Easter Sunday
April 16, 2017

When Christ your life appears,
then you too will appear with him in glory.
~ Colossians 3:4
Masses for the Week

**Holy Saturday**  
April 15  
8:00pm  **Easter Vigil Mass**  Michael Acuba

**Easter Sunday**  
April 16  
6:30am Coopers Pond—Ecumenical service  
7:30 People of the Parish  
9:00 Vincent & Gloria Rose  
10:30 Rose Johnston  
11:00 (Conlon Hall) Sally D. Lee (mother & daughter)  
12:00 pm Dec’d of Fernandez & Itzkowitz Family

**Monday**  
April 17  
7:00 Janice Bernadette Lim  
9:00 Kurian Uthuppan (25th Anniversary)

**Tuesday**  
April 18  
7:00 Julieta Flores & Alfonso Bautista  
9:00 Theresa Ballway  
7:30 pm Enriquez Family

**Wednesday**  
April 19  
7:00 Alfred Klein  
9:00 Marie McKenna  
7:30 pm Francisco dela Peña  
9:00 Frank Wisniewski

**Thursday**  
April 20  
7:00 Rebecca dela Peña  
9:00 Frank Wisniewski  
7:30 pm Francisco J. Pérez

**Friday**  
April 21  
7:00 Leroy Young  
9:00 Tom Edwards  
7:30 pm Sp. Int.-Deacon Jim Detura

**Saturday**  
April 22  
7:00 Dorothea Verga  
9:00 Isabel Vinces  
5:30 pm Margaret (Peg) Horni  
7pm(Spanish)  Juan DeJesus Gomez

**Sunday**  
April 23  
7:30 People of the Parish  
9:00 Roger Tiu & Jovita Demesa  
10:30 Shirley A. Sanders  
11:00 (Chapel) Nella & Bruna Ferrari  
12:00 pm Protection of Babies in the Womb  
12:30 pm (Spanish) Pablo Acevedo

Celebrant/Preaching Schedule

**Saturday, April 22, 2017**  
5:30pm  Fr. Gustavo  7:00 (Spanish)  Fr. Jonathan

**Sunday, April 23, 2017**  
7:30am  Fr. Gustavo  9:00am  Fr. Ray  
10:30am  Fr. Jesus  12noon  Fr. Jonathan  
Lower Church  
11:00am  Fr. Ray  12:30pm (Spanish)  Fr. Gustavo

Readings for the Week

**Monday:**  
Act 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; Mt 28:8-15

**Tuesday:**  
Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; Jn 20:11-18

**Wednesday:**  
Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Lk 24: 13-35

**Thursday:**  
Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2, 5-9; Lk 24:35-48

**Friday:**  

**Saturday:**  
Acts 4: 13-21; Ps 118: 1-14, 21; Mk 16:9-15

**Sunday:**  
Acts 2: 42-47; Ps 118: 2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20: 19-31

St. John’s Overnight Eucharistic Adoration

First Friday of the month (May 5th), overnight Eucharistic Adoration will be held in the Notre Dame Chapel of the Parish Life Center, from 9:00pm to 7:00am. Sign up sheet is available at the church main entrance.

Divine Mercy Novena —ALL ARE INVITED!

9 - Days Novena beginning on Good Friday, April 14th after the rosary procession at 9:00am at Englewood Abortion Clinic. Novena will continue each day at 2:30pm in the main church until Saturday, April 22nd.

**Divine Mercy Sunday,** April 23rd, Service will be held at 2:30pm - main church. Guest Speaker - Fr. Teo Layosa

Pilgrimage … Divine Mercy Sunday

To the National Shrine of Divine Mercy  
Stockbridge, Mass – Sunday, April 23, 2017

**Bus leaves** church parking lot at 7:00am SHARP! Returning approximately at 8:00pm. **Cost per person is $40.00**

For information/reservation call Sollie T. Wheeler at 201-384-4928. **Deadline for reservation is April 16th, 2017.**

Special Needs Masses and Meetings

The monthly Inclusive Family Mass (May 7th) ~ 1st Sunday of the month at 1:30pm, in the main church.

