

Saint John the Evangelist Church

470 Broad Avenue, Leonia, New Jersey

www.stjohnleonia.org

Rev. Bryan F.J. Adamcik SFO, KCHS, Administrator
Fr. Richard Kwiatkowski, Pastor Emeritus
Fr. Arlou Buslon, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Brian Burke
Deacon

Sr Jeanne Gilligan FSP Sr Maureen Colleary FSP
Sr Elaine Maguire FSP Sr Kathryn King FSP
In Residence-Convent

Mirela Tarabokija
Dir. of Religious Education

Dennis De Santis, *Director of Music*
David Macfarlane, *Associate Music Minister*

Marilyn Badami Deacon Brian Burke
Parish Trustees

Fr. Arlou Buslon Cindi McLean
High School Youth Ministry Junior Youth Group

Cindi & Lenno McLean
CYO Basketball

Julie Diemer
Parish Secretary

Julie Diemer Cecile Arcebido
President Parish Council Chairman Finance Council

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE/CONFESSION:

Monday - Friday 8:30am -8:50am. First Friday at 6:30pm
Saturday at 4:00pm -4:30pm

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

To register for Baptismal preparation and Baptism, call the rectory.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:

Call the Religious Ed Office for requirements/class schedule.

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:

Please call the rectory for an appointment.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK/LAST RITES:

Call the Rectory for sick calls at any time in emergency.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS AND VOCATIONS:

Anyone contemplating a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life should contact the Vocations Office at 973-497-4365.

FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

Sunday—Grades K through 7 meet 10:30 am-12:00 noon
Monday—Grades 1, 2, 3 & 4 meet 3:15-3:45 p.m.

SUNDAY, May 10, 2020 A.D.



WELCOME

To the Parish Family of
St John's in Leonia
Founded in 1912

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Mass Schedule

Saturday:5:00pm

Sunday:.....7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am,
and 6:00pm

Weekdays:.....9:00am Mon-Sat

SPECIAL MASSES OR DEVOTIONS:

First Friday: 7:00pm, Mass of Sacred Heart & Devotions

First Saturday: 9:00am, Mass of Immaculate Heart of Mary

Novenas prayed after 9:00 a.m. Mass:

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal: Monday

St. Jude and St. Anthony: Wednesday

Infant of Prague: 25th of the month

Rosary: Recited Mon - Sat after 9:00am Mass.

Wednesday: Holy Hour with Adoration & Benediction 7:00pm

St John Rectory
Phone: 201-947-4545
Email: parishoffice@stjohnleonia.org

St John Fax
201-947-3891

Religious Education
201-944-4346

St. John Convent
201-944-4362

St John the Evangelist, Leonia NJ

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Please **PRAY** in the name of **JESUS**, the Healer, that the **SICK** of **ST. JOHN PARISH** may be restored to health and all those who **ASSIST** and **CARE** for the sick will be given the **STRENGTH** to continue **GOD'S GOOD WILL**: Nancy, Ed, Ben, David, Gio, Raul, Pootrie, Baby Declan, Connie Bizyk, Michael Brady, Maria Buljevic, Bruce Burke, Corazon Canare, Steven Chang, Joseph Corbo, Valeria Czermak, Janine DeCicco, Nestor DelPrado, Nelia DelValle, Jodi DeMichele, MaryEllen Diakakis, Carla Errico, Peggy Horan, Lori Hulle, Peter Indiveri, Lori Lepore, Imee Macalindong, Mary McGrath, Jerry Morales, Lenny Moriarity, Alphonsus O'Farrell, Basilia Ones, Joe Perrin, Gloria Petti, Rebecca Piro, Aristedes Ramirez, Fr. Roy Regarspi, Margie Sagara, Betsey Sileo, Nicholas Storms, Cris & Elly Valle, Ann Vaughan, Manuel Villarosa, Mary Wagnes and Jack Warren.

Spiritual Excerpt

“Look to yourself, and beware of judging what others do. In judging others a person works to no purpose, often makes mistakes, and easily does the wrong thing, but in judging and analyzing ourselves, we always work to our own advantage.”
Thomas A Kempis, THE IMITATION OF CHRIST Book 1, Chapter 14.

COMMITMENT

While statistics show there are more Ordained Priests than ever before, there are fewer local-born vocations. Why is that so? Holy Matrimony and Holy Orders are down by similar percentages, resignations from ministry and divorces have similarly increased, and Christian communities that allow married or female clergy also have fewer vocations ... so the issue is NOT celibacy it is COMMITMENT. And the orations below show us how to combat the crisis caused by a lack of commitment.

