

St. Justin the Martyr Roman Catholic Church

975 Fischer Boulevard, Toms River, NJ 08753

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025

BAPTISM OF THE LORD



**YOU ARE MY
BELOVED SON.**

Readings for the Week January 12, 2025

Monday, January 13, 2025

Heb 1:1-6 Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c,
9 Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Heb 2:5-12 Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9
Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Heb 2:14-18 Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9
Mk 1:29-39

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Heb 3:7-14 Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11
Mk 1:40-45

Friday, January 17, 2025

Heb 4:1-5, 11 Ps 78:3 & 4bc, 6c-7,
8 Mk 2:1-12

Saturday, January 18, 2025

Heb 4:12-16 Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 Mk
2:13-17

Sunday, January 19, 2025

Is 62:1-5 Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10
1 Cor 12:4-11 Jn 2:1-11

Pastor: Reverend Mark A. Kreder
Weekend Associate: Rev. Robert Laferrera
Pastoral Associate: Deacon James Gillespie
Deacon James Campbell
Deacon Frederick C. Ebenau, Sr.
Deacon Donald Gries
Religious Education: Ellen Noble
Trustees: Susan Keogh, Peter Gudzak
Director of Sacred Music: Angela Petti
Sacristan: Carol Lewandowski

PARISH OFFICE: 732-270-3980
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: 732-270-3797

REGISTRATION: All are welcome! Sponsorship letters for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation or Matrimony will only be issued to registered parishioners. Please contact the Parish Office to register and please also notify the Parish Office of a change of address or if you plan to move from the parish so that we may keep our records updated.



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, January 12

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

8:00am James McCue
John Bergin
Matthew Maslonka
9:30am Matthew Cornier
Ann Marie Giaconia
Robert O'Connor
11:30am Catherine Elliott
Diane Aramondo
Lance Pines

MONDAY, January 13

Weekday (First Week in Ordinary Time)
St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:00am Cassandra Costello
Catherine Elliot
Barton Girls

TUESDAY, January 14

Weekday

8:00am Joseph (Joe-Joe) Stanisci
Marc Baruffaldi
Robert O'Connor

WEDNESDAY, January 15

Weekday

8:00am Louis (Chris) Gimenez
Diane Aramondo
Mary Kelly

THURSDAY, January 16

Weekday

8:00am James Rooney
John Parisi
Alice Rush (living)

SATURDAY, January 18

Weekday; BVM

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
5:00pm Ann-Marie & William Neveroski
Joell Lanfrank
Vincent Beeh
Rev. Robert O'Leary

SUNDAY, January 19

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME;

Ecumenical Sunday

8:00am Lee Rubino
William Leist
Armando Castellanos
9:30am Joseph R. Buttros
Janet Golub (living)
John Campbell
11:30am John Immersi
Stephen Shalack
Marie McCormack



Weekly Offerings

Collections are vital to our existence as a Parish. If your circumstances permit, please consider donating to the parish at this time. I am thankful and grateful for your continued financial support to help us meet our weekly and monthly expenses. Many mail their contributions in and continue to do so. Here are some ways for you to help your parish:

- Place your offering in the receptacles at the doors as you enter or leave church.
- Mail in your envelopes weekly/monthly.
- Have your bank send us weekly/monthly check automatically from your checking account made out to Saint Justin Church with your envelope number on the check to get proper credit. Thank you for giving the above some consideration to help support your parish financially, and know it is greatly appreciated!

Fr. Mark

PARISH OFFICE: 732-270-3980
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: 732-270-3797
ST. VINCENT DePaul SOCIETY: 732-929-1119
PARISH WEBSITE: www.stjustin.org

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:
St. Justin the Martyr Roman Catholic Church

St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Collection 3rd Sunday of the month. Food Collection basket is located in the narthex by the parish hall. Please utilize the green envelopes found in each pew for monetary donations to St. Vincent de Paul Society.

MASS SCHEDULE:

WEEKEND: Saturday Evening Vigil: 5:00PM
Sunday: 8:00AM; 9:30AM; 11:30AM
WEEKDAY: Monday-Thursday: 8:00AM
Holy Days: Announced

BAPTISM: Parents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session. Godparents/Sponsors are invited and strongly encouraged to attend. Please call the Parish Office as early as possible to make arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions are from 3:30pm to 4:00pm. Outside the door of the church on the side of the Religious Ed Building. Kindly knock on the door, remain outside for Confession. Please arrive at 3:30.

