season bond you closer to all in love.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O FLOWER OF JESSE'S STEM)

TODAY'S READINGS: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25 (195). "He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God."

## Tuesday, Dec 20, 2022

### Let's make some room at the inn

We're in the middle of two great spiritual traditions that overlap in Advent: The O Antiphons (December 17-23)—recited at vespers for the church's Liturgy of the Hours—and the celebration of "Las Posadas" (December 16-24), reenacting Joseph and Mary's search for shelter ahead of Jesus' birth. Since Las Posadas come from our Latin American brothers and sisters, each year the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops encourages us to work and pray, in intentional ways, for migrants to our country who—like Mary and Joseph—seek safety and basic biblical hospitality. The Key of David is also the key to our hearts. See Justice for Immigrants for more background and suggested actions.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KEY OF DAVID)

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38 (196). "Listen, O house of David!"

## Wednesday, Dec 21, 2022

### A light of faith from the North Star

On this day in 1892, Saint Peter Claver Catholic Church was founded in Saint Paul, Minnesota, the first black parish in the state of Minnesota. Founded decades before the Great Migration of southern blacks to northern states, the church was the brainchild

of hopeful black Catholics (inspired by Josephite founder John Slattery, S.S.J.) and Archbishop John Ireland, a tireless advocate for black liberation in an era of widespread racism. The new church was named for the famed Jesuit missionary, just a few years after his canonization by Pope Leo XIII, and among its first members was Fredrick McGhee, the first black lawyer in state history. May he and his companions inspire our faith and encourage us to witness for justice in our daily lives!

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O RADIANT DAWN)

TODAY'S READINGS: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45 (197). "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!"

## Thursday, Dec 22, 2022

### Picture this

For Americans, the O Antiphon for today, "O King of All Nations," might be less than compelling since our incipient nation rebelled against the only king it ever had back in its colonial days. The image of God or Jesus as "king" comes from the prevailing social structures 2,000 years ago. Centuries of church-monarchy unity in Europe and elsewhere kept the tradition going. Contemporary Catholics can understand the power and authority of kingship, but God's tenderness and mercy can be sidelined by this term, which leads to a good question for any disciple: What is your image of God? What helps you connect with the Divine?

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KING OF ALL NATIONS)

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56 (198). "The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name."

## Friday, Dec 23, 2022

### Rejoice, rejoice!

The "O Emmanuel" antiphon heralds the conclusion of Advent. It also conveys a powerful truth about how we experience the divine. Yes, God is awesome and transcendent—and God is the one who draws close to us, takes on our humanity, and is truly Emmanuel, "God with us." As we prepare to enter into the mystery of the Incarnation, let us take a moment to pray "O Emmanuel" and reflect on how we experience God with us in our day-to-day life. And as a church let us sing together, "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / Shall come to thee, O Israel."

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O EMMANUEL)

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66 (199). "Yes, he is coming."

## Saturday, Dec 24, 2022

### Forgiveness under the tree

If you haven't finished your Christmas shopping by now, you're toast (at least according to consumer culture). The best you can hope for now is forgiveness. Which is exactly what this day and this night are all about. Zechariah's Benedictus in today's gospel (which takes its name from the first words in Latin—*Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel*, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel") reflects God's eternal plan of deliverance: "To give his people knowledge of Salvation by the forgiveness of their sins." The best present you can give anybody, tonight or ever, is the forgiveness of their sins. Today is the perfect day to give this perfect gift!

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 (200). "To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins."

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



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