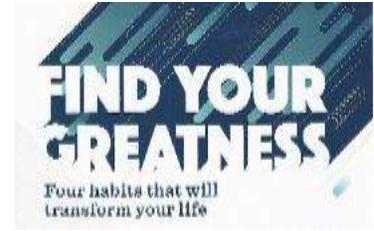


**Welcome to St. Virgil's...
Mass Intentions for the Week**

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|--|
| Sat., Dec. 15 | 5:00 PM | Johanna Eckardt John Keating |
| Sun., Dec. 16 | 7:30 AM | Grant Morgan Phyllis & Francis D'Annunzio |
| | 9:00 AM | Enrique Gonzales Faith Broderick Sr. Mary Ann Besitka—Special Intentions |
| | 10:30 AM | Rose Gauglione Alfredo Rocco |
| | 12:00 PM | Ellen & Joseph Picone Teresa Moran |
| Mon., Dec. 17 | 6:30 AM | Jean Williams |
| | 12:10 PM | William Morrison |
| Tues., Dec. 18 | 6:30 AM | Richard Esposito |
| | 12:10 PM | June Bosacki Kathryn Cheryl Chicken Lorraine Zieba—2 nd Anniversary Phylis Resh—10 th Anniversary Lester Resh Rose Prisco |
| Wed., Dec. 19 | 6:30 AM | Paul Glanville, Sr.—32 nd Anniversary Maria Goldovsky |
| | 12:10 PM | Maria Goldovsky Santo Santofiore—49 th Anniversary Elizabeth Shutta |
| Thurs., Dec. 20 | 6:30 AM | Len Giaco |
| | 12:10 PM | Thomas Morrison Michael Pallante |
| Fri., Dec. 21 | 6:30 AM | Josephine Underhill |
| | 12:10 PM | Elvira Caroselli Ann Marie Lagan |
| Sat., Dec. 22 | 8:00 AM | Rose Onorati |
| | 5:00 PM | Louis Beneduce Josephine Underhill Jean Williams |
| Sun., Dec. 23 | 7:30 AM | Phyllis & Francis D'Annunzio |
| | 9:00 AM | Craig Davidson Loretta Lang Harold & Mae Williamson |
| | 10:30 AM | Kathleen McGinty |
| | 12:00 PM | Angela & Antonio Gabriele Frances & Michael Marinaccio |

This Week at St. Virgil's



**“Find Your Greatness”
With Dr. Allan Hunt
From Dynamic Catholic
Tickets available in the Parish Office!**

Sunday, December 16

Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 AM, CR

PREP Mass, 9 AM

Children’s Choir Rehearsal, 4 PM, TC

Monday, December 17

Miraculous Medal Novena following 12:10 PM Mass

Jr. High PREP, 7 PM, School

Tuesday, December 18

Return Support Group, 11 AM, TC

Wednesday, December 19

RCIA, 7 PM, CMR

Thursday, December 20

Bible Study, 10:30 AM, TC

Children’s Choir Rehearsal, 6 PM, Church

Divine Mercy Novena, 6:30 PM, Chapel

Bible Study, 7 PM, Library

Friday, December 21

Eucharistic Adoration following 6:30 AM Mass

Prime Time, 1 PM, TC

Saturday, December 22

Confessions, 3:30-4:15 PM

Sunday, December 23

Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 AM, CR

Youth Band Practice, 5 PM, Church



Ministry Schedule for December 22 and 23

| | 5:00pm Vigil | 7:30am | 9:00am | 10:30am | 12:00 noon |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Cantor | Nancy Fenimore | | Nina Rangel | Janet Winston | Nina Rangel |
| Lector | Rick Kane | | Lynn Kelly | Kathy Sisler | Kelly Jarocha |
| Altar Servers | | Anthony Tonini | Breanna Barter | Anthony Loia | Michael Szoke |
| | | | Brandon Kelly | | |
| Extraordinary Ministers | Marianne Altrui | Nicea D'Annunzio | Barbara Fisher | Viji Alex | Tony Avella |
| | Jane Fischer | Beverly Morgan | Rita McCleary | Margaret Flory | Andres DeBlock |
| | Marie Hantak | Debbie Richenaker | June Sambrowski | Maureen Kelly | Sandy Rosanio |
| | Pete Sesso | Gary Richenaker | Lydia Sesso | Wendy Nunn | |
| | | | John Trombetta | Cheryl Zebick | |
| | | | Mary Jo Tufaro | Bob Zebick | |

Among Ourselves

We offer our prayerful condolences to the family and friends of **Jean (Regina) Williams**, who was called home to our Lord this week. We pray that **Jean** rests peacefully with the Lord.

Through the waters of Baptism, we welcome to the parish family **Brennyn Kyle Armstrong**, son of Kyle & Kristen.

