

The Parish of St. Pio of Pietrelcina

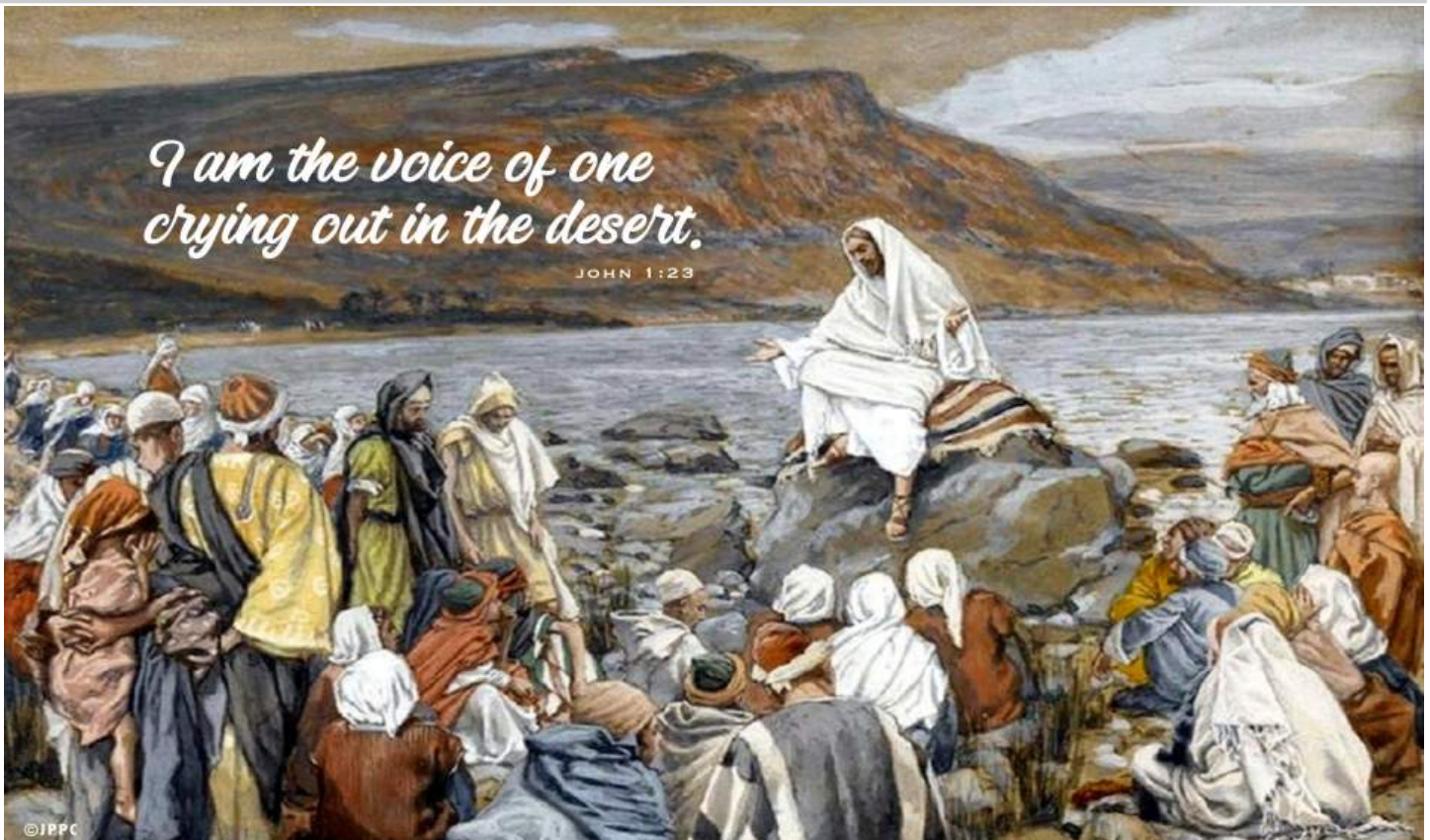
103 Washington Avenue, Lavallette, NJ 08735

