

CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT, 5 P.M. MASS

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the back of church. If your child, grades K-4 for acting parts, or grades 5-8 for reading parts, are interested in participating in this beautiful event, please sign them up ASAP. There will be a rehearsal on Sunday, Dec. 3rd right after the 12:30pm Polish Mass and another one on Sunday, Dec. 10th, same time. Rehearsal attendance is mandatory.



Any questions, call Kathy Gesumaria at 973-476-7522.

Bambinelli Sunday

Our parish will once again celebrate Bambinelli Sunday during all Masses on the weekend of December 16th and 17th. Pope John Paul II, during his papacy, instituted the celebration of Bambinelli Sunday on the Third Sunday of Advent—a day on which children from Rome bring to St. Peter's Square the figurine of the Christ Child from their families' Nativity sets. Then, following the Sunday Angelus address, the Holy Father blesses the statues of Baby Jesus which the children will take back to homes to be placed under their Christmas trees. Pope Francis continued the tradition, blessing the statuettes which children brought before him in the Square. Parishes around the world now join in the celebration, encouraging young children to make the connection between the Nativity set at home and the local church where they worship each weekend. So, join us and bring your Baby Jesus to church on the 17th!



WANT TO BE AN ALTAR SERVER???

If you already received your First Holy Communion and wish to serve at Mass please contact the church office (Mon-Fri, 9:30am – 3pm). A training session will be set up for anyone interested. Please call, 908-637-4269 or email: stpeterandpaul@comcast.net.



2017 CALENDARS

Free 2017 Catholic calendars are available in the back of our church compliments of Scala Funeral Home of Hackettstown. Help yourselves to one.



Sanctuary Lamp / Bread & Wine / Divine Mercy Candle

Please contact the church office, 908-637-4269, if you would like to book the Sanctuary Lamp or Bread & Wine or Divine Mercy Candle for the week in memory or in honor of a loved one. The cost is only \$10 for the week. The name(s) will be placed in the bulletin and announced at all Masses for the week it is booked.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS

Are available in the back of the church. Each envelope contains 3 wafers. The asking donation is \$5 per package. Family members and friends break off a small piece of the *oplatek* wafer and give it to one another along with a blessing. Breaking off and exchanging part of the *oplatek* with someone is a symbol of forgiveness and is meant to remind participants of the importance of Christmas, God, and family.



A sample blessing can take the form of "I wish you much health, happiness and the Lord's bountiful blessings as well as the fulfillment of all your plans and everything you wish for yourself" or just wishing good grades to a child and good health to your parents. It is also common to put a "shared piece" into the Christmas card you are sending. The tradition of sharing the wafer is one of the rich variety of traditions that Poles still celebrate during Christmas Eve Supper which is the most elegant and pompous evening in the whole year. Among others there are:

- lent - as for the quality(not eating meat) and quantity (eating only three times a day, the fullest of which is obviously the Supper)
- eating dishes; there should be 12 of them (for the memory of 12 Apostles), no meat but carp in various forms and other fish
- putting the hay under the white table cloth (for the memory of Jesus lying on the hay)
- strictly close family circle meal
- one place at the table left for "the unexpected guest"
- carols singing in the waiting for the Mass in churches at midnight.

SHOP RITE GIFT CARDS

Stop after Mass or come to the office during the week to purchase your Shop Rite gift cards. It costs you nothing and the Parish gains 5% on all gift cards sold. Last fiscal year we made \$3,505 from the use of the cards.



Thanks to the volunteers who are willing to stay a few minutes after Mass to sell these cards and to all who use them to shop.

PARISH HISTORIAN--Our parish is in need of a Parish Historian. We need someone who would be able to preserve our Parish history. Please contact the church office if interested, 908-637-4269.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Christmas is almost here and we are once again helping by putting up our Giving Tree and organizing our food drive for those families that need support within our church and community. Please consider taking a tag off the giving tree. If you take a tag it is really important to return the tag with a gift. If for some reason you cannot fulfill the task it is very important to call and notify Lisa (our Outreach director) at 908-343-7831. Gifts are due back by Dec 17th. Non-perishables can be dropped off in the barrels in the back of the church. Please contact Lisa at 908-343-7831 to drop off hams or turkeys. Thanks for the help!



ORGANIST NEEDED

We are looking for someone who plays the piano or organ for the 5pm Mass. We are looking to pay that person to play at this Mass. Call Eileen at the church office if you are interested or know of someone we can approach, 908-637-4269.



ITEMS LEFT IN CHURCH

Before leaving any items in church (books, plates, canned goods, clothing, religious "nick-knacks") please contact the church office first, 637-4269. If we do not have a need at the time you leave the items they will be discarded.

END-OF-THE-YEAR CHARITABLE GIFT GIVING

Please take advantage of your end of the year charitable gift giving tax deduction and please remember your parish. This deduction can significantly reduce your income taxes while providing meaningful support to numerous financial areas here in our parish.

NOVENAS

Our December Novena Corner is featuring...The word Novena come from the word "novem" which means "nine." It is a prayer that is said for nine consecutive days. A Novena may be a private or public spiritual devotion for the purpose of obtaining a special favour from heaven, be it a special grace, imploring a favour or to make a special petition. All new novenas for the month of December can be found in our Novena Corner.



THE JOURNEY BEGINS

Can you find Mary and Joseph in the church. They have started their journey to Bethlehem. Each week they will be moving closer and closer to the Manager.

CHURCH WEBSITE

Ss. Peter & Paul RC Church
 360 US Hwy 46
 Great Meadows, NJ 07838
 908-637-4269
 Fax: 908-637-6896
 Email: stpeterandpaul@comcast.net



The Official Site
 Diocese of
 Trenton

 Est. 1921

Remember to check out our church website for current information, holy & feast day schedules, upcoming events, and to see the bulletin on-line before the weekend. The website is peterpaulgm.com.

Average Person Offerings in November

The following chart shows the average person offerings in the month of November 2017 per Mass:

Nov 4/5	# people	Total Collection	Average/ Person
5:00 P	75	\$474.00	\$6.32
7:30 A	84	\$1179.00	\$14.04
10:00 A	158	\$1026.00	\$6.49
11:15 A	43	\$313.00	\$7.28
12:30 P	70	\$383.00	\$5.47
TOTAL	430	\$3,375.00	\$7.85
Nov 11/12			
5:00 P	65	\$546.00	\$8.40
7:30 A	78	\$879.00	\$11.27
10:00 A	143	\$848.00	\$5.93
11:15 A	48	\$395.00	\$8.23
12:30 P	81	\$392.00	\$4.84
TOTAL	415	\$3,060.00	\$7.37
Nov 18/19			
5:00 P	80	\$869.00	\$10.86
7:30 A	68	\$884.00	\$13.00
10:00 A	203	\$786.00	\$3.87
11:15 A	34	\$305.00	\$8.97
12:30 P	68	\$396.00	\$5.82
TOTAL	453	\$3,240.00	\$7.15
Nov 25/26 (Thanks giving Wee kend)			
5:00 P	70	\$534.00	\$7.63
7:30 A	83	\$840.00	\$10.12
10:00 A	80	\$887.00	\$11.09
11:15 A	55	\$601.00	\$10.93
12:30 P	90	\$467.00	\$5.19
TOTAL	378	\$3,329.00	\$8.81

DANCE CLASSES



Ballroom and Latin dance from beginners to advanced--everyone is invited. Dance for children, dance for adults, group & individual, private lessons. Dreaming of the perfect first wedding dance, father & daughter dance, son and mother dance, anniversary dance, it's not too late. Call 201-707-8085 or email: danceandjoy888@gmail.com.