

CONTACT INFO

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Fr. Hank

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34 Yorktown Road
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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 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

EMERGENCIES

Crisis Pregnancy Hotline—732-516-0911

Suicide Prevention

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Teen Crisis Text Hotline—Text 741741

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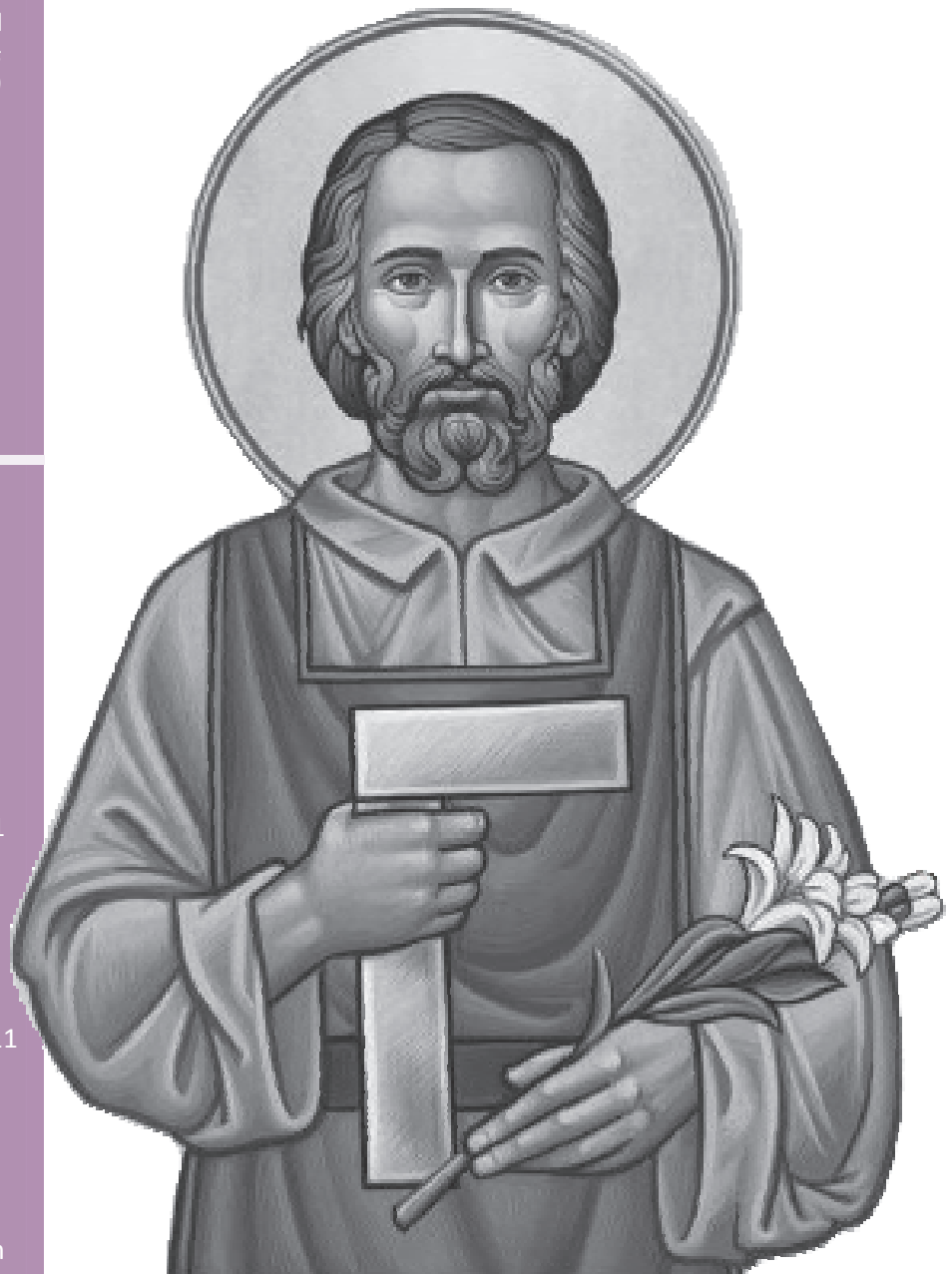
Saint Joseph

HILLSBOROUGH, NEW JERSEY

Priests

Prophets

Kings



December 5, 2021

INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- Mon. 8:35 AM Patricia & Arthur West
R/B Houle Family
- Tue. 8:35 AM Pat Cunning
R/B Pam Cunning
- 8:35AM E. David Clark.
R/B Bob & Susan Pristas
- 8:35AM John & Maria Caputo & Family (Living)
R/B Mary & Jeff Lawler