Phone: 732-793-7291 Fax: 732-793-8204

Web: www.stpioparish.com E-mail: office@stpioparish.com

December 17, 2023

Gaudete Sunday - Third Sunday of Advent



Our Parish is Served by:

Rev. Fr. Joseph Hlubik, Pastor

Rev. Fr. Joy Chacko, Parochial Vicar

Assisting Priests:

Rev. Monsignor Phil Franceschini

Pastoral and Support Staff:

Marta Barkhausen, Business Manager
Finance, Facilities & Wedding Coordinator,
x322

John Paglione, Director of Liturgy, Lay
Ministries & Catechesis 732-899-1398, x5

Joyce Kobylarz, Ministries Coordinator
973-714-6797

Caroline Woodrow, Director of Music, x315

Parish Secretaries:

Connie Barraco x316

Laura Bierster x321

Pat Kevish x301

Office Hours: Mon. - Wed., 9am - 2pm

Mass Schedule

Monday - Saturday: 8:30am Chapel

Saturday (Vigil): 4:00pm Church

Sunday: 7:30 (no music), 9:00 & 10:30am Church

Confession: Saturday 3 - 3:30pm or by appointment



Saturday, December 16, 2023

8:30am For Our Parish Families & Their Loved Ones, both Living & Deceased

Vigil

4:00pm Joan Dygon r/b Dygon Family
4:00pm Florence Facchina r/b Gary & Gerry Adams

Sunday, December 17, 2023

7:30am For the People of the Parish

9:00am Gerald Peden r/b Ferdinando Forcellati
9:00am Robert & Florence Tynski r/b Son
9:00am Maria Borrello r/b Neil & Michele Bickford

10:30am Bill Smith r/b Greg & Mary Buontempo
10:30am Beatrice Guenter r/b Daniel Erwin

Monday, December 18, 2023

8:30am Robert & Florence Tynski r/b Son
8:30am Patrick J. Glynn r/b Laura & Greg Bierster

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

8:30am A Personal Thanksgiving r/b Mary Shaffer
8:30am John Champeau r/b Bert & Mary Brady

After Mass **Miraculous Medal Novena**

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

8:30am Dorothy Berdel r/b Daughter
8:30am Jillian Ludwig r/b Dianne Hayden

Thursday, December 21, 2023

8:30am Albert Berdel r/b Daughter
8:30am Annette & Santo Tavormina r/b Connie Barraco

After 8:30am Mass **Divine Mercy Chaplet**

Friday, December 22, 2023

8:30am Mary Murphy
8:30am Margaret Petranich r/b Frank Petranich

After Mass **Adoration & Benediction - 20 min.**

Saturday, December 23, 2023

8:30am For Our Parish Families & Their Loved Ones, both Living & Deceased

Vigil

4:00pm Intentions of Fr. Doug Freer r/b Antonette Daniels
4:00pm Veronica McGowan r/b Niece, Gerry

Sunday, December 24, 2023

7:30am For the People of the Parish Living & Deceased

9:00am For the People of the Parish Living & Deceased

10:30am For the People of the Parish Living & Deceased

Christmas Eve Vigil

4:00pm For the People of the Parish Living & Deceased

Healing:

Fr. Douglas Freer, The Filippini Religious Teachers in Rome, Albania & Ethiopia, Nick Lettas, Mary Anne Grandinetti, Mary Buontempo, Pat McCourt, Maureen Burrell, Baby Landon Wierks, Ginny & Emil Stefanacci, Jim Tavormina, Mike Rodriguez, Nicholas Meola, Joe Romano, Alan Kurinovich, Tommy Traina, Eddie McCrabb, Gina Kwornik, Joseph Winchock, Antonette Daniels, Janet Daniels, Vince Covello, Kathy Connelly, Michael Garcia, Eileen Carroll, Judi Pecoraro, Amina Gaban, Peter Barkhausen, Kathy Diffley, Maegan Highman, Pam McClellan, Shannon Finnegan Cook, for all who have received Prayer Blankets & for All the Sick of the Parish

(Names will remain on the healing prayer list for 4 weeks; please call the parish office if you wish to extend).



