

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

DECEMBER 27, 2009



MONDAY

7:00 AM Marion Maier by Joe & Marion England

TUESDAY

7:00 AM Maria Weingand by Nieces & Nephews

WEDNESDAY

7:00 AM Peter Bianco by Elizabeth Hennessy

THURSDAY

5:00 PM Jean H. Yeager by Jean Green

FRIDAY

9:00 AM Thomas Russo by Family

SATURDAY

5:00 PM (VIGIL) William D. Bergen by the Bergen Family

SUNDAY

8:30 AM The Parishioners of St. John's

10:30 AM Marion Schreiber & Joseph Wojtach by Susan Day & Sue Wojtach

THE SECOND COLLECTION FOR DECEMBER 26/27 WEEKEND WILL BE FOR BUILDINGS AND MAINTENANCE. THE SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE WEEKEND OF 1/3 WILL BE FOR THE PARISH.

PLEASE BE AS GENEROUS AS YOUR MEANS ALLOW.

ROSARY CORNER



The Rosary is prayed every weekday following the 7 AM Mass. Novena is prayed every Monday after the 7 AM Mass.

ALL ARE INVITED:

BLOCK ROSARY:

Monday, 7:00 PM at 515 Lincoln Avenue

Wednesday, 8:00 PM at 607 Third Street

WHAT IS A BLOCK ROSARY? Neighbors gathering in each other's homes for a half-hour to pray the Rosary for Peace in the World, for the Local Community and for each other's intentions. Please consider having a Block Rosary in your home. For more information, call Maureen Shea at 968-0136.

BLUE ARMY ROSARY CELL

Where: 511 Lincoln Ave., Dunellen

When: Every Tuesday – 10:00 AM

All are welcome. Bring your children & grandchildren. For more information, call Maureen Shea 732-968-0136.



ST. JOHN FOOD PANTRY

Our Food Pantry for those less fortunate is in need of the following food products: Dry pasta, cereals, tomato sauce, canned soups, canned meats, canned fish, canned vegetables and canned fruit and juice. Please note that all foods that are donated to St. John's will be brought to the FISH Food Pantry located on New Market Rd., Piscataway. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

Those parents that have children who show an interest in being Altar Servers contact Deacon Michael Gleason at the Pastoral Center, 732-968-2621.

SPREADING THE WORD –DECEMBER 27, 2009

The first reading today provides a challenging blueprint for the good stewardship of our family relationships. How do I measure up?

THE THREE KINGS IN OUR NATIVITY WERE GENEROUSLY DONATED IN MEMORY OF MARIO CRISUOLO BY MRS. FRANCES CRISUOLO AND FAMILY.



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR SUPPORTING THE CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE. TOTAL PROFITS OF \$2,486.53

SCRIP FUNDRAISER

Scrip orders are to be picked up on Monday December 30th at the Parish Center 1-3 pm or 6-7 pm. Use St. John Script Fundraiser to get for all of your expenses like food, clothing and other essentials. Scrip gift cards are perfect gifts for those hard-to-shop friends and family members. For more information call Pat Nagel at 732-718-5197 or Anne North at 908-616-1546.



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

Fostering Stewardship as a way of life. This week's Stewardship of Time & Talent Salute. Everyone benefits from the sacrificial gift one makes of his/her time, talent and treasure, we gratefully acknowledge and salute:

*The Music Ministry
Cantors, Choir & Instrumentalists*

Thank you again for all your good work!



YOUTH GROUP MINISTRY

St. John Youth Group will meet every Sunday in the church auditorium from 5:00 – 7:00 PM. For details please call Joe and Kathy DelVecchio at 732-668-6801.

ST JOHN'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Capital Campaign is drawing to a close as of January 15, 2010. Any payments made after that date will be posted to our Facilities Improvement Account. Thank you for making our Campaign such a huge success!

