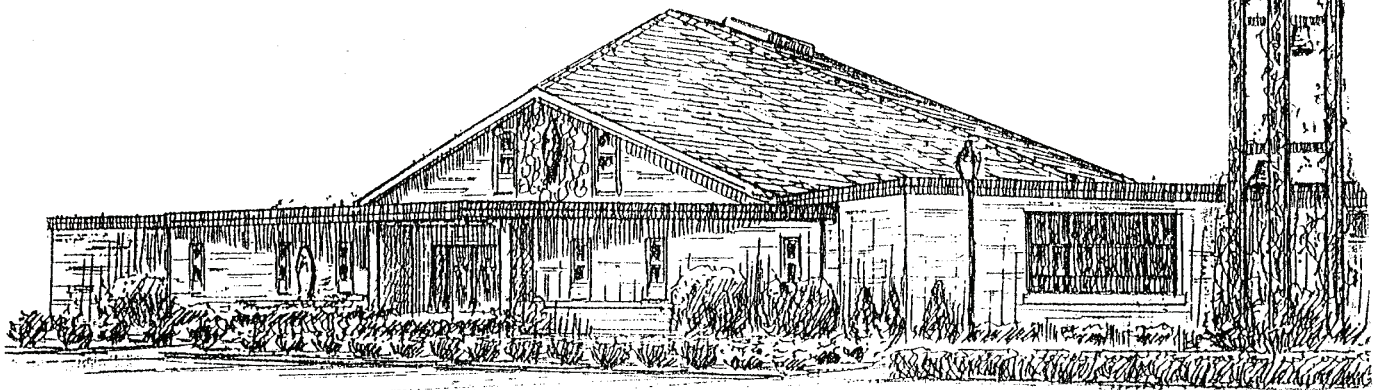


ST. JOHN'S R.C. CHURCH

619 Chestnut Street
Lakehurst, NJ 08733



SERVED BY

Rev. James F. O'Neill, Pastor
Msgr. Elso Introini, retired priest
Msgr. Richard A. Rusconi, retired priest
Rev. George Deutsch, retired priest
Deacon Edward Holowienka
Deacon Anthony Laterza
Charlie Jannetti, Business Manager
Holly Hartline, Music Director
Gina Innarella, Parish Secretary

MASSES

Saturday, church 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM
Sunday, church 9:15 AM & 11:00 AM

Please consult the bulletin for Holy Day Masses.

Monday—Friday, chapel 8:00 AM
Saturday & 1st Friday, church 8:00 AM

DEVOTIONS

Following Daily Mass:
Monday—Miraculous Medal
1st Friday—Adoration with confessions
1st Saturday—Devotional prayers, confessions

ADORATION

Tuesdays in the chapel: 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM
First Friday in the church: 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM

ROSARY

Rosary recited Monday to Saturday at 7:20 AM &
Sunday, before the 9:15 AM & 11 AM Masses

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: 11 AM to 12 PM and 3 PM to 3:45 PM

MARRIAGES

The Sacrament of Matrimony requires a time of spiritual preparation. The couple should contact the Parish Office one year before the date of marriage.

PARISH OFFICE

Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Parish Office: 732-657-6347
Fax: 732-657-8690
Parish Website: stjohnlakehurst.com
E-mail: churchofstjohn@comcast.net

GRADE SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Ms. MaryAnn Dempkowski,
Director of Religious Education
Religious Ed Office: 732-657-2348

COMMUNION CALLS

For those who are unable to attend Mass, we will be happy to bring Holy Communion to you periodically in your home or at the local nursing homes. Please call the Parish Office to notify us.

SICK CALLS—ANOINTING OF THE SICK

In case of serious illness or accident, please call the Parish Office to request the Anointing of the Sick.

EMERGENCIES

For emergencies outside of office hours (such as when someone is dying or has died), please call and leave a message at 732-930-1690.

PARISH REGISTRATION

Families moving into or out of the parish are asked to call the Parish Office as soon as possible.

BAPTISMS

Preparation for first-time parents is required. Baptisms take place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 12:15 PM. Please contact the Parish Office for arrangements.

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2019**

MASSES & SERVICES FOR THE WEEK**Saturday, December 14th**

4:00 PM Angela Wade (21st anniv. rem.)
Kathleen Genovese (birthday rem.)
7:00 PM Janice Piller
Janice Piller

Sunday, December 15th, 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:15 AM Gus & Angelina Caracappa
Sophie Walczak (birthday rem.)
11:00 AM Gloria Brown
Frank Ratajczik

Monday, December 16th

8:00 AM Anne Surdovel (birthday rem.)
Arthur Burke

Tuesday, December 17th

8:00 AM Catherine Kronwitt
Eileen Dennehy

Wednesday, December 18th

8:00 AM Annette Abbood
George Spina (64th anniv. rem.)