Deceased: *Arline Daley*

Our Heroes: All our parishioners and friends who are serving in the Military, as well as our Police, Firefighters, First Responders, and all who are put in harm's way for our protection,



especially:

Capt. Tyler Urban, U.S. Marine Corps.
(deployed)

Lance Cpl. Jack Balwierczak,
U.S. Marine Corps.

Private 1st Class Jason Rodriguez, U. S. Army



The Colors of Advent

The use of colors to differentiate ritual seasons is common in the Western church, and the Advent season is no exception. To northerners, Advent coincides with a time of year when the sun is low, snow is in the air, and nature's spare palette pairs well with the austere darkness of this liminal time. One need only experience a winter forest at dusk to appreciate the blue blush of snow, the pink wash of the evening sky, or the black and white of a dormant birch cluster to see through a more minimalist lens. It is the perfect setting to prepare oneself for the great spiritual emptying that is Advent.

While it is easy for those who live in winter climates to associate the colors of Advent with nature's winter palette, there is more to the story behind Advent's blues, purples, whites and pinks. As you'll see, the symbolic use of these colors transcends nature or climate. One need not reside in a winter setting to appreciate their rich meaning.



PURPLE OR BLUE?

Purple (or violet) has traditionally been the primary color of Advent. It is the color of royalty and the sovereignty of Christ. The presence of purple demonstrates the anticipation of the coming King. Since purple is also the color of penitence and fasting, it has become the primary color of Lent as well. Thus, blue is often used during Advent as a means of distinguishing Advent from Lent.

While blue may also be seen as a color of royalty, it offers additional layered meaning. It signifies the color of the night sky which provides the backdrop for the Star of Bethlehem. Blue also suggests the waters of the new creation in Genesis 1. The symbolic meaning of blue deepens considerably when one considers the role of the Virgin Mary in the Advent tradition. In Christian art, Mary is traditionally portrayed in blue, a color which during the time of the Byzantine Empire (around 500 AD) was known as "the color of an empress."

Today, we take color for granted. For artists and designers, it costs no more to use blue in a web or print graphic than it does to use yellow or green. In Medieval and Renaissance times, however, some colors were beyond the reach of most artists. Pigments used to produce the color blue were produced from lapis lazuli, a stone imported from Persia with a value that surpassed gold. In fact, it was the responsibility of the patrons of art, not the artists, to cover the costs of using colors like blue and gold because the artist could not afford them. Paintings, then, that swathed Mary in gowns of blue were an expression of profound glorification and devotion.

PINK (OR ROSE)

The color pink finds its meaning during the third week of Advent, which begins with *Gaudete Sunday*. To be true to the color, it is more correctly referred to as *rose* rather than *pink*. Think of it as the color of joy. The color rose represents the beginning of the transition from darkness to light and a turning away from penance to celebration, a foretaste of the coming Christmas celebrations. Thus, the term *Gaudete*, which refers both to *rejoicing* and *enjoyment*.

WHITE

Culturally, white is the *non-color*. It is the blank canvas, the unused sheet of paper, the wall ready to be adorned with art. It represents emptiness and space, waiting to be filled. Yet, it is no accident that the fifth candle of the Advent wreath, the Christ candle, is pure white and positioned in the center.

Advent white represents divine purity, virginity, innocence, light, and birth. In the night sky, white is the color of the stars. Advent white is the symbol of a sinless, spotless cosmic Christ as pure savior. In the human visual spectrum, the presence of all colors layered together results in their being *washed out* to nothing but white.

White is the *eschatological* color of Advent, a color somewhat outside of our rational assumptions of white as a non-color. Eschatology is concerned with the final coming, the Advent of humanity's ultimate destiny. The white of Advent is the coming of radiant light into a cold, dark and dying world. Those who enter into this cosmic story are said to be *washed* of their sins and made whiter than the fallen snow.

