

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 21 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!**

Church of the Assumption

a Roman Catholic Parish

ERECTED A.D. MCMVII

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

<u>ANTICIPATED MASS FOR SUNDAY</u>	
5:00 PM	Rufino Faller Deacon Dave & Linda Farrell
<u>SUNDAY January 21 III SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</u>	
8:00 AM	People of the Parish
10:30 AM	Ada Pol Libera Paolucci
12:00 PM	Pamela & Anthony Trylong Daughter, Karen
<u>MONDAY January 22 Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn</u>	
8:00 AM	Donato Melchionna Frank Feula & Hugh Blair
<u>TUESDAY Jan 23 Vincent, deacon; Marianne Cope</u>	
8:00 AM	Teresa Buckler The Ganley Family
<u>WEDNESDAY January 24 Francis de Sales, bishop</u>	
8:00 AM	Maureen Ritter, 1st Anniversary† Joanne Tricarico
<u>THURSDAY January 25 Conversion of St. Paul</u>	
8:00 AM	Matthew Conroy Love, Mom & Dad
<u>FRIDAY January 26 Timothy & Titus, bishops</u>	
8:00 AM	John Trapp 90 th birthday, love Joan & family
<u>SATURDAY January 27 BVM; Angela Merici, virgin</u>	
8:00 AM	Theresa Stecki Family
<u>ANTICIPATED MASS FOR SUNDAY</u>	
5:00 PM	Rufino Faller Debbie Kachnowski, religious education
<u>SUNDAY January 28 IV SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</u>	
8:00 AM	People of the Parish
10:30 AM	Rufino Faller Assumption Choir
12:00 PM	Joe Gregory Rose, Debbie, Joey & Marie

Do not lose heart, even if you should discover that you lack qualities necessary for the work to which you are called. He who called you will not desert you, but the moment you are in need he will stretch out his saving hand.
St. Angela Merici

COME, PRAY WITH US

Adoration and St. Anthony Novena -
Tuesday Evenings at **7:00 PM**
Holy Rosary - First Sundays at 10:00 AM in the church
Perpetual Novena of St. Jude - after the Saturday 8 AM Mass

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 Gehrman, 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
Teresa Ramirez



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

Call the office to make donations for Hosts & Wine for Mass, Altar Candles, Sanctuary Light or Tabernacle flowers. Special Donation envelopes are also at the doors of the church.

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

“My Lord and my God, my Father! Into your hands I abandon the past, the present and the future, everything: little and big, great and small, temporal and eternal. (St. Josemaría, Prayer of Abandonment)



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10 Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26 Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19 Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10
Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17 Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30
Mk 4:1-20
Thursday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22 Ps 117:1bc, 2
Mk 16:15-18
Friday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10
Mk 4:26-34
Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17 Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17
Mk 4:35-41
Sunday: Dt 18:15-20 Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9
1 Cor 7:32-35 Mk 1:21-28

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



Repent, and believe in the gospel. (Mark 1:14)

These words are the essence of the Gospel = the Good News. Gospel comes from the old English god (good) spell (message). In Latin the word is *Evangelium* which is from the Greek Ευαγγέλιο meaning the good message/news. This passage begs the question: What is the gospel? We can look at the high theology in the Gospel according to St. John: In the beginning was the Word...and the world was made through him; God so loved the world he sent his only Son; the Word became flesh and dwelt among us; of his fullness we all had a share; God's enduring love came through Jesus Christ; Jesus, the Bread of God, comes down from heaven and gives life; Unless you eat my body and drink my blood you will not have life within you.

So here we hear of the goodness of the Lord Jesus. His message of love, sacrifice and eternal life is the good news. Yet as we hear in in the Gospel according to St. Mark, belief in the good news has a simple yet profound prerequisite – REPENTANCE. With out turning away from the sinfulness of our past lives we cannot be immersed in the promises of the Gospel. Remember the repentant thief on the cross? He recognized his sins, repented and Christ promised him Paradise that day!