Please remember in your prayers: Mary Eileen Prisinzano, Noreen Ballon, Eileen Langan, Karen Cullen, Mary Sullivan, Colleen Dillon & Family, Bob Taylor, John & Elizabeth Zisa, Kamasha Redhead, Stephen Burke, Sandra Buck, Janet Dittrich, Tammy Dolan, Mallory Miller, Miah Tully, Domenico & Teresa Procopio, Anne Benson, Baby Emma Scannelli, Barbara Bock, Mary Maffeo, & Rose Marie Warrick.

Through your generous donations the collection for the weekend of December 8/9 was \$11,373. (In-pew donations \$9,768 and \$1,605 through Faith Direct). The collection for the Immaculate Conception was \$1,510. The collection for the Religious Retirement was \$5,069. We are most appreciative for your kindness. Thank you!



Fr. Lance's Letter

Bishop Emeritus Frank Joseph Rodimer went to his eternal rest with God last Thursday, December 6, 2018. He was waked in St. John the Baptist Cathedral on Friday from 2:00 PM until 7:00 PM, and his Funeral Mass was celebrated on Saturday at 10:00 AM. It was in this Cathedral that Bishop Rodimer was ordained to the priesthood in 1951. He left our world, but he left our Diocese of Paterson with a rich history. He was the sixth Bishop of Paterson.

As bishop, he served as shepherd of our diocese for 26 years until his retirement in May 2004. During his ministry as bishop, he established 12 new parishes, ordained 91 priests and 179 permanent deacons and confirmed more than 100,000 Catholics. Like any leader, he had to weather a variety of seasons. Most notable the sexual abuse scandal and the crisis it has caused the Catholic Church throughout the world. On the other hand, Bishop Rodimer was energetic about liturgy and the proper worship of our God.

We all have our individual stories of Bishop Rodimer. To me he was a gracious, understanding and welcoming person. Every Christmas I received a personal, handwritten greeting with words of encouragement and gratitude. When he visited Rome to meet with our Holy Father and give his report to the Roman Curia (it consists of 56 offices) he found time to send me a greetings postcard with an assurance of his prayers and blessings. He wanted me to do my level best for the good of our people in the Paterson Diocese. I experienced his trust and confidence in me.

Advent time reminds us of our preparation for the Coming of the Lord. I believe that our late Bishop Frank Joseph Rodimer was worthily prepared and looked forward to going home to our Lord. May he enjoy eternal rest with the Angels and Saints in heaven.

† Entering our Third Week of Advent we have, hopefully, settled on where we will be for Christmas (Mass, Dinner, visits...). Our children, youth and adult choirs have been rehearsing and they allow us to catch the spirit of Christmas early on. Thank you for your participation in the "Star of Bethlehem" through which we offer many, many families and individuals something to enjoy for Christmas - may they know the love of God and our parish for them.

May we grow in the certitude that God comes into our lives, guarding us and guiding us into His Divine Love –
Fr. Lance

Oplatke, the special Christmas wafers, are available for your Holiday celebrations. You can pick them up at the Parish Office on Mondays – Fridays from 9:00am – 4:00pm. A free-will donation will be accepted.

Star of Bethlehem

We will still be accepting your donations for the Star of Bethlehem in the Parish Office until Monday, December 17.



Parish Postings

Calling all Prime Time members!! We will be celebrating our Christmas party on Friday, December 21, at 1 PM in the Tracy Center. Come wearing your best Christmas sweater/sweatshirt (or ugly Christmas sweater, if you have one!), as we have planned a fun afternoon for all of us. Please bring with you a donation of \$10, and a roll of toilet tissue. We will be having a variety of small sandwiches, some chips and salads for our party fare. We are promised some delicious desserts for our gathering as well. We will have our membership lists available for distribution, as we were snowed out of our November meeting, and of course, our usual 50/50 drawing. So, come one, come all.....bring your party spirit and let us enjoy each other for a fun afternoon. Any questions? Please call Kathy Sisler (973-539-1379). See you all on Friday, December 21, at 1PM.

Stained Glass Christmas Ornaments: Bring home one of St. Virgil's beautiful windows for your Christmas tree this year! Need a gift for a friend, a child who is living in another state, a teacher, a grandparent? Your purchase will help the Music Ministry's ongoing projects. There are 10 ornaments in the series and each one is framed in brass and each is as

Christmas Ornaments or as window suncatchers. Actual size is 2 x 3 3/4". Ornaments are being sold behind the Altar weekends through December 22/23. Except for the Ascension window which is \$25; the other nine in the collection are \$20 each. All profits will be used to further the Music Ministry.

There is still time to support our Christmas fundraisers:

Yankee Candle: www.yankeecandlefundraising.com, Enter Group Number 990036689 and start shopping. St. Virgil will earn 40% on every product sold. To date, we've earned \$286.65.

