

**Monday, December 18**

- 7:30 AM Eucharistic Service
7:00 PM Word of Life Prayer Group (Chapel)

Tuesday, December 19

- 7:30 AM Ken Kreidler RB/Family; and,
Ruth C. Lavelle
RB/Vicky Romero & Family
2:00 PM Rosary & Prayer Hour — Chapel

Wednesday, December 20

- 7:30 AM The Forgotten Souls in Purgatory
3:00 PM Prayers for Priests, Religious, and
Vocations
7:00 PM Novena & Adoration Hour

Thursday, December 21

- 7:30 AM Karen C. Hillman
RB/Stephanie & Dave Salewski
7:00 PM Mass for St. Mary's & Ss. Francis &
Clare Parishioners

Friday, December 22

- 7:30 AM Bill Howard (A)
RB/Wife

Saturday, December 23

- 4:00 PM Confessions
5:00 PM John Gola (A)
RB/Connelly Family

Sunday, December 24

- 7:30 AM Yolanda & Edward Foley
RB/Family
9:30 AM Gene Varani
RB/Helen (wife)
11:30 AM Marie Todaro Sospetti
RB/Nazern Sospetti (husband)

*** * * Christmas Vigil Masses * * ***

- 3:30 PM Baby Jesus Mass
5:30 PM Christmas Flower Memorials
8:30 PM Christmas Flower Memorials
11:00 PM Ann Tarantino RB/Son

MASSSES

Saturday Evening: 5:00 P.M.
Sundays: 7:30, 9:30, and 11:30AM.
Weekdays: Tuesday thru Friday at 7:30 A.M.; Thurs. 7PM
Eve before a Holy Day: 7:00 P.M.
Holy Days: 7:00 P.M.

Religious Education

Public elementary school children on Sunday morning at 8:00,
9:45, and 11:15 AM at St. Mary School; and Tuesdays at
5:00 and 6:15 PM at Holy Assumption Church.

BAPTISMS

Baptisms are done on 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month,
following the 11:30AM Masses. Please call the rectory office
to schedule.

COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Please notify the parish office when the sick, aged or
incapacitated are confined to home. Arrangements can be
made to bring Holy Communion to them.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The chapel is open daily. The Blessed Sacrament is
exposed for solemn adoration: M,Tu,W,F 8:00-
8:45AM; Th, 8:00AM-12:00Noon; Sat, 8:00-
10:00AM. Evening hours are Wed, 7-8PM.
Quarterly, special times & events are offered.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday from 4PM to 4:30PM; also by appointment.

NOVENA

In honor of the Miraculous Medal each Wednesday at 7PM.

MARRIAGES

Arrangements are to be made at least 1 year in advance.

SICK CALLS

Urgent calls any time of day or night. Arrangements for
Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion for those
confined to the home are to be made by contacting the rectory.

PARISH REGISTRATION

We welcome new parishioners to the parish, and we ask them to
register as soon as possible. If you are not registered we are not
able to issue letters for sponsorship for the Sacraments or
character references to schools or for employment. If you move
from the parish please notify the rectory.

ENVELOPE SYSTEM

The regular use of envelopes provides for a stable income to
the church. This enables the pastor to plan for repairs, future
expansion and improvements. We urge all parishioners to
make regular use of the envelopes.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS:

<i>Adoration</i>	<i>Ginny Olsen 947-3336</i>
<i>Adult Choir</i>	<i>Jac Madson 758-7243</i>
<i>Adult Faith Formation</i>	<i>Earl Alger 298-7071</i>
<i>Altar Linen Ministry</i>	<i>Helene Shea 298-7612</i>
<i>Church Ushers</i>	<i>Ferd Loretangeli 298-2131</i>
<i>Contemporary Choir</i>	<i>Cathy Alphonse 291-9204</i>
<i>Food Pantry</i>	<i>Mike Novalis 298-4664</i>
<i>Knights of Columbus</i>	<i>Ron White 903-0342</i>
<i>Liturgy Committee</i>	<i>Fr. Joe Hlubik 298-0261</i>
<i>Open Hearts, Willing Hands (Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Mercer County)</i>	<i>609-393-9922</i>
<i>Pastoral Council</i>	<i>Deacon Gary Richardson</i>
<i>Rosary & Altar Society</i>	<i>Stephanie Salewski 291-1816</i>
<i>Sports Committee</i>	<i>John Bacovin 638-9054</i>
<i>St. Vincent de Paul Society</i>	<i>Sharon Callahan 298-1414</i>
<i>Word of Life Prayer Group</i>	<i>Pat Baylog 298-4249</i>

MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

Mon.	7:00 PM	Word of Life Prayer Group Chapel
	7:00 PM	Mary's Weavers Parish Center, downstairs
Thurs.	7:00 PM	RCIA Seminar Parish Center, downstairs

St. Vincent de Paul Society

December 17, 2017: 3rd Sunday of Advent

John knew how to die. He knew how to speak the truth even when it cost dearly. He knew how to engage in an active public ministry to which crowds flocked, but also how to withdraw into the desert for prayer and penance. Only the person who is practiced in the art of daily dying will be able to hand himself over to God in an act of final resignation, as John did. Daily dying consists in pouring out one's energies in the service of the poor, in listening attentively, in praying faithfully, in living harmoniously with others, in seeking reconciliation, in doing penance. in renouncing anything that is an obstacle to the following of Christ.

In November the St. Vincent de Paul Society helped 6 families with \$3,364 for rent and utilities expenses.

There's still time to help St. Mary's Saint Vincent de Paul Society by last minute shopping with one of your favorite retailers. Visit our website at www.svdpbordentown.org and scroll down to find out how. Thank you for your support, and happy shopping!

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, call our confidential helpline (609) 298-1414.



BLOOD DRIVE — MONDAY, DECEMBER 18th

Temple B'Nai Abraham will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive, on **December 18th from 2:30 to 7:30 PM**, at the Temple at 58 Crosswicks Street, Bordentown (across from St. Mary's). The holiday season is traditionally a difficult time for meeting the blood needs of patients, with declining donations. Donating blood provides a unique opportunity to directly contribute toward saving a life.

To schedule an appointment, please call 298-6485, or go to redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code *Temple BNai Abraham*.



Simbáng Gabi (Filipino for "Night Mass") is a devotional nine-day series of Masses practiced by Roman Catholics in the Philippines in anticipation of Christmas and to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Masses are also being held here in the Diocese of Trenton at area churches, from December 15-23, in the evening at 7PM.

Please join me, and other clergy, as we celebrate Simbang Gabi here in our parish of Ss. Francis & Clare, at **7PM on December 20th at Holy Assumption Church** in Roebing. Let's prepare for Christmas; all are invited!

—Fr. Daison

FR. JOE'S MESSAGES:

Can you name our parish?

As you may know, when our parishes of St. Mary's and Ss. Francis & Clare are officially merged next July, the combined parish will be known by a new name (while retaining the names of each church). You are invited to suggest your favorite name, to our parish office staff, either via mail or phone, **prior to Dec. 31st.**



Are you ready for Christmas?

I mean—are you ready spiritually? On this Gaudete Sunday, Christmas is almost here. Please reflect on the true meaning of this season, and take advantage of the opportunities for Confession and Mass. Refer to the schedule of Masses for the Christmas holyday elsewhere in this bulletin.

—Fr. Joe Hlubik

Altar Servers — December 23rd & 24th

5:00PM	Team #2	Hutman
7:30AM	Team #5	Spivey
9:30AM	Team #7	Cooper
11:30AM	Team #9	Tarreila/Mileski

REJOICE

Isaiah proclaims truly good news to us! God's coming brings not sadness, guilt, fear, wrath, or condemnation. No, God's coming is a source of comfort and joy. Saying it once is not enough, for today's readings are full of joy. Mary's Magnificat substitutes for our psalm today, and our second reading encourages us to rejoice, to give thanks and praise. This is the root meaning of the Greek word for *eucharist*. We are urged to rejoice and give thanks, because the coming of the Lord brings joy, healing, liberty, release, vindication. It makes the very earth spring up with new life! Good tidings!

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After 70 years as an organist for many Catholic parishes, including assignments all over the globe during a 25-year military career, Bob Scara is finally stepping aside to lessen his duties in retirement. Mr. Scara was the organist, cantor and choir director at St. Paul's church in Burlington for 27 years, and more recently served at Holy Assumption Church in Roebing for several years. He is resigning from his duties at Holy Assumption at the end of December.

Imagine the beautiful music Bob produced in a 70-year career! Many thanks for your terrific example and wonderful service over these many years, and best wishes for your retirement!

