

# St. Justin the Martyr Roman Catholic Church

975 Fischer Boulevard, Toms River, NJ 08753

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023**

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, & JOSEPH**



**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.



# **MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

**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

**MONDAY, January 1**

**THE OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD; SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD; New Year's Day; World Day of Prayer for Peace**

10:00am Christina Johnson

Arnold Horvath

12Noon Rev. Mark A. Kreder (living)

**TUESDAY, January 2**

**Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors**

12Noon\*\* Blessings on All Our Parish Families

**WEDNESDAY, January 3**

**Christmas Weekday; The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

8:00am Manuel Rebelo

Jose Pereira

Lucia Russo

**THURSDAY, January 4**

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**

8:00am Joseph Paparazzo, Sr.

Arnold Horvath

Mariano LaCambecan

**SATURDAY, January 6**

**Christmas Weekday; St. Andre Bessette, Religious**

5:00pm Lucia Lozzi

Joseph Kroener

Arnold Horvath

**SUNDAY, January 7**

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

8:00am Pasquale & Adelina Cosentino

Dominic Richard Mannato

9:30am Marie Fanelli

John Loiacono

11:30am Philip Piampiano

Ted Pettek

Christopher Andrew Sohnen

**\*\*Note change in Daily Mass Time Tuesday, Jan. 2nd**



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th  
CHURCH UN-DECORATING AND  
CLEAN UP RIGHT  
AFTER THE 11:30 MASS**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN  
HELPING PLEASE SIGN UP THRU  
OUR WEBSITE [WWW.STJUSTIN.ORG](http://WWW.STJUSTIN.ORG),  
OR CALL THE PARISH OFFICE**



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](http://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  
The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph - B  
December 31, 2023

**MEALTIME.** The Bible does not record any **Holy Family dinners**, but they must have enjoyed countless meals together. Many artists [as seen above] have used their skills to depict what **Sacred Scripture** did NOT need to say: that **Jesus, Mary** and **Joseph** ate together as a family. Like all observant **Jews**, they would have eaten the **Passover** or **Seder Meal** and all other required religious celebratory meals. While one reason for this was that they needed earthly nourishment to maintain their physical nature and stay alive, they also needed the pious, customary, religious rituals to sustain their spiritual nature. So do we!

**FAMILY MEALS.** Study after study, from secular and religious sources, have shown that the family that regularly eats together stays together. **Father Patrick Peyton** [01-09-1909 - 06-03-1992] popularized the phrases "**The family that prays together stays together**" and "**A world at prayer is a world at peace**" decades ago. Among the many benefits of family mealtimes are lower rates of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, eating disorders, tobacco use, and early teenage pregnancy; higher rates of resilience and self-esteem; and closer interpersonal relationships as family members 'share their story' with one another; it even boosts the vocabulary in younger children.

**THE GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS.** During the dreadful COVID lockdowns, many families were 'forced' to dine together - and came to like this custom which many have thankfully continued. However, the not-so-good news is we have yet to return to the pre-COVID level of communal activities. Educators report more behavioral issues as children struggle without socialization skills; our society seems to have become rudier, even toxic; and **church** attendance and activity is down in numbers. Sadly, some still 'attend' services 'virtually' rather than 'in-person.' Some consider being an 'observer' to be just as good as being an 'active participant.' Far too many deprive themselves of the spiritual graces that come to us through the **holy Mass**, the **Sacraments**, pious devotions and rituals that sustained and deepened people's faith through wars, disasters and other calamities.

**MAKE WEEKLY MASS A MUST!** In retrospect, we should never have allowed churches to be closed, services cancelled, and other so-called 'non-essentials' be forbidden - while liquor stores and other places deemed 'essential' were allowed to be open. As a **Faith Community**, we will pay the price for this for years, if not for generations. While we cannot change the past, we can learn from it - and make every effort to make the present and the future better than before. If, like me, you are also not too successful in keeping **New Year's** resolutions, at least we are trying! And since we are all 'practicing **Catholics**' - and practice makes perfect - no one should ever stop practicing!

**CHILDREN AND HOLY MASS.** While it is true that before they reach the 'age of reason,' commonly considered seven, children are not obligated to attend weekly **Mass**. However, as all parents know, establishing healthy routines is crucial for a child's proper development. While illness and caring for an infant dispenses adults from this serious obligation, some use these - and many other excuses - to 'excuse' themselves from weekly worship. Leaving all that aside, all parents need to reflect on the harsh words our **Lord** said when some tried to keep the kids away from Him: "**When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me."**" [Mark 10:14] I shudder to think of what **Jesus** would say to those who do not provide for their child's faith formation!

As I hope you know by now, we are in the last leg of the three-year **National Eucharistic Revival**, promulgated by the **Bishops** of the **USA**. Their goal is to reawaken, deepen the understanding of, promote the more vibrant celebration of, and encourage the more proper reception of the **Great Gift of Eucharist**. And as important as shared meals are with family and friends, it is one of the central ways by which **Jesus** commanded us to remember **Him**: "**do this in memory of me.**" [Luke 22:14 - the only evangelist to include these words in the Institution Narrative] which **Saint Paul** echoes two times: "**Do this in remembrance of me.**" [1 Corinthians 11:25b & 26b] Are we fulfilling our **Lord's Last Supper** request by participating in **holy Mass** and regularly receiving **Holy Communion**?