Thursday, December 19th

8:00 AM Vincent DeCasperis
Mike Fett

Friday, December 20th

8:00 AM Susan Hone
Ruth Perillo

Saturday, December 21st, St. Peter Canisus

8:00 AM Frank Albert Bounbrisco (1st anniv. rem.)
People of our Parish

4:00 PM Klara "Kitty" Smaller (birthday rem.)
Nicholas Sgammato
7:00 PM Edward Ball
Anthony Calvino & Ursula Backes

Sunday, December 22nd, 4th Sunday of Advent

9:15 AM Frank Ellory Bonney
Camille Spiezia
11:00 AM Rose & Anthony Matteo
Dominick Tancredi &
Ann & Sheldon Hardin

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR THE WEEK

Please note: There will be no flower orders during the Advent and Christmas season. Please call Joan Toth of the Rosary Altar Society at 732-657-4938, for any information.

CANDLES for Dec. 15th—Dec. 21st , 2019**SANCTUARY CANDLE**

In loving memory
of
Klara Smaller

SACRED HEART

In loving memory
of
James Sclafani & Ross & Sclafani Families

SHRINE CANDLE

In loving memory
of
Theresa DeAngelo (birthday rem.)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially:**

Week 1: Jonas Walworth, John Doonan, Deacon Ed Holowienka, Johanna Gonzalez

Week 2: People of our Parish

Week 3: Obeida Perez, Nora Edwards,
Angelo Manoccio

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THE DECEASED:

Dean DeGennaro, Rita Horn, Bernard McDonnell, Geraldine Velardi, Angela Decker, Esther Donaldson, Salvatore Brienza

CURSILLO ULTREYA

Our next meeting will be, Thursday, January 16th @ 1PM in the Parish Center. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year! Any questions, call Barbara Cipriano @ 732-323-8878.

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Week of Dec. 8th, 2019: \$13,088

Week of Dec. 9th, 2018: \$14,167

Immaculate Conception 2019: \$1,317

Immaculate Conception 2018: \$4,602

Religious Retirement 2019: \$2,308

Religious Retirement 2018: \$2,099

Thank you for your financial support!

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS COLLECTION

Religious give thanks. "Thank you" hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to us," says a Catholic sister of the financial assistance her community received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Prayer-filled thanks for your donation to last week's second collection.

LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLES

If you, your family, friends, prayer group, etc., would like to light our Advent Wreath during one of our weekend liturgies, please call Gina, 732-657-6347, at the parish office to schedule the Mass you want.

**GIFT-GIVING TREE**

Thank you for taking all the tags. All gifts **MUST BE** wrapped, tags securely taped to the **OUTSIDE** of the package, and **RETURNED to church no later than Dec. 14th/15th, as gifts will be distributed to our families by Dec. 16th. Thank you for your generosity!!**

**BEREAVEMENT/SUPPORT GROUP**

St. John's Church is happy to offer a Bereavement Support Group for those who are grieving a recent loss. This is a Christ-centered Support Group offering a caring, compassionate, and confidential environment in which to verbalize your feelings.

There will be 7 weekly sessions, on Tuesdays, @1pm, Jan. 7th thru Feb. 18th. For reg. and details, please contact Shelley Laterza @ 848-224-4828.

**WINGS and a PRAYER**

Our Religious Article Store will be open December 14th & 15th after all Masses.

We have Christmas wafer "Oplatek" available in our religious store & Parish Center.

Thank you for your continued support!

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL # 12940**

Keep Christ in Christmas Magnets—sponsored by K of C Council #12940 will be available for sale this weekend after all Masses, and in Religious store when open. Donation: \$5.00.



PLEASE PRAY for all our parishioners and friends who are serving in the military, as well as our police, firefighters, first responders, and all who are put in harm's way for our protection:

AC1 Megan Downes USN

CW5 Thomas Oroho

Capt. Meghan Oroho

CPL George Daly IV

SPC Brian Mc Nichol

Major Corey J. Smith

Spec. Corinne McGrath

Major Kenneth R. Dougher II

Major Brian Kossler

SPC Robert Ayala

CPO Michael M. Miehle

**ANDERSON & CAMPBELL FUNERAL HOME**

First Annual Holiday Gift Wrapping!!!

Bring your gifts to Anderson & Campbell Funeral Home, 3010 Ridgeway Rd.,

Manchester, NJ 08759 and let us do your

wrapping!! Wrapping paper, bows, and bags will be provided. Wrapping dates are as follow: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM starting December 1st through December 15th.

**ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY— SAVE THE DATE**

Save the Date, March 31st, 2020—Rosary Altar Society Day Retreat at San Alfonso Retreat House. More information to follow!

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY**Food Bank Needs Christmas Food**

The Food Bank has been blessed with an overwhelming number of large food donations from the local Boy Scouts, Manchester Dept. of Senior Services, New Road School and several local organizations.

We still need your help but instead of all the items on our basic list we'd like some basic and other items we generally don't have enough of. Please donate laundry detergent, peanut butter, jelly, desserts, cookies, coffee and tea plus condiments (Mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard etc.). Any Christmas treats are also welcome.

We know that this time of year there are many extra requests for donations, so we Thank You in advance for your extra generosity and God Bless You.

St John's Church Conference
St Vincent de Paul Society
Lakehurst, NJ

**Confession Schedule**

All Year: Saturdays at 11 AM and 3 PM
Advent & Lent: before Sunday Masses

Wednesday, December 18th, 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM
in the Parish Center chapel.

Friday, December 20th, 2 PM to 3 PM
in the church.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24th, 4 PM and 7 PM
Wednesday, December 25th, 9:15 AM and 11 AM

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Tuesday, December 31st, 4 PM
Wednesday, January 1st, 9:15 AM and 11 AM

Dear Parishioners,**Holy Days of Obligation & Precepts of the Church**

Did you know that there are ten holy days of obligation? When I was a kid, I learned that we had six holy days of obligation here in the United States. I didn't know that we Americans had permission from the Vatican to only have six of the ten.

It became more complicated around 1991 when some of our holy days were no longer holy days of obligation if they fell on Monday or Saturday or if you were outside the Northeast or Nebraska. Hawaii is a special case because of its proximity to other non-American dioceses in the Pacific Ocean.

Perhaps the simplest thing to do is pay attention to the announcements and the bulletin. For example, we have two holy days of obligation coming up: *Christmas* and *Mary, the Mother of God*. See the Mass schedule above.

Even so, here's a lot more on holy days of obligation and the precepts of the Church. It can be helpful to know how our practice of the faith can be organized.

Many of us learned the precepts of the Catholic Church when we were kids. They spell out minimum requirements for our practice of the faith. Hopefully, none of us settles for the minimum. Rather, we ought to embrace the maximum that God wants to give us.

SVDP—THANK YOU

Thank you to Susan of Expressive U for the food and monetary donation to SVDP-St John's Conference. Susan is always willing to lend a helping hand. Her boutique located in Colbye Commons has some lovely items. Stop by...you may find a treasure. Always good to support our local businesses.

FOOD COLLECTION

3rd Sunday, Dec. 14th/15th, 2019
St. Vincent de Paul Society

Boxes will be at the doors of our Church to accept your non-perishable donations. All food will be distributed on Monday, Dec. 16th, 2019.

Thank you in advance for all you do to help those in our parish who are less fortunate.



The first precept of the Church is

- 1) *You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.*

Sundays and holy days of obligation are wonderful days for us to worship God and keep the day holy. Servile work should not get in the way. We also should not let legitimate excuses for missing Mass get in the way of our practice of the faith. For example, we may be impeded from Mass due to illness or disability. We should not say that we never have to go to Mass again because of a disability. Rather, we ought to be open to the possibility of healing or some other means of attending Mass. If we can't get to Mass, we ought to pray at home or wherever we are. We could watch Mass on EWTN, read the readings for Mass, or pray the rosary.

It's at Mass that we come closest to Heaven. We ought to take every reasonable means to participate in Mass—at least on Sundays and holy days of obligation. But we have the great opportunity to attend Mass every day.

Missing Mass on a Sunday or a holy day of obligation (without a legitimate reason) is a serious offense. If we have sufficient knowledge and freedom of will, it's a mortal sin. Fortunately, we have a merciful God who is eager for us to be reconciled to Him. The second precept of the Church helps us to always be in a state of sanctifying grace:

- 2) *You shall confess your sins at least once a year.*

God wants even more for us. He gives us Himself in the Eucharist. The third precept helps us to be in deep communion with Him:

- 3) *You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.*

With the most important sacraments for our daily life (Eucharist and Reconciliation) supported by the first three precepts of the Church, we look to other supportive practices. The fourth precept applies to us most directly during Lent:

- 4) *You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.*

Lastly, for us and everyone else to have the opportunity to receive the sacraments, we ought to support the Church:

- 5) *You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.*

My father was unable to attend Sunday Mass after his stroke. With great effort, we brought him by ambulance to my mother's funeral Mass and by my own van to my installation Mass. It was much easier for him to attend Mass when I celebrated it at home on my day off. With his severe disability, he still did the best he could. I could see the seriousness in his expression during Mass. Since he was paralyzed on the right side, he improvised by using his left hand to make the sign of the cross. I also observed that he often looked out the front window. Considering his peacefulness and mindfulness, he must have spent time praying. Six months after his passing, I pray that he's with our Lord experiencing fully the Mass as it is celebrated in Heaven.

