

WELCOME! You are invited to become a part of our parish family and an active member of parish life.

REGISTRATION

To enable us to better serve you, all parishioners are asked to register at the Parish Office. Family members over the age of 18 should register as individuals. To receive a letter of recommendation or a character reference you should be registered for at least three months.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

Please remember to put all pagers and cell phones on **SILENT ALERT** before Mass begins. Please be sure to extinguish all cigarettes and use the ashtrays on either side of the plaza. Smoking is not permitted in the church.

THANK YOU!

MEMORIALS


The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** may be lighted for a week at a time in memory of a loved one or for a special intention. The **EUCCHARISTIC BREAD & WINE** may be provided for a week at a time in memory of a loved one or for a special intention. Please call the parish office for more information.

“Whatever you do, do from the heart, as for the Lord... knowing that you will receive from the Lord the due payment.”

Sick Relatives and Friends...

Helen Lanigan, John Ryan, John Carroll, John Wortman, Imelda Manalo, Victoria Stewart; Nobuko Mitsui, Anna Cornell, Beth Kreckman, Terrance Stephen, Dorthy Glenn, Ann Marie Siwick, Mary Louise Bogert, Clara Suarez, Dr. Barbara Wheeler, Milly Margetis, John Boyle, Michael David McMahan, William Boley, Janet Schutt, Rose Gentile, Robert Baljak, John Farley, Karen Zaborny, Mary Ann Osmulski, Linda Obertz, Jean Barry, and all those in hospitals, sick at home and in nursing homes; may they always be assured of our prayers.

Names may be placed on this list for a four-week period and will be removed after that time unless a call is received to request a continuation. Please keep in mind that we pray for all the sick every day in the General Intercessions of the Mass.



IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE...

Let us remember all our departed brothers and sisters, *especially Gladys Santacross, Harold Speakman, Rev. Msgr. Anthony J. Luisini (pastor of St. Mary Church in Alpha)* asking God through our prayers to reward them as only He can with Light, Happiness and Eternal Peace.



The Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the fourth Sunday of every month after the 11:30 AM Mass. Benediction will be at 2 PM

Nocturnal Adoration is on **First Fridays** from 8 to 9 PM.

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION that can provide spiritual benefits to you throughout the year is to attend the monthly **NOCTURNAL ADORATION** beginning at 8 PM in the church on every First Friday of the month. In 2005 we begin on Friday, January 7th. Join us then and continue to participate for the full year in this one hour of active devotional prayer.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS NEWS

ANNUAL DO-WOP NIGHT:

Saturday, January 29th, from 7 PM to midnight in Lourdes Hall. \$27.50 per person includes buffet, beer, soda, set-ups (BYOB) and music by Jersey Gold. Tickets go on sale January 4th and will then be available Tuesday and Friday



nights at St. Cecelia School gym from 7-9 PM. Contact Rich McLellan at 732-382-9106.

EVENTS AROUND THE DIOCESE

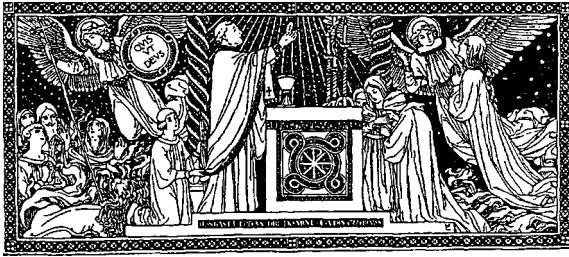
A CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS will be held on Wednesday, January 12th, at 7:30 PM in St. Bernadette Church, Villanova and Princeton Roads, Parlin. Rev. Jim Hagerman will preside.

The ANNUAL RESPECT LIFE MASS will be held on Sunday, January 16th, at 12 noon at St. Francis Cathedral in Metuchen. Bishop Paul Bootkoski will present this year's PRO VITA awards at that time, and a reception will be held in the community room immediately following the Mass.

MARCH FOR LIFE in Washington DC will be held on Monday, January 24th. Please watch the bulletin for more information.

RETROUVAILLE, a Diocese-sponsored program for troubled marriages, will begin the weekend of February 4th through 6th. It consists of a weekend experience for couples (no group discussions) and six follow-up sessions. For more information, call the Family Life Office (732-562-1990 ext 1624) or Rich & Annette Colasuonno (732-679-8256).

2004 YEAR-END CHARITABLE GIFT GIVING: As you consider your year-end tax planning, please consider making use of the income tax charitable deduction. A gift to the Diocese of Metuchen can significantly reduce your income taxes while providing meaningful support to the numerous ministries that are vital to the physical, spiritual, and emotional health of our Church. Gifts may be send to the Diocese of Metuchen, PO Box 4000, Metuchen NJ 08840-4000.



MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, December 27th: St. John the Apostle

7:00 AM Mary E. Baratta req Family
 9:15 AM Helen Musanti req Family
 *1:00 PM NO MASS

TUESDAY, December 28th: The Holy Innocents

7:00 AM Gabe Tornillo req Susan
 9:15 AM Frank Carniglia req Family

WEDNESDAY, December 29th: St. Thomas Becket

7:00 AM Sharon Cadigan req Andrew & Joann Reiley
 9:15 AM John Czajkowski req Family

THURSDAY, December 30th:

Sixth Day in Octave of Christmas

7:00 AM Beatrice Astorina
 req Helen McGinness & Family
 9:15 AM Virginia Laffey req Husband Thomas

FRIDAY, December 31st: St. Sylvester I

7:00 AM Patricia Stravetsch req Murphy Family
 9:15 AM Matthew M. Gornic
 req Mr. & Mrs. Nick DiCapua
 ** 2:00 PM NO MASS

SATURDAY, January 1st, 2005:

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

8:00 AM Petronilo Recondo req Maria Palang & Family
 4:30 PM John Cornell, Sr., req Wife & Children

SUNDAY, January 2nd:

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7:00 AM Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
 8:30 AM M/M John Kuchna & Daughter Gerri
 req Estate of John Kuchna, G. Kuchna, exec.
 10:00 AM Carolyn Madej req Family
 11:30 AM Joseph Fragoso req Bob & Pat Lane
 5:00 PM Dennis Mackie req Family

*MASS CELEBRATED AT VETERANS HOME

**MASS CELEBRATED AT ROOSEVELT CARE CENTER

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE:

VETERANS HOME: Monday, January 3rd
 1:00 PM Special Intention of Wayne Wallace
 req Mom Claire

ROOSEVELT CARE CENTER: Friday, January 7th
 2:00 PM Special Intentions of Judy Cerria
 req Lou & Margaret Truppa



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** will burn this week
IN MEMORY OF PETRONILO RECONDO
 requested by Maria Palang



The **EUCCHARISTIC BREAD & WINE** this week is
IN MEMORY OF MARY & MICHAEL PUGLIESE
 requested by Family

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5 -- 2:2; Mt 2:13-18
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
 Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
 Saturday: Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
 Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12



Last Sunday our faithful stewards gave: \$13,707.94
Last year at this time: \$17,070.90

Bishop's Annual Appeal (to 12/10/04): \$72,144.37
 This is 74.53% of our goal

*"Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works,
 to be generous, ready to share"(1 Tim 6:17-19).*



The Holy Family by Bartolome Esteban Murillo

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On this Holy Family Sunday, we are reminded of our membership in many diverse “families” - our nuclear family, our families-by-choice (*all those “honorary” relatives!*), our parish family, the diocesan and global family of our Holy Catholic Church... the list goes on and on! Whenever the word is used, we imagine an ideal. We imagine warmth and love and generosity. We all want this to be the story of our family of origin. We all want the families we found to be these centers of mutual love and responsibility. We all know what we want, what we long for, what we hope and pray to build. This is a good start.

The first reading is an admonishment to children regarding respect for their parents. The reading comes from the book of Sirach, which was penned about two hundred years prior to the birth of Christ. It is something of a how-to book for young men being groomed for leadership in Israel. Its instructions are far more than an ancient version of “Miss Manners.” Instead, Sirach seeks to teach behaviors that manifest concern, self-giving, sincerity, responsibility, and generosity. These are habits or virtues of being; they are qualities of soul, without which all manners become phony and manipulative. As with all habits of mind and soul, they require day-to-day vigilance and upkeep.

The second reading continues this delineation of family virtues. However, Paul does not directly address families until the end of this reading. Rather, he concerns himself with the social virtues needed for a decent—even wonderful—human life outside and inside the walls of the family home. All that can be said of the social virtues of public life, can also be applied to the family.

In this letter, Paul addresses the church at Colossae. We expect churches to reflect the virtues he names: mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness, and the love that binds these together. Paul also urges that the practice of these virtues be buoyed up by the difficult work of admonishment and instruction. The life within the “family of the church” should also be marked by gratitude. And lastly, there ought to be a lot of singing. And it ought to be the real heartfelt, joyous kind. Not a bad description of a responsible family, nor of a family-like community!

We are grateful for all the members of our Parish Family of St. Cecelia. We look forward to singing joyously with you, not only in this Christmas season but throughout the coming year. May God bless you as you strive to build that “feeling of family” here at the house of God!

Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col 3:17)



Diocese of Metuchen 2005 Marriage Seminars

at the St. John Neumann Diocesan Center, Metlars Lane, Piscataway

Presented by David Hajduk, M.A., Campus Minister for the Delbarton School in Morristown, these seminars are based on the teachings of Pope John Paul II. Each session offers a light supper at 6 PM; the presentation itself begins at 7 PM. The fee per person for each session is \$10 (including supper) or \$8 (presentation only). To register, mail your check (payable to Diocese of Metuchen) to the Family Life Office/Diocese of Metuchen, St. John Neumann Diocesan Center, PO Box 191, Metuchen NJ 00840. For additional information, call 732-562-1990 x 1624 or e-mail jpsota@diometuchen.org.

Thursday, January 13th: It All Begins at the Beginning

In the beginning of all things lies the root, the purpose, and the potential. Learn from Jesus and the Holy Father just what “the beginning” means for love, sex, marriage, and family life.

Thursday, February 10th: A Model Marriage

Love is the meaning of life and the greatest longing of the human heart. Jesus not only teaches us the true meaning of love, but by giving Himself for the Church He provides the model for Christian marriage. This seminar ponders the meaning of love and marriage and explains how the Sacrament of Marriage empowers Christian spouses to love one another as Jesus loves.

Thursday, March 10th: The “Truth” About Body Language!

Sex is the language of love, the language of communion, spoken not simply with words but with the body. Expressed between a man and a woman in marriage, sex is the language of God’s love - given freely, totally, faithfully, and fruitfully for the life of the couple, the individual, and the family. This session reflects on the power of the sexual union to fulfill and renew the sacramental vows of marriage.



REMINDER TO ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS: There are no classes on December 27th. Classes resume on Monday, January 3rd. Have a very blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year!

CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

January 3rd: 3:55 PM Class 3-1
6:45 PM Class 7-1
8:30 PM Class 8-4

Parents/Guardians are welcome to go to confession after the designated class. **PLEASE NOTE:** the class will be dismissed from the church.

*The mind of Christ is to be learned in the family.
Strength of character may be acquired at work,
but beauty of character is learned at home.*

~ Henry Drummond

The **HOLY NAME SOCIETY** will hold its first meeting of the New Year on Sunday, January 9th, after the 8:30 AM Mass. Immediately following the Mass, there will be brief prayers in the church for the canonization of our founder, Blessed John Vercelli. Then there will be a short meeting in school room 101. All adults are invited and welcome to join us for the prayers and the meeting.

J4F: Wishing our entire parish family a very blessed and merry Christmas! And I'll see all of our wonderful group members on Wednesday, January 12th, 2005 for our first Adult Group meeting of the year at 7:30 PM in the church conference room. For more information contact Denise Valdes, 732-754-8876.

YOUTH GROUP: Thank you for a terrific retreat weekend last week. I hope everyone enjoyed a merry Christmas and has a wonderful new year. **PARENTS:** final payment for the ski trip is due on Sunday, January 9th, at the meeting. I hope to see everyone then.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY: It was great to see all of you last week. If you have not received a calendar of young adult activities, please call the office (732-381-0008) with your new address. Our next meeting is January 5th in the office of young adult ministry - can't wait to see you then. May God continue to bless you on your journey.



"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do." This instruction applies whether our interactions are with family or friends, colleagues or strangers! People who know us certainly know how to "push our buttons" and we ourselves are often less tolerant of the actions of those we love. Today's readings remind us of our responsibilities: "...take care of your father [parent]...grieve him not..."; "put on...heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience..." toward one another. Perhaps our responsibilities extend as far as relocating our entire households - as Joseph did, in moving the Holy Family to Egypt to protect the child in his care, and as refugee families do today. As members not only of our nuclear family, but of our parish and global families as well, let us seek ways to strengthen the bonds of family, remembering that in the final analysis we are all God's children.

Stewardship & Spotlight
shines on:

ALL OF YOU WHO GIVE SUPPORT TO OUR SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRIES

To All,

The Social Ministry Office would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continued support and generosity - not just at Christmas but throughout the year.

Your generosity, whether great or small, is significant to those in need. Food on the table, a warm home, or a roof overhead are all made possible because of you.

We extend a special thanks to all who participated in Giving Tree 2004 and especially in Adopt-A-Family.

May God bless you and your families, and best wishes for a glorious Christmas season.

Sincerely,

Sister Joan Marie and the Social Ministry Office

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If you'd like to share your time and talent with this or any of our parish's many opportunities for stewardship - or there's an idea that you'd like to present - please fill out and return this coupon to the Parish Office or call the office and leave your name and number.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

e-mail/ALT. PHONE: _____

Please contact me about: _____

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE...

...events taking place on our Parish campus - the school, the church, or the hall.

