

The Little Sisters of the Poor are committed to preserving the original charism of their Foundress Saint Jeanne Jugan, by giving happiness to the elderly and meeting their needs especially at this difficult time. This year the Little Sisters from St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly in Totowa, are unable to come to our parish this weekend and they ask for your assistance with their important work. We ask that you prayerfully consider your support. In lieu of a 'door collection', designated baskets have been placed at each of the exits for you to place a donation. You can learn more about the Sisters' mission to the aged by visiting www.littlesistersofthepoortotowa.org

Parish Office News

Beginning Saturday, November 28, we will resume our regularly scheduled Confession time: 3:45 – 4:30pm. We have created an open area on the Altar which will be used for Confessions. Incidentally, the small Altar that provides the barrier is the Altar that was in the Convent Chapel!

The Church is open for private prayer and reflection Monday through Friday from 9:30am – 11:30am. You can access the church from the Parking Lot doors and are restricted to the area near the Blessed Mother's statue.

The Parish Office is open for visitors Monday thru Friday from 11am to 1pm. You can reach the office by phone Monday thru Friday 9am – 4pm or anytime by email svparishoffice@gmail.com

The installation of the new phone system was completed this week. While the office number remains the same, we each have our own extensions which you can reach directly:

Fr. Michal – Ext. 12 Fr. Marcin – Ext. 11 Main Office (Gloria) Ext. 10

St. Paul's Abbey, on Route 206 one mile south of Newton, has thousands of Christmas trees ready to choose 'n' cut 7 days a week from November 27 to December 20, 10am-3pm. They also have the Abbey Gift Shop with many items that make ideal Christmas gifts, including books, statues, jewelry and more.

JBWS (aka Jersey Battered Women's Service) Holiday Boutique

Every December, the Rosary Society sponsors a gift collection for the holiday boutique conducted by JBWS for its clients. Last year over 700 women and children received holiday gifts. Due to the increase in domestic abuse because of COVID-19, there are many more families this year. The shelter and transitional facilities are full. Support groups continue to see increases. All counseling, prevention, and supporting services are assisting clients remotely.

You can imagine a parent's relief in knowing that during very trying times they will be able to give their children some of the joy of the holiday season. With our help, mothers can select a few special gifts for each child from **new toys and clothing** donated by the local community. Handmade gifts are especially appreciated.

JBWS has requested that we consider gifts for teens and pre-teens although items for all ages are welcome. Suggested items are listed below:

- Clothing for all ages
- Jewelry/wallets/purses/watches
- Makeup/nail polish/curling iron/straightener
- Puzzles/dolls (no board games, please)
- Crafts/building sets
- Models (Lego, Minecraft, Matchbox, etc.)
- Sports equipment/yoga mats

Please drop off your gifts (new and unwrapped) at the Tracy Center, Monday - Friday, from 9:00am – 12:00 noon no later than Tuesday, December 1. Please, do not leave anything in the church or at the parish office. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Jane Flynn at jflynnmpi@aol.com or at 973-539-2581. JBWS receives many thank-you letters from mothers expressing their gratitude for the gifts.

2020 Diocesan Ministries Appeal: "Love Thy Neighbor"

This time of year, as we plan to celebrate Thanksgiving, our thoughts and prayers will be for those on the frontlines of COVID-19 who selflessly care for so many. It will be for all who may be hurting in some way. In our own diocese, tens of thousands of your neighbors in profound need seek out the services of our Catholic Charities and, with help from the Diocesan Ministries Appeal, they find an open door and a compassionate response. Please make a pledge to our Appeal today! For your convenience, you can make an online gift or pledge at www.2020appeal.org.

Cookies for the Troops



All baking hands on deck! We will again be making up "cookie bags" for our deployed service men and women based at **United States Air Force 914 Air Refueling Wing (Fr. Michal's base)**. Your cookie donations **MUST** be home-made. Any kinds or varieties but kindly refrain from using nuts. We will be accepting cookie donations on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 2 and 3. The Tracy Center will be open on those days so that you can drop off there.

If you'd like to help, we will be assembling Ziploc bags of cookies on Thursday, December 3, in the Tracy Center from 10am – 3pm. Give the Parish Office a call or email us if you would like to help. Of course, we will be "masked and gloved" for this operation.

We are also accepting monetary donations to help us defray the expense of shipping the cookies. You can simply put that in the collection basket in an envelope marked "Cookies for the Troops."

We are grateful for the help to give these brave servicemen and women a "home-made" Christmas!



In observing the safety protocols recommended for churches due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our Christmas outreach program will have to be cancelled this year.

Therefore, this season for the first time in 15 years, the Star of Bethlehem trees with envelopes requesting gift card donations will not

be displayed.

