

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

5:00PM Josephine D'Oro
8:00AM Giulio Scoccimarro
10:00AM Maria Kirinchich
12:00PM Dec'd Mbrs. Cappadona Family

MONDAY, JANUARY 14
8:00AM Federico Alfonso Suarez

11:30AM Nikolina Matesic
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15
8:00AM Marie Cecchi

11:30AM Anne Frances Lepis
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

8:00AM Zdenko Matesic
11:30AM Antonia Matesic

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17
ST. ANTHONY
8:00AM Anton Hroncich – Birth.

11:30AM Peter Foglio, Sr.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

8:00AM Marc Tarabocchia
11:30AM Ernie Sdrigotti

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19
11:30AM Zdenko Matesic

Riccardo Mattessich
5:00PM Stanley Osmanski

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00AM Luciano Bussanich
10:00AM Rose & Marie Magliato
12:00PM Nicholas Sertich – Anniv.

ALTAR BREAD

In Memory of
John Mattessich



ALTAR WINE

In Memory of
Mara Magnozzi

PREPARING FOR MASS

The readings for next Sunday are:

Is 62:1-5

God loves and restores Israel as a spouse

Ps 96

Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations

1 Cor 12:4-11

The Spirit bestows many diverse but equal gifts

Jn 2:1-11

Jesus' first sign is at the wedding feast at Cana

PASTOR'S MESSAGE JANUARY 13, 2019

My dear parishioners and friends,

In this Weekend's bulletin you will find an abbreviated version of the parish's financial report for the previous fiscal year (July 2017-June 2018). Comparing this past year to the previous year, there are two key trends of which we need to be aware: a 2% drop in regular Sunday giving and a 21% drop in the combined Christmas (2017) and Easter (2018) collections. This resulted in a 6.5% loss in income from our collections when compared to the previous year (July 2016-June 2017).

In a way, we should not be surprised to see a drop in the regular Sunday giving because we have not seen any appreciable growth in the number of registered parishioners over the past few years. Actually, the number of active, registered parishioners (giving regularly) has dropped from around 700 to about 500 families. And even though there are quite a large number of people who give anonymously to the parish every Sunday, it is impossible to keep track of them or to provide any sort of reporting to them for tax purposes. We want to encourage all of you to register and to use the envelopes. What you give to the church is always between you and God... but God doesn't have to run the "business" of the church or pay the bills, and those of us who do need all the help we can get! The only solutions to the problem presented by this decline in regular giving is to encourage you all to increase your weekly offering and for all of us to reach out and invite new people to join the parish. We need your help!

Along with the downward trend in regular Sunday giving, the Christmas and Easter collections have dropped precipitously because many of our more generous contributors have either moved out of the area or they may have passed away. This year's Easter collection was about 11% below 2017 and the Christmas collection for 2017 was more than 25% below Easter of 2016.

On the brighter side I am very happy to report that our Christmas collection for 2018 is up by 11% over 2017, and some donations are still coming in. It's not too late to make a Christmas gift to your parish. I want to thank all of you for your generosity, but especially those of you who found it within your means to increase your Christmas offering this year.

What "killed" us in last year's finances were cost overruns in snow removal and the expense of repairs to the school roof and boiler. We spent almost \$30,000 for snow removal in 2017-18, which was almost three times the amount that was budgeted for that expense. We negotiated a new contract for snow removal for this year which should reduce our costs and, so far, the winter has been kinder to us. Still, the amounts that we are spending on contracted services (like snow removal) is too high; however, without retaining the services of a regular maintenance person, it is almost impossible to contain these costs; and volunteers can only do so much.

We already began in the current budget year (2018-19) to make some of the necessary changes in our spending in order to address the general decline in our regular revenues. Trimming expenses is something that we have to continue to work on but it is difficult because of the many little "surprises" that we are finding along the way. We cannot continue to spend more than we are bringing in in our regular income. Please note that our deficit in 2017-18 was \$26,293, excluding the extraordinary expenses and revenues we had. And that is up from \$22,410 in the previous year.

