

SUNDAY COLLECTION REPORT

The weekend of November 21st and November 22nd

Total amount in 258 envelopes: \$ 9,899
 Loose \$ 2,443
 Parish Pay: \$ 2,533

Total offered: \$ 14,875

CHRISTMAS CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNER



November 25th was the Fifth drawing of our Christmas Calendar Raffle.

Due to publishing deadlines, the winner will be published in next weekends bulletin.

If you haven't sent in your tickets, please do so to be in the next 5 drawings. All proceeds go to the Parish and the School. If you need additional tickets, please call or visit the Parish House.

We encourage you to get your family and friends in on the fun. Remember, a \$20 ticket could win you from \$2,000 to \$5,000. You have to be in it, to win it. Our next drawing will be on Wednesday December 2nd for \$2000.

NEXT WEEK IS A SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Tens of thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priest's have dedicated their lives to sharing their faith. Generations of Catholics recall with gratitude their work in Catholic Schools, hospitals, and social service agencies. Yet years of ministering for little or no pay came at a price, and now their religious communities lack adequate savings for retirement and eldercare.

Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide prescription medications, nursing care and more. Thank you for your generosity.

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



Tuesday,
 December 8th
 8:30 AM
 12:00 Noon
 7:00 PM*
 *ushering in the
 Great Jubilee
Year of Mercy

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY *November 30th*
Saint Andrew, Apostle
8:30 AM Deceased sisters of the Capozzoli Family
 Patsy Filippone
 Lorraine Hall

TUESDAY *December 1st*
8:30 AM John DeMarzo (Living)
 Andy Quaely
 Christine Dos Santos

WEDNESDAY *December 2nd*
8:30 AM John Koenig
 Anna Wojtyczko
 Maureen Meade

THURSDAY *December 3rd*
Saint Francis Xavier, Priest
9:00 AM The Johnson Family (Living)
 Holy Souls in Purgatory
 Shirley Caporaso

FRIDAY *December 4th*
Saint John Damascene, Priest and
Doctor of the Church
8:30 AM David Schelhorn Sr.
 Kieran and Sallye O'Doherty
 Brian Meade

SATURDAY *December 5th*
8:30 AM Special Intention for the living
 Michael Fornaro
 Terence Bonner

SECOND SUNDAY WITHIN ADVENT
5:00 PM (Saturday) Louis and Esther Tangreti
 Nunzio Dagostino
 Beverly Guldner

SUNDAY *December 6th*
8:30 AM: For the People of the Parish
 Buziak and McMonagle Families
 Edith Anne Walto

10:30 AM Josephine Forte
 Andrew Yacykewych
 Daniel O'Shea

6:00 PM Haden Daras
 Lois Lang
 Flavio and Maria Granados

*Reserve the date and join in a historic moment. Mass to open the Year of Mercy on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8th—7 PM.

PASTORS COLUMN

KEEPING CHRIST THE FOCUS AND CENTER OF CHRISTMAS

Imagine a celebration of your birth was arranged and those invited to celebrate, your nearest and dearest, made it all about them and not you. Not sure about you, but I know I would feel pretty lousy if that happened. I would also wonder how they could feel that it was ok to do. Sadly, that seems to happen at an escalating pace to our celebration of the Nativity of the Lord. Each year we know that Christmas is approaching not necessarily because of the usual news in relationship to the banishment of Christmas mangers from public property, or the absence of mythical Christmas caricatures from coffee cups or all those other distractions offered by a news hungry culture. No, we know that Christmas is approaching because we have this beautiful Advent season which precedes the Christmas season each year.

