

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



Nativity of Our Lord
Monroe Township, New Jersey

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday December 30th

Sixth day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:30 a.m. Harold & Jewel Augstine by Daughter, Lillian

Tuesday December 31st

Seventh day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:30 a.m. James Nicoletti by Lynn Nicoletti

4:00 p.m. Joseph & Patricia Romanella by Angie Romanella

Wednesday January 1st

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

9:00 a.m. Leonor Kohan by Oscar Castellanos

Thursday January 2nd

St. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors

8:30 a.m. Ann Pecoraro by Daughter Margo

Friday January 3rd

Holy Name of Jesus

8:30 a.m. Purgatorial

Saturday January 4th

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

4:00 p.m. Dorothy Kopil by Ed Kopil

Sunday January 5th

Epiphany of the Lord

7:30 a.m. Souls in Purgatory by St. Padre Pio

9:00 a.m. Edward Lobo by Clem Lobo and Family

11:00 a.m. Mauro Guida by Vita Maria Guida and Children

The Collections for the Weekend of December 22 will be announced in the next bulletin.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING!



CANDLE OFFERING

Sanctuary: Grace & Emilio , Josephine Memoli Lugia Notari by Esther Wolff

BVM: Ron D'Angelo by By Family

St. Joseph: Anna & John Wolff by Esther Wolff

St. Jude: Elizabeth Ruiz by Elizabeth Bell

St. Anthony: Anthony Tacopino by Cherie Tacopino

St. Theresa: Frank Pisciotta by Joseph & Theresa Atanasio

Padre Pio: James Nicoletti by Lynn Nicoletti

Sacred Heart: Anna & Louis Gaboro by Esther Wolff

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Holy Family of Jesus

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Lk 2:41-52 or, in Year C, 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

Monday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

Wednesday: Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

First Friday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34

First Saturday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42

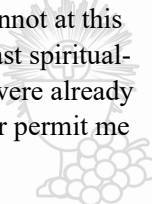
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STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” (1 JOHN 3:1)

During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received – being children of God! As God’s children, it’s in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

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Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this time receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritual-ly into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.



HIS WORD TODAY

BY REV. WILLIAM J. REILLY

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON

THE SUNDAY READINGS

“Because you are God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another, forgive whatever grievance you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. Over all these virtues put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect. Christ’s peace must reign in your hearts... Dedicate yourself to thankfulness. Let the word of Christ rich as it is, dwell in you.”

As we will hear much talk about New Year’s resolutions, which often fall on deaf ears or are easily forgotten, reread the recommendation of Saint Paul. Did you know that these virtues are gifts you have been given, but are to be shared? Did you know that you need not spend one penny to possess and give them to others? Did you know that you cannot get them online, or go out to purchase them?

These gifts and virtues we all possess, but sometimes we overlook them. Examine your conscience and conduct to see where they are, and begin the new year aware that you are the chosen to which Paul refers. They are the fruits of the Spirit he mentions in Galatians. Unwrap these gifts and make sure to share them with others. What a New Year’s treat!



CHRISTMAS 2024 SCHEDULE

NEW YEAR’S EVE MASS

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

4:00PM

Mass will be live streamed

NEW YEAR’S DAY

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

9:00AM

Mass will be live streamed



Parish Calendar

Dec. 29 (Sun)	Catechumenate and/or Mystagogy and/or Adult Confirmation C. 1 & 11
Dec. 30 (Mon)	Parish Office Closed
	Inquiry or Adult Confirmation 6:00 pm—7:30pm RR
Dec. 31 (Tue)	Parish Office Closed
	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Vigil 4:00pm Mass
	K of C Assembly New Year's Eve Party 6pm -1am Hall
Jan. 1 (Wed)	Parish Office Closed
	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God 9:00am Mass
	New Year’s Day
Jan. 2 (Thu)	Choir Practice 7:30pm Church
Jan. 3 (Fri)	First Friday & Adoration
	Purgatorial Mass 8:30am Church
Jan. 4 (Sat)	Children Liturgy 4:00pm RR
Jan. 5 (Sun)	Catechumenate and/or Mystagogy and/or Adult Confirmation C. 1 & 11
	Choir’s New Year’s Epiphany Party 1:00pm Hall
	Hospitality Sunday After all Masses
	Children Liturgy 11:00am RR
Jan. 6 (Mon)	K of C Meeting 6:30pm Hall
	Inquiry or Adult Confirmation 6:00pm—7:30pm RR

