

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

59 Main St. High Bridge, NJ 08829 † www.sjchb.org



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT April 3, 2022

Our Parish is served by:

Rev. James A. Kyrpczak, (908) 638-6211 ext.2, fatherjames@sjchb.org

Deacon Tom McGovern, tmcg8466@gmail.com

Deacon Steve Fortier, sfortier13@gmail.com

Shari Schultz, *Parish Catechetical Leader*, ext. 3, sharischultz@sjchb.org

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

Parish Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30am—4pm

Phone: (908) 638-6211

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5 pm

Sunday 8 am, 9:30 & 11 am

DAILY MASS

Monday-Thursday 8 am

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 4 to 4:45 pm

First Sunday after the 11 am
Mass & By Appointment

ADORATION

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

WOMEN'S LENTEN

REFLECTION

Mondays at 7pm
Church Hall

BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 7:30pm,
Church Hall

ROSARY GATHERING

2nd Wednesday & 5th Sunday
of the Month

FOOD FOR FAMILIES

3rd Weekend of the Month

BAPTISM: Celebrated every 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday after the 11 a.m. Mass. Remember that Godparents must be practicing Catholics who have reached their 16th year and have received all of the Sacraments of Initiation, (Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation). For those Godparents who are married, their marriage must be recognized as valid by the Catholic Church. Only one Godparent is required and not more than two. When two are acting as Godparents, one must be male and the other female according to Canon Law. If the Godparent (s) are registered at another parish, they must obtain a Certificate of Sponsorship from their pastor and have it sent to St. Joseph Church.

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

MINISTRY OF THE HOMEBOUND, SICK AND DYING: Please contact the Parish Office to arrange for Holy Communion and/or the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick or Last Rites to be administered to those who are ill and for those undergoing surgery.

FAITH FORMATION: For the School year of 2021-22, classes for grades 7th, 8th and 9th meet in person twice a month, 2nd grade meets once a month in person and both have at home instruction when not in person. All other grades are at home instruction using the My Catholic Faith Delivered program. Please contact Shari Schultz, our PCL, at (908) 638-6453 for more information.

PARISH REGISTRATION: St. Joseph Church welcomes those who are new to the area to register at our parish as well as those who are attending Mass regularly. Visit our website at www.sjchb.org to register or pick up a form in the Church vestibule. Using the weekly envelopes is one great way to support our Church. You may also donate online from our website or mail in your contribution.

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults): This program is for those non-Catholics who are considering entrance into the Catholic Church. Please contact the Parish Office at (908) 638-6211 to arrange for individual private preparation from one of the members of our clergy.

Confession Today

After the 11 am Mass



Tenebrae, April 13

Spy Wednesday, 7 pm

Holy Thursday, April 14

Mass at 7 pm

Adoration: 8 pm- 11 pm

Good Friday, April 15

Passion of the Lord, 3 pm

Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena, **Day 1**, 6:30 pm

Station of the Cross, 7 pm

Holy Saturday, April 16

Blessing of the Easter Food, 12 noon

Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena, **Day 2**, 12:15 pm

Easter Vigil Mass, 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday, April 17

Mass at 8 am, 9:30 am & 11 am

Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena, **Day 3**, 10:40 am

Monday – Friday, April 18-22

Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena, **Days 4-8**, 8:30 am

Saturday, April 23

Confession 4 pm – 4:35 pm

Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena, **Day 9**, 4:40 pm

Vigil Mass, 5 pm

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 24

Mass at 8 am, 9:30 am & 11 am

Divine Mercy Sunday Events begin
after the 11 am Mass

Copies of this schedule are located in the Church
vestibule for your convenience.

TENEBRAE SERVICE Join Fr. James & Dr. Al Cresi along with the St. Joseph Choir at our very first



Tenebrae Service, (ten-uh-bray) on **Spy Wednesday, April 13 at 7 pm**. Tenebrae is a unique and spiritual ceremony consisting of readings, music, responses, and candles. You will see in the sanctuary, what is called a **Tenebrae hearse**, which is a candelabra with 7 candles lit. After each reading a candle will be extinguished. This will slowly bring the Church to darkness, which provides a stark visual of how Our Lord was left all alone, in the darkness of the world. But there will remain, in the end, one hidden candle still lit, which will signify the burial of Jesus in the tomb. At last you will hear a loud noise from the choir loft, sounding like thunder, known as the **strepitus** which means "loud noise" in Latin. This sound represents the earthquake at the Crucifixion. The Service comes to an abrupt end, all will leave silently, reflecting on the ultimate price Our Lord paid for man's sin. All are invited to attend this moving service.

