



# CHURCH OF SAINT ANN

311 CARR AVE, KEANSBURG, NJ 07734 (732) 787-0315

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 2021

## WELCOME

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

### CONFESSIONS

Saturday 1 - 2 PM  
and by appointment.

### MASS

**Saturday (Vigil)**  
5:00 PM (Live-Streamed)

**Sunday**  
9:00 AM, 6:00 PM

### CLERGY & STAFF

**Rev. Richard Vila**  
Pastor  
**Msgr. Jack Carroll**  
Weekend Assistant  
**Theresa Kelly**  
Director of Religious Ed  
**Corina Pauta**  
Choir Director & Organist  
**Dana Deliso**  
Cantor  
**Eileen Hoff**  
Church Secretary  
**John Roelsing**  
Property Manager

### SISTERS OF MERCY

(732) 787-0546  
**Sr. Carol Conly, R.S.M.**  
Coordinator  
**Sr. Sharon Kelly**  
**Sr. Barbara McDermot**  
**Sr. Kathleen O'Halloran**



## THE HOLY FAMILY

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. - Lk 2:46-47

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

LIVE-STREAMS CAN BE FOUND ON  [YouTube@CHURCHOFSTANNKEANSBURG.ORG](https://www.youtube.com/@CHURCHOFSTANNKEANSBURG.ORG)



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# REFLECT

## FIRST READING

"I PRAYED FOR THIS CHILD, AND THE LORD GRANTED MY REQUEST. NOW I, IN TURN, GIVE HIM TO THE LORD; AS LONG AS HE LIVES, HE SHALL BE DEDICATED TO THE LORD." (1 SM 1:27-28)

## SECOND READING

SEE WHAT LOVE THE FATHER HAS BESTOWED ON US THAT WE MAY BE CALLED THE CHILDREN OF GOD. AND SO WE ARE. (1 JN 3:1)

## GOSPEL READING

AFTER THREE DAYS THEY FOUND HIM IN THE TEMPLE, SITTING IN THE MIDST OF THE TEACHERS, LISTENING TO THEM AND ASKING THEM QUESTIONS. (LK 2:46)



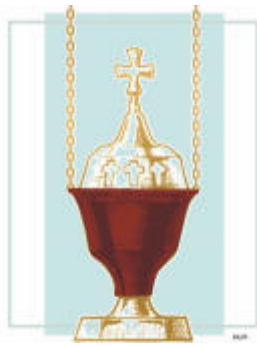
January 1st Mass schedule is 9AM and Regular Saturday Vigil at 5:00pm

Baptism Class is held once a Month. Please call the Rectory for more information or to register for the class. Baptisms are held on the Second and Fourth Sunday, @ 10am. \*You need to be **registered and attend** our Parish in order to baptize @ St. Ann's.

Every Tuesday and Thursday **AA meetings** are held in the school gym from 10-11am all are welcome.

Anyone Interested in **Adult Catechism** Classes, please call Sr. Sharon @ 732-495-2454

**Parish Pizza Night & Meatball Competition is Back!**  
**Save the Date January 29th More details to follow.....**



## THE SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp is available for special intentions. The Lamp burns weekly for deceased members of a family or requests for a special intention. The donation is \$20. Please call the Rectory for further information. This week's Sanctuary Lamp burns for

**Hank Ruhman**  
**Loving Family**

## MASS INTENTIONS

### MONDAY, 12-27

8:00 AM †

**"Special Intentions" For all School Children**  
rq by Tracey Williams

### TUESDAY, 12-28

8:00 AM †

**Purgatorial Society of St. Ann's**

### WEDNESDAY, 12-29

8:00 AM

**Dennis McKenna**  
rq by Patrick & Susan  
**"Special Intentions" for Janice Dicillo**  
rq by Loving Family

### THURSDAY, 12-30

8:00 AM †

**"Special Intentions" Robert Matich Jr.**  
rq by Loving Family

### \*\*\*New Year's Schedule

### FRIDAY 12-31

5:00PM †

**Gordon Missimer**  
rq by Loving Daughter

### SATURDAY, 1-1

9:00 AM †

**Parishioners of St. Ann**

### Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00PM

**Robert Hence**  
rq by Loving Family

### SUNDAY, 1-2

9:00 AM †

**Ronnie Conklin Catherine Kane**  
rq by Loving Family

6:00 PM

**Dawn Siegel**  
rq by Mr. & Mrs. William O'Connor



## Text Signup

to (833)544-0934 to receive text messages from St. Ann.



