

# *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

**February 2, 2014 ~Presentation of the Lord**



# THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. ANN, RARITAN

## ALTAR CANDLES

*For the week of February 1st, the Altar Candles burn in memory (honor) of:*

**Altar Candle #1 & 2: Regino Blanco**

by The Blanco Family

## SANCTUARY LAMPS

*For the week of February 1st, the Sanctuary Lamps burn in memory (honor) of:*

**Tabernacle: Special Intentions of Fr. James**

**St. Joseph: Angelo Bavaro** by Daughter, Lia Ruffa & Family

**Blessed Mother: Mary Ann Deli** by Husband, John

## PRO-LIFE

“Society as a whole must defend the conceived child's right to life and the true good of the woman who can never, in any circumstances, find fulfillment in the decision to abort.”

~ Pope Benedict XVI, address to the Pontifical Academy for Life, February 26, 2011

**Join the Bishops' Call to Prayer and Fasting for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty.**

**Visit [www.usccb.org/pray](http://www.usccb.org/pray) or text “fast” to 99000. Join the Movement!**

## Please pray for our sick of our parish

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



## Mass Intentions

### Monday, February 3, 2014

7am: Consuelo Cabrera by Gino & Luchie Gozum

7pm: Grace Ruffa by Ritorto Family

### Tuesday, February 4, 2014

7am: Isabella & Francesca Paladino by Grandchildren

7pm: Rose Pacifico by Rosemary Forte

### Wednesday, February 5, 2014 ~ St. Agatha

7am: Judith Delahunty by Francesca & Vincenzo Viscariello

7pm: Giuseppe C. Varvaro by The Varvaro Family

### Thursday, February 6, 2014 ~ St. Paul Miki

7am: Mary Ann Deli by Husband John

7pm: Howard Condo Jr. by Esther

### Friday, February 7, 2014 ~ First Friday

7am: John Kowal Sr. by Eleanor Sian

9am: Rose V. Turner by Ganz Family

7pm: Mark Hawkins by Dobossy Family

### Saturday, February 8, 2014 ~ St. Jerome Emiliani &

#### St. Josephine Bakhita

9am: Eleanor Russo by Husband, Joseph

4pm: Rosario Greco by Domenico Natale

### Sunday, February 9, 2014 ~ Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am: People of the parish

9am: Domenico Grande by Mother, Caterina Grande

10:30am: Angelo Bavaro by Daughter, Lia Ruffa & Family

12pm: Gregorio & Anna Ruffa by Rosina Greco

## 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  
LCpl William A. De Santis, U.S. Marine Corps.

Victor Dulay, Jr. U.S. Marine Corps

LCpl. 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,

The meeting. What picture do those two words conjure up in your mind? Perhaps one of those meetings that drag on and seem to have no intention of ever coming to an end. On the other hand, they may suggest an altogether different kind of get-together, like the gathering of family and friends. Or again they may suggest a reunion: a son, for example, who has spent many years working abroad, at last comes home with his wife and with the children whom the rest of the family have never seen before; it's a meeting that is also the fulfilment of a long-cherished hope. It is this latter kind of occasion that Eastern Christians seem to have in mind when they speak of today's feast simply as "The Meeting". It is the long-awaited, long-desired meeting of the Messiah with his people in the persons of two pious elderly Jews, Simeon and Anna.

In our Gospel Lesson, we hear how the Holy Spirit had made known to Simeon that he would "set [his] eyes on the Christ". We can imagine the old man tirelessly rehearsing the words of the ancient prophecy of Malachi (*we heard them in today's Old Testament Lesson*): "The Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple." But the months and years go by, death is drawing ever nearer---yet still no sign of the Messiah. Then one day among the crowds pouring onto the esplanade of the Temple, he catches sight of a young couple. They seem to radiate peace and happiness; the girl has a baby in her arms, her husband walking beside her carries the Temple offering made by poor people.

Simeon moves towards them, on his lips the greeting, "Peace be with you. May the God of Israel bless your house and bless your child." Perhaps he even adds, "May the Lord soon send his Messiah." The couple explain that they have come to "redeem" their little son. The Law's original demand that a first male child was to be consecrated to the Lord had been mitigated to the payment of a small "ransom". For poor people the ransom would be a pair of turtledoves or a couple of young pigeons. "And the name of the child?" Simeon enquires. "Jesus," they say. "Jesus? That means 'God saves'; what a wonderful name. What is his family?" "He's of the family of David," they answer proudly.

With tears of joy the old man takes the child into his arms.

"Now, Master," he cries, "you can let your servant go in peace... because my eyes have seen the salvation, which you have prepared for all the nations to see." At last his great hope, and the hope of his people, has been realised; he has met the Messiah and now is ready to meet death. But there is drama as well as overflowing joy in this meeting. Simeon announces that, while some will receive Jesus, others will reject him, and that Mary's own soul will be pierced as with a sword,

But for the moment that dark thought can be pushed to the back of the mind, because at this point the elderly Anna appears; she is another of those humble, deeply prayerful souls, known as *anawim*, who, before the coming of Christ, always remained faithful to the Lord and longed for his coming. She too recognises in Jesus the fulfilment of the ancient promises. For her, the meeting means not that she is ready to die, as it did for Simeon, but rather that she is ready to spread abroad the good news of the Messiah for as long as she lives.

