The Fourth Sunday of Advent
## Clergy and Parish Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reverend Michael Wallack, Pastor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:FrMikeWallack@gmail.com">FrMikeWallack@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Joseph Hepp, Deacon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jjhepp@yahoo.com">jjhepp@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Michael Scannella, Deacon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sfscdeacon@gmail.com">sfscdeacon@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deacon Assisting at the Extraordinary Form of the Mass</td>
<td>Mr. Guido Mattozzi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Dorothy Conway, Business Manager</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sjbbusiness@optimum.net">sjbbusiness@optimum.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Lauren Walters, Coordinator of Religious Education</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sjbRelEd@optimum.net">sjbRelEd@optimum.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Peter Carter, Director of Music</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sjbmusicdirector@gmail.com">sjbmusicdirector@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Jo-Anne Ruff, Bookkeeper/Cemetery Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sjbbookkeeper@optimum.net">sjbbookkeeper@optimum.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Holy Mass Schedule

Following the directives issued by the Diocese of Trenton, Public Masses in the Church with capacity limits have resumed. Please see StJohnRomanCatholic.org for the most current schedule for our live-stream and Public Masses.

### Sacrament of Confession

Confession is offered on Wednesday from 6:00pm-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

The Parish Office is currently closed to visitors but our staff will be happy to respond to your messages by phone or email. Kindly contact us as indicated below:

- **Office Email**: stjohnallentown@optonline.net
- **Office Phone**: 609-259-3391 **Fax**: 609-508-1407

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

## Holy Mass Intentions (these intentions will be honored, whether in a public or private Mass)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intentions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, December 19</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Robert Tsai, requested by Julia Tsai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:15 PM</td>
<td>Joseph Gruca (d), requested by Pat Gruca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 20</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Herminio A. Astorga, requested by the Astorga-Sulit Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Jack Arimenta (d), requested by Lynn Arimenta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
<td>Intentions of the Vreeland Family, requested by Christiana Vreeland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, December 21</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Eugenio Astorga, requested by the Astorga-Sulit Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 22</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>People of the Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 23</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Kenneth Lyons, requested by Marion and Al Lyons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Robert Closkey, Jr., M.D., requested by Jim and Dorothy Conway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 24</td>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Daniel Hawks (d), requested by the Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Eve</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Billie and Ashley Streiter (d), requested by the Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 PM</td>
<td>Catherine “Kay” Chiarello (d), requested by Rev. Michael Wallack and Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, December 25</td>
<td>Midnight</td>
<td>Cullen and Ruth Clingerman (d), requested by the Clingerman Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Briella Bobal (d), requested by Michael, Nicole, Mia and Kellan Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Stephen Pribula (d), requested by the Pribula Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, December 26</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Olive Doreen O’Hare (d), requested by Robert O’Hare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:15 PM</td>
<td>John J. Rooney (d), requested by Bernadette Rooney and Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 27</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Mary and Francis Smith (d), requested by the Smith Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Deceased members of McFarlane &amp; Lupo Families, requested by Ginny McFarlane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
<td>Athena Grace (l), requested by Mom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Intention honored at the 10:00am Mass.*
**Directives for our Christmas Masses**

As we look forward to celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord here at the Church of Saint John the Baptist, we would like to share the following:

1. Please see our Christmas Mass schedule below. We have maintained our annual Christmas schedule, in order to welcome as many people as possible to our Church.
2. Additional seating downstairs in our Church Hall with live audio/video will be available for every Mass.
3. In the event that a Mass reaches our capacity limit, we will invite those unable to enter to attend the next Mass.
4. The Christmas Eve 6:30pm and Christmas Day 9:00am Masses will also be live-streamed. The link will be posted on our website.
5. Holy Communion will be distributed after these live-stream Masses to those participating by watching the live-stream on their mobile devices in their cars. We ask those in the parking lot to kindly wait until those who attended Mass inside the Church have left the lot before driving to the exit where Holy Communion will be distributed.

All Masses are public and will be celebrated in our Church with a capacity limit. Additional seating will be available in the Church Hall with live audio and video.

