

Saint John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

1282 Yardville - Allentown Road • Allentown, N.J. 08501

www.StJohnRomanCatholic.org

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



**THE SPIRIT DROVE JESUS OUT INTO THE DESERT,
AND HE REMAINED IN THE DESERT FOR FORTY DAYS,
TEMPTED BY SATAN.**

**HE WAS AMONG WILD BEASTS,
AND THE ANGELS MINISTERED TO HIM.**

MARK 1:12-13



Saint John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

1282 Yardville-Allentown Road Allentown, NJ 08501

www.StJohnRomanCatholic.org



The First Sunday of Lent February 18, 2024

Sacrament of Confession

Confession is offered on Wednesday from 5:45pm-6:45pm and on Saturday from 4:00pm-4:45pm. Confession is also available by request and as announced on our website. Please contact the Pastor by email at FrMikeWallack@gmail.com with any questions.

Contact Information

Parish Website

StJohnRomanCatholic.org

Parish Office

Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Saturday 9:00am - Noon

Office Email: stjohallentown@gmail.com

Office Phone: 609-259-3391 Fax: 609-508-1407

**For an emergency requiring a priest,
please call (609) 538-4126**

Clergy and Parish Staff

Very Rev. Michael Wallack, Pastor

Email: FrMikeWallack@gmail.com

Mr. Philip Clingerman OCDS, Deacon

Email: clingermanocds@gmail.com

Mr. Paul DeGrazia, Deacon

Email: pauldegraz@gmail.com

Mr. Joseph Hepp, Deacon

Email: jhepp@yahoo.com

Mr. Michael Scannella, Deacon

Email: sfscdeacon@gmail.com

Mrs. Dorothy Conway, Business Manager

Email: sjbbusiness@optimum.net

Mrs. Lauren Walters, Coordinator of Religious Education

Email: sjbrccre@gmail.com Phone: (609)259-3586

Mr. Peter Carter, Director of Music

Email: sjbmusicdirector@gmail.com

Mrs. Jo-Anne Ruff, Bookkeeper/Cemetery Coordinator

Email: sjbbookkeeper@optimum.net Phone: (609)508-1715

Holy Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday, February 17	8:00 AM 5:15 PM	Donna Drew (d), requested by Mike and Gloria Havardansky Cynthia Italiano (d), requested by the Collier Family
Sunday, February 18	9:00 AM 11:00 AM 12:30 PM	Sam Damiano (d), requested by Kay Damiano People of the Parish Robert Swart (l), requested by Jo-Anne Ruff
Monday, February 19	7:00 PM	Rudolph L. Coderoni (d), requested by Carol and Thomas Toporek
Tuesday, February 20	8:00 AM	William and Mary Robb (d), requested by Raymond and Doris Robb
Wednesday, February 21	8:00 AM 7:00 PM	James King (d), requested by Margaret Longto Michael Conway (l), requested by the Conway Family
Thursday, February 22	8:00 AM	Rose Marie Moslowski (d), requested by Carol and Thomas Toporek
Friday, February 23	8:00 AM	Adele R. Foggin (d), requested by MaryAnn Salvatore
Saturday, February 24	8:00 AM 5:15 PM	John Paglugh (d), requested by Delia and Joseph Cicchetti Donna Madden (d), requested by Judi and Bob Giordano
Sunday, February 25	9:00 AM 11:00 AM 12:30 PM	Anthony Recine (d), requested by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gervasoni Marie Hagerman (d), requested by Rita Kocher People of the Parish

LENT

prayer • fasting • almsgiving



Saint John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

**Lenten Friday Stations of the Cross
and Benediction, followed by Confessions
7:00pm in the Church**

Please join us for Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on **all of the Fridays of Lent**. Confession will be available after Benediction

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament



**Every Monday from Noon until Benediction at 6:45pm
The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass follows at 7:00pm**

All are invited to come and spend time with our Lord! For information, contact Margaret Longto at 609-259-2859.



**Devotion
to the Holy Family**

**Holy Hour
Adoration
Confession
Holy Rosary**

Next Holy Hour: Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Our next Holy Hour (with Adoration, Confession, and the Rosary) will be on Wednesday, February 21 from 5:45pm until Benediction at 6:45pm. The 7:00pm Traditional Latin Low Mass will follow Benediction.

A Promise to Protect

The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the Diocesan Abuse Hotline: 888-296-2965 or via email at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org.



A Note From Our Pastor

My Dear Parishioners,

After Jesus was baptized, but before He began His years of public ministry, Saint Mark tells us in this Sunday's Gospel that the Spirit "drove Jesus out into the desert," where He experienced temptation. Throughout the Bible, the desert is often referred to a place of testing, where we experience our weakness and dependence on God. Water and food are hard to come by there, and the temperatures and emptiness are oppressive to both the body and the mind. The desert is a place where our illusions of self-sufficiency and comfort fade away. When we are in the desert, either literally or figuratively, we quickly realize that we need God.

