



**SAINT ALOYSIUS**  
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

*Sunday, April 19, 2026—Third Sunday of Easter*

**Emergency Information:** In the event that the Church and Parish Offices are closed due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, please call the parish phone number or visit our website for updates and information. Please use your judgment when coming to Mass and remember that safety is the primary factor.

**PARISH ADDRESS:**

935 Bennetts Mills Road, Jackson, NJ 08527

**Parish:** Tel: 732-370-0500

**Fax:** 732-963-0805

**Religious Education Office:** 732-370-1515

**Parish: Website:** [www.saintaloyusonline.org](http://www.saintaloyusonline.org)

**PARISH AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE**

**HOURS:**

Monday through Friday from 8:00am until 4:00pm

**Mass Schedule** - All Masses are available by live stream through our website.

Daily Mass - Monday through Friday: 8:30am

Saturday - 5:00pm

Sunday - 7:00am, 8:30am and 10:30am

**The Church is open for daily prayer Monday through Friday. Access is through the parish office.**

**Confession:** Saturday at 4:00pm in the Church or by appointment by calling the parish office.

**St. Vincent de Paul Assistance Hotline: 732-370-0098**

**PARISH STAFF:**

**Pastor:** Very Reverend John P. Bambrick, V.F., Ext. 218

[FrBambrick@saintaloyusonline.org](mailto:FrBambrick@saintaloyusonline.org)

**Parochial Vicar:** Reverend RJ Ballacillo, Ext. 207

[FrRJ@saintaloyusonline.org](mailto:FrRJ@saintaloyusonline.org)

**Weekend Assistant:** Reverend James McDevitt

**Deacons:** Uku Mannikus, Rene Perez & Vincent Rinaldi

**Business Manager:** Sherri Kroesch

[skroesch@saintaloyusonline.org](mailto:skroesch@saintaloyusonline.org), Ext. 203

**Director of Sacred Music:** Naomi Capasso  
[musicministry@saintaloyusonline.org](mailto:musicministry@saintaloyusonline.org), Ext. 217

**Parish Secretary:** Pat Mulholland

[parishoffice@saintaloyusonline.org](mailto:parishoffice@saintaloyusonline.org), Ext. 204

**Religious Education Department:**

**Parish Catechetical Leader:** Jennifer Petrillo

[jpetrillo@saintaloyusonline.org](mailto:jpetrillo@saintaloyusonline.org), Ext. 311

**Religious Education Secretary:** Maggie Gordon-Teta

[faithformation@saintaloyusonline.org](mailto:faithformation@saintaloyusonline.org), Ext. 318



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**THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON** is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and to its own policies and guidelines in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors.

If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan **ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965** or via e-mail at [abuse-line@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:abuse-line@dioceseoftrenton.org).

The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.





Dear Parish Family,

As you probably know, there is a serious shortage of priests. Bishop David M. O'Connell, CM, often asks both the faithful and clergy to pray for more vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. At every event he attends, he includes a prayer for vocations. After becoming Bishop, he reorganized the Vocation Office to include a main Diocesan Vocation Director and a Secondary Vocation Director in every Vicariate, so we now have a full vocation team.

Last year, Fr. Chris Colavito, our Diocesan Vocation Director, visited and spoke about vocations. He leads a program called "Called by Name." Each year, he invites parishes across the Diocese to take part. On a chosen weekend, everyone is asked to think about men they know who might make good priests and to write their names, along with any information they have, on a card handed out at Mass. That's all you need to do. The men whose names you submit will not know who suggested them.

