

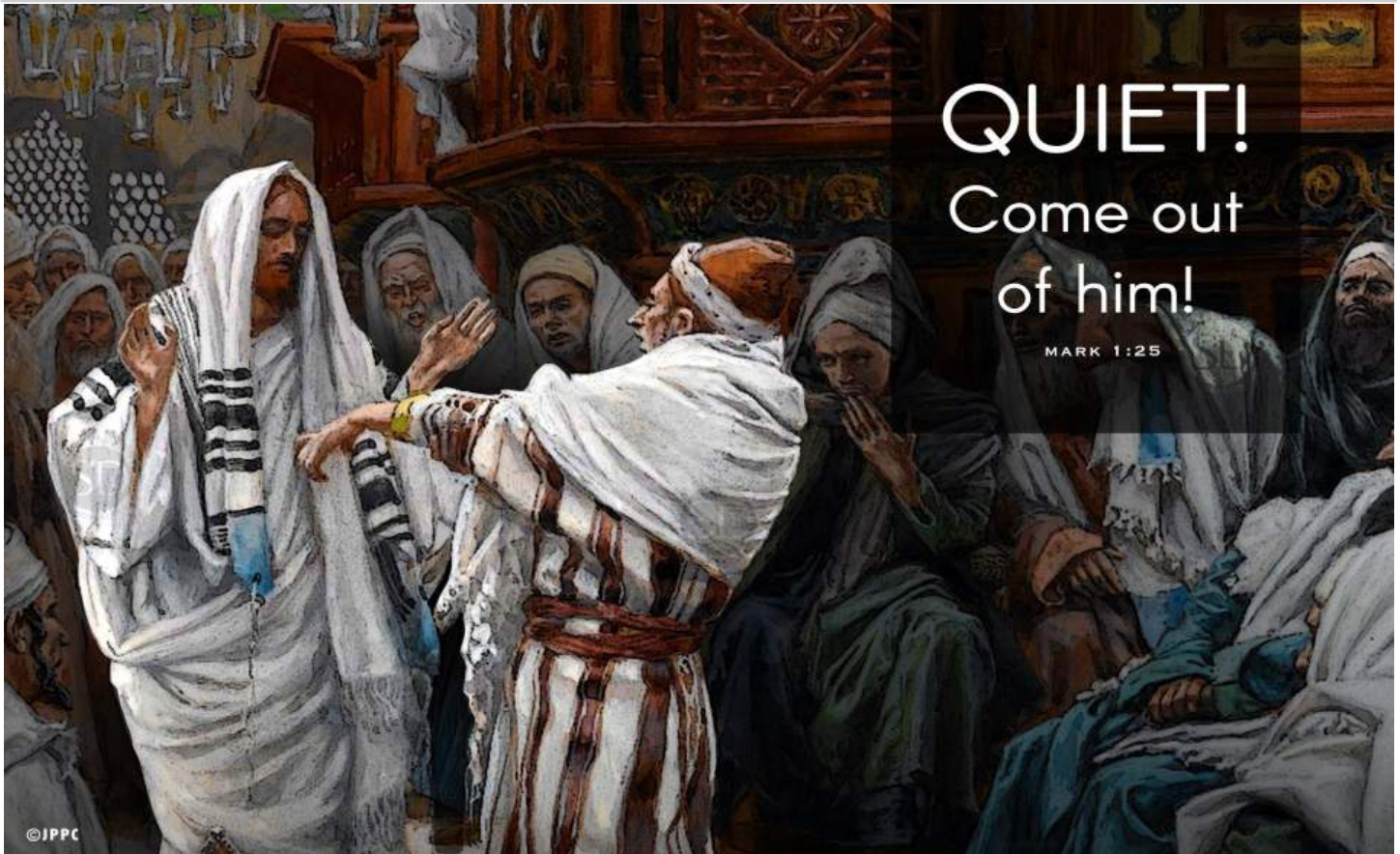
# The Parish of St. Pio of Pietrelcina

103 Washington Avenue, Lavallette, NJ 08735

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

Web: [www.stpioparish.com](http://www.stpioparish.com) E-mail: [office@stpioparish.com](mailto:office@stpioparish.com)

