

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 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent

Be watchful!
Be alert!

MARK 13:33



©JPPC

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 2, 2023

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

Vigil

4:00pm Michael, Harriet, Carmen & Anthony Criscuolo r/b Robert & Florence Petrecca & Family
4:00pm Annette Kurinovich r/b Husband, Alan

Sunday, December 3, 2023

7:30am For the People of the Parish
7:30am Theresa Zalmas r/b Ann Marie Casella
9:00am Jean Orlando r/b Avelenda Family
10:30am Bill Smith r/b Rosary Altar Society
10:30am Bill Campbell r/b Gary & Gerry Adams

Monday, December 4, 2023

8:30am Carol Rush r/b Angela & Mark Fioretti

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

8:30am Dr. Jacek Herchold r/b Bert & Mary Brady
8:30am For a Personal Thanksgiving r/b Mary Shaffer

After Mass **Miraculous Medal Novena**

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

8:30am Rev. Fr. Frederick Kochan r/b St. Pio Staff
8:30am Joe Merkle r/b Family

Thursday, December 7, 2023

8:30am Joe Merkle r/b Family

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

Friday, December 8, 2023

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

9:30am Joe Merkle r/b Family
9:30am Living & Deceased Members of the Truchan Family r/b Family
4:00pm Thaddeus Jacoviak r/b Alex & Susan Barletta

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

Saturday, December 9, 2023

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

Vigil

4:00pm Rev. Fr. Michael Bakaisa r/b Antonette Daniels
4:00pm Kathleen Minneci r/b Family

Sunday, December 10, 2023

7:30am For the People of the Parish
9:00am Juanito Rohan r/b Sabrina Wujek
10:30am Bill Smith r/b Joyce Ciano
10:30am Jillian Ludwig r/b Vincent & Joann Marino



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 Covelto, Kathy Connelly, Michael Garcia, Eileen Carroll, Judi Pecoraro, Amina Gaban, Peter Barkhausen, 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



Christmas Stories in Christian Apocrypha

The birth of Jesus in the apocryphal gospels -By Tony Burke

One of the most familiar images of the Christmas season is the nativity scene—the well-known depiction of [Jesus'](#) birth—displayed in an array of public and private settings, including churches, parks, store windows and on fireplace mantles. The scene, first assembled by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223, is iconographic, meaning its various elements are intended primarily to depict theological—not historical, nor even literary—truths. It harmonizes two very distinct stories: Luke's birth of Jesus in a stable, visited by shepherds, and attended by an angelic host and Matthew's Magi, who are led by a star to the home of Jesus' family sometime before Jesus' second birthday.

To most people viewing the nativity scene, it depicts [the birth of Jesus](#) as it happened, with farm animals, shepherds, angels and Magi crowding the Bethlehem stable. But the combination is apocryphal, in the wide sense that the complete scene is not an accurate reflection of what the Biblical texts say about Jesus' birth and in the narrow sense that such harmonization of Matthew and Luke is a common feature of noncanonical Christian infancy gospels. Actually, these gospels not only combine the Biblical stories, they enhance them, with additional traditions about the birth of Jesus that circulated in antiquity. Of course most Christians throughout history were unaware of this distinction; before widespread literacy, Christians told the story of Jesus' birth without awareness of which elements were based on Scripture and which were not.

[The Christian Apocrypha](#) are rich with tales of the birth of Jesus. The earliest and most well-known of these are the stories found in the *Protevangelium* (or "Proto-Gospel") of *James*. Composed in the late second century, this text combines the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke with other traditions, including stories of the Virgin Mary's own birth and upbringing. The *Protevangelium* was exceptionally popular—hundreds of manuscripts of the text exist today in a variety of languages, and it has profoundly influenced Christian liturgy and teachings about Mary. The *Protevangelium* was transmitted in the West as part of the *Gospel of Pseudo-Matthew*, which added to it tales of the Holy Family's sojourn in Egypt and, in some manuscripts, stories of Jesus' childhood taken from the *Infancy Gospel of Thomas*. Other *Pseudo-Matthew* manuscripts incorporate a different telling of Jesus' birth from an otherwise lost gospel that scholars call the *Book about the Birth of the Savior*. In the East, the *Protevangelium* was translated into Syriac and expanded with a different set of stories set in Egypt to form the *Life of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, which was later translated into Arabic as the *Arabic Infancy Gospel*. Another Syriac reworking of the *Protevangelium* lies behind the *Armenian Infancy Gospel*. Christians in the East also expanded on Matthew's Magi traditions creating the *Revelation of the Magi*, the *Legend of Aphroditianus*, and *On the Star* (erroneously attributed to Eusebius of Caesarea), each of which in their own way narrates how the Magi became aware that the star heralded the birth of a king.

