

PEACE



# Church of the Assumption

a Roman Catholic Parish

ERECTED A.D. MCMVII

## Second Sunday of Advent 10 December 2023

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](mailto:Fr.Prevosto@proton.me)  
Rev. James Spera, pastor emeritus  
Rev. Deacon David Farrell  
[assumptionschool113@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:assumptionrp@yahoo.com)  
Mrs. Debbie Kachnowski, PCL  
[assumptionschool110@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:assumptionrp@yahoo.com)  
Parish Website: [www.assumptionrp.com](http://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](mailto: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**

**5:00 PM** ANTICIPATED MASS FOR SUNDAY  
**Elizabeth Oliveri**  
 Son, Ralph

**SUNDAY December 10** SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
**8:00 AM** **People of the Parish**

**10:30 AM** **Elaine Ventura**  
 Fr. Paul Prevosto

**12:00 PM** **James T Motley, Jr.**  
 Assumption KofC #3240

**MONDAY December 11** Damasus I, pope  
**8:00 AM** **To honor Mary's Immaculate Conception**  
 Iole Picarelli

**TUESDAY December 12** Our Lady of Guadalupe  
**8:00 AM** **Antonina D'Alessandro**  
 Paul

**WEDNESDAY December 13** Lucy, virgin-martyr  
**8:00 AM** **Caterina & Pasquale Pontoriero**  
 Daughter, Fontina Maria

**THURSDAY December 14** John of the Cross, priest  
**8:00 AM** **James McBratney**  
 The Matos Family

**FRIDAY December 15**  
**8:00 AM** **Phil Infuso, happy birthday in heaven**  
 Millicent, Joseph, Susanne & Jason

**SATURDAY December 16**  
**8:00 AM** **Vivian T. Ballantyne**  
 John & Carol Ballantyne

**5:00 PM** ANTICIPATED MASS FOR SUNDAY  
**Charles Stallone**  
 Family

**SUNDAY December 17** THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
**8:00 AM** **Angelo Dion Franco**  
 Brothers Marc & Michael


**10:30 AM** **People of the Parish**

**12:00 PM** **Concetta Nobile**  
 Mr. & Mrs. Pluchino

**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., 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**



**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.

**MEETINGS**

|                     |        |      |             |
|---------------------|--------|------|-------------|
| Finance Council     | Dec 11 | 7:00 | UPH         |
| Pastoral Council    | Jan 08 | 7:00 | UPH         |
| Rosary Society      | TBA    | 7:00 | LPH         |
| Knights of Columbus | Dec 20 | 8:00 | Loreti Hall |

A correction on last weeks financial summary report for 2023.

The total of the expenses is correct (\$683,263.00). However, the cost of Utilities expenses was not listed. It is \$51,088.00. The insurance expenses is actually \$37,890.00

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Is 35:1-10 Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14  
 Lk 5:17-26

**Tuesday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab  
 Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 10  
 Mt 11:28-30

**Thursday:** Is 41:13-20 Ps 145:1, 9, 10-11, 12-13ab  
 Mt 11:11-15

**Friday:** Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6 Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-19  
 Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**Sunday:** Is 61:1-2A, 10-11 Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54  
 1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

For readings go to: [www.usccb.org/bible/readings/](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/) or scan this >>>>



**Special Memorial Donations**

Sanctuary Lamp given  
**IN LOVING MEMORY OF LUZ RAMOS ON HER BIRTHDAY**  
 req. by Emeline Saldana

Bread & Wine for Mass, Altar Candles &  
 Sanctuary Light given  
**IN LOVING MEMORY OF ELIZABETH OLIVERI**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Heaven**  
 req. by Son, Ralph

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

## “I, John, saw a new heavens and a new earth” (Rev. 21:1)

As we approach this new year, we wonder how it will turn out. Will there be sorrow or joy, prosperity or hard times, peace or war, more sickness or health? This uncertainty about the future gives rise to anxiety or even angst. Hopelessness and despair want to be our friends. But our Lord always wanted us to live lives in God’s own peace; something that is beyond our understanding but keeps guard over our hearts and minds (see Phil 4:7). And so He asks us to pray, presenting to him our needs and being thankful.