ADORATION ON HOLY THURSDAY On the night of Holy Thursday, Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place from 8 pm to 11 pm, **where the faithful remain in the presence of the Eucharist just as the Disciples kept a vigil with Christ.**



If you are able to sit with Our Lord for 1 hour, please contact Eileen at (908) 482-0802.

THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET NOVENA Join Father James as he prays the Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena, which **begins on Good Friday, April 15 and ends on Saturday, April 23. (9 days)** The schedule is listed in this week's bulletin. All are encouraged to pray this powerful novena.

BLESSING OF THE EASTER FOOD Bring your basket(s) of Easter Food to St. Joseph Church on **Holy Saturday, April 16** at 12 noon and Father James will bless them.



The **tradition** goes back to Europe in the Middle Ages and has its roots even earlier, when Christians began to fast leading up to Christ's Passion. As the Church evolved, the people began to celebrate the end of the rigors of fasting by eating a special meal on Easter Sunday that included many of the foods avoided during Lent. Beginning around the 15th century, parishioners began asking their pastor to bless this Easter food, often brought to the church in a basket. The sadness of Holy Saturday will soon give way to the joy of Easter Sunday, the joy that Jesus Christ is alive and has broken the chains of death forever!

Lenten Prayer Lord, let everything I do this day and in this Season of Lent, come from You and be inspired by You. I long to be closer to You. Help me to remember that nothing is important in my life unless it glorifies You in some way. It's so easy to get caught up in the day to day of my life and say, "Tomorrow I will spend more time in prayer," but now I long for Your love, help me to rely on You for help. Heal me Lord and help me to find You in the darkness of my life. Let me reach out in this darkness and feel Your hand and love, waiting to guide me. Creator of my life, renew me and bring me to new life in You. Mercifully kindle in me, the fire of the Holy Spirit and give me a heart to love Thee, now and forever. Amen



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday/Sunday, April 2/3 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00 PM †Tom & Barbara Shea
8:00 AM †Adelina & Vincenzo Bernardo
9:30 AM Protection of Babies in the Womb & Their Families
11:00 AM †Poor Souls in Purgatory
People of the Parish

Monday, April 4 St. Isidore, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:00 AM †Phil & Ruth McCue

Tuesday, April 5 St. Vincent Ferrere, Priest

8:00 AM †Poor Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, April 6

8:00 AM †Frances Pazzo

Thursday, April 7

8:00 AM †Carol Ann Hartrum

Saturday/Sunday, April 9/10 PALM SUNDAY

5:00 PM †Poor Souls in Purgatory
8:00 AM †Patricia Chapman
9:30 AM †Jean Doffont
11:00 AM People of the Parish

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

March 26/27 \$3,162-

Online Giving 3/21-3/27 \$1,327.-

Easter Flower Collection \$ 730.-

Thank you very much for your kind offerings! God bless.

LECTOR SCHEDULE

Saturday: April 2

5pm: Dave K.

Sunday: April 3

8am:

9:30am:

11am:

Saturday: April 9

5pm:

Sunday: April 10

8am: Deb B.

9:30am: Jill G.

11am:

LECTORS NEEDED If you are available to read at the **Holy Thursday Mass** at **7pm** and/or would like to read at **The Passion of Our Lord** on **Good Friday**, or at the **Easter Vigil Mass** please contact the Parish Office at (908) 638-6211 or email at parishoffice@sjchb.org. Thank you for volunteering!!!



... **“Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”**
Again He bent down and wrote on the ground.
And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So He was left alone with the woman before Him.

John 8:1-11

This passage comes from the story of the woman caught in adultery when she is dragged before Jesus to see if He would support her stoning. His response is perfect and, in the end, she is left alone to encounter the tender mercy of Jesus.