If readers of these apocryphal texts could see the modern nativity scenes, they would be surprised to find the baby Jesus in a stable: In the infancy gospels, the birth takes place in a cave outside of Bethlehem, the same location given also by Justin Martyr (in his *Dialogue with Trypho* 78), who died around 165 C.E. They might have expected also to see a midwife in the scene; indeed, she does appear regularly in Eastern Orthodox depictions of the nativity, helping Mary bathe the newborn. As the *Protevangelium* tells it, Joseph left Mary in the cave and went into Bethlehem to find a midwife. But as Joseph and the midwife approached the cave, they saw a bright cloud overshadowing it. The cloud then disappeared into the cave and a great light appeared, which withdrew and revealed the baby Jesus. Each of the later expansions of the *Protevangelium* narrate this scene in their own unique way, but they all endeavor to show that Jesus was not born in a natural manner, thus allowing Mary to remain physically a virgin after the birth. So superhuman is Jesus that some texts report that he could be perceived in multiple forms. The *Armenian Infancy Gospel*, for example, reports that the Magi each saw him in a different way: as the Son of God on a throne, as the Son of Man surrounded by armies, and as a man tortured, dead and resurrected.

The apocryphal accounts agree with Luke that the shepherds visited the Holy Family shortly after Jesus' birth. In the Western texts, the family then moves from the cave to a stable and places the baby in a manger. There an ox and an ass bend their knees and worship him, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 1:3, "The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib" (see *Pseudo-Matthew* 14 and *Birth of the Savior* 86). Though an apocryphal embellishment, the animals became a common ingredient in subsequent depictions of the nativity and may be observable in nativity scenes today.



Thank You for your Support!!

Contributions Weekend 11/26/23	This Past Week	Same week Last Year
At Church	\$4,371	\$4,965
Online	\$1,257	\$1,051
Total	\$5,628	\$6,016



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.

PLEASE SEE NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN FOR CONTRIBUTIONS THAT WERE NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINTING

Join Us For A Healing Mass With Healing Prayers - All Are Welcome

WHEN: Thursday, December 14, Noon
WHERE: St. Pio of Pietrelcina Church
 1100 Grand Central Ave.
 (Rt. 35N) Lavallette
WHO: Celebrant Fr. Joe
CONTACT: DawnRusinko@yahoo.com
 for more information

**PROMISE TO PROTECT
 PLEDGE TO HEAL
 SECRETARIAT OF CHILD AND YOUTH
 PROTECTION**



The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and The Diocese of Trenton are committed to the initiatives outlined in the U. S. Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in regard to the report and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors.

The Diocese has in place a Victim's Assistance Coordinator, who is available to obtain support for your needs and help you make a formal complaint of abuse.

If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan Abuse Hotline: 1 -888-296-2965 or via email at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org

**GOD OF LOVE AND LIFE
 FATHER, SON and
 HOLY SPIRIT**



"God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:9

Fellowship is relationship among people sharing the same interests and feelings.

Since we are called to share interests with our Lord Jesus Christ do you honestly think that one of our shared interests with Jesus includes abortion.

Do you know that in the USA there are over 2700 abortions per day.

**Support Life, Embrace Our Lord's Interests,
 Vote Life**

Respect Life Committee at SHRCBH@comcast.net



MONTH TWO DEVELOPING BABY

Your baby is making progress developing all of her external features and internal organs. Her brain is functioning at 40 days. Her mother can hear her heartbeat now with an ultrasound stethoscope. Her milk-teeth buds are present at 6 1/2 weeks. It is reported that at 2 months she can suck her thumb! From this moment onward, your spiritually adopted baby grows and refines her body. But everything she needs to survive once she is born is already present by the end of the 8th week.

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 for a Christmas Wafer pack.



The Knights of Columbus Council 8415 invite all parishioners and their families to a

Breakfast with Santa

and a **50/50 RAFFLE**

Sunday, December 10
9 a.m. until noon

Saint Catharine of Siena Church Hall
50 E Street, Seaside Park

Each child in attendance will be entered into a free raffle for one girl's and one boy's bicycle and helmet!

