



HOLY NAME SOCIETY

Mass – 3rd Sunday of every month
Next Mass – January 21st at 8:00 a.m.
Meeting – following the Mass.

MONDAY, JANUARY 1 – NEW YEAR’S DAY

8:00AM -WILLIAM MULHOLLAND
-r/o Michael & Susanne DeSimone
10:00AM -GERARDO VILLONGCO
-r/o The Villongco Family

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

8:00AM -SEAN KEELEY
-r/o Brian & Janine Macre

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

8:00AM -ANNA SIRIANO
-r/o Andrea Gizzarelli & Family

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

8:00AM -EILEEN CURRIER
-r/o Catherine Dudley

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

9:00AM -ELIZA DULAY
-r/o Alex & Cheryl Maglaqui
5:00PM -ELLEN LAPINSKI
-r/o David Lapinski

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

8:00AM -MICHAEL SIEGLER
-r/o Eileen Pappas
10:00AM -ANN M. WILLIAMS
-r/o The Tango Family
11:30AM -TONY CARAFOLA & BILL FREGA
-r/o Roseann Chrzanowski

VOTIVE LIGHTS - IN MEMORY OF

Muriel, Leslie & Anna Roberts	Frank Falcone
Juan Antonio “Tony” Medina	Charles Mitchell
Rosalie & Frank Moscarello	Howard Whitford
Peter & Susan Colombo	Michael Kelsall
Anna & Walter Kachnowski	Joseph L. Esposito
Martin Joseph Stubbs	Mary & Nick Silecchio

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Mark & Kelly Chrzanowski	Teresa & Michael DeLuca
Ryan, Julia & Lydia	Peace-Sick-Poor
Watch over our daughter	Peace & healing
Help & guidance for Carolyn	Spiritual help & forgiveness
Speedy & successful recovery for Joe	
Help & guidance for Michael & Jonathan	
Beata, wishing you a happy, healthy life	
Strength & guidance for Karen	
Health for my husband, me & our family	
Thank you for all our blessings	
Health & help for all dear friends	
Please cure & keep me free from all anxiety, fear, panic & depression	



TABERNACLE LIGHT

Tabernacle candle in the Church burns this week in loving memory of Helen Sabo
r/o Debbie Dyson



PARISH SICK LIST

Rev. Edward J. Struzik, Shannon, Hayley & Brett Lawrence, Jacqueline Braniff, Christina Pulido, Sophie Wojtaszek, Janice Sanborn, Marie Velleneuve, Beth Morris, Renee Burke, Joseph Peabody, Veronica Balmore, Billy Sherwood, Jr., Peter Skujins, Cindy Junquet, Kenneth Kramer, Timothy McGravey, Beatriz Castillo, Dolores Nee, Michael Guariglia, Marieann Poplaski, Lucy Littlefield, Jean Marie Brigandi, Elena Coumo, Gabino & Maria Rodriguez, Alice Gorres, Johnny Gibbs, Barbara Celia, Ida Morales, Maryann Hughes, Emilie Matlosz, Germaine Raimo, Luddy Demsia, William Armstrong, Fr. Gregory Moore, Sandra Steinberger, Frank Roberts, Barbara Bradshaw, Fred Morrone, Larry & Marie Fama, Lenny Gatti, Sumanta Chowdhuri, Nicole E. Montagna, Nico Oneto, Kathleen O’Brien, Debbie Archibold, Alex Berg, Wendy Oates, Robert C. Pederson, Marie Scifo, Patrick Barry, Toni O’Rourke, William Sohor, Robert Pedersen, Robert Conte, Jose Pacheo, Margaret Malloy, Rose LaFergola, Kathleen Lau, Anne Slate, Kimberly Perry, Jackson Christian Thomas, Miguel Ley, Marie Ciezbka, Betty Pulido, Charley Goldsmith and Louis Martinez.

We ask Almighty God and our Blessed Mother, Mary to comfort and heal the sick. If your loved one recovers and our prayers for them are no longer required, please call the parish office to have their name removed. Thank you.