Saint Vincent De Paul once said, "One of the surest signs that God has great plans for someone is when He sends him distress upon distress and trouble upon trouble. The real time to recognize the spiritual mettle of a soul is the time of temptation and tribulation because the way we are during these trials is the way we usually are afterward."

Lord Jesus, even you were tempted. I acknowledge my own temptations and falls. Help me not to be discouraged by the darkness I see in myself. Rather, may your light and truth guide me along the right paths in my life.

As your Lenten observance begins, take time in prayer to see in what ways you are tempted to break your commitments to the Lord. Admit their presence in your life and write them down if you keep a journal. Coming to terms with your real self is a salutary way to face the discipline of Lent.

Peace,
Fr. Mike

Saint John the Baptist Church Information

Parish Office Hours

The Parish Office is open for business Tuesday through Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm, and on Saturday, 9:00am to Noon. We hope that adding Saturday morning hours will be helpful to many of our Parish families.

Sanctuary Lamp

Offerings for your intentions are available on a weekly basis for the Sanctuary Lamp, which burns night and day before Our Lord, truly present in the Tabernacle.

*The Sanctuary Lamp is offered this week
for John Fiore (d)
requested by Frank and Gail Koslowski*

Weekly Collection

Sunday, February 11, 2024: \$10,487.00

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024: \$ 2,431.00

February Maintenance and Repair: \$ 2,508.00 (as of 2/16)

We are grateful for all donations received in the collections, through Online Giving, and via mail and direct drop-off.



Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church Knights of Columbus Council 7333

Email: AllentownKnights@gmail.com

Dear Brothers,

The Knights continue to lead the **Holy Rosary** at the Wednesday Holy Hour from 5:45 to 6:45pm. All are invited to attend and participate. The next Holy Hour will be on February 21.

Peace and Love!

Dan Nazzaro, Grand Knight



Please join us in the Knights Hall on Saturdays!

- ◆ 6:30 AM - Breakfast and Fellowship
- ◆ 7:00 AM - Inspiring video
- ◆ 7:30 AM - Small Groups

Please contact Jim Hannon at 609-577-4643 with questions about this spiritually-enriching opportunity for men.



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Saint John the Baptist Conference
president1svdp@gmail.com

Appeals for assistance should continue as always, through the Parish Office phone at 609-259-3391 and also through the SVdP email (president1svdp@gmail.com). Thank you to all of our parishioners for your continued support!

Local Food Bank Donations

Monthly food bank donations of nonperishable and non-expired food are collected on the first weekend of each month. **The next collection will be March 2-3.** Containers will be available for your donations at all of the entrances to the Church. Thank you for your continued generosity to this important outreach to those most in need.



Saint John the Baptist Church

"Take 5 Minutes" Lenten Challenge

The 2024 Magnificat Lenten Companion is now available at all Church entrances.

The suggested donation is \$1.00.

America Needs Fatima Public Square Rosary



The 2nd Saturday of the Month
At Noon

In front of our outdoor
Blessed Mother Statue

Next Public Rosary: Saturday, March 9, 2024

For more information, please contact Aggie at 609-501-3515

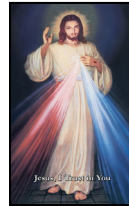
The Sacred Music of the Mass First Sunday of Lent

Entrance Antiphon:	When he calls on me, I will answer him	
Kyrie:	Mass XVII	121
Responsorial Psalm:	Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth	
Gospel Acclamation:	One does not live on bread alone	
Offertory Antiphon:	The Lord will conceal you with his pinions	
Offertory Hymn:	Forty Days and Forty Nights	526
Sanctus:	Mass XVIII	101
Memorial Acclamation:	Latin Roman Missal Chant	102
Agnus Dei:	Mass XVII	123
Communion Chant:	He will conceal you with his pinions	
Communion Hymn:	Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days	625
Recessional:	The Glory of these Forty Days	781

The Antiphons can be found in the 2024 Source and Summit Missal, while the hymns and the Ordinary of the Mass are in the St. Michael Hymnal. Both are available in the pews.

First Friday Divine Mercy Chaplet

Friday, March 1, 2024
3:00pm in Church



We will honor Our Lord by praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. All are invited to join us.

Saint John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church



**FIRST FRIDAY/FIRST SATURDAY
TWO HEARTS
VIGIL OF REPARATION**

Friday, March 1, 2024

- 9:00pm Traditional Latin Low Mass
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (First Friday)
- 10:00pm Exposition, Confession, Prayers, Rosary

Saturday, March 2, 2024

- Midnight Traditional Latin Low Mass
Immaculate Heart of Mary (First Saturday)



Saint John the Baptist Fifty Plus Club

It's that time of the year to once again celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. We will meet at LaPiazza at 1pm on **Wednesday, March 13 for our traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage Luncheon.** It will consist of salad, pasta purses with pesto sauce, corned beef, cabbage, Irish soda bread, chicken with veggies, soda, coffee and cake. **WOW!** The cost will be only \$38/person.

