

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

Sat., Dec. 29	5:00 PM	Judy DiCarlo William Smith Alice Morris
Sun., Dec. 30	7:30 AM	Walter Appell Eileen Doherty
	9:00 AM	Loretta Lang
	10:30 AM	Suzanne Cattaneo Jean Williams
	12:00 PM	Eleanor Gallagher
Mon., Dec. 31	6:30 AM	Dot Denman
	12:10 PM	Dolores Marcantonio
Tues., Jan. 1	9:00 AM	Phyllis & Francis D'Annunzio
	1100 AM	Sebastian Schreiber
Wed., Jan. 2	6:30 AM	John Martin
	12:10 PM	Mary Spinola
Thurs., Jan. 3	6:30 AM	Pam Antonaccio
	12:10 PM	Joseph Santofiore Don Jones
Fri., Jan. 4	6:30 AM	Grant Morgan
	12:10 PM	George Kaiser
Sat., Jan. 5	8:00 AM	Cal Benson
	5:00 PM	James P. Miller-21 st Anniversary Frank Tykowski Joseph Parato
Sun., Jan. 6	7:30 AM	Margaret Doherty
	9:00 AM	Maria Perna
	10:30 AM	Fred Conforti Marie Kairaitis—5 th Anniversary
	12:00 PM	Gerard Palumbo



This Week at St. Virgil's



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

Saturday, December 29
Confession, 3:30 – 4:15 PM
Sunday, December 30
Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 AM, CR
Thursday, January 3
Bible Study, 10:30 AM
Divine Mercy Novena, 6:30 PM, Chapel
Bible Study, 7:00 AM, Library
Friday, January 4
Eucharistic Adoration following the 6:30 AM Mass
Saturday & Sunday, January 5 & 6
K of C Right to Life Roses at the doors
Saturday, January 5
Confession, 3:30 – 4:15 PM
Sunday, January 6
Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 AM, CR
Welcome Sunday, 9 – 11:30 AM, TC
Youth Band Practice, 5 – 6 PM, Church

Among Ourselves

The **Sanctuary Candle** honors the memory of
Sabin Fallivene
From the Fallivene Family

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.

	5:00pm Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	12:00 noon
Cantor	Frank Kelly		Nina Rangel	Janet Winston	Nina Rangel
Lector	Bob Clifford	Ron Kelly	Ray Lillie	Tom Wendorff	Kelly Jarocho
Altar Servers			Seleyna Bautista Evan Bautists Tyler Bautista	Anthony Loia Michael Szoke	Victoria Coté
Extraordinary Ministers	Marianne Altrui Jane Fischer Marie Hantak Pete Sesso Phyllis Smith Dan Smith	Cathy Marshall Rosemary Paulison Debbie Richenaker Gary Richenaker	Barbara Fisher Rita McCleary June Sambrowski Lydia Sesso Mary Jo Tufaro	Viji Alex Maureen Kelly Wendy Nunn Cheryl Zebick Bob Zebick	Tony Avella Andrew DeBlock Sandy Rosanio Louise Spirig Ron Spirig



Fr. Lance's Letter

The Feast of the Holy Family is a powerful Christmas Season invitation to each family and to our Parish Family, too. We are called to be

“holy”, as in “friends of God”, “belonging to God”, “living in the Divine Trinity”, an essential member with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Most of the times we meet and become friends by accident. Such unforeseen meetings open us to unknown possibilities of discovering the other, the friend who then becomes a very important part of your life.

Family is very different. Family is God-given, God-chosen, God-decided, God-planned. We do not choose our family members, nor do they choose us. So, God has a unique plan for us and our unique relationships with every family member: siblings, parents and grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and even in-laws. God designed our family; we need to live, grow and build our family. Yes, even our Parish Family of St. Virgil.

As was the custom of the Jewish people in the times of Jesus, an engagement ceremony was conducted by the families of the young son and daughter. The village elders, synagogue leader and other prominent people made sure that this engagement ceremony was properly concluded. Later, when that engaged couple were ready, they went through a betrothal ceremony. This ritual was a confirmation and an assurance of an agreement to marry each other. It was considered to be a solemn contract and could not be broken easily without penalties. Finally, after a year or so, the engaged and betrothed couple celebrated their wedding. This final ceremony reminded the Jewish couple that they were in a covenant relationship: Just as they were God's people forever, so also their marriage was God's covenant-arrangement forever.

Mary gave her full and complete consent to God. She totally accepted to be the mother of the Son of God. Joseph though engaged and betrothed to Mary, but learning that “she was with child”, also fully and completely consented to God's will, and “took Mary as his wife into his home”. They also agreed, being instructed by the Angel, to name their son Jesus.