Lynch Creek Farms for your decorating needs. Order online at www.lcffundraising.com/c/157503.

Sessoespresso Gourmet Coffee: At www.sessoespresso.com to help St. Virgil earn \$6 on your order of 1 case of 1lb bags or 1 case of K-cups. To obtain a 15% discount for cases, use code Sesso15. To obtain the 10% discount for any other item, use code Sesso10.

Faith Formation

Religious Education Schedule for December

| PREP K – 4 | Jr. High PREP 5-8 | Jr. High Masses | FISH (Confirmation) | Youth Masses |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 10:15-11:45 AM | Sunday: 1-3:15 PM | 9:00 AM | 6:30 PM | 12:00 noon |
| December 16 | December 16 Monday: 7 – 8:15 PM December 17 | December 16 | Dec. 16--2 nd Yr. FISH | December 24 – 6 PM |



In the event that PREP classes, Formation sessions, or meetings need to be cancelled due to inclement weather, a message will be posted on the Parish website (www.stvirgilparish.org) at least one hour prior to the start of session.



Men's Cornerstone: "Did you ever wonder what kind of gift you could give to a friend...a loved one...or even yourself this coming Christmas? A gift that would leave a lasting memory and even perhaps change someone's life for the better. What better way to show your concern than to find a way to strengthen your personal relationship with Jesus Christ and to gain a better understanding of God's Plan for You. Be on the lookout for the registration for the upcoming Cornerstone VII Retreat scheduled for February 15 & 16 at Loyola."

Men's Retreat ~ The men of the parish are invited to take part in the annual Men's Retreat at Loyola Jesuit Center in Morristown. Here are some quick facts:

When is the retreat? Friday, January 18 thru Sunday, January 20

What is the retreat? An opportunity of prayer, listening, and self-examination

What is the theme? "Surrender? Learning to Yield to Loving to our God

Who is the presenter? Fr. Tom Marciniak, SJ

Cost of the retreat? A FREE WILL OFFERING

You are invited to a quiet weekend of prayer as God speaks to you in the silence of your heart. For more details, call Michael Butchko at 973-216-4874 or email retreathouse@loyola.org. You can also register online at www.loyola.org.

The computers you no longer use
can still have a HUGE impact!

ELECTRONICS DRIVE

December 29
10am to 2pm
Tracey Center @St Virgil's Parrish

Looking for used
desktops | laptops | tablets | flat screen
monitors | cell phones.

Equipment donated will be used to support
Electronic Access Foundation's efforts to provide
technology to program participants at Catholic
Charities of Newark Archdiocese, Homeless
Solutions of Morristown, Community Hope of
Parsippany, Youth Consultation Services of
Hackensack, Newark Kids Code and Community
Lifestyle of Hoboken.



Stocking Stuffer Idea:
Tickets to the Dynamic Catholic Event
"Find Your Greatness"
Tickets are available in the Parish Office



FIND YOUR GREATNESS

**Four habits that will
transform your life**

Featuring: **DR. ALLEN HUNT**

What are your habits? Are they helping you become the best version of yourself or some second-rate version of yourself?

Our lives change when our habits change. Based on Matthew Kelly's book *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*, this half-day event will introduce you to four simple habits that will help you reach your full potential.

When: **March 30, 2019**
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Where: **St. Virgil Catholic Church**
250 Speedwell Avenue
Morris Plains, NJ 07950

Tickets: **\$25.00**
Purchase your tickets at
DynamicCatholic.com
or call 859-980-7900

Dynamic Catholic

Around Town

ROTARY SEEKS STUDENTS FOR 3 WEEK EXCHANGE WITH JAPAN

Rotary District 7475 is looking for students ages 15 to 18 to participate in a unique three-week trip to southern Japan. The Rotary Short-Term Youth Exchange to Japan (STYE) now in its 41st year, provides an in-depth cultural experience that cannot be duplicated as a tourist.

If you know students who may be interested in this trip, please send this information to them ASAP.

The exchange is expected to depart Thursday, June 27, 2019, and return Thursday, July 18. The trip gives students the opportunity to experience Japanese culture, interact with Japanese students and families, visit local high schools, participate in home-stays, and form friendships that will last a lifetime.

The group will visit major cities in southern Japan including Osaka, Kyoto, Nara and Hiroshima. The students will then move to the island of Shikoku where they will enjoy four home-stays with local Japanese Rotarian families.

The all-inclusive cost of the trip is \$3,000 (this includes airfare). Students are selected through an interview process which will take place in February and March. Applications are now being accepted. Interviews are scheduled based upon the order the applications are received.

More information and the application are available on the program's website at <https://njrotary.org/SitePage/japan-youth-exchange>. If you have any other questions contact me at JRA188@aol.com or 201-213-6382.