For Vocations to Holy Orders – Collect

O God, who willed to provide shepherds for your people, pour out in your Church a spirit of piety and fortitude, to raise up worthy ministers for your altars and make them ardent yet gentle heralds of your Gospel.

Fewer Catholics now participate in weekly Mass; most only take part in obligatory events. Dare I ask: when was the last time your family took part in an expression of our Catholic Faith outside of Sunday Mass? In my childhood, the Parish was central in many ways; I knew the Priests personally, experienced firsthand many aspects of ministry, and knew 'being Catholic' was more than a one-hour-a week event, so I was able to easily hear and answer God's call to Priesthood. This Collect states we MUST recapture a sense of PIETY: a sense of God's presence in everyday life, family life, and Parish life. For who accepts a lifestyle that is foreign to them? And we need the FORTITUDE or COURAGE to swim against the tide of our non-religious society. In a culture that increasingly dismisses, rejects or even insults Church and Faith, we MUST be countercultural, willing to be written off as archaic, and politically incorrect ... if we hope our children will become Priests, Deacons, Religious Sisters and Brothers or Christian husbands and wives! We must make an 'offering' of our time to, and interest in, those whom God might be calling to sacred ministry. We must 'offer' our support for those in formation by supporting Diocesan appeals that support vocations. And we must be willing to joyfully 'offer' our own sons and daughters in service to the Lord and His Church.

“All that I am and all I hoped to be, I owe to my mother.”
Abraham Lincoln

REASON, SEASON, LIFETIME

People come into your life for a reason, a season or a lifetime. When you know which one it is, you will know what to do for that person. When someone is in your life for a REASON, it is usually to meet a need you have expressed. They have come to assist you through a difficulty, to provide you with guidance and support, to aid you physically, emotionally or spiritually. They may seem like a godsend and they are. They are there for the reason you need them to be. Then, without any wrongdoing on your part or at an inconvenient time, this person will say or do something to bring the relationship to an end.

Sometimes they die. Sometimes they walk away. Sometimes they act up and force you to take a stand. What we must realize is that our need has been met, our desire fulfilled, their work is done. The prayer you sent up has been answered and now it is time to move on.

Some people come into your life for a SEASON, because your turn has come to share, grow or learn. They bring you an experience of peace or make you laugh. They may teach you something you have never done. They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy. Believe it, it is real. But only for a season.

LIFETIME relationships teach you lifetime lessons, things you must build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation. Your job is to accept the lesson, love the person and put what you have learned to use in all other relationships and areas of your life. It is said that love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant.

STEWARDSHIP

MY FAMILY – MY PARISH – MY RESPONSIBILITY

Did you ever notice that the price of a movie is now over \$10, milk is almost \$3 a gallon, and there is no longer such a thing as penny candy? The price of everything around us has increased, **but has your weekly donation to the Church ever increased?** That one dollar donation doesn't buy as much as it once did. As your expenses increase, so do those of the Church, but we rely on your generosity to meet our expenses. Please be generous.

Just a reminder since the school building is still currently not rented we are asking for all our parishioners to please try to give an additional \$10 a week.

St John's Knights of Columbus

All men over 18 are invited to join the St. John's Knights of Columbus, the world's largest men's fraternal organization. For more information or to join, please contact Mike Minetti at 201-370-2061

PRAYER FOR OUR MILITARY

O Prince of peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion, the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Be their rock, their shield, and their stronghold and let them draw their strength from You. For You are God, for ever and ever.

Cpl. Matt Brady	Lt. Col. Christopher Caldwell, O.D.
Maj. Michael A. Franson	Airman Matthew Gonzales
Lt. Robert Lucieri, MD	Cmdr. Alexander McMahon
Sgt. Joseph Gonzales	