PRE-BAPTISM CLASS



Please call the Parish Office to register.
The next Pre-Baptism class will be held Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE
FOLLOWING MILITARY PERSONNEL
SERVING OVERSEAS**



Jason Del Duca, U.S. Air Force
Krystal L. Godowski, U.S. Army

Matthew B. Kaplan, U.S. Army
Michael Lanzafama, U.S. Army
Richard A. Lapp, U.S. Navy
Douglas Leo, U.S. Army
Michael J. Sanzone, U. S. Army
Mark G. Sieczkowski, U. S. Navy
Thomas Welch, U.S. Army

COUNTERS NEEDED



Are you available Monday mornings? If so, please consider helping to count the weekly collection. It will take about two hours of your time once a month. We are in need of two more counters. Call the parish office ASAP if you could help.

PRAYER GARDEN PAVERS



**Crucifix Prayer
Garden
Fundraiser**

Leave a lasting legacy this Christmas Season with your name or custom inscription on a personalized brick or recognize family or friends with a lasting message that will be seen for generations to come.

Commemorative paving stones will be installed in the renovated Crucifix Prayer Garden opposite the entrance to the Church. You can review the plan on the poster boards in the vestibules of the Church as well as pick up an order form.

4 x 8 paver is \$125.00
8 x 8 paver is \$200.00

There is an additional cost of \$25 if clip art is added.

Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information, please call Tom Caporaso at 908-461-2247.

2018 BOX ENVELOPES



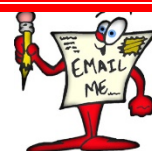
Please take a moment after Mass today to pick up your new set of boxed envelopes for 2018. They are located in the Parish Hall. If you can't find your envelopes, please call the parish office.

STEWARDS OF OUR TREASURE



Weekend of December 23/24, 2017: \$8585
Weekend of December 19/20, 2015: \$9547
Our Christmas Offering to the Lord for 2017 was: \$20,653
Our Christmas Offering to the Lord for 2016 was: \$25,769
Additional Christmas Flowers Collection: \$57

OFFICE STAFF EMAILS



Irma Knox - Parish Secretary
MHR1987@aol.com

Janet Snyder - Finance Manager
mhr2012bkr@aol.com

Debbie Dyson - Parish Catechetical Leader
mhrccd@yahoo.com

Barbara Orsucci - Assistant Religious Education Office
mhrccd1993@aol.com

Adult Faith (LIFT) - Patrick Corbitt
mhradultfaith@gmail.com

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Our Most Holy Redeemer Conference exists primarily to help those in financial need. This is made possible by the generosity of our Parishioners each month; **thank you.**

If you or someone you know needs help, please call 732-566-9334. *Everything is completely confidential.*

Food Pantry

Groceries collected every weekend at Mass.

PASTORAL COUNCIL



The next Pastoral Council meeting is scheduled for, Monday, January 29, 2018, 7:15 - 9:00 p.m. in Desmond Hall.



Monday, January 1, 2018 - New Year's Day
8:00 a.m., and 10:00 a.m.

(January 1, 2018 is not a holyday of obligation this year)

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



My personal thanks to our church decorating team, our ushers, Holy Names members, our sacristan and maintenance man who were involved in the decoration of the Church, inside and out, and to all those who participated in our Christmas Masses as altar servers, eucharistic ministers, lectors, ushers, music ministry and, of course, my brother deacons. We also thank Fr. Joseph Desmond and Fr. Henry Hemmerling for assisting with the Christmas Masses.

The children did a beautiful job and were featured in the Children's Choir and the Christmas Pageant at the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve. My thanks to Pat Keaveney, Debbie Dyson, Barbara Orsucci, Carolyn and Guy Smoljan and Linda McGovern for rehearsing the children.

A special thank you to all who sent cards and gifts to me this Christmas. Your kindness and generosity is very encouraging.

We are grateful to all our many volunteers who step forward throughout the year. God bless us all and peace in 2018.

Gratefully,
Father Chester Carina

PARISH OFFICE



The parish office will be closed Monday, January 1st and will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd at 8:30 a.m.

SPECIAL COLLECTION



This weekend's second collection will be the Initial Offering, to cover the cost of the envelopes.

ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

with specific intentions



Stella Bentivenga
r/o Mr. Charles Bentivenga

CHRISTMAS FLOWER

without specific intentions

Mrs. Dolores DiGiosaffatte
The Cornwell Family
The Thomas Family

IN GOD'S IMAGE



In God's Image, the Catholic Faith Sharing Group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people at Sacred Heart Church, South Plainfield, meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Annex Building. Our next meeting is January 10th. The group is open to LGBT adults, 18 and over, and their families. All are welcome for faith sharing, prayer, conversation and support. For more information, please contact Father John at 908 756 0633, ext. 125. or the group may be reached by contacting 908 822 5895 or by emailing sacredheartigi@gmail.com.