\$10 Adults
Kids 5 & under free

Pay at the door

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



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Sunday, December 31, 2023
Doors Open at 8:00pm
Music & Dancing from 9:00pm - 12:30am
St. Pio Parish Hall
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For Further Information & Tickets Call:

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

ADVENT RETREAT

Join us for this powerful time of the year! Where we will ground ourselves into the birth of Christ through the faith of the saints, such as Padre Pio, St. Francis of Assisi, etc., and one another. Wednesday December 6th from 9:30-11am in lower Kolbe Hall St. Peter's Church 406 For-man Ave Point Pleasant Beach. **Refreshments will be served.** Hosted by the Medjugorje prayer group. **All are invited.** For further info please contact dawnrusinko@yahoo.com



Advent Penance Service



We are beginning to prepare for the Birth of Our Lord.

Please join us for the **Penance Service** that will take place on Thursday, December 7th at 4pm in the Church.



To get started with Online Giving, log on to: www.stpioparish.com and click on the Parish Giving Logo then follow the easy registration steps.

Parish Giving offers secure flexible online giving for our parishioners who would like to make their donations online using a credit card or bank transfer. You never have to bring cash or checks to church. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and plan the budget. Check out the website listed for benefits and details.

Padre Pio Prayer Anthology

Prayer #54: Focus Point: December is a month of great preparation and expectation! We are excited to be giving gifts because of the pleasure it brings to those we love. Even if we won't admit it, we enjoy receiving gifts too, simply because it makes us feel loved. God the Father has given us the gift of our life and of His eternal love. His gifts of Jesus, His loving Son and the Holy Spirit complete the package and provide us with the means to attain eternal life with Him in heaven! Amidst the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, we need to take a step back, show our gratitude, and offer a prayer of thanks. Only through recognizing the magnitude of God's gift to us, will we be able to experience the great joy of the Christmas season: having God walking alongside of us each day of our lives and experiencing the feeling of warmth and comfort that His love and support brings into our hearts. As Fr. Joe has stated, "Rejoice in the love that God has for you and let that love bring you peace."

Prayer for a heartfelt thank you to God: Dear Lord, thank you for the countless blessings that You have bestowed upon me. Every day I feel Your presence through the love shown to me by the kind words and actions of my family and friends. They look out for me, guide me through difficult times and give me the courage to face what comes my way. I know it is You working through them to bring me comfort and hope. Knowing that you love me unconditionally fills my heart with the greatest comfort that one could ever experience! Thank You for bringing joy to me in my earthly life. Thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to bring me the promise of salvation through His suffering and death on the cross. May I always try my very best to be worthy of His gift! Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to keep me strong and help me to resist temptation. Help me to show my appreciation through prayers, self-sacrifice and charitable works. I love You and am so happy to have You at the forefront of my life. Amen



Thursday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a holyday of obligation and Masses are in the Church at 9:30am and 4pm on Thursday.



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

The **Knights of Columbus, Council 8415**, provides a container in the vestibule of the Church for the collection of used eyeglasses.



St. Francis Food Pantry in Seaside Heights is opened on Wednesdays from 10am until 12 noon. Please consider bringing some food items with you when you attend Mass each Sunday. Donations may be left in the bin in the narthex of the Church or you can call Paul Sandy at 732-606-3656. He would be happy to do a pick up. The food pantry is grateful for the support that has been given over the years. Thank you!

Listen to Stations WNSW 1430 AM or WWJZ 640AM



I encourage you all to listen to relevant radio. Their mission is to bring Christ to the world through the media. Relevant radio provides interactive Catholic programming 24 hrs/day, 7 days/week. You can also visit the website at relevantradio.com and download the APP to your phone or computer and take your Catholic faith with you wherever you go! Bless you, Father Joe



Catholic Charities News

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton and Recycle-America have joined forces to provide a new service. Now, some one will come to your door to collect your clothing and shoes. All items will be donated to those in need in our local community. Pickups in Monmouth County are made on Wednesdays. To schedule a pickup, please call 609-906-0004 or email racworld2015@gmail.com. Please call or email three days prior to pick up day. Thank you. Catholic Charities provides assistance with food, housing, drug addiction, domestic violence, and immigration services. If you know a parishioner needing help, please contact us at www.catholiccharitiestrenton.org or call 800-360-7711

Sacred Heart's Holy Name Monthly 50/50 Club

is open to all parishioners and visitors. The monthly drawing is held the 3rd Tuesday of each month. \$60.00 gives you (12) chances to win. Make your check payable to Sacred Heart 200 Club and return to the parish office.



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	pages711@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	Luncheon	Monday	December 4	Noon
FAITH SHARING	Meeting	Wednesdays	in December	9:00am
K of C 8415	Meeting	1st Tuesday of Month	December 5	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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