As a noun, the word Advent means, the arrival of a notable person, thing or event. In Christian theology it refers to the coming of Christ into human history in the fullness of time according to God's appointed plan and also refers to the second coming of Jesus when He will return as Lord to judge the living and the dead establishing forever the Kingdom of God for all who have remained faithful. Keeping Christ as the center of our lives is essential. In a season often marled by busyness it is even more important so that we can keep the focus on the One whose birth we are preparing to celebrate and whose coming in glory we anticipate with hope and joyful expectations. Here are some tips to keep you on track:

1. If possible, go to Mass each day during Advent. If daily Mass is not possible try to read the readings which are proclaimed at Mass. Remaining root in the Word made Flesh is refreshing and helps us to keep perspective. Easy access to the readings of the day may be found at www.usccb.org/.../readings.
2. Plan a project of good will and include other members of the family. Perhaps take a tag from the giving tree at church but instead of just going out and buying a gift which is good, think of the person/family the gift is for. Perhaps reflect with your family on how your circumstances (blessings) allow you to do this while they depend on the generosity of strangers. Talk especially to your children about the plight of others not too far from where we live and who often live among us without us knowing of their needs. Such conversations opens young hearts to appreciate what might otherwise be taken for granted.
3. Don't forget the religiosity of the season. Choose cards which are spiritual—avoid Happy Holidays—in cards or conversation. There are many gentle, yet firm ways to proclaim our faith in Christ. Make sure you have a Nativity and even though the tree may only be up for a time keep the Nativity in place until the end of the Christmas season (January 10, 2016). I keep my Nativity in the rectory out until February 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation.
4. Give God a gift for Christmas—go to confession. While we scratch our heads about what to get those we intend to gift God only wants and has only ever wanted one gift—YOU. Go to Confession and give God the best gift ever this Christmas. Jesus came into the world to be Savior. He cannot save you from your sins unless you are willing to trust Him.
5. Do something randomly for someone who least expects it. Practice random acts of kindness—smile, acknowledge the people around you and wish them well. Begin perhaps at home.

During this Advent season may you also take time for quiet reflection and be amazed at God's love for you. Bask in the knowledge that the promise God made and kept was for you and for all people in every place and time. When we consider all that God has done, is doing and promises us for eternity it should allow us to rejoice and to be a source of joy for one another.

Blessed Advent.
Peace,
Fr. Richard

ROASRY ALTAR GUILD

The Rosary Altar Guild will meet to pray the Rosary on December 7th at 6:00 PM in the Chapel. All are welcome to pray with us. We will gather right after and celebrate the Advent Season with our annual party in the Church Meeting Room. We will be entertained this year by the Watchung Hills High School Honors Vocalists and Instrumentalists beforehand. If you would like to join us, please contact Paula Cerami at 908-647-9246



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who serve in the military:

Sean Milde, James Minogue, Greg Scaduto, Joseph Bozell, Frank Fasano, Marcia Fernandes, Richard Lister, Eric Leverone, Jay Donato, Frank Messina, Eileen Murphy, Peter Giovanni, Brian Reynolds, John E. Siedler IV, and Alex Slevens.

Those who are ill:

Patricia Herrmann, Msgr. Patrick Brown, Richard Haluska, Mary Keller, Richard Scherer, Robert Markowski, John Ramella, Dorothy Paul, Givi Trauwaert, Ruth Ann Rahe, Daniel Nastarowicz, Jonathan and John Tantaros, Mary Bigelis, George Armenti III, MaryAnn Paster, Anne Galdieri, Terry McCloskey, John McMonagle, Patricia Caruso-Minicozzi, Susan Holmes, Pat Moran, Carmel Connolly and Eric Binner.

**Those who have died to this world
Requiescat in Pace**

May all the faithful who have departed this world rest in your eternal peace. Amen.

GOOD COUNSEL DONATIONS

Baby bottles are available in the narthex for parishioners to take at their convenience as an ongoing outreach ministry to assist the good works of Good Counsel.

Return the bottles with your change/financial support to be distributed to Good Counsel Homes. Know that you are assisting mothers and their children to have a better opportunity in life when others may have turned away from them.

M.O.M.S GROUP MEETING

Monthly Meeting on December 1st in the School Library 7:30 - 9:00pm. Please join us for a fruitful start to the Advent season. We'll be working on a festive service project for two parish events. Don't miss out on this fun night of fellowship. Bring a friend!

