

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

Sat., Dec. 8	5:00 PM	Mickey Nodoro Jamie Hunter Phyllis & Francis D'Annunzio
Sun., Dec. 9	7:30 AM	Phyllis & Francis D'Annunzio
	9:00 AM	Joanne Obata Quadalupe dela Cruz, Sr.
	10:30 AM	Margaret Husti Lucille Schadt
Mon., Dec. 10	12:00 PM	Josephine Underhill
	6:30 AM	Joe Martin
	12:10 PM	Paula Rosain Santoro
Tues., Dec. 11	6:30 AM	Anthony Fiore Harold Hopf
	12:10 PM	Gilbert Hallett Nancy Lovenberg
Wed., Dec. 12	6:30 AM	Charles Kenworthy
	12:10 PM	Marion Bracale
Thurs., Dec. 13	6:30 AM	Charlie Chappeto
	12:10 PM	Jack Clark
Fri., Dec. 14	6:30 AM	Frank & Mary Ducci
	12:10 PM	Rose Onorati
Sat., Dec. 15	8:00 AM	Mary Delmonico
	5:00 PM	Johanna Eckardt John Keating
Sun., Dec. 16	7:30 AM	Grant Morgan Phyllis & Francis D'Annunzio
	9:00 AM	Enrique Gongales Faith Broderick Sr. Mary Ann Besitka—Special Intentions
	10:30 AM	Rose Gauglione Alfredo Rocco
	12:00 PM	Ellen & Joseph Picone Teresa Moran

This Week at St. Virgil's



**Tickets will be on sale this weekend
For "Find Your Greatness"
With Dr. Allan Hunt
From Dynamic Catholic**

Saturday, December 8
Morris County Choral Society Show, 8 PM, Church

Sunday, December 9
Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 AM, CR
Youth Mass, 12 Noon
Morris County Choral Society Show, 3 PM, Church
1st Year FISH, 6:30 PM, School

Monday, December 10
Miraculous Medal Novena following the 12:10 Mass

Tuesday, December 11
Return Support Group, 11 AM, Library
Knights of Columbus Meeting, 8 PM, TC
Wednesday, December 12

RCIA, 7 PM, CMR
Thursday, December 13
Bible Study, 10:30 AM

Divine Mercy Novena, 6:30 PM, Chapel
Bible Study, 7 PM, Library

Friday, December 14
Eucharistic Adoration following the 6:30 AM Mass
Saturday, December 15
Confession, 3:30 – 4:15 PM

Sunday, December 16
Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 AM, CR
PREP Mass, 9 AM
Youth Band Practice, 5 – 6 PM, Church

Ministry Schedule for December 15 and 16

	5:00pm Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	12:00 noon
Cantor	Nancy Fenimore		Nina Rangel	Ric Perez	Nina Rangel
Lector	Steve Welsh	Martha Barilla	Antonia Galdi	Tom Wendorff	Mary Tiso
			Angelina Messana		
Altar Servers	Lia Dyer		Jake Gringeri	Ally McLoughlin	Micah Fuentes
			Michael Szoke	Bobby McLoughlin	Victoria Coté
Extraordinary Ministers	Jane Flynn	Shirley Fleury	Melissa Gringeri	Maureen Kelly	Marie Aloia
	Michele Para	Cathy Marshall	Pearl Law	Penny Manser	Deanna Colasurdo
	Pat Para	Rosemary Paulison	Chris Letta	Sue Carol Scannelli	Jackie Colasurdo
	Dan Smith	Joan Sambrowski	George Perkins	Jim Scannelli	Frank Miller
	Phyllis Smith		June Sambrowski		Angela Rangel
	Grace Walsh		Karen Schwingel		

Among Ourselves



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 the waters of Baptism, we welcome to the parish family, **Amelia Quinn Casiero** daughter of John & Jaclyn.

Through your generous donations the collection for the weekend of December 1/2 was \$10,775. (In-pew donations \$9,016 and \$1,759 through Faith Direct). Your generosity will allow us to continue to provide for the services, ministries and outreaches that our parish supports.



