

4<sup>th</sup> *Sunday*  
OF ADVENT



*Church of the Visitation*



# Church of the Visitation

755 Mantoloking Road Brick, N.J. 08723

## Welcome!

*The entire parish community extends a warm welcome to all visitors and new parishioners*

**Rectory Office Phone:** 732-477-0028  
**Religious Education:** 732-477-5217  
**Rectory Fax:** 732-477-1274  
**Rectory Address:** 730 Lynnwood Ave. Brick, NJ  
**Website:** www.visitationrchurch.org

**REV. EDWARD H. BLANCHETT, PASTOR, EXT. 201**  
**REV. JAMES O'NEILL, PAROCHIAL VICAR, EXT. 220**

### Assisting Priests

Rev. James Sauchelli      Rev. Bernard Mohan  
Rev. Msgr. Ricardo Gonzalez      Rev. Msgr. Vincent Doyle  
Msgr. Philip Franceschini      Rev. Richard Carlson

### Deacons

**Salvatore Vicari, Ext. 218**      **Nicola Stranieri, Ext. 102**  
**Richard Johnston, Ext. 221**      **Edward Fischer**

### Staff

**Denise Patetta, Ext. 201**      **Nancy Grodberg Ext. 219**  
Parish Secretary/Bulletin Editor      Coordinator of Religious  
**Vicki Cottrell, Ext. 216**      Education  
Pastoral/Business Admin      **Dee DeTuro, Ext 219**  
**Natalie Bencivenga, Ext. 217**      Religious Education Asst.  
Music Director/Organist      **Dale Zanetti, Ext.214**  
**Christie Winters, Ext. 105**      Coordinator of Adult Faith  
Youth Ministry Leader      Formation  
**Christie Winters 732-746-3456**  
Director of Visitation Relief Center

### RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

**Monday thru Friday: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM**  
**Closed 12:30 – 1:30 for Lunch**

### Parish Registration

The Church of the Visitation is obliged to serve and minister to all baptized Catholics living in our local area. **PLEASE REGISTER** – it assists the staff in knowing you as a parishioner, providing for your needs, informing you of parish programs and activities, and utilizing your gifts and talents in service of the Church and one another. Envelopes for weekly contributions are available to you once you are registered. Please contact Deacon Sal Vicari at ext. 218 to register.

### Sacramental Sponsor Certificates

The following is required by Canon Law to be a Catholic Godparent/Sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation. 1. Be at least 16 years of age. 2. Have completed the Sacraments of the Initiation. (Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation) 3. Be a registered and active parishioner living a life of faith. If married, have a marriage that is canonically valid and recognized by the Catholic Church.

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

**Weekend:** Saturday 4:00  
**Sunday:** 6:45, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM  
**Daily:** Monday-Saturday 7:30 and 8:15 AM (Daily Chapel)  
**Monday Evenings:** 7:30 PM  
**Holy Days:** See Current Bulletin  
**Holy Hour:** First Fri. of the month 7:00 to 8:00 PM (Church)

### Baptism

Parents or legal guardians are encouraged to register 2 months in advance to schedule a baptism. Parents and Guardians are required and sponsors are encouraged to attend the Baptismal Formation Session prior to the Baptism. Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays following the 12:30 Mass at 1:45 PM. Please contact Deacon Sal Vicari at ext. 218 to make arrangements.

### Marriages

The Sacrament of Marriage requires a time of spiritual preparation. According to the Common Policy adopted by the Bishops of New Jersey, this preparation requires sessions with a priest or deacon, Focus review and attendance at a Marriage Preparation Programs such as Pre Cana. Therefore couples should make arrangements with the Church at least 1 year before the planned wedding date and finalizing any social plans. Couples must also verify freedom to marry before dates and arrangements can be made. Please contact Deacon Sal Vicari at ext. 218 to make arrangements.

### Anointing of the Sick

Please notify the Parish Office when serious illness occurs and when the sick, aged, or incapacitated are confined to home for extended period. In an emergency call Parish office anytime.

