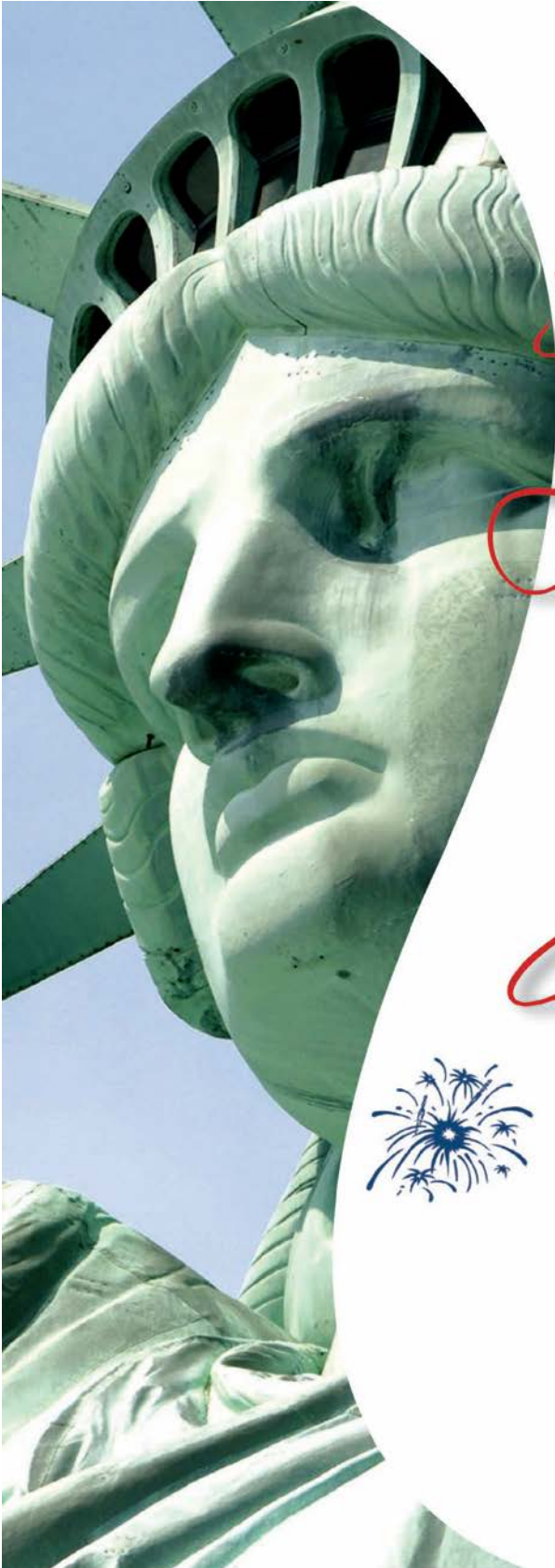


Church of the Visitation

755 Mantoloking Road, Brick, N.J.



*Happy
Fourth
of
July!*



© John Patrick

***God Bless
AMERICA***

Church of the Visitation

755 Mantoloking Road, Brick, N. J. 08723



Welcome!

The entire parish community extends a warm welcome to all visitors and new parishioners

Rectory Office Phone: 732-477-0028
Religious Education: 732-477-5217
Rectory Fax: 732-477-1274
Rectory Address: 730 Lynnwood Ave. Brick, NJ
Website: www.visitationRCchurch.org

REV. EDWARD BLANCHETT, PASTOR, EXT. 201
REV. JAMES O'NEILL, PAROCHIAL VICAR, EXT. 220

Assisting Priests

Rev. James Sauchelli Rev. Bernard Mohan
Rev. Msgr. Ricardo Gonzalez Rev. Msgr. Vincent Doyle
Rev. Msgr. Philip Franceschini Rev. Richard Carlson

Deacons

Salvatore Vicari, Ext. 218 **Nicola Stranieri, Ext. 102**
Richard Johnston, Ext. 221 **Edward Fischer**

Staff

Denise Patetta, Ext. 201 **Nancy Grodberg Ext. 219**
Parish Secretary/Bulletin Editor Coordinator of Religious
Vicki Cottrell, Ext. 216 Education
Pastoral/Business Admin **Dee DeTuro, Ext 219**
Natalya Bencivenga, Ext. 217 Religious Education Asst.
Music Director/Organist **Dale Zanetti, Ext.214**
Christie Winters, Ext. 105 Coordinator of Adult Faith
Youth Ministry Leader Formation
Christie Winters, 732-746-3456
Director of Visitation Relief Center

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Closed for Lunch 12:30 to 1:30 PM

Parish Registration

The Church of the Visitation is obliged to serve and minister to all baptized Catholics living in our local area. **PLEASE REGISTER** – it assists the staff in knowing you as a parishioner, providing for your needs, informing you of parish programs and activities, and utilizing your gifts and talents in service of the Church and one another. Envelopes for weekly contributions are available to you once you are registered. Please contact Deacon Sal Vicari at ext. 218 to register.