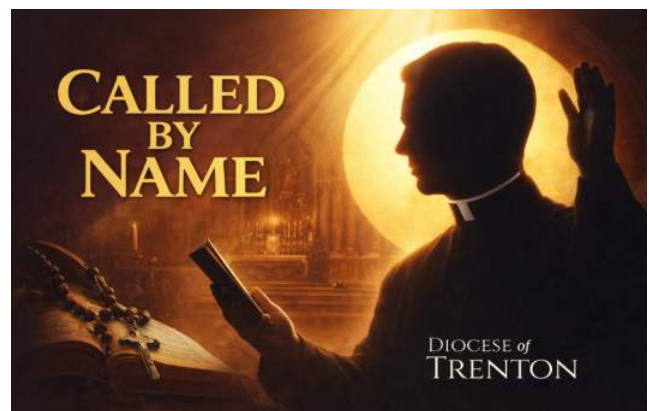
The Parish Pastor will collect these cards and send them to Fr. Chris. He will personally reach out to each man and invite him to a conversation. Right now, we have 10 men studying for the priesthood. Fr. Chris told all the priests in the Diocese that there are 97 parishes. If he received just one name from each parish, that would be 97 possible vocations. If half responded, he would talk with 48 men. If half of those agreed to meet again, that would be 24, and if half of those entered the Seminary, that would be 12—doubling the number of men currently studying.

So I am asking you to think about men you know who would be good candidates for the priesthood. Please pray about it, and next weekend, come ready to write their name on a card and place it in the collection basket.

All we are asking is that you write a name on a piece of paper and let the Spirit do the rest. Jesus called his first Apostles by name on the Sea of Galilee—Peter and his brother Andrew, along with James and his brother John. They were the first to be called by name to ministry. They were not rabbis, but fishermen. Matthew was a tax collector, a collaborator with the occupying force, and a cheat. The others were farmers, fishermen, activists, and all sorts of interesting people.

No one should feel offended if you think they are worthy of the priesthood. They may not seem holy now, but God can work with anyone who is offered. So give Him someone!

Peace and Good – Fr. Bambrick





The Grief Support Group meets **Tuesdays at 1:00pm in the parish office.** If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, you are not alone. Our Grief Support Group provides a safe and caring space for you to process your loss, find comfort in community, and begin healing at your own pace. The group is open to previous members and anyone in our community who is walking through a season of grief. Consider joining us on this journey of recovery and fellowship. There is no cost, but participants are asked to purchase the book *The New Day Journal* by Mauryeen O'Brien on their own. This group is not recommended for those coping with the loss of a child (under 21) or a loss related to addiction. To RSVP or for more information, contact the parish office at 732-370-0500 ext. 204.



The next food drive pick up is Monday, April 20th to benefit the Jackson Food Pantry. Requested items are: boxed food items, detergents, pancake mix, and syrup.



Celebrate Mother's Day with us on **Sunday, May 10th**, right after the 10:30am Mass in Morello Hall. Enjoy fresh coffee and mouthwatering donuts as you mingle with friends old and new. Everyone is invited—let's fill our morning with laughter, warmth, and the joy of community. We can't wait to see you and make Sunday even sweeter!



This weekend after all Masses, the Knights of Columbus will don their yellow vests offering Tootsie Rolls to raise funds to support children and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities. Help support their efforts.



The St. Aloysius Altar Rosary Society will be holding their bake sale on **Saturday, May 2nd and Sunday, May 3rd** after each mass.

If you would like to contribute by baking something for us to sell, please bring it to the church by 4:00pm before the Saturday evening Mass. It will be greatly appreciated.

**"Behold, Your Mother"**



You are warmly invited to our **Annual May Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** Gather with our First Communicants, Religious Education families, the Altar Rosary and St. Vincent dePaul Societies on **Saturday, May 2nd** after the 5pm Mass, or **Sunday, May 3rd** after the 10:30am Mass as we honor Our Lady with beauty and song, crowned with flowers, and pray for her intercession.



**2026 Paid Internship  
Catholic Campaign for  
Human Development (CCHD)**

The Diocese of Trenton Office of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is looking for a Catholic who is committed to social justice for a 2026 internship program. The intern will work 10 to 14 hours per week through the school year of 24 weeks or possibly begin during the summer and go through the fall semester for the 24 weeks.

Visit [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd) to learn more about CCHD. To apply and learn more about the Office of Catholic Social Services, please visit <https://dioceseoftrenton.org/catholic-social-services> and click on the buttons for information about the CCHD Intern and the application.

