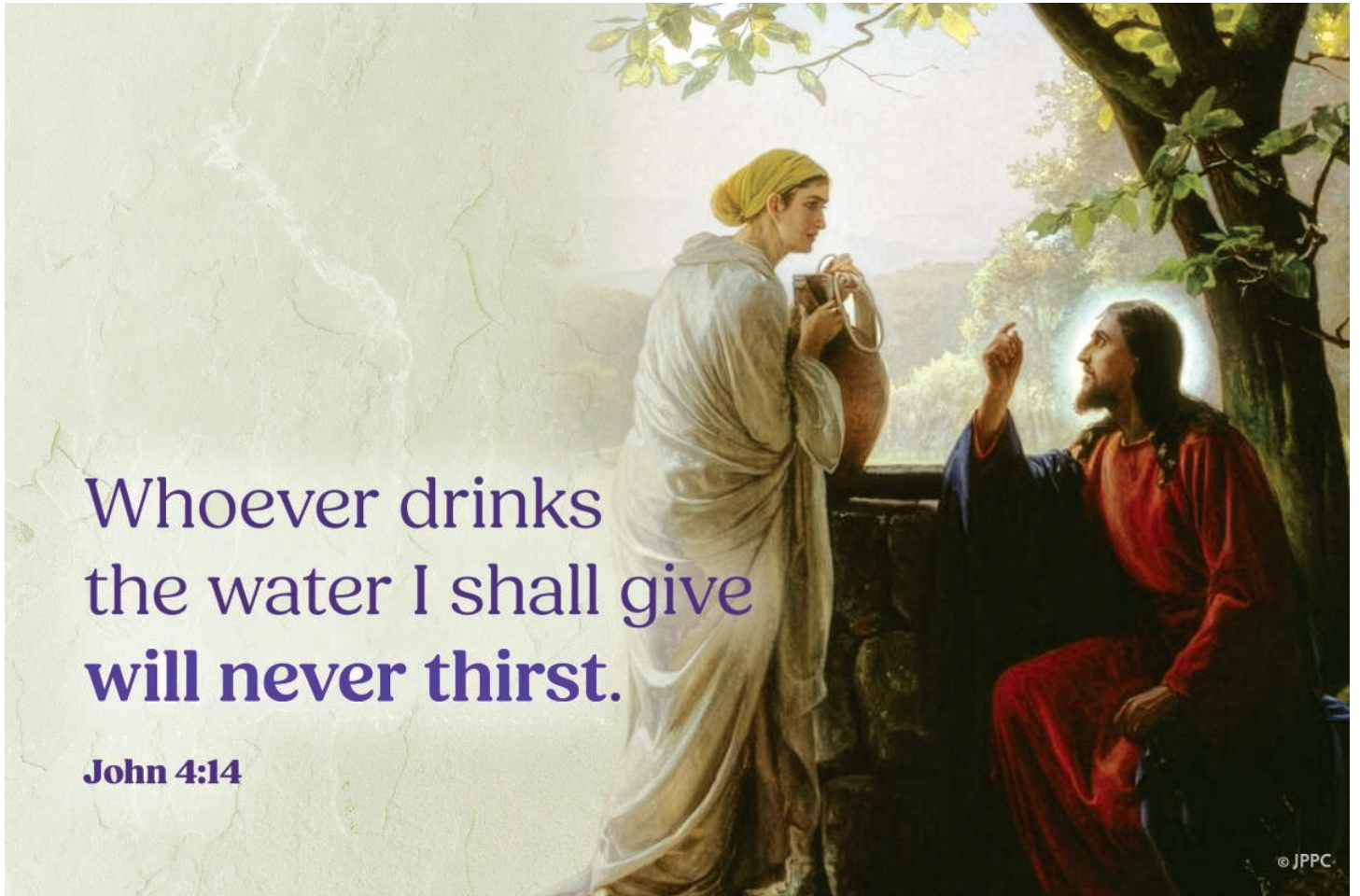


St. John's Catholic Church

619 Chestnut Street, Lakehurst, New Jersey

March 8, 2026
3rd Sunday of Lent



Whoever drinks
the water I shall give
will never thirst.