INTO THE DEEP DARK

So, while the colors of Advent are indeed echoed by the colors of winter, may these colors be a reminder to us that we are a ritual people, and that ritual symbols are kept vital only as long as we celebrate them and keep them alive. The colors of Advent point to poignant mysteries and sacred meaning that is too easily forgotten in our commercial build-up to Christmas. Advent is a return to a season in which we light candles to consecrate the deep dark that so many others may eschew. It is the time when white becomes color, and pink exudes joy. May your Advent be blue in all the best ways.

Thank You for your Support!!

Contributions Weekend 12/10/23	This Past Week	Same week Last Year
At Church	\$4,216	\$6,749
Online	\$1,522	\$1,065
Total	\$5,738	\$7,814



Please consider giving Online with our safe, secure Parish Giving program. It is very easy to sign up, just scan the QR code (use the camera on your phone) or visit the parish website.

Contributions Weekend	Past Week	Same Week 2022
TOTALS ONLY		
11/12/23	\$ 6,760	\$ 6,522
11/19/23	\$ 6,556	\$ 6,322
11/26/23	\$ 5,628	\$ 6,016



The Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 23 4:00pm Vigil
 Sunday, December 24 7:30, 9:00, & 10:30 am
 Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve 4:00 pm Vigil
 Monday, December 25 Christmas Day 9:00 & 10:30 am
 Saturday, December 30 4:00pm Vigil
 Sunday, December 31 7:30, 9:00, & 10:30 am
 Monday, January 1, 2024 New Year's Day 8:30 am (in the Chapel)
 (Not a Holy Day of Obligation)

GOD OF LOVE AND LIFE FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT



"Do not quench the Spirit. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil." 2 Thessalonians 5:19

In today's world there is no shortage of evil; abortion, euthanasia, child trafficking, perversion. The list seems endless. To their shame the media and politicians seem to glory in evil and attempt to normalize it.

The Lord tells us to exam carefully what appears to be good and meritorious. Reject Satan and avoid his snares. Reject the temptations of the flesh and the false promises of the world.

Do you know that abortion raises breast cancer risk by 40%. (National Cancer Institute)

Embrace God, Walk in His Light, Have a Holy Life



Oplatki Wafers Available

The family-centered tradition of sharing Oplatki before the Christmas Eve meal is a wonderful celebration of love and forgiveness that has its origins in Poland. Family members and guests each break a piece of the wafer and share it with the next person at the table along with an expression of love, blessing and sometimes, forgiveness. In America, it is often referred to as "Christmas Wafers." Each package includes 3 white wafers, 1 pink wafer and pamphlet with prayers and an explanation of this Christmas tradition. If you'd like to have some, please call the parish office or see an usher after Mass for a Christmas Wafer pack.

The staff of St. Pio Parish wish you and your loved ones a very joyful and blessed Christmas. We pray for peace in our world, nation, homes and hearts. And may the New Year be a happy and healthy one.



God's blessings to all.
ENJOY!!

In celebration of our Lord's birthday, the parish office will be closed on Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES



The Holy Name Society of the Parish of St. Pio Presents New Years Eve Gala



Featuring
Off-R-Rockerz

Sunday, December 31, 2023
Doors Open at 8:00pm
Music & Dancing from 9:00pm - 12:30am
St. Pio Parish Hall
Rt. 35N. & Philadelphia Ave.
Lavallette, NJ
\$25. pp Includes: Party Favors, Coffee, Dessert,
Soda & Water
Checks made out to: St. Pio Holy Name Society
BYO - Food & Drink

For Further Information & Tickets Call:

Gary 908-672-6710
John 732-259-3577
Tom 732-995-0044

A Christmas Prayer

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." - Luke 2:10

Beneath the light of a star, in a manger filled with hay, behold the Lord of the Universe!

You come to us not leading an army, but humble and small; You come to us not wielding power, but helpless and cold; You come to us not wealthy and famous, but poor and obscure.