### Penance/Reconciliation

Saturday from 3:15 to 3:45PM in the Church or anytime by appointment. A Penance Service is held during Advent and Lent.

### Religious Education (CCD)

Our Religious Education and sacramental preparation for our children meets on Sunday from 9:15~10:30 AM in Lake Riviera Middle School, weekday classes in the Church Rectory. Pre-registration is required. Please call Nancy Grodberg at 732-477-5217.

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

This is the process by which adults become full, active, participating members of the Catholic Church. Please call Dale Zanetti at ext. 214 for more information.

*We now offer Low-Gluten Host for those suffering from celiac sprue disease*

*Elevator is located on the side of the Church near the Bell Tower*

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 17</b>
4:00 PM	Arthur Dempsey
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 18</b>
6:45 AM	Marco Capasso
8:00 AM	Maria Iosue Naimo
9:30 AM	Nicola & Catalda Corallo
11:00 AM	Leslie Pucci
12:30 PM	People of the Parish
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 19</b>
7:30 AM	Frank Zoldak
8:15 AM	Anthony Busby
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 20</b>
7:30 AM	Rev. William McDonnell
8:15 AM	Gerard Petillo
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 21</b>
7:30 AM	Michael & Matilda O'Boyle
8:15 AM	Ron Yeuling
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 22</b>
7:30 AM	Diane Arrabito.
8:15 AM	Mesgleski & Deegan Families
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 23</b>
7:30 AM	Robert Cooper
8:15 AM	Janusz Filip
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 24</b>
7:30 AM	Nicola & Gerlanda Albano
8:15 AM	Angelo & Giuliana Leotta
4:00 PM	Stephen Zaleski
4:15 PM	John & Eleanor Powers
7:00 PM	Philip LaManna
Midnight	Harold Ulrich
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 25</b>
8:00 AM	Frank & Eleanor Barlowski
9:30 AM	Amato Family
11:00 AM	Mario Altomare
12:30 PM	People of the Parish

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 18</b>
Masses	Church
Community Sunday	Parish Hall
Christmas Pageant	2:00 PM Church
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 19</b>
Community Lunch Mtg	9:30 AM Parish Hall
Rosary For Life	1:30 PM Daily Chapel
CCD Classes	4:30 PM Rooms A, B & C
Cub Scouts	6:30 PM Parish Hall
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 20</b>
Bingo	11:00 AM Parish Hall
CCD Classes	4:30 PM Rooms C
Children's Choir	6:30 PM Church
Alanon	7:00 PM Parish Hall
Adult Faith Formation.	7:15 PM Room B
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 21</b>
Community Luncheon	12:00 PM Parish Hall
CCD Classes	4:30 PM Rooms A& C
H.S. Confirmation Class	6:00 PM Room A
Boy Scouts	6:30 PM Parish Hall
Youth Choir Practice	7:00 PM Church
Advent Small Group Sharing	7:15 AM Room B
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 22</b>
CCD Classes	4:30 PM Rooms A, B & C
Adult Choir	7:15 PM Church
AA	7:30 PM Auditorium
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 23</b>
Children of Light Prayer Group	7:00PM Parish Hall
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 24</b>
Christmas Pageant Practice	11:00 AM Church
Mass	4:00 PM Church
Mass	4:15 PM Daily Chapel
Mass	7:00 PM Church
Mass	Midnight Church

## For the Week of December 18, 2016



**Church Sanctuary Candle** is "In Loving Memory" of Maria Sasso

**Chapel Sanctuary Candle** is "In Loving Memory" of Lynn Nutley

**Blessed Mother Candle** is "In Loving Memory" of Raphaela Fasano

**Sacred Heart Candle** is "In Loving Memory" of Deceased Members of Lech, Vitale & Pecora Families

**THE 2017 CANDLE BOOK IS NOW OPEN.  
WE WILL NO LONGER BE TAKING INTENTIONS FOR THE SANCTUARY CANDLES, ONLY THE BLESSED MOTHER AND SACRED HEART. THE DONATION FOR THESE IS \$12.00.**

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Is 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23

