

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

In a recent online column, readers were asked to contribute what gave them hope in challenging times. A man from Pittsburgh wrote, *I read a single poem every morning. There is hope in a verse or between the lines, something to drift on beyond the headlines.*

"Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone"

The passage we hear at Christmas from Isaiah (9: 1-6) reads like a lush, beautiful poem. For me there is hope between all the lines, and especially in that verse. For many there has been considerable gloom since our last celebration of Christmas, both personally and globally. And yet when I read that verse, I think of the light that continues to shine, despite the darkness.

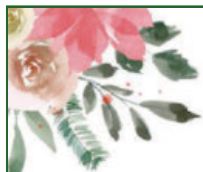
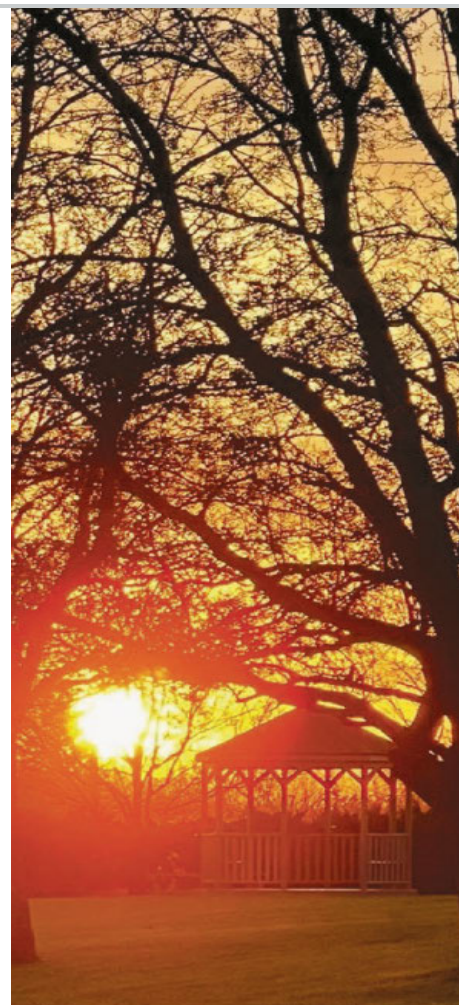
For me, there have been many moments of light; some big and others quite ordinary. This past May my niece got married in Philadelphia. Gathering with family and friends, it was a beautiful moment to step away from daily life and embrace pure joy. The celebration of the sacraments, the numerous weddings I have officiated at this year, the Confirmation students participating regularly at the 11:30 AM Mass have drawn me deeper into the light. Our observance of Kristallnacht, the celebration of Our Lady of Vailankanni and Our Lady of Guadalupe inspired me. The fact that an average of 30 high school students attend morning prayer at 6:30 AM on Thursdays lifts my spirits.

I see these moments and others like them throughout the year. Yet it is the verse we only hear at Christmas that becomes the lens by which I see them. Light is shining no matter what gloom or darkness exists.

My prayer for you and those you love is for that vision of Christmas. May that light of Christ's love continue to guide us into the new year.

With my very best wishes for a happy Christmas,

Msgr. Gregory E. S. Malovetz



Christmas Flowers The flowers and decorations in the church and the gathering space are from donations. ***Thank you*** for making our church so beautiful this time of year.

In Memory of

Adele Cawley by The Hover-Cawley Family
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Charlotte Nagy by Kevin & Jayne McGuigan
Our loving parents & brothers-in-law
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Nancy Robinson by Her Family
Jerry Cianfrocca by His Family
Gwen McCullagh by Jack McCullagh
Mary & Thomas Murphy, Winifred & Alfred Hale
by Marjorie Hale
The Sinclair Family by The Sinclair Family
Anne Abrahamsen by Pam & John Pannucci
Genevieve S. Lubas by Genevieve S. & Braedon Morro
Theodore John Lubas
by John Walker & William Walker Lubas
Sandra Gail Lubas
by Matthew Joseph & Timothy William Ryba
Adelaide & Micale Vertucci by Cecelia Vertucci

Carmel Distefano by Anthony & Elisabeth Fuccello
Nattalina & Joseph Fuccello
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Howard Bolt by His Family
Delia Drake by Linda Pierson
Paddy Durkin by Ed & Jennie Murphy
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Frank Nini by Camille Nini
Josefina Ortí De Mesa by Her Daughters
Paul & Agnes Boide by Their Family
Our Fathers, Frank Sandie & Michael Klein
by Chris & Leah Klein
James & Marjorie Ledwith by Andy & Therese Fay
John & Theresa Fay by Andy & Therese Fay
John Colamarino by His Family
Art Walsh by Patrick & Margaret Walsh