“God has a plan of holiness for everyone.”
Pope John Paul II

A Country Founded by Geniuses but Run by Idiots

- If plastic water bottles are okay, but plastic bags are banned, — you might live in a nation (state) that was founded by geniuses but is run by idiots.
- If you can get arrested for hunting or fishing without a license, but not for entering and remaining in the country illegally — you might live in a nation that was founded by geniuses but is run by idiots.
- If you MUST show your identification to board an airplane, cash a check, buy liquor, or check out a library book and rent a video, but not to vote for who runs the government — you might live in a nation that was founded by geniuses but is run by idiots.
- If, in the nation's largest city, you can buy two 16-ounce sodas, but not one 24-ounce soda, because 24-ounces of a sugary drink might make you fat — you might live in a nation that was founded by geniuses but is run by idiots.
- If an 80-year-old woman who is confined to a wheelchair or a three-year-old girl can be strip-searched by the TSA at the airport, but a woman in a burka or a hijab is only subject to having her neck and head searched — you might live in a nation that was founded by geniuses but is run by idiots.
- If your government believes that the best way to eradicate trillions of dollars of debt is to spend trillions more — you might live in a nation that was founded by geniuses but is run by idiots.
- If a seven-year-old boy can be thrown out of school for saying his teacher is "cute" but hosting a sexual exploration or diversity class in grade school is perfectly acceptable — you might live in a nation that was founded by geniuses but is run by idiots.
- If hard work and success are met with higher taxes and more government regulation and intrusion while not working is rewarded with Food Stamps, WIC checks, Medicaid benefits, subsidized housing, and free cell phones — you might live in a nation that was founded by geniuses but is run by idiots.
- If you pay your mortgage faithfully, denying yourself the newest big-screen TV, while your neighbor buys iPhones, time shares, a wall-sized do-it-all plasma screen TV and new cars, and the government forgives his debt when he defaults on his mortgage — you might live in a nation that was founded by geniuses but is run by idiots.

WE TEACH BY EXAMPLE

As a father lay on the couch watching TV, his son, all dressed for church, entered the room. "Dad?" he said, "I have a question." Without even looking up, the father replied, "What's that son?" The boy said, "When am I going to be old enough not to go to church either?"

QUESTION

Jehovah's Witness' have been known to say that God's name is Jehovah. Is this true? The Hebrew name for God, as given in the Book of Exodus, is Yahweh. Ancient Hebrew did not have written vowels; therefore, the name looked like this: YHWH. The four letters of the sacred Name are known as the tetragrammaton. In German, Y can be replaced by J and W by V, so that it would come out thus: JHVH. When certain vowels are inserted, "Jehovah" emerges. However, the substitutions are shaky, and the best proof that the whole process is faulty is that Jews today know the Lord's Name as Yahweh, not Jehovah.

Baloney is the unvarnished lie laid on so thick you hate it.
Blarney is flattery laid on so thick you love it.

Bishop Fulton Sheen

Join Us Live-Stream

Due to health concerns in light of the Coronavirus Pandemic, **Cardinal Tobin, Archbishop of Newark** has dispensed the faithful of the Archdiocese of Newark from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and has suspended the public celebration of Daily Mass until further notice. During this time, St. John's continues to Live Stream Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm, Sunday Mass at 9:30am & 11:30am and Daily Mass at 9:00am. Join us at Facebook Group LIVE MASS AT ST. JOHN. You can also watch the recorded video approximately 1 hour later on YouTube at St. John the Evangelist Leonia. Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet & Benediction are weekdays at 7pm.

This is A Keeper

I grew up with practical parents. A mother, God love her, who washed aluminum foil after she cooked in it, then reused it. She was the original recycle queen before they had a name for it. A father who was happier getting old shoes fixed than buying new ones. Their marriage was good, their dreams focused. Their best friends lived barely a wave away. I can see them now, Dad in trousers, tee shirt and a hat, and Mom in a house dress, lawn mower in one hand, and dishtowel in the other. It was the time for fixing things. A curtain rod, the kitchen radio, screen door, the oven door, the hem in a dress. Things we keep. It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, eating, renewing, I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste meant affluence. Throwing things away meant you knew there'd always be more. But then my mother died, and on that clear summer's night, in the warmth of the hospital room, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any more. Sometimes, what we care about most gets all used up and goes away ... never to return. So ... while we have it ... it's best we love it ... And care for it ... And fix it when it's broken ... And heal it when it's sick. This is true. For marriage ... And old cars ... And children with bad report cards ... And dogs with bad hips ... And aging parents ... And grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it. Some things we keep. Like a best friend that moved away or a classmate we grew up with. There are just some things that make life important, like people we know who are special ... And so, we keep them close! Now it's your turn to give this to those people that are "keepers" in your life. Good friends are like stars ... You don't always see them, but you know they are always there. Keep them close!