Sacramental Sponsor Certificates

The following is required by Canon Law to be a Catholic Godparent/Sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation. 1. Be at least 16 years of age. 2. Have completed the Sacraments of the Initiation. (Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation) 3. Be a registered and active parishioner living a life of faith. If married, have a marriage that is canonically valid and recognized by the Catholic Church.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Weekend: Saturday 4:00 PM
Sunday: 6:45, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM
Daily: Monday-Saturday 7:30 and 8:15 AM (Daily Chapel)
Holy Days: See Current Bulletin
Holy Hour: First Fri. of the month 7:00 to 8:00 PM (Church)

Baptism

Parents or legal guardians are encouraged to register 2 months in advance to schedule a baptism. Parents and Guardians are required and sponsors are encouraged to attend the Baptismal Formation Session prior to the Baptism. Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays following the 12:30 Mass at 1:45 PM. Please contact Deacon Sal Vicari at ext. 218 to make arrangements.

Marriages

The Sacrament of Marriage requires a time of spiritual preparation. According to the Common Policy adopted by the Bishops of New Jersey, this preparation requires sessions with a priest or deacon, Focus review and attendance at a Marriage Preparation Programs such as Pre Cana. Therefore couples should make arrangements with the Church at least 1 year before the planned wedding date and finalizing any social plans. Couples must also verify freedom to marry before dates and arrangements can be made. Please contact Deacon Sal Vicari at ext. 218 to make arrangements.

Anointing of the Sick

Please notify the Parish Office when serious illness occurs and when the sick, aged, or incapacitated are confined to home for extended period. In an emergency call Parish office anytime.

Penance/Reconciliation

Saturday from 3:15 to 3:45PM in the Church or anytime by appointment. A Penance Service is held during Advent and Lent.

Religious Education (CCD)

Our Religious Education and sacramental preparation for our children meets on Sunday from 9:15 to 10:30 AM in Lake Riviera Middle School, weekday classes in the Church Rectory. Pre-registration is required. Please call Nancy Grodberg at 732-477-5217.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

This is the process by which adults become full, active, participating members of the Catholic Church. Please call Dale Zanetti at ext. 214 for more information.

We now offer Low-Gluten Host for those suffering from celiac sprue disease
Elevator is located on the side of the Church near the Bell Tower

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



SATURDAY	JULY 2
4:00 PM	Frank & Eleanor Barlowski
SUNDAY	JULY 3
6:45 AM	People of the Parish
8:00 AM	Living & Deceased Members of the Rosary Altar Society & Geraldine Salerno
9:30 AM	Patrick Kelleher
11:00 AM	Carol Buganesi
12:30 PM	Mary Ghirlanda
MONDAY	JULY 4 MASS IN CHURCH
9:00 AM	Leon Preski & Andrea Ragan
TUESDAY	JULY 5
7:30 AM	Joan Walker
8:15 AM	Gerald Hrycyszyn
WEDNESDAY	JULY 6
7:30 AM	Pat Dickenson
8:15 AM	Joseph Motard
THURSDAY	JULY 7
7:30 AM	Dominick Menge
8:15 AM	Peter Sramowicz
FRIDAY	JULY 8
7:30 AM	Francis X. Flannery
8:15 AM	Amanda DeNezza
SATURDAY	JULY 9
7:30 AM	Philomena Simonetti
8:15 AM	Thomas Kenna
4:00 PM	Mary Reese
SUNDAY	JULY 10
6:45 AM	Francoise Rose
8:00 AM	Living & Deceased Members of the Holy Name Society
9:30 AM	People of the Parish
11:00 AM	Joseph Michels
12:30 PM	Bernice & Eugene Looram