But there is a line in this passage that is easily overlooked. It is the line that states, “...*beginning with the elders.*” This reveals an interesting dynamic within human communities. Generally speaking, those who are younger tend to lack the wisdom and experience that comes with age.

Though the young may find it hard to admit, those who have lived a long life have a unique and broad picture of life. This enables them to be far more prudent in their decisions and judgments, especially when it comes to the more intense situations in life.

In this story, the woman is brought before Jesus with a harsh judgment. Emotions are high and these emotions clearly cloud the rational thinking of those who are ready to stone her. Jesus cuts through this irrationality by a profound statement. **“Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”**

Perhaps, at first, those who were younger or more emotional did not allow the words of Jesus to sink in. They probably stood there with stones in hand waiting to start throwing, but then the elders began to walk away. **This is age and wisdom at work.** They were less controlled by the emotion of the situation and were immediately aware of the wisdom of the words spoken by our Lord. As a result, the others followed.

Reflect, today, upon the wisdom that comes with age. If you are older, reflect upon your responsibility to help guide the younger generation with clarity, firmness and love. If you are younger, do not neglect to rely upon the wisdom of the older generation. Though age is not a perfect guarantee of wisdom, it may be a far more significant factor than you realize. **Be open to your elders, show them respect, and learn from the experiences they have had in life.**

Prayer for the young: Lord, give me a true respect for my elders. I thank you for their wisdom stemming from the many experiences they have had in life. May I be open to their counsel and be guided by their gentle hand. **Jesus, I trust in You.**

Prayer for the elder: Lord, I thank You for my life and for the many experiences I have had. I thank You for teaching me through my hardships and struggles, and I thank You for the joys and loves that I have encountered in life. Continue to pour forth Your wisdom upon me so that I may help guide Your children. May I always seek to set a good example and lead them according to Your Heart. **Jesus, I trust in You.**

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Sunday, April 3

*Evening Prayer & Benediction, 4 pm, Church

Monday thru Thursday

*Daily Mass, 8am

Monday, April 4

*Restoration Campaign Reception, 7pm, Church Hall

*Women's Lenten Gathering, 7pm, **Church**

Tuesday, April 5

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

Wednesday, April 6

*Restoration Campaign Reception, 7pm, Church Hall

Thursday, April 7

*Virtual Restoration Campaign Reception, 7pm, online

Friday, April 8

*Stations of the Cross, 7pm, Church

EVENING PRAYER & BENEDICTION Join Fr. James, and the St. Joseph Choir, today, **April 3 at 4pm** for Eucharistic Exposition, Solemn Evening Prayer and Benediction.



"Do not let your hearts be troubled, have faith in ME!"

A LENTEN GATHERING FOR ALL WOMEN All women are invited to a **Lenten Gathering** with Anne McGovern on **Monday** evenings, during Lent, at **7pm** in the Church Hall. You may contact Anne at Atm6886@gmail.com or 908-216-3791. You can join at anytime.

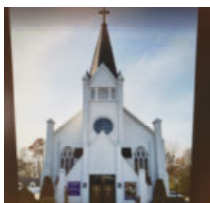


For this week only, April 4, the Women's Gathering will be in the Church.

BIBLE STUDY It is time to learn more about the Bible. Join parishioner, Andrew Rispoli every **Tuesday** evening at **7:30 pm** in the Church Hall. The study is also live-streamed on our Facebook page.

Please note there will be **NO Bible Study on **Tuesday, April 12**, it resumes on **Tuesday, April 19**.

2022 RESTORATION CAMPAIGN You still have time to RSVP for the in-person or virtual reception held in the Parish Hall on **Monday, April 4 at 7pm**, or **Wednesday, April 6 at 7 pm** or the virtual meeting on **Thursday, April 7 at 7 pm**. Two members of the Diocese will be in attendance as well.



If you did not receive a letter and would like to attend, kindly call/email the Parish Office and let MaryJean know.

The reception will include an explanation of the restoration, how the giving process works and question and answers time. Refreshments & light snacks will be served at both in-person events.

Let us pray for a successful campaign that aims to restore our beautiful church.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS/EVENTS

K-CLUB The **6th** weekly winner is **Loren Dietrich**. Congratulations!