**2020 Christmas Mass Schedule**

**Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve**
- 4:30pm
- 6:30pm *(also live-streamed)*
- 10:00pm
**Midnight (Traditional Latin Mass)**

**Friday, December 25 - Christmas Day**
- 9:00am *(also live-streamed)*
- 11:00am *

* After these Christmas Masses, Holy Communion will be distributed to those in our parking lot participating in their cars.

**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

**Thursday, December 31, 2020**
- Vigil Mass: 5:15pm

**Friday, January 1, 2021**
- 9:00am
- 11:00am (Traditional Latin Mass)

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**A Note From Our Pastor**

My Dear Parishioners,

On this last Sunday of Advent, as the solemn celebration of Christ's birth approaches, the Church reminds us of that holy day nine months earlier when Jesus was conceived in His Mother's womb. There are two great mysteries connected with that day. The first is the mystery of God becoming man - the Incarnation. God has loved us so much that He became one of us, so that He could save us from sin and the meaninglessness that sin brings, and show us the way to a meaningful life, now and forever.

The second mystery is that God didn't - and doesn't - work out that plan of salvation for us all by Himself. Instead, He asks for our cooperation. In today's Gospel, God invites Mary to become the Mother of the Savior. It was possible for Mary to reject this invitation. However, in a spirit of faith, trust, and obedience, she gives her fiat and agrees even though she didn't fully understand. She is the perfect model of faith and trust!

I pray everyone has a safe and Merry Christmas,

Peace, Fr. Mike

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**Saint John the Baptist Church**

**Altar Flowers**

Intentions for our Christmas flowers are now being taken. Envelopes for Christmas flowers were included in the Christmas mailing, and this option is also available for donation through online giving (see StJohnRomanCatholic.org).

**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 in loving memory of Joseph Gruca, requested by Pat Gruca*

**Weekly Collection**

- **December 8 Immaculate Conception:** $1,271.00
- **Sunday, December 13, 2020:** $9,030.31

We are grateful for all donations received at our Masses and electronically through Online Giving, through the postal mail and through direct drop-off to our campus mailboxes. Kindly visit StJohnRomanCatholic.org to donate online.

**Local Food Bank Donations**

Monthly food bank donations are collected the first weekend of every month. **The next collection weekend will be January 2-3.** Please place nonperishable donations in the containers that will be located in the front vestibule of the Church. Kindly contact Mr. Fred Kiesler at 609-259-7476 with any questions about this important outreach.
A Message From Our Grand Knight

Brothers All,

Thank you to those children in our parish who submitted posters for the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest. On Saturday, December 19, we assisted the Saint Vincent de Paul and Altar Rosary Societies in distributing the gifts for needy families which were donated by our "Angels." The response was truly magnificent and I thank everyone for their contributions of time and treasure.

Just a reminder that each week on Wednesday beginning at 6:00pm (before the 7:00pm Mass), Brothers Deacon Mike Scannella and Phil Clingerman are leading an Hour of Devotion and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in honor of St. Joseph. Please reach out to Faith Director Dan Nazzaro at dpnazzaro@yahoo.com if you are interested in participating in this devotion.

Please continue to keep Brothers Joe Gendron, John Fiore, Jim Christenson and Victor Giglio in your prayers.

I wish all of our members, their families and our entire St. John's Parish family a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Vivat Jesus!

Bill O'Connor, Grand Knight

If you are interested in the Knights of Columbus, please send an email to the address above or scan the QR code below:

SCAN CODE AND JOIN NOW!
Specify Council 7333
www.kofc.org/joinus

The Sacred Music of the Mass
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Entrance Antiphon: To you, I lift up my soul
Kyrie: Mass XVII
Responsorial Psalm: Forever I will sing
Alleluia: Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord
Offertory Antiphon: Those who hope in you, Lord
Sanctus: Roman Missal Chant
Agnus Dei: Roman Missal Chant
Communion Antiphon: The Lord will show His loving kindness
Communion Hymn: Gabriel's Message
Communion Hymn: O Come, Come, Emmanuel
Recessional Hymn: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Every Monday from Noon until 6:45pm Benediction
Holy Sacrifice of the Mass follows at 7:00pm
All are invited to come and spend some time with our Lord!
We would welcome more dedicated scheduled adorers at all hours. Please contact Margaret Longto at 609-259-2859.

