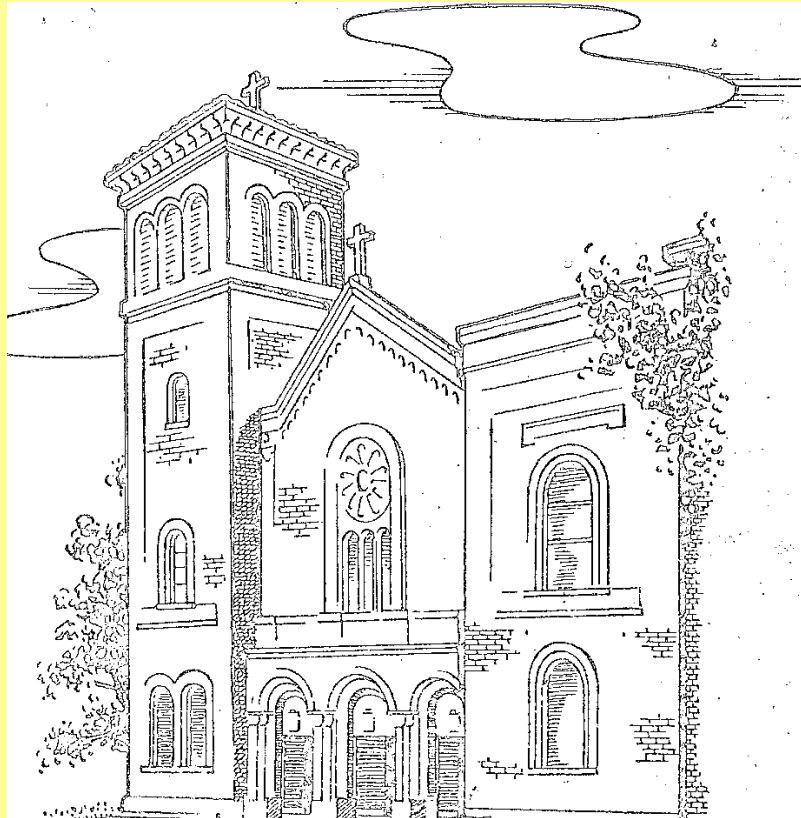


The Catholic Community of St. Joseph

**FIFTH
SUNDAY
OF
EASTER**



**MAY 6,
2012**

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Joe Astarita, Pastor jastarita@gmail.com
Rev. Arokiadoss Raji, Vicar frdoss2010@gmail.com
Rev. Mr. Jose Pablo Muralles, Deacon
Eileen McGuire, Administrative Assistant
201-939-0457 ext. 307 stjosepher@aol.com
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Parish Directory

Parish Office: 201.939.0457
Emergency Line: 201.939.0391
Parish Fax: 201.939.4196
Faith Formation: 201.939.3441
Parish website: www.stjosepher.com
Parish email: StJosepher@aol.com

SJBulletin@aol.com is the e-mail address to use if you wish to place an article in the weekly bulletin. Articles are due the Monday before the published date.

Parish Address

120 Hoboken Road
East Rutherford, NJ
07073

Parish Office Hours

Mon-Fri: 8:30am - 6:00pm
(The office is closed 12:00-12:30pm for lunch.)
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Mass Schedule

Weekends

Saturday: 5:00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday: 8:00am 10:00am 12:00noon

Monday - Friday

7:30am and 12:05pm

Weekday Masses are celebrated in the Church.

Confession

Saturday — 11:00am - 12:00 Noon

Baptisms

Fourth Sunday of the month — 1:30pm

For information regarding baptisms and weddings, please contact the parish office.
(It is important to contact the parish office one year prior to the wedding date.)



SATURDAY, May 5

11:00am + *First Communion*
 5:00pm + William Drogo (*1st Communion*)

SUNDAY, May 6

Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:00am + Stella Martinello
 10:00am + Francis Centomant
 (*First Communion*)
 12:00pm + Rosa Carusone & Sabina Marra
 (*First Communion*)
 2:00pm + *First Communion*

MONDAY, May 7

7:30am + Eugene Kelly
 12:05pm + Mary Piezzo

TUESDAY, May 8

7:30am + Deceased Members of the
 Scherer Family
 12:05pm + Muriel McTigue

WEDNESDAY, May 9

7:30am + Luigi Dipoto
 12:05pm + Antonio Cammarere

THURSDAY, May 10

7:30am + Kathleen A. Doyle
 12:05pm + Anthony Ammaturo

FRIDAY, May 11

7:30am + Lena Dellrario
 12:05pm + Dominick Amoroso

SATURDAY, May 12

5:00pm + All the Mothers of the Parish

SUNDAY, May 13 MOTHER'S DAY

Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:00am + All the Mothers of the Parish
 10:00am + All the Mothers of the Parish
 12:00pm + All the Mothers of the Parish