John 4:14

Main Office

732-657-6347

Religious Education Office

732-657-2348

Website

stjohnlakehurst.com

Flocknote Messages

stjohnlakehurst.flocknote.com

St. John's Catholic Church

Lakehurst, New Jersey

SERVED BY

Rev. James F. O'Neill, Pastor
 Msgr. Richard A. Rusconi, retired priest
 Rev. George Deutsch, retired priest
 Rev. Andrew Zmarlicki, retired priest
 Deacon Tom Cechulski
 Steve Aiello, Business Manager
 David Shirley, Music Director
 Mary Ann Dempkowski, Dir. of Religious Education
 Linda Olsen, Parish Secretary

PARISH REGISTRATION

Our parish covers Lakehurst, a small part of Jackson, and the eastern half of Manchester. We are a community of Catholics in this world helping each other on the way to Heaven. Families moving into or out of our parish are asked to call the Main Office to update your registration.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Parents are the first and foremost educators of their children. Our RE program assists you. We have classes for K to 8 on Wednesday afternoon & evening. Call the RE office or visit our website to learn more.

BAPTISMS

Please contact the Parish Office for arrangements. Baptisms are usually celebrated once or twice a month on Sundays at 12 Noon.

WEDDINGS

The Sacrament of Matrimony requires a time of spiritual preparation. The couple should contact the Main Office one year before the date of marriage.

FUNERALS

Families work with funeral homes who then contact the office to schedule funerals. Our Resurrection Team will contact the next-of-kin to plan the funeral including the readings and hymns.

PARISH OFFICE

Monday to Friday: 8:30 AM to 3 PM
 e-mail: office@stjohnlakehurst.com

EMERGENCIES

For shelter, food, clothing, and financial assistance, call and leave a message for our St. Vincent de Paul conference at 732-657-6359.

For other emergencies during office hours, call the main office at 732-657-6347.

Outside of office hours for the Anointing of the Sick or to schedule a funeral, call 732-930-1690.

COMMUNION CALLS

Call the Main Office to request Holy Communion for the home bound.

CHURCH SCHEDULE

Confessions

Saturday: 3:00 PM to 3:45 PM
Before Sunday Masses during Lent.

Friday Rosary, Mass, Stations during Lent

Rosary at 7:35 AM, Mass at 8 AM, Stations follow.

Sunday Mass

Saturday at 4 PM and 6 PM
 Sunday at 9 AM and 11 AM

Church Open for Private Prayer

Monday through Friday: 7:30 AM to 4 PM
 Saturday: 7:30 AM to 7 PM
 Sunday: 7:30 AM to 1 PM

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Daily Mass: Monday to Thursday, Saturday

8 AM with Rosary at 7:35 AM
 Miraculous Medal Novena after Monday Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday: 2-7 PM (except holidays)

Confessions

Monday: 2-4 PM and 6-7 PM (except holidays)

Holy Hour and Confessions

Friday: 3-4 PM

Chapel Open for Private Prayer

Monday through Friday: 7:30 AM to 3 PM

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 7th

- 4:00 PM Joseph Bigelow
Sylvia V. Carroll
- 6:00 PM Krystyna Kolbusz
Donald Sulewski (7th anniv. rem.)

Sunday, March 8th, 3rd Sunday of Lent

- 9:00 AM Frankie Dombrowski, Jr. (birthday rem.)
Rose Circelli Fisher
- 11:00 AM Matthew Baumpane (birthday rem.)
Mildred & Lucy Landolfi

Monday, March 9th, St. Frances of Rome

- 8:00 AM Richard Hubiak (birthday rem.)
Eladio Cruz

Tuesday, March 10th

- 8:00 AM Thanksgiving to God
Humberto Calderon

Wednesday, March 11th

- 8:00 AM Robert Caputo
Richard Sweeney

Thursday, March 12th

- 8:00 AM Lisa Vuocolo (alive-birthday int.)
Fr. George (alive-special int.)

Friday, March 13th

- 8:00 AM Barbara A. Fuller
Alfred B. Vuocolo (40th annv. rem.)