**Deadline to apply is May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Please submit application forms with resume by email by the deadline date to: [brasch@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:brasch@dioceseoftrenton.org) with subject line: CCHD Application.**

**CATHOLIC MEN'S RETREAT**  
Strengthening the Interior Life: Prayer for the Catholic Man

Saturday, May 9, 2026  
8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

**St. Joseph-by-the-Sea  
Retreat House**  
400 NJ-35,  
Mantoloking, NJ 08738

*"Come Ready" Be honest. Be challenged. Be still.  
God is speaking. Make time to hear Him.*

**Cost \$75**  
Includes Continental  
breakfast and lunch

For more information,  
contact John at 732-575-0446

Sponsored by St. Al's Men's Group

The Diocese of Trenton  
presents  
FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN'S  
*Mass in Time of War*  
&  
*Symphony No. 92 in G Major*  
performed by  
the Diocesan Festival Choir,  
the Oratory Choir of St. Anthony of Padua,  
& the Orchestra of St. Cecilia

Sunday, April 26, 2026  
at 3:30 PM

St. Aloysius Church  
935 Bennetts Mills Road,  
Jackson, NJ 08527

**ADMISSION**  
Adults \$20 Seniors & Students \$15 under 8 free  
(Tickets may be purchased at the door or  
in advance online at  
<https://dioceseoftrenton.org/diocesan-festival-choir>)



*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

**Devotional Lamps - Week of February April 19-25 2026**

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for *Our Parishioners*

The Blessed Mother Lamp will burn for *Peace in the World*

The Holy Family Lamp will burn for *An Increase in Vocations*

**We honor and thank all those who have served our country. We're thankful for their service and dedication to our nation. Lord, bless and protect al those that have served and are serving our country. We pray that all Veterans may know your love for them.**

SFC Nicole Marchitto  
RCT Patrick McBride  
SSG Marcus Torre  
Capt. Cameron Lindsey  
MJG Steven Love

C4C Nicholas Accardi, AF  
CPT Chris Mision  
MJR Jason DiDomenico  
AFPVT Logan Moran

Lt. Jr. Grade Michael Henniecke  
Capt. Scott Maraldo  
PFC Ryan Dorsey  
Capt. James Accardi

2nd Lt. Paul Scalzo  
Jameson Norton

**INTERCESSORY PRAYERS** - *Lord of Life, you desire wholeness for your people. Be with those who ask for help. Please bring health, healing and hope to those in our community who ask for our prayers. Amen.*

Vocation Awareness, Stephen Maraldo, Donna Maglio, Brian Venables, A Special Intention, Peace on Earth, Curtis Hart, Judy Saal, William Raimondi, Meg Noone, Roger Belli, Jacob Heber, Jackie Fleming, Debbie Scatuccio, Jacqueline Krutulius, Kassidy Krutulius, Gladys Murphy, Corinne Nepsha, Nathaniel Nepsha, Marilyn Zwarych, Ricky DeBlois, Gary D'Alessandro, Frank DiGiamo, Don and Kathy Sopko, Nicholas DeVito, Betty Dreyfuss, Louise Kolarsick, Diane Warner, Lorraine Godleski, M.E. Koval, Patricia Cappello, Greg Mann, Vincent Joliffe, Rosalie Delapi, Sharon Christensen, Ruth Nisay, Christian Rivera, Sage Rivera, Rob and Gina Zangrillo, Pam and Mike Mills, Pat Gallagher, Theresa Raimondi, Ann Rucando, Camille DeRosa, Kathy Perlson, Theresa Keim, Daniel DeVito, Jack Vreeland, Angelo Magri, Christopher Popp, Kristin Valetta, Jeanette Correa Schalen, Jordan Elkary, Valerie Behar, Andrea Mitreuter, Barbara Ziff, John and Dolores Corsentino, Gary Gerlach, Iggy Antico, William Johnson, Louis Rivera, Linda McLane, Daffron Family, Barbara Griffin, Davy McClure, Paulette Aronstam, Donna Day, Vinny Day, Marge Sabo, John Harsanyi, James Vihonsky, Bertha Vihonsky, Kaitlyn Krutulius, Logan Martucci, Louise Murnane, Deby Daoust, Laura Meltzer Potts, the Groft Family, Maryann Lombardi, Michael Woodlock, Peggy Mulvehill, Austin Trezza, Lillian Zumbado, Michael Tardio, Agnes Smith, Michelle Neuhaus, Margie Libonati, Viola Gatyas, Kathy Cronin, Robert and Annamarie Kowalewski, Barbara Owens, Laurie Wroda, Louis Iacono, Grace Lowney, Matthew Machin, Tim Popp, Mickey Silecchia, Paige Luke, Eddie Anthony, Karen Nepsha, Patti Misyak-Peters, Kristen Tamburro, Luca DeTommaso, Megan McIntyre, Diane Massiello, Billy Trupia, Provie Grasso, Karen Dudds, Margaret Cook, Victoria Magri, Ramona Martinez, Norm Schoenig, Mike Senft, Lisa Kelley Sassone, Leonard Laviscount, Hana Hund, Barbara Busch, Gus Cuntala, Thomas and Nancy Crowley, Stephen Brancaccio, Brenda Edwards, Maggie White, Earl Jones, Marshall Maddox, Alex Lynch, Susan Miluk, Santina Greer, Betty Piepre, Asher Louis Marotta, Mary Lamanna, Janet Ferlazzo, Theresa Lodovichetti and Family, Thomas Christiansen, Fran Guldner, Salvatore Ippolito, Amelia, Bernie Polatschek

