

Church of the Assumption

a Roman Catholic Parish

ERECTED A.D. MCMVII

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 14 January 2024

To all who are tired and need rest;
to all who mourn and need comfort;
to all who are friendless and need friendship;
to all who are discouraged and need hope;
to all who sin and need a Savior; and to whomsoever will,
**THIS PARISH OPENS WIDE HER DOORS
IN THE NAME OF JESUS THE LORD!**

SACRAMENTS

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Saturday (anticipated): 5:00 PM
Sunday: 8:00 AM; 10:30 AM; 12:00PM
Monday-Saturday: 8:00 AM
Holy Days of Obligation: see inside

Penance & Reconciliation:

Monday-Thursday; Saturday: 7:30-7:50 AM
Saturday afternoon: 4:00-4:30 PM

A Catholic is obliged to confess serious sins in kind and number to a priest. If one is conscious of having committed serious sin, Confession ought to be made before receiving the Eucharist.

Baptism: Please call to arrange for your child's baptism before or soon after birth. A Godparent must be a Catholic in good standing.

Anointing of the Sick:

Please call for a priest to celebrate this Sacrament of Healing and Forgiveness for someone who is seriously ill or in danger of death. Do not wait until the sick person is unconscious.

Matrimony:

All Catholics ought to seek to have their marriage blessed by the Church so as to live in God's good graces & receive the Eucharist. Marriage cannot validly exist between baptized persons unless it is also a sacrament (Canon 1055.2). Contact a priest about a year prior to the intended date of marriage to ensure proper preparation.

Confirmation: Need to complete your Sacraments of Initiation? Call Mrs. Kachnowski at 908-245-6572. She will help you prepare for confirmation. If they can do so without serious inconvenience, Catholics ought to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation before being admitted to marriage (Canon 1065).

RCIA: Desire baptism? Called to be a Catholic Christian? Contact Deacon David at 908-245-6572 and he will help you discern God's call to holiness.

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Paul J Prevosto, pastor
Fr.Prevosto@proton.me
Rev. James Spera, pastor emeritus
Rev. Deacon David Farrell
assumptionschool113@gmail.com
Rev. James Tortora, weekend assistant
Rev. Solomon Ngwumezie, weekend asst.
Rev. John Francis, CSJ, weekend assistant
Mrs. Virginia Jediny, Office Manager
assumptionrp@yahoo.com
Mrs. Debbie Kachnowski, PCL
assumptionschool110@outlook.com
Mrs. Donna Schmatz, music director

TRUSTEES

Mr. John Ballantyne, Trustee
Mrs. Elizabeth Santora, Trustee

CONTACTS

Telephone: 908-245-1107
FAX: 908-245-2789
Parish email: assumptionrp@yahoo.com
Parish Website: www.assumptionrp.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday:
8:00 AM till 4:00 PM

ASSUMPTION SCHOOL OF RELIGION OFFICE

908-245-6572
Email: assumptionschool110@outlook.com

This QR Code will bring you to the **Breviary**, the Official Daily Prayer of the Church which priests and religious have vowed to pray. Laity are invited and encouraged to pray these prayers daily also.



Focus your camera on the QR Code to the left and you will have the readings for the day.

MASS INTENTIONS

ANTICIPATED MASS FOR SUNDAY

5:00 PM **Rosalie Yaras**
Loren & Chris Harms

SUNDAY January 14 II SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 AM **Theresa Stecki**
Family

10:30 AM **Sam J. Colucci, 15th Anniversary †**
Family

12:00 PM **People of the Parish**

MONDAY January 15

8:00 AM **Stanley Pietrzak**
Love, Irene

TUESDAY January 16

8:00 AM **Deceased Pastors of Assumption Church**
Fr. Paul

WEDNESDAY January 17 Anthony of Egypt, abbot

8:00 AM **Estrella Perez**
Caterina Caballero

THURSDAY January 18

8:00 AM **Domenico Michael Petracca**
Happy Birthday. Love, Mom & Dad

FRIDAY January 19

8:00 AM **Alicia DeJesus**
The Paras Family

SATURDAY January 20 BVM; Fabian, Sebastian

8:00 AM **Domenico Petracca**
Pat & Lisa Pontiriero

ANTICIPATED MASS FOR SUNDAY

5:00 PM **Rufino Faller**
Deacon Dave & Linda Farrell

SUNDAY January 21 III SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 AM **People of the Parish**