The Holy Family was designed, created, realized by God. Mary and Joseph gave their individual and united “Yes” to God's plan. This is the chief grace we celebrate today. We are called to be a “Holy Family” because this is God's Divine, Eternal, Loving Plan for us.

May we look into each family member today and see with God's grace His loving plan for us. May our celebration of the Eucharist help us realize that Jesus comes into our personal lives to help us become the glue that unites us in our individual families and also in our Parish Family. So, may Jesus, Mary and Joseph - our Holy Family - be our motivation, our support, our blessing to be God's Family on earth. God bless our Parish Families of St. Virgil - *Fr. Lance*

NEW YEAR'S BLESSINGS

This Tuesday, January 1, 2019, God gives us the grace of His Eternal Presence by inviting us into a New Year - 2019!!! May this gift of God be accepted by all of us graciously. Let us begin the Year 2019 with His Blessings of good health, happiness, joy and courage in whatever comes to us every day of the Year 2019. May each of us model ourselves in the best way we can according to the life of Jesus. In our pursuit of adventure and success, beauty and goodness, health and happiness, may we always choose to do God's divine will.

From all at St. Virgil - ministers, staff and clergy - have a Blessed New Year 2019!!!

Faith Formation

Religious Education Schedule for January

PREP K – 4	Jr. High PREP 5-8	Jr. High Masses 9 AM	FISH (Confirmation)	Youth Masses 12:00 Noon
10:15-11:45 AM January 6 & 27	Sunday: 1-3:15 PM January 20	January 27	6:30 PM 1 st Yr: January 13	January 13
1st Eucharist Retreat January 26:	Monday: 7 – 8:15 PM January 7 & 27		2 nd Yr: January 27	



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.

Parish Postings



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.



The Rosary Society will not meet in January due to the celebration of New Year's Day.

FIND YOUR GREATNESS

Four habits that will transform your life

Featuring: **DR. ALLEN HUNT**

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

Tickets are available for purchase in the Parish Office and online. Claim your free gift (while supply lasts) by purchasing your ticket at the Parish

Christmas Flower Remembrance

In loving memory of the deceased members of the **Atkins family**—from **Kathleen Atkins**.



A very special thank you to the Morris County Choral Society.

We hosted their Christmas Concert on December 8 and 9. The music was wonderful and the presentation superb!



New Year, New School? Transfer Grants Offered at St. Patrick School

Considering a change for your child's educational experience? St. Patrick School invites families with children currently enrolled in non-Catholic schools to consider the benefits of our Parish school environment where Gospel values are combined with National Blue Ribbon and STEM certified academics every day. Transfer grants are available to new students entering in grades 1 through 7, coming from public, charter or home schools. Curious? Email admissions@st-pats.org or call 973-635-4623 to learn more or to schedule a tour!

COMMUNITY INVITED TO SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE LAUNCH AT CALDWELL UNIVERSITY

Caldwell University is inviting the public to the launch for its Year with the Saint John's Bible, 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 28, 2019 on campus. This timeless gift of sacred art is the first illuminated, handwritten Bible of monumental size to be created in more than 500 years. Tim Ternes, the director of the Saint John's Bible at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, will present. A reception will follow. To RSVP go to www.caldwell.edu/thesaintjohnsbible. It was commissioned by Benedictine Saint John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minnesota, and the creative director was Donald Jackson, senior scribe to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Crown Office. For one year, Caldwell will host the Heritage Edition of the Gospels and Acts volume of the Bible, a work of art that unites the ancient Benedictine tradition with today's technology and vision. Groups are invited to book visits during the year at thesaintjohnsbible@caldwell.edu or by calling Julie Kajouras at 973-618-3922. Throughout the year, Caldwell will present programs and lectures in theology, art, history, science, music and more as they relate to the Bible.

Weekly Reflections

Feast of the Holy Family

Old Testament: Sirach 3:2-6,12-14

New Testament: Luke 2: 41-52

In today's reading we focus on family life. It seems as though we don't read or hear as much as we should about family life these days - precious days which proved to be great training grounds for our lives as an adult. We can spend a great deal of time analyzing our childhood and how it formed our lives, but the gospels as a whole don't reveal much about Christ's childhood. These readings make the exception all the more significant.

