

# St. Justin the Martyr Roman Catholic Church

975 Fischer Boulevard, Toms River, NJ 08753

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



# PEACE

©JPPC

## Read the

Second Sunday in Advent Readings and Gospel: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/120620.cfm>

*Today's Readings — Reflections by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson*

### Reading I: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

These verses open the so-called “Book of Comfort.” We read of the commissioning of the prophet. Later in history John the Baptist will fulfill Isaiah’s declaration about a “desert voice proclaiming.”

### Reading II: 2 Peter 3: 8-14

The unknown author (definitely not St. Peter) addresses the criticism he has heard of God’s providence. He explains “divine time,” and His “delay” which is actually His patience with sinners.

### The Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8

This prologue relates for the reader the promises of the Old Testament prophets to the work of John the Baptist and to Jesus as “the coming One.” We also receive a portrayal of St. John’s humility.

**Pastor: Reverend Mark A. Kreder**  
**Deacons: James Campbell; James Gillespie**  
**Frederick C. Ebenau, Sr.;**  
**Pastoral Associate: Deacon James Gillespie**  
**Religious Education: Ellen Noble**  
**Trustees: Jean Glynn, William Anderson**  
**Director of Sacred Music: Angela Petti**  
**Sacristan: Carol Lewandowski**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**  
**(Offices Temporarily Closed, please leave message)**  
**Monday ~ Thursday 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon and**  
**1:15 PM to 4:00 PM; Friday 9:00AM-12:00 Noon**  
**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, December 6**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
 (8:00am; 10:00am; 12Noon)

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Monaghan  
 Pasquale Cosentino  
 Albert DeAngelo, Jr.  
 Betty Serafino  
 Katrina Sullivan (living)  
 Carol Curcio-Mertz  
 William Morrocco  
 Ann Marie Neveroski

**MONDAY, December 7**  
**St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

8:00am Betty Hermann  
 Robert Rush  
 5:00pm Mark Geraci  
 Ken Ritter

**TUESDAY, December 8**  
**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Patronal Feastday of the United States of America)**

8:00am People of the Parish; For Our Children as they Anticipate the Birth of Christ  
 12noon Maureen O'Connor  
 Saverio & Lucia Ferrara  
 7:00pm Marie L. Giunco  
 Samuel Devaney

**WEDNESDAY, December 9**  
**Advent Weekday; St. Juan Diego Cuauhtiatatzin**

8:00am Helen Monaghan  
 Carmine Rotolo

**THURSDAY, December 10**  
**Advent Weekday**

8:00am John Pomponi  
 Wayne Kierce  
 Thomas Palumbo

**SATURDAY, December 12**  
**Our Lady of Guadalupe**

5:00pm People of the Parish  
 Betty Hermann  
 Luis Ramirez

**SUNDAY, December 13**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
 (8:00am; 10:00am; 12Noon)

Giovannina & Raffaele Padovano  
 Ursula Oleksy  
 Russell Pagano  
 Carol Hodge  
 Nichols Torre  
 Deceased of the Preziose & Najarian Families



*Wear something BLUE  
 as we honor Mary under her title  
 The Immaculate Conception  
 (Patronal Feastday of the United States  
 of America)*



*The Altar Bread,  
 which will become the Body of Christ at  
 the Masses celebrated during the week is  
 In Loving Memory of  
 Deacon Richard Hauenstein  
 requested by Kelly Kernasovic*

*The Sanctuary Candle  
 which burns near the Tabernacle  
 in Church, the reminder of the Lord's  
 Presence in the Most Holy Eucharist,  
 is offered in Loving Memory of  
 Dr. William Walsh*



*requested by the Petti & Pais Families*

**St. Vincent DePaul Society—Food Donations CAN NOT BE ACCEPTED** at this time of any kind until the government lifts all bans and clears the state of restrictions from the virus, if you would like to help, monetary donations would be greatly appreciated, and can be dropped off in the poor box located in the narthex just before the doors to the church.  
**Please contact the St. Vincent dePaul Society for any questions: 732-929-1119**

**PARISH OFFICE: 732-270-3980**  
**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: 732-270-3797**  
**(Offices are temporarily closed until further notice)**  
**PARISH WEBSITE: [www.stjustin.org](http://www.stjustin.org)**

**MASS SCHEDULE: (See Directives on Parish Website)**  
**WEEKEND: Saturday Evening Vigil: 5:00PM**  
**Sunday: 8:00AM; 10:00AM; 12Noon**  
**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:**  
 Saturdays: 3:30pm —**READ NEW DIRECTIVES FOR PROCEDURE BEFORE YOU COME: [www.stjustin.org](http://www.stjustin.org)**