10:30 AM **Ada Pol**
Libera Paolucci

12:00 PM **Pamela & Anthony Trylong**
Daughter, Karen

A time is coming when men will go mad, and when they see someone who is not mad, they will attack him, saying, "You are mad; you are not like us."

St. Anthony the Great

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I will be on a vacation this week. In case of any emergency calls for the Sacrament of Anointing (and Last Rites) please call Fr. Giovanni Rizzo of St. Teresa's of Kenilworth. He can be reached at 908-272-4444.

MEETINGS

Finance Council	Feb 12	7:00	UPH
Pastoral Council	Mar 18	7:00	UPH
Rosary Society	Mar 04	7:00	LPH
Knights of Columbus	Jan 24	8:00	Loreti Hall

Prayer List: To have someone placed on or removed from the sick list please call the Rectory. We invite you to clip out this section each Sunday. Perhaps you could put it near a prayer book, in your Bible, or in your pocket or purse. It is a good thing when we pray with and for one another. Thank you and God bless you!

Our Parish Community prays for the sick:

Patrick Ahern Jr., Sophia Alfano, Altagracia Alvarez, Kathy Barz, Fred Boyne, Brendan, Joe Caponegro, Ken Castenon, Kay Downey, Ronald Fellner, Carol Fellner Nasta, Dorothy Ford, Charles Frank, John Garofalo, Lynn Gehrmann, Linda Geiger, Fran Getchies, Harold Gibson, Bonnie Greer, Cynthia Ingman, Thomas Ingman, A.M.J., Brianna Klinger, Michael Lacey, Nancy Lanfrank, Chris Lettieri, Stella LoPiccolo, Christine Marino, Janet Marino, Christine Mattingly, Chantell McDonald, Eleanor Morehouse, Artie Muller, Tanina Naccarato, Monica Quigley O'Brien, Margie Ortizio, Lily Rita Procopio, Sabrina Romani, Antonio Spano, Gabrielle Spano, Debra Szajko, Tony Wargacki

Please pray for our Faithful departed & their loved ones
Ruthann Munger, Gregory Urban



Prayer for Our Troops

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

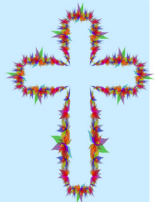
Special Memorial Donations

Altar Candles given
FOR BLESSINGS OF ST. ANNE
Req. Joe Cicalese

Wine for the Mass given
IN LOVING MEMORY OF FRANCESCO MAZZEO, BIRTHDAY 1/3/1917
Req. by Rosa & Antonio Spano Family

Bread for the Mass given
IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANTHONY MARIO DEMARCO
Req. by daughter

Bread for Mass given
IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE HELP OF ST. ANTHONY
req. by Theresa & Joe Cicalese



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23 Ps 50:8-9, 16-23 Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13 Ps 89:20-28 Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51 Ps 144:1-10
Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7 Ps 56:2-3, 9-13
Mk 3:7-12

Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21 Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11
Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27 Ps 80:2-3, 5-7
Mk 3:20-21

Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10 Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
1 Cor 7:29-31 Mk 1:14-20

For readings go to: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/ or scan this >>>>



Let's remember the blessedness, the holiness, and the goodness of the family as exemplified by the holy family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

The 20th century has seen one of the biggest attacks on the family. Margaret Sanger (1879-1966), the foundress of Planned Parenthood or should I say, No Parenthood, was a eugenicist. That is, she believed in a superior race, notably northern European. She actively promoted the use of contraception especially toward the immigrants and African Americans. She has fought so hard for these worldly desires, that her philosophy has dominated Western society. PP also promoted abortion legalization and since has taught worldly thinkers that abortion is a right, and large families (more than 2 children) are undesirable. "The most merciful thing that the large family does to one of its infant members is to kill it," she has said.