**Thursday:** Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Lk 7:24-30

**Friday:** Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Jn 5:33-36

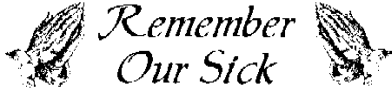
**Saturday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

**Sunday:** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

# **“LET THE LORD ENTER; HE IS KING OF GLORY”**

*Welcome into God's Family*

*Michael Robert Antine*



“REMEMBERING OUR SICK” LIST IS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE IN NEED OF SPECIAL PRAYERS. THEY WILL REMAIN ON THE LIST FOR FOUR WEEKS. IF EXTENDED PRAYERS ARE NEEDED, PLEASE CONTACT VISITATIONS PRAYER CHAIN AT 848-373-4239.

*Reflections for*

*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*



The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means “Yahweh saves.” He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: “. . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us].”

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God. *Loyola Press*

*In Your Charity* please pray for the happy repose of the souls of deceased members of the Parish, your friends, relatives and benefactors.



## **RECTORY OFFICE CLOSED**



The rectory office will be closed December 26 for the Christmas Holiday. We will open, Tuesday, December 27 at 8:30 AM.



**THIS MONTH'S  
COMMUNITY SUNDAY  
(DECEMBER 18)  
IS SPONSORED BY  
THE  
KNIGHTS OF  
COLUMBUS COUNCIL**

## **SACRIFICIAL GIVING**

**Offering for the Week of December 11, 2016**

<b>Regular</b>	\$9852.62
<b>On Line</b>	\$807.00
<b>Total</b>	\$10,659.62

***Some of the expenses for November included:***

Electric	\$1,894.78
Natural Gas	\$707.27
Communications Services	\$823.39
Landscaping	\$1,511.00
Property Taxes	\$6,306.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,243.17</b>

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.  
THEY MAKE OUR BULLETIN POSSIBLE.**

**ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK  
O'BRIEN FUNERAL HOME**

For bulletin advertising information, please call John Patrick Publishing Company 800-333-3166

**NEXT WEEKEND THERE WILL BE  
TWO COLLECTIONS. PLEASE PLACE YOUR  
REGULAR WEEKLY DONATION ENVELOPE IN THE  
FIRST BASKET AND THE ENVELOPE FOR THE  
ASSESSMENT IN THE SECOND BASKET.**



After a weekend Mass not too long ago, one of the ushers handed me a small slip of paper. It appears that, instead of taking a tag for the Giving Tree, someone put one in an unsigned letter not to Santa Claus but to God. Amidst drawn pictures of hearts, a chalice and a crucifix, it simply said: “Dear God, I have been well behaved and good. We love you.” As I looked upon this example of innocence which only young children and the angels possess, I couldn't help but wonder where and how we lose it. How do we become so adept at looking for hidden meanings the happenings of our lives, both the bad and the good? How do we develop the skill of anguishing about events over which we really have very little control and expend so much energy on a future that is not in our hands but in God's? Is there any way we can try to re-capture, at least in part, some of that trust which children so instinctively give to those in charge of their lives?

Certainly at this time of year, which is correctly called *the Season of Advent* but instead has become better known as *the Holiday Shopping Season*, we are given many opportunities to find the answers to some of these questions. Maybe we can reconcile ourselves to the fact that we *won't* find (or afford) the perfect present, but instead we can find (or make or do for someone as) a present which truly comes from the heart. Maybe a Christmas feast suitable for the cover of *Better Homes and Gardens* isn't what we're called to prepare, but instead a simpler one which welcomes those who participate as friends and family into a home in which God also has a place. Instead of looking upon the “Christmas and Easter Catholics” that will soon crowd our churches as an intrusion, we can offer a friendly hand or word of welcome that may encourage them to visit more frequently.

As we complete our preparations to welcome the Christ-child in our midst, let's practice a little of that child-like trust and innocence and give our Heavenly Father the chance to do the rest, to remind ourselves and demonstrate to others that we love Him, too!

