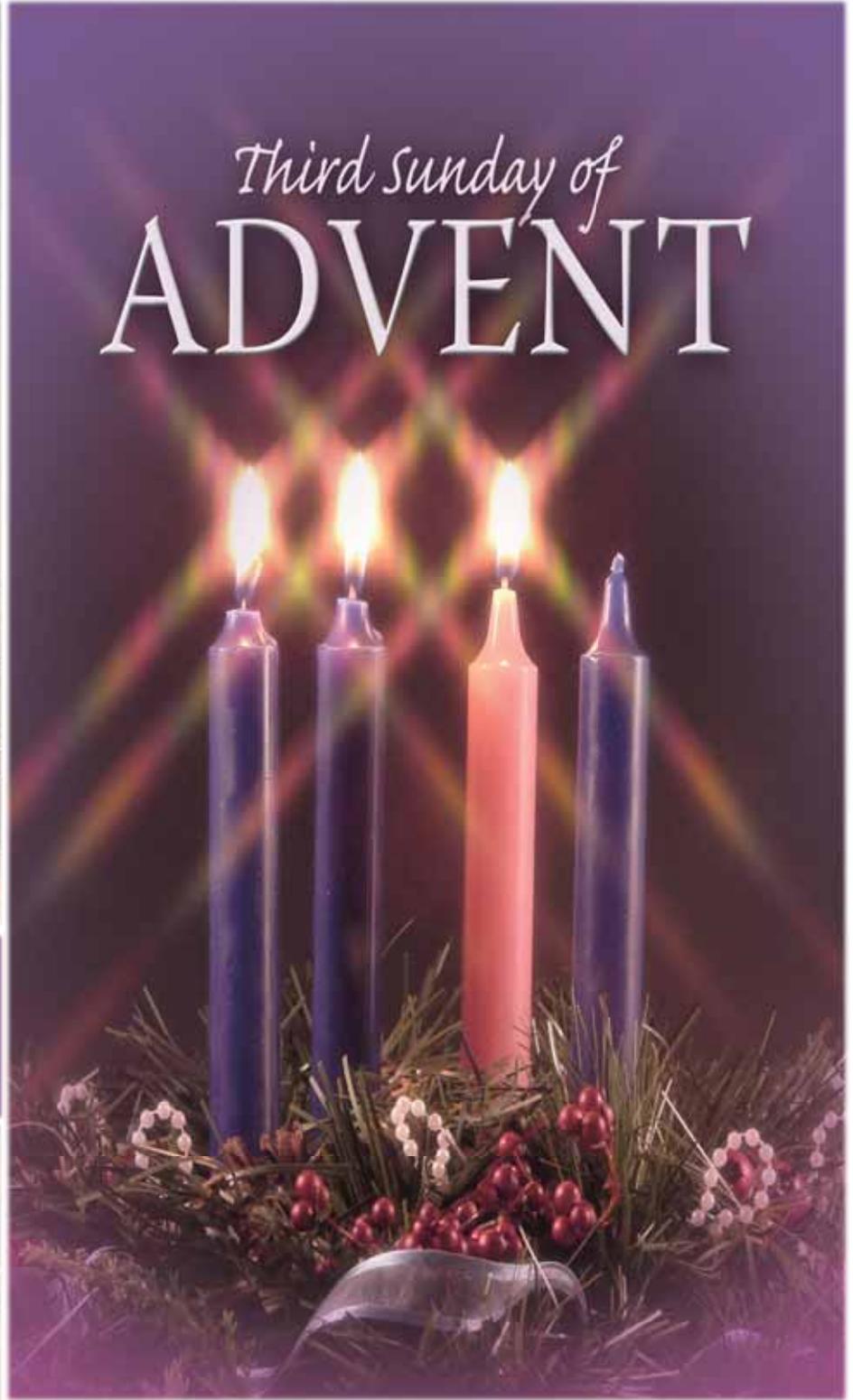
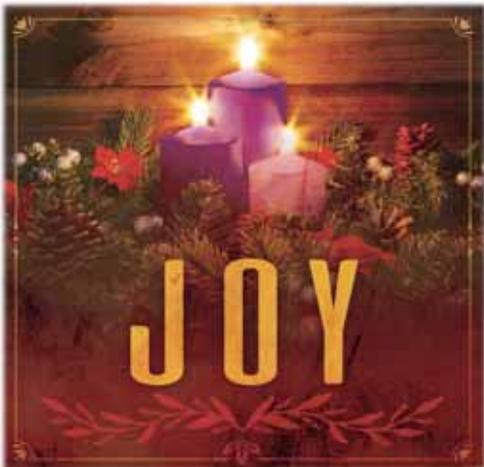


# ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH

Roman Catholic Diocese of Trenton



December 13, 2020



31 ASBURY ROAD FARMINGDALE, NJ 07727  
(732) 938-5375 [www.sienachurch.org](http://www.sienachurch.org)

## CONNECT WITH US

### ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA PARISH OFFICE

31 Asbury Road  
Farmingdale, New Jersey 07727  
**732-938-5375** Fax: 732-938-3260  
[www.sienachurch.org](http://www.sienachurch.org)  
[frontoffice@sienachurch.org](mailto:frontoffice@sienachurch.org)

#### Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday  
9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.  
Sunday—9:00 a.m.—12:45 p.m.

**Rev. Angelito I. Anarcon, Pastor**  
[pastor@sienachurch.org](mailto:pastor@sienachurch.org)

**Weekend Assistant**  
Rev. Alfred Burke

**Deacon**  
Daniel Sakowski  
[deacondan@sienachurch.org](mailto:deacondan@sienachurch.org)

**Pastor's Associate**  
Laura Randazzo  
[passociate@sienachurch.org](mailto:passociate@sienachurch.org)

**Parish Bookkeeper**  
Rowell Reyes  
[billing@sienachurch.org](mailto:billing@sienachurch.org)

**Music Director**  
Doris Ramme  
[frontoffice@sienachurch.org](mailto:frontoffice@sienachurch.org)

**Religious Education Office**  
**732-938-6229**

**Office Hours:**  
Monday 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Wednesday 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

**Kay Hetherington, CRE**  
[cre@sienachurch.org](mailto:cre@sienachurch.org)

**Janet Amato, Rel. Ed Secretary**  
[ccdnews@sienachurch.org](mailto:ccdnews@sienachurch.org)

### MASS SCHEDULE

#### WEEKEND

**Saturday/Sunday Vigil—4:30 p.m.**

#### Sunday

**8:00 a.m. / 10:00 a.m. / 11:30 a.m.**

**\*8:00 a.m. Mass effective September 13, 2020**

#### CONFESSION TIMES

**By Appointment**

#### HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

**CHURCH 31 Asbury Road**

**9:00 a.m. / 7:00 p.m.**

*Unless otherwise announced*

#### WEEKDAY

**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA Church**  
**31 Asbury Road**

**Monday—9:00 a.m.**

**Tuesday—9:00 a.m.**

**Thursday—9:00 a.m.**

**Friday—9:00 a.m.**

#### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH**  
**31 Asbury Road Farmingdale**

**First Friday of the Month immediately  
following the 9:00 a.m. Mass**

*Temporarily Suspended due to COVID-19  
until further notice.*

**MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA**  
**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CHAPEL**  
**One West Main Street Farmingdale**

**Monday immediately following the  
9:00 a.m. Mass**

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

We are still during a public health crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also the season when natural calamities are quite prevalent in our nation, in particular, the Jersey Shore area. It is unbelievable but true that spiritual needs are fundamental aspects of our lives in this unprecedented time. More than ever, the necessity of coming to Church and continue to offer our praise, worship, and thanksgiving as a community of faith and family of God should not be taken for granted. However, we must be mindful that we adhere to and follow the government's and the diocese protocols. We are pleased to see familiar faces attending our Sunday Liturgies as they gain confidence, slowly but surely, as they come out to pray. Your safety and health are so important to all of us when we provide our Church services and respond to your needs of the sacraments. We are here to serve you.