**January 28, 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



## **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. Tues. Wed. 9am - 2pm

## **Mass Schedule**

Monday - Saturday: 8:30am Chapel

Saturday (Vigil): 4:00pm Church

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

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



**Saturday, January 27, 2024**

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

**Vigil**

**4:00pm** Lynette Galisewski r/b Vassallo Family  
Fr. Fred Kochan r/b Diana Kochan

**Sunday, January 28, 2024**

**7:30am** For the People of the Parish

**9:00am** Josephine Petronella  
r/b Al & Mickie De Benedictis

**10:30am** Robert & Adelaide Joubert r/b Grandchildren  
Erin Ryan r/b Paul & Karen Sandy

**Monday, January 29, 2024**

**8:30am** Joe Merkle r/b Family

**Tuesday, January 30, 2024**

**8:30am** Brian Gilligan r/b Tom & Mary Ann Sinnott

**After Mass** **Miraculous Medal Novena**

**Wednesday, January 31, 2024**

**8:30am** Rosemary Henninger  
r/b Maria & Francis Chiarella

**Thursday, February 1, 2024**

**8:30am** Salvatore Fiorica  
r/b Raymond & Catherine Fiorica

**After Mass** **Divine Mercy Chaplet**

**Friday, February 2, 2024**

**8:30am** Tyler Rusinko r/b Joe & Joyce Kobylarz

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

**Saturday, February 3, 2024**

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

**Vigil**

**4:00pm** Mary Fehrle r/b Daughters & Family  
Mary Fehrle r/b Daughters & Family

**Sunday, February 4, 2024**

**7:30am** For the People of the Parish  
Richard Romelle r/b Richie & Ann Casella  
**9:00am** Bernadette Flaherty r/b Jean Flaherty

**10:30am** Ronald Haley r/b Chris Grandinetti

**Healing:**

Fr. Douglas Freer, Nick Lettas, Mary Anne Grandinetti, Mary Buontempo, Pat McCourt, Maureen Burrell, Baby Landon Wierks, Ginny & Emil Stefanacci, Jim Tavormina, Nicholas Meola, Joe Romano, Alan Kurinovich, Tommy Traina, Eddie McCrabb, Joseph Winchock, Antonette Daniels, Janet Daniels, Vince Covello, Judi Pecoraro, Amina Gavan, Pam McClellan, Maegan Higham, Shannon Finnegan Cook, Karen Caufield, Jeff McBride, Fr. Joe Hlubik, Gina Kwortnik, Eileen Carroll, Michael Garcia, Alex Barletta, Jr., Ann O'Neill, Greg Thomas, Gary Adams, 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, Peter Barkhausen, Tyler Rusinko

**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 Balwierzczak, U.S. Marine Corps.

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

Capt. Calvin Smith, U. S. Army (deployed)

Lt. Col. Wesley Dixon, U. S. Air Force



# Life: Worth Defending, Worth Celebrating

COMMENTARY: A Sister of Life opens up about her own journey to her vocation, walking with those wounded by abortion, and the real work of celebrating life. -*Sister Charity S/V. for National Catholic Register*

I was 12 years old when it happened. I was alone in my living room, and I came across a pamphlet with an image of a child: a victim of abortion. I was shaken to the core. I heard in my conscience the clearest summons I have ever received: "Do something about abortion." I could never pretend I didn't know what was happening. I had to respond. I felt the summons again the first time I prayed outside of an abortion facility in the Bronx and saw the faces of women who were afraid, alone and hurting. I loved them, and I knew they deserved better.

Abortion is a tragedy. The magnitude of the tragedy is hard to comprehend. We can never become desensitized to it. We are approaching the second March for Life in a post-Roe America. It should be no surprise that we continue to march. The overturning of Roe v. Wade was an immense victory, but as long as abortions continue, so will we. This is a matter of life and death. There must always be, at the heart of the pro-life movement, an urgent defense of life.

Yet, something else is needed also.

Thousands will gather before the March for Life this year for "Life Fest," an event hosted by the Sisters of Life and the Knights of Columbus. In light of the tragedy of abortion, it may seem strange to call this event "Life Fest." A rally for life seems fitting. A march is appropriate. But a festival? Yes. Because we can't just defend life. We must celebrate it also.

Celebration is sometimes seen as superfluous and shallow. But true celebration is a serious task. We can only celebrate what we affirm as good. Celebration hinges on the most profound philosophical questions: Is existence good? Does life have meaning? If we cannot answer these questions in the affirmative, we are not capable of real celebration. The culture of death empties and falsifies any concept of festivity.