With the cancellation of the February meeting, you must now call **Jack Parra at 609-585-2115 to sign up for the luncheon.** Please work with Jack to arrange payment.

Lent, 2024

Dear Parishioners,

At every Mass, we are familiar with seeing the red book, called the Missal, used by the priest to celebrate Mass. This is one of the liturgical books alongside the Lectionary which contains all the scriptural readings. Another liturgical book which is less familiar is called the Gradual. This book contains all of the liturgical music published by the Vatican to be sung during the Mass. The music in this book contains what are called the Propers, that is, the sung scriptural texts sung during the Entrance, the Offertory, and Communion (proper or unique to each Mass), as well as what is called the Ordinary: the Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei (what is ordinary or the same for each Mass).

It is perhaps surprising to some Catholics that even though the Church permits the Mass to be celebrated entirely in vernacular languages, She still encourages Latin to be used in the Mass *alongside* the vernacular. In fact, Vatican II states that “Particular law remaining in force, the use of the Latin language is to be preserved in the Latin rites” (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, paragraph 36). The same document goes further, stating that “steps should be taken so that the faithful may also be able to say or to sing together in Latin those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them.” (SC. Para. 54)

Eleven years later, in 1974, the *Jubilate Deo* chants were published by the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship and given to every bishop throughout the world to provide what was called “the minimum repertoire of Gregorian chants” to be sung in every parish church and cathedral of the Roman Rite. These chants were given “in response to a desire which the Holy Father had frequently expressed, that all the faithful should know at least some Latin Gregorian chants, such as, for example, the "*Gloria*", the "*Credo*", the "*Sanctus*", and the "*Agnus Dei*." (The “Kyrie” is Greek, not Latin).

During our celebration of Lent this year, we will be seeking to implement a part of this vision of Vatican II by singing the Sanctus, Memorial Acclamation, and Agnus Dei in Latin at all our weekend Masses. Even if the Latin is unfamiliar (or even if you personally dislike it for your own reasons), I invite you to open your hearts and minds to these beautiful and sacred texts. With time, these chants will become easier and more familiar. The style of chant may seem strange and different than other kinds of music but therein lies the key to its sacredness – it is a musical style set apart for divine worship! In fact, the Church’s tradition of Gregorian chant descends from the tradition of Jewish chanting in the Temple of Jerusalem. The chants we will be singing have been sung by generations of saints and some of these chant hymns have even been written by saints!

I hope you will be open to learning and singing these beautiful and sacred chants and that you allow them to lift up your hearts and voices in the praise of God at Mass. To help you in learning them, I have put together a playlist of some videos which you can watch by scanning the QR code below on your smartphone or by typing in this url link: <https://rb.gy/6u7w8a>. Please don’t hesitate to approach me with your thoughts or questions. I am here to serve you and all the members of our community.

May God bless you always,

Peter Carter
Director of Sacred Music



DIOCESE OF TRENTON
MERCER COUNTY STATIONAL CHURCHES
LENT, 2024

Please join us for our 7:00pm Mass on Monday, February 26 as we are joined by many visitors from the Diocese!



St. John the Baptist Church, Allentown, is the fourth on the list of the 2024 Station Churches of Mercer County. Mass will be celebrated here on Monday, February 26 at 7p.m.

Schedule for 2024 Station Churches of Mercer County

- Feb. 16 – 7 p.m., St Joseph Church, 540 North Olden Ave., Trenton
- Feb. 20 – 6 p.m., St. Anthony of Padua Church, 251 Franklin St., Hightstown
- Feb. 22 – 7 p.m., St. Paul Church, 216 Nassau St., Princeton
- Feb. 26 – 7 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 1282 Yardville-Allentown Rd., Allentown**
- Feb. 27 – 7 p.m., St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral, 151 North Warren St., Trenton
- Feb. 28 – 7 p.m., Incarnation Church, 1545 Pennington Rd., Ewing
- Feb. 29 – 7 p.m., Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 3816 East State St. Ext., Hamilton
- March 5 – 7 p.m., St. David the King Church, 1 New Village Rd., Princeton Junction
- March 6 – 7 p.m., St. James Church, 11 E Paul Ave., Trenton
- March 7 – 7 p.m., Holy Cross Church, 227 Adeline St., Trenton
- March 8 – 6 p.m., Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 137 W. Upper Ferry Rd., West Trenton
- March 11 – 7 p.m., St. George Church, 1370 River Rd., Titusville
- March 13 – 7 p.m., St. Anthony Church, 626 S Olden Ave., Trenton
- March 14 – 7 p.m., St. Joachim Church, 19 Bayard St., Trenton
- March 19 – 7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 343 South Broad St., Trenton,
- March 21 – 7 p.m., St. Ann Church, 1253 Lawrence Rd., Lawrenceville
- March 22 – 7 p.m., St. Raphael Church, 3500 South Broad St., Hamilton
- March 25 – St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral, 61 Georgia Rd., Freehold (Mass of Chrism at 7:30 p.m.)