You can still join the K-Club! Dues are \$40 and your check can be mailed to the Parish Office at St. Joseph Church or dropped in the collection basket. 100% of all proceeds are dedicated to the Knight's charitable programs. Good luck to everyone.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIPS The St. Joseph Council, #10627 is offering scholarships to graduating seniors! You must be a son or daughter of a member of the St. Joseph Council in order to apply. Applications and information can be found at www.kofc10627.org. The deadline to apply is **May 1**.



FOOD FOR FAMILIES Our next collection takes place **April 16 & 17**. Remember you can drop off your donations during the week, Monday – Thursday or on the weekends. Many thanks to the volunteers who deliver the donations to the Food Pantry and many thanks to all who donate.



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. Please no expired items.

When you "feed the hungry" you are performing one of the Corporal Works of Mercy!

SAVE THE DATE The Knights of Columbus, **Baby Shower & Pasta Dinner** will take place on **Saturday, May 4** after the 5 pm Mass. More information will be forthcoming.



9TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF DAY Help support the Knights of Columbus, Council #10627, by attending the **9th Annual Golf Outing**, on **Friday, June 3** at the High Bridge Hills Gold Club. Registration is at 7:30am followed by a Continental Breakfast. The Shotgun start begins at 9am, with lunch and awards soon after. May the best players win! For more information, pick up a brochure in the Church vestibule. You can also visit www.kofc10627.org. You may contact Kevin Loughney at (908) 797-0061 or Tom Klawunn at (908) 246-3722.



SPELLING BEE NEWS The 8th grade Faith Formation class participated in the Annual Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee on January 23. The class winners were:



1st place Lauren Rathbun, **2nd place** Kaitlyn Morales, **3rd place** Sadie Forsyth and **4th place** Matty Walls. Lauren Rathbun qualified for the State Spelling Bee Final to be held on April 3 at 1:30pm at the Church of the Epiphany in Brick NJ. **GOOD LUCK**



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

This week the flame burns:

For all living and deceased member of the Knights of Columbus, Council #10627.

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.

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.

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 Blessed Sacrament.

WECONNECT APP Don't forget to download the **WeConnect Parish App** on your cellphone! Receive notifications about important events happening at St. Joseph Church, get daily readings, see our calendar of events and more. Type in "*WeConnect Parish App*" at your App Store. **It is FREE!!!!** If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office at (908) 638-6211.



PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED: O Saint Vincent



Ferrer, (feast day April 5) our guardian, because God our eternal Father has blessed you with an inexhaustible fountain of grace and blessing, we beg you to hear our prayers and to assist us with your powerful intercession.

We pray for: Cathy Bush, Morgan, William Honachefsky, Vincent Scarponi, Mark Mueller, Joseph, John Hayth, Lyzah Hennig, Jacob Cole, Colin, Christopher, Helen D.,

Jesse Wescott, Selena, Mary Belton, Holly McCallum-Young, Kaitlin O, Msgr. Puleo, Sue, Joseph Z., Carole & Paul Mueller, Holly Z., Terry P., Mark H., Michele, Gertrude Zanowic & those who have no one to pray for them.

Stations of the Cross

Fridays, during Lent, at 7pm



WHY COVER THE STATUES? We use veils to alert us of the special time that we are in. When we walk into church and notice everything is covered, we immediately know that something is different. These last two weeks of Lent are meant to be a time of immediate preparation for the **Sacred Triduum**, Holy Thursday, **Mass of the Lord's Supper**, Good Friday of the **Lord's Passion** & the **Mass of the Resurrection**, and these veils are a forceful reminder to get ready.



SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK "On Palm Sunday weekend, **April 9/10**, the faithful of our diocese will have the opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the priests who have faithfully served our diocese by responding to the **Annual Collection for our Retired Diocesan Priests**.

Currently, the Diocese of Metuchen has 32 retired priests, 10 living at the Maria Regina Residence while others live in rectories or in private homes or apartments which they or their family and friends have arranged.

Your generous response to next week's collection is a practical way to convey your personal appreciation to our retired priests for their many years of service as well as make it possible for us to continue to properly care for them."



Yours in Christ,

Bishop James Checchio, JCD, MBA.

Please read more of our Bishop's letter inside this week's bulletin.

Let us continue to pray to St. Joseph



Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interests and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.

Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.



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