

November 29, 2020  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Issue  
Thirty-Seven

Our Weekly Newsletter  
for our Parish Family

# St. Virgil's Parish

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Through the waters of Baptism, we welcome to the parish family **Daniel Peter Pascarella**, son of Philip and Monica.

## Mass Intentions for this Week >>>

Sat., Nov. 28	5pm	Elizabeth Anroman
Sun., Nov. 29	8am	Louise Underhill Alex Codada
	10:30am	Geddy Hairaitis—18 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Helen Hunter Fred Mandato Viji Alex & Family—Special Intentions
Mon., Nov. 30	9am	Amanda Rodas Anthony Patti
Tues., Dec. 1	9am	Cecelia McMorro Fred Mandato
Wed., Dec. 2	9am	Henry Doherty
Thur., Dec. 3	9am	Manual DaSilva
Fri., Dec. 4	9am	Barbara Caroselli

We offer our prayerful condolences to the family and friends of **Carol Grant** who was called home to the Lord. We pray that **Carol** rests peacefully with the Lord.



Please pray for all those who serve in defense of our Country, both at home and abroad, especially:

**The deployed airmen of the 914 Air Refueling Wing**  
**SSGT Blake Reidinger**                      **LT Kelsey Bergh**  
**PO1 Timothy Butchko**                      **MJR Gary Windt**  
**LT Patrick Leahey**                              **2LT Ryan Feeney**  
**MJR Stephanie Sittmann**                      **SSGT Thomas Sittman**  
**LTR Andrew McGuinness**                      **SSGT Eric Wright**  
**LCDR Daniel M. Leahey**                      **LT Mark Van Ordan**  
**LT Mark C. Leahey**                              **MSGT T.J. Hopkins**  
**LT Kian Federick Stewart**                      **LT Tyler Huhn**  
**DCI Alexander V. Fernandez**                      **CPL Irvin Carithers**

Please remember in your prayers:

**Mario Sasso, Lucie Cehelsky, Doris Biache, Barbara Trzaska, Danny Smith, Lydia Sesso, Robert Taylor, Mike Manley, Debbie Dallemolle, Harriet Lipari, Deacon Alan Lucibello, Bill Warrick, Tony Loughlin, Florence Luckey, Rosemary Paulison, Jackie Donnelley, Judy Taylor, Mary Eileen & Douglas Prisinzano, Mary Beth Jensen, Colleen Dillion & Family, Mary Maffeo, Marie E. Logan, Rose Marie Warrick, Sandra Buck, Margaret Ellis, John & Elizabeth Zisa, Anne Benson, Bob Taylor, Kamasha Redhead, Miah Tully, Barbara Bock, Baby Emma Scannelli, Stephen Burke, Eileen Lagan, and Teresa Procopio.**



We are extremely grateful for your continuing financial support.

The collection for the week of November 21/22 was \$6,591. We continue to accept your offerings at the Parish Office. We also ask you to please consider using Faith Direct. Faith Direct is an online giving service where you can donate the amount you currently give each Sunday through an online medium. (Our parish number is NJ732) or you can give a one-time gift. (Ctrl+Click this link <https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/NJ732/20872>)

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Live Streamed on our website at [www.stvirgilparish.org](http://www.stvirgilparish.org)  
Sunday at 10:30am ~ Weekdays at 9am

### Readings for the Week+

**Sunday** - Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37  
**Monday** - Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22  
**Tuesday** - Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24  
**Wednesday** - Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37  
**Thursday** - Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27  
**First Friday** - Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31  
**First Saturday** - Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

We plan to resume publication of the regular Bulletin on Sunday, December 6. Their new operations due to COVID-19 requires a 10-day lead time. Therefore, anything that you'd like to submit must arrive 10 days prior to the publication date. Therefore, the deadline for December 6 is November 27. I apologize for any inconvenience that may cause you. G.

**DRIVE-THRU  
Advent in Lights**

Sunday, November 29  
6:30 – 7:30 pm  
Resurrection Parish Parking Lot

Bring your family to our first ever Drive-Thru event! See our teens present a life size Advent Calendar and a living Nativity. Wave to important Biblical characters and collect great giveaways. All under twinkling lights & the stars!

**ALL WELCOME!**

### Parish Office News

*Beginning Saturday, November 28, we have resumed 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](mailto:svparishoffice@gmail.com)

The installation of the new phone system has been completed. 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](mailto:jflynnmpi@aol.com) or at 973-539-2581. JBWS receives many thank-you letters from mothers expressing their gratitude for the gifts.