Life can be a great burden and without our faith behind us we would be crushed by its weight. Even though atheists dismiss our religion and faith in God as myth and fantasy, they create for themselves a mythos to help them cope with the fear of dying and of the burdens of life, for no man can stand to face his non-existence and remain sane. Our faith in Christ sustains us. We recognize him as the source of the universe and our Creator, for it was through Him that we were created and by Him redeemed.

We have what non-believers lack, and that is hope: the second theological virtue. It is hope that helps us face the next day with love and a cheerful heart. It is hope that keeps us in joyful anticipation of the coming of Christ who will establish the new heavens and new earth, which St. John saw in the vision at Patmos. The Day of the Lord will come. Hope is what we hold onto when we face the dying of a loved one, the ravages of war, and the disappointments that hit us everyday of our lives. And when it comes time for ourselves to die, we keep hope that tomorrow we will be with Christ in Paradise.

So the year of Our Lord 2024 has its uncertainties, but in the virtue of hope we trust that Christ will be with us every step of the way, in the good times and especially in the bad where He carries us safely into his most Sacred Heart, the sanctuary of those who love Him, put their faith in Him, and continually keep hope in Him.

In the sure and certain hope that Christ is the king of the ages, may God bless you and your family this coming year. And whatever sadness or joy comes your way, *present your needs to Him in full gratitude* for He has given us the hope that this day is not the end but only the beginning of a more beautiful and joyous Day to come.

Pax Christi, Fr. Paul

## Advent & Christmas Schedule

**Confessions:** December 16 from 9 AM till Noon  
Mon – Thurs from 7:30 AM - 7:50 AM  
Saturdays: 7:30 AM-7:50 AM & 4-4:30 PM

December 24: **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent:**  
Masses 8 AM & 10:30 AM;  
**NO** 12 noon Mass!

December 24:  
**Christmas Vigil Mass:** 4:00 PM with Children’s choir  
**Christmas Mass at Night** (aka midnight Mass): 11:30 PM  
**Musical Prelude** at 11:00 PM

December 25:  
**Christmas Mass at Dawn:** 8:00 AM  
**Christmas Mass during the Day:** 10:30 AM and 12 noon

## CHRISTMAS FOOD BAGS

It’s the Advent-Christmas season!  
We are now preparing Christmas Bags and need your help!

We are in need of the following items:  
**Canned Potatoes (Sweet and White), Vegetables, Turkey Stuffing & Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Macaroni & Cheese, Baked Beans, Pineapple, Corn Muffin Mix, and Cake Mix & Icing**

Donated items can be placed in the food bin in the front vestibule of the church.

We also need **HAMS**  
or **TURKEYS!**

They can be dropped off at the Annex on Thursdays night between 6:30 - 7:00pm.

Bags will be distributed Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you in advance and happy Christmas!!

Questions can be addressed to Annette Venturo at (908)-298-1262



## 10<sup>th</sup> 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: **\$7297**  
Maintenance Collection: **\$4600**

### How parishes are supported throughout the world.

In many European countries, nations like Italy and Germany directly tax their citizen for the church. For instance, in Germany you either check Evangelischer (Lutheran) or Katolischer and automatically your salary is taxed for your church.

In the Philippines, the church was supported by Spain for 400 years and then by the missions. Today the Philippine parish more and more has to support itself like here.

Here in the US, the parishioner is directly responsible for support his/her parish church and even the diocese. Without your support, it will not continue financially well.



*Fiat lux*  
*Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum*  
*Fiat voluntas Tua, sicut in caelo, et in terra*  
"Mary's Yes"

Our 25th consecutive 54-day Rosary novena, which begins November 29th, the Feast of Our Lady of Beauraing ("the Virgin of the Golden Heart") and of All Saints of the Seraphic Order (Franciscans) and runs through January 21st, leads up to the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. Therefore, we will pray with ever greater fervor throughout Advent and the Christmas season for

**THE END OF ABORTION  
& A NEW CULTURE OF HOPE, HEALING & LIFE**  
for all of God's children, born and pre-born!

PLEASE JOIN US ANY NIGHT AT 7:15PM TO PRAY THE ROSARY & ACCOMPANYING PRAYERS FOR LIFE & YOUR INTENTIONS!  
Zoom Meeting ID: 861 6231 8072 - MLIDDY1@GMAIL.COM

"When the Rosary is said in common, it is far more formidable to the devil, because in this public prayer it is an army that is attacking him. He can often overcome the prayer of an individual, but if it is joined to that of others, the devil has much more trouble in getting the best of it." - St. Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort

*"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory..." John 1:14*

"A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer."  
Pope St. John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae, no. 100

## Qualified Charitable Distributions

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.