Josef Pieper, in his book *In Tune with the World: A Theory of Festivity*, wrote, "On what grounds does a specific event become the occasion of our festival and celebration? Can we festively celebrate the birth of a child if we hold with Jean Paul Sartre's dictum: 'It is absurd that we are born'? Anyone who is seriously convinced that 'our whole existence is something that would be better not being,' and that consequently life is not worth living, can no more celebrate the birth of his child than any other birthday."

The culture of life, on the other hand, recognizes every life as a gift. We did not create ourselves. We were given existence by God out of sheer love, and our lives have deep meaning. As Pope Benedict XVI said, "We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed; each of us is loved; each of us is necessary."

We are the only creatures made in the image and likeness of God. This is reason enough to celebrate. Yet there is more. In order to draw us into eternal union with the Trinity, God himself became man. In the Incarnation, God raised our dignity to unimaginable new heights.

"In every child which is born and in every person who lives or dies we see the image of God's glory. We celebrate this glory in every human being, a sign of the living God, an icon of Jesus Christ," wrote Pope John Paul II in *The Gospel of Life*.

*To be continued in next week's bulletin.*



Thank You for your Support!!

Contributions Weekend	This Past Week 1/21/24	Same Week Last Year 1/22 /23
At Church	\$2,667	\$3,647
Online	\$1,290	\$1,286
Total	\$3,957	\$4,933



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Marta Barkhausen, Business Manager



**Lenten Bible Study**

**When:** Thursdays; Feb. 15, 22, 29, March 7,14, & 21  
**Time:** 9:30-11 am  
**Where:** St. Pio Parish Hall, 103 Washington Ave  
**Who:** All are welcome  
**What:** *Discovering who you are in Christ*-We are all called to holiness, but what does that mean? It's not what you think. This book offers you a weapon of truth so that you can stand in your identity as a child of God. It gives personal examples and practical suggestions that motivate and inspire, while convinces attainable transformation.  
**Cost:** \$12

To Register: send a check made out to St. Pio's Church to Dawn Rusinko 103 Washington Ave Lavallette NJ 08735  
 For more info please contact [dawnrusinko@yahoo.com](mailto:dawnrusinko@yahoo.com)

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



**"What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." Mark 1:27**

The people in Jesus' day were astonished and alarmed at what they saw and heard. We should be no less astonished and alarmed for Jesus is God the Second Person of the Holy Trinity and He does speak with authority.

These words He spoke regarding children are also spoken with the authority of your God. **"Taking a child he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it he said to them "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, he receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me." (Mark 9:37)** We should hear these words and be alarmed at the number of abortions today.

*Do you know the Supreme Court will hear Biden's appeal to an appellate ruling that would impose restrictions to the abortion drug mifepristone.*

**Receive Jesus, Receive the One who sent Him,  
Embrace Life**

**Healing the Wounds of Abortion**

The psychological and spiritual wounds of abortion can be sharp, deep and crippling. You may feel a deep numbness and may not be able to name the pain or recognize any of the symptoms. It can also have a devastating impact on the father or grandparents of the aborted child and friends of the mother. You do not have to continue to hide in shame and fear. Rachel's Vineyard's Retreat is a chance to focus on this painful time in your life through a supportive non-judgmental process, in an atmosphere of confidentiality, understanding, and compassion. It is designed to help both women and experience the mercy and compassion of God. If you have suffered through an abortion and have isolated yourself from healing and forgiveness, you might consider attending one our retreat weekends.

For more information, contact Judy Warenkiewicz at 732-536-6871. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

2024 Weekend Retreats  
 February 16-18, 2024  
 November 15-17, 2024

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!



Can you spare some time to help us out?

Our parish is looking for new volunteers to help with a variety of simple tasks. You can choose an assignment that takes a minimal amount of time, or offer to handle a job with a lengthier time commitment. Gifting your time and talent is a very beautiful way to show your love and gratitude to Jesus!

