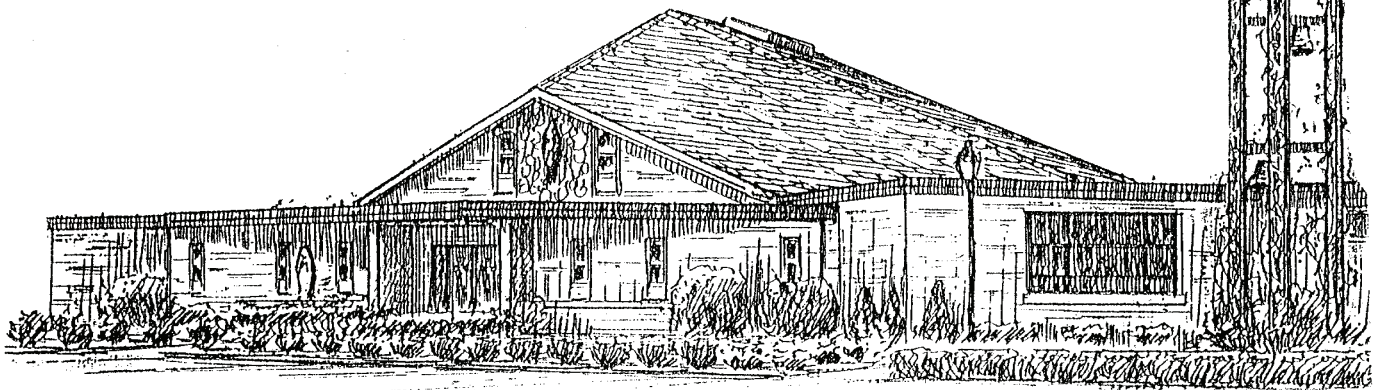


# ST. JOHN'S R.C. CHURCH

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](http://stjohnlakehurst.com)  
E-mail: [churchofstjohn@comcast.net](mailto: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.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 22, 2019**

**MASSES & SERVICES FOR THE WEEK****Saturday, December 21st**

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 & Seddon Hardin

**Monday, December 23rd, St. John of Kanty**

8:00 AM Mary Kinane (birthday rem.)  
Carol A. Neubauer (special rem.)

**Tuesday, December 24th**

8:00 AM Michael Fortino, Jr.  
Elizabeth Dzbenski (2nd anniv. rem.)

**Tuesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve**

4:00 PM Ethel Stoya  
Robert Famularo (85th birthday rem.)

7:00 PM Vincent Ward  
Mom, Dad, & Louis Boccia

**Wednesday, December 25th, Christmas**

9:15 AM Joseph Sansone  
James Morin

11:00 AM Andrew Laudicino (4th anniv. rem.)  
"Chic" Fitzgerald

**Thursday, December 26th, St. Stephen**

8:00 AM People of the Parish  
Fredy C. Baber (wedd. anniv.)

**Friday, December 27th, St. John**

8:00 AM Ines Mullins (birthday rem.)  
Belen Chavenia

**Saturday, December 28th, The Holy Innocents**

8:00 AM Multiple Intention Mass

4:00 PM deceased members of the  
Backus, Dillon & Schwarz families  
Edward Ball

7:00 PM George Odell (anniv. rem.)  
Cathy Wasilko and deceased members  
of the Milwicz & Turkoc families

**Sunday, December 29th, Holy Family**

9:15 AM Ray Stoffers (11th anniv. rem.)  
Joseph Pellegrino

11:00 AM George Odell (anniv. rem.)  
Lester Olcsvary

**MULTIPLE INTENTION MASS****Saturday, December 28th, 8AM**

Lida Fanara	Maria Ramos
Carmella Pittarelli	John S. Guidice
Michael Lewis	Eleanor Kavanaugh
Anthony & Virginia Quasarano	Joseph D'Amico
Patrice Benjamin	Patrice Benjamin
Rosemary Decker	

**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. 22nd—Dec. 28th , 2019****SANCTUARY CANDLE**

Special intentions  
of  
Vuocolo Grandchildren

**SACRED HEART**

In loving memory  
of  
deceased members of the  
D'Amato, Molloy, & Kavazanjian families

**SHRINE CANDLE**

In loving memory  
of  
James Morin

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

**Week 1:** Brian Boldizar

**Week 2:** Jonas Walworth, John Doonan, Deacon Ed Holowienka, Johanna Gonzalez

**Week 3:** People of our Parish

**PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THE DECEASED:**

Vito Siblano, Dolores J. Cannizzaro, Thomas J. Kelly  
Rita McGoff

**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.

**SACRIFICIAL GIVING**

Due to early bulletin processing, we will report collection numbers in the next bulletin.