Unfortunately, these days, many believe that we can persist in the lure of our sins, abstain from the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, and still say we believe in the Gospel. While we are all sinners in the hands of loving God, we must repent and confess our serious offenses. Some sins are habitual and require daily repentance. It is a struggle, but with a little endurance and trust in Jesus, we can avoid sin, repent and grow ever closer to a virtuous life. But what is most important is that we reject sin and respect the Church's definition of what is sin. To assume that we, either as individuals or as lobbies, define what is sin and what is not is itself a grave sin.

I have noticed that the general population sees today only a handful of acts as serious sins (e.g. murder (*not of the unborn*), abuse of children/minors (*though NAMBLA considers it a good*), rape, grand larceny, war, suicide (*but not euthanasia*)), otherwise most everything else is permissible to one degree or another. Yet we Catholics have a long list of vices and expect that those who accept the Gospel to practice virtue & believe. We must repent of the vices, sins, unbelief and improprieties. We must then believe in the Gospel by living in the hope of eternal life granted to those who love as Jesus loves. As he said, "There is no greater love than to lay one's life down for a friend." Jesus did this for us, so that we can be free of sin, and live as one with Him.

Pax Christi, Fr. Paul

Saint Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon and Martyr

(† 304)

Saint Vincent was archdeacon of the church at Saragossa, Spain. Valerian, the bishop, was prevented from preaching by a speech impediment, and named Vincent to preach in his stead. He answered in the bishop's name when, during the persecution of Diocletian, both were brought before Dacian, the presiding officer. When the bishop was sent into banishment, Vincent was retained, to suffer and to die.

First he was stretched on the rack; and when he was almost torn asunder, Dacian asked him in mockery how he fared now. Vincent answered, with joy on his countenance, that he had always prayed to be as he was then. It was in vain that Dacian struck the executioners and goaded them on in their savage work. The martyr's flesh was torn with hooks; he was bound to a chair of red-hot iron; lard and salt were rubbed into his wounds; and amid all this he kept his eyes raised to heaven, and remained unmoved.

The holy martyr was cast into a solitary dungeon, his feet placed in the stocks; but the Angels of Christ illuminated the darkness, and assured Vincent that he was near his triumph. His wounds were now ordered to be tended, to prepare him for fresh torments, and the faithful were permitted to gaze on his mangled body. They came in troops, kissed his wounds and carried away as relics, cloths colored with his blood. Before the tortures could resume, Saint Vincent's hour came, and he breathed forth his soul in peace.

Even the dead bodies of the Saints are precious in the sight of God, and the hand of iniquity cannot touch them. A raven guarded the body of Vincent where it lay flung upon the earth. When it was sunk out at sea, the waves cast it ashore; and his relics are preserved to this day in the Augustinian monastery at Lisbon, for the consolation of the Church of Christ.

Reflection. Do you wish to be at peace amid suffering and temptation? Then make it your principal endeavor to grow in habits of prayer and in union with Christ. Have confidence in Him. He will make you victorious over your spiritual enemies and over yourself. He will enlighten your darkness and sweeten your sufferings, and in your solitude and desolation He will draw near to you with His holy Angels.

Little Pictorial Lives of the Saints, a compilation based on Butler's Lives of the Saints and other sources by John Gilmary Shea (Benziger Brothers: New York, 1894).

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 Collections: TBA

St. Michael's School Cranford

Registrations for the 2024-2025 academic year are now being accepted

- ◆ Faith-based environment
- ◆ Early Childhood Program Pre K3 & Pre K4 (Full & Half Day)
- ◆ Full Day academically based Kindergarten
- ◆ Primary, Elementary, and Middle School curriculums
- ◆ Controlled class size
- ◆ Average 16:1 student-teacher ratio
- ◆ Chromebooks for grades 2-8
- ◆ Before and after care programs are available daily on site
- ◆ Member of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA)
- ◆ Accredited by the Middle States Association Commission on Elementary Schools

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 25, 2024 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Sunday, January 28, 2024 11:30 pm - 2:00 pm

PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (908) 276-9425

100 Alden Street, Cranford, NJ

www.smscranford.com

E-Mail: saint.michael@verizon.net

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.