Saturday, March 14th

- 8:00 AM People of the Parish
- 4:00 PM Connie Lazzaro
Nancy Lazzaro
- 6:00 PM John F. Conroy
Ann Marie Lambert

Sunday, March 15th, 4th Sunday of Lent

- 9:00 AM Carl Salvatore
Colleen Kilcomins Norton
- 11:00 AM Deceased mems. of the Forkin family
Deceased mems. of the Kinane family

Candles

March 8th – March 14th

SANCTUARY

- Birthday intention
Michele Hess

SACRED HEART

- Anniversary remembrance
Alfred B. Vuocolo

SHRINE CANDLE

- In loving memory
People of the Parish

Sick

Please pray for the sick, especially:

Week 1: Lisa Magliocco, Frank DiGianni, Earl Boyer, Geraldine Kata

Week 2: Jenni Valenti, Joyce Picon, Angela Picon

Week 3: Catherine Mills

Deceased

Please pray for all the deceased, including:
Nancy Lazzaro, Nina Palatucci

Those Who Serve

PLEASE PRAY for all our parishioners and friends who are serving in the military, as well as our police, firefighters, and first responders:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| CPL George Daly IV | W5 Darren S. Kesty |
| LTC Kenneth R. Dougher II | LCPL Jacob C. Kesty |
| AC1 Megan Downes USN | 1st LT. Robert Bognar |
| Spec. Corinne McGrath | CW5 Thomas Oroho |
| SPC Brian McNichol | Capt. Meghan Oroho |
| CPO Michael M. Miehle | Tech. Sgt. Corey Hall |
| LTJG Michael G. Hennicke | SGT Brian Gaffney |
| A1C Cheyenne Thomas | LTJG Gregory Gaskel |
| Lt. Christopher Wright | Maj. Carl T. McSherry |
| Capt. Michael Evanowski | Tech. Sgt. Megan Hall |

Financial News

WEEKLY DONATIONS

Thank you for financially supporting our parish! We have several ways for you to donate. For Sunday Masses, baskets are at the three entrances inside the church. We also have a drop box at the main entrance of the Parish Center. You can donate on-line at our website, stjohnlakehurst.com or mail your contributions to:

St. John’s Church
619 Chestnut St.
Lakehurst, NJ, 08733

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Envelopes	\$11,387
Online giving	\$3,179
Loose cash	\$1,475
Total March 1, 2026	\$16,041
March 2, 2025	\$15,844

Ash Wednesday	\$4,918
2025 Ash Wednesday	\$5,796

Envelopes	\$8,603
Online giving	\$2,051
Loose cash	\$1,214
Total February 22, 2026	\$11,868
February 23, 2025	\$12,935

2026 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Love That Strengthens, Joy That Sustains

Parish Goal: \$60,000
Current Progress (as of 2/27/26): \$8,473
Families Participating: 58

We have officially launched the 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal — an invitation to strengthen our parish family and sustain ministries that serve those in need across our Diocese. Your participation today helps us begin this Appeal with confidence and joy. Make your gift at giveaca.org. You can find brochures at the doors of the church.

Parish News

LENTEN SCHEDULE

On Fridays during Lent, the 8 AM daily Mass will be in the church followed by Stations of the Cross. In addition to the usual confession schedule, Fr. Jim will be available for confession before Sunday Masses during Lent.

Parish Ministries

Contact Joe Pittarelli for information about distributing Holy Communion at Mass, in a nursing home, or to a loved one at home. He is also the person to contact for ushers, lectors, and the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA).

COMMUNITY SUNDAY

We will have refreshments after the 9 AM and 11 AM Masses on March 8th, the second Sunday of the month.

BIBLE STUDY

Msgr. Rusconi will resume the Bible Study on March 12th at 1:30 PM in the Church Hall.

WINGS AND A PRAYER

The store will be open after the 4 PM, 9 AM, and 11 AM Masses and before the 6 PM Mass every weekend.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

St. John’s Church is happy to offer a Bereavement Support Group for those who are grieving a recent loss. This is a Christ-centered support group offering a caring, compassionate, and confidential environment in which to verbalize your feelings.