It's been said that today's Gospel is in its way a reflection of our Christian experience. A Christian is one who has had the privilege of meeting Christ in the sacrament of baptism; who over the course of the years has come to recognise him as the key to life; who has surrendered to his call, has made his values their own; who has tried to live life in his way; who comes to realize that the sword that went through Mary's heart is the testing experienced by all who seek to be the humble servants of the Lord.

As we celebrated Mass today, we met Jesus in the Eucharist; and our prayer should have been that by that meeting we will be inflamed anew with the desire to become bearers of light to our brothers and sisters, to make our lives, like those of Simeon and Anna, a proclamation of Christ, the light of the world.

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:***

...that Eastern Christians call today's feast "The Encounter" Simeon and Anna "encounter" the temple's Lord in a helpless child born of poor parents. In the infant Jesus, God "encounters" people in a gracious, non-threatening manner.

...that Simeon's ominous prophecy to Mary scripturally links today's feast with the Paschal Mystery.

...that Christ's light must shine in our hearts, an unquenchable fire of love; Christ's light radiate from within us, prompting us to serve our neighbors with good works; Christ's light glow on our lips, providing wisdom's warmth and truth's undying light to a world too often cold and dark.

...a question we should ask ourselves is how can I, this week, at home, in the office or at school, and in the circle of my friends show that I have encountered Christ, the Light of the world, and that I bear Christ's light within me?

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

## SOCIAL MINISTRY CORNER



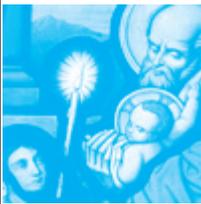
We are currently looking for volunteers for a new cooking program. If you are interested in teaching someone how to cook, please contact Christine at the rectory office at 908-725-1008 or email [cesposito@stannparish.com](mailto:cesposito@stannparish.com).

## ATLANTIC CITY BUS TRIP



St. Ann's monthly bus trip to ATLANTIC CITY will resume on Thursday, March 13th. Bus leaves from our church at 9am.

Please call Marge Corona at 908-725-1198 to reserve your seat or obtain more information.



On 2 February, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, we celebrate World Day for Consecrated Life.

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes. Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Readings for the Week of February 2, 2014

Sunday: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/ Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32  
Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Mk 5:1-20  
Tuesday: 2 Sm 18: 9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30--19:3/Mk 5:21-43  
Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Mk 6:1-6  
Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/Mk 6:7-13  
Friday: Sir 47:2-11/Mk 6:14-29  
Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Mk 6:30-34  
Next Sunday: Is 58:7-10/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16

## WEEKLY OFFERTORY

<b>Week #31:</b>	<b>\$8,003.92</b>
<b>Budget need per week:</b>	<b>\$16,000.00</b>
<b>Weekly Deficit:</b>	<b>(\$7,996.08)</b>
<b>Deficit since 7/1/13:</b>	<b>(\$181,672.92)</b>
<b>Weekly Poor Box</b>	<b>\$66.00</b>

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.

## 2013 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

### IMPORTANT!

Please call Donna at the rectory if you wish to obtain a copy of your Contribution Statement for 2013.

Net Charge donors may obtain a copy of their Contributions Statement by logging on to their Net Charge Account. Select My Account then Payment History. You will be able to select a date range to view and print your contributions for that period.

Any questions, please do not hesitate to call us at 908-725-1008.

## ELECTRONIC GIVING - SAFE & EASY

St. Ann's offers parishioners the opportunity to make Online Church contributions! Log onto [www.stannparish.com](http://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

### 2013 Bishop's Annual Appeal *Faith, Family, Community*

The Maria Regina Residence provides a suitable home for our retired priests in recognition of faithful service to God and His Church. Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal is another way to thank these men who have dedicated their lives to the people of God.

**School News**



Dear Friends St. Ann's,

Catholic Schools Week was a huge success. The children were engaged in activities that represented the faith, academics, and values of St. Ann School. I was especially pleased with the outcome of some of the new activities included in the week.

Students solemnly processed around the school praying for the Lord's intervention in moral issues that effect life and the quality of life Christ desires for all of His people. "Ave Maria's" filled the hallways as we moved from station to station. I was impressed at how sincerely the students prayed. From the leaders of the procession, to the readers of the meditations, to the leaders of mysteries of the Rosary all the way down to the youngest kindergartner, there was a sense of unity and that we were doing something of great value.