Ministries

St. Vincent DePaul – If you are experiencing financial hardship due to a temporary loss of employment, illness, or disability, the St. Vincent de Paul Society is available to aid with your everyday needs such as food, utility assistance, or agency referrals. Please dial the parish number 609-371-0499, then press 4, and leave a message with your name and phone number. Someone will return your call. All calls are handled in strict confidence.

Homebound Ministries - Eucharist Ministers bring communion to the homes of those who are unable to attend Mass due to illness or other circumstances. Please call **Marge Nadolny** at **609-409-6164** or email **margen21@comcast.net**.

Helping Hands: We help parishioners with small household tasks such as changing smoke detector batteries, lightbulbs, opening & closing vents, etc. If you need assistance, please call Esther Wolff at 732-521-6019 for more information

Giving Tree: Thank you for your amazing generosity! Thank you to all those who adopted families and those who contributed gift cards and money. We were able to help over 20 local families with over 60 children, a group home and poinsettias to our homebound parishioners. We are still busy packing and will be delivering gifts this week.

Thanksgiving Food Collection: Thank you so much for your generosity! We provided overflowing bags to our local families in need complete with turkeys and a pie. Thank you also to the religious education families for their generosity and the Companions of Pauline for their help preparing the bags. Thank you also to Bill Tronolone for his help moving all the food. We also were able to bring a large carload of food and turkeys to a local church where they were making baskets for 500 families.



Remembering in Prayer

Kindly contact the office if you know of a parishioner who is sick, having surgery or in need of pastoral care. We would like to remember them in our prayers and care for their spiritual needs.

Initiation Ministry



Families aren't perfect – but there is grace offered to all as children of God. Grace to “put on” heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience and forgiveness – loving one another in imitation of the love Mary, Joseph and Jesus showed to one another. Today's feast is an invitation to cooperate with that grace – to allow the love of God to permeate the family we have – whether it is of blood or choice. Then others will want what we have – the joy that comes from being a child of God. If you are unbaptized, baptized into another Christian denomination, or baptized Catholic but have never received BOTH sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, you are invited to learn more through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). For information, contact **JoLynn Krempecki** at **732-690-2610** (**jolynnkrempecki@msn.com**).



New Homeschool Ministry

All parents of Homeschool Families are cordially invited to attend the inaugural meeting for the new Diocesan Homeschool Ministry.

The event will take place on January 14, 2025 from 6:30 -8:30 pm at St. Theodore RC Church at 855 Route 57, Port Murray, NJ.

Please come to hear about the ministry vision and a presentation on “Franciscan at Home” which is a free catechetical resource.

For more information about this event contact **Fr. Gilbert Starcher** at **gstarcher@diometuchen.org**



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Nativity of Our Lord**



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2025 Choices Matter Conference

The Diocese of Metuchen's Office of Human Life and Dignity presents "The 2025 Choices Matter Conference – A Critical Life Issues Conference" which will be held at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center in Piscataway on **Saturday, March 29, 2025**. An Opening Mass will be celebrated by Bishop James Checchio at 9:00 AM and the conference will begin at 10:15 AM and end at 3:30 pm. This year's theme is "Choose Hope – A Path to Mental Wellness." The topics/expert speakers are:

- **The Pain is Real but so is Hope:** Deacon Ed Shoener
- **Mental Health as a Pro-Life Issue:** Erin McCole Cupp
- **The Light in Our Darkness:** Lisa Kratz Thomas
- **The Road to Hope** – Responding to the Crisis of Addiction: Keaton Douglas

General registration is \$35 and student registration is \$15. The conference features Eucharistic Adoration, exhibits and more. The fee includes lunch and handouts. To register visit: <https://www.diometuchen.org/choicesmatter>. Everyone is welcome! For questions or for more information please email amarshall@diometuchen.org or call 732-562-1543. Seating is limited.