Is God Calling You to the Fullness of the Catholic Church?

Now is an exciting time to be welcomed into the fullness of the Catholic Church! If you or someone you know is thinking about entering the Catholic Church, or perhaps was Baptized but never received the Sacraments of Holy Communion and/or Confirmation, please leave a message for Vince Gelsomino at the Parish Office number 609-259-3391 for information about our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Program. Participants meet throughout the fall and winter and will have the opportunity to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion and/or Confirmation during the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 3, 2021.

2020 Annual Appeal Update

Thank you to all of our parishioners who have contributed to date to our 2020 Diocese of Trenton Annual Appeal. As of Sunday, December 14, 2020, our Parish has already raised $27,987 from 142 donors, which represents 70% of our 2020 goal of $40,000!
Dear Parishioners,

It is hard to believe that we’re heading into the final week of preparation for the birth of our Lord and Savior. This year has largely slipped by, owing mostly to the pandemic that is Covid-19. The local conference of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, here at Saint John’s has carried on throughout this bizarre year. Our procedures have been adapted to fit the situation, such as virtual meetings and socially distant visits with the neighbors we meet. Surprisingly, during the shutdowns, layoffs and ensuing unemployment, our calls have not skyrocketed, as expected. While there has been no surge in cases yet, the need has been steady and not in small amounts. Couple this with the anticipated tsunami of evictions once the moratorium is over, and the need may indeed be great.

Without our normal Mass attendance, poor box donations as well as our special Parish semi-annual collections have diminished. While our treasury is still solvent, helping a family with a couple months’ rent could wipe out the balance. We have adjusted to current times and continued to fundraise throughout the year. We also have some angels in our midst here at Saint John’s. These donors have helped to keep the aid flowing.

At this time of year, when we think of giving above receiving, I ask that you not forget God’s less fortunate. Donations may be sent to the Society by dropping them in the baskets at Church during Masses, depositing them in the secure mailbox at the door to the Religious Education building, as well as by mailing them to Saint John’s with Saint Vincent de Paul mentioned on the envelope. **Checks should be made out to “SVdP, Saint John’s Conference”.** Please keep in mind that the Society is a 501c3 organization and donations are tax deductible.

Thank you all for your attention. The generosity of the people of our Parish is truly inspiring. Anyone interested in volunteering with the Society is encouraged to contact the Parish Office or email me at president1svdp@gmail.com.

Merry Christmas to all and may God continue to bless and protect the people of Saint John the Baptist Parish.

Sincerely yours in faith,

Graham Smith, President
**Feast of the Holy Innocents**

**Solemn High Mass**
Monday, December 28, 2020
7:00pm
Holy Innocents Church
3455 West Bangs Avenue
Neptune, New Jersey 07753
HolyInnocentsChurch.net

**The Sacred Music of the Mass**

- **Processional Hymn:** Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
- **Introit:** Rorate cæli
- **Kyrie:** Mass XVII
- **Gradual:** Prope est Dóminus
- **Alleluia:** Véni, Dómine
- **Credo:** Credo III
- **Offertory:** Ave Maria
- **Offertory Motet:** Rorate Cæli - Morris
- **Sanctus:** Mass XVII
- **Agnus Dei:** Mass XVII
- **Communion:** Ecce virgo
- **Communion Anthem:** Gabriel's Message
- **Recessional:** Alma Redemptoris Mater

**Solemn High Midnight Mass**

**Missa O Magnum Mysterium by Victoria**

Christmas carols begin at 11:30pm

**Feast of the Holy Innocents Solem High Mass**

Monday, December 28, 2020
7:00pm
Holy Innocents Church
3455 West Bangs Avenue
Neptune, New Jersey 07753
HolyInnocentsChurch.net

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Solemn High Mass**
Rev. Brian P. Woodrow, Celebrant
Mr. Michael Scannella, Deacon
Mr. Bill Clingerman, Subdeacon