The Mass Hosts to be consecrated
 at all Masses are in Loving Memory of

Lorraine Hogya

requested by

Domenico & Rosa Di Poto

The Acolyte Candle is now burning
 in Loving Memory of

Angela Felice Carusone

requested by

Maria Ragozzino

**From the Dear Brothers and Sisters:
 Pastor**

The image of a vineyard was very common in the days of Jesus Christ and especially in the history of the Jewish nation. Repeatedly Israel is referred to as the vineyard of God. Isaiah says that the vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel. Even the vine had become the symbol of the nation of Israel. The emblem on the coins was the vine and the golden vine was one of the great glories of the Temple in Jerusalem. The vine was part and parcel of Jewish imagery. It was the symbol of the nation.

However, Jesus calls himself the *true* vine, the real, the genuine vine. What does it mean to be the true vine? In the Old Testament "vine" is always used in a negative way, meaning corruption, or degeneration. Israel is called an *empty* vine. "You think that because you are a Jew that you are a member of the chosen people, that you are a branch of the true vine of God." Jesus is saying that only by being a member of the Jewish faith it is not enough to save you. The only thing that can save the Jews and save us is a living relationship and a belief in me. "You need to be grafted onto me, to be part of me, for I am the vine of God and you are the branches." Jesus Christ is making a very strong statement.

The vine is a plant that needs a lot of attention, since it grows wild. There are two kinds of branches, one fruit-bearing, and the other non-fruit-bearing. The branches that do not bear fruit need to be cut back drastically so that they will not drain the strength of the plant. It must be cut back for the first three years before it will produce any fruit. The vine will never fruitful unless these branches are cut off. Also, the wood left over from the pruning of the vines is worthless; it is too soft to be useful, except for fire wood.

How could the Jews (and us) compared to be fruitful branches? First, when they did not listen to the many prophets that God had sent them. Second, when they listened superficially, rendering only lip service to what they heard, with no deeds or actions to follow. Third, when they fell away and abandoned him in the time of difficulties. Jesus Christ invites us to be pruned so that we will be branches that truly bear fruit, and an abundance of it. The difficulties of life trim us; they keep us from being too proud. Let us pray that we react well when we see that God is pruning us.

Let us pray also for the nearly 90 children who have received the Lord for the first of many times in the Sacrament of Holy Communion!

Join the Knights of Columbus.

Any Catholic male 18 years of age or older who is interested in joining the Knights of Columbus please contact Joe Egan 201-842-9262. He'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

FIRST MASS OF Fr. JOSE PABLO MURALLES

Our deacon will be ordained as priest for the Archdiocese of Newark on May 26th at the Cathedral of Newark by the Most Rev. John Joseph Myer. The newly ordained priest will be celebrating his first Mass here at St. Joseph Church on Sunday May 27th at 12 noon. All are welcome to attend and receive a blessing from the newly anointed hands of Fr. Jose. Reception will follow.

Discount for Burial Plots at St. Joseph's Cemetery

Until the Easter season there will be a special discount in the 38 new grave sites we have at our Parish Cemetery. There are only limited spaces available which is a wonderful opportunity for us since this cemetery is so close to us and even for some a walking distance. As a special promotion, we will sell the graves which are good for two burials for \$3,000. This includes the cost of the foundation for the monument, which is normally another \$600 cost. So you **save \$600 if you act soon.** Call the parish office for details.

MASS BOOK

There are numerous ways in which we can remember the deceased and/or a special intention for a family member or friend. Please contact the Parish Office.

Mass	\$15.00
Wine	\$25.00
Hosts	\$25.00
Acolyte Candles	\$10.00
Sanctuary Candles	\$15.00

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Last Sunday 824 people attended mass.	
Collection	\$4,366.00
Our Second Collection for Music Ministry	— \$2,569.00
Weekly Need: \$ 10, 650	
We thank you for your continued support.	

HERE AND NOW



Whatever happened to Spring Cleaning?

Has it gone the way of other out modeled ideas, like beating the rugs outside, or scrubbing the laundry on a washboard?

In the not-too distant past, householders (generally the women of the family) were seized by a post-winter surge of energy sometime in middle March or April. The sun's stronger rays showed the cobwebs and the dust that had escaped our notice through the winter months. The curtains looked dingy; the windows were crying out for Windex; the dust mites had brought their friends over. So a frenzy of cleaning took over the household, out with the dust and clutter of the winter months. In with a new regime of spotless cleanliness and godliness that would, without a doubt, pass the white-glove test.