## 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,  
December 13, from 1-3pm.

## 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 store 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

#### December 2023

|          |                            |                             |
|----------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5:00 PM  | Nancy Malta                | John Mattingly              |
| 8:00 AM  | Marge Denci                | Maryann Mansueto            |
| 10:30 AM | Lisa Crosta<br>Bella Degbe | James Kompany<br>Joan Trapp |
| 12:00 PM | Maureen Rebimbas           | Brenda A Prescott           |

#### Dec 9/10

#### Dec 16/17

### LECTORS

|          |                    |                   |
|----------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 5:00 PM  | Leona Seufert      | Gerald Taveras    |
| 8:00 AM  | John Ballantyne    | Anthony Cordero   |
| 10:30 AM | Sebastian Saavedra | Diane Burgos      |
| 12:00 PM | Patty Muccia       | Debbie Kachnowski |

### ALTAR SERVERS

|          |                                  |                                  |
|----------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 5:00 PM  |                                  | Joe Schmatz                      |
| 8:00 AM  | Ethan Pama                       | Ethan Pama                       |
| 10:30 AM | Alaina Quintela                  | Giovanni Scipioni                |
| 12:00 PM | William Casaine<br>Emily Casaine | William Casaine<br>Emily Casaine |

We gather in the midst of  
suffering to remember  
God is good.  
God is strong.  
God is near.  
We are not alone, and  
we have every reason to  
hold on to hope.

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December 10th at 3pm  
Gather together for a time of prayer, song  
and reflection to find hope in God.

Church of the Little Flower  
310 Plainfield Avenue  
Berkeley Heights

*In the twilight of life, God will not judge us on our  
earthly possessions and human success, but rather on how  
much we have loved.*

*St. John of the Cross*

# An Advent Carol

Presented by *the Xavier Company*

A musical drama  
celebrating the  
Advent Journey



DIRECTOR AND CHOREOGRAPHER: CAROL FERRONE  
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GERARD DeMAN, JR.  
PLAYWRIGHT: J.S. Pecorella

FEATURING: Pasqualino Beltempo, Nikki Casseri\*, Annie Lewis, Leo Grinberg,\*  
Rebekah Rawhouser,\* Brandon Schram!\*, Tony Bartoli, Percussionist  
\*Courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

FREE ADMISSION:  
FAMILIES WELCOME!!

LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING:

Donations Welcome

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10th  
4:00 PM

CATHEDRAL BASILICA  
89 RIDGE STREET  
NEWARK, NJ 07104  
973-484-4600



My Dear Parishioners,

It gives me great joy to share with you that our parish now has a subscription to **FORMED**, an online platform faith over 4,000 Catholic studies, movies, audio dramas, talks, e-books, and even cartoons for our children. **FORMED** has content from over 60 apostolates, including Augustine Institute, Ignatius Press, and the Knights of Columbus. **Best of all, this material is free to you.**

Our parish will be using the material on **FORMED** to support our ministries and provide continuing education for staff members and parishioners, as well as outreach for our sick and homebound members. Much of FORMED's content is available in both English and Spanish.

You have easy access to all of the material on **FORMED** to support your own faith journey and that of your family members.

Are you hesitant to return to the Sacrament of Reconciliation after a long absence? Watch *Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession*.

Would you like to be more confident in answering your teenagers' questions about the validity of the Gospels? Watch *Lectio: The Case for Jesus*.

Do you search for a reliable source of Catholic teaching on current issues? Tune in each week to *The Augustine Institute Show with Dr. Tim Gray*.