Catholic teaching on families however is based on accepting children lovingly from God. That is, being open to having children for every act of marital intercourse mustn't be impeded.

Marriage has three goods: exclusive relationship between a man and a woman; it's for the whole of life and it must be open to receiving children lovingly from God and raise them in the faith. However, in every way possible this love for family has been attacked by secularism.

First as I said, contraception has been pushed on society via Planned Parenthood and the like. I certainly know this since I worked in a drug store after high school. Also, I can see that my great grandparents had 7-14 children each. But by the next generation, their own children were having only 2-3 children, and going to Mass was starting to wane. I remember speaking to a couple who were having difficulty conceiving a child on demand. You see, they had used birth control pills for years and this messed up her system. They wanted to go to a fertility doctor. They artificially fertilized her extracted ova. Three zygotes were placed in her whom. The husband then panicked and had himself sterilized. The remaining human zygotes, living beings in suspension, were destroyed. Yes, she committed murder without realizing what she has done.

The marital act has two effects: unity and procreation. The use of contraceptives, artificial fertilization (IVF), and the like violate the marriage covenant. While the Church allows natural family planning via abstinence when the wife is fertile, indefinite practice of love making without being open to new life, is sinful. If you have realized that you practiced this indiscriminate avoidance of fulfilling your marriage promises, now is the time to repent. It's never too late. I have had women who have had abortions, not realize what they had done in killing their child for decades. Marriage is a holy instituted and declared a sacrament by our Lord Jesus. We cannot as Catholics buy into the secularist ideas that children are a burden, that they are only for the wealthy (ironically the poor have more children than the rich), or that one or two is enough.

The family is a holy unit. Family is the basic core of society – not government or secularist entities like schools and universities. I watched a documentary, and I learned that the one reason Italian families used to be so large and united was because they knew not to trust governments. So, they looked to one another for unity, love, support and a home all in the context of faith. Whereas today many who have not totally committed themselves to Christ, look to government for their basic needs even those of caring, having a home, safety and rule in their moral life. And when morals are separated from the authority from which they come, namely Jesus Christ, morals then become the whimsy of votes and populism.

Catholicism teaches about subsidiarity. The idea that the family takes care of the home. And we only begin to look to larger entities like community (parish), city, state, country and so on to handle what cannot be done on the most basic levels. We must NOT turn over our God-given authority at home to govern-

ment, esp. a government that has separated itself from God-based authority. Remember even the Declaration of Independence said: *We are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.-- That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government.*

So now we hear all about separation of State and Church to the point that we're told that Catholics we must keep our opinions/ways to ourselves and accept the secularism (virtually a religion unto itself) of those who do not even look to God and rely only on their own ungodly ideas as if they were absolute truths and had divine authority.

As I began to say, the basic unit of society is family; this is natural law. We as Catholics are taught that family is a blessed institution and is even called the domestic church. And when laws or any societal ways are contrary or even against family, they must be rejected, recognized as from Satan and opposed especially in the home by mom & dad. Giving into contraception, divorce, recognizing homosexuality* and transgenderism as legitimate moral acts, surrendering education over to schools that now educate children in the ways of the world and imposing man-made morals; the children are not taught ABCDE rather they're taught LGBTQIA..., Surrendering our lives and children to the worldly way is the way that leads to dismantling of the family and to condemnation, not salvation. So, the next time we're confronted, which is usually daily, we must stand up for the family, stand up for what is good and holy, stand up for our right to worship freely, for soon it will happen that we who believe in Christ and his Church will be called: extreme, ignorant, and other judgments.