From the Trenton Monitor, February 2024:

Faithful of the Diocese and beyond are welcomed to spend part of their Lenten observance by going on a local pilgrimage in Mercer County. Once again, the Catholic parishes in Mercer County are adapting a centuries-old Roman tradition that traces its roots as far back as the late second and early third century by inviting others to visit their churches and celebrate evening Mass during Lent. It had been the practice that every year during Lent, Catholics living in Rome made an ancient pilgrimage to the basilicas and churches located throughout the city. A different “station church” was designated each day for Catholics from around the city to gather for Mass early in the morning as a visible reminder of the unity of the Church.

Looking ahead to the start of the 2024 pilgrimage, which is set to begin February 16, Msgr. Dennis Apoldite, sees it as an “opportunity for us to glean a bit of history as we make our way to the various churches throughout the county. As we move from church to church, we can imagine the thousands of people who have journeyed to these churches especially during the Lenten season to offer the prayer and worship. We can unite our prayers with theirs and join our voices with this great crowd of witnesses who over the past 200 years have found many ways to give glory to God, and public witness to their Catholic faith,” said Msgr. Apoldite, who is pastor of Sacred Heart Parish and Episcopal Vicar of Mercer County. Msgr. Apoldite reflected on the Mercer County parishes that are participating in the 2024 pilgrimage, saying that each church has a special history and its own particular treasures. “Each has been the place of Baptisms, Confirmations, weddings, funerals and a place where countless numbers have encountered God,” he said, noting that the churches are welcome to plan their evening as they wish. Extending an invitation to all prospective pilgrims, Msgr. Apoldite said, “Join in as many visits you are able and ask God’s blessing upon on all who journey with you during this Lenten pilgrimage of 2024.”

2024 Lenten Regulations

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During the days and weeks of penance that lie ahead, from Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024 until Holy Thursday morning, March 28, 2024, the Catholic Church throughout the world commemorates the penitential season of Lent ending with the Sacred Triduum of Holy Week. The model Jesus gave us for “these 40 days” was his own experience in the desert and the temptations that followed him there where he encountered Satan face to face. And yet, Jesus, there in the desert – alone, fasting and in intense prayer – beat back the devil and triumphed over temptation, as strong and as unrelenting as it was throughout those 40 days.

We enter the desert of Lent like Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit, to face our devils, our temptations head on. But we are not alone. The Lord Jesus Christ is with us. And so, too, is the Church, the entire community of faith observing Lent. Here is what the Catholic Church in the United States requires of us as baptized Catholics:

1. The days of **FAST (only one full meal)** and **ABSTINENCE (no meat)** are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. No dispensations are granted on these solemn days except for reason of sickness or those provided in canon law below. **ALL OF THE OTHER FRIDAYS OF LENT are days of ABSTINENCE.** The Pastor of a Parish has the faculty to give a dispensation to individual parishioners in his parish and the Diocesan Bishop alone has the authority to dispense groups of Catholics but only for a serious reason.

2. Those who are automatically dispensed from fast and abstinence regulations outside the age limits noted below include the physically or mentally ill, especially individuals suffering from chronic illnesses, such as diabetes. Also included in the dispensation are women who are pregnant or nursing. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting.

3. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to **FAST (only one full meal)** as noted above. From the age of 14, people are also obliged to **ABSTAIN (no meat)**: this obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat.

4. The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious one for Catholics. Failure to observe one penitential day in itself is not considered a serious sin. It is the intentional failure to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of penitential days, that must be considered a serious matter.

5. The obligation, the privilege really, of receiving the Eucharist at least once a year – often called “Easter duty” – for those in the state of grace should still be fulfilled during the period from the First Sunday of Lent, February 17-18, 2024 to Trinity Sunday, May 25-26, 2024. However, the Church’s law does permit this precept to be fulfilled at another time during the year when there is a just cause.