**Thank you for your prayers for all those on our Intercessory and Armed Forces prayer lists. If you would like to add or change information please contact the Parish Office.**



## MASS INTENTIONS—April 19-26, 2026

Sunday, April 19, 2026

- 7:00 a.m. **Grace and Gene Antuono**, r/o Camille Derkack
- 8:30 a.m. **Parishioners**
- 10:30 a.m. **Michael R. Iannucci**, r/o Miller Family  
**Andy Latano**, r/o Pamela Semenza

Monday, April 20, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. **Frances Campbell**, r/o Bill Spedding

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. **Vincenzo Marrali**, r/o Lucille Marralli

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. **James Costello**, r/o Rosalie Macaluso

Thursday, April 23, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. **John and Esther Raymond**, r/o Rosie Raymond  
**John and Marian Zipp**, r/o Rosie Raymond

Friday, April 24, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. **Mark Vincent**, r/o Lou McGraw

Saturday, April 25, 2026

- 5:00 p.m. **Thomas Ventriglio**, r/o Marge and Sebastian DiBlasi  
**Marie Croce**, r/o Sue and Bob Mignemi

Sunday, April 26, 2026

- 7:00 a.m. **Parishioners**
- 8:30 a.m. **Ann and Stanley Zukowski**, r/o William Zukowski  
**Virginia Cavallo**, r/o Naomi Capasso
- 10:30 a.m. **Pete Albany**, r/o Pat Albany  
**Joseph Passanisi**, r/o Loretta and Mario Leotta

### Masses at St. Mary's Seminary—Uganda

April 20th—Intentions of Duke and Jim Campbell, r/o Mary Maralla

## Weekly Readings

### Monday

Acts 6:8-15 Ps 119:23-24, 26-27,  
29-30 Jn 6:22-29

### Tuesday

Acts 7:51—8:1a Ps 31:3cd-4, 6  
and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab Jn  
6:30-35

### Wednesday

Acts 8:1b-8 Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a  
Jn 6:35-40

### Thursday

Acts 8:26-40 Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20  
Jn 6:44-51

### Friday

Acts 9:1-20 Ps 117:1bc, 2 Jn 6:52-  
59

### Saturday

1 Pt 5:5b-14 Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17  
Mk 16:15-20

### Sunday

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b4,  
5, 6 1 Pt 2:20b-25 Jn 10:1-10

### April 12:



Offering: \$11,538.70  
Online Giving: \$5,477.33  
Snow Removal: \$5,000 (new do-  
nation)

We ask for your help to tackle this winter's relentless snow. With storm after storm, our budget has been pushed to its limits. We've spent \$64,125 clearing snow and ice. Every gift, big or small, truly matters. Thank you for standing by us year after year.

