

*John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. — Mt 3:4-6*

December 8, 2013 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCD. Cover design CLAurgical Publications Inc. Photo © 157985534 iStock/Thinkstock.com

# The Catholic Church of St. Ann

45 Anderson St., Raritan, NJ 08869 • Tel. (908) 725-1008 • Fax (908) 707-1915  
St. Ann School: 29 Second Ave., Raritan, NJ 08869 Tel. (908) 725-7787 • Fax (908) 541-9335

## Pastoral Team

Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Corona, PA, KCHS, Pastor  
Rev. James E. De Fillipps, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Msgr. James Cafone, S.T.D., Weekend Clergy  
Deacon John R. Pacifico, Permanent Deacon  
Deacon Conrad Paulus, Permanent Deacon  
Sr. Dolores Toscano, M.P.F., Superior / Pastoral Associate  
Sr. Mary Klersey, M.P.F., Principal  
Sr. Phyllis Vella, M.P.F., Director of Religious Education

## St. Ann Youth Ministry, Conform2Christ

Follow St. Ann Youth Ministry on



@CONFORM2CHRIST



CONFORM2CHRIST

## Sacraments & Devotions

### **Confession:**

Saturday: 9:30 - 10:00am & 3:00 - 3:45pm

### **Baptism:**

First Sunday of the month at the Noon Mass, as well as the 2nd, 3rd and 4th at 1:30pm. Instruction for new parents takes place on the second Saturday of the month at 10am. Arrangements are made with the rectory.

### **Marriages:**

The common policy of marriage requires that arrangements be made at least 1 Year before the date of marriage and before any social plans are made. Bride or Groom must be a parishioner. Please do not make any arrangements until you have met with the pastor, Msgr. Corona and the wedding date has been approved.

### **Anointing of the Sick:**

Please call the rectory to arrange a home visit.

### **Ministry to the Sick:**

parish home bounds are visited on the first Friday of each month by our Deacons & Religious. If you know of a parishioner that is seriously ill or hospitalized, please let the parish office know.

**Rectory Office Hours:** Monday - Friday: 9:00am - 4:00pm

### **Sponsors & Godparents:**

Must be 18 and registered as an adult and be confirmed in the Catholic Church. If you are married, your marriage must be recognized by the church. This is especially important if you wish to be a sponsor for Confirmation or Godparent for baptism. It takes **6 months** of attending Mass to be eligible for both of these privileges.

### **Devotions:**

Rosary - Prayed after daily morning Mass  
Scripture Study - Offered periodically  
Santo Niño Novena - First Friday at 8:00pm  
St. Joseph Novena - March  
St. Rita Novena - May  
St. Rocco Novena - June  
St. Maria Goretti Novena - June/July  
St. Ann Novena - July

### **Parish Religious Education Program (PREP):**

PREP classes for grades k - 8 are taught on Monday or Thursday beginning at 6:15pm to 7:30pm. For information please call the Religious Education Office at 908-725-1008

### **Parish Registration:**

Any new family who has moved into the parish or adult children 18 and over, are invited to register at our parish after any Sunday Mass or visit the rectory Mon. thru Fri. Also, please notify us if you move.

# THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. ANN, RARITAN

## HOLY MASS SCHEDULE



### Daily Mass

Monday - Friday: 7:00am & 7:00pm  
 First Friday: 9:00am (Sept. - June)  
 Saturday: 9:00am

### Weekend Mass

Saturday: 4:00pm First Mass for Sunday  
 Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12Noon

### Feast Day Mass

**The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary - (Not a Holyday of Obligation this year)**  
 Monday, December 9th - 7am, 9am, 7pm