In today's bulletin you will find the financial report of Visitation parish for the last fiscal year. As you can see, we continue to draw into our parish savings reserve (the amount which the parish is required to maintain in order to respond to emergencies; you could call it the parish “rainy day” fund, but as any rainy day, its use is not designed to last forever.) I hope that the enclosed report will provide some insight into this hard reality and trust that we all pray and work with our Lord to keep our parish in a position to provide for the spiritual and material needs of our community for years to come.

*Fr. Ed*



## **DINE TO DONATE**



**Authentic Cuban & Classic Spanish Cuisine  
399 Mantoloking Road, Brick 732-701-3861**

**Every Thursday in December (22,29)**

**10% of your purchase (excluding tax, gratuities & Sunset Menu) will be donated to the Church of the Visitation Covering Fund (parking lot and carpet replacement).**

**MUST BRING FLYER**

(available at the doors of the church or print from our website)

**DECEMBER 18, 2016**



**Church of the Visitation Monthly 50/50  
Annual Subscriptions Available for 2017**



**Annual subscriptions make a great Christmas stocking stuffer or gift for yourself, family, friends, and others (i.e. hairdresser, teacher, paper carrier, etc.).  
It's a gift they'll remember all year long.**

The proceeds from this major fundraiser are used for a wide variety of maintenance and renovation projects.  
A \$20 annual subscription gives you one ticket in each monthly drawing throughout 2017.

**All ticket holders must be 18 years of age or over.**

Completed forms must be returned by December 15, 2016, to assure delivery by Christmas. Simply mail back, bring to the rectory or **place in the collection basket.** **A certificate with your raffle number (for yourself and/or gift recipients) will be mailed to you.** For questions or more information, call 732-477-7059 ext. 216 or e-mail vicki@visitationchurch.com.

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Number of subscriptions for Purchaser (self)    \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Gift subscriptions                            \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Purchaser:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City/St/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Each subscription has 12 chances to win –1 for each monthly drawing. Use a separate piece of paper for additional gifts.

**All ticket holders must be 18 years of age or over.**

Gift Recipient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gift Recipient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gift Recipient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gift Recipient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gift Recipient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Below For Credit Card Orders Only:**

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  Discover  
Billing Address \* \_\_\_\_\_  Visa  
City, St., Zip \* \_\_\_\_\_  Master Card  
E-mail Address \*\* \_\_\_\_\_  American Express

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\* If different than ticket mailing address    \*\*Credit Card Receipt will be e-mailed to this address

**Tickets can be picked up at the rectory or Community Sunday for Christmas delivery.  
A full year's annual subscription can be purchased thru January 27, 2017**

**SHOP TO SUPPORT ~ LAST WEEKEND**

**Five Below**



Stop by for seasonal items & Stocking Stuffers December 12-18

**10% of your purchase (excluding tax) will be donated to the Church of the Visitation**

**Covering Fund (parking lot and carpet replacement).**

**MUST BRING FLYER**

(available at the doors of the church or print from our website).

**ADULT CONFIRMATION**

Adults 18 and older who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, sessions are now forming. Orientation and registration will be on Friday, January 23, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Daily Chapel. There are 10 instruction weeks, 1 Retreat, 1 practice session and Confirmation Day. We begin on Saturday, January 28, 2017. Confirmation will be on Saturday, April 16, 2017 at the Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00 pm. The sessions are conducted at the Saturday, 4:00 pm Liturgy of the Word and continue in the Parish Hall until 6:30. Registration forms are available on the website at [visitationrcchurch.org](http://visitationrcchurch.org), or call Dale Zanetti, in the Adult Faith Formation Office at 732-477-7059 ext. 214 or email at [dzanetti@visitationrcchurch.org](mailto:dzanetti@visitationrcchurch.org).

**CHRISTMAS MEALS TO GO**



The Knights of Columbus council #7926 will cook and box up complete Christmas meals for pick-up (10am – 12pm) or delivery on the morning of Christmas Eve. In order to receive a meal, please call St. Martha's parish office at (732) 295-3630.