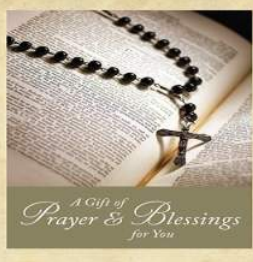


*Your generosity to the Annual Catholic Appeal nurtures deaconate formation across the Diocese and directly supports Graham Mulholland, a member of our parish, as he pursues his studies.*

**Parish Goal:** \$73,000.00  
**Pledged:** \$45,756 (63%)  
**Paid:** \$39,751.44 (54%)  
**Total Donors:** 221  
**Average Gift:** \$207.04

**Total donors needed to qualify for the participation increase incentive:** 333

To give online, visit [giveaca.org](http://giveaca.org)



*The Annual Enrollment is a beautiful gift for special times in life and for the eternal rest of our faithful departed. We are very happy to pray for you and your loved ones.*

The Annual Enrollment Mass is celebrated the First Friday of each month at 8:30am for a period of one (1) year—12 months.

James and Natalie McMahon, Richard Iacono, George and Arlene Hassler, Religious Education and Youth Ministry Teams, Frank and Rose Hubit, Miriam A. Whalen, Marie Henshaw, Luca DeTommaso, Andrea K. Lear, Cheryl Stypula Gaydos and the Stypula Family, Chad Vitello, Rosano Family, Richard Toneske, Nora S. Lyng, Gardella Family, Marie DiTomasso, Eileen and George Graziano, Cunningham, Jacobs, Thezan, Theodore, Jordan, McKenzie, Cabol, Butler, and Duplan Families, Anne Marie Varda Thenor Louis,, Madeline Pomposelli, Joseph Pomposelli, Mark Pomposelli, Josephine Chambers, Thomas Chambers, Cornelius Connie O'Donnell, Gene Murnane, Richard Reba, Sandra Martin, Joseph and Pauline Fertal, Susan Glab, Evelyn and George Doerbecker, Gertrude and Eugene McLoughlin, Maureen and Don Gorny, Donald and Erin McLoughlin, Evan and Olivia Gorny, Catherine and William McLoughlin, Sergio and Katie Lee Rossini, Ray Velasco, Mr and Mrs. Timothy Mangan, Mary Mangan, Keith Bailey, Dorothy Connors, Scatuccio Family, Mary Carole Davenport, Aida and James Dierking, Rose and Joseph Cesario, Elaine Sobreira, Marie Pompa, Carmelo Vicidomini, Loretta Conway, Dolores Pych, Michael Seyglinski, Urban and Millo Family, Michael Matzo, Pete Albany, Martha and Anthony Elardo, Margaret and Edward Davis, Linda Alm, Frank J. Brauner, Stephen Pirniak, Palumbo Family, Guldner Family, George Roessler, Gener Agapen, Thomas Cetnar, Flores Giron Family, Franck Joseph Tassy, Tony and Bernadette Riccardi, Joseph Riccio, Ernest Carnicelli, Jack Bassi, Robert Douglas French, Joseph and Sara Musumeci, Charlie Kirk and his Family, Madolyn Brown, Kathryn Shapiro, James Diefendorf, Mary Puglisi, Flavin, Marino, Troise, and Zisko Families, Sergio Rossini, Domenico Rossini, Katie Rossini, Joyce Yaccarino, Liz Annino, Jelnicki Family, Troy Calloway, Mary L. Blake, Joseph Cosentino, Rosalinda Francisco Bausa, Gerry Chanco, Joseph Moroney, Kathryn Cuccia, Carol Crimoli, Connie and Tony Giammona, Richard Maczka, Alexander Gonzolo and Family, Susan Priolo, Dominick Tusi, Des Fitzgerald, Bob McCarthy, Tony Desiderioscioli, Hernani Calara, Hank Andreski, Gail Hanson, Paul J. Occhiuzzo, Rosemarie L. Occhiuzzo, Joan Vilacoba, Ronald Gillen, Frank Mendes, Bob Purcell, Lino Alcasid, William McCarthy and Family, Boryschuk Family, Louise Jones, Viola Agard, Harold Talbot Shinn, Charles T. DeTulleo, Evarista Valero Sanchez, Marie Croce, Ronald Brancaccio, Patricia Hammer, Joseph Melillo, Sr., Robert J. Colasanti, Joseph DiBartolo, Tina Cunsolo, George A. Rivera, James F. Moran, Mike Kulcsar, Pitkethley, Kuhl, Quillinan, Walters Families, Dolores M. Smith, John Owens, Anna Marie DeLeonardis, Bernie Polatschek, Anna Zambrotta, Ruiza Clemente, Eileen Ziesmer, Patricia M. Terpanick