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?**  
 Adult R.C.I.A. program: Contact Parish Office  
 Children R.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-Cana) 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**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent - B  
December 6, 2020

**72 REASONS TO PRAISE THIS POPE.** This week we honor **Saint Peter's** 36<sup>th</sup> successor or the 37<sup>th</sup> Pope:

**Saint Damasus I.** Born in Rome around 305, he was the son of a Priest of likely Spanish descent and he served as a Deacon in his

father's church. [His father was a widower; however, priestly celibacy was optional until the 1200's.] As Archdeacon [the title given to Rome's main Deacons], he served in Pope Liberius' [reigned: 352-366] curia and followed him into exile; in 366, **Saint Damasus** was elected to succeed Pope Liberius. Some 20 years later, on what is now his Feast Day: **December 11**, 384, he died and was buried with his mother and sister. After praying the Collect for the Mass celebrated in his honor, we will explain why he is praised for 72 reasons ... and for many other things!

**Collect - Saint Damasus I, Pope**

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may constantly exalt the merits of your Martyrs, whom Pope Saint Damasus so venerated and loved. Through our Lord Jesus ... for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**A HOTLY CONTESTED ELECTION.** It's amazing how often history repeats itself! In the Church's earliest centuries, Bishops were elected by the local clergy and laity - even the **Bishop of Rome**, aka, the **Pope**. His votes were so close to Deacon Ursinus, a co-contender for the **Chair of Peter**, that their respective supporters had all-out brawls in two basilicas during which almost 200 were killed! Ursinus remained a thorn in his side for the rest of his life; that he belonged to one of the two heretical groups **Saint Damasus** had to confront and discipline [he professed Arianism, which said that Jesus was not truly God; the other heresy was Apollinarism, which taught that He was not truly human] which exacerbated the situation.

**CATACOMB CARETAKER.** While the 313 Peace of Constantine ended most persecutions, it took decades for Christianity to be declared the Roman Empire's 'state' religion. So, it was **Pope Damasus** who commenced the custom of caring for and adorning the tombs of Popes and martyrs interred in Roman catacombs and

cemeteries. As noted above, he was not buried in ossuaries outfitted for Martyrs and other Saints. For as he had inscribed on the crypt intended for his remains, "**I, Damasus, wished to be buried here, but I feared to offend the ashes of these holy ones.**" So, he was buried in his family's plot.

**"INTELLEGISNE LINGUAM LATINAM?"** This Latin phrase translates **Do you understand Latin?** Had we lived in **Saint Damasus'** day, we'd all say, "**Certe!**" ["Certainly!"] Since Rome ruled the world [for the most part] back then, everyone knew Latin, so **Saint Damasus** ruled that the Mass and other Rites be celebrated in Latin so everyone could understand them and take an active part in them. [The 1960's liturgical reforms at 'Vatican II' permitted any language to be used for the sacred mysteries for that same reason!] This also set the stage for **Saint Damasus'** great gift: the **Vulgate**.

**THE 382 COUNCIL OF ROME.** Did you know that the decision as to which books of the Bible are 'canonical' or 'legit' was made by the Church - in 382? It was not until **Pope Damasus** summoned all Bishops to Rome and, with the help of scripture scholars and theologians, it was determined which books and letters were truly inspired by God and deserved the title "**the word**" or "**Gospel of the Lord.**" So, it was the Church that 'formed' the Bible, the Bible did not form the Church! Nor did **Jesus** give the **Apostles** and their Successors [the Bishops] a **Bible** before ascending back to heaven; He gave them the **Holy Spirit!** While Martin Luther and the Reformers rejected 7 books and some parts of others, Protestant Bibles now add the contested books as '**Apocrypha**' or '**holy reading.**' For as the Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in 1947, attest: the Council of Rome was correct: there are 72 canonical books in the Bible!

**SAINT JEROME'S BIBLE.** It was **Saint Damasus** who had his friend and secretary, **Saint Jerome**, [image above: **Pope Saint Damasus I** instructing **Saint Jerome**] translate into Latin the Church's 'official' **Bible** or **Vulgate**, a word which means 'common' or 'colloquial,' as he used the Latin words spoken by most in his day. To this day, when the **Bible** is translated into any language, **Saint Jerome's Vulgate** is still the principal 'proof text.' **Saint Damasus [and Saint Jerome], pray for us!**

*Be sure to read the letters from two students in our Religious Education Program. They teach us about faith and hope in these difficult times.*

In Christ,

*Father Mark*



## Hope in Difficult Times

The liturgical season of Advent is about hope. Hope is one of the three theological virtues. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that “hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit” (No. 1817).