Let's ask/beg the Holy Family to pray for us, bless us and lead us to truth, giving us the strength to bear witness even in the most hostile environment in which we now find ourselves.

Pax Christi, Fr. Paul

*Be clear on this: We are not here to judge others; Christ commands us to love even our enemies. However, a sinful act cannot be condoned. If a man robs a bank, we can certainly say it is wrong and sinful, but we cannot hate the robber. Christ calls all to repentance. So likewise, homosexual acts, pre-marital sex, mutilating one's body to conform to one's gender confusion, etc. are sinful deeds, but as Christ said to the repentant thief on the cross, "Today you will be with me in paradise."

10th Eucharistic Congress

July 17-12, 2024 in Indianapolis, Indiana

COME IN FAITH. LEAVE WITH HOPE.

God hears our prayers for the renewal of our Church. He will answer them through a life-changing transformation of our own hearts. The National Eucharistic Congress is an invitation to experience profound personal revival so we can be sent out to share Christ's love with a world that so desperately needs it.

[Register for the National Eucharistic Congress](https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/register)

<https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/register>

Save your Children from "adult" websites. Protect your chastity, now!

Go to [Freefiltering.org](https://www.freefiltering.org) and learn how to block those unwanted sites from your eyes. Protect your virtue, guard your children's innocence.

It really works by blocking sites in your Wi-Fi server. Act now before your children stumble upon one more pornographic site or one more "social media" site promoting the LGBTQ+ propaganda.

STEWARDSHIP

Last Sunday's Collection 1/7/24: **\$5141.00**
Maintenance Collection: **\$5309.00**
Sunday Collection of 12/31/23: **\$5680.00**
Solemnity of Mother of God Collection 1/1/24: **\$1291.00**
Christmas Collection Update : \$26,578.00

To Be a Christian Steward

A Summary of the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship
"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Pt 4:10).

What identifies a steward? Safeguarding material and human resources and using them responsibly are one answer; so is generous giving of time, talent, and treasure. But being a Christian steward means more. As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.

Stewards of the Church

Stewards of God's gifts are not passive beneficiaries. We cooperate with God in our own redemption and in the redemption of others. We are also obliged to be stewards of the Church—collaborators and cooperators in continuing the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, which is the Church's essential mission. This mission—proclaiming and teaching, serving and sanctifying—is our task. It is the personal responsibility of each one of us as stewards of the Church. All members of the Church have their own roles to play in carrying out its mission:

Parents, who nurture their children in the light of faith;
Parishioners, who work in concrete ways to make their parishes true communities of faith and vibrant sources of service to the larger community; All Catholics, who give generous support—time, money, prayers, and personal service according to their circumstances—to parish and diocesan programs and to the universal Church.

A Steward's Way

The life of a Christian steward models the life of Jesus. It is challenging and even difficult, in many respects, yet intense joy comes to those who take the risk to live as Christian stewards. Women and men who seek to live as stewards learn that "all things work for good for those who love God" (Rom 8:28).

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. As the Mother of Christ, she lived her ministry in a spirit of fidelity and service; she responded generously to the call. We must ask ourselves: Do we also wish to be disciples of Jesus Christ and Christian stewards of our world and our Church? Central to our human and Christian vocations, as well as to the unique vocation each one of us receives from God, is that we be good stewards of the gifts we possess. God gives us this divine-human workshop, this world and Church of ours.

The Spirit shows us the way.
Stewardship is a part of that journey.

Qualified Charitable Distributions Save on Taxes!

If you are retired and are taking distributions from your traditional IRA, these distributions are considered to be taxable income according to the IRS and you will owe taxes on the total amount you withdraw. However, you can reduce your taxable income by making a charitable distribution directly from your IRA to our parish. For example, if you are taking a \$1,000 distribution and you wish to make a \$500 donation, and you are in the 20% tax bracket, your tax liability will be reduced by \$100. To learn more about this tax saving opportunity contact your financial adviser / institution.