**BINGO**



**THERE WILL BE NO BINGO TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27. BINGO WILL RESUME ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017 AT 11:00 AM..**

**Church of the Visitation Tuesday bingo workers thank all who patronized bingo this past year and wish all a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.**



**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24-**

4:00 PM, (4:15 PM in the Daily Chapel),  
7:00 PM & 12:00 AM (Midnight)

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**

8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM and 12:30 PM

**CHRISTMAS PRELUDE MUSIC**

The Prelude Music for Christmas Eve as follows:

**3:30 PM for the 4:00 PM Mass**

**6:30 PM for the 7:00 PM Mass**

**(Children's Choir)**

**11:30 PM for the Midnight Mass**

*Fr. Ed and Staff  
Wish all our parishioners  
A very Merry Christmas  
and  
A Happy and Healthy New year*

*~~~To all our volunteers~~~*

*Where would we be if not for your dedication,  
loyalty and all your efforts to make  
Visitation the wonderful Parish that it is.  
We thank you for all your stewardship of  
Time and Talent.*

*We wish you and your family a very  
Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.*

**THRIFT STORE**

*St. Vincent de Paul thrift store  
will be closed for the  
Christmas holiday December  
24 thru December 26. The  
store will reopen on Tuesday  
December 27 at 8:30 am.  
The members of st. Vincent  
would like to thank you for  
your patronage throughout*



*the year and wish you and your families  
A very merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year!*

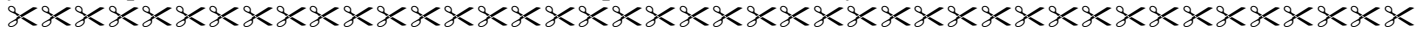
**DECEMBER 18, 2016**

**FLOWERS ENHANCE OUR WORSHIP**

As the Christmas Season begins to unfold, much of our thoughts are of others. Let us remember those who have touched our lives in some way. Parishioners and guests at Church of the Visitation will have the opportunity to honor family or friends by making a donation toward the purchase of the beautiful Christmas flowers/decorations that adorn the altar and sanctuary. If you would like to make a donation in memory/honor of a loved one, envelopes are located in the vestibule of the church or use the form provided below. Please complete all information on the envelope and place it in the collection basket along with your donation.

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!**

A list of donors along with their loved ones names will be published in the bulletin shortly after the Christmas Season. If you have questions or need additional information please call the rectory office ext. 201.



**CHRISTMAS FLOWER/DECORATION DONATION**

I would like to make a donation toward the beautification of the Church for the Christmas Season

**IN MEMORY OF:** \_\_\_\_\_

**IN HONOR OF:** \_\_\_\_\_

**IN THANKSGIVING FOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SELECT ONE FROM THE ABOVE**

**GIVEN IN LOVE BY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Please drop in collection basket or return to parish office.



**THE KING IS COMING!**

The King is coming! The King is coming! This is a cry we heard during the season of Advent. Yes, the King did come, not as a person of worldly power and might, but as a helpless child. Isn't it interesting that Christ's coming was the result of a choice? Mary, His Mother, was given a choice. Will she or will she not agree to accept Jesus as her child and bring him into the world? We too are given a similar choice. Each of us has to decide to accept or reject Jesus as our Lord and Savior, not only at Christmas, but each moment of our lives. Choosing Jesus is an ongoing decision, not one just for the Christmas season. We are continually faced with choices on how we wish to live our lives. Do we live them as followers of the teachings and examples of Jesus Christ, or as followers of the allurements of the world? These choices are not always easy. Temptations are not meant to be. But, they are there for us to demonstrate our love for God.

What does it mean to choose Jesus Christ? It simply means we are to live as Jesus did--we are to love others as He loved us. And, according to Christ, even to those who don't like us. That's real hard to do, but we have to do it and we can by asking for help to love those people that we know are hard to love. We are to forgive everyone, just as God forgave each of us through the sacrifice of His Son. Jesus was born through Mary and she shared Him with the world. Jesus is also to be born in us and we are to share Him with the world. One way we can do this is to share the message of hope through Jesus Christ. That should have been our Christmas message. As the angels that first night proclaimed and gave glory to Christ—we are to go forth and do the same--bringing the message of hope to those that we know are hurting. Tell them to bring Jesus into their lives. It doesn't mean their troubles will go away--that their cancer will disappear or their jobs will be restored, although that can happen--but through Christ they will receive an enduring grace of comfort, a peace not possible from any other source.