In honor of
The Cooke Family by Pat Cooke



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WEEKEND MASSES

Confessions: Saturday 4:00 PM
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 8:30, 10:00 and 11:30 AM

DAILY MASS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 AM

PARISH OFFICE HOURS Monday-Thursday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Contact: 609.466.0300 www.borromeo.org

Mailing address: 376 Burnt Hill Road, Skillman, NJ 08558

Church location: 47 Skillman Road, Skillman, NJ 08558

Sunday, December 24, 2023
The Nativity of the Lord

Monday: Christmas Day
10:00 AM: Festive Mass of Christmas Morning

There are no Masses 12/26-29

Sunday, December 31, 2023
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday Vigil:

5:00 PM: Angela Luino/ The Oldis Family

Sunday:

8:30 AM: Genevieve Lubas /Her Family

10:00 AM: People of the Parish

11:30 AM: Irene Brzyski /Josephine & Joe Darcy

DEACON LARRY MAGDASOC



Since his ordination as a transitional deacon, Larry Magdasoc has been assigned to our parish. He was with us throughout the summer. He is completing his final year of studies at the Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University. Deacon Larry

will continue to serve here on the weekends until his ordination to the priesthood for the Diocese of Metuchen in June 2024.

We are blessed to have Deacon Larry with us. He gave a beautiful presentation of Simbang Gabi, the pre-Christmas celebration of the Philippines, after all the Masses on Sunday December 10th.

On the day after Christmas, Deacon Larry will fly home to the Philippines. It will be his first trip there in four years. It will be a wonderful reunion with his mom and the rest of the family. Please pray that his journey will be easy and his visit home a time of rest and renewal. He will return to join us in mid-January.



**FROM THE FINANCE
COUNCIL**

Christmas is a time of gift giving; a time of reaching out with wishes of love and peace to others.

We are indeed grateful for the support of time, talent and treasure our parishioners give to Saint Charles throughout the year.

We think of the hundreds of gifts that were purchased from the Giving Tree tags. We think of those who make the commitment to Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, as well as Loaves and Fishes.

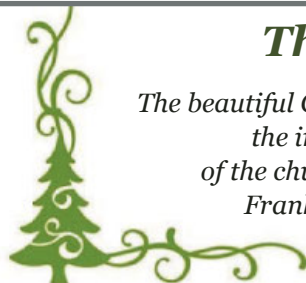
We are thankful to parishioners who supported the annual Mission Appeal, contributing a total of \$6430.62 for the ministries in the Diocese of Kohima in India.

And we are grateful for the financial support you give to our parish. It is not an easy time for non-profits and faith communities. Here in Central Jersey, there have been many changes that affect both church attendance, volunteerism and financial support. Ours is a shared challenge with many parishes in the Diocese of Metuchen.

Yet, through monitoring expenditures and managing our savings, we have been able to continue the vibrancy of our community. A copy of our yearly financial report can be found here: www.borromeo.org, click on the Ministry tab, select 2023 Financial Report.

At the end of every year, we encourage our parishioners to prayerfully reevaluate their financial commitment to St. Charles. The ability to increase is appreciated; every offering of support is a blessing.

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas,
*Steve Heil (Chair), Joe Darcy, Susan Feeney,
Kimberlee Murphy, Joanie Sartorio and David Trinkle*



Thank you

*The beautiful Christmas trees decorating
the inside and outside
of the church were donated by
Frank & Judi DiMeglio*

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The Catholic Community of Saint Charles Borromeo *Office of Youth Ministry*

Dear Friends of St. Charles Borromeo Youth Ministry:

The St. Charles Borromeo Youth Ministry Golf Classic has been a staple here for over a decade now, and it has truly become a critical part of our programming. Our outing is how scholarships for our service immersion programming are possible, how the pizzas for an after school activity are paid for, and it's how our programming continues to grow as more and more students find their way through our doors. Now more than ever we need your help this spring.

Our next outing will be held on **Tuesday, May 7th 2024 at Mercer Oaks West**. Please save this date and consider joining us. Over the years, the Golf Classic has raised over \$200,000 to subsidize programs for the young people of our parish. We depend on your support and we are so grateful for it.