SUNDAY	JULY 3
Masses	Church

**MONDAY JULY 4
RECTORY OFFICE CLOSED**

Mass	9:00 AM	Church
TUESDAY	JULY 5	

NO BINGO THIS WEEK

Alanon	7:00 PM	Parish Hall
WEDNESDAY	JULY 6	
Newark Retired Priest	10:00 AM	Daily Chapel
Community Lunch	12:00 PM	Parish Hall
Boy Scouts	6:30 PM	Parish Hall
Parents Mtg. for 8 th grade Summer CCD	7:00 PM	Room C
Hollister Group	7:00 PM	Church
THURSDAY	JULY 7	
St. Vincent de Paul	1:00 PM	Room B
AA	7:30 PM	Parish Hall
FRIDAY	JULY 8	
Children of Light Prayer	7:00 PM	VRC
SATURDAY	JULY 9	
Vigil Mass	4:00 PM	Church

Readings for the Week

Monday: Hos 2:16, 17b-18, 21-22; Ps 145:2-9; Mt 9:18-26

Tuesday: Hos 8:4-7, 11-13; Ps 115:3-10; Mt 9:32-38

Wednesday: Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12; Ps 105:2-7; Mt 10:1-7

Thursday: Hos 11:1-4, 8c-9; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16; Mt 10:7-15

Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-14, 17; Mt 10:16-23

Saturday: Is 6:1-8; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Mt 10:24-33

Sunday: Dt 30:10-14; Ps 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36-37; or Ps 19:8-11; Col 1:15-20; Lk 10:25-37

For the Week of July 3, 2016



Luis Alfonso

Church Sanctuary Candle is "In Loving Memory" John Fcasni

Chapel Sanctuary Candle is "Special Intentions"

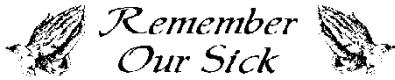
Blessed Mother Candle is "In Loving Memory" of Linda Felice

Sacred Heart Candle is "In Loving Memory" of

“LET THE EARTH CRY OUT TO GOD IN JOY”


Welcome into God's Family

Carter Michael Cogan, Wyatt Thomas Kolesar




- I. *Olga Blanco*
- II. *Margaret Sherbert*
- III. *Lordana DeCarlo*

“REMEMBERING OUR SICK” LIST IS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE IN NEED OF SPECIAL PRAYERS. THEY WILL REMAIN ON THE LIST FOR FOUR WEEKS. IF EXTENDED PRAYERS ARE NEEDED, PLEASE CONTACT VISITATIONS PRAYER CHAIN AT 848-373-4239.

 *In Your Charity* please pray for the happy repose of the souls of deceased members of the Parish, your friends, relatives and benefactors especially, *Paul Bella, James Mullin*

HOW WILL YOU BE REMEMBERED?

 Please consider “Creating a Legacy” that will last for generations to come. When you remember Church of the Visitation in your will, you will help to provide for the many organizations and ministries after you are gone. For more information, please contact the Parish office at 732-477-7059 ext. 216.

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Offering for the Week of June 26, 2016

Regular	\$10,616.76
On Line	\$792.00
Total	\$11,408.76

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are calling for Volunteers for our Virtual Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Come and Serve the Lord. Many people are needed for various opportunities. A small task for great blessings! Join us, Saturday, July 23, 2016 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Please contact Dale Zanetti in Adult Faith Formation at (732) 732-7059 Ext. 214 or dzanetti@visitationrcchurch.org.

Reflections for

The Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

After strong language about the difficulties of discipleship, Jesus immediately appoints 72 people to go ahead of him to every town and place he plans to visit, proclaiming that the Kingdom of God is at hand. He sends them in pairs. In the Law of Moses two witnesses were needed for a testimony to be credible.

Jesus admits it will be difficult, that he is sending them out like lambs among wolves. Yet they are to bring nothing with them, not even a money bag or sandals. They are to greet no one on the way so as not to be distracted from their mission. When they enter a house, their message is simply “peace.” The response they will receive may be positive or negative. Either way, they are to know that the Kingdom of God is at hand. They are not to demand special treatment but eat and drink whatever is given them. They are to stay in one house and are not to look around for one that provides better accommodations. They are to heal the sick as a sign that the Kingdom of God is at hand for them. Like Jesus' miracles, healing is a sign of the coming of the kingdom. If the town will not receive them, they are to shake the dust from their feet and move on. Even in the case of such rejection they should know that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

When they return from their journeys, they are rejoicing because their mission has been successful. Demons were under their power because of Jesus' name. Jesus may have sent them out as lambs among wolves, but at the conclusion of this passage he assures them that they have been given power over the enemy and nothing will harm them, not even serpents and scorpions.

