

January 10, 2021

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PARISH COMMUNITY OF

Saint Joseph

HILLSBOROUGH, NEW JERSEY

Priests

Prophets

Kings

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

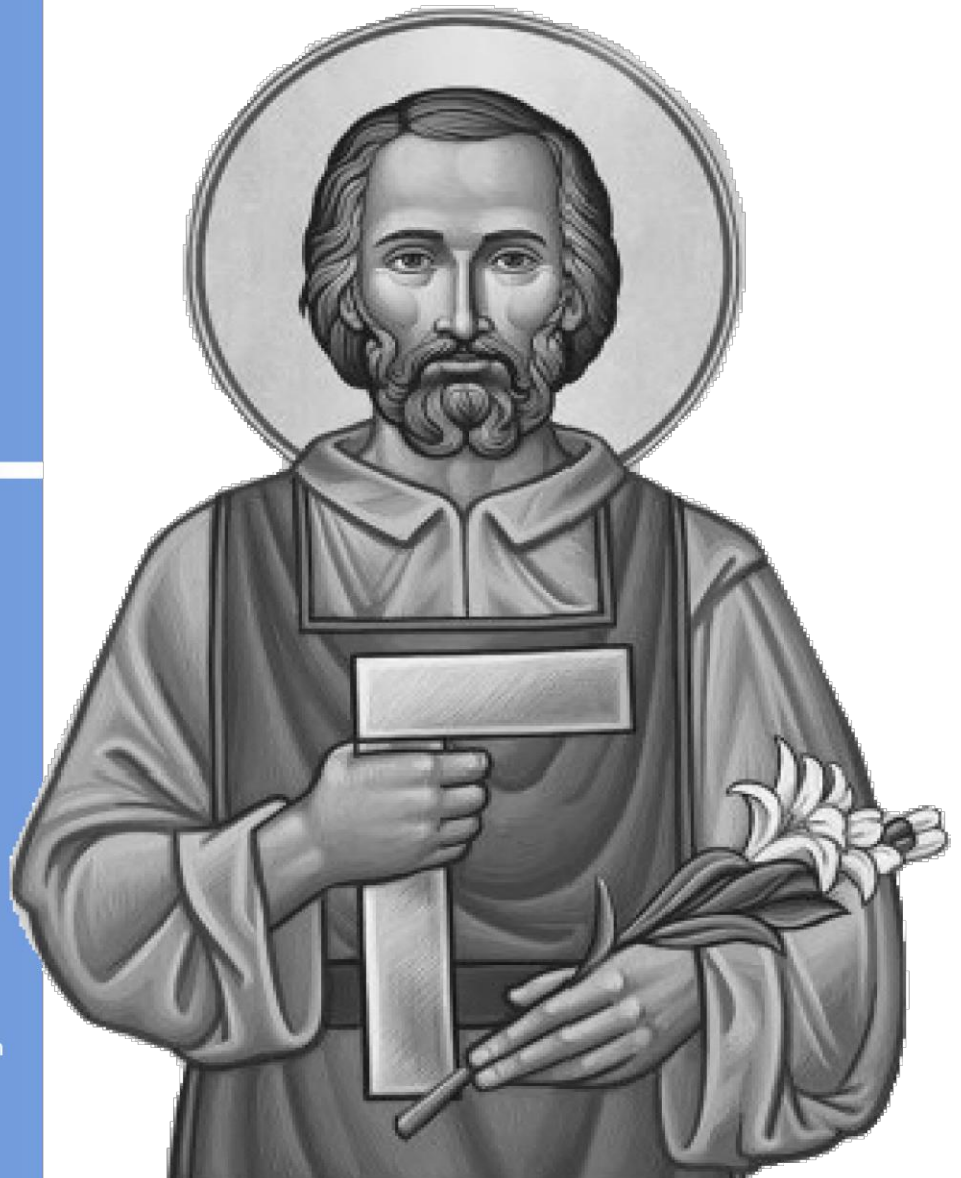
NJ Lifeline
1-800-273TALK
Teen Crisis Text Hotline
Text 741741

Emergency Meals

emergencymeals@stjosephsparish.com

Fr. Hank

FHilton@loyola.edu



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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 Rev. J. William Mickiewicz
R/B Dottie & George Lukazik
- Tue. 8:35AM Albert Toni
R/B Jill Witt
8:35AM Joseph Greene
R/B Sarah Greene
8:35AM Robert Schuler
R/B Maryann Schuler
- .Wed. 8:35AM Roseann Scotillo
R/B Terri & Peter Macor
- Thu.. 8:35AM Marcel Malebranche
R/B Urma Malebranche Francois
& Family
- Fri. 8:35AM Albert Toni
R/B Selwa Toni
8:35AM Mary T. Lenihan
R/B Bob & Sue Pistas
- Sat. 4:45PM Fred A. Campo
R/B Fred & Laura Campo & Family
4:45PM Bob Conroy
R/B Garr Stephenson
4:45PM People of the Parish
- Sun. 9:30AM Leonardo Pedone
R/B Garaci Family
9:30AM Ann Donohue
R/B Heinemann Family
9:30AM Albert Toni
R/B Nancy & Tony Imperato
9:30AM Mary Flannery
R/B Sharon Sweeney

