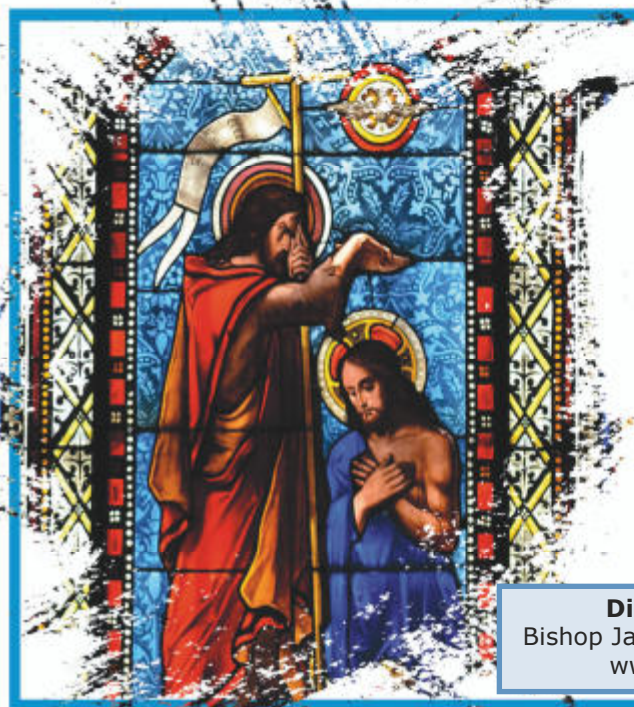


JANUARY 9, 2021 BAPTISM OF THE LORD



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

59 Main St. High Bridge, NJ 088829 | (908) 638-6211 | www.sjchb.org |



HEAVEN WAS
OPENED AND THE
HOLY SPIRIT
DESCENDED UPON
HIM. - LK 3:21

THE BAPTISM
OF THE LORD

Diocese of Metuchen
Bishop James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
www.diometuchen.org

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCD, ©LPI

Our Parish is served by:

Rev. James A. Kyrpczak

Deacon Tom McGovern

Deacon Steve Fortier

Religious Education Dir.

Shari Schultz

sharischultz@sjchb.org

Dir. of Sacred Music

Al Cresci

Parish Secretary

Mary-Jean Fiore

parishoffice@sjchb.org

Parish Bookkeeper

Louise Mueller

parishbkkpr@sjchb.org

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.

FAITH FORMATION

Contact:

ShariSchultz@sjchb.org

*"The Lord
will bless
His people
with peace."*

Psalm 29

ADORATION

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

ROSARY

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

BIBLE STUDY

Every Tuesday at 7:30pm,
Church Hall

PARISH REGISTRATION

Forms are located in the Church
vestibule or visit our website to join.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
9:30 am to 4 pm

MASS INTENTIONS (LS-live stream)

Saturday/Sunday, January 8/9 BAPTISM OF THE LORD

5:00 PM †Charlie Bruton
8:00 AM †Mary Padula
People of the Parish
9:30 AM †Fr. Gerard Lair (LS)
11:00 AM * †Fr. Gerard Lair

***Help us un-
decorate the
Church on
Sunday, Jan.9
after the
11 am Mass.**

Monday, January 10

8:00 AM †Barbara Shea

Tuesday, January 11

8:00 AM (L) Joseph John & Family

Wednesday, January 12

8:00 AM †Walt Tutka

Thursday, January 13

St. Hilary

8:00 AM (L) Ted English

Saturday/Sunday, January 15/16 SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 PM †Marilyn Dobis
8:00 AM †Catherine & Herbert Nodes
9:30 AM †Mary Padula (LS)
People of the Parish
11:00 AM †Ron Savare

WHY IS THERE HOLY WATER IN THE VESTIBULE OF THE CHURCH? First,

the blessed holy water reminds us of our baptism. **Second**, holy water is what the Church calls a "sacramental." Sacramentals are sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the sacraments. The effect that is signified by blessing ourselves with holy water is, basically, *cleansing*. As we enter the Church and prepare to worship God through the liturgy, we want our minds and hearts to be pure, to be purified from sin and selfishness. **Third**, locating the holy water fonts at the entrance of our churches symbolizes the difference between ordinary space and sacred space. We leave behind the worldly noise and confusion that surrounds our normal, everyday activities, and we are refreshed and renewed by the order, silence, reverence, and beauty of the sacred space, the space used only for prayer and worship.



LECTOR SCHEDULE

Saturday: Jan. 8

5pm:

Sunday: Jan. 9

8am: Deb B.

9:30am:

11am:

Saturday: Jan. 15

5pm: Linda M.

Sunday: Jan. 16

8am:

9:30am: Lou M.

11am: Andrew R.