Hope gives us the endurance to overcome setbacks that come in life because we know that Christ does not abandon us and that He will have the ultimate victory. God’s promise of glory exceeds the pain of momentary afflictions. The angelic doctor, St. Thomas Aquinas taught, hope expects “a future good, difficult but possible to attain...by means of the divine assistance...on whose help it leans.”

The year 2020 has certainly been a year of tough times for our country, for our Church and for our world. True hope is the antidote to the epidemic of despair many feel in our society today.

The following brief essays were written by students in our Religious Education Program. The first one was written by a third grader whose reception of First Communion was postponed due the pandemic. The second one was written by a high school freshman whose reception of Confirmation was also postponed as a result of the pandemic.

As we see in both writings, faith and hope will get us through any situation because our hope is not a something, but a Someone—Jesus Christ. He is the one true hope and the source of lasting joy.

These two students have embraced that hopeful clarity of vision that our Catholic faith inspires. I pray that we all do the same, Fr. Mark

### **From a third grader:**

A few months ago in March there were little problems. There were few cases of an illness no one ever knew. Then this number kept growing. Soon the world shut down. Supermarkets were running out of toilet paper, Lysol wipes and spray and so much more. Restaurants were closing, and all over the world, doctors and nurses in hospitals were sending out information about this illness like wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, wear a mask, cover your mouth when you sneeze or cough, and wipe down areas that are touched most. No one knew what to call this illness, but a scientist knew the answer, he called it coronavirus or Covid-19. Some people called this year, 2020, “The year we will never forget”. Today things are getting back to normal, Indoor dining and church is back. Supermarkets are stocking up on supplies. This year everything was different for everyone, but if we have hope, nothing can stop us. The end

### **From a high school freshman:**

The reason I would like to be confirmed is because I want to be closer to God. Over the years, my Church has taught me more and more about my religion. About how it can change one’s life for the better. How it gives people hope. How it gives back to those who have had a dwindling sense of faith. This pandemic changed a lot about our lives, from a slightly altered sleep schedule to a severe loss in jobs around the world. I would have felt alone during this time, wondering when I will ever see my friends again. But, I held onto my faith. Even when it felt like the world was crumbling, I knew I could fall back on my religion as well as my family. I knew that God and my family would always be there for me, regardless of the struggles. I feel that being confirmed would strengthen my faith ever more with God.

*To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven*

Ecclesiastes 3:11

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

Harper Rose Girgis, Gia Francesca Girgis

*"...a time to love..."*

*... "and a time to be born to eternal life..."*

*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, Louis Graffeo, Michael Griffing, Alexandria Del'Romero Hughes,

Audrey Hughes, Antoni Jedra, Charles Jones, Ian Krong,

Walter Reed, Tyler Brandon Sansone, Trevor Smida,

Christopher Sylvester, Nick Roma, Nick Panzara, Greg Hermack,

John DiMicelli, John M. Budenas, Autumn Hale

Joey Colosimo, Michael Anthony DeAnni, Kieran Murphy,

Colin Berrios, Kevin Kreder, Christopher Wright, Jordan Thomas

*And for our President and*

*elected Leaders of our Country.*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES FOR 2020-21

Although we do not meet each week as we have in the past, we look forward to all the faith shared in our religious education community with the assignments you are completing.

\***Students in Grades 1-6 ([www.christinus.com](http://www.christinus.com))** please make sure you are accessing your e-Books for your weekly assignments. Everything you need is in the book and we ask that you please not google and to only use the book. We are so proud of all the effort you are doing so far. We love all the videos and art our young people are sending us.

\***Students in Confirmation Prep I and Confirmation Prep II ([www.sadlierconnect.com](http://www.sadlierconnect.com))**

Please remember that your e-Book is a read only and to please follow the directives you received in your email. We are also proud of all the work you are doing. Your essay questions each week show us that you are learning and sharing faith.

\*Any questions or concerns please contact our office at (732) 270-3797.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER

We ask our parish family to please visit our Religious Education Corner on our parish website [www.stjustin.org](http://www.stjustin.org); it is located under the religious education section.

We are putting up some enrichments for families and we also remind you to visit FORMED and Faith At Home for further enrichments.

We hope everyone has an ADVANTAGEOUS ADVENT SEASON!