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19
1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
John 1:35-42



This Moment in Prayer, Service and Community

*Dear All:
Christ's Peace!*

Greetings from the Great Liturgical/Continental Divide. We are exactly halfway between the start of Advent and the start of Lent. Advent began 39 days ago. Lent begins in 39 days. We finish stowing the Christmas lights as we gear up for our upcoming, pandemic Lent. This year will be less of a challenge. The pandemic shutdowns began midway through Lent 2019. This year we have time to prepare. Our experiences of Lent and Easter will be different and excellent. Just like our experiences of Advent and Christmas. What remote preparations might you think of making? Any thoughts about what the parish should be doing?

This Moment in Prayer

Christmas Masses, Participants – The diocese asked us to compare Christmas Masses 2019 with Christmas Masses 2020. The numbers are very encouraging, interesting and seem worth sharing.

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Total Actual Attendance: 2019, 2,750; 2020, 955.

Total Virtual Attendance: 2019, 0; 2020, 10,811.

Total 2020 Attendance by Location: Church, 450; Parking Lot, 505; Virtual, 10,811

Christmas Masses, Volunteers – I wish the diocese had requested information about volunteers for Christmas Masses. The story sparkles and shines. The pandemic sidelined several liturgical ministries. It prevented our dedicated musicians and singers from enriching our prayer. The pandemic also eliminated our need for Eucharistic Ministers (EMs) at the indoor Masses. But the effort to keep everyone safe generated demands for more ushers and for temperature takers at the extra-precautions (Seraphim) Masses. Every Christmas Mass had to have people at the parking lot entrance to keep the crowd at the prescribed size and every Mass had to have someone from the Tech Ministry and at least one fogger to disinfect after Mass. The outdoor Masses required a dozen EMs and assistants as well as a half dozen ushers to direct traffic and a Safety Committee rep to take the EM's temperatures. Those volunteers agreed to a rain-or-shine situation, and they shone extraordinarily brightly. The volunteers were superb.

Upcoming Liturgical Schedule – Our current schedule will stay in place until the week after Easter.

Parking Lot Communion Services – NO registration required, W at 10, Sun. at 11:30

Standard Precaution (Cherubim) Masses – Sat 4:45, M., Tu, Th., F at 8:35.

Enhanced Precautions (Seraphim) Masses (Registration required, temperatures taken, no movement from seats, masks on EVERY participant) – Sun at 9:30, W at 8:35.

Sacraments – We have also settled into a grace-filled rhythm with the other sacraments

Confessions – Saturday morning in the parking lot, car-to-car. Email Father Hank for an appointment. If Saturday mornings are impossible for you, we will figure it out.

Sacrament of the Sick – We can do it in several different ways, either at your house or

here at church. If you are going to have surgery or start treatment, get anointed. If you are recovering from injury or illness, get anointed. If you are enjoying advanced golden years, get anointed. It is completely NO CONTACT and completely full of grace.

Baptisms – We are fully caught up with pandemic-delayed baptisms. It has been an amazing grace – fully masked and NO CONTACT. Call the office. Baptism is the bomb.

This Moment in Service

Our Youth Group – When a service is provided for the benefit of our community, should the report go under “Service” or under “Community”? The members of our Youth Group stir that question once again. They served our community brilliantly during our “O Holy Nights” events. They were everywhere – serving as shepherds along the Shepherd’s Path, as bible characters during the Live Nativity, as runners, gophers, and schleppers for every event. At least 50 of them pitched in. How blessed are we to have them and how blessed are we to have our inspired and inspiring Youth Minister, Bob Ferretti?

Our Food Truck Folks, Our CCD and Our Book Donors – The “O Holy Nights” evenings gave us a chance to meet our food truck and the people who use it for God’s glory and the good of all parishioners. They and their now-famous hot chocolate added great warmth, grace, and fun to each gathering. Their efforts were enhanced by scads of CCD families who made the thousands of cookies that filled parishioner bellies at “O Holy Nights.” The whole parish is indebted to our Food Truck folk, our CCD bakers, and to the anonymous donors of this year’s parish book, “I Heard God Laugh.” Astonishing teamwork.

This Moment in Community

O Holy Nights – Once again, great gratitude to the scores of volunteers and the hundreds of participants who helped God deliver so much light, happiness, and peace into our pandemic Advent and Christmas. Extra thanks to those

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who made “O Holy Nights” so excellent. A special shoutout to Millstone Mayor Ray Heck, who made time every week to discuss our events to make sure, in the face of very fluid government policies, we were doing everything safely and legally. He was terrific. Special thanks too to Cliff Radziewicz who came every week, usually in the rain and the dark, to map out each event in a way that kept everyone as safe as possible. And of course, thanks to every participant and every volunteer. They are legion (I mean that in the best possible way. Really.) The numbers can never tell the whole story, but they provide a great start to the story:

First Sunday of Advent, The Grand Tree Lighting: Participants, 329; Volunteers, 62.