Charitable Gift Annuities

Making a significant gift to your parish can increase your bottom line! By making a gift for a charitable gift annuity, you receive an income tax deduction and annuity payments for life. Plus, part of each payment is tax-free. Learn more about this wonderful opportunity by contacting Theresa Lynch, Planned Giving Manager, Archdiocese of Newark at (973) 497-4042 or by email at Theresa.Lynch@rcan.org.

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 20/21

Jan 27/28

LECTORS

5:00 PM	Gerard Taveras	Leona Seufert
8:00 AM	John Ballantyne	Anthony Cordero
10:30 AM	Diane Burgos	Sebastian Saavedra
12:00 PM		Debbie Kachnowski

ALTAR SERVERS

5:00 PM	Joe Schmatz	
8:00 AM	Ethan Pama	Carol Ballantyne
10:30 AM	Giovanni Scipioni	Alaina Quintela
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.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The Catechetical Office of the Archdiocese of Newark offers Adult Faith Formation courses for a nominal fee. Listed below are the course offerings available for February 2024.

Spotlight Adult Faith Formation / Catechist Certification Courses

Sacraments Online Course – February 5 and 12

http://learning.rcan.org/home.aspx?pagename=extproduct_newark&PID=102110

New Testament In-Person Course – February 10th at St. John, Bergenfield

https://learning.rcan.org/home.aspx?pagename=extproduct_newark&PID=108500

Morality Online Course – February 27 and 28

http://learning.rcan.org/home.aspx?pagename=extproduct_newark&PID=107955

You can either go to the Assumption web-site at www.assumptionrp.com and click on the links in this week's Bulletin, or if you prefer, go directly to the Archdiocese website at RCAN.org, under Pastoral Offices, then Pastoral and Ministry, Catechetical Office, Adult Faith Formation, then click on Spotlight Adult Faith Formation Courses.

**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.

Pancake Breakfast January 28

The Knights of Columbus will be having a fundraiser Pancake Breakfast in Loreti Hall on Sunday January 28 from 8am-12 noon.



Cost is \$10.00 per person and includes Pancakes, Sausage, Coffee and juice.

Food Pantry Holiday Thank You

Thank you to the parishioners and the Knights of Columbus for all your food donations for the holidays. Your generosity enabled our Pantry to distribute food to over 100 families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

A special Thank You goes to Mr. Frank Juba, manager of the Shop Rite in Clark for his extremely generous donation of food for our holiday pantry distribution. The continued support of Mr. Juba over many years is greatly appreciated.



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.



Knight's 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



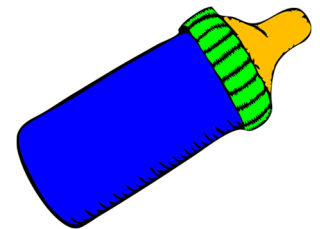
**Answer the call.
Become a
Knight of Columbus
Proposer # 3240
[kofc.org/join](https://www.kofc.org/join)**

"I am hungry for the work and I wish with all my heart to be one of the chosen ones, whose privilege it will be to sacrifice themselves for the salvation of the souls of the poor (Hawaii) Islanders...I am not afraid of any disease, hence, it would be my greatest delight to minister to the abandoned lepers."

— St. Marianne Cope

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

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

"You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbor as yourself." - Luke 10:27

We pray, O gracious Trinity:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that we all may be one as you are one.

In your community of complete unity, we have our beginning and our end.

To you we pray, asking for the gift of visible unity among all who believe in your Christ.

As we commemorate this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,

we are reminded by your Word that all human beings are our neighbors and that we are to love them like ourselves and in the same way we love you.

Help us to overcome the barriers and divisions we have nurtured against your will.

Grant to us, O Lord, a new Spirit of love and solidarity, that we may proclaim your good news to all of creation.

We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit are one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

January 18-25, 2024

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

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