Please call Anna, 732-657-6613 to find out when the next sessions will begin. If you would like to join our Bereavement Team, (the parish will pay for training) please call Anna Reuther at the above number or the Parish Office at 732-657-6347.

SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS—All Are Welcome!

Let your hands do the talking—sign up today! Interested in learning sign language? Whether you’re a complete beginner or have some experience, you’re welcome to join us! We meet on Tuesday, 10:30 AM

to 12:00 Noon at St. John’s Parish Center and attend the Saturday 4:00 PM Mass. Come and be part of it.

- No prior knowledge needed
- Experienced signers can build on what they know
- Learn in a friendly, non judgmental setting

If you have any questions or want more information, contact Barbara Blake 732-773-4322. Come learn a new way to communicate—we’d love to have you!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

CAN YOU CAN CAN?

Please continue to pick up items from our list below;

- Coffee/Tea
- Chef Boyardee products (SpaghettiOs, raviolis)
- White tuna or white chicken
- Jarred pasta sauce
- Boxed pasta
- Cereal
- Pancake mix
- Syrup



Thank you as always for your generosity in filling the gap for our pantry and helping our neighbors in need.

Important: do not place frozen or refrigerated food in the blue bin. Please bring to the pantry Monday mornings from 9 to 11 AM when we are open.

CURSILLO

The Cursillo Movement is a part of the Diocese of Trenton. The Trenton Cursillo Movement is a lay movement that operates under the authority and leadership of the Bishop of Trenton and is a movement within the Catholic Church. It proposes no new type of spirituality, but simply a method through which one’s spirituality may be developed, lived and shared, encouraging a close relationship with Christ.

The Cursillo movement seeks to share the experience and benefits of the movement with a broader audience, fostering a wider community of faith, all are welcome to attend.

Our next meeting is Thursday, March 19th, at 1 PM, held at the St. John’s Parish Center. If you have any questions, please contact David & Alice Riggio @ 732-323-0216 or Barbara Cipriano @ 732-323-8878.

ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY

Our next general meeting will be Monday, March 9th, 2026. Recitation of the rosary will begin at 11:30 AM. All are most welcome to attend.

Bread for Life Campaign

March 22, 2026

Saving Lives One Loaf at a Time through our monthly bread and baked goods sale proceeds will benefit respect life efforts to assist mothers in need

St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon

After our noon Mass on March 9th, we will be hosting our St. Patrick’s Day luncheon. The price per person is \$15.00. The luncheon will include corned beef sandwiches, potato salad and cole slaw from Donovan’s as well as ice cream for dessert. We will also be entertained by the Irish dancers from Greenbriar Woodlands. Please come and join the fun! Call Anna at 732-657-6613 for further information.

Musical Bingo

We will be hosting Musical Bingo on Friday, March 20, 2026 from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM. This event promises a great evening for all! DJ Dave will be calling the games and there will be lots of great music and prizes. We will also be serving coffee and dessert.

Tickets are \$15 per person. Please call Gerry Bognar at 908-963-3343 for further information.

All are most welcome to come and join the fun!!

Bunco & Gift Baskets

We will be holding this event in April. Please watch the bulletin for further details in the very near future.

In the meantime, if anyone can donate a NEW or UNUSED item or a gift card from a local merchant for our gift baskets they might have that they no longer need and can donate that would be most appreciated as well. Items can be brought to our general meeting or we can pick them up from you. For further information, please call Gerry at 908-963-3343 or Anna at 732-657-6613.

Altar Flowers

Dedicating altar flowers is another way to honor a

loved one or celebrate a special event. They can be for any occasion!

During the Lenten Season there will be no flower orders accepted as there are no flowers placed on the altar at this time. However, you can still place your orders for flowers after Easter if you would like.

You can place your orders through the Rosary Altar Society by calling Loretta Schuck at 848-333-0436 at least two weeks in advance of the event you wish to commemorate. We thank you for your support.

COR—SORORITY FOR WOMEN

“And Mary said, Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word” Luke 1:38

“She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come” Proverbs 31:25

The meeting for March has been canceled.