Adult O.C.I.A. program: Contact Parish Office
Children O.C.I.A. program: Contact Religious Education

MARRIAGE: The Sacrament of Marriage requires a time of spiritual preparation. According to the Common Policy adopted by the Bishops of New Jersey, this preparation requires attendance at a marriage preparation program (Pre-Canan) as well as sessions with the parish deacon or priest. Therefore, couples should make arrangements at the Parish Office one year before the planned wedding date and before finalizing any social plans.

MISSION STATEMENT: The goal of Saint Justin the Martyr Parish is that each member grow in the Grace through Jesus Christ, and in so doing cooperate with the Holy Spirit in giving glory to God, in experiencing the salvation of their soul, and in building up the Body of Christ.



From the Pastor
The Baptism
of the Lord
January 12, 2025

BAPTISMAL FONTS. As we said in previous articles on this Jubilee Year [which are available on our parish website], the Holy Father

did **NOT** suggest each holy site create its own Holy Door as many did in the Jubilee Year 2000. Instead, he asked us to reflect on the **ultimate Holy Door** which every Catholic Church already has: the **Baptismal Font**. As the **gateway** to all the other Sacraments, the **portal** to heaven, the **pool** at which all sins are forgiven and washed away [its the Confessional after Baptism], the **proper place** where we join the Common Priesthood of Jesus Christ as coworkers in His mission, the **Baptismal Font** and the Rite that occurs there which makes us God's children by adoption, deserve our awe and reverence.

All that is just **some** of what the Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1212-1284, says about the **first** of the **three** Sacraments of Initiation. After **Baptism**, our 'new life in Christ' is **strengthened** in Confirmation and **nourished** by Christ's Body and Blood when we worthily receive Eucharist. It is reinforced by the **Rite of Sprinkling**, which we did in place of the usual Penitential Act at Masses this weekend. And we personally recall it each time we enter church, dip our finger[s] into a holy water stoop, and make the Sign of the Cross.

WHY WERE ANCIENT BAPTISMAL FONTS 8-SIDED OR OCTAGONAL? All four Gospels offer various details about most events, but they **all** agree on the **day** and **timeframe** of the Lord's Resurrection: the first day of the week, around sunrise. Here is what each Evangelist says: "After the sabbath, as the **first day of the week was dawning**, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb." [Matthew 28:1] - "Very early when the sun had risen, on the **first day of the week**, they came to the tomb." [Mark 14:1] - "But at **daybreak** on the **first day of the week** they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb." [Luke 24:1] - "On the **first day of the week**, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb **early in the morning**, while it was **still dark**, and saw the stone removed from the tomb." [John 20:1]

To understand the significance of this, we go back to the first pages of the Bible. The *Book of Genesis* says **God** created the world in **seven**

days: God 'worked' for **six** days and rested on the **seventh** day, which became the Sabbath Day. The Sabbath Day of rest, a day reserved for religious rites, was enshrined in the 3rd

Commandment: "Remember the sabbath day - keep it holy." [Exodus 20:8] So, when Christ rose from the dead on the day after the Sabbath, or the first day of the week, it was seen as onset of a **NEW CREATION** - and Sunday quickly became the day Christians celebrated the Resurrection and fulfilled the command to take time on the Sabbath Day for God and celebrate their Faith.

The Church based her 'alteration' of the Sabbath Day on, among other things, these words of the Apostle Paul: "Let no one, then, pass judgment on you in matters of food and drink or with regard to a festival or new moon or sabbath. These are shadows of things to come; the reality belongs to Christ." [Colossians 2:16-17] As she grew in her own self-understanding, the Church made changes to reflect the new reality. An eight-sided or octagonal Baptismal Font reflects this entrance into the new and final phase of God's Creation. To this day, Seventh-day Adventists, a sect formed in the mid 1800's, reject this change; they worship on the Jewish Sabbath Day which runs from Friday's sunset to Saturday sunset.

Here is how the Holy Father explains it in the Papal Bull 'Spes Non Confundit' - 'Hope does not disappoint' in which he declared 2025 a Jubilee Year: "Baptism is the dawn of the 'eighth day,' the day of the resurrection, a day that transcends the normal, weekly passage of time, opening it to the dimension of eternity and to life everlasting: the goal to which we tend on our earthly pilgrimage" [#20] These are the thoughts we should reflect on whenever we use holy water to bless ourselves from a Baptismal Font or Holy Water Stoop, or when the Rite of Sprinkling is used. We will keep our custom of **reserving** the Rite of Sprinkling for Eastertime, whenever there are Baptisms at Mass, days like today, and Candlemas or the Presentation of the Lord, February 2, which falls on a Sunday this year.