The **2024 Annual Appeal** has begun! Each year we are invited to participate in the Annual Appeal, which is an opportunity to support essential ministries and programs of our Archdiocese. Your sacrificial support makes it possible for us to carry out the important work that we are called to do as missionary disciples of Jesus.

Please consider participating in this year's Appeal to help make a significant difference in many lives within our Archdiocese.

Please make a gift online today by visiting rcan.org/sharing, scanning the QR code, or join us for In-Pew Weekend on February 3rd-4th.



Mary's Grotto

As fellow parishioners were searching for places to purchase religious items many years ago, members of the **Rosary Society** decided to set up shop and use the basement of the **School of Religion** building to set up a site allowing parishioners to purchase these items. **Mary's Grotto** – as they named it – is a place where you can purchase bibles, rosary beads, statues of saints and numerous other religious items. They also offer items for holidays, such as Easter and Christmas and sacraments, as well – baptism, first holy communion, confirmation and marriage. The ladies are always willing to order an item for you if it is not available in the store. **Mary's Grotto is open from 8:15 to 1:15 every Sunday** – hours are limited during the winter months after Christmas and during the summer, but you can always make an appointment to visit and make a purchase.

COMMUNION MINISTERS

January 2024

5:00 PM	Rita Kushner Alex Wisniewski	Richard Powers Loretta Raczynski
8:00 AM	Marge Denci	Maryanne Mansueto
10:30 AM	Lisa Crosta Barbara Goss	Steve Petruzelli
12:00 PM	Debbie Kachnowski	Brenda A. Prescott

Jan 13/14

Jan 20/21

LECTORS

5:00 PM	Leona Seufert	Gerard Taveras
8:00 AM	Tom DiMaio	John Ballantyne
10:30 AM	Sebastian Saavedra	Diane Burgos
12:00 PM	Debbie Kachnowski	Patty Muccia

ALTAR SERVERS

5:00 PM		Joe Schmatz
8:00 AM	Anthony Geronimo Angelo Geronimo	Ethan Pama
10:30 AM	Alaina Quintela	Giovanni Scipioni
12:00 PM	William Casaine Emily Casaine	William Casaine Emily Casaine

Sanctity of Life

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

The Church can also be a place to heal. We are called to "be merciful like the Father." So many are suffering from the effects of abortion. Where can they heal? Where can they feel safe and loved?

The Archdiocese of Newark Respect Life Office hosts Rachel's Vineyard retreats to heal the wounds from abortion.

Contact the Respect Life Office for retreats by calling 973-497-4350, or e-mail: Cheryl.riley@rcan.org

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." (Psalm 147:3)

STITCHES

If you like to crochet or knit, consider joining our Stitches group. We meet the second Wednesday of each month in the Lower Parish Hall and work on projects for those in need.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 14, from 1-3pm.

ADDICTION TREATMENT REFERRAL PROGRAM
for persons suffering from acute addiction

Within 48 hours of receipt of referral, NJRC will provide linkage to and commencement of addiction treatment services to referred persons. These services will include but are not limited to linkages for intake, the creation of a personalized long-term treatment plan, detoxification, ambulatory withdrawal management, induction on Suboxone or buprenorphine or the initiation of Vivitrol, residential treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, and/or induction of Medication Assisted Treatment, as needed and appropriate. Where appropriate, court-involved persons and justice-involved veterans will also be enrolled and referred to NJRC's Orientation and additional wrap-around services, including job training and employment, mental health and medical care, transportation, and license restoration services.

To connect yourself or a loved one to addiction treatment or for any questions, please contact NJRC Chief Operating Officer Robert Carter at 732-948-5880 or rcarter@njreentry.org.

Introducing the new

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"Roselle Catholic High School would love to have your son or daughter become part of our community! For any questions about our program or admission process, please contact Mishell Arizaga, [ma-
rizaga@rosellecatholic.org](mailto:marizaga@rosellecatholic.org) or 908-445-7900. Have a blessed day!"