Have you despaired of finding good movies that your family can enjoy together on a Friday night? Start with *Mother Teresa*, the story of the selfless saint who brought hope and love to the poorest of the poor.

You can enjoy **FORMED** on your computer or on your television with an inexpensive Roku device or Apple TV. You can even listen on your phone as you commute to work or do chores.

My hope and prayer is that the content on **FORMED** will enrich, deepen, and inspire your faith. Please pray for our benefactors who have made a **FORMED** subscription a reality for our parish. Please pray for the people at the Augustine Institute who create this wonderful and much-needed Catholic content for our people.

May the good Lord bless you and all of your loved ones!

Fr. Paul

To gain access to all of FORMED's content, follow these simple steps:

1. Go to <https://signup.formed.org/>
2. Enter our parish's zip code
3. Enter your name and your email address

**FORMED**

That's it! You're in. Now you can get the free **FORMED** app for your phone by searching **FORMED Catholic** in your app store.





The Knights of Columbus will be selling decorated **Christmas wreaths** after all weekend masses starting December 2nd. Cost is \$20 each. Sales will continue until they are sold out. Proceeds will support our scholarship fund.

**ADVENT SANDWICH MAKING**  
**LOOKING FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT**  
**TO DO DURING ADVENT?**

**WHY NOT TRY MAKING SANDWICHES FOR THOSE IN NEED AT ST. JOSEPH'S SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER IN ELIZABETH**

**HERE IS HOW IT WORKS:**  
**EVERY THURSDAY EVENING BETWEEN 6:30 AND 7:00 PM THERE IS A VOLUNTEER AT THE ANNEX (THE TWO GARAGES FACING COOLIDGE PLACE) COLLECTING SANDWICHES THAT WILL BE DELIVERED TO ST. JOSEPH'S.**

**GUIDELINES FOR SANDWICHES:**  
**SANDWICHES CAN BE MADE WITH MEAT (2 SLICES) AND CHEESE (1 SLICE) OR PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY. NOTHING WITH MAYO, CONDIMENTS, LETTUCE, OR TOMATO.**  
**SANDWICHES MUST BE INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED IN PLASTIC SANDWICH BAGS (NO ALUMINUM FOIL) AND INSERTED BACK IN THE BREAD BAG.**  
**ONE LOAF OF BREAD TYPICALLY IS ENOUGH FOR 10 SANDWICHES**

**YOU MUST MARK THE OUTSIDE OF THE BREAD BAG WITH THE TYPE OF SANDWICH AND THE DATE THAT IT WAS MADE. (EXAMPLE: PBJ 2/15 OR HAM & CHEESE 2/22)**

**GOD BLESS,  
 DEACON DAVE**

**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>



**SCAN ME**

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](http://kofc.org/join)**

**Saint Lucy of Syracuse, Virgin and Martyr († 303)**

Saint Lucy was a young Christian maiden of Syracuse, Sicily. She had already offered her virginity to God and refused to marry. Her mother pressed her to accept the offer of a young pagan. The mother was afflicted afterwards for several years by an issue of blood, and all human remedies were ineffectual. Lucy reminded her mother that a woman in the Gospel, suffering from the same disorder, had been healed by the divine power. They made a journey to Catania, Sicily, where the tomb of Saint Agatha, martyred in 251, was already a site of pilgrimage. "St. Agatha," Lucy said, "stands ever in the sight of Him for whom she died. Only touch her sepulcher with faith, and you will be healed."

Saint Lucy and her mother spent the night praying by the tomb, until both fell asleep. Saint Agatha appeared in vision to Saint Lucy, and foretold her mother's recovery and Lucy's future martyrdom: You will soon be the glory of Syracuse, as I am of Catania. At that instant the cure was effected; and in her gratitude the mother allowed her daughter to distribute her wealth among the poor, and to conserve her virginity.

The young man who had sought her hand in marriage denounced her as a Christian during the persecution of Diocletian, but Our Lord saved this virgin. The prefect gave orders to attach her by cords to harnessed bulls, but the bulls did not succeed. Prefect said, "How can you, a feeble woman, triumph over a thousand men?" She replied, "Bring ten thousand, and they will not be able to combat against God!" A fire did her no harm, though she was covered with resin and oil. When a sword was plunged into her heart, the promise made at the tomb of Saint Agatha was fulfilled. Saint Lucy died, predicting peace for the Church.