I want to encourage all Catholics, especially those who are conscious of serious sin, to go to Confession and to make use of the sacrifices and traditions that have always been part of our Lenten practices in the Church. We do, indeed, fast and pray with the Lord Jesus and with our fellow Catholics. May this Lent be a time of penance leading to grace and joy for us all at Easter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend David M. O’Connell, C.M.
Bishop of Trenton



The First Sunday of Lent



Solemn High Mass

V. Rev. Michael Wallack, Celebrant
Mr. Michael Scannella, Deacon
Mr. John Rotondi, Subdeacon

Mass Intention

Robert Swart (I)
requested by Jo-Anne Ruff

Music Intention

Lena Conway and Joseph Rosano (d)
requested by the Family

The Sacred Music of the Mass

Processional:	Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days	625
Sprinkling Rite:	Asperges Me	207
Introit:	<i>Invocabit me</i>	
Kyrie:	Mass XVII	121
Gradual:	<i>Angelis suis</i>	
Tract:	<i>Quia habitat</i>	
Credo:	Credo III	213
Offertory:	<i>Scapulis suis</i>	
Offertory Motet:	Miserere Nostri Domine- Ravenscroft	
Sanctus:	Mass XVII	122
Agnus Dei:	Mass XVII	123
Communion:	<i>Scapulis Suis</i>	
Communion Motet:	Ave Verum Corpus- Byrd	
	Where Charity and Love Prevail	
Marian Anthem:	Ave Regina Caelorum	443
Recessional:	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross	830

Lunch Convivium Today

Please join us after Mass today for a wonderful lunch Convivium downstairs in the Church Hall! There is no charge, and it is a great opportunity for fellowship and fun. Be sure to visit the showcase for Traditional Latin Mass missals, mantillas, books, rosaries and more.

We are grateful to Sacred Music Director Peter Carter, our Schola Cantorum and our Choristers for this afternoon's beautiful Sacred Music.

Lent and the Traditional Latin Mass

The Gloria

The Gloria is too joyful for this penitential season so it is absent from the Lenten Masses. It is, however, used on feast days, which are few. As a result, the Gloria is practically absent from this season.

The Alleluia

The absence of the Alleluia, which is a sign of our exile from our heavenly home, continues from Septuagesima until the glorious Easter Vigil.

Liturgical Color

The color of the season of Lent is violet. As this color denotes affliction and sadness, it is fitting for a penitential season. However, on the 4th Sunday of Lent, Lætare Sunday, the color rose may be worn to express the joy of reaching the liturgical half-way point of this penitential season and to encourage the faithful to persevere fervently to the end of this holy season in their Lenten exercises.

Organ and Flowers

In order to create an atmosphere proper to the season, the Altar is not decorated with flowers. Additionally, the organ is not to be used unless it is necessary. However, on Lætare Sunday, for the reasons explained above, and on feasts, these restrictions are lifted

Proper Masses and Preface

Each day of Lent has a "Proper Mass" assigned to it. These Proper Masses have unique prayers, readings and chants. For most of Lent, the Lenten Preface is used. This Preface focuses on the fruits caused by God in us through the fasting (or works of penance) we have undertaken: the curbing of vices, the lifting up of the mind, and the bestowal of strength and rewards.

Drawn from various sources by Fr. William Rock, FSSP

Mark your calendars!

SPRING MANTILLA SALE

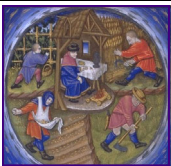
Sunday, March 3, 2024
2:00pm (after Mass)
During the Convivium
in the Church Hall



Don't miss this special sale of over 200 beautiful mantillas in many different colors and styles. Mantillas will be \$10 each or 3 for \$20. This sale is sponsored by our Maidens of the Miraculous Medal.

2024 Spring Ember Days

Wednesday, February 21, 2024
Friday, February 23, 2024
Saturday, February 24, 2024



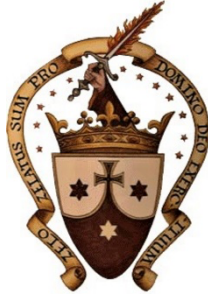
Ember days are certain days of annual fasting for the special sanctification of the four seasons and for obtaining God's blessing on the clergy, for whose ordination the Ember Saturdays are specially set apart. The Propers of the Masses reflect the Season in which they occur and include additional Lessons said before the Gospel. In the Traditional Catholic calendar, the Ember Days fall on the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday **after the first Sunday in Lent**, after Pentecost Sunday, during the third full week of September, and after the third Sunday of Advent.

All are invited to join us on Wednesday, February 21 at 7:00pm and on Friday, February 23 at 8:00am for our Spring Ember day Traditional Latin Low Masses.