**Dads’ Support Group** ~ Meeting, Wednesday, April 19 at 7:30pm in the Gathering Room of Parish Life Center.

**Moms’ Support Group** ~ Meeting on “Grieving”: Wednesday, April 26 at 7:30pm, in the Gathering Room of Parish Life Center.

For more information, please contact Rosemarie Flood - Director of Religious Education at 201-384-3601.

St. John’s Filipino Apostolate

**Filipino Mass** ~ 1st Sunday of the month (May 7th), 5:30pm, Main Church.

**Filipino Apostolate Meeting** ~ 2nd Monday of the month, (May 8th), 8:15pm, Parish Life Center basement.

Rice Bowls - If you have not already done so, please return your Rice Bowl donation to the Rectory as soon as possible. Thank you for your generous support!
Pastor’s Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of all our priests, deacon, and parish staff,
I wish you all a Very Happy Easter! May the Risen Lord fill us all with His Joy and His Peace!

+++ The Quinto Encuentro (The Fifth Encounter), is a periodical program initiated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to request from all Catholics of Hispanic origin their thoughts and ideas on how the Catholic Church in the United States can best serve them. In another 20 years, it is estimated that half of the Catholic population in the U.S. will be Hispanic. Also, many more recent arrivals are steered to Pentecostal sects and other churches which provide more personalized service. While much good is happening at St. John’s, there is always room for improvement. When the call goes out soon to join in a series of 5 small group listening sessions, I hope many members of our Hispanic community will come forward to participate!

+++ Our pledge total for our Archdiocesan Sharing God’s Blessings Annual Appeal is now at $67,847.00 from 113 parishioners or priests, which is over 65% of our parish goal of $103,809.00. Every parish family is asked to make a pledge which will benefit both our parish and our archdiocese. Letters directly from the Archdiocese will come after Easter, but you can also use the forms available in church, which can either be returned to the rectory or mailed directly to the Archdiocese. Won’t you help our parish with this year’s Appeal?

Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Arnhols, Pastor

Reflection on Today’s Readings

The women had come to pay their last respects to the teacher who had changed their lives. It was dawn on the first day of the week when they came to the tomb. Matthew’s account does not tell us why they came; perhaps they planned to hold a day-long vigil there.

What perhaps started as a pious exercise, however, was soon changed. God’s presence became evident—Matthew wrote of an earthquake and an angel who rolled the stone from in front of Jesus’ tomb. The angel instructed the women to tell the apostles what they had seen and heard. Afraid, yet filled with joy, the two Marys ran to the disciples to proclaim Jesus’ resurrection from the dead.

The women were joyful because they had just seen the risen Lord. At the same time, they were fearful, partly because they have been called to proclaim a truth that they knew might be rejected. Their response was not unlike our own when we experience the wonder of God, but are hesitant to speak of it for fear of what people might think. Despite their concern, the women carried out the angel’s instruction because the work of God in them was greater than their fear.

The story of the two women shows how much impact a simple honest witness can have. The Jewish priests and elders had concocted a story to explain away the resurrection of Jesus. One might suspect that the story of the religious officials would be more credible than the word of two simple Jewish women (especially since their testimony could be discounted under rabbinic law). Indeed, we might wonder why Jesus did not pick someone who could better shape the popular opinions of the day.

God had a better plan, and the two women were part of it. The testimony of the two Marys—and that of all the other witnesses to the truth of Jesus—won the day. Christianity outlived the Roman empire—and every empire since—all because witnesses to the truth like these two women have responded to God and faithfully proclaimed what they have seen.

“Lord Jesus, give us the courage to follow the Spirit’s lead, and to share Your work in us. May the joy of advancing Your kingdom overcome our fear, shyness, lack of confidence, or expectations of rejection. Help us to share Your love.”

Stewardship: Sharing our Time, Talent, and Treasure!

“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” Colossians 3:2
Do you put God first in all things? Possessions, money, power, ego can easily become gods to many of us. Do a quick check of what is important to you. Is God at the very top of the list? If not, your priorities need to be re-adjusted. Don’t let earthly things become a god before God.


Have you considered electronic giving for your Sunday offerings? Go to our Parish Website www.sjrc.org and click on the “Parish Giving” link.
Sacraments

Penance - Monday-Friday: 7:00pm-7:20pm. Saturday: 1:00pm -2:00pm, and immediately following the 5:30pm Mass by request, or by appointment with a priest at any time.