Fr. Lance's Letter

Last Sunday we had several families - mom, dad and their children - learning how to create an Advent Wreath. The metal circle with clasps for the candles was the base of this wreath. The families had to weave into this metal frame

pine branches. This took some experimenting, but everyone soon figured out the best way to create a wreath. Adding the four candles - three blue and one rose-colored - was the easy part. There were few other additions: ribbons and designing a Christmas scene with Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Most importantly, this Advent Wreath encircled the members of the family, bringing them together, working as a team, and finding divine pleasure in preparing themselves for the Birth of Jesus. This family-created Wreath will be the focal feature of each of these families for the next four weeks of Advent.

Dynamic Catholic, among many other Catholic Agencies, communities and churches, offers us a preparation for the Birth of Jesus. Kindly check into: "DynamicCatholic.com/best-advent-ever" and sign up for their daily video reflections. They are maximum 3-5 minutes long but filled with inspiring anecdotes and spiritual messages. For Advent, Dr. Allen Hunt is featured as the main speaker who will make your Advent a "turning point" and encourage you to "know Jesus" in a personal way. Dynamic Catholic is an appropriate communication center for regular Catholics to be active and engaged in their faith. "We're passionate about re-energizing the Catholic Church in America and inspiring people to rediscover the genius of Catholicism." Our Holy Father, Pope Francis opened his heart, saying: "I invite all Christians, everywhere at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ". Let us commit ourselves this Advent - never too late - to prepare our hearts and our minds to receive Jesus. "Be Bold. Be Catholic" is the poster message of Dynamic Catholic.

- Our 2nd Graders celebrated their First Reconciliation this past Wednesday. They joined us bravely in the prayer service which included readings, prayer petitions and singing. After the sacrament, they wrote a letter to Jesus which they sealed and placed before the Altar. Next, with their family they went to the Baptismal Font, lit a candle from the Christ-Paschal Candle, and committed themselves to Christ in a special prayer. Finally, they stood at the Altar and signed their full names into the Book of Reconciliation. We are most grateful to our Directors and Teachers in our PREP program, to our parents, grandparents and siblings who helped and encouraged our little ones to come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and confirm their "Friendship with Jesus". We are also grateful to **Fr. Pawal Bala** who helped in the celebration of their First Reconciliation.

- May the Advent Wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation - *Fr. Lance*

ADVENT THOUGHT

How do we wait for God? We wait with patience. But patience does not mean passivity. Waiting patiently is not like waiting for the bus to come, the rain to stop, or the sun to rise. It is an active waiting in which we live the present moment to the full in order to find there the signs of the One we are waiting for. The word patience comes from the Latin verb *patior* which means "to suffer." Waiting patiently is suffering through the present moment, tasting it to the full, and letting the seeds that are sown in the ground on which we stand grow into strong plants. Waiting patiently always means paying attention to what is happening right before our eyes and seeing there the first rays of God's glorious coming. - *Henri Nouwen*

MORRIS CHORAL SOCIETY HOLIDAY CONCERT

In 1972 fire destroyed the United Methodist Church on the Green in Morristown, and for the next two years the Methodist congregation held its services in the sanctuary of Temple B'nai Or. As the new Methodist Church neared completion, R. Wayne Walters, the bass soloist at both the Methodist Church and at Temple B'nai Or, composed a setting of the Friday Evening Service, Shabbat Hodaah, and dedicated it to the B'nai Or congregation and Rabbi Z. David Levy. To perform the work, a chorus was assembled made up of choir members from area churches including several from St. Virgil's. The performance was such a success that in the spring of 1973, Rabbi Levy asked Walters to reassemble the group and perform a concert of Russian and Israeli folk music for the 25th Anniversary of the State of Israel. The resounding success of this event caused several of the singers to suggest that the group remain together under Walters' leadership. In the summer of 1973 the Morris Choral Society (MCS) was incorporated, and it has traditionally performed two major concerts each succeeding year.

This year, for the first time, The Morris Choral Society (MCS) will present its Christmas Concert right here at St Virgil's Church on Saturday evening December 8 at 8 PM and Sunday afternoon December 9 at 3 PM. Although Wayne Walters still sings in the chorus Dr. Jason Tramm was selected to direct the choir upon the retirement Mr. Walters.