## ALTAR CANDLES



*For the week of December 7th, the Altar Candles burn in memory (honor) of:*

**Altar Candle #1:** Domenico Natale by Wife

**Altar Candle #2:** Pasquale Suriano by Wife & Family

## SANCTUARY LAMPS

*For the week of December 7th, the Sanctuary Lamps burn in memory (honor) of:*



**Tabernacle:** Dottie Tardiff by Steve, Anna, & Nikki

**St. Joseph:** John (Sonny) Tozzi by Wife, Rose & Family

**Blessed Mother:** St. Lucy by Natale Family

## Please pray for our sick of our parish

Victoria Andrews	Ruth Gulick	Teresa Riga
Luzmanda Anthony	Doris Kelco	Cosette Ruh
Bernadette Bavoso	Bernadette Laggini	Marianne San Filippo
Chester Butkiewicz	Barbara Langon	Nancy Schiavi
Joanmarie Carlone	Carmela Loschiavo	Mary Shalamberger
Albert Charles	Edward Locasio	Phyllis Serafin
Kathy Ciociola	Giovanna Martini	David Snedegar
Dominic Comandol	Kathy McCormack	Frank & Lucille Sudano
Mary Ann De Maio	Jennifer McIntosh	Dolores Talamini
Ray Descoteau	Victoria Melitsky	Anthony Tomaro
Theresa DiBetta	Olga Morella	Richard / Patricia Teague
Lydia Digiuoseppantonio	Anna Moretti	Tommarie Tibaldi
Mary & Richard Felice	Nancy Natale	Carolyn Trepiccio
Sharon Fisahn	Ava Rose Navarro	Allison Valverde
Julie Fisher	Ann Olivero	Sergio Verdesco
Teresa Galaini	Thomas Orecchio	Richard / Carol Vetaack
Anthony Gambino	Olga Orlando	Vincent Viscariello
Elizabeth Gecik	Raymond Peters	Carmella Vitale
Dorothy Giammarco	John Petsko	Lisa Yoder
Eleanor Giraldi	Marie Polidoro	Margaret ZanGrando
Roberta Grillo	Frank Ratkowski	



### Monday, December 9, 2013 ~ The Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary - Not a Holyday of obligation

7am: In honor of Blessed Virgin Mary by Mr. & Mrs. P. Fusca  
 9am: Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious life  
 7pm: Lucy Simonetti by Family

### Tuesday, December 10, 2013 ~ Advent Weekday

7am: Bernard Salvatore by Family  
 7pm: Dottie Tardiff by Steve, Anna, & Nikki

### Wednesday, December 11, 2013 ~ St. Damasus I

7am: Marcella McGlynn by Mr. & Mrs. David Febo  
 7pm: Cruz Hernandez Amador by Michael & Miriam Brennan

### Thursday, December 12, 2013 ~ Our Lady of Guadalupe

7am: In honor of St. Lucy by Mr. & Mrs. P. Fusca  
 7pm: Fortunato Figliano by Wife, Giovanna & Children

### Friday, December 13, 2013 ~ St. Lucy

7am: In honor of St. Lucy by Caterina Fusca  
 7pm: Albert Walakonis by Mary Shalamberger

### Saturday, December 14, 2013 ~ St. John of the Cross

9am: Mike Harris by Mr. & Mrs. Tom Esposito  
 4pm: Antonia Greco by Domenico Natale

### Sunday, December 15, 2013 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

7:30am: Deceased of the Gallagher Family  
 9am: Living & Deceased members of Holy Name Society  
 10:30am: People of the parish  
 12pm: Domenico Natale by Sister & Family

### Let Us Remember..In our prayers, the men and women serving in our Nation's Armed Forces.

Major Michael A. De Cicco, U.S. Army  
 LCp William A. De Santis, U.S. Marine Corps.  
 Victor Dulay, Jr. U.S. Marine Corps  
 PFC. Matthew John U.S. Marine Corps  
 CW4 Michael Lopez, Jr.  
 Major Michael Morella, U.S. Army  
 Sgt. Dan Neville, U.S. Marine Corps  
 PFC Daniel J. Salvo, U.S. Marine Corps  
 Corporal Jonathan Schultes, US Marine Corps  
 Major Louis P. Simon, U.S. Marine Corps  
 PFC Jerome C. Sunga, US Army  
 Jack Vara, U.S. Marine Corps  
 LT. Robert Wilson, U.S. Navy



**May God bless them & keep them safe. Pray for the souls of those who have given their lives in service to our country.**

*Thoughts For The Week*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

For many of us, particularly in Western industrial societies, the links between the seasons and the production of food can be barely noticed. We get used to summer foods being available in the middle of winter, and can take for granted warmth and light when the days are cold and short. Yet to be mindful that in nature there are patterns of plenty and of scarcity can be an important part of deepening our awareness of our dependency on God's love. The wisdom that comes from living closer to these patterns---maybe simply through keeping a small garden--teaches us that, even when the ground seems bare and lifeless, there are mysterious things taking shape below the surface. Without our being very much involved, shoots do, eventually, appear, flowers bud and fruits set.