Due to our parishioners' active participation and the utmost commitment from volunteers who keep our buildings and grounds clean, safe, and sanitized, we can open and sustain the parish viability and vibrancy. A special word of thanks and gratitude goes to all of them. May God continue to grant them the time, talent, and effort which they need.

Kindly manifest your willingness and interest to support the parish at this difficult time as you send in your envelopes, or utilize the parish online giving. We need your help as we pay our bills, maintain the cleanliness, and buy the necessary equipment and chemicals for the building complex. As you were so diligent in responding to our appeal, we thank you so much.

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

There is always an element of surprise in the meeting between Jesus and new disciples, if you notice. Usually, they are surprised by Jesus, but sometimes it is Jesus who is surprised. Jesus is amazed at the centurion's faith, but he is also amazed by the fact that only one of the 10 lepers, a Samaritan, should come back to thank him. We believe and understand that he is present in our own meetings with other people, particularly people we might not trust, such as the Romans and Samaritans of his day.

If we meet anyone in faith, then Christ is there. Christ's meetings with John the Baptist and so many other figures in the New Testament are models for our own encounters with other people. John the Baptist, at this moment, thinks he knows what his encounter with the Messiah will be like. He is wrong, as Christ asked to be baptized, showing humility rather than power. Yet there is one piece of wisdom that John has, even before he meets Christ. He knows what he is not. In fact, he does not say what he is. Only Jesus says, "I am" in the Gospel of John. In this context, this is what God alone can say, but it also means that the divine identity of Christ is the root of his human identity. John is merely a voice, but what he says becomes what he is when he meets Jesus, just as we too become who we truly are proclaiming Christ.

How can we begin to find out who we truly are? It is in PRAYER. Again, an interesting question: Who are we in the eyes of God and of humanity? To find out the response to this question, we need to be in God's presence. It is because we come from God., and it is to God we return. When we ask the question: "Who am I?" it must include God all the time. We are children of God, the redeemed of God. We are a people who ran from God and people found by God. Hence, John the Baptist can only answer the negative to those who ask him who he is. He is still waiting for the Lord to come into his life truly.

Our constant and deep prayer life make us ready to meet Jesus. Even if they have a lifetime of prayer, some people were not yet ready to meet the real Christ. Perhaps we have neglected him. We have not prayed constantly, we have not given thanks to God, yet Christ is among us even at the end of our lives, at the end of human history, we will meet him. The more prayer we have, the more we live a life of thanksgiving, the more joy when we meet him. Amen.

May God bless you,

Father Angelito

## MASS INTENTIONS



### Saturday · December 12

4:30 PM

† John D'Alessio *r/b The Papasso Family*

### Sunday · December 13

8:00 AM

† Robert DiPaolo *r/b Kathy & Robert Pesce*

10:00 AM

† Frank Misiak *r/b Rosalyn Misiak*

11:30 AM

† Gene A. Ravally *r/b Leon & Pam Davison*

### Monday · December 14

9:00 am

† Maryann Cullen *r/b Dear Aunt & Sisters*

### Tuesday · DECEMBER 15

9:00 Am

† Edward Martin *r/b Marie & Mike McGarry*

### Thursday · DECEMBER 17

9:00 am

† Edward Martin *r/b Anne Hilker*

### FRIDAY · DECEMBER 18

9:00 am

† Lorraine Glynn *r/b Jim , Marian & Richard Ferris*

### LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Please pray for the sick, the homebound and those who have asked to remember them in prayer. Continually keep in prayer all those who serve in our Armed Forces and all health care workers. For prayer requests, living intentions and Mass intentions, please call the Parish Office.