Do you know the date and place of your Baptism? The names of your Sponsors or Godparents and the Cleric who baptized you?

In Christ,

Father Mark

Rev. Mark A. Kreder, Pastor

To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

"...a time to be born..."

Scarlett Lynn Sinton
...a time to love..."

"...and a time to be born to Eternal Life..."

Donald Lundy, Leonora Carroll, Robert Williamson,
Sherry Ipri Ohotnicky, Barbara Coakley

Those who have died in the Service of our Country.

"...and a time for peace in all the world..."

pray for our servicemen and women at home and abroad,

Cody Fisher, Jason Howie, Daniel Robert Costello,
Mark Caruso, Rick DiSanti, A.J. Elbert, Ryan Buckley,
Eric P. Fenske, Michael Griffing, Audrey Hughes, Ian Krong
Alexandria Del'Romero Hughes, Walter Reed, Antoni Jedra,
Charles Jones, Tyler Brandon Sansone, Trevor Smida,
Nick Roma, Henry Sohl, Nick Panzara, Kieran Murphy
Christopher Sylvester, Greg Hermack, Morgan Hermack
John DiMicelli, Seamus Righter, Joey Colosimo,
Jordan Thomas, Jason Paino, Christopher Wright,
Gage Maguire, Brett Turners; Mikey Fanelli, Sean Doherty, Nicholas
Pfeifer, Joseph Papparazzo, Jr., Peter Herbert,
Jake Jackson, Cristien Osorio, Paul Honan, Frank Aklus

And for our President and elected Leaders of our Country.



JANUARY REMINDERS

January 19th—Sacrament of First Reconciliation 4:00PM
January 20th No Classes

Sacrament of First Reconciliation

On January 19th, our young people will receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. We ask that you please hold the students and their families in your prayers.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS!

Congratulations to Shane Vance

(pictured here with Father Mark, and our Teen Youth Group facilitators: Deacon Fred & Laurie Ebenau)

Shane is the recipient of the prestigious

St. Timothy Award from the Diocese for 2024.

ST. TIMOTHY AWARD WINNER

The award is given In Recognition of Outstanding Service in Youth Ministry by the Diocese of Trenton, and has been previously presented at the Diocese Youth Conferences; the award is now being presented to the recipient at their home parish. The reason for the change is to highlight the YOUNG PERSON who has served as a great witness to their faith in the way they have carried themselves not only in parish life, but in life itself. The **criteria for an individual to be a recipient** of the St. Timothy Award is as follows:

- They must be in Grade 10-12 and be involved in parish ministries- An individual who has a vibrant and enthusiastic faith in Jesus Christ and puts that faith into action through service and love for others.- An individual who has shown extraordinary commitment to the youth ministry program, High School or to parish ministries. - An individual who follows in the footsteps of St. Timothy, a young companion of St. Paul, in that he or she is an "example of love, faith and virtue," an active and practicing Catholic, eager to learn more about his/her faith, one who carries out tasks in a responsible manner and one who is respectful of peers and also of adults.

Other Youth Group members nominate & elect the individual chosen. *St. Timothy once said, "Let no one look down on you because of your youth, but be a continuing example of love, faith and virtue to all believers..." 1 Timothy 4:12*

Save the Date!

Next Social Sunday is February 2, 2025

More info to follow



**St. Justin the Martyr's
Family Fun Bingo Night**
When: Friday, January 24, 2025
**Time: Doors and food open at
5:30, Games at 6:00,
Dessert at 7:00**
Cost: \$5.00 per family

**THIS IS A FAMILY NIGHT
THEREFORE ALL CHILDREN
MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.**

Please make checks payable to St. Justin Parish for the hot dogs and cover fee. **Deadline is January 16, 2025.** Flyers in the narthex and downloadable from the parish website www.stjustin.org. Forms can be dropped off to the Parish Office, black mailbox outside the office or through Religious Education. You will receive your tickets at the door. Any questions, please call the office at 732-270-3980.



Share the Warmth Blanket/Toiletries

The St. Vincent DePaul Society is sponsoring a Blanket (twin, full, queen) /sleeping bag as well as toiletries drive on

the weekend of **February 1st and 2nd, 2025** after all the masses. Please bring new or gently used Blankets/sleeping bags to the parish conference room. Items will be distributed locally.
Thank you for your support.

MINISTRY MEETINGS



ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY

The Altar-Rosary Society is a group of women dedicated to Blessed Mother and to helping our Parish. Praying the Rosary. Loving Jesus thru Mary is an important part of our lives. Come pray a rosary, enjoy friendship & fellowship with women who have a devotion to Blessed Mother in common. We recite a Rosary in church, followed by the meeting in the parish hall.
 For further Info contact Pat: 732-608-0745
Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, Jan. 22nd. 6:30pm
 New Members Always Welcome!