Last year an unexpected storm forced the Frelinghuysen school to close early leaving the choir with no place to rehearse. With very short notice Fr. Lance agreed to allow the choir to use the church that Monday evening. Dr. Tramm immediately recognized that the acoustics in the church were ideally suited for a choir such as the MCS and this year suggested that they hold the concert at St. Virgil's.

The concert entitled "Songs Earthly & Divine" features Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols" with Harpist Stephanie Babirak. Also, in the program are seasonal favorites by J.S. Bach, Irving Berlin, David Eddleman, John Rutter and Wayne Walters presently the Conductor Emeritus of the Morris Choral Society. Tickets: General Admission \$25, Senior Citizens \$20, Children 18 and under \$15.

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.

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.

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT FUND: This weekend, Sister Josephine Palmeri, MPF, Spanish Teacher at Villa Walsh Academy, Morristown, will speak on the Religious Retirement Fund. From 1900 to the 1960"s, "The Golden Age of Vocations," thousands of young people entered religious life. Today religious orders experience a "vocation crisis," with few young members to continue their mission. Sister Palmeri will speak on this experience.

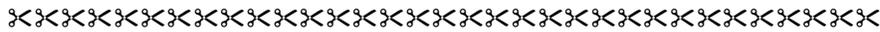


Stained Glass Christmas Ornaments: Bring home one of St. Virgil's beautiful windows for your Christmas tree this year! Need a gift for a friend, a child who is living in another state, a teacher, a grandparent? Your purchase will help the Music Ministry's ongoing projects. There are 10 ornaments in the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

Yankee Candle Fundraiser to support **SAINT VIRGIL PARISH** continues through December 31 at www.yankeecandlefundraising.com. Enter 'Group Number' **(990036689)** in the 'Start Shopping' section. Saint Virgil Parish will earn **40% profit** on every product sold. Contact Lynn Kelly LynnNJ28@optonline.net with questions. To date, St. Virgil's has earned \$286.65. Thank you for supporting our church.

Lynch Creek Farms Fundraiser. Centerpieces, Wreaths, Tabletop Christmas Trees? Purchase your handcrafted, elegant evergreen products online and support St. Virgil Parish. Ships direct in a decorative box from Lynch Creek Farms, a family owned business. Order online at www.lcffundraising.com/c/157503.

Sessoespresso Gourmet Coffee: At Sessoespresso Gourmet Coffee, we believe a cup of coffee can make a difference. Our Charity is to help those suffering with addiction and supporting St. Virgil's Parish. Purchasing a case of 8 (12) bags, or 6 boxes of (72) K-cups Sessoespresso will make a \$6 donation for cases sold. Our donation will help the needs of local Rehab Centers and St. Virgil's Parish. Choose a Rehabilitation Center, and/or St. Virgil's Church for Sessoespresso to donate. Go to www.sessoespresso.com and find out more information on each of our charities on our Charity Page. To obtain a 15% discount for cases, use code Sesso15. To obtain the 10% discount for any other item, use code Sesso10. Thank you for your support to help those battling with substance abuse and giving to St. Virgil's.



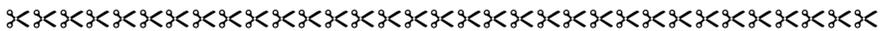
Christmas Flowers



Each year, our flower memorial allows us to offer to God the best of what we can in worship, and it also allows us to remember loved ones. If you wish to remember loved ones (living or deceased) or to make a gift in your family's name, please complete this form and return it to the Parish Office by Friday, December 14. A free-will donation will be accepted.

In memory of / for the special intention of:

Given by: _____



Faith Formation

Grade 2 Reconciliation



Please pray for the 2nd graders of our Parish who for the first time, experienced God's love and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on December 5:

- Sydney Armstrong**
- Patrick Battagliese**
- Andy Bautista**
- Sara Boothe**
- Michael Bozza**
- Dante Breiner**
- Lily Campbell**
- Brielle Casafranca**
- Brandon Catania**
- Reno Catizone**

- Kamryn Ciolek**
- Sebastian Concepcion**
- Carly D'Anna**
- Luca DeNova**
- Gabriella DelRusso**
- Charlie Fischer**
- Madison Fox**
- Alessia Galdi**
- Brayden Garretson**
- Brooklyn Grigoletti**