BIBLE STUDY

ST JOHN PARISH will be hosting BIBLE STUDY focusing on THE WRITINGS OF ST LUKE classes will be held on Mondays at 7:30 pm in the Parish Center.
Jan 4th – introduction to the writings of St Luke (Gospel and Acts)
Jan 11th – The Readings of the Lectionary, Cycle C (St Luke's Gospel)[The Mission of the Messiah]
Jan 18th – Acts of the Apostles
Presented by Paul Major, Our lady of the Mount, Warren

DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

2009 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL – BECAUSE WE ARE CHURCH

<u>GOAL</u>	<u>TOTAL PLEDGED</u>	<u>TOTAL PAID</u>
29,800.00	24,107.99	21,203.83
<u>SHORT OF GOAL</u>	<u>TOTAL DONORS</u>	<u>% PLEDGE TO GOAL</u>
5,692.01	182	80.9%

The mission of the Office of Family Life –to promote the sacramentality of family at every stage of its evolution – is effectively promoted through its broad range of services. Every program is a reminder that in all of our relationships with one another lays a gift that warrants our careful and deliberate tending. A complete list of the programs offered by the Office of Family Life, and supported by your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal, can be found on the Diocesan website: www.diometuchen.org

If you are 70 ½ years of age or older, you may directly transfer up to \$100,000 TAX-FREE (Federal Tax) to a qualified charity. St. John the Evangelist Parish, a parish school, Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Metuchen are qualified charities. These Charitable donations count toward your required annual minimum withdrawal. This distribution neither generates taxable income nor a tax deduction – so this may also benefit non-itemizers. Your IRS manger may charge a small fee for the transfer. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

KEEP IN THE KNOW

Learn about important legislative issues. Check out diocesan, office and parish events. Be inspired by articles in The Catholic spirit. Over 18,000 people click on each month. Visit: www.diometuchen.org.

SISTERS OF LIFE

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS CARRYING THE GRIEF AN SORROW OF PAST ABORTION?

Share with them the “good news” of God’s merciful love: “Days of Prayer and healing” for women and men suffering from the effects of abortion. For more information or to register please call the Sisters of Life : Women 866-575-0075 Men 877-586-4621



MOUNT ST. MARY

Mount St. Mary House of Prayer, Watchung will offer the following programs. Registration required; call 908-753-2091 or e-mail:

msmhope@msmhope.org

WEEKEND RETREAT JAN 8-10

An experience of personal prayer based on Scripture. Daily spirited direction Atmosphere of prayerful quiet. Adaptable to the needs of each individual. Begins 7PM on opening day; concludes at 2PM. (\$120 weekend: Non-refundable deposit \$30) Registration Required.

YEAR END DAY OF PRAYER

A personal quiet day to enjoy God's presence. Day begins with communal prayer. Jan 13, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Bring bag lunch. (\$20)

ABRAHAM AND JOSEPH – TOTAL SURRENDER TO GOD'S WILL

Come and be inspired by these two great Patriarchs of the Book of Genesis who have much to teach us today! Wed, Jan 20, 7:30 – 9:30 PM (\$15.) Allan Wright, Author

2ND ANNUAL IMMACULATA HIGH SCHOOL SPARTAN CLUB WINE TASTING

The Spartan Club of Immaculata High School is hosting its 2nd annual wine tasting social. "La Nuit des Vins" (A Night of Wines) on Saturday, January 23, 2010 from 7:00-10:00PM at the High School in Somerville. This year's theme is A Tour of Wine Country. Tickets are \$40. pp in advance, \$50. at the door. Your admission ticket includes the opportunity to sample a wide variety of wine, a souvenir wine glass, hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks and dessert, live music and chances to win door prizes. Wines and expertise provided by Discover Wine, Somerville. For ticket contact SpartanClubtasting@gmail.com



"Calling all Angels"

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen is calling on **you**, to become a resource parent to one of New Jersey's 11,000 children in the foster care system. Children of all ages and backgrounds are in need of loving, nurturing homes. Many

of these children are innocent victims of abuse and neglect. **CALL TODAY!** 1-866-247-HOME (4663). You Can Help!!

THE BENEDICTINE CENTER RETREAT

The Benedictine Center invites you to Thomas Merton: A Voice Crying Out on Saturday, January 30, 2010 from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Open to all. (Weekend retreat January 29-31 for women only.) at St. Walburga Monastery, Elizabeth, NJ. \$30 for Saturday with lunch included. \$125 for the weekend. Call 908-353-3028 to register.