In Luke's Gospel, he felt the need to refresh this event of the life of The Holy Family. Luke gives us much to ponder. Christ was about the age of a Junior High Schooler today - always an interesting time! Christ turned up missing, while His parents searched wildly to find their only Son, the Savior of the world! Many of us have lost one of our children, if only for a short moment, in a store or playground. Can you imagine how guilty and scared the Blessed Mother must have felt at losing, not just any child, but the Messiah! As we experience anxiety which sometimes comes in raising our children, this story gives us some solace, *i.e.*, to learn that Mary and Joseph experienced the same fears that we do. And, it is nice to see our human daily emotion expressed in the Mass, in the prayer before Communion. Who among us has not felt anxiety in our days of raising our children?

The interchange between Mary, Joseph and Jesus is a great "peek" into the Holy Family's life and is a great blueprint for us to follow. Mary and Joseph could not figure out why Christ has been so thoughtless as to their concern and, according to Luke, Christ didn't see what the big deal was all about! Sound familiar? Or maybe some of us who are still blessed with elderly parents experience similar anxiety. Are we being told that we should remember to always be willing to see life's events from the other's point of view, and not just our own?

The Old Testament reading also gives us much to reflect upon in family life. It says much about "fatherhood." It tells us that "whoever reveres his father will live a long life," and "kindness to a father will not be forgotten." Are we giving fathers or father figures enough respect? We don't see much supportive activity for "father figures" depicted on TV. Just as we need strong mother figures, we need strong father figures as well. All families could use "balance" with dual figures who help each other, be they couples, friends or Grandparents. We should do all we can to give families the support they need to live out what is a really tough job.

Lord, help us live our family lives with great love and sacrifice.

EVANGELIZATION CORNER



Would you like your family life to be filled with more love, faith and grace?

The virtues of Faith, Hope and Love are gifts of the Holy Spirit, infused in us in the sacrament of Baptism and strengthened by the Holy Spirit in the other sacraments such as Confirmation, Eucharist and Marriage.

In his post-Synodal apostolic exhortation on Love in the Family (*Amoris Laetitia*), Pope Francis wrote that “*Christian families, by the grace of the sacrament of matrimony, are the principle agents of the family apostolate, above all through their joy-filled witness as domestic churches*’. Consequently, *‘it is important that people experience the Gospel of the family as a joy that fills hearts and lives’*”.

Through the sacrament of marriage God builds on the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love through mutual faithfulness, trust in the future and abiding love, elevating and perfecting them so that parents and children can live together as a family in faith, hope and love.

But, what does it mean to be an “Evangelizing Family”?

Just being a nice or a caring family is not enough. Although the family is the smallest community of faith, it too has been given the mission of Jesus Christ and his Church to proclaim and spread the Gospel of Christ’s saving grace through word and example, and indirectly, through all the small things that go to make up Christian family life. As such, the Church’s teachings of “faith and morals” become inseparable from true family evangelization.

Evangelization begins in the home where parents and grandparents are entrusted with the faith formation of children. The home should be a kind of sanctuary for the domestic church. Evangelization is fostered in families where open communication and dialogue exist. For a family to be an evangelizing family it needs to constantly evangelize itself; to be a believing family. Only then that it can be an evangelizing family. As Pope Paul VI has said, “*The family, like the Church, ought to be a place where the Gospel is transmitted and from which the Gospel radiates*” (*Familiaris Consortio* 52).

The Evangelizing Family is one that reaches out to others. In many Catholic homes today, religious practice is minimal. The Evangelizing Family is one that reaches out to Catholic families - particularly those that don't regularly attend Mass - with support, encouragement and prayer in a society where the

practicing Catholic home often seems isolated, odd or out of step. It is one that reaches out to single adult Catholics offering meaning, connection and a source of all real love in Jesus Christ Himself. And reaching out to the homeless, the shut-ins and the lost with God’s love.

God bless and may His grace be with each of us as we continue on our journey with Christ.

St. Virgil’s Evangelization Ministry



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.

Say hello to the Rosary Society “Greeting Gals”!

On the first Monday of each month, the “Gals” gather to write messages to our shut-in parishioners, parishioners that need a cheerful greeting, those who have Baptized babies, gotten married, new parishioners and to families who have lost a loved one. Four times a year, they also send cards to our



parishioners who have moved away. The cards are all lovingly handcrafted by our own **Karen Schwingel**. Her team handwrite and address all the notes. Pictured are (from left to right) **Kathy Schultz, Karen Schwingel, Ann Picone and Lorraine Kowalski**. Also, on the team are **Mickey Toyé-Young, Pearl Law and Ronnie Kelly**. **There are also a handful of substitutes that rotate as needed.**

Thank you, “Gals” for this wonderful service to our parishioners.