Immaculate Conception – Holy Day

- Tue. 5:00PM John Bodnar
R/B Lois & Ed Jerzewski
- Wed. 8:35AM Father Tom Triggs
R/B Betty & Joe Triggs
- 7:00PM Al Wund
R/B Paulette Matis
- Thu. 8:35AM Carol Ann Ettore Asimou
R/B Mary & Jeff Lawler
- Fri. 8:35AM Richard Gottlick
R/B Laura larkowski & Family
- 8:35AM Bobbi Rogalski
R/B Patty & John Rogalski
- Sat. 4:45AM John Penska
R/B Ann Latreille
- 4:45PM John Polites
R/B Carlene Thomson & Family
- Sun. 8:00 AM People of the Parish
- Sun. 9:30AM Florence Clark
R/B Bob & Susan Pristas
- 9:30AM James H. Smith
R/B Fr. Hank Hilton
- 9:30AM Owen Clarke
R/B Owen Clarke, Jr.
- Sun. 11:30AM Vincenza Lanza
R/B Cridge Family

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:10-18

Behind the Scenes: First Reading - Baruch 5:1-9
After years in exile, many Jews chose not to return to Israel and remained living in communities outside Jerusalem. Although separated from the Temple and the religious observances there, they remained faithful to the Law and Prophets. They gathered at their local synagogue to study these ancient writings and became known as the People of the Book. Eventually they wrote their own religious books which mainly focused on life outside Jerusalem, hope for the future and resisting pagan culture and religion. *Baruch* is one of these books

- Dorothy Gearon



UPDATED SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS MASSES

More details and any changes will be posted each week. Please continue to watch for these changes or details. Thank You.

Christmas Eve –

2:00 PM IN PARKING LOT
5:00 PM & 8:00PM IN CHURCH

Christmas Day –

8:00 AM & 9:30AM IN CHURCH
11:30AM – HYBRID This Mass will be celebrated indoors and will be broadcast on the parish radio station (88.7). People who have medical concerns about being indoors are welcome to stay in their cars, listen to the Mass, and receive Communion at the regular time.

HEALING PRAYER IN PERSON RETURNS TO CHURCH



*Beginning December 4 & 5 Healing Prayer will return to in person healing on the first weekend of each month. Virtual healing is closed.

*Healing Prayer will take place after all masses.

*Ministers will meet parishioners in front of the altar after mass.

*In keeping with COVID precautions, ministers will wear masks and remain 6-feet away from participants.

Our next Healing Sundays are
December 4 & 5
January 11 & 12
(We are skipping New Year's Weekend)
February 5 & 6

December 5, 2021



Dear All, Christ's peace!

This Moment in Prayer

The Book of Mass Intentions – Single Mass requests can be accommodated at any time for the recently deceased.

In-car at the 11:30 Mass – The 11:30 hybrid Mass has started. The Mass will be celebrated indoors and will be broadcast on the parish radio station (88.7). People who have medical concerns about being indoors are welcome to stay in their cars, listen to the Mass, and receive Communion at the regular time.

This Moment in Service

Who is better than you? – Call me biased, but I'm thinking the answer is "nobody." Consider the data.

Thanksgiving Food Collection – We were hoping for enough filled grocery bags to provide Thanksgiving dinners for 175 families. You have provided Thanksgiving dinners for 220 families.

Advent Giving Tree for Neighbors in Need – The ministry hoped parishioners would donate about 400 gift cards with a value of about \$10,000. You donated 513 cards with a value of \$14,005.

Advent Giving Tree for Families in Appalachia – The ministry put out 360 gift tags, hoping most would be taken. You took them all AND you have supplied an additional \$3,000 of gift cards.

Feeding Hands — Your response to the Ida rains has produced a gift of \$7,500 to Feeding Hands. They will use the money to buy an urgently needed van. Given the timing of our donation, it qualifies for a matching grant. Hence, you generated \$15,000 of help for Feeding Hands.

SHIP – Samaritan Homeless Interim Program – The floods cost them \$62,000. One of their biggest needs is for a new furnace (\$11k). Our parish gift of \$7,500 will help to keep them warm.

This Moment in Community

Veterans' Mass – Giant thanks and blessings to everyone who made the Veterans Celebration such

a great moment. Special thanks to the Columbiennes and to the many 7th and 8th grade CCD students who outdid themselves. Most of all, thanks to our veterans. Your parish appreciates your great service.

Trail Blazers – Thanks to the many people who overhauled the Prayer Path in preparation for the O Holy Nights' night of the Shepherd's Path. The path has never looked this beautiful.