Jesus gave us not only examples and teachings that we can follow but He also gave us the graces that we need to choose the Jesus life-style. Every time we receive the Eucharist we are celebrating Christmas—the coming of the Christ Child into our hearts and souls. St. Francis and the Saints of our Church were well aware of this. That is why they dedicated their lives to choosing Jesus Christ. They really believed what Jesus said: "Announce the kingdom! Possess no gold or silver or copper in your purses, no traveling bag, no sandals, no staff" (see Luke 9:1-3). Each, according to their capabilities, accepted this message almost as if it was there mantra. Their primary motivation was to become one with Jesus and to be as Jesus in their relationship with others. Rather than expecting to receive, as so many do during the Christmas season, their goal was to give of themselves to others as they felt Jesus would do.

Four weeks of Advent were scarcely enough to "prepare the way of the Lord". Christ's coming must be considered as a reality, which can be accomplished in how we live our lives, not a commercial experience or a pastoral scene. As we move beyond the Christmas season, let us ask ourselves how we can be a present to others through our presence in their lives every day of the year.



## **DECEMBER 18, 2016**

### **STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES, MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

*If you wish to reach a staff member via e-mail, please find a list of each staff's email address below:*

**REV. EDWARD H. BLANCHETT ~ PASTOR**

pastored@visitationRCchurch.org

**REV. JAMES O'NEILL ~ PAROCHIAL VICAR**

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**DEACON SALVATORE VICARI**

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**DEACON NICOLA STRANIERI**

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**VICKI COTTRELL ~ BUSINESS MANAGER**

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**DENISE PATETTA ~ PARISH SECRETARY/BULLETIN EDITOR**

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**NATALYA BENCIVENGA ~ MUSIC DIRECTOR**

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**DEE DETURO ~ RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSISTANT**

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**DALE ZANETTI ~ ADULT FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR**

dzanetti@visitationRCchurch.org

**RICHARD SCHULER ~ BOOKEEPER**

rschuler@visitationRCchurch.org

**CHRISTIE WINTERS**

cwinters@visitationRCchurch.org

#### **Liturgical Ministries**

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION** distributes Holy Communion at Masses, as well as to the homebound, hospitalized, nursing home, and Senior Housing residents. 732-477-9672, ext. 216 – Vicki Cottrell or [vcottrell@visitationrcchurch.org](mailto:vcottrell@visitationrcchurch.org)

**LECTORS** enhance the community's celebration of the Mass by meaningful reading of God's Word and by providing direction and overviews during the Liturgy. 732-477-9672, ext. 216 – Vicki Cottrell or [vcottrell@visitationrcchurch.org](mailto:vcottrell@visitationrcchurch.org)

**LITURGY TEAM** meets monthly to plan liturgical and worship services that are meaningful and spiritual.

**ART AND ENVIRONMENT TEAM** visually enhances the celebration of the Mass by providing decorations that highlight the liturgical seasons. – Fr. Ed 732-477-9672, ext. 201

**MUSIC MINISTRY** spiritually enhances the celebration of the Liturgy. We are always seeking individuals who would like to share their gift of music through songs and prayers. 732-477-9672, ext. 217 - Natalya Bencivenga or [nbencivenga@visitationrcchurch.org](mailto:nbencivenga@visitationrcchurch.org)

**USHERS** promote hospitality by assisting parishioners, taking up collections and preparing Offertory gifts for presentation at Mass. 732-262-4186 – Kathy Cifelli

**VISITATION ALTAR SERVERS TEAM** see Youth Ministry

#### **Sacrament Preparation**

**BAPTISMAL TEAM** assists the Priests and Deacons with Baptismal Formation Sessions, as well as the actual ceremony. 732-477-9028 - Donna Stawicki or [SewSimple@aol.com](mailto:SewSimple@aol.com)

**RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)** is the process used to welcome those who wish to complete some or all of the sacraments of initiation in the Church. 732-477-9672, ext. 214 - Dale Zanetti or [dzanetti@visitationrcchurch.org](mailto:dzanetti@visitationrcchurch.org)

#### **Education and Evangelization Ministries**

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION** provides educational and growth opportunities for parish adults. 732-477-9672, ext. 214 - Dale Zanetti or [dzanetti@visitationrcchurch.org](mailto:dzanetti@visitationrcchurch.org)

**BIBLE SHARING** offers day sessions to all who wish to deepen their understanding of Scripture. Meetings are held on Thursdays at 9:45 AM in the Church Auditorium. 732-477-9672 ext. 214 - Dale Zanetti or [dzanetti@visitationrcchurch.org](mailto:dzanetti@visitationrcchurch.org)

**EVANGELIZATION TEAM** promotes and fosters evangelization in all ministries by reaching out and encouraging all to live life as active Catholics. 732-477-9672, ext. 218 - Deacon Salvatore Vicari or ext. 214 - Dale Zanetti or [dzanetti@visitationrcchurch.org](mailto:dzanetti@visitationrcchurch.org)

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CCD)** meets on Sunday from 9:15 to 10:30 AM in the Lake Riviera Middle School and weekdays in the church rectory during the school year. Pre-registration is required. 732-477-5217- Nancy Grodberg or [ngrodberg@visitationrcchurch.org](mailto:ngrodberg@visitationrcchurch.org)

#### **Prayer Groups**

**CHILDREN OF LIGHT CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** meets every Friday at 6:30 PM at the VRC to pray and work for spiritual renewal. 732-255-2728 - Paul Rollis or [paulr63@juno.com](mailto:paulr63@juno.com)

**ROYAL HEART OF JESUS & MARY CATHOLIC PRAYER GROUP** meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM in the Parish Room A. All are welcome. 732-742-2600 – Joellen Arrabito – 732-262-3938

**PRAYER CHAIN** is for anyone who feels the need for prayer or would like to join the group. 848-373-4239.

#### **Pastoral Care Ministries**

**BEREAVEMENT TEAM** provides support and meets Spring and Fall. 732-477-9672, ext. 221- Deacon Richard Johnston.

On-going support to grieving families is available- Linda Conroy 908-902-2741 or [lconroy58@verizon.net](mailto:lconroy58@verizon.net)

**FUNERAL LITURGY MINISTRY** helps plan liturgy for funeral masses. 732-367-5329 – Rosemary Russell.

**VISITATION CAREGIVERS** provide supportive services to the frail elderly and homebound in our community such as friendly visits, food shopping, transportation to medical appointments and respite care for families. 732-505-2273 ext. 211- Mary Malagiere or [marym@caregivervolunteers.org](mailto:marym@caregivervolunteers.org)

## ***DECEMBER 18, 2016***

### **Social Ministries/Activities**

**BINGO** is held in the church auditorium on Tuesdays at 11:00 AM 732-477-9672 ext. 201 – Tuesday *Cindy Maguire*  
**EVENT DEVELOPMENT TEAM** meets as needed to develop and implement social activities (such as the Gift Auction and Wine Tasting/Art Auction) for the purpose of raising money for the building fund. 732-477-9672, ext. 216 – *Vicki Cottrell-vcottrell@visitationrchurch.org*

### **Services**

**ANNULMENT TEAMS** are available to assist a parishioner in rectifying his/her marital status in accordance with the law of the Catholic Church and enable parish members to participate in a full Christian life 732-477-7059 ext. 218 – *Deacon Salvatore Vicari*  
732-477-7059 ext. 103 *Arnold Vicidomini*  
**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION** is offered to anyone in the community who yearns to deepen their relationship with God. 732-477-9672, ext.221 *Deacon Richard Johnston*