Of course, what any gardener will want to add is that this fruitfulness always requires hard work and patience. Earth needs to be cleared, dug over, fed and planted if the barren months of winter are to hold any promise for the harvest season. The realities of planting and growth are never very far from biblical texts. The prophetic vision of Isaiah in our Old Testament Lesson sees the coming Messiah as just that kind of shoot of green that heralds new life. For St. John the Baptist, too, the coming kingdom is compared to that ruthlessness that all farmers and gardeners know: what is fruitful is nurtured, but what fails to bear fruit is harshly treated. Indeed, fruitfulness depends on hard pruning, strenuous digging and ploughing, and surviving through the barren times of winter. These images of plants and growth are not only beautiful images of God's mysterious providence; they are also a summons to some hard laboring in the fields.

It is in this way that we can hear John the Baptist's call in our Gospel Lesson, to prepare the way---and, in particular, his demanding call to repentance and the confession of sin. This turning over of our lives is like the toil of the plough turning over cold, hard ground; it is a necessary work for the blessings of the Holy Spirit, which Jesus brings us, to take root and grow in us. Enduring apparent barrenness, and keeping up the constant work of digging over, is the activity of hope we are drawn into especially in Advent. As St. Paul makes clear in our New

Testament Lesson, it is "when we refuse to give up" that we learn the meaning of hope, and become able to befriend one another properly in Christ. This Advent hope is no passive, weak optimism. Rather, it provides a strong pattern and rhythm to the seasons of Christian discipleship. Christian hope is what makes sense of the hard labors of our daily life---the digging and the pruning; it is a hope that drives us on to build friendship and unity, to make crooked ways straight, for the coming of Christ into the lives of all people.

In our daily life we are surrounded by news that can make hopefulness seem a foolish response to the complexities of injustice and human sinfulness. But the Advent hopefulness that we celebrate today is not only a virtue built on God's sure promises, but also a hope that calls to action---to the hard work of repentance, of changing the direction of the ways we live.

St Augustine is attributed with saying: "Hope has two beautiful daughters: their names are anger and courage. Anger that things are the way they are. Courage to make them the way they ought to be." Augustine knew that, in the face of our own sins and those of others, we are not, as Christians, lamely to say, "Well, I hope it gets better." Rather, we are to hope with that passionate action which grows from being rooted in the Father's will for justice and peace, and conversion towards the kingdom.

So, if we are really to learn hope better, let's allow ourselves to be properly challenged by St. John the Baptist's call to repentance---to know our sins, to repent of them and seek forgiveness from those we hurt, and from the love of Christ expressed in the sacrament of reconciliation. Let's actively treat others, all others, with the friendship with which God has treated us in Jesus. Perhaps there are two or three small changes of routine, small "conversions", which can make this hope a concrete work of preparing the way for Christ to come into the lives of all we meet.

In your charity, pray for the sick and the lonely - visit them if you can. Also, please remember to pray for all who have wandered from the faith, and all who have died. May God always be pleased with us! -

*Monsignor Michael*

***Our Scripture Lessons remind us:***

- ...of the seasons and rhythms of growth and barrenness in nature;
- ...of the need for human toil in nature for fruitfulness;
- ...that the Advent work of repentance is a kind of "digging over" for future growth; and
- ...that the nature of Christian hope is lived in lives of repentance and friendship.

***May God always be pleased with us. Amen!***

SOCIAL MINISTRY CORNER

BABY GIFTS DRIVE

On the weekend of December 21st & 22nd, our parish will take a collection of baby gift items to help support of the Pregnancy Aide Center in Raritan. Your donations are a tremendous help; please continue to give them your support.