JM+JT



OHM Teresa of Ávila



With zeal have I been zealous for the Lord God of hosts. 1 Kgs 10:19



OHF John of the Cross

The Carmelite Corner

QUADRAGESIMÆ HEBDOMADA PRIMA – LENT I

V. Praised be Jesus Christ... **R.** Now and forever!

*Invocabit me, et ego exaudiam eum:
eripiam eum et glorificabo eum:
longitudine dierum adimplebo eum.*

**He shall cry to me, and I will hear him:
will deliver him, and I will glorify him:
I will fill him with length of days.** [Ps 90:1]

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we have arrived at Holy Lent, the period of forty days [thus, the expression, *Quadragesima*] before Easter, a time of prayer and penance. This week we return to the second letter of Paul to the Church at Corinth. As mentioned last week Paul fraternally corrects the Corinthians. They must make up their minds - are they going to live as a Christian, irrespective as to the hardships they will face? We must live with a brand of joy that sorrow cannot undo – a joy possessed, even amid grinding poverty. Paul itemizes a good number of seemingly contradictory conditions; the point is that the Christian lives in a manner quite unlike the values of the world.

From Matthew 4, Jesus has just been baptized, and how the Holy Spirit drives him into the wilderness, literally to be tempted by the devil. Why would the Spirit do such a thing? Well, didn't our blessed Lord come to show us how to live? This Gospel is the model for our 40-day practice of self-denial, as Our Lord endured 40 days of fasting. Jesus uses fasting and prayer to strengthen Himself for His mission. We, too, use fasting and prayer against the vicissitudes of this life. Know how the evil one operates – he makes something evil look particularly good, indeed. He traffics in obscene aberrations – the “threeness” of the temptations could be taken as a cynical parody of the Trinity. Jesus is weak from hunger – one can hear the “father of lies” telling Eve, “You will not die [viz. from eating of the forbidden fruit ~ cf. Gen 3].” Jesus, in not using His power to produce bread from stones, demonstrates as how to “undo” the sin of our first parents. Jesus shows us how to resist evil, even in times of distress. Note the mendacity of the evil one, to literally approach Our Lord and whisper in His ear, even quoting scripture. We see how pernicious the devil is. The hunger for the false, the display of vainglory, the worship of false idols – all these must be rooted out of the Christian life.

According to OHM Teresa, the devil takes more pains to bring about the downfall of a soul receiving graces from God in prayer than in less-favored souls. The more royal the soul, the more pernicious the attack. This is why the Carmelite keeps praying for souls. Let us all spend Holy Lent praying for weak souls.

To Jesus Christ be all glory!

*“When the soul is clothed in faith the devil is ignorant of how to hinder it,
neither is he successful in his efforts,
for faith gives the soul strong protection against the devil,
who is the mightiest and most astute enemy.
As a result, Saint Peter found no greater safeguard than faith
in freeing himself from the devil, when he advised
‘Cui resistite fortes in fidei’ [Resist him, steadfast in your faith] (1 Pt 5:9).”*

~ from “The Dark Night of the Soul ~ OHF S. John of the Cross [Juan de Yepes y Álvarez ~ 1542-1591] OCD, C.,D.



27th Annual

CATHOLIC MEN FOR JESUS CHRIST CONFERENCE



Join Us

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023 | 8 AM - 3 PM

Doors open at 8 AM for bagels and coffee; Lunch also included



ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH | 19 CHERRY TREE FARM ROAD | MIDDLETOWN, NJ 07748

Check out this great line-up of speakers!



Joe Klecko

New York Jets NFL Hall of Famer is an American former professional football player who was a defensive lineman in the National Football League (NFL), primarily with the New York Jets and was a member of the Jets' famed "New York Sack Exchange". He also appeared on EWTN Life On The Rock show. He is a member of Catholic Athletes for Christ and speaks on the subject of manhood and faith. Klecko was a guest on Blessed2Play hosted by Ron Meyer where he talked about his Catholic faith and career in the NFL.



Bishop David M. O'Connell, CM

We are pleased to have our Bishop, the Most Reverend David M. O'Connell, return as the presider and homilist for celebration of the Holy Mass.



Tim Glemkowski

Catholic Evangelist

Tim Glemkowski is the CEO of the National Eucharistic Congress. Previously, he served in the Archbishop's Office for the Archdiocese of Denver as the Director of Strategy, helping to set up the archdiocese for a time of apostolic mission. Tim authored Made for Mission: Renewing Your Parish Culture, which was released in Fall 2019 through Our Sunday Visitor. He is an international speaker who has also consulted for many organizations, dioceses, and parishes. His writing has appeared in numerous print and web-based theological and catechetical publications. Tim and his wife, Maggie, live in Littleton, CO with their four young children.



Xavier Reyes-Ayral

Speaker, Author, Evangelist

Best selling author of, "Revelations - the hidden secret messages and prophecies of the Blessed Virgin Mary," along with being a nationally sought after podcast guest and speaker. He studied eight years in France under the Churches world renown expert and theologian on Mariology, Fr. René Laurentin. He's a 4th degree Knight of Columbus and Grand Knight, but, most of all, a devoted husband, father and Catholic Man for Christ and His Church.