—parishioners of St. Mary's & Ss. Francis & Clare

Rosary Recitations



ALL ARE WELCOME—PLEASE JOIN US IN THESE PRAYER SESSIONS:

- ♦ **Daily Rosary** – 7:00AM and 8:00AM in the chapel (before and after the 7:30AM Mass);
- ♦ **Tuesdays** from 2:00—3:00PM in the chapel;
- ♦ **Wednesdays** at 3:00PM for priests and religious;
- ♦ **Saturdays** at 9:00AM the “Timeless Rosary” is recited.

Pray the Rosary as a family, even if only a decade a day—just begin.

“The Rosary is a great test of Faith, the touchstone by which the soul is judged in its humility. The mark of the Christian is the willingness to look for the Divine in the flesh of a babe in a crib, the continuing presence of Christ under the appearance of bread on an altar, and a meditation and a prayer on a string of beads.” —Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

UPCOMING EVENTS:

>>**PRAYER SHAWL PROJECT – Mary’s Weavers** —Monday evenings at 7 PM in the downstairs meeting room, Parish Center. Call Helene Shea for more information at 298-7612. **Next Meeting is on December 18th.**

>>**CLARE ESTATE ROSARY**—First Tuesday at 10:30; next recitation scheduled—January 2nd. All are welcome.

>>**ROSARIAN MONTHLY ROSARY**—Rosarians will meet to recite together their monthly public Rosary during the regular Tuesday Rosary Hour on **January 9th at 2:00 PM**, in the Chapel.

>>**COMMUNION SUNDAY – January 14th**—9:30 AM Mass for all Rosarians, living and deceased.

Holy Father’s Prayer Intentions for December:

- *The Elderly*—That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming new generations.

Let us pray Our Lady of Lourdes, we pray for our currently ill or suffering members, family and friends: Samme; Ruth B.; Mary M., Maryann, and Joe C. for the healing of cancer; Mary for remission of cancer; Daniel; Catherine; Ginny’s brother Bob; B.J. and Pam; George T.; Ginny M.; Veronica Shea; Amelia; Carol P.; Bill S; Paul Shea; Michael S.; Attila, Pat & family; Deacon Ron S.; Marge Johnson; Josephine H.; Christy, Joan and family members; for Jo for healing in her grief; Benjamin; Nancy P.; Nancy K.; Gail; Marilyn Rogalski; Julie and family; Addie; and Rosemarie Brodowski. We continue to pray for peace in our world and in our country that we may come together in harmony and mutual respect for each other; for our religious freedoms and conscience rights; for the recognition of the civil right of the unborn to be recognized as persons; for the family and sacramental marriage; for our civil protectors in the military, the police, firefighters and EMTs; for vocations; for the people affected by natural disasters; and for the Holy Father and the Church throughout the world. We ask for the continuing health of our parish clergy, and give thanks for our Deacons and their families for their dedication and self-giving help in the ministries of the Church. We pray for our homebound that they may know that they remain with us in our hearts and prayers.

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Vigil Masses on Sunday, December 24th

St. Mary’s: 3:30, 5:30, 8:30, & 11:00 PM

(3:30 is the Baby Jesus Mass for young children)

Holy Assumption: 3:30 & 5:30 PM

(3:30 is the Baby Jesus Mass for young children)

Masses on Monday, December 25th

St. Mary’s: 9:30 & 11:30 AM

Holy Assumption: 10:30 AM

There will be no evening Masses on Christmas Day.

Please also note ...

Our parish office will be closed for the Christmas holidays on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday December 26.

We will reopen on Wednesday, December 27 at 9 AM.

Christmas
Schedule

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Christmas Returns to Cuba

In 1969, Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro ended the celebration of Christmas in his country, blaming a time conflict with a pending sugarcane harvest.

But despite the ban, Christmas didn’t die in Cuba. Often Christians celebrated privately and in a low-key manner, especially after 1991 when the government lifted restrictions on religion. In 1995 Cuban authorities allowed public displays of Christmas trees and Nativity scenes but only in tourist areas.

Twenty years ago, in 1997, Castro reinstated Christmas as a national holiday, as a goodwill gesture for Pope John Paul II’s visit to Cuba the next month.

Today, Catholic Cubans celebrate Christmas with a “Misa de Gallo” (Mass of the Rooster) at midnight or in the early morning. Many families have Christmas trees in their homes, and they serve a traditional holiday meal of pork, turkey or chicken, black beans, white rice and a salad.