GIVING TREE

Thank you to all who took tags from the Giving Tree. Please return the gifts this weekend, December 7 & 8th. Please include the tag with the gift. Also, please do not wrap the gift but do include the wrapping paper.

Thank you!

THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS PROJECT

Dear St. Ann Donors, Bakers & Drivers,

Thank you to all for your help with the Thanksgiving Food Basket project. Your participation made it possible to feed over 75 families this year. This is a huge success. Thanks to all of you, a happy Thanksgiving was had by our neighbors in need in our community. God bless you all!

John the Baptist appeared...saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:

A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord. - Mt 3:1a, 2-3b

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

The Diocese of Metuchen's Vocations Team would like to invite you to an upcoming Holy Hour for Vocations to be held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bernardsville on Wednesday, December 11th at 7:00pm.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

St. Ann Church presents



The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea

Our annual Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 15, 2013 at 2:00 pm

At: Somerset County Vocational School, Bridgewater, NJ

908-725-1008 ext. 104 for tickets

Advance ticket sales only • Orchestra: \$35 • Balcony: \$30

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes Week # 23 (\$11,058.60), Budget need per week (\$16,000.00), Weekly deficit (\$4,941.40), Deficit since 7/1/13 (\$131,355.74), and Poor Box (\$264.50).

Thank you for being as generous as you are able.

Are you receiving a tax refund this year? Have you considered giving a percentage of it back to your parish? Many Catholics find that tithing on unexpected income – a tax refund, winnings at the casino, or an inheritance is a great first step to feeling the joy and contentment that come when we really do give as God has asked us to go give. Try it yourself and feel the joy.

ELECTRONIC GIVING - SAFE & EASY

St. Ann's offers parishioners the opportunity to make Online Church contributions! Log onto www.stannparish.com. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on St. Ann Parish Online Donation System. There you will be connected to a secure site where you can enter your information safely and privately.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

When we recognize that everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God, how can we not be truly thankful? This sense of gratitude runs deep, compelling us to respond to the Lord's generosity with every ounce of our being and in every way possible. That's stewardship! It's a way of living in which we are totally immersed in our connectedness with God and with one another. A thread woven through the tapestry of our existence, stewardship is found in our family values, and in our commitment to our parish, diocese and community.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 8, 2013

Table with 2 columns: Day and Scripture Reading. Lists readings for Sunday through Saturday.





Dear Friends of St. Ann,

Advent is alive and bursting with activity. "Prepare ye the way of the Lord" is one of the many mantras sung throughout the school. December 8 we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Some pause and wonder why we would be honoring Mary under this title in the middle of our Advent waiting and preparing.

I am sure the Lord was not thinking of our school or parish when Our Lady was conceived but she is an excellent Advent model. God prepared humanity for the coming of Jesus. He took care of all of the details including creating Mary to be the spotless Virgin, the first dwelling place of the Lord. In our hurry up society, our children are not familiar with carefully preparing. They want instant gratification and anticipate immediate results for any efforts. Mary teaches us that God had us in mind at our creation, that he prepares each of us to receive her Son the way he prepared her soul to receive Jesus.

Preparation is slow and mindful. It is not second nature to us. As one little one pointed out, "We practiced for the Christmas Show yesterday. Why are we doing it again?" This attitude creeps into all areas of their life. You have all heard the familiar refrain, "Are we there yet?" The Advent answer is no. Enjoy the ride.

We turn all that happens at school into an Advent activity. Our Christmas Show is a preparing, a waiting and a do it together project that involves the whole school. We turn our Christmas cards, our decorating, our hand made gifts into step by step processes that are achieved with love. We turn our shopping into acts of love for others. We even prepare for the coming of St. Nicholas by placing just the right shoe (our own shoe) outside our classrooms. Our Advent is about taking what we do and raising it a divine level. This mindfulness is what allows us to proclaim over and over again, God is alive. He is real! He is not untouchable. We can and are preparing for Him.

Join us by taking this spirit of Advent into your home. Let the children in your life decorate with you. Let them help with cards and wrapping. Be mindful of God's blessings as children are nourished at your family table. Advent is for the family, not just the adults. It transforms us and prepares us together for the coming of Christ anew into our lives.