Tree Movers – Thank you to the folks who volunteered to unload the 200 Christmas trees.

Online Giving Migration – The diocese upgraded the software that manages Online Giving. This transition, like too many others, has created difficulties for some users. Please check out your online giving system to make sure it is working properly. If not, email Monica McDevitt at mmcdevitt@stjosephsparish.com and she will square you away in no time flat. Sorry for the inconvenience. Thanks for your patience.

Keep Christ in Christmas Art Contest – Email Linda Mackiw at lmackiw@sjmillstone.com for more information about the "Keep Christ in Christmas" statewide art contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. A great chance for young people to think about Christmas's deeper meaning and to represent it artistically

With all best blessings for you and your loved ones as you head into the Advent Season.

Father Hank

IN MEMORIAM

Bette Oleksey, 80, sister of parishioner John Jorgensen, died.

Please pray for her eternal rest and for all who mourn her death.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY

On this feast we honor Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and we ponder the blessedness bestowed upon her as the Mother of God. We recognize Mary as full of grace, the model of motherhood, humble, willing to do whatever God asks of her. We also ponder how we are blessed through Mary, for in giving herself to be the mother of Jesus, Mary becomes the mother of us all.

December 5, 2021



CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES

Thanks in advance for helping. Last year, the pandemic got in the way of collecting donations for the Christmas flowers. This year, we have some catching up to do. The envelopes will be available from this weekend until New Years on the Moses Table and can be dropped in the collection baskets.

NEW PARISHIONER WELCOME AND ORIENTATION

The new parishioner welcome and orientation sessions are a great thing for those who have registered but not yet participated in a New Parishioner Welcome Session. If you missed the session, please watch for the dates of our future sessions.



SAGES ACTIVITIES

Drums Alive – Exercise Class:

Thursdays, through December 9, at 10 AM. No reservations required.

Winter Monday Fundays began on November 15 from 1:30- 3:30 PM in Parish Hall. Various activities including movies, poker, board games and mah-jong, etc.

Christmas Crafts – December 6– with Corks Plus, poker, mahjong, board games and other Christmas fun.

General Information: To learn more about SAGES and all options for our over-55 parishioners, visit our website at SAGES Senior Ministry <http://sjmillstone.com/sages>

For more info contact

AnnaMaria at 908-874-2141 e3xt 240 or

arealbuto@stjosephsparish.com

Preparing the Way for Christ

with Dr. Scott Hahn

December 14 at 7 PM

Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen

As part of the Diocese of Metuchen's 40th Anniversary celebration, the Diocese will welcome Dr. Scott Hahn to the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen, where he will present an evening on the Holy Season of Advent through the lens of evangelization. All are welcome to attend, though registration is required. Admission is free and donations are appreciated. **To learn more or to register, visit: diometuchen.org/40**



LECTIO DIVINA SCRIPTURE SHARING

You are invited to share scripture with a small group of people on Monday mornings 11-11:30AM. We reflect and share on the Gospel of that day. It is an investment of only one-half hour of your time, and we can assure you that the fruits of that one-half hour will be abundant.

Make a commitment for just one Monday, and if you like it, come back the next Monday. Start your week with prayer, community, and hope. We look forward to sharing this time with you!

Bring your bible with you!

Learn more about how to join this meeting by visiting: diometuchen.org/onechurchtogether

BULLETIN DEADLINE

We are back on schedule with paper bulletins. 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. Full page announcements must be submitted at least 3 weeks in advance and although we try our best, they are subject to space restrictions. Contact Dorothy at stjoebulletin@yahoo.com. Thank You.

December 5, 2021

O HOLY NIGHTS!



TAILGATE CAROLING

Sunday, December 5, 5 PM

Music, tailgate decorating contest, Tik Tok. Warm yourself by the fire drums.



SHEPHERD'S PATH

Sunday, December 12, 5 PM

Test Your Knowledge; Stroll the path and encounter our young shepherds.



LIVE NATIVITY

Sunday, December 19, 4 PM

Drive thru' and experience the true meaning of Christmas. **Registration Required.** The big finale presented by the youth group starts at 4:00 PM (so people who don't drive at night can visit). **Sign-up times will be required** and refreshments will flow.

All evenings will feature Christmas cookies and the World's Best St. Joe Cocoa.

Sunday, Dec 05, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In praise of community service

Consider him an early volunteer. John the Baptist preached and baptized through the countryside, preparing the community for the way, truth, and life about to open to them. He wasn't paid for these services, which is probably why his diet was locusts and honey, and his clothing coarse. Today on International Volunteer Day, we give thanks for all who helped their neighbors with grocery runs and check-ins during the long season of sickness. We can continue this spirit of social engagement: giving blood, organizing group clean-ups, shoveling a neighbor's sidewalk. Volunteering builds empathy!

