

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

November 26, 2023

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus, King of the Universe



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, November 25, 2023

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

Vigil

4:00pm Buda Family r/b Eve Hodyl
4:00pm Joseph Fitzgibbons
 r/b Debbie & Jack McCormack

Sunday, November 26, 2023

7:30am For the People of the Parish

9:00am Michael Loper r/b Jim & Nancy Loper
9:00am Stan Gawel r/b Gawel Family

10:30am Bill Smith r/b Gary & Gerry Adams
10:30am Missy Barretta r/b Jessica

Monday, November 27, 2023

8:30am Walter Rafferty r/b Patricia Rafferty Gleason
8:30am Stan Gawel r/b Betty Griffin & Family

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

8:30am Rita Leeney
8:30am Joseph Gomeringer r/b Mary Claire

After Mass **Miraculous Medal Novena**

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

8:30am Marion Dunrovich r/b Donna Hanna
8:30am Deacon John Hanna & Jill Rager

Thursday, November 30, 2023

8:30am Lucille Chiesa r/b John & Barbara Chiesa
8:30am Anthony (Nooche) Pennolino
 r/b Mr. & Mrs. Dominick Arlistico

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

Friday, December 1, 2023

8:30am Raymond & Kathleen Minneci r/b Family

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

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
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

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, Gina Palmieri, Nicholas Meola, Joe Romano, Greg Thomas, Sherrie Forst, Susan Smith, Kelly Palmieri, Alan Kurinovich, Maegan Higham, Richard J. O'Neill, Tommy Traina, Eddie McCrabb, Gina Kwornik, Joseph Winchock, Jim Pells, Antonette Daniels, Janet Daniels, Maureen Gillmore, Vince Covello, Betty Ann Beschen, Kathy Connelly, Michael Garcia, Eileen Carroll, Judi Pecoraro, Amina Gaban, Peter Barkhausen, and 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: *All Souls*

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 Corp. (deployed)
 Lance Cpl. Jack Balwierczak, U.S. Marine Corps
 Private 1st Class Jason Rodriguez, U. S. Army



The First Nativity Scene

Source: <https://ourladyofhopegraffton.org/the-first-nativity-scene>

From the Pastor's Desk

Nativity scenes have been a popular Advent and Christmas decoration for centuries, and—like most things glorious, time-honored, and holy—it originated with a Catholic saint. Saint Francis of Assisi had a special devotion to the Child Jesus, and he is credited with creating the first nativity scene on Christmas Eve of the year 1223.

It is believed that Saint Francis was first inspired by this idea after visiting the historical place of Christ's birth on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land—the humble stable in a Bethlehem cave. It is likely this event deepened his devotion to the Child Jesus, who was born into the world in such poverty, humility, and simplicity. In fact, Francis founded his new religious Order to imitate these very virtues. Saint Francis recreated the scene of Christ's birth in a special ritual and Mass he held inside of a cave in Greccio, Italy, inviting both his fellow friars and the townspeople to join in the celebration.

Later he told a friend why he desired to create the first nativity scene in his town:

"I want to do something that will recall the memory of that Child who was born in Bethlehem, to see with bodily eyes the inconveniences of his infancy, how he lay in the manger, and how the ox and ass stood by."

He set up an empty manger (the feeding trough of farm animals which served as Jesus' crib) inside a cave, and even included a live ox and donkey beside the manger just as it was believed to have happened on that first Christmas night. Through these visual aids he wanted everyone to impress more deeply into their understanding how Christ came into the world in such poverty and simplicity. This was a typical perspective of Saint Francis' unique charism of simple, poverty-centered spirituality.

It is also said that Saint Francis—who was radically devoted to the virtue of evangelical poverty—was inspired to recreate the original nativity scene to overcome the rampant greed and materialism prevalent at that time in Italy

What a beautiful scene! Each time we meet at our churches for a nativity pageant or live nativity scene, or around a nativity decoration for a time of prayer, we are participating in a centuries-old Catholic tradition. Saint Francis' recreation of that first Christmas night was so popular that soon every church in Italy had its own nativity scene. The devotion also spread to private homes, and in modern times even to secular institutions, so much so that it's now impossible to imagine Christmas without a nativity scene to behold.

Hopefully this story of the first nativity scene will inspire you to see your nativity set as much more than just a pretty Christmas decoration. It is a historic Catholic tradition and a tool for meditation on the humility, simplicity, and poverty of Christ that he took on, from the moment of his Incarnation, out of his boundless love for his lost sheep.

Blessing of the Creche

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time. When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R/. Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Luke 2:1 (lines 1-8) or Isaiah 7:10 (lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The leader prays with hands joined: God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for

a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

R/. Amen.



Thank You for your Support!!

Contributions Weekend 11/19/23	This Past Week	Same week Last Year
At Church	N/A	\$4,965
Online	at	\$1,051
Total	Printing	\$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.