### **Social Concerns**

**COMMUNITY LUNCH (SOUP KITCHEN)** provides lunch Wednesdays each week to members of the parish and community. 732-255-2835 - *Isabel Kronicz or fkronicz@comcast.net*  
**RESPECT LIFE** focuses on pro-life issues and needs through education and support of other organizations in support of pro-life issues. The group gathers every Monday in the church at 1:30 PM to recite the Rosary. 732-262-2047 – *Charles Pocher*  
**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL** operates the Thrift Shop in the old church and manages the funds from the poor boxes to assist the needy in our parish and the surrounding community. Hours of operation are Monday – Saturday 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM. 732-477-9672, ext. 160  
**VISITATION FOOD BANK** accepts donations of nonperishable food at the VRC location and in Church. These donations assist the hungry of our community. 732-746-3456 - *Visitation Relief Center*

### **Youth Ministries/Activities**

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR** welcomes all from 3 to 12 years of age to share their love for Jesus through music. No tryouts are required. 732-477-9672 ext. 217 – *Natalya Bencivenga or nbencivenga@visitationrchurch.org*  
**CYO BASKETBALL TEAM** practices at Lake Riviera Middle School. They were the 2007 Ocean County CYO champs. 201-522-3679 – *Coach or doug\_roman4@yahoo.com*  
**VISITATION ALTAR SERVERS TEAM** provides assistance to the Priest in celebration of the Mass and other liturgical celebrations Open to all adults and boys and girls third grade and higher who have received their Holy Communion. 732-458-1492 - *Sue Straneri or stranieri.sue@gmail.com*  
**VISITATION TEEN MINISTRY** provides a safe place for high school teenagers to come together, meet new people, and have fun while serving God and the community. For additional information please contact 732-477-7059 ext. 105 – *Christie or cwinters@visitationrchurch.org*

### **Temporal Welfare**

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS TEAM** works to improve and enhance the appearance and safety of the existing church, former church, rectory building, and the associated grounds. The goal of this team is to adhere to all current safety and building codes and ensure that the house of God is maintained in an appropriate manner. - *Fr. Ed* 732-477-9672, ext. 201  
**FINANCE COUNCIL** oversees the financial aspects of the parish 732-477-9672, ext. 216 – *Karen Smith*  
**FUTURES TEAM** assesses and implements the needs of the parish to ensure that we are prepared for the future. The various teams coordinate all activities pertaining to the development of the Faith Formation Center. 732-477-9672, ext. 216 - *Vicki Cottrell-vcottrell@visitationrchurch.org*

### **Organizations**

**AA MEETINGS** are held on Thursdays at 7:30 PM in the church auditorium.  
**CUB SCOUT PACK #38**, sponsored by the Rosary Altar Society, meets on Mondays at 6:30 PM in the Auditorium. No meeting during July & August. 732-451-0252 *Kim Gorman or kimmyg627@aol.com*  
**BOY SCOUT TROOP #38**, sponsored by the Holy Name Society, meets Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the old church. 732-262-8977 - *Matt Powell or matthewapowell@verizon.net*  
**HOLY NAME OF JESUS SOCIETY** promotes respect for the Holy Name of Jesus and His Holy Catholic Church. Society members attend the 8:00 AM Mass the second Sunday of the month and meet the Tuesday following the second Sunday at 7:15 pm in the Auditorium. There are no meeting July & August, however members still attend mass. 732-239-2449 – *Deacon Nick Stranieri or deaconnick@visitationrchurch.org*  
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #836** work with the local parish and contribute many hours of volunteer work to our community annually. They meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Council Home on the corner of Cedarbridge Avenue and Route 70 East.  
**ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY** honors the Blessed Virgin Mary to secure her patronage through the daily recitation of the Rosary for the spiritual benefit of the parish community. Members attend the 8:00 AM Mass on the first Sunday of the month. The Monday following the first Sunday of the month they meet at 11:30 AM in the Church Worship for the Rosary. The meeting will follow at 12:00 noon in the Church Auditorium. There are no meeting July & August, however members still attend mass. 732-232-7132 – *Dee DeTuro or ddeturo@visitationrchurch.org*