Saint Fabian, Pope, Martyr († 250)

He succeeded Saint Anterus in the pontificate in the year 236. Eusebius' relates that in an assembly of the people and clergy, held for the election of a pastor in his room, a dove, unexpectedly appearing, settled, to the great surprise of all present, on the head of Saint Fabian, and that this miraculous sign united the votes of the clergy and people in promoting him, though not thought of before, as being a layman and a stranger.

He governed the church sixteen years, sent Saint Dionysius and other preachers into Gaul, and condemned Privatus, a broacher of a new heresy in Africa, as appears from Saint Cyprian. Saint Fabian died a glorious martyr in the persecution of Decius, in 250, as Saint Cyprian and Saint Jerome witness. The former, writing to his successor, Saint Cornelius, calls him an incomparable man, and says that the glory of his death had answered the purity and holiness of his life.

The Saints made God, and the accomplishment of his holy will, the great object of all their petitions in their prayers, and their only aim in all their actions. "God," says Saint Austin, "in His promises to hear our prayers, is desirous to bestow Himself upon us; if you find any thing better than Him, ask it, but if you ask any thing beneath Him, you put an affront upon Him, and hurt yourself by preferring to Him a creature which He framed: pray in the spirit and sentiment of love, in which the royal prophet said to him, 'Thou, O Lord, art my portion.' Let others choose to themselves portions among creatures; for my part, Thou are my portion, Thee alone I have chosen for my whole inheritance."

Rev. Alban Butler, The Lives of the Fathers, Martyrs and other principal Saints, Vol. I, (Virtue & Company, Limited.: London and Dublin, 1959).

WANTED: COMMUNION MINISTERS & READERS

Readers for Mass: please consider this ministry. As a reader you proclaim the word of God during the celebration of Holy Mass.

Communion Ministers: please consider the awesome ministry of assisting Father in the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass and perhaps to the home bound.

Please call Father at 908-245-1107 and let him know you would like to be considered for either of these ministries.



Lazarus Ministry
Comfort the Sorrowing

Assist grieving families as they prepare their loved one's funeral. All you need is a kind disposition and attentive heart. Call Marge Denci at 908-507-6306 to find out how you too can serve Christ.



Knights' Corner

The Knights of Columbus (Council #3240) of the Church of the Assumption would like to invite any interested men, that wish to learn more about the Knights of Columbus to fill out one of the cards located in the front of the Church and place it in the collection basket. Or go to

<https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-kofc.html>

to apply. Please be sure to "like" our Facebook page: Knights of Columbus - Msgr. Loreti Council #3240



**Answer the call.
Become a
Knight of Columbus
Proposer # 3240
[kofc.org/join](https://www.kofc.org/join)**

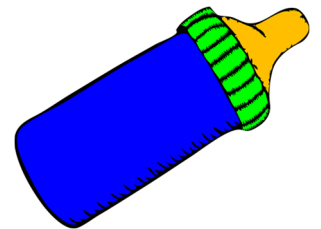
ASH WEDNESDAY v. ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

As Catholics we are required to fast & abstain on Ash Wednesday. This year it falls on February 14, Valentine's Day! What does a Catholic do?

It's easy, he fasts & abstains on February 14, Ash Wednesday. To celebrate with your spouse, celebrate Valentine's Day on February 13, which happens to be Mardi Gras—also known as Carnivale. Eat, Drink and be Merry, for tomorrow you will fast.

Baby Bottle Boomerang Fundraising Event Supporting Raphael's Life House

Filled baby bottles will be collected in the narthex of the church at all of the Masses on Jan. 20-21 & Jan. 27-28. The Knights want to thank you for your continued support of this event that has such a significant impact on these vulnerably mothers and their babies.



