

St. Justin the Martyr Roman Catholic Church

975 Fischer Boulevard, Toms River, NJ 08753

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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: Jean Glynn, William Anderson
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.



SUNDAY, December 24

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT; CHRISTMAS EVE

8:00am	Shellie O'Brien Terry DeFillo (living)
9:30am	Helen Panariello C.J. Borchard (living)
4:00pm	Bernard Gupko Charles LaBarca
6:00pm	Joseph & Mary Bednarcik Pasquale & Adelina Cosentino
9:00pm	Jeanette Bongiovanni Joann Nuernberg

MONDAY, December 25

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas)

8:00am	Raffaelle & Giovannina Padovano Katherine A. Stanisci
10:00am	Rev. Robert LaFerrera (living) Murphy Family
12Noon	Sullivan & Sauer Families Rev. Mark A. Kreder (living)

TUESDAY, December 26

St. Stephen, The First Martyr	
5:00pm	Eucharistic Communion Service

WEDNESDAY, December 27

St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

8:00am	Kathy Heid (living) Seger Family Edwardo Pinto Manuel Rebelo Marino Family
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THURSDAY, December 28

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

8:00am	Holy Souls in Purgatory Arnold Horvath Nicholas Cacciapaglia
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SATURDAY, December 30

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

5:00pm	Dan Bergin Sgt. William Deighan (MIA) Vera DeGennaro
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SUNDAY, December 31

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, & JOSEPH

8:00am	Lewandowski Family children & grandchildren (living)
9:30am	Helen & Roy Larkin Laura B. Santillo
11:30am	Alice Belanger



The Altar Bread,
which will become the Body of Christ
at the Masses celebrated during
the week is In Loving Memory of
Giovannina & Raffaelle Padovano
requested by Padovano family



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
Giovannina & Raffaelle Padovano
requested by Padovano family

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.

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: Confession will be Saturdays from 3:30pm to 4:00pm. Outside the door of the church on the side of the Religious Education Building. Kindly knock on the door, remain outside for Confession. Please arrive at 3:30. Saturday Confession will resume in the new year.
Watch the parish website for updates.

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-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
4th Sunday of
Advent - B
December 24, 2023

CHRISTMAS DURING THE EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL. Since the 4th Sunday of Advent's bulletin is the Christmas bulletin, We'll reflect on both the Mysteries of the Incarnation and the

Eucharist. As you may know, we are halfway through the US Bishops' three-year National Eucharistic Revival; a series of articles about it may be found on our Parish website. It is intended to help Catholics and others better understand, celebrate and receive the great Gift of Eucharist. So, 'Christmas' - which comes from the words 'Christ's Mass' or the holy Mass offered to celebrate His Nativity or Birth, is the perfect 'starting point' to reflect on these two interwoven and inseparable Mysteries.

Technically, the Eucharist was instituted at the Last Supper, but the stage was set for Christ's ability to be truly present in the Eucharist when He was conceived in the Virgin's womb nine months before Christmas. What had been refigured in many ways: the Manna or bread from heaven which fed the Israelites on their desert journey; the Sacrificial Lambs, whose blood safeguarded their home from the Passover Angel of Death; and the Ark of the Covenant which housed the Ten Commandments and a jar of Manna; was now seen in human flesh and blood in the newborn King. [We call the Blessed Virgin the 'New Ark of the Covenant' since she bore God's Word-made Flesh and the 'Bread of Life' in her womb.]

The prophesy: "... Bethlehem-Ephrathah ... from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel." [Cf. Micah 5:1b] gives another Eucharistic clue. Bethlehem means 'House of Bread,' and the Child's Mother "laid him in a manger" because "there was no room for them in the inn." [Cf. Luke 2:7] A manger is an animal's feeding trough, and the word Luke uses for 'inn' is akin to the word he uses to describe the 'Upper Room': the site of the Last Supper and institution of the Eucharist.

As we will soon celebrate on the Epiphany, the *Magi* came to adore the *Christ Child* 'on bended knee' or by prostrating themselves before Him, offering to Him their precious gifts. Is this not

what we do at every *holy Mass*: kneel before the Eucharistic Lord, after offering our costly gifts for use in His service? Are we not directed to genuflect before the Blessed Sacrament when we enter and leave Christ's Real Presence?

Should we also be willing, as were the Shepherds and the Magi, to travel whatever distance is necessary to find and be with the Child and His Mother? That's one reason every Catholic Church has a Tabernacle in which our Eucharistic Lord dwells, and an image of His Mother. No wonder at most Sunday and festive Masses we sing the same chant the Angels first sang on that first Christmas: "Glory to God in the highest...." That makes every holy Mass another little Christmas.