The Purpose Driven Life

In the interview by Paul Bradshaw with Rick Warren, author of "Purpose Driven Life" Rick said: People ask me, What is the purpose of life? And I respond: In a nutshell, life is preparation for eternity. We were made to last forever, and God wants us to be with Him in Heaven. One day my heart is going to stop, and that will be the end of my body-- but not the end of me. I may live 60 to 100 years on earth, but I am going to spend trillions of years in eternity. This is the warm-up act - the dress rehearsal. God wants us to practice on earth what we will do forever in eternity. We were made by God and for God, and until you figure that out, life isn't going to make sense. Life is a series of problems: Either you are in one now, you're just coming out of one, or you're getting ready to go into another one. The reason for this is that God is more interested in your character than your comfort. God is more interested in making your life holy than He is in making your life happy. We can be reasonably happy here on earth, but that's not the goal of life. The goal is to grow in character, in Christ likeness.

Kidz Korner Answers

1. St. Elizabeth
2. St. Anne
3. Eve
4. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
5. St. Gerard

The Queen of this Land

Jaime Cardinal Sin, Primate of the Philippines, spoke at Stonehill College in North Easton, Massachusetts, to graduating seniors on May 18, 1986. His Eminence said of a scene he witnessed on February 23, 1986: "We knew that Marcos had sent out his troops, and that the only way to stop that dictator was to encourage the people to go to EDSA and pray to Our Lady."

Cardinal Sin said "Through all the available media sources, I, along with many other religious and media individuals, pleaded with the people to "Go to EDSA!" Shortly after the EDSA event, Rosalie was in the Philippines, and she spoke to Mr. Alex Reyes, the President of the local Blue Army, and a restaurant owner. At the time of the plea, he asked his family, "Who will go with me to die for God?" Several of his grandchildren joined him in his mission, fully expecting to be run over by the tanks...and die. And, they went!

Without any other weapons, several hundred people were praying the Rosary – everyone in deep and earnest prayer, with beads in their hands and candles flickering beside them.

On the front lines of EDSA stood Brother Joseph Rona with the statue of Our Lady that he had received from Rosalie, John, and the Blue Army, some two years before. Because the people had seen miracles with this statue, they asked Our Lady to intercede for them again, since their only alternatives now were Her help, or death. Facing them were hundreds of combat-ready marines whom this assembly of prayer had stopped; and, behind the soldiers (ready to climb up the little hill), the tanks, trucks, there stood two battalions about to launch an attack!

Then a very amazing thing happened. The troops stopped, the tanks were halted, not by any force of weapons, nor even by the force of bodies bound together in a human barricade. In the United Press International, Cardinal Sin reported that the government troops held their fire and did not attack the crowds blocking their way to Camp Crame, "because," as the soldiers told him, "a very beautiful Lady appeared," saying to them, "Dear soldiers, stop! Don't attack My people. I am the Queen of this land." The troops dispersed!

Cardinal Sin said, "I have not said this publicly before, and I hesitate to say it here, but I firmly believed, in my heart of hearts, that if the people prayed there, there would indeed be a miracle, and that our deliverance would come in peace from the Lord, through His Mother's hands.

"That is why I had to encourage them to go there. I felt that their confidence in Our Lady was necessary to save the day. Their lives were at stake, but we all trusted in God's power and Our Lady's love."

HOW SHOULD WE DRESS??

People generally have no real problem wearing proper clothing when entering places that demand such attire. Would you ever consider attending a formal dinner or a wedding dressed in a tee shirt and shorts, or a tank top and swimming trunks? Why be rebellious in God's house?

St. Gertrude the Great

St. Gertrude is often invoked for souls in Purgatory. Our Lord told St. Gertrude that the following prayer would release 1000 souls from Purgatory each time it was said. The prayer was extended to include living sinners as well. "Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen."

HUGS

A mom's hug lasts long after she lets go.

—Anonymous

MASS INTENTION

REQUESTED BY

SATURDAY, MAY 9, ST. GREGORY NAZIANZEN

5:00 PM DANIELLA LEMBODIANE LEMBO
DAVID VAUGHAN..... VAUGHAN FAMILY

SUNDAY, MAY 10, FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:30 AM JOSEPHINE LANZADR. FRANK LANZA
MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA

11:30 AM PATRICIA & JAMES KOURAKOS DEE. KOURAKOS
SUKHEUM CHOIJULIA CHOI

MONDAY, MAY 11, STS. PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES

9:00 AM MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA
VIRGINIA BATTLEMARIE & JOHN BRAINARD

