

Love

FOR GOD SO
LOVED THE
WORLD THAT
HE GAVE HIS
ONE AND
ONLY SON...

- JOHN 3:16



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Nativity of Our Lord

Monroe Township, New Jersey

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 22, 2024

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday December 23rd

**Late Advent Weekday - St. John of
Kanty, Priest**

8:30 a.m. Joe Gualtieri by Mike & Roberta
Salinger

Tuesday December 24th

Christmas Eve

8:30 a.m. Rachel Volpe by Her Mom Mary
Marchetti

4:00 p.m. Thomas Lynch by Wife Joanne Lynch

Midnight People of the Parish

Wednesday December 25th

Nativity of our Lord

8:00 a.m. Henry Howard by Michele Deworsop

10:00 a.m. Donato & Kilpatrick Families by Rita
Kilpatrick

Thursday December 26th

St. Stephen, First Martyr

8:30 a.m. Patrick Codd & Christine Riley by
Catherine Codd

Friday December 27th

St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

8:30 a.m. Joe Gualtieri by Susan Yates

Saturday December 28th

Holy Innocents, Martyrs

4:00 p.m. Joseph Caravella by John & Nancy
Panarello & Family

Sunday December 29th

Holy Family of Jesus

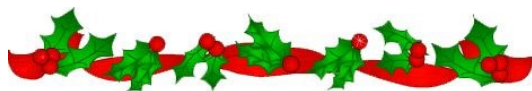
7:30 a.m. Deceased Members of the Keegan
Family by Kathleen M. Keegan

9:00 a.m. Josephine McGeough by Susan Yates

11:00 a.m. Dennis Family and Bertrand by Deacon
John & Lucy

**The Collections for the Weekend of
December 15 - \$16,655**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



CANDLE OFFERING

Sanctuary: Passalacqua & LaGrego Families by Josephine LaGrego

BVM: Mary Iorio by Bunny & Bob Reddington

St. Joseph: Falcinelli Family by Esther Wolff

Bl. Pauline: Bacskay Family by Esther Wolff

St. Jude: Joseph & Mary Memoli by Esther Wolff

St. Anthony: Richard Wolff by Esther Wolff

St. Theresa: Theresa Graul by Doug Graul & Family

Padre Pio: Maryellen Special Intension by Angie Romanella

Sacred Heart: Charlotte Casey by The Children & Grandchildren

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday; Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16;
Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

“For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy.” (LUKE 1:44)

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you “leap for joy?” If not, don’t blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

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.



CHRISTMAS 2024 SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24, 2024
4:00pm and midnight
Masses are all live streamed

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25, 2024
8:00AM and 10:00AM
Masses are all live streamed

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



Opening Mass for the Holy Year 2025

Pope Francis has declared 2025 to be a Holy Year of Jubilee for the Catholic Church, an event that takes place once every 25 years. Bishop James F. Checchio, in union with his brother Bishops around the world, will celebrate the Opening Mass for the Holy Year 2025 on the **Solemnity of the Holy Family, Saturday, December 28 at 5 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Francis of Assisi in Metuchen, NJ.** All are welcome; no ticket required.

Parish Calendar

Dec. 22 (Sun)	Catechumenate and/or Mystagogy and/or Adult Confirmation C. 1 & 11
Dec. 23 (Mon)	Inquiry or Adult Confirmation 6:00 pm—7:30 pm RR
Dec. 24 (Tue)	Parish Office Closed
	Christmas Eve Mass 4:00 pm Church
	Christmas Eve Midnight Mass
Dec. 25 (Wed)	Parish Office Closed
	Christmas Day Mass 8:00 am & 10:00 am Church
	Simbang Gabi Fellowship 7:00 pm Hall
Dec. 26 (Thu)	Parish Office Closed
Dec. 27 (Fri)	Parish Office Closed
Dec. 29 (Tue)	Catechumenate and/or Mystagogy and/or Adult Confirmation C. 1 & 11
Dec. 30 (Wed)	Parish Office Closed
	Inquiry or Adult Confirmation 6:00 pm—7:30 pm RR
Dec. 31 (Thu)	Parish Office Closed
	Vigil for Mother of God 4:00 pm Mass
	K of C Assembly New Year's Eve Party 6pm -1am Hall
Jan. 1 (Wed)	Parish Office Closed
	Feast of the Mother of God - Mass - 9:00 am
	New Year's Day

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**.