Is God Calling you to Help

Those In Need? The mission of the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul** is to feed, clothe, house and heal individuals and families in our community who have nowhere else to turn for help. Thanks to St. Vincent de Paul, our neighbors have received assistance with rent or mortgage payments that prevented them from being homeless, we have given respite to homeless people with a few nights in a motel to maintain their dignity with a shower, a warm place to sleep and a hot meal, we have made sure our seniors and families with children have kept the lights on, kept heat on in the winter months and provided food to fill empty pantries. Please consider donating by using the green envelopes in the narthex, or call Joanne and leave a message on our Help-Line at 732-929-1119. **Thank you.**



BAPTISMAL WORKSHOPS in the Religious Ed Building.

Next Baptismal Workshop
7:00 pm Wednesday, Feb. 5th
 Pre-registration required call the parish office at 732-270-3980

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Anyone who has lost a loved one please come join us in prayer & sharing

Next meeting date: Monday, Jan. 13th
7:00pm in St. Justin's Conference Room.

For further information contact: Laurie: 732-929-9094



MEN'S FAITH GROUP
 Join other Men from the Parish for prayer, discussions and brotherhood as we live out, learn and share our Catholic Faith.

Next Meeting Date:
Monday, February 3rd Meetings are at 7:00 pm St. Justin's Conference Room.
 New Members Always Welcome

Shawl Ministry
Do you like to knit or crochet?

Come join our group! We are in need of some talented hands to make lap blankets and more! **Next Meeting Date: Thursday, Feb. 13th, 1:00pm, St. Justin's Conference Room.** For more info contact: JoAnne at 732-270-9258



HOLY NAME SOCIETY
 St. Justin's has established the **Holy Name Society** at the parish. Our mission is to share the love and holy name of Jesus with our parish and community at large. In addition, the society promotes personal sanctification and holiness of its members by assisting other parish ministries and performing Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.



All men of the parish community are invited to join.
Next Meeting Date: Monday, January 13th
7:00pm Religious Education Building

ADULT OCIA NEWS (formerly RCIA)

Classes are in session for the 2024-2025 season
from 9:00am to 10:00am
 in St. Justin's Conference Room

Through our preparation and formation process, the **OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults)**, is always ready to accept those inquiring into becoming fully initiated Catholic Christians. You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm accepting setting. For further information on the OCIA program **Contact: for Adults the Parish Office: 732-270-3980** (for Children call the Religious Education Office)

CATHOLICS CAN ALWAYS COME HOME



ST. JUSTIN'S YOUTH GROUP

St. Justin Youth Group Ministry invites all Grade 7 through 12 youth to become part of the "Youth Group." The Youth Group generally meets twice a month on Sunday evenings. Come join our community service group who share our faith while doing fun activities. Join us for a combination of continuing formation in our Catholic faith with opportunities to put our faith into practice through service. **Being involved in this group is a great way to deepen your faith and develop friendships with others who share your Catholic beliefs.** For further info or questions see Deacon Fred after Mass, or call the parish office at 732-270-3980 **Next Meetings: Sundays, Jan. 12th & Jan. 26th 6:00pm in the Conference Room**

The Holy Name Society is sponsoring a Shop Rite Card Program. after all Masses Before going shopping you can purchase your Shop Rite gift cards in \$5, \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50, & \$100 denominations.
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"Blast from the Past " benefitting God's Special People (children and adults with special needs)

Saturday, February 8th, 2025 Knights of Columbus council home, 113 Tennyson Ave. Toms River
6:30 to 10:30pm—Cost is \$25 per person.

Food, dessert and entertainment featuring Stiletto and Saxman are included. There will be a cash bar.
All proceeds benefit the God's Special People program.

For tickets or donations,
contact Ray Gabbia 732-604-3962.



STANDING TOGETHER
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Mass for Life & Life Expo

CELEBRATED BY



Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M.

Friday
JANUARY 24
11:00AM
Co-Cathedral of
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WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Join us for a special Mass celebrated by Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M.
- Engage with local organizations dedicated to upholding and promoting human dignity throughout all stages of life.
- Enjoy delicious refreshments, fostering new friendships, and strengthening bonds within our community.

All are Welcome • No RSVP needed



For full information about the day's events, visit:
dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life

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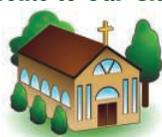
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