TUESDAY, MAY 12, STS. NEREUS AND ACHILLEUS, MARTYRS

9:00 AM MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA
MARTHA GUILLEN JAN & JOHN CONNELL

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, OUR LADY OF FATIMA

9:00 AM MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA
LETTY DUWE ANNABELLE DUMLAO

THURSDAY, MAY 14, ST. MATTHIAS, APOSTLE

9:00 AM MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA
TERESITA EUGENIO ANNABELLE DUMLAO

FRIDAY, MAY 15, ST. ISIDORE

9:00 AM MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA
MARIA CHRISTINA SALAMANTE, LIVING-BIRTHDAY.. LINDA SALAMANTE

SATURDAY, MAY 16, ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE

9:00 AM MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA
MARTHA GUILLEN JAN & JOHN CONNELL
5:00 PM MICHAEL COMEFORDCATHY & JIM TREACY
FLORENCE TURSO LEMBO FAMILY

SUNDAY, MAY 17, SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:30 AM MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA
TERRENCE MCMAHON ROSEMARY MCMAHON
11:30 AM PETER GILLESPIE BETTY ROESER
ILHWAN CHOI.....JULIA CHOI

Sanctuary Memorials

The Altar Bread & Wine is in memory of Frank Molinari
requested by Julie & Jim Diemer

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory of
Loretta Baniel & Dorothy Solokas

The Altar Bread and Wine and the Sanctuary Lamp in the Church can be dedicated on a weekly basis. The Sanctuary Lamp in the Rectory and the Convent can also be dedicated on a weekly basis.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8
Thursday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-8; Jn 15:9-17
Friday: Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-10, 12; Jn 15:12-17
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-3, 5; Jn 15:18-21
Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt 3:15-18
or 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 14:15-21 or Jn 17:1-11a

KIDZ KORNER

- 1. Who was St. John the Baptist's mom?
- 2. Who was the Virgin Mary's mom?
- 3. Who was the mother of Cain and Abel?
- 4. What famous American Saint was the mother of five children?
- 5. Who is the patron of expectant mothers?

Answers on page three

May is dedicated to Our Blessed Lady.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The most destructive habitWorry
- The greatest joyGiving
- The greatest lossLoss of self respect
- The most satisfying workHelping others
- The ugliest personality trait.....Selfishness
- The most endangered speciesDedicated leaders
- Our greatest resourceOur youth
- The greatest "shot in the arm"Encouragement
- The greatest problem to overcomeFear
- The most effective sleeping pill.....Peace of Mind
- The most crippling failure diseaseExcuses
- The most powerful force in lifeLove
- The most dangerous pariahGossiper
- The world's most incredible computer...The brain
- The worst thing to be without.....Hope
- The deadliest weaponThe tongue
- The two most power-filled words "I can"
- The greatest asset.Faith
- The most worthless emotionSelf-pity
- The most beautiful attireSMILE!
- The most prized possession.Integrity
- The most powerful channel of communication ...Prayer
- The most contagious spiritEnthusiasm

On the Eucharistic Miracle

As The Bishop of Legnica I hereby announce to the public and inform about an event that took place in the parish of St. Jack in Legnica which has the signs of the Eucharistic miracle. On 25th December, 2013 during the distribution of the Holy Communion, a consecrated Host fell to the floor and then was picked up and placed in a water-filled container (vasculum). Soon after, stains of the red color appeared. The former Bishop of Legnica, Stefan Cichy, set up a commission to observe the phenomenon. In February 2014, a tiny red fragment of the Host was separated and put on a corporal. The Commission ordered to take samples in order to conduct the thorough tests by the relevant research institutes.

In the final announcement of the Department of Forensic Medicine we read as follows: In the histopathological image, the fragments of tissue have been found containing the fragmented parts of the cross striated muscle. (...) The whole (...) is most similar to the heart muscle with alterations that often appear during the agony. The genetic researches indicate the human origin of the tissue.

In January this year I presented the whole matter to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in the Vatican. Today, according to the recommendations of the Holy See, I ordered the parish vicar Andrzej Ziombro to prepare a suitable place for a display of the Relic so that the faithful could give it the proper adoration. Hereby, I also ask for providing the visitors with information and conducting the regular teaching that could help the faithful to have the proper attitude to the Eucharistic cult. I also command to form a book to register all received benefits and other miraculous events.

I hope that this will serve to deepen the cult of the Eucharist and will have deep impact on the lives of people facing the Relic. We see the mysterious Sign as an extraordinary act of love and goodness of God, who comes to humans in ultimate humiliation.