TODAY'S READINGS: Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6 (6). "A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"

Monday, Dec 06, 2021

MEMORIAL OF NICHOLAS, BISHOP

The wonder of it all

Very little is known about the historical Saint Nicholas, but he evolved into a legendary figure so intertwined with Christmas, it's almost as if he were part of the Nativity story. The actual Nicholas lived 300 years after the birth of Jesus. Whether he secretly gave gifts to children or not, the spirit of his story is real. Centuries later as presents are wrapped in mystery and kept under the tree in anticipation, emotions of waiting for the Christ Child heighten as we ponder a miracle we can't fathom. Thank you, Saint Nicholas, for a tradition that helps incarnate our joy and wonder!

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26 (181). "We have seen incredible things today."

Tuesday, Dec 07, 2021

MEMORIAL OF AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Wage peace

Advent anticipates the Prince of Peace. But as we recall Pearl Harbor, Catholics also embrace a tradition that includes just war theory—sketched out by the likes of Saint Augustine, fleshed out by the likes of Saint Ambrose. King David "never waged war unless he was driven to it," Ambrose observed, illustrating that wars should be fought only as a last resort. Further, war should be waged selflessly—to help and protect others. War that "preserves one's country [or] defends the weak . . . is full of justice." Pray for those in the armed services who sacrifice and protect, and also pray for peace.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14 (182). "Comfort, give comfort to my people."

Wednesday, Dec 08, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (PATRONAL FEAST DAY OF THE U.S.A.)

A day of pure celebration

Today we celebrate the Immaculate Conception, the church's teaching that Mary was preserved from original sin from the moment of her conception. It is one of only two dogmas proclaimed infallibly by a pope. All of today's readings are related: They trace the tale back to the Fall, followed by a celebration of the "marvelous deeds" of God's salvation, culminating in the gospel reading of the Annunciation, where Mary learns she will bear a son who will reverse the curse of sin. Today, honor our Blessed

Mother and thank God for her preservation from sin so that she might bring Christ into the world.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689). ". . . he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him."

Thursday, Dec 09, 2021

MEMORIAL OF JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN

Be a witness to the miracle of God's love

We are told that Saint Juan Diego was undistinguished before he became the person to whom the Virgin Mary appeared at Tepeyac, Mexico in 1531. Juan Diego had an opportunity to open himself to God's grace—Mary's appearance and miracle. He responded in faith by listening to the Virgin and persistently communicating her message, even though as an indigenous person, his word was at first discounted. His part in the miracle at Tepeyac has had enduring impact by opening other indigenous and mestizo Mexicans to the gospel message, and by opening church leaders—albeit slowly, in fits and starts—to the message indigenous peoples have for the wider church. Are you ready to receive God's grace, as did Juan Diego?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15 (184). "Whoever has ears ought to hear."

Friday, Dec 10, 2021

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF LORETO

Jesus makes his presence known

Emmanuel, "God is with us," is our guiding truth. Christians find many ways to remind ourselves of God's Real Presence. Of course, the primary way is through the Eucharist. But shrines and relics are also a very Catholic way of pointing to the reality of Christ in our lives. Take for example the shrine of Our Lady of Loreto, which resides in Loreto, Italy, a small town on the Adriatic coast. It is there that the original home of Mary is said to have been moved, either by angels or more probably by a wealthy Italian merchant, after the late 13th-century siege of Jerusalem. At this shrine we can presumably touch the same stones that Jesus touched as a boy. What a remarkable reminder that the Word was made flesh and lived among us. Pray to Our Lady of Loreto for continued reminders of God's abiding presence.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185/689B). "The virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us!'"

Saturday, Dec 11, 2021

MEMORIAL OF DAMASUS I, POPE

By the book

By the fourth century of the Christian era there were 20 or so gospels floating around the early church communities along with the familiar four. Dozens of epistles existed in addition to the 21 we now recognize. It was today's saint, Pope Damasus I (c. 305–384), who presided over the Council of Rome in 382 that determined the canon, or official list, of the Bible. He also encouraged Saint Jerome to produce a translation of the existing Greek and Hebrew texts into Latin, the common language of the day. Inexpensive versions of the Catholic *New American Bible Revised Edition* make great Christmas gifts for friends and family looking to deepen their faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (186). "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

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



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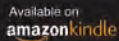


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K.J. Alexander

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To them, she's the queen who will save them all.

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