Help us, Lord Jesus, to see You on this, and every day in the street, and in our neighborhoods, in the hungry and the poor, in the lonely and deprived, in the infants and the elderly, and in each other,

Like the shepherds led by the star, may we seek You daily, and serve You fully, for love alone. Amen

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The beauty of Christmas is not in the presents but in His Presence. Matthew 1:23

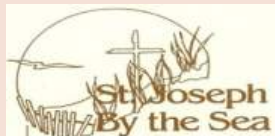
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CURRENT BROCHURE CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE – www.sjbsea.org



February 14, 2024 – ASH WEDNESDAY RETREAT - Ever wish you could receive more out of Lent? Explore the three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and alms giving as we carve out our Lenten plans. Lunch and Eucharistic Liturgy with distribution of ashes included. Arrival: 9:00 a.m./Departure: 2:30 p.m. (Presenter: Janice Santanello, M.Th., CLEM, CSG, CPC) Cost: \$60

March 19, 2024 – HONORING ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER - In honor of our patron St. Joseph, the staff cordially invites you to join us at Eucharistic Liturgy as we celebrate this special day. We will pray for peace and healing for ourselves and for our world. Please call to register by March 15. **SPACE WILL BE LIMITED TO 40 PEOPLE.** Refreshments and Blessed Bread after the program. Arrival: 10:30 a.m. Mass: 11:00 a.m./Departure: 1:00 p.m. (Presenters: Staff) Donation

April 19-21, 2024 - RESTORE AND RENEW - Relax and renew at the beautiful St. Joseph by the Sea retreat house at the Jersey shore. The weekend is the ideal getaway from a busy life. The program consists of daily gentle yoga, mediation, walks on the beach, fellowship and breath work. You will leave refreshed and better prepared to share your best self with your family and community. Massage therapy will be available. Eucharistic Liturgy included. No Supper on Friday. Arrival: 5:00-6:00 p.m./Departure: 10:30 a.m. (Presenter: Avita Kennedy, RYT) Cost: \$375

April 26-28, 2024 - SPENDING TIME WITH MARY - We all have busy lives. Come and set aside the distractions and spend the weekend with Mary, our Mother. She will guide us to renew and transform our faith life to trust, as she trusts, to serve, as she serves. Mary is our greatest example to learn how to respond to God's call with love, gratitude, and faith. Eucharistic Liturgy included. No Supper on Friday. Arrival: 6:00-6:30 p.m./Departure: 11:00 a.m. (Presenter: Ellen Murphy, CSD, AS & Kathy Rivera, RN) Cost: \$400

May 3-5, 2024 - THE SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES OF THE TWELVE STEPS - Women working a Twelve-Step recovery program are invited to seek the spiritual freedom needed to go about making decisions in our daily lives. This weekend will include spiritual practices and prayer exercises to aid in making life's choices with clarity and confidence. St. Ignatian of Loyola's approach to decision making and discernment will be interwoven with the spiritual principles of the Twelve Steps. Eucharistic Liturgy included. No Supper on Friday. Arrival: 5:00-6:00 p.m./Departure: 1:00 p.m. (Presenter: Maryallyn Black, MPH, M.Ed.) Cost: \$400
Please call St. Joseph by the Sea at 732-892-8494 to register or for additional information.



Knights of Columbus

You are invited to join a community of like-minded Catholic men who share their faith, hands, hearts, and prayers, providing support and communing with each other. You can also bring your families along and get to know other members. Membership is FREE to join online, and you can request to join anytime. Merry Christmas!



The Altar Bread and Wine, for the month of December, have been donated in loving memory of **Maureen Quinn**, requested by Francis Quinn.

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All programs can be completed remotely. Master of Arts or a Graduate Certificate in Theology, with concentrations in Pastoral Ministry or Mercy Spirituality. Not sure? Take one or two classes on a non-matriculating basis to see if our programs are right for you. Generous financial aid available. New semester begins January 16, 2024. There is still time to apply. Contact department chair Johann M. Vento for more information: jvento@georgian.edu. We look forward to getting to know you and talking about your interest in studying theology.