ST. PETER'S GIANNA CENTER

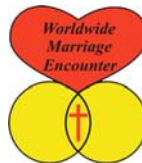
New Brunswick, NJ



We are very pleased to introduce you to the Saint Peter's Gianna Center located in New Brunswick, NJ. The Center is dedicated to offering truly prolife women's health care, including infertility services, general gynecologic care, and more. All services are provided in accordance with the US Catholic Bishops Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services. For more information, please visit <http://www.saintpetershcs.com/GiannaCenter> or contact us at 732-565-5490.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Christmas Gift



Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for our spouse? Why not give yourselves a Marriage Encounter Weekend.

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage.

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held January 26-28, 2018.

Early registration is advisable as space is limited. Please call 732-904-9636 for registration and information or visit us at: www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org for more information.



BEREAVEMENT
group

JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF

*"Blessed are those who mourn for
they shall be comforted"*

Grief is a long process of untangling ourselves after the loss of a cherished loved one. WHO AM I NOW? HOW DO I FIND THE STRENGTH TO GO ON? The program is offered as a support for all persons who have recently lost a loved one and are struggling with the mourning process. Let us help you as you help yourself.

The Group will be meeting **MONDAY EVENINGS** for seven (7) weeks.

PLACE: St. Thomas Parish Hall
One St. Thomas Plaza
Old Bridge, NJ 08857

BEGINS: January 18, 2018

ENDS: February 26, 2018

TIME: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

CONTACT: Deacon Patrick
732-251-4000, ext. 8218

No fee. Pre-registration required.



HIS WORD TODAY

By: Rev. William J. Reilly

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 31, 2017

"They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regards to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: 'Now Master you can let your servant go in peace.'"

How often we have attended a baptism, as parent, godparent, big brother or sister, relative or friend. Some assumed the role of Joseph and Mary, others that of Simeon, or Anna who prayed. Whatever our role, we are called to recognize the special presence of the Christ as they did. Joseph protected, Mary reflected, Simeon prayed and praised. We do too.

Pope Francis in his exhortation 'The Joy of Love' provides a terrific teaching as we bring one year to a close and turn the page to a new year of grace. He says, 'Family prayer is a special way of expressing and strengthening this paschal faith. A few minutes can be found each day to come together before the living God to tell him of our worries, to ask for the needs of our family, to pray for someone experiencing difficulty, to ask for help in showing love, to give thanks for life and for its blessings and to ask Our Lady to protect us beneath her maternal mantle. With a few simple words, this moment of prayer can do immense good for our families.'

As we hear of all the New Year's resolutions, may we see this as our priority.

REFLECTING ON THE WORD

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph was not your typical nuclear family. It consisted of a child, his birth mother, and an adoptive father. And yet they lived as faith-filled families of their day were expected to live. They went to the temple to present Jesus to God. They heard words of praise and thanksgiving about their son and a prediction of possible hardship from Simeon and Anna. Returning home, Jesus grew in wisdom and strength, as most children do. Abram, Sarah and Isaac were not typical, either. Sarah became pregnant well beyond childbearing years. And yet their lives are prototypes for living one's faith. They trusted God, even when God seemed to ask for the impossible.

Whether our family is described as "typical" or it would be defined in ways other than "typical," we are all children of a God who promises to be with us throughout our lives. Sometimes we feel God present in clear and concrete ways, as did Mary and Joseph and Abraham and Sarah. Sometimes God seems absent or life is challenging, as it was for them as well. Sarah doubted God and laughed at being told she would bear a child in her old age. Mary's heart was pierced watching her son ridiculed, rejected, and crucified. Yet they knew God's presence and that God promises to be with us, in good times and in bad. Look for God in your life as it is. Be who you are and be that well, for the same God who was with Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac, and Jesus, Mary, and Joseph has promised to care for us today, tomorrow, and every day. Look to find God's favor, to grow and become strong, filled with wisdom and grace.

Consider /Discuss:

- Who makes up your family?
- How has God been present to you in good times and in difficult times? How is God present now?

LIVING AND PRAYING WITH THE WORD

God our Father, it is so easy to feel your presence when things go well that we can take you for granted. Thank you for your blessings in our lives. Give us courage to look for you in the midst of our hurts. May we find ways to become whole, and thus be holy families, whoever you send into our lives.