We meet to form a strong sisterhood with God our Father. Refreshments and snacks are always served. We look forward to your input and ideas. At our meeting, we will discuss ways to strengthen and improve our relationship with the church.

COLUMBIETTES

Thank you for helping us support our future priests through our “Coins from Heaven” seminarian collection. We raised \$1,000 to help these young men with their needs.

The Columbiettes are a group of ladies that serve our parish and community through charitable works. If you are interested in finding out more about us, please call our President Cecilia at 732-914-2201.

Please keep collecting “TABS”. These are collected to help Ronald McDonald House Charities. We are able to do a lot of good with these tabs because we add these to the tabs collected by all the Columbiettes in New Jersey. Thank you for your continued support

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 12940

The Knights take on and deliver activities to help bring joy or benefit to our parish and neighbors. The options are open to all input as our council membership is approaching 100. Actions, for the next

24 months, are being identified and discussed with all members to prioritize plans.

Catholic men, age eighteen or more are invited to become Knights. Come on and bring your suggestions, we always seek to benefit our parish. If you cannot join now go ahead and share your input in an envelope addressed to Grand Knight, Peter T. and drop it into the collection or drop it off at the Parish Center.

Our current action list depends on interest and people available, includes: AppleBee’s breakfast, Atlantic City trips, Blue Claws baseball, fundraisers, fireworks display, COR meetings, student essay contest, dinner dance, seminarians’ support, raffles and 50/50’s, Pro-life charities, Coats for Kids, bingo/Las Vegas night to name several. Learn more by calling Jerry Schlitzer @ 732-703-0183.

COR Program


Saturdays at 9 AM parish men stop by the church hall for one hour. No sign up or registration, just show up. Attendees talk about interesting topics and share coffee and a bite. Come and lay your burden and see that you are not alone.

COR, Latin for “Heart”, helps us find ways to build our faith and virtue through Jesus as we prayerfully form deeper fraternity and find rest in Him. Discussions have included: purgatory, bereavement, homilies, what we believe, passages, and even why we are alive at this time. No attacks, no judgment. Stop and join the conversations based on your experiences— topics are wide open.

Saint Joseph & Lent

Saint Joseph wouldn’t have been a politician or tycoon. It is doubtful that he would have been comfortable with social media or today’s self-promotion. He would not choose to join the chorus of our current braggarts, know-it-alls, and critics. At the same time, let us not see Saint Joseph as a weak person.

This silent, stoic, reverent figure seen in Nativity scenes or holding a lily (a symbol of his purity) is not mysterious or remote. The New Testament does not begin to give a biography of our Savior’s foster father. It does give vital information needed to understand his role in salvation history.




I CAN, YOU CAN, WE CAN

40 CANS FOR LENT

Help stock our St. Vincent de Paul food pantry by providing for the hungry in our community!

The Knights of Columbus graciously asks parishioners to donate 1 can or box of non-perishable food for each of the 40 days of Lent. You can bring one every day or 7 when you come to Sunday Mass.

Food Drive for Hunger



Please check expiration dates on the items. We cannot distribute expired food items to the food pantry.

February 18 – April 2, 2026

\$1.00 = 1 can

acts decisively and serenely. We know that Saint Joseph’s role as Protector extends beyond his death.

The Church relies on Saint Joseph’s patronage: patron of the Holy Church, patron of fathers, workers, immigrants, travelers, families, and a happy death. In countless ways, from his place in Heaven, he continues to do for us what he did for the Blessed Mother and Lord Jesus. He encourages our faith and the fulfillment of our duties. We know Saint Joseph as a man of silence. While we know Saint Joseph’s actions, the Gospels do not record one word he ever spoke. No one can quote him. This

We know that Saint Joseph was a just man. He does his duty to God, his betrothed, and his Son. He works hard as a carpenter, which at that time meant he was a home builder. He provided financially for his family, earned a positive reputation among fellow citizens, and he had perfected his craft. People were able to have trust in him with their homes and money. He was also concerned with the good name and reputation of the maiden of Nazareth, whom he would marry. He demonstrates in the events surrounding the Annunciation that doing his duty was the right thing – that mattered to him. We know that Saint Joseph was a human man of faith. He questions the Virgin Mary’s news that she conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. He struggles to find appropriate lodgings in Bethlehem. He has to take his wife and Child and flee to Egypt to escape King Herod.