YOUNG MEN'S TRACK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CATHOLIC ATHLETES FOR CHRIST

For young men from 8th grade to college age.
Hosted by Joe Klecko and Dan Duddy!

**\$50 PRE-REGISTRATION
\$60 AT THE DOOR | \$20 FOR STUDENTS**

Order tickets at:
CatholicMenForJesusChrist.org

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFO:
CATHOLICMENFORJESUSCHRIST.ORG**

(732) 671-0071
info@catholicmenforjesuschrist.org

SARUM VESPERS + BENEDICTION



AT THE PRINCETON UNIVERSITY CHAPEL

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024 AT 7 PM

PRECEDED BY A LECTURE ON THE USE OF SARUM AT 6 PM

First Vespers of St. Chad of Mercia

Music will include the Sarum Litany of Saints

O Sacrum Convivium by Thomas Tallis

& works of other pre-Reformation masters of music

sung by the UK early music choir

BENEDICT XVI
+ INSTITUTE +
FOR SACRED MUSIC AND DIVINE WORSHIP

the
DURANDUS
INSTITUTE
for Sacred Liturgy & Music

Gallicantus

SCALA
FOUNDATION

THE
NEUMANN FORUM

THE SOCIETY OF
ST. HUGH OF CLUNY



THE AQUINAS INSTITUTE
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY'S CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

SPONSORED BY

CATHOLIC SACRED MUSIC PROJECT





Maidens of the Miraculous Medal

Easter Flower Sale!

Preorder by Monday, March 18

*Pickup Palm Sunday Weekend
March 23 and 24
in the Church Hall*

2024 EASTER FLOWER PRE-ORDER FORM

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Pink hyacinth (6 inch pot), \$10.00 each Number requested _____ Total \$ _____

White hyacinth (6 inch pot), \$10.00 each Number requested _____ Total \$ _____

Purple tulips (6 inch pot), \$10.00 each Number requested _____ Total \$ _____

Yellow tulips (6 inch pot), \$10.00 each Number requested _____ Total \$ _____

Daffodils (6 inch pot), \$10.00 each Number requested _____ Total \$ _____

Palm Cross (for cemetery). \$12.00 each Number requested _____ Total \$ _____

TOTAL ITEMS _____ **GRAND TOTAL \$** _____

Please make checks payable to "St. John's Church". Call 609-259-3391 with any questions. Flowers will be available for pickup in Church Hall on Saturday, March 23 and Sunday, March 24.

Place this pre-order form with payment in collection basket, campus mailboxes or Parish Office, or mail to:

2024 EASTER FLOWER SALE
Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church
1282 Yardville-Allentown Road
Allentown, NJ 08501

2024 Saint John the Baptist: Mass Request Form

PLEASE NOTE: THERE ARE NO AVAILABLE 2024 12:30PM TRADITIONAL LATIN MASSES

1. Due to high demand for Masses, we can accept ONE REQUEST FORM PER FAMILY PER MONTH.
2. Two 2024 Masses can be requested per Form. The suggested Mass stipend is \$10 per Mass.
3. The specific date and Mass time requests are available on a first come-first serve basis.
4. We are unable to accept any requests by phone or email.

Name of Person requesting the Mass(es): _____

Address of person requesting the Mass(es): _____

Best contact telephone number: _____

Number of Masses requested (limit 2): 1 2 (circle choice)

Mass #1: Today's Date: _____
2024 Mass Date Requested: _____ Mass time _____
Mass intention is for: Deceased Living (circle choice)
Do you need a Mass card? Yes No (circle choice)
Name(s) for Mass intention: _____

Mass #2: Today's Date: _____
2024 Mass Date Requested: _____ Mass time _____
Mass intention is for: Deceased Living (circle choice)
Do you need a Mass card? Yes No (circle choice)
Name(s) for Mass intention: _____

You are welcome to visit our Parish Office during business hours to request a Mass intention in person. If you are unable to visit our Office, please print and complete this form, enclose the Mass stipend (checks made payable to St. John's Church) and place in the collection basket or mail to:

**St. John's Church: 2024 Mass Request
1282 Yardville-Allentown Road
Allentown, NJ 08501**

12/31/23



PEPPLER FUNERAL HOME

"Four Generations of Family Service"
Pre-Need Planning Through Insurance & Trust Fund.
Funeral Counseling • Cremation
Handicapped Accessible

Karen E. Peppler, Mgr.

N.J. Lic. No. 4584

A Tradition of Dependability Since 1887

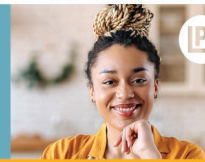
114 South Main Street, Allentown, NJ 609-259-7391

WE'RE HIRING!

AD SALES EXECUTIVES

BE YOURSELF.
BRING YOUR PASSION.
WORK WITH PURPOSE.