Enjoy the blessings of Advent,  
Sr. Mary Klersey, MPF  
Principal

## THE WEEK AHEAD



### Sunday, December 8, 2013

- Mass: 7:30 am • 9 am • 10:30 am • 12 N
- 8:30am: Parish breakfast with Santa (School café)
- 9am: First Penance PREP Mass (church)
- Basketball: 9am - 4pm (gym)
- Wreath Sale by K of C
- 5:30pm: Bingo - First game called at 7pm (school café)
- 6pm: Lessons and Carols (church)

### Monday, December 9, 2013

- Daily Mass: 7 am • 9am • 7pm
- 5pm: Basketball practices (school gym)
- 6:15pm - 7:30pm: Prep followed by 7pm Mass

### Tuesday, December 10, 2013

- Daily Mass: 7 am • 7pm
- 6pm: Bingo - First game called at 7:30pm (school café)
- 6pm: Special Needs Prep Class (school)
- 7:30pm: Boy Scouts meeting (church meeting room)

### Wednesday, December 11, 2013

- Daily Mass: 7 am • 7 pm
- 4:30pm: First Penance practice (church)
- 5pm: Basketball practices (school gym)

### Thursday, December 12, 2013

- Daily Mass: 7 am • 7 pm
- No basketball - Christmas pageant set up (school gym)
- 6:15pm - 7:30pm: Prep followed by 7pm Mass
- 7:30pm: Advent Lecture Series - Mary: the First Tabernacle (church)

### Friday, December 13, 2013

- Daily Mass: 7 am • 7 pm
- St. Ann School Christmas pageant (school gym)  
10am: Grades Pk - 3  
7pm: Grades 4 - 8

### Saturday, December 14, 2013

- 9am: Daily Mass • 4pm First Mass for Sunday
- Confession: 9:30 - 10am & 3 - 3:45pm (church)
- 10am: First Penance (church)
- 11am - 2pm: 8th grade Confirmandi retreat (church mtg room)
- 10am: Creche set up by Kof C and Holy Name Society

## Join us for St. Ann's Fourth Annual *Evening of Wine & Food Tasting*

Saturday, January 11th, 2014 (snow date 2/1/14)  
at St. Ann's Wine Cellar (school café)

Wine - Food - Music - 50/50 - Basket Raffles  
\$45 pp in advance; \$50 at the door  
For tickets call (908) 725-1008 x112

## 2014 ST. ANN RAFFLE CALENDAR

\$25.00 per ticket

Each ticket enters every drawing

Last day of the month winner receives is \$100

Easter & Christmas winner receives \$500

Makes an excellent gift for the person who  
is hard to buy for!

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." -Matthew 19:14



Msgr. Corona and Fr. James would like to welcome our three new teen readers! All three are graduates of our parish school!

**Mark McGuire**

10<sup>th</sup> Grader at St. Joseph High School, Metuchen

**Clarisa Gorky**

9<sup>th</sup> Grader at Somerville High School, Somerville

**Lucas Pick**

10<sup>th</sup> Grader at St. Joseph High School, Metuchen

We also would like to thank Samantha Fama, Seth Krupa, Andrew Fontanetta, & Peter Albright for their continued commitment and dedication as teen readers!

**St. Ann Church Advent Lecture Series:**

**"Mary: the First Tabernacle"**

Presented by

**Fr. James E. De Fillippis**

on Thursday's of Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

at 7:30 PM in the church.

Please bring your own bible.



**Prepare the way for the Lord.....**

**Advent Penance Service**

**Thursday,**

**December 19, 2013**



**At the conclusion of the  
Advent Lecture Series  
8:00pm**

**Additional priests will be available to hear confessions**



***Celebrate the Season with Lessons & Carols***

Enjoy all our music ministry has to offer as we foretell the coming of the Savior, with short scripture passages and beautiful music from our choir, bell choir and children's choir.

*Admission is free; light reception to follow!*



**Date: December 8, 2013**

**Time: 6:00pm**

St. Ann Church

45 Anderson St., Raritan NJ 08869