Thank you for your financial support!

**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.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

In celebration of Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, the parish office will be closed on 12/24, 12/25, 12/26, 12/31, and 1/1.

**WINGS and a PRAYER**

Our Religious Article Store will be open December 21st & 22nd 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

**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!

**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.



### **ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY**

The gospel for this Fourth Sunday of Advent helps us to reflect on the relationship between Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit and his birth, as both are clothed in the mystery of God's revelation and presence to us. Two names are given the One incarnated in Mary's womb: Jesus, meaning "God saves the people from their sins" and Emmanuel, meaning "God is with us." The names reveal that the presence of God among us is experienced most profoundly in the forgiveness of our sins. This is the deepest mystery that we celebrate as we see how the joy of Christmas connects and points to the triumph of Easter. Not even the compassionate, righteous Joseph could imagine such a merciful work of God. It is to dream the impossible: God with us (Emmanuel) not as a condemnation but as Savior (Jesus).

The mystery of the birth of Jesus is supremely a mystery of love. The purpose of the coming of Christ was to speak to us humans about the love which the great, eternal and all-powerful God has for us short-lived, weak, fragile and sinful human beings. A newborn infant calls forth from our hearts love. The language of God at Christmas is one of love. Our vocation as Vincentians is to continue learning the language of love, not only at Christmas but throughout our lives. It is the language that we must learn to speak if we wish to draw near to the poor.

The Vincentians at St John's have truly experienced the mystery of love this Advent/Christmas season. Due to the generosity of you, our parishioners and benefactors, we have been able to expand our food pantry and feed over 60 families each month. Fr Jim has graciously allotted more space to the food pantry wherein we can house a freezer/refrigerator. In 2020 the Conference will be able to provide families with perishable as well as the usual non-perishable food items.

The SVP-St John's Conference is very grateful for all that you have given to make our endeavor to help the less fortunate possible. May you experience the mystery of love this Christmas in your lives and be filled with the joy of the Lord throughout the New Year. God bless you and your families. Merry Christmas

### **Confession Schedule**

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

### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

Three Choir Christmas Caroling at 3:30 PM on 12/24  
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, Christmas Gift**

We offer all of you a gift this Christmas, a Matthew Kelly book:

#### ***Rediscover the Saints:***

#### ***Twenty-Five Questions That Will Change Your Life***

Here's an extended quotation from page 9 in the chapter titled, "Amazing Possibilities."

"God is constantly trying to open our eyes to the amazing possibilities that he has enfolded in our being. The saints continue this work, encouraging us to explore all our God-given potential, not with speeches but with the example of their lives.

"When we have the courage to collaborate with God and pursue our truest self, he lights a fire within us that is so bright and warm, it keeps shining long after our days on this earth have come to an end. The lives of the saints have captivated the people of every age for this very reason.

"There are two questions that confront the people of every place and time, questions that confront you and me today: Are you satisfied with the direction the world is moving in? Are you satisfied with your life?"

Matthew Kelly's book is not a dense biography about the saints. It is an invitation to reflect on how the saints are active in our lives and to let them be even more involved each and every day. The chapters are short. Try chapter 21 which features Saint Nicholas and is all about keeping Christmas in your heart every day of the year.

**Advent for a Couple More Days**

Hope and excitement are building as we complete Advent. The first reading conveys a sense of urgency for Christmas. God really wants to give us good gifts. He tells Ahaz through Isaiah to ask for a sign. Ahaz refuses, but God tells Ahaz what the sign will be anyway. The fulfillment of the sign is Mary saying yes to becoming the mother of Jesus.

In the gospel, Joseph is reluctant to approach the great mystery of his betrothed, Mary, carrying the Son of God. Joseph receives a great gift and responsibility in a dream. The angel of the Lord encourages him to marry his betrothed.