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



“He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’ And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.” **Matthew 25:45-46**

Who are the least ones? Who are the least of the least? Who have virtually nothing, are completely naked and are absolutely defenseless?

We all know the answer. Now is the time, before it's too late, to help the least ones. Work, pray, vote to stop abortion – or run the risk of hearing “**Depart from me, you accursed.**”

Do you know in the 2020 election 50% of Catholics voted for a pro-death abortionist.

Love God, Love the Least Ones, Vote Life!



St. Pio's 2023 Annual Giving Tree campaign is coming to an end next weekend. December 3rd is the last day for giving. Please take a tag on your way out today and bring your gift back next week, you will make a child smile, for sure!

Thank you for caring!

Laura & Kathy



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.

STANDING TOGETHER FOR Life

SAVE the DATE

**FRIDAY
JANUARY 19, 2024**

Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine, Freehold

Mass for Life | *Lunch & Seminar*

11:00 a.m. | 12:30-3:30 p.m.

CELEBRATED BY | FEATURING

Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M. | **4 Expert Panelists**

All are invited to the Mass for Life | *Advanced registration required for lunch & seminar*

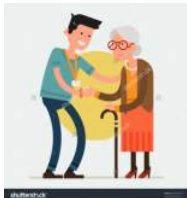
REGISTRATION TO OPEN MID-OCTOBER

The homemade **prayer blankets** that are made by a group of parishioners are the perfect gifts for a loved one in need of healing prayers. These blankets have been blessed and sprinkled with Lourdes holy water. You can select one by stopping by the parish office. A free will donation is accepted. Thank you.



Hello!

My name is David. I am 33 years old, I hold a master's degree and possess several years of experience caring for adults in need. Currently, I work part-time for a gentleman in Lavallette, assisting with grocery shopping, driving him to medical appointments, and helping with light housekeeping, as well as maintaining the house and grounds. For more information please feel free to contact me 732-278-6133



Knights of Columbus The Ladies Auxiliary of the K of C Council 8415 would like to thank all

those who supported our fundraisers this past year and all those who donated coats to our annual winter coat drive! This year, 90 coats were collected for needy men, women and children and delivered to the Toms River Salvation Army. The funds raised throughout the year exceeded \$7000 and were donated to 11 LOCAL charities and families in need! Thank you again for your GREAT generosity!

We need volunteers who are willing to clean and iron the small Altar linens for the Chapel Masses. It can be done on an annual basis or part of the year; once a month in the winter and once every 2 months in the summer. Please call Adele Merkle for more information at 732-830-5242. Thank you.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU
Many thanks to Anne Kobylarz for reinforcing all the seams on one of our oldest Benediction Vestments. Also, thanks to Crest Cleaners on Fischer Boulevard in Toms River for doing the dry cleaning, free of charge!

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

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 Forman 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



2023
HERE COME THE HOLIDAYS!

The Ladies Auxiliary
of the Knights of Columbus
is happy to present:




PIZZA & MOVIE NIGHT

5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, November 29
St. Pio's Parish Center
Route 35N & Washington Ave.
Lavallette

\$12
per person includes

- salad
- pizza
- soft drinks (you may BYOB)
- coffee & dessert
- and a Hallmark Hall of Fame movie

All parishioners & their guests are welcome!

RSVP to
Maribeth Hess
at 201-988-5516
no later than
Sunday, November 26

**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

**St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish
Christmas Luncheon**

Monday
December 4, 2023
12 noon - 4:00 pm



Lobster Shanty
Point Pleasant Beach, NJ
Door Prizes - Entertainment - Cash Bar
\$35 per person payable to
St. Pio Rosary Altar Society

Entrée Choices:

Chicken Francaise,
Herb Crusted Salmon,
Penne Pasta w/ Vodka Sauce



For tickets call:
Gerry Adams at 908-803-6262
or
Debbie McCormack at
732-830-4787

Retreats

December 7, 2023 - QUIET BY THE FIRESIDE -

This evening will provide the busy person an opportunity to contemplate Jesus, the Incarnate Word, through reflection in a quiet and prayerful environment. Christmas sing-along and refreshments after program. SPACE WILL BE LIMITED TO 40 PEOPLE. Please call in advance for reservations. Arrival: 5:00 p.m. / Departure: 8:00 p.m. (Presenters: Staff) Donation

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

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	December 4	5:30pm
ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY	Party	Monday	December 4	12:00 noon
FAITH SHARING	Meeting	Wednesdays	in November	9:00am
K of C 8415	Meeting	1st Tuesday of Month		7:00pm
	Meeting	3rd Tuesday of Month		6:30pm
K of C Ladies Auxiliary	Meeting	Monday	November 27	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		

62 Cedar Grove Rd.
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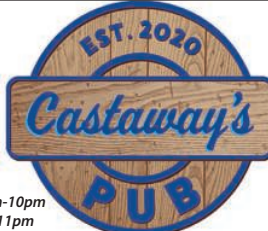
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