[source: [The Little Blue Book 2017-18](#); Diocese of Saginaw, MI; littlebooks.org]

ALTAR LINEN MINISTRY

Week of December 17: *Jeanne Zalegowski*

Week of December 24: *Helene Shea*

For more information, call Helene Shea at 298-7612

Bethlehem in the Holy Land

For Christians, the city of Bethlehem is best known as the birthplace of Jesus. Located about five miles south of Jerusalem, Bethlehem was for a time the home of Mary and Joseph.

In 326 A.D., Roman Emperor Constantine ordered that a church be built on the site that Jesus was believed to have been born. Nearly 200 years later, the church and the city walls were destroyed by Samaritan rebels. The *Church of the Nativity* was rebuilt, and was spared when Persians invaded the city in 614 A.D.—allegedly because the invaders saw artwork in the church depicting the Three Kings . . . clad in Persian garments.

Today Bethlehem is part of the West Bank and is governed by the Palestinians. Its Christian population has dropped from 90% (in 1900) to 12% of the area's population in recent years.

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

A recent newspaper survey found that the United States has more than three dozen cities named "Bethlehem". Perhaps the best-known Bethlehem is located along the banks of the Lehigh River in eastern Pennsylvania. Eighty years ago the city dubbed itself the "Christmas City", and focused on traditional Christmas celebrations.

Legend says that the city was founded in the mid-1700s on Christmas Eve by a Protestant group of Moravian missionaries. As their benefactor watched the missionaries singing carols in a two-room log cabin that also served as their stable, he was reminded of Jesus' birth. He decided to name the new settlement after the biblical city.

In 1937, Bethlehem PA was officially named "Christmas City of the United States". To publicize their new designation, the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce encouraged other chambers to send Christmas mail to their city, where it could be stamped "Christmas City". A large wooden star (remade in 1939 with Bethlehem steel) was mounted on South Mountain, overlooking the city.

[source: [The Little Blue Book 2017-18](#); Diocese of Saginaw, MI; littlebooks.org]

ND Class of 1968 Planning 50th Reunion!

Notre Dame High School's class of 1968 will be celebrating its 50th reunion on Saturday, June 9, 2018. It will be held at the Stone Terrace (John Henry's), Kuser Road, in Hamilton. For further information please contact Joan Coley DeGregory (jdegregory@optonline.net) or Joan Markiewicz Weidner (jmweidner@comcast.net).



Pray for

...THE SICK who have been recommended to our prayers:

Sr. Joyce Marie Riley, Victoria Seda, Marilyn Rogalski, Lois MacArthur, Francis Schuessler, Lucy Johnson, John Young, D.J. Hoch, Rileigh Sunday, Alvah Schully, Nicole Cochran, Boleslaw Pacholek, Tony LaPointe, John Campo, Quincy Johnson, Elizabeth Gusrang, Maida Burke, Dave and Arlene Bibus, Gerry Jacobs, Debbie LePre, Thaddeus Custer, Donald & Ann McGarrity, Rev. John Owens, Maureen Fabiano, John Fitzgerald, Anna Vosila, Hugh Delaney, Mary Louise Torrillo, Cindy Marriot, Michael Albano, Brody Lingle, Nadine Daddona, Lorraine Wolfe and all of the sick of the parish.

Pray For Our Deceased

Ann Krause; Dorothy Lippincott; Olympia Knapp

Chapel Sanctuary Lamp

St. Mary's Parish Benefactors

Church Sanctuary Lamp

Ada DiPietro
RB/Family

NOTE: Prayer List entries will be removed after 90 days unless we are notified that your loved one requires continued prayer support.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

*St. Mary School Hall
December 17th*



Please join us for a Pancake Breakfast with Santa, sponsored by our Knights of Columbus, which will be held **Sunday, December 17th** from 7:30AM—12:30PM in our School Hall. Tickets are available at our rectory office, and the cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 5-12, and free for toddlers. Breakfast includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, and hash browns.



Watch for the special appearance of the Sugar Plum Fairy from 10AM—12noon.

Please join us for a good breakfast and fun event, and support our Knights!

**Cathedral High School—Class of 1968
50th Reunion**

Date: Saturday, June 2, 2018

Place: Hilton Garden Inn, Rt. 130, Hamilton, NJ

For further information, please contact Patricia Bucchino Erzak at paterzak@aol.com or Marcia Minton Bollwage at marcia816@hotmail.com.