The Science Fair was another marvel. We have not had such a fair in a few years. The work involved was advanced, took time, organization, thought and an integration of several academic disciplines. But what caught my attention was the student's interest in viewing one another's projects. There was no laughing or giggling. Each of them seriously wanted to learn from the Science Fair. Discussions went beyond science to a level of critical inquiry and honest assessment of personal work. More than a few students said, "Next year I am going to do my lettering or my report, that way." Open House visitors and our PREP families also took advantage of the Fair. Without specific directions, they walked among the projects pointing, reading, and seeking information.

If you have not been to the school lately, please come and see the hallway displays. There are "snowrific" musings, art, sports reports, and so much more. Our students are obviously multi-talented. But they are rich in service. The bin for winter accessories is emptied often and yet always seems full.

That brings me to one of the first events, the installation of new National Junior Honor Society members. The pillars of the society were explained as is the school's tradition. But the essential question that bothers so many of us was posed to the students. What is God doing about all the hardship, sickness, death, violence and cruelty in our world? The answer stood on stage and smiled from the audience. He sends us and at St. Ann School we reply, "Yes, Lord! Send me."

Thank you for your continued support of our school. Know that He sends you as well. It is who can make the difference in the life and health of our school. Give your resounding, "Yes, Lord!" through your words and actions.

God bless you,

Sr. Mary Klersey, MPF  
Principal

**WEEK AHEAD**

**Sunday, February 2, 2014**

- K of C Rose Pin distribution at all Masses against abortion.
- 10am: Rosary Altar Society meeting (church meeting room)
- 1pm - 5pm: High School Basketball Games (school gym)
- No Bingo

**Monday, February 3, 2014**

- 5pm: Basketball practices (school gym)
- 6:15pm: PREP class

**Tuesday, February 4, 2014**

- 6pm: Bingo - First game called at 7:30pm (school café)
- 7:30pm: Columbiettes meeting (church meeting room)

**Wednesday, February 5, 2014**

- 5pm: Choir practices (choir loft)
- 5pm: Basketball practices (school gym)
- 7:30pm: Lecture series: A Brief Synopsis of the Synoptics; Matthew, Mark, and Luke (church meeting room)

**Thursday, February 6, 2014**

- 5pm: Basketball practices (school gym)
- 6:15pm: Prep class (school)

**Friday, February 7, 2014**

- 5pm: Basketball practices (school gym)
- 7pm: Bereavement group meeting (rectory conference room)
- 8pm: Santo Nino First Friday Novena (church)

**Saturday, February 8, 2014**

- All day: Basketball games (school gym)
- 12pm - 9pm: Scouts Blue & Gold set up & dinner (school cafeteria)



**Join Deacon Conrad Paulus for a Lecture Series  
On the Wednesdays of  
February 5th, 12th, & 19th  
At 7:30pm**

**Downstairs in the Church Meeting Room**

**Subject:**

*A Brief Synopsis of the Synoptics;  
Matthew, Mark, and Luke*



# Youth Group Events February - June

Friday, 21 February 2014  
**OPEN GYM NIGHT**  
St. Ann School Gym  
7:45pm – 9pm  
Grades 6-9  
\$4.00

Friday, 28 February 2014  
**MARDI GRAS SOCIAL**  
RSVP 2/24  
Church Meeting Room  
7:45pm – 9pm  
Grades 6-8  
\$5.00

Friday, 14 March 2014  
**ICE CREAM EXTRAVAGANZA &  
MOVIE NIGHT**  
RSVP 3/11  
Church Meeting Room  
7:30pm-9:30pm  
Grades 4-6  
\$5.00

Friday, 21 March 2014  
**DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT**  
**WINNING TEAMS SCORES**  
**iTunes GIFT CARDS**  
St. Ann School Gym  
8:00pm – 9pm  
Grades 6-9  
\$5.00

Friday, 11 April 2014  
**OPEN GYM NIGHT**  
St. Ann School Gym  
7:45pm – 9pm  
Grades 6-9  
\$4.00

Sunday, 13 April 2014  
**YOUTH PROCESSION OF  
PALMS & SOCIAL**  
RSVP 4/8  
St. Ann Church & Church Meeting Room  
11:45pm-2:30pm  
Free

Friday, 18 April 2014 (Good Friday)  
**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
**LED BY FR. JAMES &  
ST. ANN YOUTH BOARD**  
St. Ann Church  
7:30pm

Saturday, 19 April 2014  
**EASTER EGG HUNT HOSTED  
BY YOUTH BOARD**  
Prayer Garden  
Pre-K3 to 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
11AM  
Free

Saturday, 31 May 2014  
**MASS OF APPRECIATION & BBQ**  
**FOR ST. ANN YOUTH**  
**SPONSORED BY THE**  
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
RSVP 5/21  
St. Ann Church and Church Grounds  
4pm Mass-6:30pm

Saturday, 7 June 2014  
**DORNEY PARK &  
WILDWATER**  
**KINGDOM**  
RSVP 5/28

**PLEASE!** If the event needs an RSVP please do so by the assigned date; too much food/drink is being wasted!  
Please RSVP to [jdefillipps@stannparish.com](mailto:jdefillipps@stannparish.com)