

DECEMBER 5, 2021 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



# ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

59 Main St. High Bridge, NJ 08829 | (908) 638-6211 | [www.sjchb.org](http://www.sjchb.org) | [parishoffice@sjchb.org](mailto:parishoffice@sjchb.org)



**Confession Today**  
after the 11 am Mass!

Our Parish is served by:

Reverend James A. Kyrpczak

Deacon Tom McGovern

Deacon Steve Fortier

God of timeless grace,  
you fill us with joyful expectation.  
Make us ready for the message  
that prepares the way,  
that with uprightness of heart  
and holy joy we may  
eagerly await the Kingdom  
of Your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who reigns with You and  
the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
Amen.

**Jesus, I Trust in You!**

## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5 pm  
Sunday 8 am, 9:30 am & 11 am

## WEEKDAYS

Monday-Thursday: 8 am

## CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday 4 to 4:45 pm  
First Sunday after the 11 am Mass  
& By Appointment

## BAPTISM

Celebrated on the 2nd, 3rd & 4th  
Sunday. Contact the Parish Office.

*"The Lord  
has done  
great things  
for us, we  
are filled  
with joy."*

**Psalm 126**

## ADORATION

Holy Hour for Life, 3rd Thursday  
of the month & First Friday.

## ROSARY

Prayed every 2nd Wednesday & 5th  
Sunday of the Month

## PARISH REGISTRATION

Pick up a form in the Church vesti-  
bule or visit our website to join.

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday  
9:30am to 4 pm

## MASS INTENTIONS (LS-live stream)

**Saturday/Sunday, December 4/5**

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 PM † Father Gerard Lair  
8:00 AM People of the Parish  
† Theresa Masler  
9:30 AM Protection of Babies in the Womb & Their Families (LS)  
11:00 AM † Kathleen Ann Weltman

**Monday, December 6**

### St. Nicholas

8:00 AM (L) Lynn Farina

**Tuesday, December 7**

### St. Ambrose

8:00 AM † Poor Souls in Purgatory  
7:00 PM † Mary Danko

**Wednesday, December 8**

### Feast of the Immaculate Conception

8:00 AM People of the Parish  
12NOON (L) Michael Nodes  
7:00PM † Sylvia Terchek

**Thursday, December 9**

### St. Juan Diego

8:00 AM (L) Robyn Guidry

**Saturday/Sunday, December 11/12**

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 PM † Kathy Lane  
People of the Parish  
8:00 A † Ruth Lincoln-Peck  
9:30 AM † Richard Prumka (LS)  
11:00 AM † Kathleen Van Nest

### The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

There is no greater gift than God's gift of Himself to us in **Holy Communion**, and there is nothing more rewarding than taking advantage of that intimacy by uniting in **fervent reflection** and **prayer** during that precious time immediately upon receiving His Body & Blood. Take all the time that is given, after you receive Holy Communion, praying to Him. Thank Him for all He has done this past week for you, & don't forget to pray for those who have no one to pray for them.

**MASS INTENTIONS** Would you like to have a Mass said for the repose of the soul of a deceased loved one or for someone living, or for a special intention? Please contact the Parish Office at 908-638-6211. The offering is \$10. Mass cards are available and can be mailed for your convenience.

**FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY** If you would like to donate flowers for our sanctuary, please contact the Parish Office. You can donate in memory of a loved one or for someone living. Arrangements will be made with a local florist, no hassle on your part.

## PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION

November 27/28: \$1407.-

Online Giving for November: \$7,058.-

Thank you very much for supporting St. Joseph Church. If you'd like to receive envelopes please contact the Parish Office at parishoffice@sjchb.org or call (908) 638-6211.

## LECTOR SCHEDULE

**Saturday: Dec. 4**

5pm: Dave K.

**Sunday: Dec. 5**

8am:

9:30am:

11am:

**Saturday: Dec. 11**

5pm: Linda M.

**Sunday: Dec. 12**

8am:

9:30am:

11am: Andrew R.

## LECTOR SCHEDULE for CHRISTMAS

**Friday, December 24**

2pm:

4pm: Linda M.

7pm:

12 midnight:

**Saturday, Dec. 25**

9:30am:

11am:

5pm Vigil Mass:



**LECTORS** If you would like to read at any of the holiday Masses, **please contact the Parish Office** and let MaryJean know. Also, if you would like to participate at Mass by reading again, please contact MaryJean. You pick the week you would like to read and every month your name will be on the schedule for that week. It's only ONCE a month you are reading!

**Thank you for giving of your time!**

**UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION** If you need to update your email address or cell phone number you can do so right on our website. **Visit [www.sjchb.org](http://www.sjchb.org).**

**SANCTUARY LAMP** You may have the Sanctuary Lamp burn in memory of a loved one or for the intention of someone living or for a special celebration. Contact the Parish Office if you are interested. The offering is \$10 per week.

**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH** The Church is open during the week for your convenience, Monday through Thursday from 8 am to 4 pm. Come spend some quiet time before our Lord in the tabernacle.