In place of the usual gift card donations, parishioners may want to make a personal donation to a local charity this Christmas season.

Operation Chillout Homeless Veteran Outreach Winter Backpack & Emergency Response Fund Drive

Operation Chillout thanks our donors for supporting the virtual Summer Supply Drive! The pandemic has greatly impacted the homeless community and our usual method of reaching out to them. With your help, donations received through the online gift registry enables us to deliver over 15,000 bottles of water, 500 new tee shirts and several hundred baseball caps for homeless veterans, both men and women.

Due to continuing COVID-19 restrictions, we will also conduct our annual winter drive using a gift registry at www.operationchillout.org. For \$25 you can "purchase" a backpack filled with warm winter gear. Since many of our fundraisers were canceled, funds are low for our year-round rapid response program and emergency supplies. Other suggested donations are \$10 for the OCO Rapid Response Team or \$10 for the Emergency Supplies Fund.

All donations for the gear packs will be used to purchase these items as we are an organization of volunteers, and we will make the purchases and deliveries – no middleman involved. You will receive an online receipt for your donation. All items will be distributed at locations where the homeless congregate, primarily sop kitchens and train stations.

Please be as generous as you can to make the winter months a little more comfortable for those who have so little and have many challenges to face.

Evangelization Corner



In 1980, Pope John Paul II issued a papal encyclical “Dives in Misericordia” declaring that “Jesus Christ taught that man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God, but that man is also called ‘to practice mercy’ towards others.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we read in the Judgement of the Nations that when Jesus, the Son or Man, comes in Glory at the Final Judgement, then he will judge all nations, both Jew and Gentile and that Jesus will separate “The sheep (*the righteous who will be saved*) from the goats (*the wicked who will be turned away*)”. Matthew goes on to give the Judgement criterion that Jesus will use to determine who are the righteous and who are the wicked. These we know as the “Corporal Works of Mercy” that we find in Matthew 25:35-40.

The seven Corporal Works of Mercy are charitable actions or practices by which we come to the aid of our neighbors by responding to their physical necessities. Each of these are considered meritorious and provide a glimpse of Jesus’ love for us:

Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry.
- Give drink to the thirsty.
- Clothe the naked.
- Welcome the stranger.
- Visit the sick.
- Ransom the captive.
- Bury the dead.

However, Matthew does not propose these as the reasons for salvation but, more as a warning that if we do not do these things, we will earn eternal punishment. He writes, “*Amen, I say to you, whatever you did not do for one of these least brothers of mine, you did not do for me*” (Matthew 25:41-46). However, these do give a glimpse of Jesus’ love for us. This gives us an outline for what we need to do to be saved.

Interestingly, you can only find the first six Corporal Works in Matthew’s Gospel. Proper burial of the dead was added as the seventh Corporal Work of Mercy by the Church due to the number of deaths of Christians due to persecution.

The seven Spiritual Works of Mercy have long been a part of the Catholic tradition. They focus on the spiritual needs of all and are meant to guide us in helping to relieve spiritual suffering of our neighbors.

Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Instruct the ignorant.
- Council the doubtful.
- Admonish sinners
- Bear wrongs patiently.
- Forgive offenses willingly.
- Comfort the afflicted.
- Pray for the living and the dead.

Although each of these apply to all the faithful, it is important that we become more proficient in our own knowledge and abilities to effectively instruct, advise, and console others. The remaining four Spiritual Works of Mercy are an obligation of all faithful to practice unconditionally.

During the next few weeks, we will explore each of these in more detail.

May His grace be with each of us as we continue our journey with Jesus!

Evangelization Ministry



Feast of Christ the King
Old Testament: Ezekiel 34:11-17
New Testament: Matthew 15-46

Weekly Reflection

Today is the celebration of Christ the King. It is always the last Sunday of the liturgical year. All of the readings on this feast are centered on Christ as the Good Shepherd. In Ezekiel it is written that the Lord God said “I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest.” In Matthew’s Gospel Christ’s words were: “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon His glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him.” But that is not the end of His description of His Kingdom. The rest of the readings tell us who we must become to gain this Kingdom.

That is, our King of Kings possesses mighty power and yet a shepherd’s gentleness. He tells us how to live our lives so we can gain that Kingdom. We must be prepared to share in this “kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” Christ asks for us to join in His Kingship. How will we do that? We follow His words “For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me...” When did we do these things? Christ’s answer tells us referring to the Lord God: “Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.”

Lord, be my shepherd, do not lose me. Help me to get to your Kingdom. Help me take others there.

Lord, thank you for our family, for our faith, for our, friends, for our world. We have many troubles, but much to be thankful for.

final thoughts...

If you know of a parishioner who is not yet signed up for Flocknote but would like to receive them, email the parish office at svparishoffice@gmail.com

St. Virgil’s Parish



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