LECTORS NEEDED Is the Lord calling you to share your talent of reading at Mass on Saturday or Sunday? Would you like to participate more at Mass but not sure how? Contact MaryJean at parishoffice@sjchb.org and let her know what Mass and what week of the month you'd like to read. Many thanks to those who have volunteered!!!!

The Baptism of the Lord



"We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ."

— Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ Himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. **He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters.** Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear!

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Christmas Offering	\$9,348-
December 26	\$1,125.-
January 1/2	\$1,256.-
Online Giving for 12/20-12/26	\$1,442.-
Online Giving for 12/27-1/2	\$2,682.-
Winter Maintenance	\$ 157.-

Thank you for supporting St. Joseph Church.

"If you don't have time to pray & read Scripture, you're busier than God intended you to be."

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? Please contact the Parish Office at 908-638-6211. The offering is \$10. Mass cards are available and can be mailed for your convenience.



Please remember in your prayers our recently departed parishioners:

Sherry Havens, Barbara Shea, & Charlotte Povalski.

May their souls rest in peace!

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Monday-Thursday

*Daily Mass, 8am

Tuesday, January 11

*Bible Study, Church Hall, 7:30pm (live streamed on FB)

Wednesday, January 12

*Pray The Rosary, Church, 6:30 pm

Saturday, January 15

*Food for Families Collection, Church vestibule

BIBLE STUDY Join the Bible Study Group as they celebrate Christmas & New Year's Eve on **January 11th** at **7:30pm** in the Church Hall. Bring your favorite scripture for discussion. Dessert will be Pot Luck!

"Don't say God is silent when your Bible is closed!"



PRAY THE ROSARY Join us as we pray the Holy Rosary on **Wednesday, January 12** at **6:30pm** in the Church. All are encouraged to come and pray, especially for God's protection over us and an end to the coronavirus!



"Every word of the Rosary is a prayer to God!"

FOOD FOR FAMILIES Our next collection will take place for the Open Cupboard Food Pantry next weekend, **January 15/16**.



Suggested items to donate: healthy kids snacks, oatmeal (plain & flavored), cereal (unsweetened & sweetened), canned dinners (spaghettios, ravioli), mac & cheese, canned soup, canned fruit, peanut butter, coffee, tea, sugar, apple juice, juice boxes, napkins, paper towels, hygiene products such as, body wash, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo/conditioner and feminine products.

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS To request a written acknowledgment, please complete the information below and place it in the collection basket or mail it to the Parish Office. You may also visit our website at **www.sjchb.org** and complete the info. online.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____



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

For the month of January the flame will burn:

In Loving Memory of Thomas Gradel

From The Mosier Family

LIVING FAITH BOOKLETS In the vestibule of the Church, are the Living Faith Booklets for January, February and March. **Living Faith** provides daily reflections based on a Scripture passage from the daily Mass. Many thanks to the **Holy Name Society** for donating them to us!



RALLY FOR LIFE IN TRENTON The Diocese of Metuchen's Office of Human Life and Dignity will be hosting a bus trip to the **Rally for Life in Trenton, NJ on Friday, January 14**. You will board the bus at the Diocesan Center at 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway at 9:30 am. The Rally begins at 11 am and ends at 1pm. You will arrive back at the Center between 2-2:30pm. The bus ride is free but you must register. **To reserve a seat, visit: diometuchen.org/humanlifeanddignity.** If you have any questions, please email amarshall@diometuchen.org or call 732-562-1990, extension 1543 or 1629.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TUITION ASSISTANCE

Families interested in applying for **tuition assistance** to attend an eligible Catholic elementary or Catholic high school in the Diocese of Metuchen may apply online now through **FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment** at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>. Online applications must be completed no later than **March 21, 2022**. If you need assistance completing the online application form, contact the school you wish to have your child attend.



PRAY FOR THE SICK: St. Hilary, (feast day Jan. 13) you were a champion of the truth and may your example lead us to a better life filled with love for our neighbor.



We pray for: Cathy Bush, Morgan, William Honachefsky, Vincent Scarponi, Mark Mueller, Joseph, Maria M., John Hayth, Barbara Shea, Michael Tingolie Sr., Lyzah Hennig, Jacob Cole, Colin, Christopher, Helen D., Jesse Wescott, Holly McCallum-Young, Kaitlin O, Bernadette R., Irene Sebold, Carole & Paul Mueller, Holly Z., Joanna Faraldi, Terry P., Ted English & those who have no one to pray for them.

ST. JOSEPH SNOW REMOVAL TEAM NEEDS YOU!

If you can help shovel/spread ice melt around the Church when it snows, please see **Father James** or email the Parish Office at parishoffice@sjchb.org **Let's work together to make St. Joseph Church safe during winter!**



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