



St. John Vianney Church 2901 Good Intent Road Deptford, NJ 08096

Reverend Joseph T. Szolack, Pastor Reverend Christopher T. Mann, Parochial Vicar Reverend Michael M. Romano, Weekend Assistant Mr. Robert M. Kenney, Permanent Deacon Mr. Nicholas A. Danze, Permanent Deacon Mr. Frank Dunleavy, Permanent Deacon

Web Site: www.TheInfantJesusParish@comcast.neg
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St. Margaret Church 845 Third Street Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097

MAILING ADDRESS: 334 BEECH AVENUE, WOODBURY HEIGHTS, NJ 08097-1317

RECTORY 334 Beech Ave. 848-0047

Hours: 9-12, 1-4, 6:30-8:30 PM **Monday-Friday**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Classes held: 773 Third Street Mail sent: 334 Beech Ave. 845-5251

Office Hours: Mon & Thurs 9 AM– 8 PM E-mail: reledakaccd@comcast.net

ST. MARGARET SCHOOL 773 Third Street 845-5200

Office Hours: 8 AM -2:30 PM

CONVENT 745 Third Street 848-6049

Please no calls between 4-7 PM

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Mass Schedule

4:00 PM at St. Margaret Church 6:00 PM at St. John Vianney Church

Sunday Mass Schedule

8:30 AM at St. Margaret Church 10:00 AM at St. Margaret Church 11:30 AM at St. John Vianney Church 4:00 PM at St. Margaret Church Holy Day Vigil: 7:00 PM at St. John Vianney Church Holy Days: 8:30 AM, 12:00 Noon and 7:00 PM at St. Margaret Church

Week Davs:

6:45 AM in the Convent (school days only)
8:30 AM in Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturdays: 9:00-9:30AM; 2:30-3:30 PM at St. Margaret Church 5:15-5:45 PM at St. John Vianney Church

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME November 8, 2015 ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 7

4:00 PM Frances Rovello req. by the Knights of Columbus Council 13259

6:00 PM Dorothy Alliano req. by the Holmstrom family

Sunday, November 8

8:30 AM Sherry Hofhine req. by Sam & Janet Puglia **10:00 AM** People of the Parish

11:30 AM Charles & Clementine Buono req. by the DiSilvestro family

4:00 PM Wanda Roswell req. by Bill, Kathi & family

Monday, November 9

6:45 AM Special Intentions req. by the Popjoy family **8:30 AM** Jane Kiniry req. by Pat Brady & family

Tuesday, November 10

6:45 AM Barbara Ann Wetzel req. by Infant Jesus Parish Religious Education faculty & staff

8:30 AM Jack Quinn req. by Diane Santoro

Wednesday, November 11

6:45 AM Charles Sheppard req. by Pat Dolan **8:30 AM** Marie Ruggeri req. by Bobbi & Al McMichael

Thursday, November 12

6:45 AM Kenneth Beatty req. by his family **8:30 AM** Bill Holmstrom, Jr. req. by Bobbi & Al McMichael

Friday, November 13

6:45 AM Barbara Machlmann req. by Jim & Jane Tessmer & family

8:30 AM Jean DeCandia reg. by Don & Pat Krott

Saturday, November 14

8:30 AM Frank Rosolia req. by the Hansen family **4:00 PM** Joseph Putiri req. by Rita Connors **6:00 PM** Marie T. Worstall req. by the DeMareo family

Sunday, November 15

8:30 AM Sophie & Nicholas Mascio req. by their son, Richard

10:00 AM Richard Travaline req. by Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Durr

11:30 AM Theresa Mazzio req. by her family **4:00 PM** People of the Parish



Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

Gere McSorley

Barbara Mahlmann (sister of Bernice Ainsworth)

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary lamp at St. Margaret Church is burning in loving memory of *Pasquale Piccinini* req. by Judy & Jeff Hansen.

COME LET US ADORE HIM

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday in Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel until 6:00 PM. Adorers are needed for First Fridays when the Blessed Sacrament is adored

after 8:30 AM morning Mass until Saturday morning continuously. We currently have only one person or couple committed to most hours presenting a great need when someone goes on vacation or is otherwise unable to fulfill their time slot. Would you possibly consider being placed on a substitute list for vacancies between 1:00am -7:00am? If you would like to come to adoration, please sign in (guests as well as scheduled adorers). If you are scheduled for adoration and cannot attend, please try to get a replacement, or contact Jody Ilisco at 848-3239 or the rectory 856-848-0047.



Please pray for our parishioners who are in the hospital, nursing home or who are homebound: Dolores Alba, Chip Alberta, Mary Spence-Archer, Marge Aregood, Joe Avallone, Anthony Baccari, Dorothy Bennis, Chloe Bruce, Rose Bruno, Bill Cassidy, Lisa Cavalier, Wendy Cerminara, Mary Chambers, Frank Clayton, Barbara Costroff, Mitchell Czoch, Kathleen David, Baby Anthony Dellaratta III, Ed Densten, Roseanne Dillenschneider, Gerry Donnelly, Maribeth Ellenberg, Gerri Foster, Tom Girgenti, Audrey Greco, Christine Hastings, Joe Hee, Peter Hodson, Deacon Brian Kearney, Deacon Bob Kenney, Kathy King, Lorraine Lee, Teresita Macandile, Amy Magazu, Melba Manzano, Baby Lendri Marks, Molly Marsteller, Robert McGinley, Marie McGuire, Elizabeth McHenry, Ray and Midge McMullen, Joe and Karen Metallo, Rita Milano, Pat Miller, Rocky Moraca, Ray Myers, Lucille Nelson, Carmela Paladino, Eugene Pappert, Angelo Perna, Phil Perna, Carmella(Mel)Popjoy, Katie Power, Stella Pronesti, Patricia Prosser, Delores Rebyak, Ken Spadafora, Coreen Welch, Baby Jaxon Wickkiser, Sandra Wilson, Bernadette Young, Grace Zaccaria, Lorraine Zold. **ት** ት ት ት ት



Dear Friends in Christ,

This weekend will kick off a mission in our parish. Father William Price Garrott, OP will be the preacher. This is a special grace be offered to us. Father Garrott will preach at all the Masses this weekend and beginning Sunday at 7:00 PM through Wednesday 7:00 PM, each night we will have an evening of prayer, music, opportunity for confession and a beautiful preached talk that will prepare us well for the upcoming Advent and Christmas Season. Father's topic is *God, are You online?* The hope is that the parish will be recharged, there will be a reconciliation of people, stagnant faith would be awakened and perhaps vocations might be discovered. Please come out and treat yourself to a special, spiritual opportunity.

God bless you, Father Szolack

Family Prayer Crucifix for Vocations

Each week we will see a family receive a Crucifix to take home for the week to pray for vocations to the Holy Priesthood and Religious Life. It is contained in a beautiful handcrafted box which also serves as a stand for the Crucifix. Prayers to be used by the host family are on a laminated program in the box. Every weekend the host family will return the Crucifix in procession. A new host family will receive it at the end of Mass. Let us pray for holy vocations to religious life from our parish. If you are praying over a possible calling, please speak to Father Szolack.

Nov 7 - 14 - The Maccariella family

Please contact Mrs. Denise Dietrich 215-901-3199 if you would like your family to receive the crucifix at St. John Vianney Church. Thank you.



OFFERTORY COLLECTION

November 1 - \$14,950.00

Thank you for your continuing support. Please make your checks payable to: "*Infant Jesus Parish*".

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary meets every Wednesday at 7:00 PM in the Ministry Center. The Legion of Mary is a worldwide Catholic lay apostolate that fosters faith, prayer and evangelization under the mantel of Our Blessed Mother. For more information, call Kathy at 856-535-7617.



GOD BLESS AMERICA!

God bless our men and women who put their lives on the line to preserve freedom around the world. We thank God for our good fortune to be citizens of the USA. We continue to pray for our men and women overseas especially, Justin Gousha, Shawn Jarrell, Becky & Nick Johnson, Martin Renzi, Brian Simmons, Rob Solome, Sarah Turse, Chris Fusco, Charity Winkler, Brian Schwartz and Josh Little. If someone has returned home, we ask that you let us know. Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform in our time of need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

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Donate from your smart phone!



Infant Jesus Parish now offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader!



Do you know anyone interested in becoming Catholic or completing their Sacraments? If so, Father Chris Mann can answer their questions and help in either endeavor. Please call 856-848-0047 and ask for Father Chris! Anyone wanting to join the RCIA Team should contact Father Chris. There are many ways to serve in RCIA, so do not hesitate to inquire. Many hands make light work.



Teen Mass next Saturday, 6:00 PM at St John Vianney Church. Youth group directly after Mass in the Vianney Center

Saturday, November 21 - we will be making Advent wreaths in the ministry center from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. This is a fundraiser that will help support our group trips this summer. Also, don't forget on Saturday, November 21 we will be meeting at St. John of God at 9:45-11:00 AM for peer mentoring.

All youth grades 6-12 are invited to participate. Please bring a friend, they are always welcome at any/all youth group events!

Need more info? Contact me, Tara at 757-817-7115 or theinfantjesusyouthgroup@comcast.net

LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC MEDIA

NEW CD'S IN OUR BOOK RACK! The Virgin Mary Revealed Through Scripture - Drawing on his roots as a Protestant minister, Dr. Scott Hahn responds to key misunderstandings about the Virgin Mary. This captivating presentation explains the biblical and historical basis for the Church's teachings that the Virgin Mary is the New Eve and the Queen of Heaven.

** GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

INFANT JESUS PARISH COOKBOOKS

Cookbooks are \$10.00 each and are available at Infant Jesus Parish rectory.

Thank you for your recipes, ideas and support!



INFANT JESUS APPAREL

Don't forget to show your support for Infant Jesus Parish. Sweatshirts, hats, aprons, blankets, tote bags and much more are available with the Infant Jesus

Parish logo!

Check out the apparel and other items located on our website at www.TheInfantJesusParish.org All items available now at the Rectory! Color and sizes may vary.

WOMEN'S CLUB NEWS

Before you know it, our Annual Christmas Bazaar will be upon us. Hold the date for homemade baked goods, Attic Treasures, handmade crafts, good food and of course, Santa and Mrs. Clause! Come out and join the fun on Saturday, November 21st beginning at 9:00 AM. We will again be looking for newer used items for

We will again be looking for newer used items for our Attic Treasures and for donated Christmas crafts that our "Crafters" may have sitting around at home. Drop off for these items are Thursday, 11/20 after 6PM and all day Friday, 9AM to 8PM.

RADIO CITY'S CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR - Both busses are SOLD OUT. Thank you for your support.

Super Bowl Weekend Bake Sale - February 6th & 7th 2016

HOLD THE DATE: Our **Annual Fashion Show will** be held on April 5, 2016.

The Women's Club does so much for our Parish and School through our various fundraisers during the year! Won't you think about joining us? We meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month. We are looking forward to seeing you there!



HOLY LAND CHRISTIAN ART November 14th & 15th

Olive-wood Carvings Handcrafted from the Holy Land

Many Holy Land Christians in the Bethlehem area alone rely upon income generated from this art form. Local Catholic artisans carve the items.

Many families are facing critical situations. Without income, Artisans leave their tradition art and trade and emigrate

with their families to find relief from the difficult conditions of their homeland.

Christian's presence in the Holy Land has extended from the Pentecost to the present. 65 years ago, Christians represented more than 28% of the population and now represent less than 2%. Many Holy Land Christians in the Bethlehem area alone rely upon income generated from this art form. Local Catholic artisans carve the items.



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Saturday, November 14

4:00 PM Joan Rodgers, Madeline Mills,
Mary Foster, Joanne McConville **6:00 PM** Kelly Philbin, Cathy Wacker, Mary Feret

Sunday, November 15

8:30 AM Loretta Petito, Larry Benecke, Jim Tessmer, Joan Badie
10:00 AM Sr. Dianna, Sr. Michele, Karen Schonewise, Delores Apriletti
11:30 AM Jim & Pat McGuinness, Rich Whelan
4:00 PM Vince Brandolini, Nancy Tomlinson, Janet Autodore



Saturday, November 14

4:00 PM Alexa Rovello, Nicholas Cooper **6:00 PM** Denise Dietrich

Sunday, November 15

8:30 AM Katie Geraldi 10:00 AM Mary Sperling 11:30 AM Maria Schiavo 4:00 PM John Power



ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, November 14

4:00 PM Rice, Ryan, Schiavo **6:00 PM** Sheridan, G. & S. Varano

Sunday, November 15

8:30 AM Wolstenholme, Brady, MonteCarlo 10:00 AM Pietrowski, Sabetta, Smith 11:30 AM A. & C. Cavalieri, Alliano 4:00 PM Anzola, Barnett, Chamberlain

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ADVERTISERS

Abbey Carpet & Floor Casa Dance Studio Smith Funeral Home

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun., Nov. 8 Knights of Columbus Breakfast -7:45 AM (gym)
SVDP Coat Drive at all Masses
Religious Education - 8:45 AM
Sunday School - 10:00 AM
Choir - 10:15 AM (SJV)
Parish Mission - 7:00 PM (SMC)
Deeper Dimensions - 7:00 PM (MC)

Mon., Nov. 9 Religious Education 4:30/5:45 PM Parish Mission - 7:00 PM (SMC)

Tues., Nov. 10 Parish Mission - 7:00 PM

Wed., Nov. 11 Parish Mission - 7:00 PM

Thurs., Nov. 12 Religious Education - 6:15 PM
Knights of Columbus Officers -7:00 PM (D)
Truth in the Christian Church -7:00 PM (B)
NA - 8:00 PM (C)

Fri., Nov. 13 Alliance of 2 Hearts - 7:00 PM (VC)

Sat., Nov. 14 King's Men - 7:00 AM (B) Saints Come Alive - 5:15 PM (gym) Youth Group - 7:00 PM (VC)

Sun., Nov. 15 Religious Education - 8:30 AM Sunday School - 10:00 AM Choir - 10:15 AM (SJV) Saints Come Alive - 11:15 AM (gym) Deeper Dimensions - 7:00 PM (MC)



THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

Please help us fill our pantry for the upcoming food baskets for the needy.

Date of Thanksgiving Day Food baskets is Sunday, November 23rd, 2015. Donated Turkeys can be dropped off the morning of the 23rd before 10 AM. Additional food items needed are: Boxed stuffing, canned yams or tuna, canned or packaged turkey gravy or chicken broth, cranberry or apple sauce, peanut butter and jelly, hot and cold cereal, canned corn, peas, green beans or other vegetables. Thank you in advance for your support. God bless you.

"Saints Come Alive"



Upcoming Events: Mark your calendars for "Saints Come Alive" in St. Margaret's School. Come see our children portray a saint and enjoy the food. Tickets will be available during the week at the Rectory, through Religious Education Classes or at the door.



\$7.00 Adults; \$3.00 Children (ages 3-10)
Admission to the museum is free.
All American Saints – Saturday, Nov.14th following 4:00 PM Mass.
International Saints – Sunday, Nov. 15th following 10:00 AM Mass.



ST. MARGARET REGIONAL SCHOOL CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Mrs. Joyce Sillars - Grade 4

Mrs. Sillars has taught at St. Margaret Regional School for 12 years. She especially enjoys teaching math. Mrs. Sillars recently introduced pre-algebra skills to her fourth grade students. She used SMART-Board technology to help the students define and identify variables. The students were thrilled to learn a concept that is typically considered a middle school skill. During the month of October, Mrs. Sillars taught her students about The Rosary. She explained the four Mysteries of the Rosary, Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous, and they practiced the proper way to pray the Rosary. Please remember Mrs. Sillars and the students of 4B in your prayers this week.

TRUTH IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (TCC)

Parishioners are invited for learning and discussion to better understand what our Faith means and how to defend our beliefs with both reason and Christian teaching. We will look at common arguments, misconceptions, and distortions told about us, and how to answer them in a spirit of love and truth. We will meet in the Ministry Center at 7:00 PM on Thursday, November 12th and December 10th. For more information contact Vince Brandolini at tcc2day@yahoo.com.

INFANT JESUS PARISHIONERS OVER 55! - Did you know we have a Social Club? We meet the 3rd Thursday of the month in the Ministry Center. We have lunch, socialize, play Bingo, take trips, have speakers who inform us on public matters, etc. Bring your spouse, friends or neighbor. Let's socialize and have FUN. For more info call Betty at 856-848-2222 or just come to the meeting.

The Magic of Christmas Concert: Please support this important event for Catholic Schools! On December 5th, the South Jersey Scholarship Fund for Catholic Education is hosting "The Magic of Christmas," a concert featuring the famed New York Tenors. ALL Proceeds from the concert provide support to students (throughout Camden, Gloucester, Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem Counties) who wish to attend Catholic Schools – but cannot afford tuition without assistance. The concert will take place at Investors Bank Performing Arts Center in Sewell, NJ. Tickets are \$29.95 & \$39.95 and may be purchased from the IBPAC box office 856-218-8902, ticketmaster.com 800-745-3000, or www.CamdenDiocese.org/MagicOfChristmas. Group discounts are available. Buses are welcome. For sponsorship opportunities or to make a donation – contact The Office of Development, Diocese of Camden - (856) 583-6195.

COLLEGIUM CENTER FOR FAITH AND CULTURE

Located at 301 White Horse Pike, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035. (Yellow house on the corner of Garden Ave and White Horse Pike, 1 block East of Station Ave.)

Sunday, November 8, 2:00 PM - Saints, How to become One? - Fr. Tom Kiely We are all called to be Saints!! Are you living in a loving relationship with Jesus Christ?

Friday, November 13, 7:00 PM - "Ask a Priest" night – Fr. Joseph Byerley Start thinking of questions now, and bring them with you. Questions may be submitted anonymously. Come, even if you can't think of any questions, to learn from those asked by others!

CCFC is an independent organization for evangelization and Catholic catechesis under the authority of Bishop Sullivan of the Diocese of Camden. It is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization that depends entirely on the support of its generous benefactors.

Infant Jesus Parish/St. Margaret Regional School Present "Saints Come Alive" Museum



All American Saints

Saturday, November 14th starting @ 5:15pm

St. Margaret's School Gym/Classrooms



American Cuisine Supper



International Saints



Sunday, November 15th starting @ 11:15am

St. Margaret's School Gym/Classrooms



International Luncheon

Admission to the "Museum" is free.

Tickets for Supper/Luncheon \$6.00- Adults \$3.00 Children (ages 3-10)

Tickets are available at Infant Jesus Rectory (848-0047) M- F from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Tickets will also be available at the door the day of the event.

St. Margaret School – 773 Third St. – Woodbury Heights, NJ



Infant Jesus Women's Club Old Fashioned Christmas Bazaar

Father McKeever Hall 3rd and Beech Streets Woodbury Heights, New Jersey Saturday, November 21, 2015

9:00 am = 5:30 pm Food will be sold all day by the Knight: of Columbus

 Featuring visits with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus 11:00 – 3:00



We need your help!

- The Children's Booth is in need of Christmas bags, wrapping paper and tissue paper. If
 you have any of these items to spare, please bring them to the hall Thursday night,
 November 19, or all day Friday, November 20. We also need items for the children to
 purchase for their family members and friends at a price at their level, so do search your
 homes and bring some kids' gifts to the Children's Booth. Thanks so much.
- The Bake Booth is always in need of homemade cakes, pies, cookies, brownies or cupcakes. Do wrap them in clear plastic wrap and bring them early Saturday.
- Crafty ladies, take your talents to church and bring along any crafty item you think would sell. We especially appreciate knitted, crocheted or sewn items.
- Varieties of candies and pretzels will be available at our Candy Booth, as well as penny choices for the little ones.
- Do bring all your attic treasures; you never know what a wonderful buy you could
 obtain at our special Attic Treasures tables.
- The Religious Booth will have a treasure trove of articles donated to the church by a very religious member. Here, too, you can bring donations.



Prepare for Christmas in Your Home with a Live Advent Wreath made from Fresh Pines!

The Infant Jesus Youth Group is making Advent wreaths as our Parish prepares for Christmas.



- Proceeds benefit the Infant Jesus Youth Group's Summer Pilgrimage.
- * To order your Advent wreath, please fill out the form below and attach your payment in cash or by check made out to "Infant Jesus Youth Life".
- You may drop your order in the collection basket or at the Parish Rectory. You may also mail your order to the Rectory at 334 Beech Avenue, Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097.
- The deadline to receive order forms is Wednesday, November 18th –

PLEASE NOTE WE HAVE A LIMITED QUANTITY OF ADVENT WREATH RINGS TO MAKE THE WREATHS

- Your homemade wreath will be available for pick-up at the Infant Jesus Parish Ministry Center on two dates:
 - Saturday, November 21st following the 4:00 PM Mass
 - Sunday, November 22nd following the 8:30 and 10:00 AM Masse

ADVENT WREATH ORDER FORM - Due by Wednesday, November 18th

•	
NAME:	
PHONE NUMBER:	
NUMBER OF WREATHS: x \$15 = TOTAL COST:	
(Please check one) I AM PAYING BY: CASH CHECK	

Please place the order form and payment in an envelope labeled "Youth Group Advent Wreath". Your envelope can be placed in the offering basket at any Mass or dropped off at the rectory.

Please make checks payable to "Infant Jesus Youth Group"



OUR ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS FOR THE NEEDY

Date of Baskets is SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd

DONATED TURKEYS

can be dropped off the morning of in McKeever Hall before 10:00 A.M.



ADDITIONAL FOOD ITEMS BEING COLLECTED

BOXED STUFFING

CANNED YAMS or TUNA
CANNED / MIXED TURKEY GRAVY
or CHICKEN BROTH
CRANBERRY SAUCE or APPLESAUCE

PEANUT BUTTER and JELLY CEREAL (HOT or COLD)

PASTA SAUCE and PASTA

Teach our Children by Involvement in Learning about Charity

Thank You For Your Support



Sponsored by: SVDP
Event Contact Person
Theresa Bond
Rectory: 856.848.0047



Christmas Giving Ideas from

St. Vincent de Paul

- Instead of an office Pollyanna consider adopting a family from our Giving Tree.
- Hosting a Christmas party ask guests to bring can goods or hats and gloves instead of a hostess gift.
- Looking for a gift for the person that has everything consider a SVdP donation card. Available at the rectory, Knight's breakfasts and November 22nd and December 20th during SVdP baskets.
- In need of service hours for confirmation or graduation conduct a neighborhood food drive to help us stock the pantry.
- Cash donations are tax deductible 100% of all donations go directly to client assistance.
- Volunteers are always welcome to assist with baskets and gift sorting. Thanksgiving baskets, Sunday, November 22nd at 8:30 in McKeever Hall. Christmas baskets and gifts, Sunday, December 20th at 8:30 am in McKeever Hall.
- TURKEYS are needed for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets!!

Any questions please feel free to contact: Theresa Bond at tbond08096@hotmail.com or call 856-845-9481





EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

DEC. 8, 2015 - NOV. 20, 2016



'IT WILL BE A HOLY YEAR OF MERCY." - POPE FRANCIS

In April, Pope Francis announced in his papal bull "Misericordiae Vultus," that a Year of Mercy will begin on December 8, 2015. This is the first jubilee since 2000 and the first extraordinary jubilee since 1983, when Pope John Paul II announced the Holy Year of the Redemption.

Pope Francis, since the beginning of his papacy, has made mercy one of the pillars of his pontificate. In his first Angelus address, the Holy Father proclaimed mercy as shown by Christ. "Jesus' attitude is striking: we do not hear the words of scorn, we do not hear words of condemnation, but only words of love, of mercy, which are an invitation to conversation. 'Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again.' Ah! Brothers and Sisters, God's face is the face of a merciful father who is always patient. Have you thought about God's patience, the patience He has with each one of us? That is His mercy. He always has patience, patience with us, He understands us, He waits for us, He does not tire of forgiving us if we are able to return to Him with a contrite heart."

In the document, Pope Francis explained that mercy is not only an act of God, but something all of us should be practicing in our daily lives. "We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness."

It is no coincidence that the opening of the Year of Mercy falls on both the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the 50th anniversary of the closing of Vatican II. Said Pope Francis, "The Council Fathers strongly perceived, as a true breath of the Holy Spirit, a need to talk about God to men and women of their time in a more accessible way. The walls which for too long had made the Church a kind of fortress were torn down. It was a fresh undertaking for all Christians to bear witness to their faith with greater enthusiasm and conviction."

Events throughout the Year of Mercy will reemphasize and promote both the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that all Catholics are encouraged to undertake.

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

- · Feed the hungry
- · Give drink to the thirsty
- · Clothe the naked
- · Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- · Bury the dead

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

- · Counsel the doubtful
- · Comfort the sorrowful
- · Admonish the sinner
- · Instruct the ignorant
- · Bear wrongs patiently
- · Forgive all injuries
- · Pray for the living and the dead

The Vatican will be celebrating the Jubilee Year of Mercy in a variety of ways, including the opening of the Holy Doors of the four papal basilicas in Rome, establishing the Missionaries of Mercy who will be the Holy Father's personal heralds of joy and forgiveness, granting various indulgences for those who sacrifice and seek forgiveness during the holy year, and encouraging all Catholics to both minister to those living on the outermost fringes of society and to embark on a pilgrimage during the Year of Mercy.

The Diocese of Camden will formally celebrate the Year of Mercy by opening Holy Doors at specific churches throughout the region, hosting events and educational opportunities that give instruction on mercy, and reinforcing the Holy Father's various initiatives as they are announced.

The Jubilee year will close with the Solemnity of Christ the King on November 20, 2016.

FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION ON THE JUBILEE OF MERCY WWW.CAMDENDIOCESE.ORG/MERCY/