I cordially ask for your prayer and I bless you.

+ Zbigniew Kiernikowski The Bishop of Legnica 4/17/16

"The greatest teacher I ever had was my mother."
George Washington

The Secret Rooms That Were Custom Built to Hide Your Priest by Eric Grundhauser

When on the run from Protestants in the 16th century, Catholic clergy hid in custom-built "priest holes." England was once riddled with secret priest holes that kept the clergy safe from hunters. Secret rooms and hidden doors are generally considered features of haunted houses, but in 16th-century England, they were integral in keeping Catholic priests, and Catholicism itself, alive. With the Protestant Reformation ramping up and Catholicism under attack, a system of safe houses equipped with cleverly hidden "priest holes" kept fugitive clergymen safe from persecution.

When Protestant Queen Elizabeth I ascended to the throne in 1558, the anti-Catholic attitude among much of the British monarchy had reached fever pitch. Elizabeth immediately became the target of a number of Catholic church plots aimed at removing her from the top spot. The queen's response to these plots was not subtle. Under her rule, it became illegal to practice the Catholic faith in England. Anyone found engaging in Catholic rituals could face punishments ranging from fines to life imprisonment.

Catholic priests were in even more danger. It became high treason (which was often punishable by death) for a Catholic priest to so much as enter England, and anyone found aiding or harboring a priest would be just as guilty. The same went for anyone caught attempting to convert someone to the faith, as it was seen as removing supporters from Elizabeth's cause. Needless to say, it was hard out there for a priest. But they and their congregants had crafty ways of coping. Devout Catholics living under Elizabeth's reign began to worship covertly, establishing a network of homes for priests and other "recusants" to continue the faith in England. Secret symbols, like wax discs bearing a cross and a lamb (representing the Lamb of God), were used to mark safe houses. Jesuit priests were smuggled into the country, coming to live with faithful families under the guise of a visiting teacher or cousin.

Of course, the crown got wise to these covert operations and began sending out priest hunters (technically called "pursuivants") to ferret out the treasonous clergy. Surprise inspections and raids of wealthy family homes were not uncommon. If a priest was found, he would face torture and eventual execution. To escape this fate, a number of homes installed hidden compartments called priest holes, where Catholic leaders could conceal themselves in the case of an inspection. These small hideaways were often built under staircases or inside fireplaces or behind false walls. (Even if you weren't harboring a religious fugitive, the priest holes made a great place to stash your candles, crucifixes, and other Catholic accoutrements.) Some homes would have multiple priest holes scattered throughout, with at least one, Hindlip Hall, maintaining 12 separate holes. Some priest holes would even be hidden behind secret panels in other priest holes as an added precaution. The hiding places were generally very small, with barely enough room for a full-grown adult to fit, but they did the trick.

Priest hunters eventually got wind of these clever holes and stepped up their searches accordingly. They would knock house walls to see if they were hollow or measure the footprint of the building on the inside and outside to see if they matched. They began counting the windows and pulling up the floors. Sometimes they would stake out a home for days or weeks, just waiting for a Catholic priest to pop his head out of his hole. Occasionally, priests even perished in their hidey holes after they were unable to emerge for food or water. (To combat this, some priest holes featured hidden feeding tubes).

Due to the secret nature of the holes, there is no record of exactly how many were built. But one man stands out as the master of the craft. Jesuit brother Nicholas Owen, nicknamed "Little John" thanks to his height, began designing and building hidden chambers around the 1580s. For the next 20 years he turned hiding priests into an art. A master architect and builder, Owen was known for his ability to create secret chambers that baffled the priest hunters.

Owen was almost found out a number of times during his career, and got arrested and tortured in 1594. But even when subjected to agony, Owen never gave up the location of another priest or the holes he built. When he was caught a final time in 1606, he gave himself up to distract from other priests hiding in the house. He was taken to the Tower of London and tortured to death, never giving an inch. For his work in creating the priest holes that saved countless lives, Owen was sainted by Pope Paul in 1970, and is now known as the patron saint of illusionists.

INFORMATION SHEET

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

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Leonida, NJ 07605

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201-947-4545

CONTACT PERSON

Julie Diemer

SOFTWARE

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TRANSMISSION TIME

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Please send only 50 printed copies. Thank you.

**NOTE: Church is at the corner of Broad & Harrison;
bulletins are delivered to the Rectory, 235 Harrison
Street, Leonida NJ 07605.
pastor@stjohnleonida.org**