Parish Offerings:

For the weekend of December 10th, we received \$8,769 in our regular collection, and \$1,432 for our Religious Retirement fund; and \$1,883 for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception offerings.

Many thanks for your generosity!



Religious Education & Sacramental Programs
For St. Mary's and Ss. Francis & Clare Parishes

1st through 8th Grade & High School

December 17.....December RE Classes at 8:00, 9:45, and 11:15 AM in St. Mary's School
December 19.....December RE Classes at 5:00 and 6:30 PM in Holy Assumption Church
December 17.....Knights of Columbus Santa Breakfast 7:30AM-12:30PM, St. Mary's School
December 24.....Baby Jesus Christmas Eve Mass—3:30PM at St. Mary's Church
December 24.....Baby Jesus Christmas Eve Mass—3:30PM at Holy Assumption Church
January 7, 21, 28.....January RE Classes at 8:00, 9:45, and 11:15 AM in St. Mary's School
January 9, 23, 30.....January RE Classes at 5:00 and 6:30 PM in Holy Assumption Church

Advent Giving Tree - Thank you for all your heartfelt giving! You have made someone's son, daughter and/or family extra happy this Christmas season. We are so blessed to have you as a parish family.

Activities/Updates/Weather Notices – As the weather turns nasty, please check your email and our website to look for updates. We will also be posting activities and notices on our St. Mary's Church – Bordentown, NJ Facebook page. Be sure to like our page. Another Facebook page that has been started, *Diocese of Trenton Cohort 5*, and combines St. Mary's, Ss. Francis and Clare, and St. Katharine Drexel parishes. Like them and stay informed.

Santa Breakfast – Join us for Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 17th from 7:30AM–12:30PM. The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring the breakfast in the School Hall. Come out for a delicious breakfast, seasonal atmosphere and pictures with Santa. There's something special about that moment when children approach Santa Claus.
 Adults: \$8 *** Children 12 & under: \$5 *** Children 4 & under: Free

First Penance — Our 2nd graders will have practice and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in January. Please pray for all our boys and girls that they may open their hearts and minds to this beautiful sacrament of forgiveness. Help them turn to God for forgiveness.

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 St. Mary's and Ss. Francis & Clare RE Office

Phone: (609) 291-8281 ext. 18 (CRE) or ext.17 (Asst.); Fax: (609) 298-7178

Email: [office@stmarysre.org](mailto:office@stmarysre.org) or [office2@stmarysre.org](mailto:office2@stmarysre.org); Website: [www.stmarysre.org](http://www.stmarysre.org).

Facebook page: St. Mary's Church—Bordentown, NJ  
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Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

St. Mary's Community Food Pantry

We are a supplemental food source run by volunteers who donate their time collecting and distributing food to over 300 families in need in Bordentown, Chesterfield, Crosswicks, Fieldsboro, and 4 area motels that house people on our register.

We are funded by generous parishioners, community churches and members, to whom we are most grateful!

Current needs: shampoo; toothpaste; lotion; razors .



Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

Our food pantry hours are as follows: **M-W-F 2-3:00 PM; Tu-Th 9-10:00 AM and 6-7:00 PM; and Sat. 9-10:00 AM.**

To learn more, go to: [Facebook.com/St.MarysFoodPantry](https://www.facebook.com/St.MarysFoodPantry).

Christmas Bulletins

In addition to our regular parish bulletins, we have special Christmas bulletins containing prayers and blessings for the Christmas season, at our church exits and in the parish center. Please feel free to take one home with you.

SHOPRITE GIFT CARDS — WEEKLY SHOPPING

Shoprite Supermarket Gift Cards are available in \$10, \$25, \$50, and \$100 denominations through the Rosary & Altar Society. They are convenient and beneficial to every household. We promise quick turnaround of cards once ordered and the parish community earns a 5% return on every card purchased. You may place orders by telephoning Stephanie at 291-1816, and thanks for your patronage!



Parishioners,

Please take a moment, if you haven't done so lately, to familiarize yourself with St. Mary's website. We publish current events, dates and schedules, recent parish bulletins, links to other sites and information, easy registration for our sponsored events and trips, and an impressive library of videos to help expand your knowledge and strengthen your faith.

www.stmarysbordentown.org

Many thanks to Jwannes Singareddy and Earl Alger for this first-class website and their diligent maintenance!