Baptisms are normally held the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of each month at 1:30pm.* Instructions for parents are normally held the 1st Sunday of each month at 1:30pm in the basement of the Parish Life Center. These instructions are required of parents having their first child Baptized. All parents must be registered parishioners and present child’s birth certificate at the time of arranging for the baptism. Godparents must be practicing Catholics, at least sixteen years of age, who have received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, and, if married, the Sacrament of Matrimony. Sponsor certificate must be presented at least one week before Baptism.

PLEASE NOTE! We are accepting registrations for Baptisms for May and beyond. Please call the Rectory at 201-384-0101 for information.

Matrimony - Arrangements for a wedding should be made at least one year in advance. Couples are required to attend Pre-Cana and God’s Plan. Please contact one of the priests, 201-384-0101.

St. John’s Prayer Groups

Santo Niño Healing Prayer Ministry ~ An Outreach Healing Prayer Service for Abused Children, Adult Survivors, and the Chronically-ill, led by a priest or a deacon.

Meets every 1st Friday of the month, 7-9pm - upper church and every 3rd Friday of the month, 8-9:30pm in the Santo Niño Healing Prayer Room, Parish Life Center.

Charismatic Prayer Group - Meets each Friday evening 8pm-10pm in the Santo Niño Healing Prayer Room, Parish Life Center (upper Church on 1st Friday for Holy Hour.)

Legion of Mary - Meets each Saturday, 9:30am-11:00am in the Lower Church (Eng.); Sundays 1:45-3:15pm PLC (Span.).

Padre Pio Prayer Group - Meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month, 3-4pm in the Lower Church. Coffee hour follows 4-5pm.

Spanish Prayer Group - Meets each Thursday evening, 7:30pm-9:30pm in the Lower Church.

Tienda Del Encuentro Group - Meets each Tuesday evening, 7:30pm-9:30pm in the Parish Life Center Basement.

Jóvenes de Jesús Prayer Group - Meets every Friday evening, 7:30pm-9:30pm in the Parish Life Center. For more information, please contact website: www.jovenesdejesus.org.

St. John’s Youth Group - Meets on Sundays and Tuesdays, 7:00pm-9:00pm, Youth Room, lower church.

Prayers for the Dead

Please remember Peter J. Byrne and Florence Petrocelli in your prayers.

St. John’s Bereavement Ministry

For anyone who is experiencing or having difficulties dealing with the loss of a loved one, whenever the loss occurred, we are here to help you. If you need or wish to talk, or are interested in becoming part of this ministry to the bereaved, please call Fr. Ray, 201-384-0101.

For the Spanish-speaking, please call Delia, 201-387-8420.

Remembrance Plaque - If a loved one passed away and a Funeral Mass was held here at St. John’s, please call Fr. Ray at 201-384-0101 to request the name plate.

Support Groups for Parents Grieving the Death of a Child

Groups meet year ’round. There is no pre-registration and no fee. All meetings begin at 7:30pm.

1st Wednesday of the month (May 7th) ~ St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Center, 60 Byrd Ave., Bloomfield, NJ.
3rd Monday of the month, April 17th ~ St. Peter the Apostle Parish Center, 445 Fifth Ave., River Edge, NJ.

Pre-registration is requested. Call the Office of Family Life Ministries at 973-497-4327 for registration/information.

*** 30th Annual Liturgy***

To support the needs of grieving parents, the Office of Family Life Ministries offers an annual liturgy for those who have suffered the death of a child. Parents, their families and friends are invited to the 30th Annual Liturgy to be held on:

* Friday, May 12, 2017 at 7:30pm
  * Notre Dame RC Church
  * 359 Central Avenue, North Caldwell, NJ

A personal witness will also be offered as the name of each child is read during the Mass.

Pre-registration is requested. Please contact Lauren Egan at 1-973-497-4327 or eganlaur@rcan.org.

Memorial Fund/Special Intention

We are offering weekly memorial/special intention opportunities for the altar wine and communion hosts used at Mass, the sanctuary candle, and flowers for the altar. Please fill out a request form, available at the rectory. The memorial items will be listed in the appropriate week’s bulletin.