Second Sunday of Advent, The Shepherd's Path: Participants, 276; Volunteers, 51.

Third Sunday of Advent, Tailgate Caroling: Participants, 225; Volunteers, 30.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Live Nativity: Participants, 590, Volunteers, 65.

Total: Participants (obviously, many are repeats), 1,420; Volunteers (same), 208.

The data tell part of the story. Your experience tells the rest. When you tell the story, and some day you will tell the story, about the season that could have been the “winter of our discontent,” about the pandemic Advent and the pandemic Christmas, be sure to tell the part of the story in which you are the hero, the part of the story in which you chose not to mope or bemoan our circumstances, the part of the story in which you and your parish-mates converted the pandemic holydays into the stuff of happiest memories. And be sure to mention God's grace, the force that made our safe, happy experience different and excellent.

CCD Families – And the formation keeps rolling along! All CCD families should have received an email that provides the new schedule for classes from January through April. It also provides a link that enables you to pay second semester tuition online. The news about the schedule contains a few headlines.

Grades 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 Families – As a result of the survey, we are offering a “total

homeschool” option for those who are struggling with Zoom. Please contact Linda if you feel drawn to select that option.

Grade 2 Families – You have a few extra Zoom sessions to prepare your child for First Reconciliation and First Communion.

Grade 7 Families – You have 2 Zoom sessions this term that will focus on service and social justice.

Grade 8 Families – We are offering an additional day and time for Zoom sessions on Thursdays at 7:15. Please contact Linda if you want to switch into that class. There will be additional Confirmation-specific sessions coming up.

Update Your Registration – You have done a fantastic job of updating your records. Dianne Mantilla has done a fantastic job of inputting the updates. You would be happily surprised to learn about all the ways in which the updating enriches our parish. If you have changed anything that appears on your parish record (email, address, family births, family deaths, etc.), please email Dianne at dmantilla@sjmillstone.com

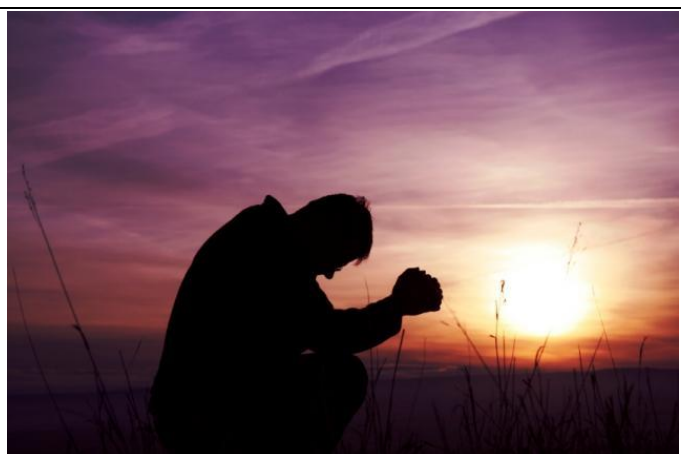
With greatest blessings for your new year and with thanks for all you were and did in 2020,

Father Hank

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. Tell him Fr. Hank sent you!

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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.

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. Please send that email from the email account to which you want your contribution letter sent.

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CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2021-2022 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.factsmgt.com/aid>. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by **no later than March 31, 2021**. 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.

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RELIGIOUS AWARDS FOR CATHOLIC GIRL SCOUTS

Since there will not be an annual Gathering Day for Girl Scouts in person this year, the Catholic Girl Scout Committee has designed a series of virtual meetings so that Girl Scouts can continue to make progress toward their religious awards, including the following:

Juniors - *I Live My Faith*

Cadettes - *Marian Medal*

Seniors and Ambassadors - *Spirit Alive*

If you are interested in participating in these virtual meetings, please email domgirlscouts@gmail.com

and provide the following information:

- Name - Parish - Girl Scout level
- Religious award of interest
- Have you started to work on this award?

POCKET ROSARIES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Diocesan Office of Family Life is pleased to announce the creation of the Blue Rosary Guild. The purpose of the Guild is for community members of all ages to make pocket Rosaries for law enforcement officers, providing them with support and spiritual strength and promoting devotion to the Rosary among all the faithful. All materials and instructions will be provided and a Zoom virtual tutorial will also be scheduled. Anyone interested should contact Cristina D'Averso-Collins, Director of the Office of Family Life at cdaverso@diometuchen.org

DEDICATION ANNIVERSARY

On December 12, our Diocese 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 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. Please see and pray the Prayer of Renewal in the next column.

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.

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