THERE'S STILL TIME to #befaithful, #bechallenged, #bethefuture

Visit St. Patrick School during **Walk-In Wednesdays** and tour the National Blue Ribbon and AdvancED Stem Certified school. SPS provides a learning environment that embraces the Gospel values of the Catholic faith coupled with rigorous academics and a commitment to family and community. Contact Ashley Kearney, Director of Communications & Development at admissions@st-pats.org or 973-635-4623.



Spiritual Direction: Every Issue is a Spiritual Issue: Spiritual direction affirms God’s unconditional love and acceptance of all people, regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, or economic status.

We need to take time to “be still” in the midst of the noise and business of life to savor God’s loving presence and explore God’s seeming absence. Spiritual Direction is for anyone facing transitions or challenges, such as forgiveness, abortion issues, grieving, confusion or doubts concerning your faith and your God. A Spiritual Director creates a safe confidential space helping you to listen for the voice of God in Scripture, in your prayer, your dreams and in ordinary events of your life. Anna Graziano is a Certified Spiritual Direction, Supervisor of Spiritual Directors and a Director for Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. To make an appointment or for further information, call: Anna Graziano, cSD at 973-338-9538 or email her at annagraziano08@gmail.com.

Weekly Reflections

Third Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:10-18

Advent is a season of Joy. We celebrate the time of waiting in the expectation of God being with us, entering time and staying with us. In today’s Old Testament reading, Zephaniah wrote “the Lord is in your midst. You have no more misfortune to fear.” In today’s Gospel, Luke reveals John preaching the Good News to his people - that the promise of the Old Testament, made to the people of God, was being fulfilled; that John told his followers, “...one mightier than I is coming,” i.e., that God is entering time, that He is coming to walk with them (us), but also that they must live up to the Commandments set down to our forefathers. That is why we are celebrating Advent as the season of Joy. The “Good News” can’t get better than this, that we are not left to struggle through life alone, that we have a friend, not just in high places, but One who is in our place. He is with us!

How do we react to all this “Good News”? Does this change our life? Do we feel His presence? Do we stop to think how this News does change our life? Let us rejoice, we are blessed. We don’t have to go it alone. The birth of every child brings joy to a family. This quiet birth, we celebrate, rocked the world, it changed everything. Joseph and Mary, that young couple, who possessed only what they had on their backs, felt this joy at the birth of their Son. Our Savior. To others, they looked like they had nothing; yet, they had everything.

Lord, let us feel your presence in our daily life this Advent season. Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel!



Please remember the **Interfaith Food Pantry** while you are shopping for your Christmas grocery needs. Pantry needs are extensive this time of year. Current needs are: canned fruit,

spaghetti/pasta sauce, tomato products, cereal, white and brown rice, dry milk, evaporated milk, calcium-fortified milk alternatives, tuna fish, peanut butter (18oz), canned meats and meals, Rice-A-Roni, Pasta-Roni, Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, all varieties of soups, Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3 baby food, baby cereal, baby wipes, reusable grocery shopping bags, Boost or Ensure regular and glucose control.

EVANGELIZATION CORNER



Many of us seem to spend a lot of our lives focusing on the future, concerned with approaching events and preparing for what might be coming. However, in focusing on the future we can easily miss appreciating what is happening right here and right now. This is especially true of Advent. With the peace and joy of Christmas in the air, Advent runs the risk of being overlooked or forgotten.

But the season of Advent reminds us of the importance of living in the present moment, renewing our lives in God’s grace. It calls us to determine for what and for whom we will live and to allow these convictions to determine our focus, to mold our lives and to shape our journey today; a journey that will lead us to our eventual destination.

On this the third Sunday in Advent, ‘Gaudete Sunday’, we are reminded that Advent is a journey of hope and that we are called to rejoice in this hope. Pope Francis reminds us that, *“For the great human family it is necessary to renew always the common horizon toward which we are journeying. The horizon of hope!”*

The theme of Advent is clearly joy as we await the celebration of the birth of Jesus. It is also a time when our hearts should be filled with hope and expectation for the coming of the Word made flesh. As John the Baptist found joy amidst his suffering when he heard the Good News that the Christ had appeared, we too should pause from our Advent penance to rejoice in the salvation that is drawing near.

The pink candle that we light on the Advent Wreath today, also known as the ‘Shepherds Candle’, reminds us of the joy of the shepherds in finding the Christ Child. It also reminds us that God sent the angels to proclaim His arrival to common man. Today God uses ordinary people, like us, to share this joy and to spread the good news of Christ with others. As Christians we have been made responsible for sharing Jesus’ message of love to all who need to hear it; the message of salvation through Him and His promise that He would one day return.

May His grace be with each of us as we continue on our journey with Christ.

St. Virgil’s Evangelization Ministry