# WEEKLY PRAYER

## Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-1

## Observances for the week of December 26, 2021

Sunday: The Holy Family

Monday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Tuesday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Wednesday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

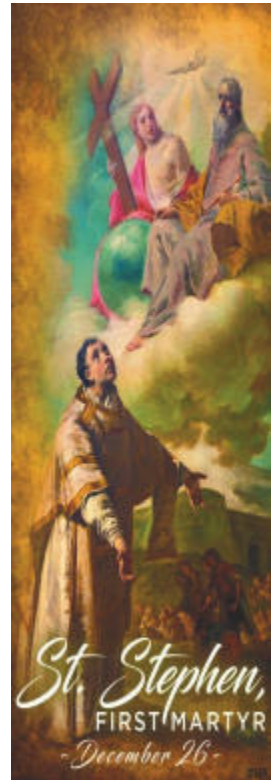
Thursday:

Friday: St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve

Saturday: New Year's Day; Mary, The Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace

Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

**Saint Stephen is the patron saint of bricklayers and stonemasons. He was a deacon in the early Christian church and cared for the poor. Stephen was stoned to death by the Jewish council in Jerusalem after he condemned them for murdering the Messiah.**



# GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember

that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the

Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.



## PASTOR'S NOTE

It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Our families can bring out the best and the worst in us. This is true of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our church, our society, and the like. In all of our family experiences, what stands out as our most challenging memory? Everything human can be found on the pages of family life. But there is also a Divine story to be discovered as well. When life gets difficult and perplexing, today's Feast of the Holy Family stands to remind us that it is not just by human effort that we tread treacherous waters. We have to remember and learn from the Divine effort too. We need this perspective if our love lessons are going to be learned completely and well. We are all works in progress and we all come from homes that are broken by imperfection. In whatever life brings us and in whatever family we find ourselves, may the promptings we feel toward faith and hope lead us to greater love.

**Fr. Richard**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**If you or a loved one are need of some extra prayers please contact the Rectory @ 732-787-0315 to have your name added to the Prayer List.**

**Rita and Nicholas Nabel  
Stephen Verducci  
Elanor Delia  
Baby Porpora  
Terry Barry  
Michael Palmisano**



## Christmas Flowers

Margaret & Robert Puglisi  
Barbara Puglisi  
Helen Puglisi  
Anna Nesbitt  
Nana Toussaint  
Pat Miller  
Ashly Treszkowski  
Zoranida Martinez  
Kay & Carmen Falco  
Joan & Bernie McGaheran

## *Who created the first nativity scene? A beloved saint brought us this most beloved Christmas tradition.*

*Every year, one of your favorite Advent traditions is probably setting up your Nativity set.*

*Perhaps your nativity is made of wood, or silver, or china, or simple plastic; maybe you put it on the mantelpiece, or in the center of the dining room table. Many of us have a large one that we place outdoors so that passers-by can enjoy it; we might also have a tiny one that we place by our bedside to remind ourselves of the reason for the Christmas season.*

*We keep the Baby Jesus hidden away, ready to place Him in the manger on Christmas morning.*

*The three Kings are placed in a different part of the house; they will arrive on Epiphany and not before.*

*Devout citizens place Nativity scenes in public places, at state capitols, in parks, to bring the light of Christmas to their fellow-men. They fight to keep Christ in the public square even as others try to remove Him. This year, after all the struggle, 40 states have a Nativity scene in or at their capitol building.*

*But who invented the Nativity scene?*

*It was a deacon in Italy in the 13th century, who had a special love for the Child Jesus. He hatched a plan to inspire this same love in the townspeople.*

*In a cave near the town, he set up a manger and brought a real ox and donkey to play their part. He invited the people to Midnight Mass at the cave, and they came, the forest ringing with song and bright with candlelight. After chanting the Gospel, the deacon preached a sermon about the Babe of Bethlehem, whose name he could not utter for sheer love. He kept the manger empty, since the Child had not arrived yet. But one man—a holy citizen and former soldier who was a friend of the deacon—said that he saw, in the manger, a beautiful, radiant Child. He witnessed the deacon gathering this Child devoutly in his arms.*

*Of course, the deacon was none other than St. Francis of Assisi, and this is the story of the first Nativity scene, as related by St. Bonaventure in his biography of the saint. Bonaventure also relates that the hay from that first crèche was saved by the townspeople in attendance and that it miraculously cured ailing cattle.*

*When we put our Nativity sets out this Christmas, we are continuing a tradition that started nearly 800 years ago, in 1223.*



## Thank You!

Thank you to all who donated to the wonderful array of Poinsettias to decorate our beautiful Church!

We would like to also give a big thank you to all the hard working volunteers who took time out of their busy holiday schedules to help clean and decorate for the Christmas Season. Fr. Richard, Monsignor & the Rectory Staff are truly blessed to be surrounded with such wonderful Volunteers, not just the Holiday Season but everyday!



### All in the Family

*At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.*

*But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.*

*You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?*

*The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?*

*Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?*

*We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.*

### Question:

I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

### Answer:

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

*The Christmas star symbolizes the star of Bethlehem, which according to the Biblical story, guided the three kings, or wise men, to the baby Jesus. The star is also the heavenly sign of a prophecy fulfilled long ago and the shining hope for humanity.*



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