- Daniel Hamrah**
- Lily Hamrah**
- Brendan Hand**
- Caroline Higgins**
- Elizabeth John**
- Sean Kaiser**
- Timothy Kot**
- Mia Mastrodomenico**
- Brianna Memory**
- Sebastian Musolino**

- Cameron Scheifler**
- Reid Scheifler**
- Sofia Schletter**
- Kaitlyn Shenloogian**
- Elenora Skripak**
- Lily Staples**
- Benjamin Valenti**
- Kiersten VanRy**
- Mason Varneckas**
- Layla Zelaya**

Altar Server Training: Wednesday, December 12: If your child is in fifth grade or higher and would like to be an altar server, there will be training with Fr. Lance on Wednesday, December 12, at 4 pm in the Church. Call Chris Letta or the Parish Office if interested.

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. 9--1 st Yr. FISH Dec. 16--2 nd Yr. FISH	December 9 December 24 – 6 PM



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.”

**Stocking Stuffer Idea:
Tickets to the Dynamic Catholic Event:
“Find Your Greatness”**



Men’s Retreat ~ The men of the parish are invited to attend the annual Retreat at Loyola Jesuit Center in Morristown, NJ. Loyola Jesuit Center is dedicated to creating a rich retreat experience in a quiet, peaceful atmosphere for contemplation and meditation. All retreats and programs are based upon Ignatian Spirituality (spirituality for everyday life) and the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits. The [Spiritual Exercises](#) are, in brief, a “pathway to God,” an experiential approach to personal faith and union with God, that is why, during our retreats, there is ample time for private reflection and personal prayer. Come and hear God speak to you in the silence of your heart. The theme of this year's retreat is, "Learning to Yield Loving to Our God." It will take place Friday, January 18 – Sunday, January 20. To learn more about this beautiful spiritual experience visit the web site at www.loyola.org or call Michael Butchko 973- 216-4874.

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

St. Virgil's is seeking singers and instrumentalists for our 4pm Mass on Christmas Eve!

This is a special opportunity for children to share their talents while aiding in prayer, worship, and the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior! Grades K-8 welcome

Rehearsal Schedule:

Thursday, December 13th at 6pm in the church

Sunday, December 16th at 4pm in the Tracy Center **(with a pizza party after practice! - please RSVP for this rehearsal)**

Thursday, December 20th in the church

To sign up or for more information contact
Nina Rangel at NMRangel.Music@gmail.com or
(862) 579-7347

Ministries & Outreaches



Star of Bethlehem

It has been a tradition in our parish to begin our Christmas Outreach Program following the Thanksgiving holiday. For more than thirty years, St. Virgil’s parishioners have shown their compassion for the poor by responding generously to the Star of Bethlehem trees.

Two trees with gift card requests are in our church through this weekend December 8/9. Anyone wishing to contribute to this outreach program can select an envelope from one of the trees on either side of the altar and purchase the gift card requested.

Please place the envelope with the enclosed gift card in one of the collection boxes under the trees. Please mark the amount on the gift card.

The gift cards are distributed to local charities which provide emergency shelter, food, clothing, and medicinal needs to families

in desperate need. When Christmas comes, and children are told “things are scarce this year,” our gift cards come to the rescue. To think that it is our gift cards that come to the rescue help us to understand the true meaning of Christmas.

Gift cards will be sold at the main parking lot entrance after each Mass and during the week during regular Parish Office hours.

Thank you in advance for your kind generosity.

A thank you for the “Coins for Babies” campaign

Dear Father Lance, Jane, Betty and all the St. Virgil’s Parishioners. We are so grateful for all your help with doing a wonderful job keeping us in diapers, wipes and baby products. Without your help, we would always be short of supplies for our mothers and babies. God bless you all for everything you do for Birthright.

Sincerely, Anne Kopet & the Birthright volunteers



The Knights of Columbus Bishop McLaughlin Council 3495 would like to thank those who supported the **“Keep Christ in Christmas”** card sale. Through your generosity, we raised \$249.25 for St. Jude’s Hospital.