# WEEKLY PRAYER

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 2020

- SUN 12/13** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
- MON 12/14** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
- TUE 12/15** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
- WED 12/16** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
- THR 12/17** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
- FRI 12/18** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
- SAT 12/19** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
- SUN 12/20** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 2020

- Sunday:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent
- Monday:** St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

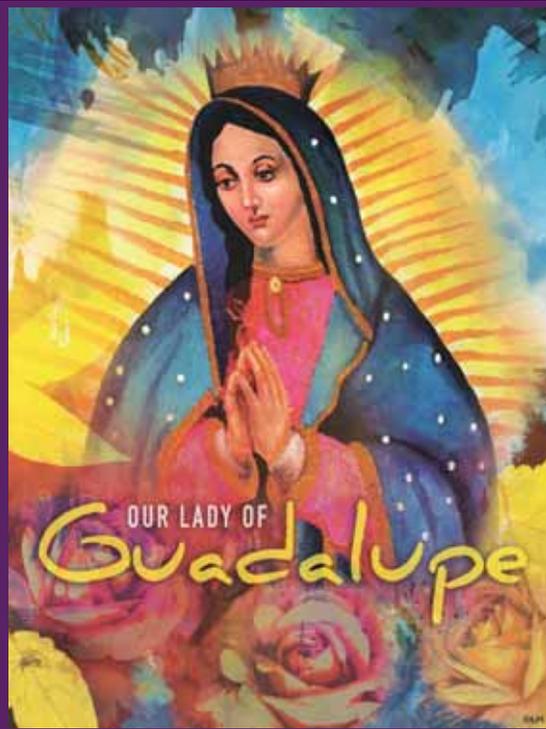
## LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week

What gives you joy? Joy is discovered when we connect with something or someone very deeply and experience a dimension of ourselves that material or secular possessions cannot bring. Joy is stumbled upon when we see our newly born child for the first time, get caught up in the vastness of a mountain landscape, and are led out into infinity gazing at an ocean's horizon, or being lovingly present with someone when they are vulnerable and in need. Joy is a profound experience that in its uniqueness grounds us in ultimate truth. Did you know that all authentic, profound, and memorable moments of joy mirror the eternal joy we desire from God? We can have glimpses of this eternal Divine joy as we embark upon our earthly journey, mirrored in our human connections with joy, but experienced directly during moments of deep prayer. God is the joy of my soul. Ponder those intense words! You will know moments of true and real joy by paying attention to your response to the experience. You will find yourself rejoicing and saying thank you.



*The desire  
for God  
is written  
in the  
human  
heart.*

# PRAY



December 12, 2020

God of all peoples,

We thank and bless you for the protection and love of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In her we see your affection for all peoples and feel your desire to be near to your people.

Mother of the Americas, guide and comfort us with your loving presence as we, like you, seek to say yes to God's call in our lives.

Intercede on behalf of those who are ill.

Inspire in us the faithfulness of Juan Diego as we seek to do the will of your son in the world.  
Amen.

*Remember in Your Prayers*

ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS  
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



Compassionate and Loving Father,

In the face of confusion and concern impart to us the calm of Your presence.

In You allow us to find hope and healing.

Be with those who serve the sick and give them Your caring hands.

Be with those who lead and give them Your spirit of wisdom.

Be with those who have fallen ill and give them Your comforting heart.

Wrap Your arms around our world and hold us in Your love.

Allow us at this time of trial to then serve as instruments of that love to all we meet.

We ask this in Your Name.  
Amen

## CHRISTMAS AT ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH



DOORS WILL OPEN  
1/2 HOUR BEFORE  
THE START OF EACH  
SCHEDULED MASS

### MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

2 PM

4 PM

6 PM

8 PM

Additional Overflow Mass at  
2 PM & 4 PM in the  
Parish Hall

Christmas Day

8 AM

10 AM

11:30 AM

Additional Overflow Mass at  
10 AM & 11:30 AM in the  
Parish Hall

For those who are not feeling well, those with underlying health conditions or in a high-risk category, one should stay home and avoid any public gathering. We strongly encourage you to watch or participate in Mass remotely.