Contact Joyce Kobylarz for more info:  
 Email: jkoby2@aol.com  
 Text: 973-714-6797

Thank you and may God bless you  
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Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

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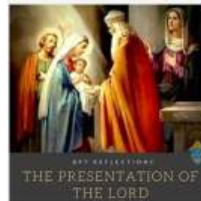


CURRENT BROCHURE CAN BE FOUND ON OUR  
 WEBSITE – [www.sjbsea.org](http://www.sjbsea.org)

February 14, 2024 – ASH WEDNESDAY RETREAT  
 March 19, 2024 – HONORING ST. JOSEPH  
 THE WORKER

April 19-21, 2024 - RESTORE AND RENEW  
 April 26-28, 2024 - SPENDING TIME WITH MARY  
 May 3-5, 2024 - THE SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES OF  
 THE TWELVE STEPS


Please call St. Joseph by the Sea at 732-892-8494 to register  
 or for additional information.



This Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> we celebrate the  
 Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. It  
 is also Candlemas - in which we bless  
 candles. If you would like, bring candle(s)  
 from your home to be blessed during the  
 Friday morning liturgy at 8:30am at Pio  
 Chapel.

Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Feast of St.  
 Blaise. We will offer the Blessing of the  
 Throats after each Mass on both Saturday  
 and Sunday.





**STATIONS  
SOUP & SALAD**

Ladies & Gentlemen:

You are invited to join the  
K of C Ladies Auxiliary  
on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>  
at 11:30 a.m. in St. Pio's Chapel  
for a simple and prayerful reading of the  
**Stations of the Cross**  
followed by a soup and salad luncheon.

Luncheon cost: \$10 per person.

To register, call or text  
Joyce Kobylarz at 973-714-6797  
no later than Thursday, February 15.



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## **WITH AUTHORITY**

A reflection for January 28, The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Police officers, military leaders, government officials, judges, employers, and parents all have something in common. They all have authority and can require people to act in certain ways.

For example, a police officer can compel a driver to pull over, an employer can order an employee to complete a job by a deadline, and a mother can tell her children to turn off the TV and do their homework.

Doctors, professors, lawyers, and scientists also have authority. Their authority comes from having a recognized level of knowledge and expertise beyond that of most people. For example, when we are looking for information concerning cancer treatment, we seek advice from an authority in the field of oncology and do not rely on medical websites.

Overall, people with authority are individuals with knowledge or power.

In today's Sunday's Gospel (Mark 1:21-28), we see Jesus exercising authority.

On a sabbath day, He comes into the synagogue at Capernaum and there He teaches the people. Jesus does not imitate the scribes who based their sermons on what had been taught by experts who had come before them. Jesus teaches on His own authority.

We are told, "the people were astonished...for He taught as one having authority and not as the scribes." Jesus was the light of the world. He did not need others to verify His words and endorse His teaching.

The authority of Jesus was even acknowledged by the unclean spirit that was possessing a man in the synagogue. The demon recognized Jesus to be "the Holy One of God" with power over him. Simply by His words, Jesus drove out that demon and left the people amazed. "What is this? A new teaching with authority: He commands even unclean spirits and they obey Him."

What the people came to understand in that synagogue 2,000 years ago is something we need to remember. We live in a society filled with all kinds of people offering their vision of life, proclaiming their understanding of the truth, selling their personal philosophies, promoting their codes of morality, and endorsing ever-stranger ideas. In such a world, it is easy to become confused, lost, and uncertain of how to live and what to believe. Like the people in the synagogue at Capernaum, we need to recognize the authority of Jesus.

His words and His teachings reveal the truth and have the power to free us from the "unclean spirits" that seek to possess us.

That authority of Jesus is even recognized by a society that is increasingly hostile to Christianity. If our society did not recognize the authority of Jesus, it would not be fighting so hard to silence His words and negate His influence.

**The people in the synagogue recognized the amazing authority of Jesus. Today, we might ask ourselves if Jesus truly is the authority we look to and recognize in our lives.**

Tom Iwanoski, From LookingToSunday.com, Used with permission.

**FR. JOE**

*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 January	9:00am
K of C 8415	Meeting	1st Tuesday of Month	February 6	7:00pm
	Meeting	3rd Tuesday of Month	February 16	6:30pm
K of C Ladies Auxiliary	Meeting	Monday	March 25	1:00pm
LAVALLETTE SENIORS	Meeting	Thursday	February 15	12:30pm
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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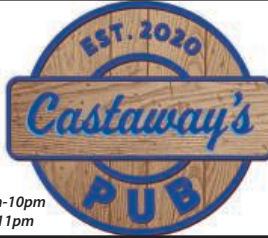
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