Our cleaning process is considerably less laborious these days, but the end result is the same – a feeling of lightness and joy that we have put aside what is not pleasing and turned to a more orderly life. If you extend your efforts to your closets, think about donating surplus clothing to a charitable organization. Most would be happy to pick up your donations.

C.O'S



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The church was being built up, and grew in numbers (Acts 9:26-31).

Psalms — I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people (Psalm 22).

Second Reading — Let us love not in word or speech, but in deed and truth (1 John 3:18-24).

Gospel — Remain in me, as I remain in you. I am the vine, you are the branches (John 15:1-8).

Communion Special News

White Week

The week after Communion is called "White Week." Masses and prayers offered this week are a way of continuing the celebration of First Communion for the entire week. In honor of this, the first communion children and their families are invited to join us at 6:00 pm during the week in Church:

May 7th to May 10th.

Monday	The celebration of the Mass
Tuesday	The praying of the Rosary
Wednesday	The celebration of the Mass
Thursday	Evening Prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Special Gift

The beautiful Altar Cloth being used this weekend for all the Masses has been donated by the families of the children receiving Holy Communion this week .

Boiling Springs 1st Quarter Bonus and TD Bank



Thank you! to all of you who have signed up to participate in our Community Alliance Program at Boiling Springs Savings Bank and the Affinity Membership program at TD Bank. Our 1st Quarter bonus from Boiling Springs was an impressive **\$1,578**. These funds have been earmarked for upcoming parish events. Your involvement in these programs is always appreciated and there is never a cost to the participant. Enrollment forms for both bank programs are available at the back of the church or on our parish website under "Parish Life" for anyone who is interested in participating.

Scrip Gift Cards



ShopRite and Stop & Shop gift card sales have resumed at the back of the church after each mass. Spring is also home improvement time, as well as Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations, teacher appreciations so please order your gift cards early. We can order gift cards from retailers such as Home Depot, Lowes, Bed Bath & Beyond, Eddie Bauer, and Barnes & Nobles just to name a few. Order forms are available at the back of the church or on our parish website under "Parish Life".



Prayer List...

As a community of faith, we offer the support of our prayers for one another.

Anyone who asks to be on this prayer list will be listed for six weeks. After that time, his/her name will be placed in our Intention Book, which is in the church on the altar rail in front of the tabernacle.

The following list of people are in **acute** need of our prayers:

Rob Buckley, Charles Cloutier, Mike Salvemini, Dorothy Pell, Stanley Sudol, Laura Izzo, Gianna Dilemme, Lenore Papale, Daniel Leach, Claire Palmieri, JoeDiGradina

(Please call the Parish Office @ 201-939-0457 if you would like to add a name to the prayer list.)



Please Pray for our Troops

*Michael Brockway (Afghanistan)
Lt. Patrick Stevens (Iraq 2nd tour)
Lance Corp. Kevin Murphy (Afghanistan)
SPC Richard H Foy III- Afghanistan--2nd tour
CPL Sean Clarkson (Afghanistan)*



St. Joseph Food Pantry

The pantry is short of many of the foods and supplies that are needed during the winter months. Our inventory has run low. **We are especially in of need chili, stew, pasta and potatoes, rice, tooth paste and toilet tissue.**

If you would like to support the parish food pantry, please consider volunteering at the pantry during the week, or purchasing a gift card in the name of "Food Pantry". We thank you for your generosity and continued support of this ministry.

YOUR HELP NEEDED!

Do you have 60-90 minutes you could occasionally spare in the mornings, Monday-Saturday? Our Lazarus Ministry, which serves at funerals and includes Adult Altar Servers, Lectors, and/or Eucharistic Ministers, needs more volunteers to become a part of the rotation. Training is provided, and there is no expectation of a weekly commitment. Funerals usually start between 9:30-10:30am.

For further information or to sign up on the roster, please contact Jim Kopacz at 201-935-3236.

4 Transportation may be available.

PLAY GAMES! HAVE FUN! WIN PRIZES! SUPPORT EDUCATION!

Christ the King Preparatory School, the Newark Archdiocese's Cristo Rey High School, will hold a Casino Night at the beautiful Newark Museum on Saturday, May 12, at 7 pm.

Tickets are \$50 with \$30 returned in "casino money." In addition to a night of fun gaming with a chance to win prizes valued at up to \$1,200, admission also includes gourmet hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer, as well as the opportunity to enjoy the Museum's lovely surroundings. Featured games include craps, roulette, money wheel and blackjack.

Proceeds will benefit Christ the King, dedicated to "improving urban America one student at a time".? Please contact Lisa Papciak at lpapciak@ctkprep.org or at 973-493-0033, ext. 318 to purchase tickets. Tickets will not be available at the door.

ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY

Regular Monthly Meeting will be on Monday, May 7 at 7:30pm in the Cafeteria. A baby shower will take place and members are asked to bring a baby gift or diapers (size 4 & 5) which are especially needed. A representative from Several Sources Shelter in Ramsey (a Shelter for expectant mothers) will be available. All women of our parish are invited.

Hostesses for evening will be Barbara Mayer and Marge Stallone.

REMINDER: Communion Sunday and Crowning of Blessed Mother will be next Sunday, May 13 at 10:00 am Mass.

LADIES AUXILIARY

Ladies Auxiliary Knights of Columbus. St. Francis of Assisi Council # 4524 will meet on Wednesday, May 9 at 7:30 pm in the School Cafeteria.

St. Joseph's Workers

The pastor could use some help with small plumbing and clean up jobs around the buildings in our parish. The men who have been helping our parish with the lighting in the church will be leaving later this month so our needs will be greater. If you can help in some way, please inform Fr. Joe.

Archbishop's Annual Appeal

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, we have been able to contribute \$22,660.00 to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. As you are probably aware, the funds collected through the Annual Appeal go to help support our seminaries, as well as the many charitable works of the Archdiocese of Newark. Our thanks to those who have participated in the Appeal.

It is never too late to donate, and it would be very helpful to the parish if we could come closer to meeting our goal of \$42,879.00. Please consider what your means will allow and help out if you are able.

St. Joseph's 140th Anniversary



Mark your calendars for the following parish events to celebrate our parish's 140th anniversary:

September 30, 2012 -

Outdoor Mass and Parish Picnic. Bring-A-Friend

Bring the family and join us on September 30, 2012 at 12 noon in the lower parking lot for an outdoor mass. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you and stay for the parish picnic and Super 50/50 Raffle drawing. Hot dogs, hamburgers and refreshments will be provided. (In the event of rain, mass to be held in the church and picnic to be held in the auditorium).

October, 2012 - Parish dinner dance in the school auditorium. Live entertainment and catered hot dinner buffet. Details to follow.

ST. FRANCIS INN

During **MAY** we are collecting **Cold Cereal**

Your donations may be left at the Giving Tree. (For information please visit ww.stfrancisinn.org)



RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

USCCB Nationwide Bulletin Insert

April-May 2012

THE MOST CHERISHED OF AMERICAN FREEDOMS Past and Present

In 1634, a mix of Catholic and Protestant settlers arrived in Southern Maryland from England aboard the *Ark* and the *Dove*. They had come at the invitation of the Catholic Lord Baltimore, who had been granted the land by the Protestant King Charles I of England. While Catholics and Protestants were killing each other in Europe, Lord Baltimore imagined Maryland as a society where people of different faiths could live together peacefully. This vision was soon codified in Maryland's 1649 Act Concerning Religion (also called the "Toleration Act"), which was the first law in our nation's history to protect an individual's right to freedom of conscience.

Maryland's early history teaches us that, like any freedom, **religious liberty requires constant vigilance and protection, or it will disappear.** Maryland's experiment in religious toleration ended within a few decades. The colony was placed under royal control and the Church of England became the established religion. Discriminatory laws, including the loss of political rights, were enacted against those who refused to conform. Catholic chapels were closed and Catholics were restricted to practicing their faith in their homes. The Catholic community lived under this coercion until the American Revolution.

By the end of the 18th century our nation's founders embraced freedom of religion as an essential condition of a

free and democratic society. So when the Bill of Rights was ratified, religious freedom had the distinction of being the First Amendment. Religious liberty is indeed the first liberty.

This is our American heritage, our most cherished freedom. **If we are not free in our conscience and our practice of religion, all other freedoms are fragile.** If our obligations and duties to God are impeded, or even worse, contradicted by the government, then we can no longer claim to be a land of the free.

Is our most cherished freedom truly under threat?

Among many current challenges, consider the recent Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate requiring almost all private health plans to cover contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs. For the first time in our history, the federal government will force religious institutions to facilitate drugs and procedures contrary to our moral teaching, and purport to define which religious institutions are "religious enough" to merit an exemption. This is not a matter of whether contraception may be prohibited by the government. It is not even a matter of whether contraception may be supported by the government. **It is a matter of whether religious people and institutions may be forced by the government to provide coverage for contraception and sterilization, even when it violates our religious beliefs.**

What can you do to ensure the protection of religious freedom?

To learn more about our first freedom, and to send your message to HHS and Congress telling them to stand up for religious liberty and conscience rights, go to www.usccb.org/conscience today! Thank you for joining the effort to end this unprecedented government coercion of conscience and intrusion in religious affairs.