Anointing of the Sick

**Anointing of the Sick** is a sacrament of comfort and hope, not only for those nearing the end of life, but also for the chronically ill and elderly who are in fragile health. Children facing serious illness or major surgery may also receive this sacrament. It can be given more than once, especially if someone recovers and then becomes ill again, or if their condition worsens. If you or a loved one would benefit from anointing, please contact the parish office. ***Do not wait until the final moments—family members and caregivers are encouraged to seek this support early, so the Church can offer strength and care when it is most needed.***



### Prayer to St Michael The Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in battle.  
Be our protection against  
the wickedness and snares  
of the Devil. May God rebuke  
him, we humbly pray, and do  
thou, O Prince of the heavenly  
hosts, by the power of God,  
thrust into hell Satan, and  
all the evil spirits, who  
prowl about the world  
seeking the ruin of souls.  
Amen



**Sacrament of MATRIMONY** - We welcome and congratulate all who are seeking the Sacrament of Matrimony. Church arrangements and marriage preparation should be made one year in advance for those who are registered with the parish and living in Jackson. Call the parish office as soon as possible at 732-370-0500 ext. 204. If you are making plans for a “destination wedding,” please call the parish office first. There is a way to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony before your destination wedding.

**MARRIAGE CONVALIDATION** - The Convalidation of a Marriage is a special wedding ceremony by which one’s marriage is recognized and blessed by the Catholic Church. Through this process your marriage will be fully embraced by the Church, granting it all the spiritual blessings and benefits it offers. If you are interested in learning more about a Marriage Convalidation contact the parish office.



To begin the process of scheduling a date for Baptism, families are asked to be registered in the parish. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a Baptism Prep Class, and Godparents will need to provide a Letter of Eligibility from their current parish (where they reside). Baptisms are held most Sundays at 12:00pm, following the 10:30am Mass. For more information or to schedule a date, please call the parish office. *No Baptism date can be secured until all requirements are met.*

**Oliverie Funeral Home  
Upcoming Events**

April 26, 10am-3pm—Blood Drive  
May 13th, 2-4pm—Spring Bingo

**RSVP for all events to 732-719-7250**

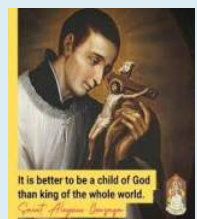


“AYM” (St. Aloysius Youth Ministry) offers opportunities for those in grades 8 through 12 to connect with fellow teens who share their Catholic faith. We offer a variety of spiritual, service, and social events throughout the year. Please see below for reminders about upcoming events. To RSVP to any of the following, please contact Mrs. Jen Petrillo at 732-370-1515 ext. 311 or [jpetrillo@saintaloyisiusonline.org](mailto:jpetrillo@saintaloyisiusonline.org). Events are open to teens in grades 8 through 12. *\*Please keep in mind that it is a diocesan policy that parents should be copied on e-mail communication between parish staff/ volunteers and those under 18.*