Filled with faith and trust in God, he still must reconcile his human feelings and emotions. He has to return to Jerusalem to find his twelve year old Son in the Temple. Often, he finds solace in the quiet of sleep and while resting he is open to messages sent by God’s angels. Faith is not magic. Faith doesn’t take away all the things that go through our heads and hearts. Faith does provide us a lens through which to see these things. We see Saint Joseph’s living faith in the way he tackles every challenge head-on as he

might be the greatest lesson of all: keep our mouths closed.

When we stop talking, we are in a position to listen. If only people remembered more of what we do and less of what we say. Words, words, words, are often our downfall. Saint Joseph’s name is included in all four Eucharistic Prayers at every Mass and he is celebrated with two feasts on the 19th of March and the 1st of May.

Let’s pray that quiet Saint Joseph always prays for us.

Respect Life

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

Our next meeting is March 6th. At 3 PM we pray for greater respect for all human life during our parish holy hour. Afterward at 4 PM, we will meet near the chapel. We will hear reports from members about other parish groups’ respect life activities.

See Our Carriage to Hold Needs for “Moms & Babies in Need”

The Respect Life Committee is collecting toiletries for Birthright and Open Door located in Toms River. Please place your donations in the “Carriage Container” in the church hall. In need of:

- Powder

- Lotion
- Shampoo
- Baby soap
- Diaper rash cream
- Vaseline
- Wipes
- Baby towels
- Wash clothes
- ONLY large size diapers
- Baby clothes boys & girls sizes 3-24 months



Thank you for all your prayers and support for “Moms in Need.”

Other News

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS OPEN MEETING

Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting every Monday night from 8:00 to 9:00 pm all are welcome. If you, or someone you know has a problem with alcohol, or needs to learn more about AA, you are welcome to come and hear our experience, strength, and hope.

AL-ANON

Are you troubled by someone else’s drinking? Al-Anon meets every Friday at 1 PM in the Parish Center. All are welcome. For more information call 888-944-5678.

LUNCH & LEARN
ESTATE PLANNING SESSION
MARCH 18, 2026
11:00AM-1:00PM
THE WISTERIA
AT OLIVERIE FUNERAL HOME
 125 S. COOKS BRIDGE RD. JACKSON, NJ 08527

HOST
GERI OLIVERIE
 Manager & Funeral Director
 of Oliverie Funeral Home
 G. OLIVERIE MGR NJ LIC #3833

GUEST SPEAKERS
VanDyck Law Group
 Estate Planning & Eldercare Attorneys

MELISSA MEEGAN
 Affinity Hospice & Palliative Care

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OUR 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 has, you can report that abuse through the diocesan Abuse Hotline: 1-888-296-2965 or via e-mail at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org.

The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.

Pastor’s Corner

**Dear Parishioners,
 Old Palm Branches and Blessed Articles**

Year round, we have bins at the doors of the church for old palm branches and blessed religious articles. If something is blessed, then it should not be thrown out in the trash. Rather, it should be burned or buried. In light of the Pine Barrens, I prefer to bury rather than burn. Feel free to bury old religious articles in your own yard. Otherwise, bring them here and place them in the bins. Please don’t place plastic bags, rubber bands, or other containers in the bin. You can use them for transport, but just place the palm branches or religious articles in the bins. After the Easter Vigil, we will bury them and old holy oils in the large sand pit out in the woods.

Is Iran War Just?

Recently, I started checking the news headlines before daily Mass just in case something serious had happened. To my surprise, that’s what I saw Saturday morning when I learned that Israel and the United States went to war with Iran.

I don't know enough to say whether we are justified or not to go to war. But I do want to share with you Catholic teaching on determining whether a war is just or not.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* lays out the conditions for just war in paragraph 2309:

- the damage inflicted by the aggressor on the nation or community of nations must be lasting, grave, and certain;
- all other means of putting an end to it must have been shown to be impractical or ineffective;
- there must be serious prospects of success;
- the use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated. The power of modern means of destruction weighs very heavily in evaluating this condition.