Les Petits Bollandistes: Vies des Saints, by Msgr. Paul Guérin (Bloud et Barral: Paris, 1882), Vol. 14; Vie des Saints pour tous les jours de l'année, by Abbé L. Jaud (Mame: Tours, 1950)

**PRIESTLY VOCATIONS**

**Call 973-313-6190 or**  
**speak to one of the Priests.**  
**or contact Fr. Gino dela Rama at**  
**[eugenio.delarama@rcan.org](mailto:eugenio.delarama@rcan.org)**

**Religious Life for Women and Men**

**Contact Sr. Patricia M. Wormann, O.P at**  
**[Sr.Patricia.WormannO.P@rcan.org](mailto:Sr.Patricia.WormannO.P@rcan.org)**  
**or call 973-497-4368**

**From a pastoral letter  
by Saint Charles Borromeo,  
Archbishop of Milan from 1564 to 1584**  
(Acta Ecclesiae Mediolanensis, t. 2, Lugduni, 1683, 916-917)

### *The season of Advent*

Beloved, now is the acceptable time spoken of by the Spirit, the day of salvation, peace and reconciliation: the great season of Advent. This is the time eagerly awaited by the patriarchs and prophets, the time that holy Simeon rejoiced at last to see. This is the season that the Church has always celebrated with special solemnity. We too should always observe it with faith and love, offering praise and thanksgiving to the Father for the mercy and love he has shown us in this mystery. In his infinite love for us, though we were sinners, he sent his only Son to free us from the tyranny of Satan, to summon us to heaven, to welcome us into its innermost recesses, to show us truth itself, to train us in right conduct, to plant within us the seeds of virtue, to enrich us with the treasures of his grace, and to make us children of God and heirs of eternal life.

Each year, as the Church recalls this mystery, she urges us to renew the memory of the great love God has shown us. This holy season teaches us that Christ's coming was not only for the benefit of his contemporaries; his power has still to be communicated to us all. We shall share his power, if, through holy faith and the sacraments, we willingly accept the grace Christ earned for us, and live by that grace and in obedience to Christ.

The Church asks us to understand that Christ, who came once in the flesh, is prepared to come again. When we remove all obstacles to his presence he will come, at any hour and moment, to dwell spiritually in our hearts, bringing with him the riches of his grace.

In her concern for our salvation, our loving mother the Church uses this holy season to teach us through hymns, canticles and other forms of expression, of voice or ritual, used by the Holy Spirit. She shows us how grateful we should be for so great a blessing, and how to gain its benefit: our hearts should be as much prepared for the coming of Christ as if he were still to come into this world. The same lesson is given us for our imitation by the words and example of the holy men of the Old Testament.



St. Charles Borromeo is interred in the crypt of the Duomo of Milan (Metropolitan Cathedral of the Nativity of Saint Mary).

Christmas Concert with  
**Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea**  
Thursday, December 21, 2023 @ 7:00 pm  
St. James Church 149 Grove Street  
Woodbridge, New Jersey

### **ticket pricing**

**Preferred (Front half of the Church) \$50 •  
Standard (Back half of the Church) \$30**

### **To reserve your tickets:**

• **call the Parish Office 732-634-0500 x100**

**Payment methods check (payable to St. James Church) or to pay by credit card, please use the online form by scanning the QR code**

**or visit our website at [stjamesonline.org](http://stjamesonline.org).**

**Questions? Call the parish office: 732-634-0500 x100**



He, who walking on the sea could calm the bitter waves, who gives life to the dying seeds of the earth; he who was able to loose the mortal chains of death, and after three days darkness could bring again to the upper world the brother for his sister Martha: he, I believe, will make Damasus rise again from the dust.

Pope Damasus I

### **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**

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SOFTWARE

MSPublisher 2013  
Adobe Acrobat XI  
Windows 8

TRANSMISSION TIME

Wednesday 12:00

SUNDAY DATE OF PUBLICATION

**December 10, 2023**

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT

1 through 8

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:



