

# PASTORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dear Parishioners,

In October you were informed of my 6 year renewal as Pastor for our parish. There were evaluation forms online and in the Parish Office. The process ended October 31<sup>st</sup>.

In November I met with two Diocesan Priests to go over the results of your evaluation of me as Pastor. The results were outstanding! I sincerely appreciate your thoughtful remarks and recommendations. These recommendations have already been acted upon.

I thank all who participated and also Fr. Jose, who supports me so much. Together we do our best to serve your needs as parishioners.

It is my intention to ask to be renewed for another six year term, but remember I serve at the discretion of our Bishop.

Fr. Jim



## Christmas Customs From Around the World The Breaking of the Oplatek

One of the most ancient, beautiful and most revered Polish customs is the “breaking of the oplatek.” The use of the Christmas wafer (oplatek) is practiced not only by native Poles in Poland, but by people all over the world whose ancestors came from Poland. The “oplatek” is a thin wafer, made of flour and water. It is white and often embossed with Christmas related religious images, varying from the nativity scene, especially Virgin Mary with baby Jesus, to the Star of Bethlehem. Its tradition comes from Poland and Eastern Europe.

Before partaking of the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day meal, the family gathers around the table. The eldest member holds a large wafer and breaks off a piece to begin the ritual. The remaining wafer is passed on to another member while a prayer for loved ones, living and deceased, is said. This continues until everyone at the table has a piece of the wafer. Finally, the family members consume their share quietly.

The Christmas wafer symbolizes the unity of the family, which many consider to be the main pillar of society. According to beliefs, the bond of unity should exist between family members. The father is seen as the link in the unbroken chain of One Body, One Bread, One Christ, and One Church, while other family members join him in this eternal procession. The wafer also symbolizes forgiveness and reconciliation.

It comes in a decorative envelope that explains the custom. **If you would like an Oplatek are available in the Church or Parish Office.**

# READINGS

# MASSES INTENTIONS

## READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



### First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Isaiah tells us that when Christ comes, the weak will be made strong, the deaf will hear, the blind will see, and, above all, "sorrow and mourning will flee."

### Second Reading: James 5:7-10

As the farmer waits patiently through winter and spring for the "yield of the soil" so, too, must we wait patiently for the coming of the Messiah.

### Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

While in prison, John sends a messenger to Jesus to ask, "Are you He who is to come or do we look for another?" Jesus replies by citing the miracles he has performed for the blind, the deaf, and the crippled. He concludes by identifying John as the messenger He has sent to prepare the way.

### DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

<b>Monday</b>	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
<b>Tuesday</b>	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32
<b>Wednesday</b>	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Lk 7:18b-23
<b>Thursday</b>	Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-30
<b>Friday</b>	Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Jn 5:33-36
<b>Saturday</b>	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

## SANCTUARY CANDLE

In Memory of: **Jim Hildenberger**  
Requested by: **Theresa**

## HOLY DAYS 2016-2017

**Confessions:** Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM  
Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

### Christmas Eve Masses

(No morning Mass)	
4:00 PM	Children's Mass Junior Choir
6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Contemporary Music Group
11:00 PM	Adult Choir Mass

### Christmas Day Masses

9:00 AM Mass  
11:00 AM Mass

### Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

(New Year's Eve)  
4:00 PM  
(Day: New Year's Day)  
8:00 AM  
9:30 AM  
11:30 AM



## MASS INTENTIONS THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 11, 2016

### SAT 12/10

4:00 PM **Irving Motluck** Req. by Wife, Dolores  
**Anne Motluck** Req. by Daughter in law  
**Ray McGee** Req. by Daughter, Dolores  
**Gemma DelVecchio** Req. by Family

### SUN 12/11

8:00 AM **Kara Lynn Lemanowicz** Req. by Granny & Pop Pop  
**Marie Micheal** Req. by Marge McAdams  
**Val J. Vadino Sr.** Req. by Donald Swift Jr.  
**Rose Martin** Req. by Sandy & Allan Smith  
9:30 AM **William Stepler Jr.** Req. by Wife  
**William Stepler III** Req. by His Mom  
**Stephen J. Micciche Sr.** Req. by Micciche Family  
11:30 AM **Joseph A. & George D. Rafferty** Req. by Loved Ones

### MON 12/12

8:00 AM **Gina Conway-Evans** Birthday Remembrance  
Req. by Grandmom Conway

### TUES 12/13

8:00 AM **Theresa Alpaugh** Req. by St. Simon Stock Parish  
9:00 AM **Dorothy Kuchler** Req. by OLMC School Board

### WED 12/14

8:00 AM **Jim Hildenberger** Req. by Theresa  
**Gina Conway-Evans** 1st Anniversary Req. by Grandmom Conway

### THURS 12/15

8:00 AM **Eric J. Richmann**  
**Mary Jane McDonald** Req. by the Angersteins

### FRI 12/16

8:00 AM **Joseph Fahringer** Req. by M/M Mark Fahringer & Family  
**Paul Falconiero** Req. by Wife Helen and Family

### SAT 12/17

8:00 AM **People of the Parish/ Perpetual Remembrances**  
4:00 PM **James J. Porter** Req. by Wife & Family  
**Sandy Seaman** Req. by Family  
**Frank, Dolores & Francine Boccuti** Req. by Family  
**Richard Zook** Req. by Michael & Cindy Zook

### SUN 12/18

8:00 AM **Michele Chism** Req. by Bobbie & Paul Berger  
**Anna Petrongolo** Req. by Husband and Family  
**Val J. Vadino Sr.** Req. by M/M John Stephenson  
9:30 AM **Frank Poper** Req. by Jean & Moira Poper  
**Nick Maccaroni Sr.**  
**Jody Harvey** Req. by the Fitzpatrick Family  
11:30 AM **Eileen M. & Thomas J. McCallion** Req. by Loved Ones  
**Rev. John F. Bourke** Req. by the Leyden Family  
**Gregorio Ferri** Req. by Wife & Children  
**Mary DeVaro** Req. by M/M Sauers

# SPIRITUALITY & PRAYER

**To Everything There is a Season, and a Time for Every Purpose Under Heaven". (Eccl 3)**  
*a time to bring forth new life...a time to be baptized...a time to be married...a time to welcome...  
a time to serve...a time to be healed... a time to die...*

## MILITARY

SS John M. Ciaccio,  
SGT Adam Cutaia; USMC  
CTI 2 Russell Hagner  
US Army Sgt. Jason E. Healey

Nadeem Sarwar, US Army  
SPC Justin Scheuren  
Staff Sgt. David Sigwart  
1<sup>st</sup> PV2 Amanda Sylvester

Sherri Mercier  
Sr. Airman Maverick Marchesani  
Tyler Fisher, US Army  
Cpt. Lewis Nicoletto



## HOMEBOUND AND SICK

Marguerite Alward  
John Andreotti  
Barbara Angelucci  
Rocco Arcaini  
Baby Audrey  
Kathryn Banks  
Dorothy Bannar  
Salvatore Baretta  
Alberta Barody  
Scott Beckett  
Richard Beppel Jr.  
Theresa Beppel  
Besong Family  
Makenzie Bogart  
Peyton Bravo  
Dennis Brown  
Kyle Brown  
Perry John Buford  
Margaret Byne  
Tom Byrne  
Bob Cagle  
Joe Caporelli  
Danielle Capra  
Marie Carr  
Maverick John Casey  
Bob Chambers  
Dorothea Cheslock  
Tammy Citrone  
John J. Clancy  
Barbara Conicello  
Carole Conner  
Lorraine Contardo  
JoAnn Crossetta  
Phil Curreri  
Francis DeLorenzo  
Annie DiGerolamo  
Thomas DiMattia  
John DiRiego  
Carmella, Barbara Dooley  
Catherine Douress  
Deborah Dowd  
Msgr. Francis X. Dreger  
Dennis Druding III  
MaryAnn Edgerton  
Joanne Edmondson  
Rachele Edwards

Kevin Edwards  
Carolyn Eicholtz  
Michael Evans  
Dolores Fahringer  
Anthony, Anthony Faiella Jr.  
Nora Feger  
Dorothy Ferrara  
Lea Fitzpatrick  
Stephanie Frago  
Rose Fraioli  
William Friedrich  
Helene Reed-Gollon  
Richard Grabowski  
Daniel Guetherman  
Grant Guidry  
Mary Gulla  
Debbie Gutjahr  
Douglas Hatch  
Evelyn Hatch  
Diane Helmetage  
John J. Henderson  
Patrick Hennessy  
Denise Henry  
Judy Herlihy  
Cy Hill  
Jan & Drew Hohenstein  
Maria & Siggy Honrychs  
Michael Honrychs  
Bob Horn  
Donte Intellisano  
Patty Kalck Jackman  
Marianne Jacobs  
Robert Jacobs  
Neil Johnson  
Stephanie Jones  
Barbara Keeley  
Grace Kelly  
Katherine Kennedy  
Vera Ann Kirk  
Julie Kramer  
Gladys LaLena  
George LaMarra  
Carol Lee  
Kate Lee  
Sophia Marie Lewis  
Sarah Leyden

Audrey Liebler  
Lillian Lovenduski  
Morgan Lowe  
Frank Madison Jr.  
Marie Malloy  
Stephen Malloy  
John Manes Jr.  
Montanna Marchesani  
Loretta Martinelli  
Rosa McDermott  
Michael McDonald  
Paul McElroy  
Elizabeth McHenry  
Savannah McSorley  
David Miller  
Kaitlyn Miller  
Lorraine Moore  
Joan Morris  
Karyn Mumma  
Arlene Murphy  
Joel Nicoletto  
Clyde O'Brien  
Maria O'Brien  
Grant O'Neill & Anna  
Ed Ottenthal  
Chris O'Rourke  
Catherine Oswald  
Baby Paisley  
Catherine Perkins  
Denise Petti  
Meghan Pflanz  
Roseanne Pirolo  
Glenn, Shannon Pliszczak  
Frank Power  
Diana Prichard  
Matthew Prichard  
Rich Rago  
Bea Raiker  
Quinn Rathjen  
LaTania Redd  
Anthony Renzi  
Frankie Rooney  
John Ross  
Kelli Rotundo  
John, Peggy Sachs  
Arlene Scutte

Rose Shaves  
Sammy and Sophia  
Amelia Sabol  
Frank Santilli  
John Sesko  
Krista Sheehan  
Liam Alexander Sherwood  
Kathleen Siedlecki  
Charles Siedlecki  
Alec Silovitz  
Barbara Smith  
Karin Snoen  
Logan Stepler  
Wayne Stepler  
Dorothy Mae Stevens  
Christina Sturgis  
Helen Swanson  
Jason, Robyn Talucci  
Brielle Taylor  
Diane Taylor  
Peter & Michelle Taylor  
Elizabeth Tees  
Patricia Tighe  
Victor Torres  
Willie Torres  
Frances Turner  
Heidi Valery  
Donna Vancanti  
Joseph VanDyke  
Wagy Family  
Kathy Watkins  
Lorraine Walser  
Sr. Patricia Mary Walsh, O.P.  
Baby Lucas Watkins  
Minnie Wheeler  
Thelma Wichrowski  
Catherine Welser  
David Wenck  
Joanne Wescott  
Thomas Woodward  
Colleen Yaniak  
Baby April Yost  
Cassia Zulueta

**Please pray for those who have continued  
on their Journey to the Kingdom of God:  
Angelina "Angie" DeCecco**





## LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER



**12/10-11**

**4:00 PM**

**EMs**  
(1) L. Sabato, B. Bansch  
(2) M. Sabato, G. Grabowski  
S. Rosenbaum, A. Martini,  
C. Reilly

**Lectors** K. Talucci, A. Spinosi

**Altar Servers** F. Spinosi (MC), M. Michaelis  
M. & A. Lewellan

**Music** Liz

**12/17-18**

**4:00 PM**

**EMs**  
(1) G. Grabowski, M. Fahringer  
(2) C. Reilly, R. Fahringer  
B. Bansch, A. Martini  
A. Cullin

**Lectors** J. McKay, B. Piontkowski

**Altar Servers** Z. Dean (MC), G. McGlinchey  
D. Kehoe, J. Rivera

**Music** Liz, Theresa

**8:00 AM**

(1) D. Fox, R. Tartamosa  
(2) K. Johnson, S. Tartamosa  
A. Primo, J. Martin  
S. Markiewicz

M. Mathew, J. Hill

A. Mathew (MC), J. Holwell  
T. Mathew, E. Chesebro,

Linda, Terry

**8:00 AM**

(1) B. Davis, M. Werner  
(2) D. Fox, S. Markiewicz  
S. Villa, L. Bunoza

S. Malloy, M. Millenbach

J. Erickson (MC), Need 1  
S & A Millenbach,

Linda, Terry

**9:30 AM**

(1) C. Mitchell, F. Andringa  
(2) F. Mitchell, B. Hansen  
P. Miller, C. Sheridan

J. Eddis, Chr. Katkocin

M. Tees (MC), E. Hess  
J. & C Taylor

Adult Choir

**9:30 AM**

(1) R. Tartamosa, C. McCullough  
(2) S. Tartamosa, C. Rainey  
D. Quinn, Need 1

D. Eddis, F. Eddis

D. Visco (MC), J. Carty  
A. & H. Carty

Rich, Vicky

**11:30 AM**

(1) M. Leyden, C. Warrington  
(2) .T. Powers, L. Tartaglia  
J. Ralston, Need 1

A. Marchesani, B. Handy

N. Garcia (MC), B. Johnson  
N. Marino, A. Vasbancse

Cindy, Liz

**11:30 AM**

(1) C. Codario, S. Rosenbaum  
(2) T. Brisbin, J. Gillespie  
A. Marchesani, R. Voltaire  
Need 1

A. Mitchell, M. Leyden

O. Horan (MC), N. Garcia  
T. Morovich, S. Gillespie

Tony D.



### St. Simon Stock Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society

THANK YOU TO ALL PARISHIONERS OF ST. SIMON STOCK FOR YOUR DECEMBER AND CHRISTMAS FOOD AND FINANCIAL DONATIONS. YOUR GENEROSITY WILL PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF THOSE WHO COME TO OUR PARISH SVdP FOOD PANTRY AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A "BASKET" OF INGREDIENTS FOR A CHRISTMAS DINNER. THANK YOU AS WELL TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND VOLLUNTEERS WHO COLLECT, SORT, ORGANIZE AND DISTRIBUTE THE HOLIDAY BASKETS TO THE OVER 200 FAMILIES IN NEED IN OUR PARISH.

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND YOURS!

Contact us at 856-767-7391 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays between 11 AM and 3 PM. You are also welcome to come into our Food Pantry and Thrift Store at 157 W. WHP, Berlin during those same hours. Thrift Store and Donation Door hours now include Saturdays 10 AM – 1 PM.

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION WE NEED YOU!



Why not sign up to spend 30 minutes or an hour per week in quiet prayer and contemplation with our Lord? Eucharistic Adoration is held every Wednesday in the rectory Chapel following the 8am Mass until 5pm with the Miraculous Medal Novena at 4:30pm. Sign up sheets are in the back of Church.

### CONFESSIONS

Confessions are held every Saturday from 3:15 – 3:45 pm in the Church. **CONFESSIONS FOR ADVENT WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> AND MONDAY, DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:00 PM IN THE CHURCH.**



**Daily Rosary/ Chaplet of Divine Mercy**  
Please join us as we pray the Rosary and/or Chaplet of Divine Mercy after the 8 am Mass (Mon-Sat.). All are welcomed to join us as we pray meditatively in peace and joy.



# LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION

## CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION, Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Mrs. Bea Raiker 856-767-2563 or [broimc@comcast.net](mailto:broimc@comcast.net)

### FAITH FORMATION

#### Child Lures Prevention Program

Will be presented through the month of December

The Diocese of Camden has selected Child Lures Prevention as a safe environment program for our religious education programs in the parishes. The basic premise is that an individual who intends to harm a child uses a "lure" to get the child away and to do harm. So, children are taught how to recognize lures and how to protect themselves.

Each year your child will be taught a different lure. The Diocese of Camden is committed to ensure that the children entrusted into our care are safe and that we provide them with the tools they need to guarantee their safety.

If you do not wish your child to participate in the session, please let Cathy Sheridan know immediately at 856-767-1537. If you have any questions about the program, please do not hesitate to call me for further information at 856-756-7900 ext. 6010.

Rod Herrera LCSW

Diocesan Director, Office of Safe Environment for Children

### THE PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM NEEDS YOU!

Working together with those entrusted to lead our Parish Religious Education Program.

**We have an immediate need for two Catechists beginning on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – one in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and one in 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.**

Are you willing to give one hour a week to this "Faith-filled" and rewarding ministry?

Do you...

- ❖ Love Children
- ❖ Experience a Meaningful Relationship with God
- ❖ Proclaim the Gospel Message through Life Style, Action, Attitudes, etc.
- ❖ Witness to your Faith at Weekend Liturgy as well as Attending Other Religious Services
- ❖ Motivate and Encourage Others in Their Relationship With God
- ❖ Desire to Share Your "Gift of Faith" with Our Children as they Continue to Grow and Understand what it means to be a "Follower of Jesus"

We encourage you to pray about this and to answer "YES" to the Holy Spirit who will be your guide in this "grace-filled" ministry. For more information, please contact Mrs. Bea Raiker or Cathy Sheridan at 856-767-1537.



### Youth of the Parish

*Calling all young people grades 6-12<sup>th</sup>*

**St. Simon Stock Youth Group**

6, 7 & 8 grade meet in the gym;

9-12 grade meet in the PMC

**Sunday nights 6:30 – 8:00 pm**

A fun and energetic group of young people who have the opportunity to hang out and have a good time. Prayer, trips, fundraising, service projects, game nights, gym time are just a few of the ways we get to know each other and make friendships based in God's love within a supportive and loving environment. For more information contact Mrs. Bea Raiker, Youth Group Coordinator at 856-767-1537 or email her at [broimc@comcast.net](mailto:broimc@comcast.net).

St. Simon Stock offers opportunities for 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades to become more involved in the parish. I encourage you to take advantage of all our parish has to offer you. You have the opportunity to learn, to live and to love your faith. All are welcome: bring your friends! If coming out for meetings on Sunday night is not your thing, Volunteer. Stay connected by joining in different activities going on in the Parish. Do you like to sing, play an instrument, enjoy reading or greeting people? We have a special place for you! Please contact me by email [BROLMC@comcast.net](mailto:BROLMC@comcast.net).

### YOUTH SCHEDULE

December 11	Youth Group
December 18	No Youth Group
December 25	No Youth Group

### BIBLE STUDY

Everyone is welcome to join us for Bible Study on Wednesdays, at 9am in the Parish Meeting Center. No prior knowledge of the Bible needed.

### ST. SIMON STOCK PARISH LIBRARY

We are happy to announce the opening of our **St. Simon Stock Parish Library** located in the Parish Meeting Center. You are invited to come and take a peek at the large selection of inspirational, whimsical, spiritual and theological books available. There is something for everyone, even the young of heart! Our hours are: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm. A huge thank you to Titania R. for her time and talent in organizing and creating our library! Contact SueAnn [sajolmc@comcast.net](mailto:sajolmc@comcast.net) or 856-767-1537 ext. 306 with questions or comments.

# STEWARDSHIP

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## STEWARDSHIP

*"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." JAMES 5:8*

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer **Stewards** better align themselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

## OFFERTORY COLLECTION

**December 4, 2016**

**Sunday Collection:** \$ 11,317.00

Electronic Giving: \$ 1,207.00

**Capital Needs:** \$ 1,778.00

Electronic Giving: \$ 275.00

**Poor Box:** \$ 478.00

**Candles:** \$ 262.00

## RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

**Aging religious need your help.** Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others – educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously to today's second collection.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The CHRISTMAS MASS REMEMBRANCE envelope should NOT have been included in your packet. If you wish, you may place the names of your deceased loved ones on the envelope, but please do NOT put money in it. These envelopes will be placed in the Nativity during Christmas. If you wish to make a donation towards flowers, you may place it in the CHRISTMAS FLOWER envelope. Those names will be listed in the Christmas bulletin.



**Where:** OLMC SCHOOL GYM

**When:** Tuesday Nights from 7- 8 pm

**Cost:** \$6 per class– OR buy a punch card for 10 classes (\$60) and get 2 classes for free.

Email Vicky Sigwart for more information at [vsigwart@comcast.net](mailto:vsigwart@comcast.net).

## "Constant Contact" Sign Up!

Do you want to be kept up to date on late breaking news and events in our parish? It's quick and it's easy! Just go online to our parish website and click on the Constant Contact Sign Up icon.



## EARLY MORNING PRAYER and YOGA

Wednesday Mornings 6:30 AM

Parish Meeting Center

Upstairs - red door (former Preschool entrance)

**Men and Women ~ All Fitness Levels**

No prior yoga experience necessary.

**NO COST TO ATTEND!**

Simply bring a yoga mat and join us!

Call Sue at 856-685-3638.



## Our Lady of Guadalupe Lindenwold, NJ

### Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Monday, December 12, 2016

8 am Mass – St. Luke

9 am – St. John Paul II School Mass – St. Luke

7 pm – English Mass St. Lawrence



## Reach Out Ministry New Phone Request Line!!

Please help us make someone's day a bit brighter! A team of **Reach Out** helpers are in place to write a little care note to those in our parish who need a bright moment in their day. If you are aware of a person who is feeling down, lonely, sick, facing surgery or just needs a happy hello, please contact The Reach Out Ministry at 856-767-2563 ext. 307. Be sure to leave the person's name and address. **Please specify if you are calling regarding having a card sent and/or placing a name on the prayer list in the bulletin.** Through care and compassion we are hoping to reach out and lift up parishioners who need a hug of the heart. Email: [sajolmc@comcast.net](mailto:sajolmc@comcast.net) or call 856-767-2563.

## MORE NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS



### MUSIC NOTES

We are happy to tell you all that we have replaced the clavinova in the church with a new instrument. Cunningham Piano, which is owned by Rich Galasini, sold us the clavinova at his cost, saving us 50%. Thank you Rich and Cunningham Piano.

The purchase was made by a significant donor gift that we had to match. We were able to do so with gifts from our Altar and Rosary Society and our Knight of Columbus along with another donor gift and the all-important ZUMBA money. Thank you all for helping buy this new instrument.

Even though the old instrument had some life left in it (23 years young), we were able to donate it to the school. Alice Malloy was extremely grateful to have a real instrument for the music class room.

Many thanks to all who made this possible for the St. Simon Stock Parish's Music Ministry!!!!



### BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS TREE

The use of the Christmas tree is relatively modern. Its origins are found in the medieval mystery plays that depicted the tree of paradise and the Christmas light or candle that symbolized Christ, the Light of the world. According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing.

In the home the Christmas tree may be blessed by a parent or another family member, in connection with the evening meal on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time on Christmas Day.

### Christmas Tree Blessing

Dear God, two thousand years ago, you brought your son, Jesus into this world to teach us the power of love and sacrifice. As we raise this tree, we remember his birth and the meaning of his life for us. Bless this tree as a symbol of our celebration of Jesus' birth and our gratitude for his sacrifice. May the joy this tree brings and the gifts we place under it remind us of the many gifts you have given us. We ask your blessings upon our loved ones, this day and always. Amen.

From "Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers"



### FLAG COLLECTION

St. Augustine Flag Team is collecting old and/or damaged flags that need to be retired.

There will a collection box in the back of Church until December 18<sup>th</sup>.



**PICKLEBALL IS COMING-  
PICKLEBALL IS COMING!**

**PICKLEBALL, THE FASTEST  
GROWING GAME IN  
AMERICA, IS COMING TO  
SAINT SIMON STOCK IN  
JANUARY.**

**DETAILS WILL FOLLOW  
SHORTLY.**





# 2nd Annual OLMC Mercy 5k

**Saturday, February 4, 2017**

## THE RACE

**WHAT:** OLMC MERCY 5K  
OLMC MERCY 1 MILE WALK  
Must complete 5k in 1 hour

**WHEN:** February 4, 2017  
8am Registration  
9am Start

**WHERE:** Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School  
Cedar Avenue  
Berlin, NJ 08009

**FOR MORE EVENT DETAILS:**  
[www.olmc-school.org](http://www.olmc-school.org)

**The first 100 registered participants will receive an embroidered school logo blanket**

### PACKET PICK-UP

Friday, February 3rd  
5-8pm in the school gym  
Saturday Morning  
8am—school gym

### PRE-RACE PASTA DINNER

Join us for an eat in/take out pre-race pasta dinner in the school gym anytime btwn. 5-8 pm.

Cost: \$7.00/registered participant

Interested participants, please email [jwilhelm@olmc-school.org](mailto:jwilhelm@olmc-school.org)

**Register online :**

**[runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Berlin/OLMCMercy5K](http://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Berlin/OLMCMercy5K)**

#### RACE ENTRY FEES (non-refundable)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **OLMC SCHOOL**

5K Run	\$25.00	Race day	\$30.00
1 Mile Walk	\$25.00	Race day	\$30.00
FAMILY	\$20.00 each/ must be 4 or more participants		

Please check which applies:

ALUMNI \_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

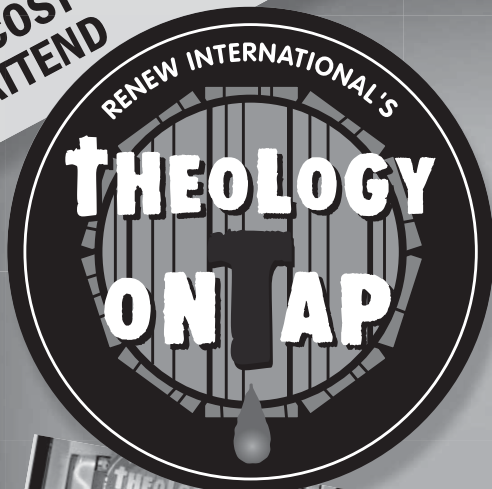
**WAIVER:** I know that running a road race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of a race official relative to my ability to safely complete the run. I assume all risks associated with running in this event including, but not limited to: falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather, including cold, snow and/or ice, high heat and/or humidity, traffic and the conditions of the road, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of your accepting my entry, I, for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release OLMC School, its administration and staff, the city of Berlin Borough/Berlin Twp. and its employees, and all sponsors, their representatives and successors from all claims or liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons named in this waiver. I grant permission to all of the foregoing to use any photographs, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for any legitimate purpose. I understand that headsets of any kind, dogs on leashes, in-line skates, bicycles and vehicles to transport children are prohibited and that violation of this prohibition will result in disqualification.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (signature of parent if minor)

Date \_\_\_\_\_



**NO COST  
TO ATTEND**



# TAP INTO SOMETHING MORE

Theology on Tap is a discussion series for Catholic young adults and their friends, married and single, in their late teens (18-19), 20s & 30s.

**TITLE:**

## The Christmas Mystery: Light in Darkness

**DATE:**

**Tuesday, December 13, 2016**

**TIME:**

**7:00 p.m. – Doors Open**

**7:30 p.m. – 9:00p.m. – Presentation**

**LOCATION:**

**Tir Na Nog**  
482 E Evesham Rd,  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

**PRESENTED BY:**

### Jeffrey Shields

Director of Youth Ministry in Runnemede NJ  
He is a singer song-writer and the leader of the band Forgotten Truth. They share life's hope, truth and struggles through music.



**Theology on Tap 2017 Upcoming Events: 1/10/17 • 2/21/17 • 3/28/17 • 5/16/17**

Diocese of Camden – Young Adult and Campus Ministries 856.583.2908 • 609.804.0200 • [theologyontap@camdendiocese.org](mailto:theologyontap@camdendiocese.org)

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