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..."*

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

*..."and a time to be born to feternal Life..."*

**Maureen Marotta**

*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.*

## STANDING TOGETHER FOR Life

**FRIDAY  
JANUARY 19, 2024**

**Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine, Freehold**

### Mass for Life

**11:00 a.m.**

CELEBRATED BY  
**Bishop David M.  
O'Connell, C.M.**

*All are Welcome*

### Lunch & Seminar

**12:30-3:30 p.m.**

FEATURING  
**5 Expert  
Panelists**

*Advanced Registration  
Required*



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

### Readings for the Week – December 31, 2023

**Monday, January 1, 2024** Nm 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21

**Tuesday, January 2, 2024** 1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1, 2-3AB, 3CD-4 Jn 1:19-28

**Wednesday, January 3, 2024** 1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Ps 98:1, 3CD-4, 5-6 Jn 1:29-34

**Thursday, January 4, 2024** 1 Jn 3:7-10 Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 Jn 1:35-42

**Friday, January 5, 2024** 1 Jn 3:11-21 Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 Jn 1:43-51

**Saturday, January 6, 2024** 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or Lk 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

**Sunday, January 7, 2024** Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

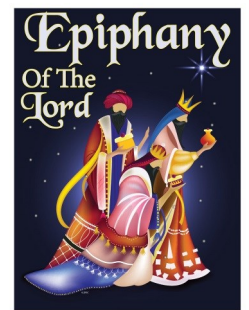
## Religious Education



### 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.



### January Reminders

January 1st	No Classes are in session
January 5th	Dress Rehearsal for Epiphany Pageant 4:30-6:00PM – Parish Hall
January 6th	Grade 1 Epiphany Pageant Immediately following 5:00PM Mass Parish Hall
January 8th	Grades 1 and 3 (Monday Session Only) Grade CPH 4:45PM Mass with Parents/Guardians
January 14th	Sacrament of First Reconciliation 4:00PM
January 15th	No Classes are in session
January 29th	Confirmation Students Retreat 6:00PM – details to follow

## God Bless You In The New Year

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

**\*\*Please note the changes in the schedule of Masses for New Year's Day**

**Masses for Sunday, Dec. 31st are our usual Sunday Mass Schedule:**

**5:00pm Vigil (12/30)**

**Sunday 12/31 8:00am; 9:30am, 11:30am**

**There is no Sunday Evening, New Year's Eve Mass**

**Masses for New Years Day Monday, January 1, 2024  
10:00am; 12Noon**

**Parish Offices will be closed Monday, January 1, 2024  
Please note daily Mass on Tuesday, January 2nd is at  
12noon, there is no 8:00am Mass that day.**



## 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

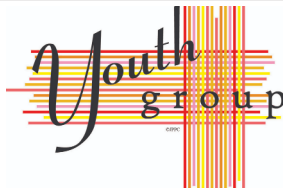
**MEN'S FAITH GROUP** Join other Men from the Parish for prayer, discussions and brotherhood as we live out, learn and share our Catholic Faith. **Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 2nd 7:00 pm St. Justin's Conference Room**

### 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"*

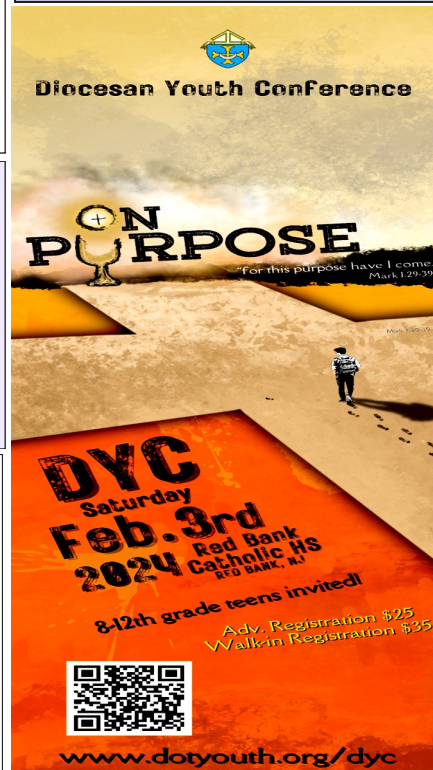


### ADULT OCIA NEWS (formerly RCIA)

**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 **NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES**, 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!**

### HAVE YOU LOST YOUR GLASSES?

There are quite a few prescription glasses, reading glasses, sunglasses that have been left in the church over the past months.

WE HAVE A LOST AND FOUND CABINET IN THE USHERS CLOSET. IF YOU HAVE LOST HATS, GLOVES, SCARVES, WATER BOTTLES, BABY SHOES, EARRINGS, ETC. PLEASE SEE AN USHER AFTER MASS, WHAT YOU ARE MISSING MAY BE FOUND!

### WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR YOUR MARRIAGE TODAY?

Visit [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org)

(Initiative of the USCCB)

**THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON** is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and to its own policies and guidelines 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 was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan

**ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965**  
or via e-mail at [abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto: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.



## THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

### Week of December 31, 2023



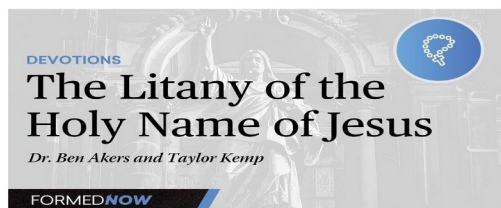
### New Year's Resolutions | The Augustine Institute Show

What's your resolution this year? Dr. Tim Gray welcomes Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, Assistant Professor of Theology in the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, to celebrate one year of the Augustine Institute Show!



### The Holy Family

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!



### Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as we celebrate the feast of The Most Holy Name of Jesus with this litany prayer of the Holy Name.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](http://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.