While some question the cost of sacred vessels, vestments, worship sites, and other liturgical necessities, we are consistent with the first Christmas. Everyone presumably brought their best: sheep or cattle, ox or ass, straw or hay; or gold, frankincense or myrrh; there was even a borrowed cave that foreshadowed the borrowed tomb in which our Lord's Body would be buried! The Spanish 'The Rose Tree Carol' makes an interesting contrast of how Jesus went "...from the virgin womb to the virgin tomb." In our own time, Sacraments use what is 'earthly' and 'ordinary' and to be vehicles of the 'heavenly' and 'extraordinary!' While the 'Little Drummer Boy' is just a legend, it, too, bears out our need to bring our very best as a gift to the Lord.

Throughout the course of His earthly life, Jesus continued to reveal, by word and action, sign and symbol, the future mystery of the Eucharist. He miraculously fed thousands with a few loaves; He explained how His Flesh and Blood are True Food and True Drink; Saint John the Baptist declared Him "the Lamb of God" [John 1:29], who takes away the sins of the world, which we will hear in a few weeks, on the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - B. At the Last Supper, He instituted the Eucharist as His parting and greatest Gift.

As a New Year's resolution, do more to better understand, more actively celebrate, and more worthily receive the great Gift of Eucharist. Give our Eucharistic Lord a central place in your mind and heart, home and schedule. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2024.

In Christ,

Rev. Mark A. Kreder, Pastor

O514-pg 3

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

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

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

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

Joan Buckley, Maureen Marotta, Maryann Pepsin,
Rev. Patrick Magee, Edward Kube,
Joan Goncalves, Alvaro Goncalves

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, Kevin Kreder, Henry Sohl, Nick Panzara
Christopher Sylvester, , Greg Hermack, Morgan Hermack
John DiMicelli, Seamus Righter, Joey Colosimo,
Kieran Murphy, Michael Anthony DeAnni, Jordan Thomas,
Jason Paino, Christopher Wright, Gage Maguire,
Brett Turners; Mikey Fanelli, Sean Doherty, Nicholas Pfeifer
Joseph Paparazzo, Jr., Peter Herbert, Jake Jackson,
And for our President and elected Leaders of our Country.



*Come for a peaceful interlude....
Christmas instrumental music will
be presented prior to the 9:00pm
Christmas Eve Mass
Relax and let the peaceful sounds of
instrumental Christmas music
inspire and relax you, making way
for the Christ Child to be born in your heart.
Kindly arrive around 8:30pm*

Readings for the Week of December 24, 2023

Monday, December 25, 2023 (Vigil) Is 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

Monday, December 25, 2023 (Night) Is 9:1-6 Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14

Monday, December 25, 2023 (Dawn) Is 62:11-12 Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12 Ti 3:4-7 Lk 2:15-20

Monday, December 25, 2023 (Day) Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18

Tuesday, December 26, 2023 Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday, December 27, 2023 1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Thursday, December 28, 2023 1 Jn 1:5—2:2 Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8 Mt 2:13-18

Friday, December 29, 2023 1 Jn 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 Lk 2:22-35

Saturday, December 30, 2023 1 Jn 2:12-17 Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 Lk 2:36-40

Sunday, December 31, 2023 Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40

Religious Education

DECEMBER REMINDERS

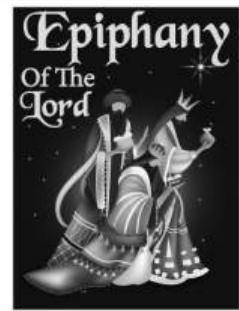
December 25th – 28th—NO CLASSES IN SESSION

January 1st 2024—NO CLASS IN SESSION

Grade 1 Epiphany Pageant

Parishioners are invited to the Epiphany Pageant performed by the first graders on Saturday, January 6th immediately following the 5:00PM Mass.

We thank everyone who helped the children prepare for this special presentation to end our Christmas season.



Father Mark, Father Bob, our Deacons & Staff wish everyone a Very Blessed and Joyful Christmas & New Year!

****Please note the changes in the schedule of Masses for December 24th and Christmas Day, December 25th**



Sunday Mass Schedule for the 4th Sunday of Advent (Dec. 24th)

The only Masses to fulfill your Sunday Mass Obligation are:

Saturday, December 23rd 5:00pm (vigil)

Sunday, December 24th 8:00am & 9:30am

THERE IS NO 11:30am SUNDAY MASS this day.