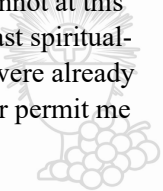
Helping Hands: We help parishioners with small household tasks such as changing smoke detector batteries, lightbulbs, opening & closing vents, etc. If you need assistance, please call Esther Wolff at 732-521-6019 for more information

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.

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 spiritually 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.



Initiation Ministry



*Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face
and we shall be saved.*

Ps. 80

Through the Holy Spirit and the cooperation of the Virgin Mary, the Son of God became man – took on flesh – had a face. That holy face continues to smile on us with love. We are ever in His gaze and never out of His sight. Through the incarnation – the life, death and resurrection – of Jesus we are saved. As Catholic Christians we know this. In awe, we ask how this could possibly be, and at the same time, we believe. The immense hope given by this belief is a rock upon which we stand. There are some in our lives who need to know this face, stand on this rock, grasp this hope. Share your faith with someone who might benefit from the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). Those who are unbaptized, baptized into another Christian denomination, or baptized Catholic but have never received BOTH sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist are all welcome to explore the Catholic faith through the OCIA. For information, contact **JoLynn Krempecki** at **732-690-2610** (**jolynnkrempecki@msn.com**).

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**.

Junior Youth Group

Several Junior Youth Group (JYG) members visited an assisted living and brought so much joy to the residents. The kids did two crafts with the residents, a name that tune game and a trivia game. Christ's love was on full display in the way the kids interacted with the residents as well as in the smiles and laughter of the residents. It was a pleasure to see memory impaired residents engaged and clapping their hands, swaying and singing along to music. The kids were amazing, and a good time was had by all! If your child is interested in participating in JYG events, please contact **Christine Carneiro** at crlcesq@gmail.com.



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** .

St James & 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.



A Christmas Message from our Pastor

Dear Nativity Family,

Merry Christmas!

We are about to celebrate Christmas, the great mystery of the Word made flesh—Jesus Christ, who entered the world to bring us peace, hope, and salvation. The Infancy Narrative of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke tells us that the Savior was born in an insignificant place. This Good News was first announced to a group of shepherds by an angel.

Shepherds were economically important and symbolically valued in the Bible, yet they were socially marginalized during the time of Jesus. However, they heard the angel's proclamation on that first Christmas night:

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord." (Luke 2:10-12).

The birth of Jesus reveals how uniquely God acts. God always chooses the humble to be the instruments of His message. Even amidst the chaos of that night, God's gift of love was visible to those to whom He chose to reveal it.

We are the chosen people of God, to whom He reveals His Good News. God's gift of love becomes tangible in the Eucharist. As the shepherds received the Good News and the Savior, we too are in a privileged position like them, each time we come to the Holy Eucharist.

How do we allow this gift of God to remain alive in our families? Imagine; **God became human, and Jesus continues to give Himself to us in the Eucharist.** How humble we should be as we receive Jesus into our hearts.

How do we grow in wonder of God's love for us? Jesus came to die for us. How can we express the same love in our daily lives? Humility, sacrifice, and God's accessibility are shown in the mystery of the Incarnation.

- How sacrificial is my love toward my family?
- How humble are my attitudes and actions toward others?
- How willing am I to listen and to be with my loved ones?

Imagine God coming so close to us—His own. How close should we be to God and to one another?

May this Christmas fill your hearts and your families with the peace and joy of Christ, the Lord and Savior.

I also want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your presence in our parish family. Your faith and service have enriched our community in countless ways. I think of you and thank God, in my prayers for the gifts of faith, hope, and love you share so wonderfully within our community. May this Christmas bring abundant blessings to you and your loved ones!

May the Lord bless you and your families with a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year!

May the Peace of Christ be with you always!

With love and prayers,

Fr. Nalaka



*"For unto us
a Child is born..."*

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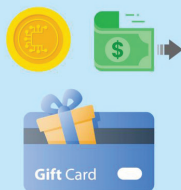
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