The Catechism goes on to conclude in that same paragraph:

These are the traditional elements enumerated in what is called the "just war" doctrine. The evaluation of these conditions for moral legitimacy belongs to the prudential judgment of those who have responsibility for the common good.

When a country does go to war, there are conditions while fighting the war. Attacking civilians, for example, is wrong.

I found very helpful commentary at *The Catholic Thing* by Robert Royal on March 2nd. While he knows a lot more than me, he doesn't know if the war with Iran is just or not. President Trump and his advisors know things that we do not.

The Vatican has been quasi-pacifist in recent decades. Royal suggests the reason is that modern weapons are far more destructive. The use of such weapons could result in violations of just war principles. For example, indiscriminate killing of civilians could occur.

If we only look at just war theory in the abstract, we may miss the gravity of war in reality. People suffer. Property is destroyed.

At the end of the article, Royal asks if going to war with Iran is wise. Time will tell.

Please pray for peace in Iran and the around the world.

How is Lent Going?

We're almost halfway through Lent. How is it going? Have you kept up your Lenten practices? Are you making space for Jesus to do something wonderful in your life?

If this Lent is not going according to plan and has been something of a failure, there is hope. God is eager to be merciful to us even in our failures. He can enlighten us in ways that we weren't even looking for.

Have we been looking for love in all the wrong places like the Samaritan woman? Jesus thirsts for us. He is eager to quench the deepest thirst of our souls.

Annual Catholic Appeal

The weather prevented many parishioners from seeing the appeal video at Mass. I haven't included much about it in the bulletin. Here is a blurb from the ACA parish manual:

Faith Formation

The 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal supports comprehensive faith formation throughout our Diocese — helping people of all ages grow closer to Christ.

Your generosity provides the resources, training, and guidance that strengthen:

- Children learning the foundations of the faith
- Teens discovering their identity in Christ
- Adults deepening their discipleship and returning to the Church

Together, we are building a Church rooted in love that strengthens and joy that sustains — now and for generations to come.

Please consider supporting faith formation through the Appeal at giveaca.org, or see this week's bulletin for more information.

God love you,
Fr. Jim



This Week on Formed

Week of March 08, 2026



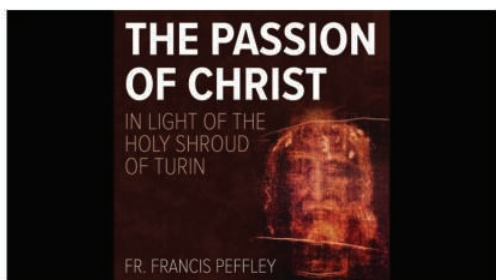
How to Lent

Lent is right around the corner. In How To Lent, you will be guided by priests and religious in the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving so that you can make this your best Lent yet.



St. Frances

Join the Tierney family as they celebrate the feast of Saint Frances of Rome, patroness of homemaking! Learn about practicing the corporal works of mercy in the home, the very Catholic Lenten history of pretzels and beer, and watch Kendra and three-year-old Barbara make something they like to call "trash can soup." Find this episode's feature recipes and more about liturgical living in the home at Catholic All Year. <https://catholicallyear.com/at-home/>.



The Passion of Christ in Light of the Holy Shroud

The Holy Shroud of Turin was called the greatest relic in Christendom by Pope St. John Paul II. Fr. Peffley presents new, detailed scientific and medical evidence for the authenticity of the Holy Shroud.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

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MARK L. SARIN
SENIOR DIRECTOR, N.J. Lic. NO. 4134

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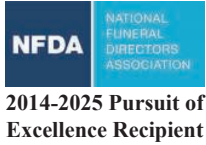
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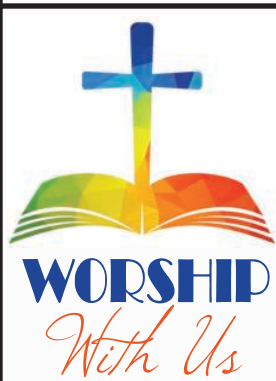
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