Christmas – Epiphany Day of Prayer

Saturday, January 6th, 2024 9am - 2:30pm
St. Peter the Apostle Church, Pt. Pleasant Beach

You are cordially invited to celebrate the 12th day of Christmas in a day of reflection, as we pray for world peace and the challenge to bring the message of the GOSPEL to all the Nations! This year, marks the 800th anniversary of *the Christmas Creche* in Greccio, Italy through the eyes of Francis of Assisi.

from the Franciscans with love!

9 :00 Registration & Hospitality
9: 20 Welcome
9: 30 Morning Prayer
9:45 First Session - "*Greccio, A New Bethlehem!*"
11:00 Break
11:15 Liturgy of Epiphany
12:15 Lunch
1:00 Second Session - "*Christ, Embraces the Nations!*"
1: 30 Epiphany Prayer Service

PRE-REGISTRATION: *required by December 31, 2023*

Please endorse checks to: Franciscan Friars \$15 stipend

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
Dietary Needs _____
Parish _____

Our Parish Ministries & Organizations - we invite you to call and join in!

Committee/Organization	Contact	Phone Number	Email
Adult Altar Servers	Joyce Kobylarz	973-714-6797	jkoby2@aol.com
Altar Linen Laundry	Adele Merkle	732-830-5242	merkles@verizon.net
Collection Counters	Joe Kobylarz/Rich Traverso	973-747-4599	objoekoby@aol.com
Communion for Homebound	Dianne Hayden Theresa Coleman	732-575-0222 732-830-3168	dkhay5@aol.com theresahgts@aol.com
Faith Sharing	Maureen Zebrowski	732-259-1578	mzeb@aol.com
Holy Name Society	Tom Leonard	732-995-0044	thomasleonard62@gmail.com
Knights of Columbus	Alex Barletta, GK	908-578-5095	barlettaa@verizon.net
Ladies Auxiliary to the KofC	Joyce Kobylarz	973-714-6797	jkoby2@aol.com
Lavallette Seniors	James Peeney	732-793-4675	JDPeeney@msn.com
Lectors & Extraordinary Ministers	Joyce Kobylarz	973-714-6797	jkoby2@aol.com
Parish Nurses	Joan Blanchfield	201-362-4148	blanchrn139@gmail.com
Pro-Life	Georgina Vastola	732-742-3986	gmvastola@optimum.net
Raffle Committee	Jack McCormack	732-830-4787	jack17mac@verizon.net
Religious Education & R.C.I.A.	John Paglione	732-899-1398 x5	pags711@gmail.com
Rosary Altar Society	Joan Blanchfield	732-854-1276	blanchrn139@gmail.com
Ushers	Chris Grandinetti	908-910-6214	chris.grandinetti@gmail.com
Wedding Ministry	Joyce Kobylarz	973-714-6797	jkoby2@aol.com
Hall Rental	Marta Barkhausen	732-793-7291	marta@stpioparish.com

HOLY NAME SOCIETY	Meeting	Monday	March 4	5:30pm
ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY	Meeting	Monday	March 4	1:00pm
FAITH SHARING	Meeting	Wednesdays	in December	9:00am
K of C 8415	Meeting	1st Tuesday of Month	January 2	7:00pm
	Meeting	3rd Tuesday of Month	December 20	6:30pm
K of C Ladies Auxiliary	Meeting	Monday	March 25	1:00pm
LAVALLETTE SENIORS				
RIGHT TO LIFE GROUP		2nd Thursday of the month at Sacred Heart, Msgr. Casey Hall		3:30pm
FLAME OF LOVE ROSARY		Recited on Tuesdays at 8am in the Chapel		

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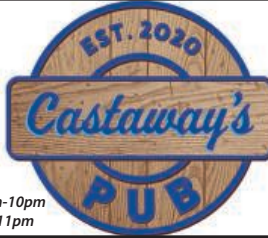
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IN REMEMBRANCE OF SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON

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