For those who choose to attend Mass in person, for everyone's protection, please be aware of the following:

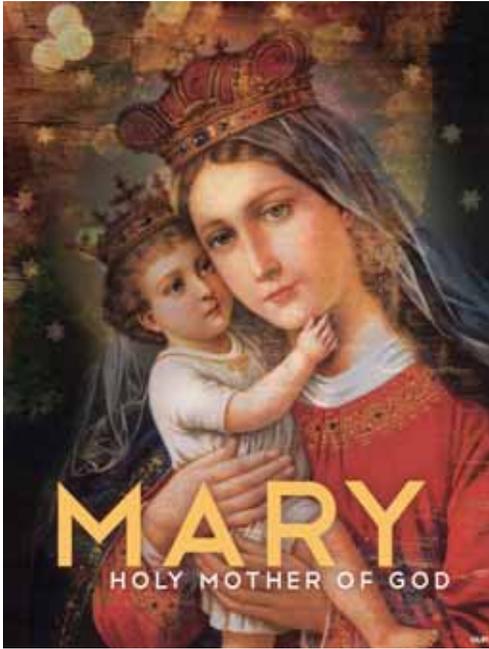
- Please wear a face mask at all times in the Church
- Please enter through the front door and use the hand sanitizer
- Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet at all times
- Bring your own hand sanitizer that can be used before receiving Holy Communion.
- No public gatherings, or greetings (handshakes, hugs, etc.) at Church entrance and Church property.

A full listing of the directives issued by Bishop O'Connell and St. Catherine of Siena Parish Re-Opening Protocols can be viewed at our website, [www.sienachurch.org](http://www.sienachurch.org).

Should you have any questions, please call the parish office at 732-938-5375.

Thank you for your understanding.

St. Catherine of Siena Church  
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God



CELEBRATION OF THE MASS  
9:00 AM  
Friday, January 1, 2021

*Holy, Mary, Mother of God, Pray for Us.*



*Congratulations & Best Wishes  
to ...*

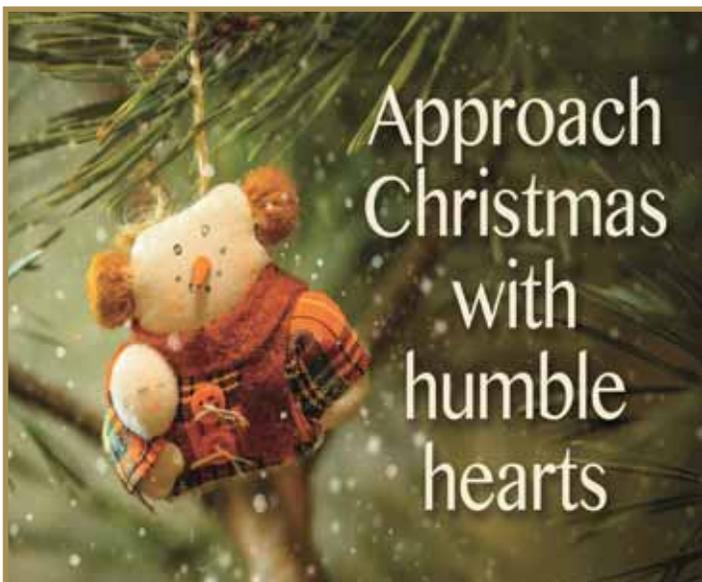
John Herbert Morgan III  
&  
Gabrielle Geraldine Sena

who were married at  
St. Catherine of Siena Church on  
Saturday, December 12, 2020

*May God bless the two of you abundantly in  
love joy and happiness!*



CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO LEARN MORE



ANNUAL CATHOLIC Appeal 2020

St. Catherine of Siena Parish  
ACA Status

As of December 7, 2020

GOAL \$38,000

Raised \$43,129.30

Collected \$42,185.08

Pledge Balance \$944.22

*Thank You*

**100% of Goal**

We are blessed that St. Catherine of Siena Parish reached and exceeded our 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal goal of \$38,000! Thank you to our parishioners who generously contributed.