CHRISTMAS ANGEL INFORMATION FOR OUR CONCERT

Be a Christmas Angel



Please consider joining the choirs of "Concert Angels" who will help to bring the beautiful music of Christmas to St. Vincent de Paul's Church, in December. As a Concert Angel, your name will appear in the Christmas Concert Program, and your participation will help to defray the cost of hosting our Christmas Concert, enabling greater support for educational and community outreach programs.



To join the Angels, please fill out the form below and return it, along with a check or money order made payable to **St. Vincent de Paul Church**. Angel contributions must be received, by December 1, 2015, at the Parish House, or mailed to St. Vincent de Paul Church, 250 Bebout Avenue, Stirling, NJ 07980 Attn: Mary Knell.

STVDP CHRISTMAS CONCERT ANGEL

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____

Name as it should appear in the program: _____

(Please print clearly)

Include the memory of loved ones on the list of Concert Angels.

Angel Category:

___ Platinum - \$100 ___ Diamond - \$75 ___ Gold - \$50 ___ Silver - \$25 ___ Cherub - \$10

Payment enclosed: \$ _____

Please drop off payment and this form to the Parish House or mail to: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 250 Bebout Avenue, Stirling, NJ 07980 ATTN: Mary Knell

SCHOOL NEWS



Morris County Clean Communities sponsored an assembly program entitled *'The Lean Green Cleanup Machine'* for our children in grades Pre K – 4. This is a concert led by Jay Mankita featuring songs which promote anti-littering, reducing, reusing, recycling, and community pride.

The purpose of this concert is to share Mr. Mankita's enthusiasm and help educate about the sustainable lifestyle choices mentioned above. The songs presented in the program are meant to inspire and motivate, so that the children feel more connected to the natural cycles of life by participating directly through their daily personal actions. These days, our environment is in the news every day, but with so much conflicting information, children (and adults) can easily get confused.

With these songs, Jay Mankita promotes these ideas: The more we **recycle**, the less trash we have to throw away. The more we **reuse** things, the less we have to recycle. The more we **reduce** how much stuff we use in the first place, the less waste we have to deal with in the first place.

By talking with your children about these issues, you can really help them learn how to help make a better world for all of us! For more background about Jay Mankita and his music, please visit his website, <http://ecologyshows.com>.

We would like to thank Morris County Clean Communities for sponsoring this event and Jay Mankita for sharing his wonderful message through engaging songs!

SAVE THE DATE

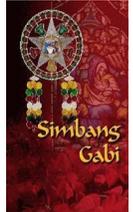


Breakfast with Santa!

Sunday, December 6th, 9:30 and 11:30 seatings. \$10 per person. Under 2 years old free! Join us for breakfast, a visit from the elves, craft room, bakery, ornament room, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Clause and more! See stvd.org for more information.

SIMBANG GABI

You are cordially invited to join our Diocesan and parish-sponsored Simbang Gabi. A Filipino tradition of a nine day novena of Masses during Advent in preparation for the Nativity of Jesus Christ.



Please join us on December 16th for Mass at 7:00 PM offered by Fr. Richard .

The nine-day novena is coordinated by the Diocesan Commission for Catholic Filipino Ministries (DCCFM) of the Diocese of Paterson.

Refreshments immediately to follow Mass. For more information of if you wish to help, please contact Emma Militante at 908-604-0075 or mommilitante@gmail.com

ADVENT ANGELS

Beginning this weekend our Giving Tree bedecked with Angel tags will be in the narthex. Select an Angel, purchase the desired gift and return by Sunday, December 12th. Attach the Angel securely to the non-wrapped gift. There will also be a marked box to collect gift certificates.

This year we will be sponsoring Catholic Charities Christmas Sled, Family Promise in Morristown, St. Agnes in Clifton and Eva's village in Paterson

Thank you in advance for your support and generosity. If you have any questions, please contact Sr. Elsa at 908-295-4944 and or srelsa@stvd.org

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING

If you would like to participate in our Christmas Flower offering, please use your envelope that was provided in your monthly packet or use the form below. If you have any questions please contact Tonianne in the Parish house for assistance. 908-647-0118 or at tvanderveer@stvd.org. **Please have all offerings in by December 16th for it to be published.**

In Memory of: _____

Gifted by: : _____

Address: _____

Amount: _____ Phone: _____

Thank you .