### 2020 Parish Census Update

Earlier this fall we sent a letter to every St. Virgil's Parish Family to help us update your contact information. We have heard from many of you, but there are still too many that have not responded. If you have not done so already, kindly respond to the census with updated contact information. You can return the form we sent you or you can respond by email or you can go to our website to update your information. Thanks for your help on this!

### 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](http://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

If you read the lists of Corporal and Spiritual Words of Mercy in last week's column, perhaps your initial thought might have been that these lists 'may have been fine in Christ's time but they are somewhat out of date today'. After all, when do we ever have the opportunity today to 'ransom a captive' or how frequently are we open to talking with others about our beliefs? And who would not think to bury their loved ones?

But don't rush to dismissing them as useless. The Corporal Works of Mercy found in the teachings of Jesus (Matthew 24:35-40) give us a model for how we should treat all others. They are both charitable and practical actions by which we can address the physical needs of our neighbors. Jesus gave us this list as a guide to help us show our love for him by responding to the basic needs of each other as we journey through this life together.

For example, on the surface, feeding the hungry seems to be a 'no-brainer'. Unfortunately, however, there are many people in this world who go without food, yet much of our good goes to waste. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that more than 30 percent (133 billion pounds) of our food supply goes uneaten. Just think of how changes in your own food habits

might benefit others who do not have those same resources you have.

We have just celebrated Thanksgiving and for many families, it meant striking up the stove, cooking a turkey for hours on end, and setting the table for a day's worth of plentiful feasting. But one in seven families struggle to put food on the table. For them, celebrating the holiday was not as easy. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an increase in unemployment which has created an environment where even more of our neighbors are suffering from hunger than ever before.

Many of us have more than enough resources to feed ourselves and making sure no one goes hungry should be one of our greatest priorities. We can try not to purchase or cook more food that we are able to consume. If each week we find that we end up throwing leftovers or groceries away, we might purchase less groceries to eliminate waste and donate the savings to those in need. Some other things you can do to help the hungry in simple ways include: making food or financial donations to the Interfaith Food Pantry or the Diocesan Catholic Charities, helping at a local soup kitchen for the homeless or inviting a neighbor to share a meal. You can even donate to



a Christmas food drive so that everyone can have something to eat on Christmas Day.

Feeding the hungry also helps the giver. Giving of what we have shows our gratitude for what has given us, bringing us great joy. As written in the Old Testament, "...if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday." (Isaiah 58:10)

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

**Evangelization Ministry**

## Weekly Reflection

This is the end of our liturgical year. It always finishes with the Feast of Christ the King and begins with the First Sunday of Advent. This is our 6<sup>th</sup> year that we have been trying to go a little deeper into the readings of the Mass. Each liturgical year the Church focuses on a different book of the Gospel, revealing the life and teachings of Christ, with a shorter reading of an Epistle or letter. We started meditation on those Gospels during the Year of Mercy, which was the praying of the Gospel of Luke. Then we prayed the Gospel of Matthew. In the next liturgical year, we searched out the common themes of the Old and New Testament which are in *tandem* or coincide with one another. [The last of all the books of the Bible (including the Old and New Testaments) is the Book of Revelation, which we have not covered in our meditations, is the book addressing the end of life. Hence, the Bible starts with the beginning time, creation, and ends with the end of time.]

The Epistles do not share a common theme with the Gospels but tell us of the life and mission of the first Apostles. They reveal the Apostles' very first teachings, and how they formed our Church from its beginning. Most of the Epistles were written by Paul. They are called Epistles, which means letters. Because they were in fact letters which the first Apostles wrote to each other, supporting each other about what they taught and what problems they shared. Thereafter, a few other Apostles began writing Epistles, sharing their evangelical experiences. One of the best-known Epistles is 1 Corinthians, written around 56AD or about 25 years after Christ. The people of the community were having good times and bad, they had questions to Paul, on both morals and theological topics, and he had help for them. In it, Paul writes one of the most well-known bible verses: "Love is patient, love is kind..." read at many weddings. They also had questions welcoming migrants, much like our problems today, and trouble accepting people of different backgrounds and faiths. Paul's letter to the Corinthians reads like a pep rally outcry, Paul encouraging them, i.e. that Christ will keep them "irreproachable" to the end.

*Lord, help us learn from the teachings of the Apostles in their Epistles.*

## 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](mailto:svparishoffice@gmail.com)

## St. Virgil's Parish



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