**The Parish Office will be closed on Wednesday, December 8, in observance of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.**

## GOSPEL MEDITATION -

**December 5, 2021**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. **"You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when His hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, He chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, His head is covered with dew, with drops, when His body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, He is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, He will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for His coming, He knocks and asks for the door to be opened to Him."** When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort!

We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for His visit, we can hear God's gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God's promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts' doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to **trust** that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. **God is not done.** When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God's simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent Season. **God is knocking. Answer the door.** You will see and understand life in ways you never



**PRAYER FOR THE SICK:** We pray to you, **Our Lady of The Immaculate Conception (feast day Dec. 8)** look kindly on us as we implore your powerful intercession. O Most Holy Mother, receive our prayers as we present them to God.

**We pray for:** Cathy Bush, William Honachefsky, Vincent Scarponi, Mark Mueller, Joseph, Stephanie Hoelper, John Hayth, Barbara Shea, Michael Tingolie Sr., Lyzah Hennig, Jacob Cole, Colin, Christopher, Helen D., Jesse Wescott, Holly McCallum-Young, Kaitlin, Bernadette R., Barbara Shea, Irene Sebold, Carole & Paul Mueller & Joanna Faraldi.

**Confession** The schedule for Confession is: Every **Saturday**, before the Vigil Mass from 4pm to 4:45 pm, also the **FIRST Sunday** of the month after the 11 am Mass and by appointment. Call (908) 638-6211.

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE** Please welcome **Fr. John Devaney** back as he conducts our **Advent Penance Service** on **Tuesday, December 14** beginning at **7pm**. Fr. Devaney will deliver the homily and he as well as Fr. James and other priests will be present to hear confessions.



*"Let us not be distracted by the business of the Christmas Season and take time to reflect on the coming of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is time to reconnect with Him and what better way to reawaken our relationship with Christ than by seeking His forgiveness in the sacrament of Confession."*



**FAITH FORMATION CONFESSION** Faith Formation students and parents are invited to **Confession** scheduled on **Wednesday, December 15 at 7pm** in the Church. If you'd like to attend the Advent Penance Service for the Parish on Tuesday, December 14 that is perfectly fine.



**"God is always ready to demonstrate HIS LOVE & FORGIVENESS to all who seek it!"**

### ADVENT ESSENTIALS



1. Display an Advent Wreath in a special place.
2. Pray & Talk Faith

Sunday Mass is at the heart of living the Catholic faith. Commit to participating in Mass each Sunday of Advent and after!

3. Make your Christmas Preparations

Schedule shopping, decorating, baking, etc. with a mind to making them fun family activities that bring you joy and peace.

4. Live love at home and share love beyond home

Have family members list acts of love for each other on separate pieces of paper, (taking out the garbage, washing the dishes, praying for a neighbor) Each family member picks from the jar, when the acts of love are completed, place that piece of paper inside an empty Manger, as a gift to Jesus, or fill a decorative box with the papers and place the box under your Christmas tree as a gift for Jesus!

5. Make time to pray.

Before you grab your cellphone when you wake up or head to bed, spend some time in prayer. That is the perfect conversation with God!

# PARISH ACTIVITIES

## Monday-Thursday

\*Daily Mass, 8 am

## Tuesday, December 7

\*Bible Study, 7:30pm, Church Hall

## Wednesday, December 8

\*Rosary, 6:15pm, Church (TIME CHANGE)

**JESSE TREE** It's that time of year again to make a child's Christmas, **merry and bright!** Thank you for picking a gift tag from our **Jesse Trees** in the entranceway of the Church. Gift cards along with the gift tag are **due back December 11/12**. You may drop the gift off at the Parish Office or into the Offertory basket. Whatever works for you!!! Thank you for your generosity!



**BIBLE STUDY** meets every **Tuesday at 7:30 pm** in the Church Hall. Come learn more about the greatest book ever written! Currently studying the Gospel of John.

**"Visit many good books, but LIVE in the Bible!"**

**PRAY THE ROSARY** Looking to do something extra this Advent Season? Why not come pray the Holy Rosary with other parishioners on **Wednesday, December 8 at 6:15 pm** in the Church. You can stay and attend the 7pm Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception!



*"To pray the Rosary is to hand over our burdens to the merciful hearts of Christ and His Mother!"*

~Pope St. John Paul II

## Mass Schedule for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception\*



**Tuesday, December 7, 2021**

7pm Vigil Mass

**Wednesday, December 8, 2021**

8am, 12 noon and 7 pm

"Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing, you reign now in splendor with Jesus Our King."

\*Holy Day of Obligation

**FOOD FOR FAMILIES** The collection for Food for Families will be on **December 18 & 19**. Remember, the Church is open Monday -Thursday from 8am to 4pm so you can drop your food off at anytime! Thank you for donating to those less fortunate.



The **Sanctuary Lamp** burns constantly to proclaim the *Real Presence* of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in the Tabernacle.

For the month of December the flame will burn:

**In Loving Memory of Richard Prumka  
From The Mosier Family**

**SECOND COLLECTION** Next week the Second Collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Donations to this collection are for the retired Sisters and Brothers of the United States. Thank you for your generosity!