Morris County Right to Life on behalf of New Jersey Right to Life ~ Thank you so much for participating in the 2018 fund raiser and raffle for New Jersey Right to Life. On Friday, November 16, there were four winners drawn and this was the winning prize, ticket # and the name of the winner: Volvo XC 40 - Ticket # 32411 - Michelle DeRins; \$1,000 Gift Certificate ShopRite - Ticket # 00070 - Nick Menchise; \$750. Gift Certificate -ShopRite - Ticket #208648 - Suzanne Jaworski; \$500 Gift Certificate – Ticket # 20729 – Laraine George. Your help in this annual fundraiser is greatly appreciated and we hope you enjoyed entering the raffle!

Weekly Reflections

Second Sunday of Advent

Old Testament: Baruch 5:1-9; New Testament: Luke 3:1-6

In both the Old and New Testament readings there is a theme of trust. God promised in the Old Testament that He would bring the Jewish refugees home again. In the New Testament John went throughout the Jordan and promised that “all flesh will see the salvation of God.” In both Testament readings we are told that if we but trust in God, “every mountain will be made low” Old Testament, while in the New Testament we are told that the “rough ways will be made smooth.” That is, if we trust in God, He will be there for us and with us. In over a 2000-year history, this message has come through again and again: if we but trust in Him, He will take care of us.

Like our early persecuted Jewish ancestors and, later in history, the early persecuted Christians who faced troubles we can only imagine, the message was the same then as it is today. Our world has more troubles than we feel we can handle, e.g., governmental health, money and job problems to name a few. Each day we can and are confronted with a different problem. Trust is the only way to conquer these issues. On our own, we cannot always make those rough ways made smoother by our best intentions, or even working ourselves to the bone. But with trust in God we can overcome and can have peace in that promise. But such trust is easier said than done, for we like to be in control. We like to figure things out and don’t like the idea of others deciding things for us. We don’t like waiting for things to work out. We want solutions right away.

In this Advent season, as we wait for Christmas to come, we can trust that as our days move on God will give us the bread we need. Let us all be patient and trust that God will be there for us, and with us.

Lord, we place our trust in you.

Although Jesus called us to follow him joyfully and lovingly, to participate in his servant body and to share with him in the struggle to overcome sin, poverty and death, three times in the Sermon on the Mount he warns that an action will send someone to Gehenna (*Matthew 5:22,29,30*). In many parables, the one who doesn’t follow the course of action Jesus is advocating ends up in Hell (*see the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats in Matthew 25:31-46*). And remember the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (*Luke 16:19–31*): the wealthy man who ignores the plight of his fellow man is described as being in torment in Hades, where he begs for just a drop of water, for *“I am in anguish in this flame.”* In Matthew alone, Jesus mentions the “fire of Gehenna” ten different times in connection with actions contrary to the Gospel. Even when Jesus gives “positive” teachings, he includes the negative consequences of denying them.

The proclamation of the Gospel includes an invitation to recognize and to accept the saving lordship of Christ. The announcement of a personal encounter with the living Christ, receiving his forgiveness and making a personal acceptance of his call to discipleship and a life of service is his desire for us in the world today.

Each person is entitled to hear the Good News. However, many social forces today press for conformity and passivity when it comes to discussions or preaching of faith. Today, many Catholics keep silent in the face of these challenges. Many let daily opportunities to evangelize pass them by—all because they lack the words, the zeal or the encouragement. But in a world that needs your witness, such silence is deadly—deadly not just for the world, but for you, because faith that’s not shared is soon lost.

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

St. Virgil’s Evangelization Ministry

EVANGELIZATION CORNER



On the surface, it might seem that talking about punishment for living a sinful life, a life of disobedience to the life Jesus is advocating, is antithetical to evangelization. After all, evangelization means “preaching the Good News” and the potential punishment of being consigned to the unquenchable fire of Gehenna for all eternity is the opposite of good news. Yet, this is an essential element of preaching the “Good News.” Because if there is no bad news to avoid, then people have no motivation to take seriously the Good News.

Most parents will tell you that they have to set rules for their young children with punishment tied to bad behavior hoping that, over time, children will grow to understand the rules and eventually obey their parents out of love. However, we often consider ourselves too mature to need the threat of punishment in the practice of our Faith.



Interfaith Food Pantry Current Food Needs

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.