FAITH FORMATION / RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Religious education students to present a Pageant.

On Sunday, December 6, all parishioners are welcome to come and see the beautiful 1st thru 5th grade Christmas Pageant!

It will begin at 2:30 pm in the Church and will last for approximately 45 minutes.

**EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT
OUTDOOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS**



Joseph Conant, a parishioner and Eagle Scout candidate has begun work on his project. Planned over many months Joe has proposed to erect Stations of the Cross along the outside of the Church. The stations made of treated wood with an icon of each station attached will be similar to the one pictured. Each station may be dedicated to the honor/memory of a person/family and will have a small plaque attached indicating the dedication. This will also allow Joe to cover the costs of the project. The dedications are \$200 each. If you are interested contact Fr. Richard.

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ATTENTION COOKIE BAKERS

A wonderful tradition for close to 20 years at St. Vincent's, we are happy to once again conduct our Christmas Cookie Project for the homebound in our Parish. We are looking for bakers to drop off cookies on Monday, December 14th in the Church Meeting Room. Any type of homemade cookie would be great. Please contact Ellie Alber at 908-204-8988 or Elliealber@gmail.com; or Ann Ryan at ALR222@me.com or 908-580-9740 if you are able to contribute. Thanks for your kindness.

AWAY FROM HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

We are blessed that John Calabro was chosen to continue his studies for the Priesthood in Rome. John is working and praying hard in his new surroundings. Unlike many college students John will not be home for Christmas so perhaps you would like to send him a card. If so the address is: John Calabro, Pontifical North American College, 00120 Vatican City State, Europe. Go ahead, make his day.

NEXT SUNDAY MASS READINGS

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

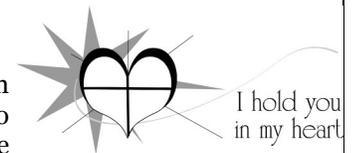
Baruch tells Jerusalem to rejoice because of God's plan to bring his exiled people back to Jerusalem. He emphasizes God's power and describes his plan to lower mountains and fill gorges to make their journey easier.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Paul encourages the Philippians to love each other completely. He hopes that their love and understanding will continue to grow so that they are prepared for the return of Christ.

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Luke describes the work John the Baptist carried out to help people prepare for the birth of Jesus. Luke also discusses who was in power at the time, which helped historians to figure out the exact dates of certain events, including Jesus' birth.



Next TNL
Tues, Dec 1st, 7:30-9pm
JPII ROOM

BOLD B
youth ministry by fiat Ventures

Ski Trip 2016



DATE: Fri-Sun, January 29-31
PLACE: Mount Snow, VT

All high school students are invited to join us for our annual BOLD Ski Trip! We will be traveling to Mount Snow in West Dover, VT with the other BOLD parishes for a weekend of outdoor adventure and fun!

To sign up: boldym.com/ski16

TNL THIS TUESDAY!
Don't miss the fun! Come out for a great night of games, music, friends, and faith. Open to all in grades 9-12, so bring a friend!

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE
• 12/1: TNL - 7:30pm, JPII
• 12/15: Christmas Party
• 1/12: TNL - 7:30pm, JPII
• 1/29-31: BOLD Ski Trip

For more info such as calendar, contacts, sign ups & events
Jeff Beer and Amilee Bishop • (908) 295-8104
StVincent@boldym.com • www.boldym.com/svdp

SAVE THE DATE



Getting Ready for Christmas.
Join us for an Advent Evening with St. Nicholas

As we prepare the way for Jesus' birth, please join us in celebrating the life of St. Nicholas, an Advent Saint. Please join us for story, craft, movie, cookies and candy. Pizza and cider will be served to all attendees around 6:30 pm. When: December 19th, after 5:00 pm mass. Where: St. Vincent de Paul Church Meeting

Room/JPII Room, Time: 6:00- 8:30 pm, Age Group: 3-10 year olds. You can sign up by emailing helenarohal@gmail.com. RSVP by December 12th. We look forward to seeing you there.