Cassock

Several people have asked why I'm now wearing a cassock. The short answer is that I want to look more like a priest. We need priests, in particular, for the sacraments. It's very helpful if you can spot a priest by what he wears.

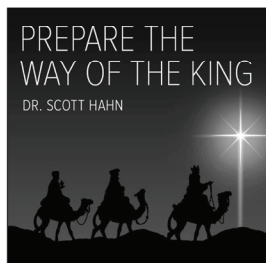
For those of you who practice the faith, you know that a man is a priest if he's wearing clerics, a cassock, or a chasuble. Non-Catholics don't know these things. Many times when I'm out and about in a store, someone will come up to me and ask, "Do you work here?" It seems to me that when I'm wearing a clerical shirt and black pants, I look like I'm wearing a uniform and should know what aisle an item is in. If I'm wearing a cassock, I look so strange to them that they don't know what or who I am. For Catholics who see me in public, the cassock is more distinctive. People can spot me from a greater distance. Surprisingly, people out in public sometimes need to talk to a priest. If they can recognize me by what I wear, they can then approach me.

The basic idea is that wearing a cassock makes it more possible for me to do the basic work of a priest: connect God and people.

God love you,
Fr. Jim O'Neill
frjim@stjohnlakehurst.com

FORMED®

PICK OF THE WEEK



Prepare the Way of the King

Dr. Scott Hahn

LISTEN ON
FORMED.ORG

The Greatest Gift We Can Ever Receive

Dr. Scott Hahn reveals what scholars know about the shepherds, the mysterious Magi, and King Herod. Your Advent journey will take on new meaning. This illuminating presentation is sure to help you grow in appreciation of the greatest gift ever given to mankind – Jesus Christ.

POWERED BY THE  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

FORMED

Join Dr. Scott Hahn in preparation for Advent by listening to “Prepare the Way of the King” on formed.org. This talk by Dr. Hahn invites us to journey deeper and further into the season in order to truly be prepared for the coming of Christ.

PARISH MINISTRIES

St. Vincent de Paul Society, 732-657-6359

Rosary Altar Society

Angela McNeill, 732-657-1728

Religious Article Store

Victor Bala, 732-657-8899

Youth Group

Lori Downing, ldowning@easeton.org

Bereavement Support Group

Shelley Laterza, 848-224-4828

Sign Language

The 4 PM Mass has an interpreter for the hearing

impaired. Those learning sign language meet on Tuesdays at 10:30 AM in the Parish Center. New-comers wanting to learn to sign are welcome.

Nursing Home Ministry, Ushers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
Joe Pittarelli, 732-323-8469

Hospitality Ministry, Josephine O’Connell organizes the coffee and refreshments after the 9:15 AM Mass in the back of the parish hall. If interested in helping Josephine, call her @ 609-668-2159.

SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE APPROACHING \$7,000

On behalf of all scholarship beneficiaries, it is a pleasure to be able to express their collective and heartfelt appreciation for this raffle. Reducing fees and increasing participation this year’s raffle offers both winners and students more benefit.

The first quarterly drawing is coming up on JANUARY 2, 2020. This draw will cover the last quarter of 2019. If your entry is in, you are good to go.

To take advantage of the annual option, you must act by year’s end. For preferring the \$30 per quarter option, please feel welcome to use the form below and check the quarterly box. Remember, quarterly entries are submitted each quarter you choose.

ST. JOHN’S PARISH 50/50 SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE

I am pleased to support the 2019-2020 Raffle. I’ve enclosed \$110.00 for the year along with this coupon. or \$10 per month.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

Annual @ \$110 Quarterly @ \$ 30

*Please make your check payable to **St. John’s Church. In memo section please note : 2019-2020 50/50 Raffle. Good Luck!!**

INFORMATION SHEET

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS:

911138 Saint John's Church #911138
619 Chestnut Street, Lakehurst, NJ 08733

PHONE:

732-657-6347

CONTACT PERSON:

Gina Innarella

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ATTENTION URSULA:**CONTACT INFORMATION****FOR ST. JOHN'S:**

churchofstjohn@comcast.net

732-657-6347