Week of April 15 - 22

Altar Flowers: Easter Flowers - Many Parishioner Donations
Sanctuary Candle: In Loving Memory of: William Folli
Requested by: Family

Altar Bread: In Loving Memory of: William Folli
Requested by: Family

Altar Wine: In Loving Memory of: Deceased Members ~ Fernandez and Irzowitz Family
Requested by: Lori Fernandez

Devotions ~ Novena - Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wednesday Evenings, 7:00pm, upper church.
Holy Hour and Benediction - First Friday of every month at 5pm, upper church, in English; Last Thursday of every month at 8:00pm, lower church, in Spanish.
Rosary - Monday through Saturday 8:30am, upper church.
Pastoral Visit of our new Archbishop, Cardinal Joseph Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Cardinal Tobin has advised that he will be making a pastoral visit to our Deanery on Monday, May 1st, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. He will first have a dinner meeting with the priests of the deanery, then offer a Bilingual Mass at 7:30pm for all the people of our parishes who come, and conclude with a town hall meeting to hear people’s thoughts and concerns. This will all be held at St. Peter the Apostle Church in River Edge, the parish of our Dean, Fr. Michael Sheehan. Due to this gathering, we will NOT have Confessions and Mass here on Monday evening, May 1st. Please come to this Mass and meeting with Cardinal Tobin. Our annual May Crowning will take place here on Monday, May 8th.

Affected by the Disease of Alcoholism?
A special Mass and Support Group meeting for all who are affected by the disease of alcoholism will take place at Church of St. Mary, 20 Legion Place, Closter, NJ on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 12:00 Noon.
Mass is offered for the support, healing and recovery of not only the man/woman directly affected with the abuse of alcohol or drugs, but also for anyone involved in the life of the alcoholic or drug addict. For information call 201-768-7565.

Fr. Jim McKenna Memorial Fund
11th Annual Beefsteak Dinner and Reverse Raffle
$35.00 per person ~ all you can eat beefsteak dinner.
$50.00 ~ if you wish to purchase a raffle ticket.
Tickets/information ~ please call St. Mary’s Church at 201-768-7565.

St. John’s Respect Life Ministry
Spiritual Adoption Program
You are invited to join us in this prayer campaign lasting for 9 months (December 8, 2016 until September 8, 2017). You name and pray every day for one baby who is in danger of abortion. Prayer cards are available at the exits of the church. Call Mary, 201-385-8308 for information.

Four Month Developing Baby ~
Well, your little baby now weighs 6 ounces. He/she has fingernails and eyelashes. Your baby has his/her own unique fingerprints which will remain unchanged throughout his/her life. Your baby’s tastebuds are working and sense of hearing is present at 14 weeks. There are no major bodily developments anymore. Your spiritually adopted baby is already well-formed, internally and externally. All he/she needs now is time to gain weight and grow strong.

St. John’s Religious Education
There are no regular classes April 9th - 18th.
Religious Education Office will be closed April 13th - 17th.
For more information, call the Religious Education Office at 201-384-3601.

Reminder!
St. John’s Cornerstone Weekends
Men’s Cornerstone Weekend ~ April 28-29, 2017
Women’s Cornerstone Weekend ~ June 16-17, 2017
Brochures and flyers are at the exits of the church with more information and registration form.

If you prefer, you can contact:
Drew Greis, 201-385-9207 or Joe Jordan, 201-873-2972 for Men’s Weekend.
Mary, 201-384-0488 or Raquel at rterron51@gmail.com for Women’s Weekend.

“Bingo & Baskets” ~ April 27
St. Joseph in Oradell invites you to their Bingo and Basket fundraiser for St. Joseph in Jersey City on Thursday, April 27 in the St. Joseph Lower School Gym, 305 Elm St., Oradell. The doors will open at 6pm and bingo will begin at 7pm. Tickets are only $25 and include admission, bingo cards with dauber, coffee, tea, soda and desserts. Prizes include 15 beautiful designer handbags from Vera Bradley, Coach, and more. There will also be a Tricky Tray, Door Prizes, and a 50-50 Raffle. Seating is guaranteed with advanced paid reservations. SEATING IS LIMITED. Please call Joanne Hudes at 201-261-6810 to reserve tickets for an amazing night out.
The Faculty, Staff and Students of Transfiguration Academy Wish All a Happy and Blessed Easter!  
School will reopen after Easter break on Monday, April 24th

Tuition Raffle ~ Do you or someone you know have tuition bills to pay? Buy a raffle ticket - you could win a prize to help pay that tuition bill. First prize is $2500, 2nd prize is $1500 and 3rd prize $1000 - payable to any accredited school/institution of the winner’s choice. Each ticket is $5.00 and can be purchased at the school office during school hours. The drawing will be held on May 6th at 8:00pm in Conlon Hall.