A key theme of today's Gospel and last Sunday's Gospel is discipleship—its challenges, its difficulties, and its rewards. Sharing in the mission of Jesus is difficult, but everyone is called to do it, not just some professionals trained for ministry. Even for us today, the harvest is plentiful. We should pray to the master of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest.

Loyola Press

NEXT WEEKEND THERE WILL BE ONE COLLECTION.

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.
ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK
COUNTRY STORE JEWELER**

For bulletin advertising information, please call John Patrick Publishing Company 800-333-3166

JULY 3, 2016

FROM THE DESK OF

Fr. Jim O'Neill

FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM

I write this on the memorial of Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More, June 22nd. They are among the Witnesses to Freedom being highlighted during this fifth Fortnight for Freedom. They refused assent to King Henry VIII's divorce and remarriage and his claim to be the head of the Church of England. Rather, they kept their wits and lost their heads. Martyred for the faith in 1535, they are witnesses to the deeper truth about freedom. As he made his way to the gallows, St. Thomas More stated, "I die the King's good servant, but God's first." May we too be good servants to our country, but God's first!

Our own country was founded because of grievances against King George III. The *Declaration of Independence* lists quite a few instances of tyranny over an extended period of time. Repeated appeals were answered with more oppression. This founding document shows the bedrock of this country, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." When the Constitution was first written, it was found lacking. Appended were the Bill of Rights, the first of which, our first freedom, is the Freedom of Religion: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...."

The Little Sisters of the Poor are among modern witnesses to freedom. They are good servants of our country, but God's first. Their mission is "to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself." Our own government is contradicting the Little Sisters' Freedom of Religion and trying to force the Little Sisters to violate their consciences by paying for abortion, contraception, and sterilization. Like Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, they refuse to assent. Let us pray for the Little Sisters and follow their example as witnesses to freedom.

We are grateful to "Nature's God" for this country. We appeal to the "Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions." With "a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor." May we work for the preservation of our union and for the common good by being good servants of our country, but God's first!

Fr. Jim

JULY DINE TO DONATE PARTNER

Skillet's Fresh Grill, 645 Mantoloking Road, Brick 732-477-0963

Monday – Friday 11 am – 9 pm Saturday 9 am – 9 pm Sunday 9 am – 8 pm

Try the original "Chicken Spiedie"! Wraps & Pitas, Subs & Salads, Nachos & Wings, Tasty Dinners and even an assortment of Ice Cream Treats!

Bring the coupon at the bottom of this page and Skillet's Fresh Grill will donate 15% of your total bill to the Visitation Church Covering Fund (parking lot & carpet replacement)!



TWO FULL WEEKS

**** COUPON ****

Monday, July 11th

Sunday, July 24th

Present this coupon at Skillet's Fresh Grill and 15% of your total purchase will be donated to the Visitation Church Covering Fund!



If you have already received an appeal mailing from the diocese, you may choose to either send in a pledge now, send in a donation, drop a pledge or donation in a separately marked envelope in any of our regular collections or pledges may be sent directly to:

The Annual Catholic Appeal
Diocese of Trenton
PO Box 4887
Trenton, NJ 08650

Thank-you to those who've already pledged.

As of June 23, 2016
Goal ~\$92,000.00
Pledge ~ \$50,069.00
Cash Recd ~ \$41,082.11
Total Donors ~ 318
Participation ~ 7%
Percentage of Goal ~ 54%



The North American Lourdes Volunteers will present a 90-minute **VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE**

to Lourdes, France, at Visitation Parish on Saturday, July 23, 2016 at 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. During this guided Lourdes experience, you will immerse yourself in the Gospel Message of Lourdes as given by Our Lady to St. Bernadette. You will have the opportunity to touch the Grotto Rock and to experience the healing grace of Lourdes Water. As part of this spiritual opportunity to draw nearer to God with Our Lady and St. Bernadette, you will receive a Eucharistic blessing and pray the Rosary. A Plenary Indulgence is granted to all the faithful, under the usual conditions, who attend a Virtual Pilgrimage with the North American Lourdes Volunteers. Come and experience the healing grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ through His Immaculate Mother. Invite your family, children and friends! Our Lady extends her invitation to all! The next best thing to visiting Lourdes itself is a Pilgrimage journey without the travel! (Refreshments following the Prayer Service). For more information, call Dale Zanetti in Adult Faith Formation at (732) 477-7059 Ext. 214 or dzanetti@visitationrcchurch.org.

FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM



One example of how our freedoms are being violated: Several states have recently passed laws that forbid what the government deems "harboring" of undocumented immigrants—and what the Church deems Christian charity and pastoral care to those immigrants. Perhaps the most egregious of these is in Alabama, where the Catholic bishops, in cooperation with the Episcopal and Methodist bishops of Alabama, filed suit against the law: all must defend the right to the free exercise of religion granted to us as citizens of Alabama. . . The law makes illegal the exercise of our Christian religion which we, as citizens of Alabama, have a right to follow. The law prohibits almost everything which would assist an undocumented immigrant or encourage an undocumented immigrant to live in Alabama. This new Alabama law makes it illegal for a Catholic priest to baptize, hear the confession of, celebrate the anointing of the sick with, or preach the word of God to, an undocumented immigrant. Nor can we encourage them to attend Mass or give them a ride to Mass. It is illegal to allow them to attend adult scripture study groups, or attend CCD or Sunday school classes. It is illegal for the clergy to counsel them in times of difficulty or in preparation for marriage. It is illegal for them to come to Alcoholic Anonymous meetings or other recovery groups at our churches.

As Catholics, we are obliged to defend the right to religious liberty for ourselves and for others. We are happily joined in this by our fellow Christians and believers of other faiths. Religious liberty is not only about our ability to go to Mass on Sunday or pray the Rosary at home. It is about whether we can make our contribution to the common good of all Americans. Can we do the good works our faith calls us to do, without having to compromise that very same faith? Without religious liberty properly understood, all Americans suffer, deprived of the essential contribution in education, health care, feeding the hungry, civil rights, and social services that religious Americans make every day, both here at home and overseas.

What we ask is nothing more than that our God-given right to religious liberty be respected. We ask nothing less than that the Constitution and laws of the United States, which recognize that right, be respected. (USCCB)

Please take a stand! Visit the Bishop's site at USCCB.org for more information.



RCIA CORNER

WELCOMING

How welcoming are we? Do we have an “air” about us that says – “Welcome! So good to see you? How is life treating you?” Or are we closed and stay in our own little world; shutting ourselves off; not letting anyone, ANYONE in.

Pope Francis tells us to welcome others as true brothers and sisters, overcoming divisions, rivalries, misunderstandings and selfishness.” *Even our own hang-ups!* Does this mean we will need to overcome our own rivalries and selfishness? Does it mean I may have to let go of that hurt that constantly consumes me? Yes, most certainly. If we are going to set Visitation on fire with God’s love and care we need to be showing it. We need to let down those walls we have built up and extend ourselves to those around us. How do we know that that one word we just shared with a fellow parishioner doesn’t set the tone for their whole day; *and in a good way!*

Do you greet those attending Church with a warm and welcoming greeting? Are you one of those who says: “Um, excuse me you are sitting in my pew can you move.” Or are you smiling and hospitable to those you encounter?

Let us take the direction of Pope Francis and our Lord and Savior – Jesus Christ.

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40). “Love the Stranger for you were once a stranger” (Exodus 23:9). “Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.” (Romans 12:13) “Let mutual love continue; and finally “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13: 1).

For additional information regarding the RCIA program please contact Dale at 732-477-7059 ext. 214.



THE RECTORY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY JULY 4TH IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY. THE OFFICE WILL REOPEN ON TUESDAY, JULY 5TH AT 8:30 AM.

2017 MASS BOOK

**The Mass book for the year 2017
Will open July 12, 2016 at 9:00 AM.**

**Please note changes this year to
Weekday morning masses.**

***Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
7:30 & 8:15 AM Masses***

Monday & Friday 7:30 AM Mass Only

Saturday 8:15 AM Mass Only

This year, you may request **three** Masses. No request will be taken over the phone. Mass offering is \$10.00. All intentions will mention the person in the Prayer of the Faithful.

Thank you for your understanding & cooperation.

BRICK SPIRITUALITY & EDUCATION DAY

Diocese of Trenton Department of Pastoral Care invites all maturing adults 55+ to join us for a day of inspiration, entertainment, food, and friends July 14th 10:00AM—3:00PM. Registration is at 9:15AM. The Presenter is Rev. James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R, Rector and Director of San Alfonso Retreat House, Long Branch. He will speak on “The Call to Elderhood in the Year of Mercy.” Entertainment provided by Moreno Fruzzetti: Italian tenor with a golden voice. He will share hits from the Good Old Days of American Pop and some Italian classics and popular hits. The day will conclude with Mass at 2:30pm. Show our USA spirit—wear red-white-blue. Register online at www.dioceseoftrenton.org/pastoral care or call Deanna Sass at 609-403-715

BRICK GARDEN CLUB



A Day in the Gardens and Tea
Tuesday, July 12th, from 10:00 AM—3:00 PM. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased the day of the event at

Robert Anstett Cultural Arts Center, 515 Herbertsville Rd., Brick. You can visit four delightful gardens. Complimentary refreshments will be served at the Cultural Arts Center where you can also enjoy an art display, a gift raffle, plant sale, music, crafters selling garden inspired items and demonstrations by Ocean County Master Gardeners. For tickets and further information please contact Mary LaPolla at 732-920-8231.

JULY 3, 2016

ALL CASH RAFFLE

Church of the Visitation Holy Name Society

to benefit Church Covering Fund (Parking Lot and Rug Replacement)

First Prize 30% of Gross Proceed

Second Prize 15% of Gross Proceeds

Third Prize 5% of Gross Proceeds

Drawing to be held **SUNDAY, August 21, 2016—4:30 PM**

At the ANNUAL PICNIC VFW, 373 Adamston Rd., Brick, NJ 08723

Donation: \$20.00 or 6/\$100

No substitution of the offered prize may be made (Winner need not be present to win)

***Tickets will be available for purchase in the rectory office during normal business hours
and in the Narthex of the Church after Masses.***

THE STORY OF INDEPENDENCE DAY AND AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY

In April 1775 as the King's troops advanced on Concord Massachusetts Paul Revere would sound the alarm that "The British are coming, the British are coming" as he rode his horse through the late night streets. The battle of Concord and its "shot heard round the world" would mark the unofficial beginning of the colonies war for Independence. Independence Day is the national holiday of the United States of America commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

At the time of the signing the US consisted of 13 colonies under the rule of England's King George III. There was growing unrest in the colonies concerning the taxes that had to be paid to England. This was commonly referred to as "Taxation without Representation" as the colonists did not have any representation in the English Parliament and had no say in what went on. As the unrest grew in the colonies, King George sent extra troops to help control any rebellion. In 1774 the 13 colonies sent delegates to Philadelphia Pennsylvania to form the First Continental Congress. The delegates were unhappy with England, but were not yet ready to declare war.

In April 1775 as the King's troops advanced on Concord Massachusetts Paul Revere would sound the alarm that "The British are coming, the British are coming" as he rode his horse through the late night streets. The battle of Concord and its "shot heard round the world" would mark the unofficial beginning of the colonies war for Independence. The following May the colonies again sent delegates to the Second Continental Congress. For almost a year the congress tried to work out its differences with England, again without formally declaring war.

By June 1776 their efforts had become hopeless and a committee was formed to compose a formal declaration of independence. Headed by Thomas Jefferson, the committee included John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Philip Livingston and Roger Sherman. Thomas Jefferson was chosen to write the first draft, which was presented to the congress on June 28. After various changes a vote was taken late in the afternoon of July 4th. Of the 13 colonies, 9 voted in favor of the Declaration, 2 - Pennsylvania and South Carolina voted No, Delaware undecided and New York abstained.

To make it official John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, signed the Declaration of Independence. It is said that John Hancock signed his name "with a great flourish" so "King George can read that without spectacles!"

The following day copies of the Declaration were distributed. The first newspaper to print the Declaration was the Pennsylvania Evening Post on July 6, 1776. On July 8th the Declaration had its first public reading in Philadelphia's Independence Square. Twice that day the Declaration was read to cheering crowds and pealing church bells. Even the bell in Independence Hall was rung. The "Province Bell" would later be renamed "Liberty Bell" after its inscription –

“Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants Thereof”

And although the signing of the Declaration was not completed until August, the 4th of July has been accepted as the official anniversary of United States independence. The first Independence Day celebration took place the following year - July 4 1777. By the early 1800s the traditions of parades, picnics, and fireworks were established as the way to celebrate America's birthday. And although fireworks have been banned in most places because of their danger, most towns and cities usually have big firework displays for all to see and enjoy.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA

JULY 3, 2016

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Liturgical Ministries

CHILDREN'S CHOIR see Youth Ministry

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION distributes Holy Communion at Masses, as well as to the homebound, hospitalized, nursing home, and Senior Housing residents. 732-477-9672, ext. 216 – *Vicki Cottrell or Vicki@visitationchurch.com*

LECTORS enhance the community's celebration of the Mass by meaningful reading of God's Word and by providing direction and overviews during the Liturgy. 732-477-9672, ext. 216 – *Vicki Cottrell or vicki@visitationchurch.com*

LITURGY TEAM meets monthly to plan liturgical and worship services that are meaningful and spiritual.

ART AND ENVIRONMENT TEAM visually enhances the celebration of the Mass by providing decorations that highlight the liturgical seasons. – *Fr. Ed* 732-477-9672, ext. 201

MUSIC MINISTRY spiritually enhances the celebration of the Liturgy. We are always seeking individuals who would like to share their gift of music through songs and prayers. **Adult Choir** assists and encourages the congregation in singing. Practice is on Thursday evenings at 7:15 PM in the Church. Adult choir sings on Sundays at 9:30 am Mass. **Youth Choir** welcomes all from ages 13 – 18 years of age to share their gift of music through songs and prayers. The Youth Groups sings on Sundays at 11:00 AM Mass.

Bell Choir is open to all ages. 732-477-9672, ext. 217 - *Natalya Bencivenga or natalie@visitationchurch.com*

USHERS promote hospitality by assisting parishioners, taking up collections and preparing Offertory gifts for presentation at Mass. 732-262-4186 – *Kathy Cifelli*

VISITATION ALTAR SERVERS TEAM see Youth Ministry

Sacrament Preparation

BAPTISMAL TEAM assists the Priests and Deacons with Baptismal Formation Sessions, as well as the actual ceremony. 732-477-9028 - *Donna Stawicki or SewSimple@aol.com*

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is the process used to welcome those who wish to complete some or all of the sacraments of initiation in the Church. 732-477-9672, ext. 214 - *Dale Zanetti or dale@visitationchurch.com*

Education and Evangelization Ministries

ADULT FAITH FORMATION provides educational and growth opportunities for parish adults. 732-477-9672, ext. 214 - *Dale Zanetti or dale@visitationchurch.com*

BIBLE SHARING offers day sessions to all who wish to deepen their understanding of Scripture. Meetings are held on Thursdays at 9:45 AM in the Church Auditorium. 732-477-9672 ext. 214 - *Dale Zanetti or dale@visitationchurch.com*

EVANGELIZATION TEAM promotes and fosters evangelization in all ministries by reaching out and encouraging all to live life as active Catholics. 732-477-9672, ext. 218 - *Deacon Salvatore Vicari or ext. 214 - Dale Zanetti or dale@visitationchurch.com*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CCD) meets on Sunday from 9:15 to 10:30 AM in the Lake Riviera Middle School and weekdays in the church rectory during the school year. Pre-registration is required. 732-477-5217- *Nancy Grodberg or nancy@visitationchurch.com*

Prayer Groups

CHILDREN OF LIGHT CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP meets every Friday at 7:00 PM in Parish Room C to pray and work for spiritual renewal. 732-255-2728 - *Paul Rollis or paulr63@juno.com*

ROYAL HEART OF JESUS & MARY CATHOLIC PRAYER GROUP meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM in the Parish Room A. All are welcome. 732-742-2600 – *Joellen Arrabito – 732-262-3938 – Mary Casella or mnick123@aol.com*

PRAYER CHAIN is for anyone who feels the need for prayer or would like to join the group. 848-373-4239.

Pastoral Care Ministries

BEREAVEMENT TEAM provides support and meets Spring and Fall. 732-477-9672, ext. 221- *Deacon Richard Johnston.*

On-going support to grieving families is available- *Linda Conroy 908-902-2741 or lconroy58@verizon.net*

FUNERAL LITURGY MINISTRY helps plan liturgy for funeral masses. 732-367-5329 – *Rosemary Russell.*

VISITATION CAREGIVERS provide supportive services to the frail elderly and homebound in our community such as friendly visits, food shopping, transportation to medical appointments and respite care for families. 732-505-2273 ext. 211- *Mary Malagiere or marym@caregivervolunteers.org*

Services

ANNULMENT TEAMS are available to assist a parishioner in rectifying his/her marital status in accordance with the law of the Catholic Church and enable parish members to participate in a full Christian life 732-477-7059 ext. 218 – *Deacon Salvatore Vicari* 732-477-7059 ext. 103 *Arnold Vicidomini*

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION is offered to anyone in the community who yearns to deepen their relationship with God. 732-477-9672, ext.221 *Deacon Richard Johnston*

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Social Ministries/Activities

BINGO is held in the church auditorium on Tuesdays at 11:00 AM. 732-477-9672 ext. 201 – Tuesday *Cindy Maguire*;
EVENT DEVELOPMENT TEAM meets as needed to develop and implement social activities (such as the Gift Auction and Wine Tasting/Art Auction) for the purpose of raising money for the building fund. 732-477-9672, ext. 216 – *Vicki Cottrell-vicki@visitationchurch.com*