**Thank you,
Knights of Columbus #3240**

PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

Call 973-313-6190 or speak to one of the Priests. or contact Fr. Gino dela Rama at eugenio.delarama@rcan.org

Religious Life for Women and Men

Contact Sr. Patricia M. Wormann, O.P at Sr.Patricia.WormannO.P@rcan.org or call 973-497-4368

Tithing v. Contributing

Although the Church teaches that offering some form of material support to the Church is obligatory for all Catholic adults who are able to do so, it doesn't specify what percent of one's income should be given. Remember, tithing was an Old Testament obligation that was incumbent on the Jews under the Law of Moses. Christians are dispensed from the obligation of tithing ten percent of their incomes, but not from the obligation to contribute to their parish and the Church.

The key to understanding how God wants us to give to the Church is found in 1 Corinthians 16:2, "On the first day of the week each of you should set aside whatever he can afford," and in 2 Corinthians 9:5-8,

So I thought it necessary to encourage the brethren to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for your promised gift, so that in this way it might be ready as a bountiful gift and not as an exaction. Consider this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work.

To paraphrase: God doesn't demand a fixed amount of money from us; he wants us to give from the heart. If people are forced by their church to give a certain percent of their income, that's extortion. If they give freely and cheerfully the amount, they are able, that's a gift.

Weekly Contribution

How much you give is up to you. We only ask that you contribute with deliberation and prayer. It ought not be a last-minute decision. It is a contribution of support, not a donation. Together with your family, consider how much you can give each week to the upkeep of your parish. The parish runs solely on the contributions of her parishioners. Neither the government nor the Archdiocese financially support the parish. In fact, the parish gives an assessment (15%) of this ordinary income to the Archdiocese of Newark, of which we are a part and are obliged to support. Please use your weekly offering envelopes. It demonstrates that you are an active and faithful member of this parish.

Monthly Maintenance & Repair Contribution

We also have a **Maintenance Collection**. Each month we are permitted to take up a collection for maintenance. This collection is **not** assessed by the Archdiocese and so every cent that you give in this collection remains in the parish--it is a designated or restricted revenue. It happens often that someone places a large contribution into the weekly collection which is assessed at 15%. This skews the annual collection which affects our AAA Goal and the amount at which we are assessed. It would be advantageous to the parish if such extraordinary gifts be designated or placed in the maintenance collection. Please use your white maintenance envelopes for this.

Monthly Donation to Various Charities

Each month we take up a national collection for various charities that are supported by the Archdiocese. This is a purely voluntary collection which goes directly to the designated charity. You've received a colored envelope along with your other envelopes for this purpose. Please use them; there will not be a second passing of the basket for this.

Special Gifts

Sometimes you are inclined to give a special gift to the parish either directly or in your will. It may be either Restricted or Unrestricted. Unrestricted means that the pastor can use these monies for whatever purpose the parish needs. It is assessed at 15% as ordinary income. So if you give \$1000, \$150 will rightly go to the Archdiocese.

A **restricted gift**, whether given directly or in a will, is designated for a particular purpose, like maintenance, religious education, a new sidewalk, painting of the church, etc. Since this gift is designated, it is not assessed. So if you were to give \$1000 to replace a door or buy a Paschal Candle, the full \$1000 is available to the parish for that purpose.

Thank You, Fr. Paul

Please Donate Your Books

Located at the Assumption School of Religion

Your donation raises funds for our Parish.

Hardcover, paperback, & textbooks are all welcome!

All books must have an ISBN barcode on the cover. No encyclopedias, library reference, magazines, or water damaged books.

Questions? Contact:

www.NewLegacyBooks.com



How to Report Abuse

The Archdiocese of Newark takes very seriously any and all credible complaints of sexual abuse/physical abuse of minors by members of the clergy, religious, lay staff, and volunteers of the Archdiocese. Anyone with knowledge of a act of sexual/physical abuse of a minor is encouraged to inform the Archdiocese immediately; so that we can take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse. Complaints should be reported to the Archdiocese of Newark by calling (201) 407-3256.

Also, in Union County, the Prosecutors' office may be reached at 908-527-4500

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