Registration for the 2017/18 School Year ~ Registration continues for grades Pk-7.
Transfiguration Academy invites you to see why our students excel both in and outside of the classroom. Any interested student is encourage to spend a day at the Academy to experience firsthand the school’s strong academics and faith-filled community.

Transfiguration Academy is located at 10 Bradley Avenue in Bergenfield
For more information or to schedule a visit or a tour of the school, email principal@transfigurationacademy.org or call 201-384-3627.
Please visit our website at transfigurationacademy.org and follow us on Facebook.

Tickets Are On Sale
Spaghettini Dinner with Tricky Tray
Hosted by: The Lions Club of Bergenfield
and Boy Scout Troop 139
Friday, May 5, 2017 ~ 5:00pm - 8:30pm
St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church
385 Ivy Lane, Bergenfield, NJ
Proceeds will benefit: Charitable Works, Scholarships for Graduating High School Seniors, Educational Programs as well as Summer Camp Scholarships.
Tickets Cost: $10.00 Adults ~ $5.00 Children (6-12)
Children (under 5) FREE
Joe Verga, Lions Club of Bergenfield
201-247-2016/jverga@verizon.net
Diana Valencia, parents of Boy Scout Troop 139-Bergenfield
201-446-0355/ssjsbnj@gmail.com

Presentation on Threats to Freedom of Religion in Contemporary US Society
At Our Lady of Victories, Harrington Park, NJ
Monday, April 24th, 2017 ~ 7:30pm
“Religious freedom is not only that of private thought or worship. It is the liberty to live, both privately and publicly, according to the ethical principles resulting from found truth”. (Pope Francis I ~ June 20, 2014)

Presenter: Joseph Kuhns, Former FBI Agent
If Religious Liberty is important to not only you, but also and more importantly to your children and grandchildren, and you wish to explore this issue, please come to a meeting of similarly interested individuals. At this meeting you will learn about the ever-increasing loss of respect for religiously motivated public discourse and action in contemporary society. You will hear about the extent of the assault on Religious Liberty in schools at all levels, by government at all levels, and in our country’s military.

St. John’s Knights of Columbus
Council 1345
Special Children Dance and Show ~ Our annual dinner and talent show to benefit local special needs agencies will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 7:00pm to 11:00pm. Join us for a latin inspired menu of assorted appetizers, tossed salad, roasted half chicken, spanish rice, vegetables, chocolate fudge cake, and beverages, as well as our “Love Boat’s First Cruise to Havana” talent show. The evening includes music and entertainment throughout. Cost is $35 per person, and all proceeds will go to special needs agencies. RSVP REQUIRED. To make a reservation call or text Ken A. at: 516-220-9333 or email us at kofc1345reservations@gmail.com.

Council Scholarships ~ Applications and eligibility rules for 8th Graders attending a Catholic High School in September and for High School Seniors attending a 4 year College or University in September are available on the Council website www.kofc1345.org, for the child or grandchild of a member in good standing for at least one year. Children and grandchildren of deceased members remain eligible. Deadline: April 30th.

Upcoming Events
Sunday, April 30th ~ Corporate Communion at St. Mary’s Church, Dumont
Friday, May 5th ~ Cinco de Mayo Social
Saturday, May 13th ~ Sock Hop Scholarship Benefit
Sunday, May 14th ~ Mother’s Day Brunch
All events are held at the Council Hall, 61 Armour Place, Dumont, NJ—unless otherwise noted.

Hall Renting & Catering ~ Planning a party soon? Call Matt Connell at 201-387-7187, email kofcrentals@gmail.com or check our website: www.kofc1345.org. The hall is available with or without catering.
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