We ask you to please continue to donate and send in your pledges. Keep in mind, funds collected in excess of the parish goal we earn a 50% rebate check which directly benefits our parish.

*Thank you for your generosity.*

Dear Friends in Christ,

**THE LORD BLESS AND KEEP YOU—Numbers 6:24**

As your pastor, let us take a moment and reflect on all God's blessings and graces. I extend to you a heartfelt thank you to those who have continued their financial support of the parish by mailing in your envelopes, and those who have reached out to us to sign up for online giving. Our parish is truly blessed with generous, caring and faithful members.

May God's peace and grace be with you always,  
Father Angelito

*Thank You!*

Worship at  
St Catherine of Siena Church



## ADVENT BENEDICTION SERVICE

November 29 December 6  
December 13 December 20

**Advent Service Begins at  
6 PM**



### What is the story behind the Advent wreath?

Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreaths adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace does not falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God's love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* means "rejoice" in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we are roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ's coming at Christmas.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT  
MEANS THERE IS SOMETHING  
ON THE HORIZON  
THE LIKES OF WHICH WE HAVE  
NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

— JAN RICHARDSON

# IMPORTANT UPDATES

## ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

### Grade 4 Students Celebrating Advent

Make a cradle for baby Jesus.

Thank you  
to our parish  
Catechist,  
Joan Pekar !



## SIMBANG GABI IN MONMOUTH COUNTY; BEGINS DECEMBER 15

*Simbang Gabi* is the Filipino custom of offering a nightly Mass each day for nine nights prior to Christmas Day to help the faithful prepare themselves for the festive, yet solemn, celebration of the birth of our Lord. The novena of Masses signifies the nine months our Lord was in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of God and our mother, too. This special novena is recognized by the universal Church as an authentic devotion to our Blessed Mother and has been prayed every year in the Philippines since the 1600s. In the Diocese of Trenton which covers four counties, every county has formed an organizing committee to ensure that all the faithful throughout the Diocese are given an opportunity to pray this novena.

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, *Simbang Gabi* in Monmouth County is ***not*** cancelled but will be very different this year from the way it had been celebrated in the previous years. **All nine Masses are open to the public and will be celebrated in one host parish—St. Benedict Catholic Church in Holmdel**—which can seat up to 170 people, following social distancing guidelines. No seat reservations are required. Those who choose to stay home can watch the livestreamed *Simbang Gabi* Mass on St. Benedict's YouTube channel.

All Masses will be in English and will start at **7:00 p.m. from December 15 to December 23**, except Saturday, Dec. 19, to allow some time for the sanitizing of the space inside St. Benedict's church building after their usual 5 o'clock Saturday evening Mass. The *Simbang Gabi* Mass on Saturday, Dec. 19, will start at 7:30 p.m.

Prior to every Mass, the Rosary will be recited in the church and, if weather permits, the Sacrament of Confession will be celebrated outside the Adoration Chapel. **No fellowship meal will take place after the Mass.**



## HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be **closed** on  
**Thursday, December 24, 2020,**  
**Friday, December 25, 2020** and  
**Sunday, December 27, 2020.**

The Parish Office will **reopen** on  
**Monday, December 28, 2020 through**  
**Wednesday, December 30th.**  
The hours are **9 AM until NOON.**

The Parish Office will be **closed** on  
**Thursday, December 31, 2020** and  
**Friday, January 1, 2021.**