**Mass Intention**
Intention of the Vreeland Family
requested by Christiana Vreeland

**Sacred Music Intention**
In loving memory of Joseph and Mary Gramacki (d)
requested by the Gramacki Family

Alma Redemptóris Mater,
quae pérvia caeli porta manes,
et stella maris,
succúrre cadénti, síurgere qui curat, pópulo:
Tu quae genuísti, nátra miránte,
tuum sanctum Genitórem:
Virgo prius ac postérius,
Gabriélis ab ore Sumens illud Ave,
peccatórum miseréré.
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our watchful preparation for the coming of the Christ-Child is drawing to its climax. At Vespers [17-23 December], we recite the Great ‘O’ Antiphons, begging the favor of God under various titles for our Savior [O Wisdom, O Lord of All, O Root of Jesse, O Key of David, O Morning Star, O King of Nations, O God-with-us]. You probably hear “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” as you read these – for these are the origin of that hymn. The tune dates back to at least the 8th century; Boëthius [480-525] mentions these antiphons, so they are ancient in Christian worship. The first letters of these antiphons form an acrostic – in reverse and in Latin, these spell ERO CRAS – “Tomorrow, I will come.” Jesus is nearly with us. These antiphons express our love for God and our yearning for Him. And by what better means does God prove His love for us than to become one of us? We cannot fathom the profundity of this love.

In the Epistle of today, Paul exhorts the church at Corinth to be “ministers of Christ and dispensers of the mysteries of Christ.” This is not just the responsibility of the clergy – this demand is for every baptized Catholic to assume and fulfill. We hear echoes of this in Lumen Gentium, the Dogmatic Constitution of the Church from the Second Vatican Council, #39:

Thus, it is evident to everyone, that all the faithful of Christ of whatever rank or status, are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity; by this holiness as such a more human manner of living is promoted in this earthly society. In order that the faithful may reach this perfection, they must use their strength accordingly as they have received it, as a gift from Christ. They must follow in His footsteps and conform themselves to His image seeking the will of the Father in all things. They must devote themselves with all their being to the glory of God and the service of their neighbor. In this way, the holiness of the People of God will grow into an abundant harvest of good, as is admirably shown by the life of so many saints in Church history.

The Carmelite seeks “perfection of charity” – and fidelity to this ideal demands a high degree of spiritual conditioning. Practice of the presence of God is essential, through prayer, meditation, and contemplation. With the human condition as it is, wracked by sin, sometimes this is quite difficult. OHM Teresa speaks of doing “violence” to ourselves to attain union with God – not physically, but by utter mortification of our dispositions. God coming as man to us is His present to us; continually remaining in the presence of God is our present to Him. We remain in His presence to the degree that we maintain Christian charity. May His Virgin Mother guide our minds and hearts as we contemplate the Incarnation of Love Himself. To Jesus Christ be all glory forever!

“O my God, give me this love, since you know how much I need it, for the sake of the love You bore us and through Your glorious Son who revealed it to us, at such cost to Himself…”

~ Book of Her Life, Chapter 22 ~ OHM Teresa of Ávila
[Teresa Sánchez de Cépeda y Ahumada, 1515-1582] OCD, V.,D.
Our 2021 Saint John the Baptist Parish Mass Book is open!

Although our Parish Office remains closed, we are be able to accept 2021 Mass intention requests BY MAIL. We are not able to accept requests by phone or email at the present time. Please note the following:

1. Requests at this time are limited to **ONE REQUEST FORM PER FAMILY PER MONTH.**

2. Families can request up to three 2021 Masses 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. Our Office Staff will contact you by phone if the date(s) you have requested is/are not available, and will work with you to choose another date. **Kindly advise for each Mass below if you would like us to mail you a Mass card or just a written confirmation that the Mass was reserved.**

### SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH 2021 MASS REQUEST FORM

| Name of Person requesting the Mass(es): | 
| Address of person requesting the Mass(es): | 
| Best contact telephone number: | 
| Number of Masses requested (limit 3): | 1 2 3 (circle choice) |

#### Mass #1:

| 2021 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:

| 2021 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 #3:

| 2021 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: | 

Please print and complete this form, enclose the Mass stipend (checks made payable to St. John’s Church) and mail to:

**St. John’s Church: 2021 Mass Request**

1282 Yardville-Allentown Road

Allentown, NJ  08501

*Revised 4/21/20*
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