Eucharistic Ministers Needed for The Gardens At Monroe

- 1) We are in need of additional Eucharistic Ministers to visit Catholic residents at the Gardens (next door to church) to distribute Holy Communion each Sunday. EMs arrive at about 10AM and visit the residents (list provided each week) in their rooms. This takes about 30-40 minutes. We have a few teams so that an EM would visit residents about every third or fourth Sunday. I will arrange for you to shadow an EM currently doing this for training.
 - 2) We also need EMs to lead a Eucharistic Service at the Gardens about once each month. This involves bringing some materials (missal, communion, Prayer of the Faithful) and reading most of the prayers of the mass and distributing Communion to residents gathered in the Activities Room at the Gardens. Again, I will arrange for you to shadow and EM currently doing this.
 - 3) Lastly, I need someone to replace me to do the quarterly schedule of EM assignments, recruit new EMs and be the contact person for the Gardens and EMs when needed. I have been doing this for nearly 30 years and it's time I handed this off to another parishioner.
- If interested in assisting in this ministry in any of these roles, please contact **Deacon John Shelton** at email: [spmucucc@aol.com](mailto:spmcucc@aol.com) and put "GARDENS" as the subject.

PRAYER SHAWL

Our next Prayer shawl meeting will be January 14, 2025. We meet the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. We have knitters and ladies who crochet. Our door is always open for new crafters. Anyone interested or in need of a shawl for friend or neighbor is welcome to call **Liz Coulston 732-561-4139**.

Rosary for Life – January 24, 2025

Come Pray a Rosary for Life (in solidarity with those at the March for Life in Washington, DC and across the country). Bishop Checchio is scheduled to attend! Friday, January 24, 2025 at 1:00 pm on Main Street in Woodbridge. Park and meet in the St. James Parish parking lot at 12:45 pm (369 Amboy Ave, Woodbridge, NJ) There is a 12:10 pm daily Mass at St. James for those who wish to attend. For more information, contact amarshall@diometuchen.org or call 732-562-1543.



PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

(From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

On New Year's Eve or New Year's Day, the household gathers at the table or at the Christmas tree or manger scene. Many people make New Year's Day a day of prayer for peace.

All make the sign of the cross. The leader begins:

*Let us praise the Lord of days and seasons and years,
saying: Glory to God in the highest!*

R/. And peace to his people on earth!

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing:

Our lives are made of days and nights, of seasons and years, for we are part of a universe of suns and moons and planets. We mark ends and we make beginnings and, in all, we praise God for the grace and mercy that fill our days.

Then the Scripture is read, Book of Genesis 1:14-19:

Listen to the words of the Book of Genesis:

God said: "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth." And so it happened: God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night; and he made the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day.

(The family's Bible may be used for an alternate reading such as Psalm 90:1-4.)

Reader: *The Word of the Lord.*

R/. Thanks be to God.

After a time of silence, members of the household offer prayers of thanksgiving for the past year, and of intercession for the year to come. On January 1, it may be appropriate to conclude these prayers with the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (in Part VII: Litanies) since this is the solemn feast of Mary, Mother of God. In conclusion, all join hands for the Lord's Prayer. Then the leader continues:

Let us now pray for God's blessing in the new year.

After a short silence, parents may place their hands on their children in blessing as the leader says:

Remember us, O God;

from age to age be our comforter.

*You have given us the wonder of time,
blessings in days and nights, seasons and years.*

*Bless your children at the turning of the year
and fill the months ahead with the bright hope
that is ours in the coming of Christ.*

You are our God, living and reigning, forever and ever.

R/. Amen.

Another prayer for peace may be said:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

R/. Amen.

—Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

The leader says:

Let us bless the Lord.

All respond, making the sign of the cross:

Thanks be to God.

The prayer may conclude with the singing of a Christmas carol.



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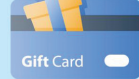
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