**Easter-Themed Youth Night:** The Easter Season does not end with Easter Sunday, but continues all the way until Pentecost! On Friday, April 24th from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm, come celebrate the joy of the Easter season as we have fun with some Easter-themed trivia, and enjoy pizza and desserts together. Teens are invited to bring a dessert to share. Please RSVP by Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Service Project for Bartley Residents:** On Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, we will be making bracelets as gifts for Bartley Nursing Home residents. Our catechist Mrs. Debora Scatuccio will provide supplies and will walk us through the steps of making the bracelets. Teens are invited to attend the 10:30 am Mass together, and then meet in the Gathering Space so that we can head into Morello Hall. Refreshments will be served. Participants are also asked to please bring and donate items that can be used in the “Free Store,” a volunteer-run project in which residents receive raffle tickets and can “purchase” various items. Examples of needed items include: nice toiletries such as scented creams and body wash, scarves, shawls, costume jewelry (used is fine, as long as it’s in good condition), good-quality disposable razors and shaving cream for men, beauty items for women (such as cosmetics or hair products), “2 in 1” body wash for women, “3 in 1” body wash for men, and individually-wrapped snacks like cookies, candy, crackers, chips, and pretzels.

**Get to Know our Diocesan Seminarians!** On Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting a special event with diocesan seminarians Kyle Holler and Jake Snyder from 6:15 pm to 7:30 pm in Morello Hall. Kyle and Jake will share their vocation stories with us, and then offer some time for a “Q and A.” This event is open to all teens in Grades 8-12 and Religious Ed students with their families. Participants will receive a Google Form so that you can submit questions in advance. If you would like to join us, please RSVP by Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.





Weekly Bible study, led by Fr. RJ, meet each Tuesday at 2:30pm in the parish office. No RSVP needed, just BYOB—*Bring Your Own Bible*.



If you are considering becoming a Catholic, or you are a baptized Catholic who is considering completing your Sacraments of Initiation (Confirmation and Holy Eucharist), the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA, formally RCIA) process can help you. To decide whether this path is right for you, please contact the parish office where a staff member will meet with you and answer your questions. No immediate commitment is necessary at the time of initial inquiry.

### *Pope Leo XIV's Address at April 11 Vigil for Peace*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Your prayer is an expression of that faith which, according to the words of Jesus, moves mountains (cf. *Mt 17:20*). Thank you for accepting this invitation to gather here at the tomb of Saint Peter and in so many other places around the world to pray for peace. War divides; hope unites. Arrogance tramples upon others; love lifts up. Idolatry blinds us; the living God enlightens. My dearest friends, all it takes is a little faith, a mere “crumb” of faith, in order to face this dramatic hour in history together — as humanity and alongside humanity. Prayer is not a refuge in which to hide from our responsibilities, nor an anesthetic to numb the pain provoked by so much injustice. Rather, it is the most selfless, universal and transformative response to death: we are a people who are already risen! Within each of us, within every human being, the interior Teacher teaches peace, urges us toward encounter and inspires us to make supplication. Let us rise from the rubble! Nothing can confine us to a predetermined fate, not even in this world where there never seem to be enough graves, for people continue to crucify one another and eliminate life, with no regard to justice and mercy. In the context of the 2003 Iraq war crisis, Saint John Paul II, a tireless advocate for peace, said with deep emotion: “I belong to that generation that lived through World War II and, thanks be to God, survived it. I have the duty to say to all young people, to those who are younger than I, who have not had this experience: ‘No more war,’ as Saint Paul VI said during his first visit to the United Nations. We must do everything possible. We know well that peace is not possible at any price. But we all know how great is this responsibility” (*Angelus*, 16 March 2003). I make his appeal my own this evening, relevant as it is today.



Prayer teaches us how to act. In prayer, our limited human possibilities are joined to the infinite possibilities of God. Thoughts, words and deeds then break the demonic cycle of evil and are placed at the service of the Kingdom of God. A Kingdom in which there is no sword, no drone, no vengeance, no trivialization of evil, no unjust profit, but only dignity, understanding and forgiveness. It is here that we find a bulwark against that delusion of omnipotence that surrounds us and is becoming increasingly unpredictable and aggressive. The balance within the human family has been severely destabilized. Even the holy Name of God, the God of life, is being dragged into discourses of death. A world of brothers and sisters with one heavenly Father vanishes, as in a nightmare, giving way to a reality populated by enemies. We are met by threats, rather than the invitation to listen and to come together. Brothers and sisters, those who pray are aware of their own limitations; they do not kill or threaten with death. Instead, death enslaves those who have turned their backs on the living God, turning themselves and their own power into a mute, blind and deaf idol (cf. *Pss 115:4–8*), to which they sacrifice every value, demanding that the whole world bend its knee.