In this year's budget we cut over \$50,000 from last year's spending. These cuts are mostly attributable to the changes we have had in staffing, both clergy and lay. We need to look at how we can further economize in order to get us closer to the "break even" point with regard to our regular income while still allowing us to maintain and improve our facilities. All those "little surprises" we are finding have a dollar amount attached when it comes to repairs and maintenance.

Brothers and sisters, our parish is currently meeting all of its financial obligations to the Archdiocese and we are able to pay our bills. However; we need to look ahead, because at the current rate of decline in our regular giving the time will come when we will no longer be able to make ends meet. I'm talking about 10 or 20 years from now, barring no unforeseen catastrophe. Try to imagine what our parish will look like in 5 or 10 years. Will we be half the size we are today, stagnant and lifeless? Or will we be twice the size we are today, active and full of life? My vision for our parish is the latter, but that is a vision which can only be realized with your active support and participation. And not just the support and participation of the people we currently have. We need "fresh blood", younger people with energy and ideas and enthusiasm! Please, pray with me that the Lord of the Harvest will sustain us in our labors and send new workers into our fields.

Fondly yours in Christ,
Fr. Bruce

PARISH SUPPORT

<i>Thank you for sharing the gift of your treasure so that we can continue to do God's work here</i>	
	<i>December 30th</i>
<i>Sunday Collection</i>	<i>\$4,881.00</i>
	<i>January 1st</i>
<i>New Year's Collection</i>	<i>\$1,469.00</i>
<i>Sunday Collection</i>	<i>January 6th</i>
	<i>\$5,514.00</i>
<i>"John answered them all, 'I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...'" – Luke 3:16</i>	
<i>The Catholic Catechism states that "Jesus' immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God's will." In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.</i>	



BINGO

THURSDAY BINGO GAMES BEGIN AT 12:15PM. WE NOW OFFER BIGGER JACKPOTS, PROGRESSIVE AND 50/50 GAMES. COME OUT AND ENJOY YOURSELF AND WIN SOME MONEY AND HAVE FUN.

CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN WOMEN

The Confraternity of Christian Women & Rosary Society will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, January 17th at 7:00PM in the Church Hall. Please note the change of meeting day from Monday to Thursday. All women are invited to attend. If there is inclement weather, you will receive a call that the meeting will be cancelled.

BAPTISMS

The Catholic Community of Epiphany Parish welcomes with great joy the following newcomer baptized during the month of December:

Raphaella Maria Chianurashvili

EPIPHANY COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Due to an abundance of food items in our Food Pantry, we request no more donations until we tell you through the bulletin articles. We are very appreciative for all your generosity, but we do not have any more room at this time for more donations.

BIBLE DIARIES FOR SALE

We have a limited number of Bible Diaries available for sale at \$12.00 each. Published by Claretian Publications and distributed through "Lets Evangelize", these compact, attractive hard-bound books offer the daily readings for mass each day of the year as well as a daily reflections. To purchase one of these books, please contact the parish office or drop in during our regular business hours. It keeps on giving for the whole year!

CHRISTMAS FLOWER ADDENDUM

This donation was received too late to be added to our Christmas Flower Donation: Mr. & Mrs. Davor Mihalinec – In Memory of David Mihalinec, Bozo & Maria Morin and Anthony C. Morin.

SAINT PATRICK.SAINT JOSEPH'S DINNER-DANCE

Save the date for our Saint Patrick/Saint Joseph's Dinner Dance to be held on Saturday, March 16th. Featured will be a family-style sit-down corned beef and cabbage dinner with all the trimmings, and zeppole. Music will be by Shooting Star Entertainment – DJ Nick. Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased shortly at the Rectory. Proceeds will benefit our Heritage Fund for the renovation of the Rectory Basement. **NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.**

ALTAR BREAD & WINE, SANCTUARY LAMPS, MASS CANDLES & ALTAR FLOWERS

We have Altar Bread & Wine, Sanctuary Lamps, Mass Candles and Altar Flowers available for the year 2019. Please come into the rectory to book one of these items in memory of or in honor of your loved ones.

STRESS IN YOUR MARRIAGE?

Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage? Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse? Are you constantly fighting? Or, do you simply shut down? Have you thought about separation or divorce? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a Lifeline to Help Couples Heal and Renew their Marriages sponsored by the Office of Family Life, Secretariat of Pastoral and Family Life, Diocese of Metuchen. It consists of a weekend experience for married couples (no group discussions) with six follow-up sessions. The upcoming weekend is February 8-10. All inquiries are confidential. For further facts, kindly contact the Metuchen Family Life Office – 732-243-4573, Rich – 732-236-0671 or Annette – 732-672-0748.

YOUTH MINISTRY MASS

There will be a Youth Mass this Sunday, January 13th at 6:00PM. All youth are invited to attend, particularly those who are candidates for Confirmation.



CHRIST THE TEACHER SCHOOL A 2018 National Blue Ribbon School

Open House and Registration for the 2019-2020 school year will take place for new students on Monday, January 28th from 1:00pm – 6:00pm.

This includes the PK-3 year old program to Grade 8. This date guarantees a space in any grade. Please note that being a parishioner offers you the opportunity of a discounted tuition rate.

From February 4th going forward, we will continue to have open registrations from Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 2:00pm, and invite you to make an appointment.

Please contact the school at (201) 944-0421 or email us at info@christtheteacherschool.org for a tour.

SPECIAL NOON MASS

A special mass and a support group meeting for all who are affected by the disease of alcoholism will take place at Church of St. Mary, 20 Legion Place, Closter on Saturday, January 19th at 12 Noon. Mass is offered for the support, healing and recovery of not only the man/woman directly affected with the abuse of alcohol and/or drugs, but also for anyone involved in the life of the alcoholic or drug addict. For information please call 201-768-7565.

GET YOUR TAXES DONE FREE

The Franciscan Community Development Center's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) provides free income tax preparation assistance to individuals and families in our community. One center is located at 239 Anderson Avenue, Fairview and is open on Firdays from 4:00-8:00PM and on Saturdays from 10:00AM-2:00PM. For an appointment please call 201-941-2977.

EUCCHARISTIC RETREAT DAY

There will be a Eucharistic Retreat Day on Saturday, February 2nd from 8:00AM-4:30PM at 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ. To register please use this link <https://goo.gl/forms/jgsMmbRZqxqK9lmj1> or send an email to mostholyeucharistnj@gmail.com or call 731-915-5712. Cost is \$35 per person made out to MSE. This day will be presented by the Missionaries of the Most Holy Eucharist.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Ann Callagher, Peter Bertinato, Anna Tarabokija, Eric Grigsby, Carrie Craven, Felicia Martello, Oscar Benitez, Elva Lopes, Marilyn Brenes, Frank Mendez, Maria Azucena Mercado, John Reynolds, Arianna Cappola, Doris Levy, Cindy Simeone Reynolds, Tammy Ledden, Baby Juliette Payne, Brian Hone, Laura Palmieri, Margarita Lopez-Amaro, Helen Gallina DeLuca, Renee Pascarella, Brother Peter Lyne, Cora Shaffer, Ivan Tarabokia, Paul Barbara, Kathleen Warren Meserole, Matt Allen, Richie Allen, Jazmin Cruz, Jaime Van Dam, Meaghan Kilner, Baby Michael, Joe Villani, Michael Duddy, Peter Foglio, Jr., Paul Kiczek, Kenneth Crawford, Clyde Harger, Cesar Valdecantos, Kay Tak, Michele Spino, Evelyn Rodriguez, Tony Martello, Ruth Behsman, Barbara Snow, Mary Iannaccone, Norma Brown, Doris Portillo, Cabrini Lepis, Elizabeth Magliato Loughlin, Teresita Zafra-Santos, Ann Marie Applegate, Geraldine Fox, Tatiana Flores, Rosalie Connors, Christopher Nash, Mary Jane Ziegler.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED OF THE PARISH

George Vella, Deacon Richard Hodges, Esther Odoh, Ramon Ramos.

**“STRIVE NOT TO BE A SUCCESS, BUT
RATHER TO BE OF VALUE!”**