UNION CATHOLIC SCHOLARSHIP EXAM

The Union Catholic High School Scholarship Exam for the class of 2014 will be held on Saturday January 9, 2010 at 9:00 am There is NO makeup for this exam. Over \$120,000. in scholarship monies will be awarded. The fee for this exam is \$25.00. To register contact the Admissions Office at 908-889-1600x328.

THE 2010 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE PARISH CENTER OR DOLLAR PLANET IN MIDDLESEX. THE COST IS \$30.00. EACH BOOK ALSO INCLUDES PACKAGE OF FOUR "BONUS SAVINGS CARDS". ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS MAKE A GREAT BIRTHDAY OR CHRISTMAS GIFT.

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

"He went down with them then, and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother meanwhile kept all these things in memory. Jesus, for his part, progressed steadily in wisdom and age and grace before God and men."

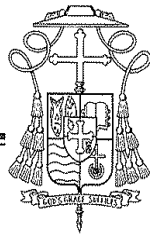
During these festive days, the scriptures move in several directions. In relatively few days we find the Holy Family en route to Bethlehem, in Egypt, visited by people from the orient, in Jerusalem and finally at home in Nazareth. As the stories unfold we travel with Mary and Joseph, silent spectators at important events.

We visit Jerusalem today, where the familiar story of lost and found is described. Consider the anxiety and fear which must have touched the hearts of the parents. Although he was twelve, think about a child lost in a crowded mall store prior to Christmas. The child cries, the parents check store security, the busy parking lots surely are a place of danger.

They meet and the adolescent simply states "Why did you search for me?" He asks that question of me today as well. My answer is because of my great need for Christ in my life. Imagine how Mary, once home, sat down after the journey and reflected, or pondered, weighed all the things that transpired. The normal religious pilgrimage certainly took on a new tone a new disaster and for the parents, a nightmare.

We too, as we relax on this last weekend of the year, in a quiet moment at home, or in church, pause to reflect on the celebration of these last days, or summarize the events of this entire year. The headlines have been harsh. Hopes have been dashed. Problems beyond our control persist. Yet the presence of Christ and His grace is able to effect a change.

Like the child who progressed in this threefold way, we too, seek His wisdom, His grace, as we close one year and begin another. His abiding presence with us will be the same source of strength which supported the Holy Family in their need.



DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

Office of the Bishop

December 16, 2009

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Church of Metuchen will soon be celebrating an unprecedented and historical event: the official opening of the Cause of Beatification and Canonization of Maria Esperanza Medrano de Bianchini, a wife and mother of seven children from Venezuela who traveled the world carrying a message of family reconciliation and fraternal unity.

Our Lady appeared numerous times to Maria Esperanza at a farm in Venezuela named Finca Betania under the title, "Mary, Virgin and Mother, Reconciler of all People and Nations." These apparitions were approved by the Bishop of Los Teques, Venezuela, in 1987.

The opening of this Cause entails establishing an ecclesiastical tribunal whose task will be to gather witnesses and documents and to collect evidence in order to ascertain the reputation of holiness of Maria Esperanza. The Diocese of Metuchen was granted competence to conduct this canonical process since Maria Esperanza died in New Jersey.

It is with great pride that I invite all the faithful of the Diocese of Metuchen to share our joy and that of the Bianchini family and the Betania Foundation, especially by participating in a Solemn Mass to be celebrated in the Cathedral of Saint Francis of Assisi, on Sunday, January 31, 2010 at 3:00 PM. Please note that, because of space considerations, there will be no reserved seating. Together we shall implore the Holy Spirit for the success of the Diocesan Inquiry.

Immediately following the conclusion of Mass, the members of the Tribunal will receive their respective mandates and take the required oaths.

May Divine Providence bless these proceedings, which I believe will be the beginning of an abundance of special graces to the honor of the Glory of God and to the benefit of the Diocese of Metuchen.

Sincerely in the Lord,

The Most Reverend Paul G. Bootkoski
Bishop of Metuchen