Enough of the idolatry of self and money! Enough of the display of power! Enough of war! True strength is shown in serving life. With evangelical simplicity, Saint John XXIII once wrote: “The benefits of peace will be felt everywhere, by individuals, by families, by nations, by the whole human race.” And echoing the incisive words of Pius XII, he added: “Nothing is lost by peace; everything may be lost by war” (Encyclical Letter *Pacem in Terris*, 116).

Let us, therefore, unite the moral and spiritual strength of the millions and billions of men and women, young and old, who today choose to believe in peace, caring for the wounds and repairing the damage left behind by the madness of war. I receive countless letters from children in areas of conflict. In reading them, one perceives, through the lens of innocence, all the horror and inhumanity of actions that some adults boast of with pride. Let us listen to the voices of children!

*Continued on next page*

*continued from page 8*

Dear brothers and sisters, there are certainly binding responsibilities that fall to the leaders of nations. To them we cry out: Stop! It is time for peace! Sit at the table of dialogue and mediation, not at the table where rearmament is planned and deadly actions are decided! Yet there is a no less significant responsibility that falls to all of us — men and women from all over the world. We are an immense multitude that rejects war not only in word, but also in deed. Prayer calls us to leave behind whatever violence remains in our hearts and minds. Let us turn to a Kingdom of peace that is built up day by day — in our homes, schools, neighborhoods, and civil and religious communities. A Kingdom that counters polemics and resignation through friendship and a culture of encounter. Let us believe once again in love, moderation and good politics. We must form ourselves and get personally involved, each following our own calling. Everyone has a place in the mosaic of peace!

The Rosary, like other ancient forms of prayer, has united us this evening in its steady rhythm built on repetition. Peace gains ground in the same way: word by word, deed by deed, just as a rock is hollowed out drop by drop, or fabric woven stitch by stitch. These are the slow rhythms of life, a sign of God's patience. We must not allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by the pace of a world that does not know what it is chasing. Rather, we must return to serving the rhythm of life, the harmony of creation and healing its wounds. As Pope Francis taught us, "There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter" (Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti*, 225). There is, indeed, "an 'architecture' of peace, to which different institutions of society contribute, each according to its own area of expertise, but there is also an 'art' of peace that involves us all" (*ibid.*, 231).

Dear brothers and sisters, let us return home having made a commitment to pray without ceasing and without growing weary, a commitment to a profound conversion of heart. The Church is a great people at the service of reconciliation and peace. She advances without hesitation, even when rejecting the logic of war may lead to misunderstanding and scorn. She proclaims the Gospel of peace and instills obedience to God rather than any human authority, especially when the inherent dignity of other human beings is threatened by continuous violations of international law. "Throughout the world, it is to be hoped that every community become a 'house of peace,' where one learns how to defuse hostility through dialogue, where justice is practiced and forgiveness is cherished. Now more than ever, we must show that peace is not a utopia" (*Message for the LIX World Day of Peace*, 1 January 2026).

Brothers and sisters of every language, people and nation: we are one family that weeps, hopes and rises again. "No more war, a journey with no return; no more war, a vicious cycle of grief and violence" (Saint John Paul II, *Prayer for Peace*, 2 February 1991).

Dear friends, peace be with you all! It is the peace of the Risen Christ, the fruit of his sacrifice of love on the cross. For this reason, we raise our prayer to him:

*Lord Jesus, you conquered death without weapons or violence;  
you shattered its power with the strength of peace.  
Grant us your peace, as you did to the women filled with doubt on Easter morning,  
as you did to the disciples who were hiding in fear.  
Send forth your Spirit, the breath that gives life and reconciles,  
that turns adversaries and enemies into brothers and sisters.  
Inspire in us to trust in Mary, your mother,  
who stood at the foot of your cross with a broken heart,  
firm in the faith that you would rise again.  
May the madness of war cease and the Earth be cared for and cultivated by those who still  
know how to bring forth, protect and love life.  
Hear us, Lord of life!*

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