**Christmas Eve Masses (Sunday, December 24th)
4:00pm; 6:00pm; 9:00pm**

**Monday, December 25th Christmas Day
8:00am; 10:00am; 12Noon**

Parish Offices will be closed Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th



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

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. **Our Next Meeting is on January 24th at 6:30pm Parish Hall.**

For further Info contact Pat 732-608-0745
New Members Always Welcome!



BAPTISMAL WORKSHOPS in the Religious Ed Building.

**Next Baptismal Workshop
7:00 pm Wednesday, January 3, 2024**

Pre-registration required call the parish office at 732-270-3980

BEREAVEMENT GROUP will be meeting on **Monday, January 8th 7:00 pm in St. Justin's Conference Room.** Anyone who has lost a loved one please come join us in prayer & sharing.
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:
Tuesday, January 2nd
7:00 pm St. Justin's Conference Room**

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, January 11th 1:00-3:00pm, St. Justin's Conference Room** New Members Always Welcome

For more info contact: JoAnne at 732-270-9258

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 contact Deacon Fred at (732) 270-3980 ext. 331

**Next Youth Group Meetings: Sundays
Jan. 7th & Jan. 21st 6:00pm in the Conference Room**



IS GOD CALLING YOU? The Society of St. Vincent de Paul monthly meeting is **Monday January 22nd, 7:00pm in St. Justin's Conference Room** All are welcome who are interested in joining us and helping to fulfill God's plan that we pray together, and assist our poor neighbors in need. Please consider donating to this charitable cause. The green offering envelopes are available on the narthex walls for this purpose. If you have any questions, kindly leave a message on our Help-Line at 732-929-1119.

Thank you.

Mt 6:8 "What does the Lord require of you but to act justly, love mercy & walk humbly with your God"

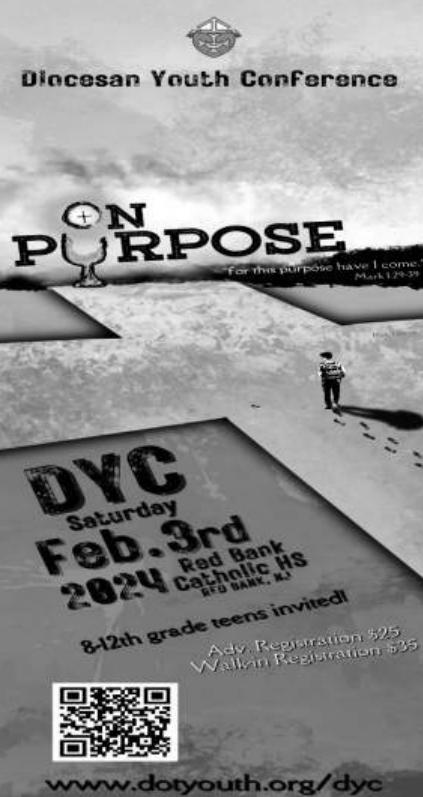


ADULT OCIA NEWS (formerly RCIA)

Classes have begun! You are invited to join! 9:00am to 10:00am in St. Justin's Conference Room

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](#) (for Children the Religious Education Office)

CATHOLICS CAN ALWAYS COME HOME



"The Diocesan Youth Conference is a gathering for ALL teens in the 8 - 12th grades of the Diocese of Trenton. It is an exciting day filled with great music, powerful talks, fun service projects and more! Most importantly it is a chance to connect with other Catholics, teens beyond your parish or school and grow in your faith! ."

For further info and to register visit:

**DYC Promo 2024 -
Diocese of Trenton -
Lawrenceville, NJ**

ATTENTION ALL MINISTERS OF LITURGY
Sign-up sheets are posted in the Sacristy for **MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS**, for anyone who serves at Mass as Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, Lector, Usher, or Altar Server. **Please sign-up for the Mass that you will be attending!**

THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of December 24, 2023



The True Meaning of Christmas | Lukas Storyteller

Christmas is coming and our friends Peter, Agnes, Paul and Anna expect to receive many gifts, but when they caught in one of their antics. Lukas and Noah will help them understand the true story of Christmas and how the birth of the Son of God should change our hearts.



Christmas | Sacred Art

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they look at the painting Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. This famous painting reveals the Christ Child as the light that has come into the world and also depicts the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the shepherds to be models of adoration to our humble Lord who came as a helpless baby.



The 12 Days of Christmas

We are excited to announce our series of FORMED Now! Christmas and New Year special episodes. In these episodes, professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School will lead us in reflections throughout the season.

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Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

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