We too can ask God for good gifts. He's eager to give them to us. He's eager to give Himself to us. If we don't know how to ask, look to the saints. See how they asked God and how they received His abundant love. Get ready because God even gives us wonderful gifts without us asking. Are we ready to receive them? Are we ready to receive Him?

**Parking Lot**

We're continuing to brainstorm with staff and parishioners about the parking lot, and we're consulting the Ocean County road department engineer. We're wondering about how to reconfigure the parking lot in order to make it safer for everyone. The current idea is to create a new entrance & exit on Chestnut Street that continues along a driveway and goes between the two islands in the parking lot not too far from the parish center. We would close the other entrances and exits on Chestnut Street and make this new one great. I'd appreciate some advice, especially from our parishioner who is an expert in roads and parking lots.

**St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry**

We've made great progress converting Tom's old office into a new food pantry for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. We removed a wall that divided the room in two. A heater was moved to make room for a refrigerator and freezer. We installed an air conditioning duct, new ceiling tiles, and new LED lights. The walls have been spackled and painted. We hope the floor will be finished soon. Then, the SVDP Society will be able to organize the tremendous food donations on shelving with wheels.

**Patronal Feast Day: December 27th**

Our parish's patron saint is St. John the Apostle. We celebrate his feast day on Friday, December 27th. Join us for 8 AM Mass in the Church and refreshments afterward in the parish hall.

**Daily Mass**

With the church beautifully decorated, we plan to have daily Mass in the church during the Christmas season.

**Marriage & Christmas**

Scott Hahn posted a clever meme about marriage:

If you want a bad marriage, put yourself first.

If you want a good marriage, put your spouse first.

If you want a great marriage, put God first.

I wonder if we could say something similar about Christmas:

If you want a miserable (but temporarily exciting) Christmas, fixate on all the gifts you get.

If you want a good Christmas, put your family and friends first.

If you want a great Christmas, put God first.

**Celebrating Christmas at St. John's**

We begin the celebration of Christmas with caroling at 3:30 PM and Mass at 4 PM on Christmas Eve. Many family and friends will be visiting us. I invite our regulars to park far away so that our visitors will be able to easily find parking spots. Besides street parking, feel free to park on the grassy area north of the parish center. Please keep all the fire lanes clear. Inside the church, we'll have about 860 seats. Last year, we had about 850 people attend the 4 PM Christmas Eve Mass. Please move in to the middle of the pew to make room for everyone.

Our other Masses at 7 PM, 9:15 AM, and 11 AM will have both plenty of people and plenty of room. I'd encourage you to attend one of these Masses to make more room at the 4 PM Mass.

On behalf of the staff, I wish everyone a most blessed and joyful Christmas.

God love you,

Fr. Jim O'Neill

frjim@stjohnlakehurst.com

**CAREGIVER VOLUNTEERS**

<http://caregivervolunteers.org>

Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey (CVCJ) is an interfaith nonprofit agency dedicated to providing supportive services to seniors, veterans, the elderly disabled, individuals with dementia, and caregivers of loved ones with chronic illness, enabling them to live independently and with dignity in their own homes.

For more information about CVCJ or to volunteer, please call the CVCJ office: 732-505-2273 or email us at [info@caregivervolunteers.org](mailto:info@caregivervolunteers.org)

**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!!**

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PICK OF THE WEEK

**The Story of the Nativity**

WATCH ON  
FORMED.ORG

*Understanding the Full Story of Jesus' Birth*

The birth of Jesus is often misunderstood, but this fast-paced, thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity clarifies widespread misunderstandings of Jesus' origin. Join top scholars, inspirational speakers, and popular authors as they explain the story behind the story of the birth of Jesus.

POWERED BY THE AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

FORMED®

KIDS KORNER

**Brother Francis**  
The Days of Advent

Join Brother Francis on a daily journey in this special seasonal celebration of the coming of the Lord! Featuring meditations, prayers, and suggested activities to keep our focus on Christ this Christmas.

Receive a daily reminder by signing up for Advent Reflections and selecting the reflection addition for kids.

SIGN UP ON  
FORMED.ORG/ADVENT

**Additional Recommendations**

Read: Kristoph and the First Christmas Tree  
Watch: Nicholas - The Boy Who Became Santa

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## 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**