Whether you choose to golf, contribute to a sponsorship or make a raffle donation, your support and participation are essential to continuing these important programs. Last year we had several signature sponsors which made an especially significant impact on our outing. DCH Advisors - the Hover family, The Hose Shop Inc - the Petersons, Thomas & Susan Gallagher, Hillsborough Funeral Home, Tony & Joanie Sartorio, Miami International Holdings, INC, and the Musto Family were hugely beneficial to last year's event and we are extremely indebted to them for their support. We hope we can count on you and thank you very much for all of your support over the years.

Regards,

The St. Charles Borromeo Golf Outing Committee

Barb and Al Ambrose

Brad Seamon

Chris Small

Connor Paladino

Meg Poltorak Keyes

Michelle Dowling

Paul Stahlin

Steve Foxx

Steve Heil



CALLING ALL ALUMNI OF THE SAINT CHARLES YOUTH GROUP

It may be 5, 10 or 15 years since you "graduated" from the Saint Charles Youth Group. Do you remember the friends you made and the good times you had participating in the Youth Group's social and service projects? And the foundation you received from your Youth Group participation as you went off to college? Would you like to "pay it forward" to the young people of the parish today?

If so, join us for the Youth Ministry Golf Classic on Tuesday May 7, 2024 at Mercer Oaks West. There are opportunities to play golf, contribute to a sponsorship, purchase a raffle ticket or join us for cocktails and dinner to catch up with old friends. The money raised goes to support the Youth Ministry's programs and we would be so grateful for your support this year. There will be updates in the bulletin as the date grows closer. Please send your email and/or mobile number to **Chris Small (csmall@borromeo.org)** so we can add you to our alumni list.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

We must embrace our differences, even celebrate our diversity. We must glory in the fact that God created each of us as unique human beings. God created us different, but God did not create us for separation. God created us different that we might recognize our need for one another. We must reverence our uniqueness, reverence everything that makes us what we are: our language, our culture, our religious tradition.

-Desmond Tutu

As you think about growing up in your family, what do you remember about the ways you celebrated your faith? Were there special traditions, rituals, food, or celebrations that gave life to your family, your particular parish, or your cultural heritage? Sharing stories about these important moments is not only fascinating conversation, but it also helps us understand what gives meaning to our lives.



The Cultural Diversity Ministry here at St. Charles offers a place to come together to share these stories. This mission of our ministry strives to create opportunities to raise awareness of the diverse expressions of our Catholic faith found in the various cultures here within our parish. We meet as a ministry the 3rd Sunday of each

month. We come together to share about faith, plan a variety of programs for the parish, and share food. Yes, it really is all about the food!!!

We invite you to join our ministry and share about the rituals and devotions from your own cultural heritage of faith.

If you would like to learn more about this ministry, please contact Trish at pscalese@borromeo.org



St. Charles Borromeo

GIFT



Faith Formation For Families

Our Religious Formation program, which we call GIFT, is an intergenerational experience where parents and children of all ages come together to pray and learn. Our goal is to empower and support parents as the primary catechists of their children. Our

hope is that at each GIFT session, everyone present, children and adults, share and grow in faith and leave with tools to live their faith in their everyday lives.

Each year, we focus on one of the pillars of the Catholic Church. This year, each session covers at least one of the pillars of our faith, with the overall theme of “living our faith” in our lives. We think about prayer, sacraments, morality, the liturgical calendar, and more. Each session is designed to challenge each person present to consider how God is working in our lives and how we are called to live as followers of Jesus.

Through our GIFT program, children are also prepared for the Sacraments. Our intergenerational model enables parents to be actively involved in these milestones with their children and grow in their own faith through the experience.

For more information about GIFT, be sure to check www.borromeogift.org




LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

One of the most important things we do as Catholic Christians is gather weekly to celebrate Mass. Being present in this way offers us the opportunity to be nourished by the Eucharist, to be renewed by Christ himself.

The Catholic Community of St. Charles offers numerous ways for each one of us to engage more fully in the celebration of the Eucharist. There are ways to participate at Mass through the many ministries here at St. Charles. Ushers, greeters, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, cantors, choir members, and instrumentalists are all welcome to join us in helping to celebrate each week. Each of these ministries not only enhances the community’s experience of Liturgy, they in turn help each one of us participate more fully in the Mass.

So, think about how you might enhance your own experience of Liturgy by joining us in one of these opportunities. Information regarding all of our Liturgical ministries can be found in the bulletin or call the Parish Office at 609-466-0300 for more information.


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