Social Concerns

COMMUNITY LUNCH (SOUP KITCHEN) provides lunch Wednesdays each week to members of the parish and community. 732-255-2835 - *Isabel Kronicz or fkronicz@comcast.net*

RESPECT LIFE focuses on pro-life issues and needs through education and support of other organizations in support of pro-life issues. The group gathers every Monday in the church at 1:30 PM to recite the Rosary. 732-262-2047 – *Charles Pocher*

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL operates the Thrift Shop in the old church and manages the funds from the poor boxes to assist the needy in our parish and the surrounding community. Hours of operation are Monday – Saturday 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM. 732-477-9672, ext. 160

VISITATION FOOD BANK accepts donations of nonperishable food at the VRC location and in Church. These donations assist the hungry of our community. 732-746-3456 - *Visitation Relief Center*

Youth Ministries/Activities

CHILDREN'S CHOIR welcomes all from 3 to 12 years of age to share their love for Jesus through music. The choir sings monthly at the 12:30 PM Mass and performs at various community events. No tryouts are required. 732-477-9672 ext. 217 - *Jim Daniels*

CYO BASKETBALL TEAM practices at Lake Riviera Middle School. They were the 2007 Ocean County CYO champs. 201-522-3679 – *Coach or doug_roman4@yahoo.com*

VISITATION ALTAR SERVERS TEAM provides assistance to the Priest in celebration of the Mass and other liturgical celebrations Open to all adults and boys and girls third grade and higher who have received their Holy Communion. 732-458-1492 - *Sue Straneri or stranieri.sue@gmail.com*

VISITATION TEEN MINISTRY provides a safe place for high school teenagers to come together, meet new people, and have fun while serving God and the community. For additional information please contact 732-477-7059 ext. 105 – *Christie or youthministry@visitationchurch.com*

Temporal Welfare

BUILDING AND GROUNDS TEAM works to improve and enhance the appearance and safety of the existing church, former church, rectory building, and the associated grounds. The goal of this team is to adhere to all current safety and building codes and ensure that the house of God is maintained in an appropriate manner. - *Fr. Ed* 732-477-9672, ext. 201

FINANCE COUNCIL oversees the financial aspects of the parish 732-477-9672, ext. 216 – *Karen Smith*

FUTURES TEAM assesses and implements the needs of the parish to ensure that we are prepared for the future. The various teams coordinate all activities pertaining to the development of the Faith Formation Center. 732-477-9672, ext. 216 - *Vicki Cottrell-vicki@visitationchurch.com*

Organizations

AA MEETINGS are held on Thursdays at 7:30 PM in the church auditorium.

AL-ANON MEETINGS are held on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the Church Auditorium. Call Ann at 732-861-9051 or email *annern508@comcast.net*.

CUB SCOUT PACK #38, sponsored by the Rosary Altar Society, meets on Mondays at 6:30 PM in the Auditorium. No meeting during July & August. 732-451-0252 *Kim Gorman or kimmyg627@aol.com*

BOY SCOUT TROOP #38, sponsored by the Holy Name Society, meets Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the old church. 732-262-8977 - *Matt Powell or matthewapowell@verizon.net*

HOLY NAME OF JESUS SOCIETY promotes respect for the Holy Name of Jesus and His Holy Catholic Church. Society members attend the 8:00 AM Mass the second Sunday of the month and meet the Tuesday following the second Sunday at 7:15 pm in Rectory Room B. There are no meeting July & August, however members still attend mass. 732-239-2449 – *Deacon Nick Stranieri or deaconnick@visitationchurch.com*

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #836 work with the local parish and contribute many hours of volunteer work to our community annually. They meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Council Home on the corner of Cedarbridge Avenue and Route 70 East.

ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY honors the Blessed Virgin Mary to secure her patronage through the daily recitation of the Rosary for the spiritual benefit of the parish community. Members attend the 8:00 AM Mass on the first Sunday of the month. The Monday following the first Sunday of the month they meet at 11:30 AM in the Church Worship for the Rosary. The meeting will follow at 12:00 noon in the Church Auditorium. There are no meeting July & August, however members still attend mass. 732-232-7132 – *Dee DeTuro or deed@visitationchurch.com*

Bulletin Deadline

Bulletin & Announcement Deadline: Ten days prior to publication weekend as space allows.