## Christmas Mass Schedule

**Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24**

**2pm, 4pm, 7pm & 12 midnight**

**Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25**

**9:30am & 11am**

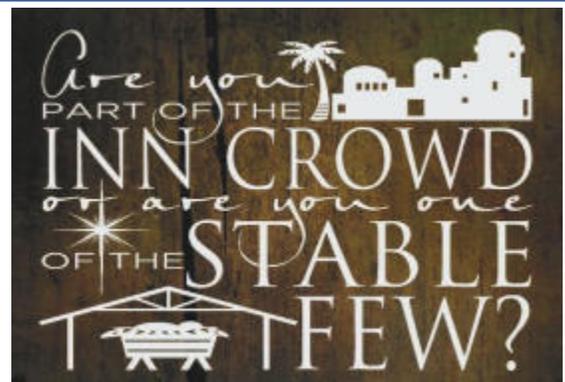
**Also 5pm Vigil Mass\***

**Confession at 4pm-4:45pm**

**Sunday, December 26**

**8am, 9:30am & 11am**

\*We have 2 obligations to fulfill the weekend of Dec. 24/25 (1) The obligation to attend Christmas Mass and (2) The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday. That is why there is a 5pm Vigil Mass (For Sunday the 26th) on December 25.



## THE SACRAMENTS

**Baptism:** The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated after the 11 am Mass on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sunday of the month. Godparents must be practicing Catholics who have reached their 16th year and have received all of the Sacraments of Initiation, (Baptism, First Holy Communion & Confirmation). For those Godparents who are married, their marriage must be recognized as valid by the Catholic Church.

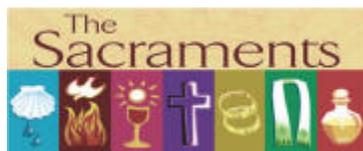
**Faith Formation:** Faith Formation classes are available for grades 1-9. Some grades are meeting online while others are meeting in person. Please reach out to our PCL (Parish Catechetical Leader) Shari Schultz at (908) 638-6453 to register your child.

**Matrimony:** In accordance with Diocesan Policy, arrangements for a wedding should be made at least one year in advance. Before setting a date with a venue, please call the Parish Office to schedule a wedding appointment with the Pastor.

**Ministry To the Homebound, Sick & Dying:** Contact the Parish Office at (908) 638-6211 to make arrangements for Confession, Holy Communion and/or Anointing of the Sick to be administered to the homebound, hospitalized and sick of our parish as well as for those who will be undergoing surgery. Also, please contact us when the need for the Last Rites arises for the dying.

**R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)** This program of study, discernment and spiritual formation is for those non-Catholics who are considering entrance into the Catholic Church. If interested please call the Parish Office.

For those baptized Catholic adults who have not received all of the Sacraments of Initiation, please contact the Parish Office to arrange for individual private preparation.



## PARISH STAFF

Mrs. MaryJean Fiore, Parish Secretary,  
(908) 638-6211 ext.1, parishoffice@sjchb.org

Mrs. Shari Schultz, PCL Faith Formation,  
(908) 638-6211 ext.3, sharischultz@sjchb.org

Dr. Al Cresci, Director of Sacred Music  
acresci@aol.com

Mrs. Louise Mueller, Parish Bookkeeper,  
(908) 638-6211, ext. 4, parishbkkpr@sjchb.org

## DIOCESE & PARISH INFORMATION

**CONGRATULATIONS** St. Joseph Church is proud to announce we **FINALLY** have our very own winner in the **New Jersey Right to Life, RESPECT LIFE 2021 Raffle**. Please join us in congratulating:

**Mario & Deb Bernardo: 1st Prize Winners!**



**PARISH CALENDARS** Our Parish Calendars have arrived for 2022. This year the theme is, Feasts & Saints. They are located in the Church vestibule. Please help yourself and many thanks to **Scarponi Funeral Home** for covering the cost of the calendars!



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METUCHEN

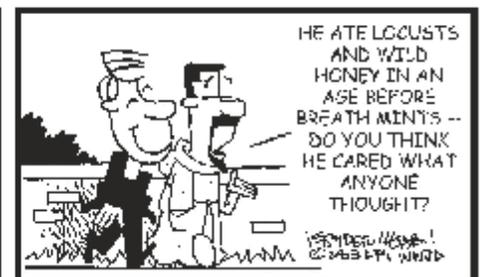
### A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP CHECCHIO

*"I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to the parishioners of St. Joseph Parish for their generous response to the 2021 Bishop's Annual Appeal. I truly appreciate your efforts on behalf of the appeal especially during these difficult months of the pandemic and in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. Thanks to your parish's generosity, we are able to continue to fulfill our mission and live the Gospel message through our pastoral ministries and charitable outreach to those in need. God bless you and be assured you have my heartfelt gratitude and prayers.*

*With renewed best wishes, I am Yours in Christ,  
Most Reverend James F. Checchio"*

**OPEN  
THE DOOR  
FOR CHRIST**

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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