### Mark Your Calendar for Sunday, December 20th

*Christmas will be here sooner than we think!*

*We will start decorating the church and narthex at 1:15pm We need volunteers of all skills and levels of expertise. If you would like to participate in decorating you can sign up on the parish website under News/Events (drop down menu labeled Christmas Decorating) or private message our parish Facebook Page, St. Justin the Martyr Roman Catholic Church, or call the Parish Office. Social Distancing will be observed and masks will be required, we will call you with time slot for the area you will be helping.*



### GIVING TREE

*If you, or anyone you know, is in need of help for Christmas (registered parishioners only) please call Betty at 732-270-1972.*

*To do our part in keeping our parish safe and healthy on the giving and receiving side, only gift cards will be distributed this year (Visa, Mastercard, Shop Rite, or gift card of your choice) We presented this idea to Father Mark and he gave his approval.*

*Please drop off your gift card/check at the church in the box provided marked "Giving Tree". The deadline is December 15th. If you prefer you may mail a check to the parish office with "Attention: Giving Tree" 975 Fischer Blvd., Toms River, NJ 08753. Thank you for your generosity.*



### Action Needed to Oppose the NJ Reproductive Freedom Act

**(S3030/A4848)** The Reproductive Freedom Act would **remove restrictions protecting unborn babies** and allow medical professionals who are not doctors to perform abortions. To view the entire bill go to: [New Jersey Right to Life \(njrtl.org\)](http://NewJerseyRighttoLife(njrtl.org)) **Please call**

**the sponsors of these bills and tell them to remove their sponsorship and vote NO on these bills**

*Senator Loretta Weinberg and Senator Linda Greenstein. VOTE NO ON BILL S 3030.*

SEN. Weinberg 201-928-0100

SEN. Greenstein 609-395-9911

*Assemblywoman Valerie Huttle: VOTE NO ON BILL A 4848. Telephone: 201-541-1118*

Also call, email and mail letters via postal mail to Senate President Stephen Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin urging them NOT to post S3030/A4848. Their address and phone numbers are listed below:

Senator Stephen Sweeney

935 Kings Highway, Ste. 400, West Deptford, NJ 08086  
Phone: 856 251-9801; Email: [SenSweeney@njleg.org](mailto:SenSweeney@njleg.org)

Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin

569 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge, NJ 07095  
Phone: (732) 855-7441; Email: [AsmCoughlin@njleg.org](mailto:AsmCoughlin@njleg.org)

Dear Parishioners, if you wish to submit names for Christmas Flower Offerings print out the form or simply write the information down, place in an envelope with your offering, and either mail in or drop off the envelope to the parish hall in the Collection Boxes.



## CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Env. No: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_



Collections are vital to our existence as a Parish. If your circumstances permit, please consider donating to the parish at this time. \*Donations

can be mailed to the church: St. Justin the Martyr, 975 Fischer Blvd. Toms River, NJ 08753. \*There are also collection hoppers located in the parish hall when you enter or exit for Mass. \*Also, consider making your online offertory for our parish thru the Diocese, that has now created a "Pass the Basket" "Emergency Fund." If you wish to make your weekly donation to our parish thru this method, please visit our parish website: [www.stjustin.org](http://www.stjustin.org), Under the News/Events tab, select the On-Line Giving tab. When the Diocese page opens, scroll down to the "Pass the Basket" option, select St. Justin the Martyr Parish. These are challenging times for all of us. I am most grateful to all who have continued to mail in their weekly offerings, or donated on line, so we can pay all bills on time. Fr. Mark

### Readings for the Week of December 6, 2020

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17-26  
 Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38  
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30  
 Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15  
 Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19  
 Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47  
 Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Since we are not able to distribute printed bulletins at this time due to COVID restrictions our Advent Calendar and all the information regarding Advent, the Sacrament of Reconciliation times, our Christmas Mass Schedule can be found on our parish website: [www.stjustin.org](http://www.stjustin.org)

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WATCH

## GUADALUPE: THE MIRACLE AND THE MESSAGE

As we celebrate the patroness of the Americas this week, enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego—an encounter that has converted millions.

## PICK OF THE WEEK

December 6, 2020

## GUADALUPE THE MIRACLE AND THE MESSAGE



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### FORMED NOW! DO WE MAKE TOO MUCH OF MARY?

Throughout our Marian feast days, you might wonder why Catholics think so highly of Mary. Join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn as they discuss our Lady's esteemed place among the saints.

LEARN

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### Laurie Kolan

Realtor Associate

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