Monday, December 27, 2004		
	Parish office closed	
7:15-8:15 PM	Families of Nazareth (small faith community)	Conference room
Tuesday, December 28, 2004		
10 AM	Legion of Mary	Conference room
11 AM	Bingo	Lourdes Hall
Wednesday, December 29, 2004		
7-9 PM	AA, AI-Anon, STEP	Rms 103, 105, Fatima Hall
Thursday, December 30, 2004		
7-9 PM	Faith & Hope Sharing	Chapel
7:30-9 PM	Faith Sharing Through Scripture (Bible Study)	Rm 103
Friday, December 31, 2004		
	New Year's Eve	
	Parish office closed	
Saturday, January 1, 2005		
	New Year's Day	
Sunday, January 2, 2005		
4:15 pm	Chaplet of Divine Mercy	Church

Please note that meetings may be subject to change or cancellation.

BULLETIN E-MAIL ADDRESS: stceceliabulletin@yahoo.com.

Deadline for information is Monday evenings by 9 PM; thank you for your cooperation.

THE SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM: Please contact the Parish Office for all information and to make arrangements. Pre-Baptismal Preparation Class is required.

MARRIAGE: Make arrangements *one year* in advance of the proposed wedding date. One party must be a parishioner. Participation in a Pre-Marriage Preparation Program is required; call the Parish Office.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK OR HOMEBOUND: Urgent sick calls at any time; contact the Parish Office. Regular communion calls to the sick, aged or homebound should be arranged in advance through the Social Concerns Office.

EDUCATION

ST. CECELIA'S SCHOOL

Phone: 732-283-2824

MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITED



Served by the Religious Teachers Filippini, the mission of St. Cecelia School is to form the heart, mind and spirit of its students according to Gospel values, ever aware of the unique, God-given gifts within each child.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Phone: 732-283-2816

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: 8:30 AM-8:30 PM

Tuesday through Thursday: 8:30 AM-2:30 PM

Friday: 8:30 AM-1:30 PM

CLASSES for grammar school students are held on Mondays at 3:00, 5:45 & 7:25 PM.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS for the continuing religious education of adults are held periodically throughout the year.

R.C.I.A.: For information about becoming a Roman Catholic, contact the Parish Office.

DEVOTIONS

NOVENA to St. Jude and Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal after 8 AM Mass on Saturday

CHAPLET of DIVINE MERCY Sunday 4:15 PM.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION 4th Sunday after 11:30 AM Mass; Benediction at 2PM.

NOCTURNAL ADORATION every First Friday from 8 to 9 PM.

SOCIETIES/ORGANIZATIONS

BIBLE STUDY (Faith Sharing Through Scripture):

Thursdays 7:30 PM, Faculty Room

CELEBRATE LIFE COMMITTEE:

New members always welcome.

FAMILIES OF NAZARETH MOVEMENT:

Mondays, 7:15-8:15 PM in the Conference room.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY:

2nd Sunday after the 8:30 AM Mass, Room 101

J4F - *Just 4 Fun*:

2nd Wednesdays in Room 101; ages 21-35

KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS:

2ND & 4TH Thursdays; Membership: call Dan Neroda 732-283-0290

LEGION OF MARY:

Tuesdays at 10 AM in the Church Conf. Rm.

ROSARY/ALTAR SOCIETY:

1st Monday after the 1st Sunday after

7 PM Mass

SENIOR CITIZENS:

2nd and 4th Monday of the month,

12:30 PM in Lourdes Hall

GIFT SHOP HOURS:

Phone 732-283-1775

Tues/Weds/Thurs 10 AM to 2 PM

Saturday 2 PM to 6 PM

Sunday 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Monday and Friday CLOSED

Holiday Bulletin Deadlines:

Information for this bulletin was due by **Friday, December 17th**.

Information for Epiphany (January 2nd) was due by **Friday, December 24th**.

Thank you to all who remembered!



K of C COUNCIL 3639 CELEBRATES NEW YEAR'S EVE with a bus trip to Caesar's in Atlantic City. \$32 per person includes a cocktail party at the Knights Hall at 5 PM, and the bus will leave at 6 PM sharp from the K of C parking lot. For more information call Bill Schmatz, 732-225-2078.

Parish Office Schedule for the Holiday Week:

Monday, December 27th: Office closed, day and evening

Tuesday, December 28th: Office reopens

Thursday, December 30th: No evening office hours

Friday, December 31st: Office closed

Monday, January 3rd: Office reopens

FAMILIES OF NAZARETH FAITH-SHARING GROUP: "Everything that you experience is linked with love of God, who loves you, and with His desire for your good... After every fall, remember that He is waiting. When you return and ask His forgiveness, you bring Him joy because you allow Him to love you through forgiveness." For more information, Contact bzmak@comcast.net.