- Paid training • Some travel
- Work-life balance
- Full-Time with benefits
- Serve your community



Contact us at
careers@4lpi.com or
www.4lpi.com/careers

CANDELORI ELECTRIC

RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL • Lic.#82718
(609)585-0545 | www.candelorielectric.com

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

MASSIMO V. VERDUCI, D.M.D., M.S., L.L.C.

Orthodontics For Children and Adults

609-689-9292 | Golden Crest Corporate Center
2279 Hwy. 33 • Suite 516 (Across from St. Gregory's)

Via Roma II

609-259-2229
Authentic Italian Cuisine ~ Pizza
609-259-2229
1280 Yardville Allentown Road

Place Your Ad Here and Support our Parish!

Instantly create and purchase an ad with

AD CREATOR STUDIO



4lpi.com/adcreator

E & S Construction & Landscaping LLC

Transform Your Spaces

Painting ~ Decks ~ Lawn Service ~ Landscaping ~ Hardscaping
And more! We've got it all covered!

Call (609) 915-4579 or (609) 851-0658



Hugh C. Buckley

PARISHIONER



- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Fireplaces

Marble & Granite Fabricators, Inc.

950 Pennsylvania Ave.
Trenton, NJ 08638
mgfoo@yahoo.com

Tel. (609) 392-2792
BRING AD IN FOR 10% DISCOUNT
www.marble-fabricators.com

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Place Your Ad Here
and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME **Monica Sankey**

MSankey@4LPi.com
(800) 888-4574 x3401

WE APPRECIATE OUR ADVERTISERS!

NJ Plumbing Lic #10490
NJ HVAC Lic #56500



GARY DELHAGEN
HAMILTON SQUARE
Plumbing, Heating
& Air Conditioning LLC

- Water Heaters & Boilers - Appliance Hook-Ups
- Sump Pumps & Emergency Back-Up Systems
- Heat Pumps & Oil Fired Equipment

Call Today For An Appointment 609-586-4969
COLEMAN HVAC SYSTEMS • FINANCING AVAILABLE



FREE AD DESIGN

with purchase
of this space

CALL
800-477-4574



Phone: 609-586-0849

GREGORY E. COX, M.D.

EYE PHYSICIAN & SURGEON

Eye Exams • Contact Lenses • LASIK/Refractive Surgery
Cataract, Glaucoma, Cornea Transplant

2 Hamilton Health Place • Medical Office Building # 2
Hamilton, NJ 08690

SHORT STAFFED?

Place an ad here to find new local talent for your business.



CALL 800-477-4574



Athena

kw PREMIER
KELLERWILLIAMS

THE DIDIZIAN & LUCAS TEAM



Tyler

Athena Didizian



Parishioner
Sales Associate
609.901.2425
athenadidizian@kw.com
athena-didizian.kw.com

Tyler Lucas



Sales Associate
609.903.1181
tylerlucas@kw.com
tyler-lucas.kw.com

2355 Rt. 33 • Robbinsville, NJ 08691

Each office is independently owned and operated.

Garvey Pest Control, Inc.

"An Intelligent Approach to Pest Control"

General Household Pest Control - Bees, Carpenter Ants, Moles, Voles, Rats, & Mice
Commercial • Residential/Licensed & Insured

Tom Garvey 448-0900

JAMES MOROCCO

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR, INC.

Lic.# NJ 9564
609-208-9199

BALDINO DENTAL ARTS

AllentownDentalCare.com

MICHAEL G. BALDINO D.M.D.

Family and Cosmetic Dentistry

Dr.Baldino@gmail.com

Tel. 609-259-2283
Fax. 609-259-2843

30 Church St.
PO Box 176
Allentown NJ, 08501

LAW OFFICE OF KATHLEEN KELLY HAMILTON

Wills — Estates — Real Estate
6 McKnight Ave. Bordentown, NJ (609) 424-0173
FAX (609) 424-0625 hamiltoncc@earthlink.net

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

catholicmatch® New Jersey



CatholicMatch.com/NJ

If You Live Alone You Need MDMedAlert!

24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!

- ✓ Ambulance
 - ✓ Police
 - ✓ Fire
 - ✓ Friends/Family
- Solutions as Low as **\$19.95** a month
FREE Shipping
FREE Activation
NO Long Term Contracts

CALL NOW! 800.809.3352
"I have peace of mind... Mom remains independent."

MDMedAlert
Safe-Guarding America's Seniors Nationwide

GPS Tracking w/Fall Detection
Nationwide, NO Land Line Needed
EASY Set-up, NO Contract
24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA



Ad info. 1-800-477-4574 • Publication Support 1-800-888-4574 • www.4lpi.com

St. John the Baptist, Allentown, NJ

03-4121