

This document contains our church's complete Guide Book & Directory, including our members' contact information. This version was developed to allow the Pastor, the office staff, and designated members of the congregation, to have the Guide Book & Directory in an electronic format.

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Infant Jesus  
Parish



# 2023 Ministry Booklet



# Infant Jesus Parish



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“We should use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God’s message, we should do it according to the faith that we have; if it is to serve, we should serve; if it is to teach, we should teach; if it is to encourage others, we should do so. Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever has authority should work hard; whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully.” (Romans 12:6-8).

These words of St. Paul remind each one of us that we have already received various gifts from God, the Holy Spirit, which are so unique and personal. Indeed, who we are and what we have now are not without God’s providential care. These gifts freely we have received; these gifts we are freely to give so that God’s name would be glorified, his love would be manifested, his mercy and compassion would be shown to the broken, the hopeless, and the despaired. At Infant Jesus Parish, everyone is strongly encouraged to be involved in a Ministry that one feels suitable to one’s God-given talents or skills. We should learn from the Parable of the talents (Matt 25:14-30) not to bury our God-given gifts in the “ground”; but we should be making “interest” from these gifts so that, at the end of the day, we will be called: “Well done good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come in and share your master’s joy and happiness.” (Matt 25:21)

Would you be willing to use your God-given gifts for the good of God’s church and His people at Infant Jesus Parish?

God bless you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Pham', written in a cursive style.

Father Joseph Pham  
Pastor

---

334 Beech Avenue • Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097

Phone: 856-848-0047

Fax: 856-384-8123

Web: [www.TheInfantJesusParish.org](http://www.TheInfantJesusParish.org)

Email: [TheInfantJesusParish@comcast.net](mailto:TheInfantJesusParish@comcast.net)

Religious Education Email: [RelEdakacd@comcast.net](mailto:RelEdakacd@comcast.net)

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# Infant Jesus Parish



## Mission Statement

We, the Catholic parish of the Infant  
Jesus,  
are called to be a vibrant  
community of God's people through  
worship, teaching, service, and  
evangelization.

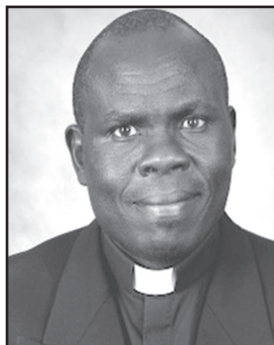
Just as the Blessed Mother nurtured the  
Infant Jesus, our parish will nurture all  
people to answer God's universal call  
to holiness.

We will strive to foster reverence for the  
sacraments, prayers for  
religious vocations, and devotion  
to our Lord Jesus Christ.

# Infant Jesus Parish Rectory Staff



**Reverend Joseph L. Pham**  
Pastor  
(frjoepham@comcast.net)



**Reverend Alfred Mungujakisa**  
Associate Pastor  
(fral.ijp@gmail.com)



**Deacon Frank Dunleavy**  
(frankdunleavy@yahoo.com)



**Deacon Joseph Farro**  
(deaconjosephfarro@icloud.com)



**Sr. Vilma Butron (DRE)**  
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Secretary  
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**Janet Autodore**  
Data Entry/Rel Ed Secretary  
(reledakacd@comcast.net)



**Cathy Caccicola**  
Cook



**Kathy McGuinness**  
Evening Secretary



**Diane Mendel**  
Evening Secretary



**Denise Lowry**  
Evening Secretary

# St. Margaret School Office Staff



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principal@stmargarets-rs.org



**Anne Zuccarelli**  
Vice Principal  
vprincipal@stmargarets-rs.org



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Advancement Director  
advancement@stmargarets-rs.org



**Karen McCurdy**  
Tuition Coordinator  
tuition@stmargarets-rs.org



**Debbie Mancini**  
Secretary  
secretary@stmargarets-rs.org



# St. Margaret Parish History

## Father McKeever



Never was the need for a new parish more sorely felt in the Woodbury area than in the late 1950's. Many new housing developments were being completed and a large percentage of these new Gloucester County residents were Catholic. It was decided that the existing facilities of St. Patrick's Parish in Woodbury and the Church of The Incarnation in Mantua could not absorb the influx. Since property had been purchased in Woodbury Heights, in parish, the Church of St. Margaret Mary, was conceived, and formally incorporated on January 21, 1960. The first trustees were Michael Reitenberger and William Murphy.

The parish of St. Margaret Mary was established on June 10, 1961, by order of His Excellency, Archbishop Celestine J. Damiano, Bishop of the Diocese of Camden. There came to the parish in that first year a man all would come to know well, respect, and love over the course of his twelve-year pastorate. This was Father William L. McKeever, St. Margaret's first pastor. When the parish was first established, temporary arrangements were made to hold Mass on Sundays in the Wood Theatre in Woodbury. After six months, these facilities were no longer available. Through the kindness of Monsignor Paul Fairbrother, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Mass was held in the cafeteria of St. Patrick's School in Woodbury.

In December, 1961, the present rectory on Beech Avenue was purchased. With the help of the men of the parish, a two-car garage was converted into a chapel where morning Mass could be celebrated. Many of the furnishings in the rectory were acquired with green stamp books, which were contributed by members of the Parish.

In June of 1962 groundbreaking took place for the construction of the first building of the parish complex. This building was to consist of a multi-purpose hall and eight classrooms. Less than a year later, the work had been completed. On Saturday night, February 18, 1963, the first parish social was held in the new hall. A benefit performance was given by the Woodbury Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America. No sidewalks had as yet been constructed and wooden planks were laid in the mud to gain access to the new building.

In 1978 under the guidance of Msgr. Budney, St. Margaret's Church was built. In the back of the church is a chapel for smaller Mass events. (The chapel is now referred to as Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel.)

In 1999, a new Ministry Center and 4 new classrooms, dedicated to Monsignor Felix M. O'Neill who was the Pastor at that time, were added to the school building. The Ministry Center has 3 rooms that are used for parish ministry meetings. The Religious Education office is also located in the Ministry Center. Reverend Calogero N. LaVerde (2000-2009) and Reverend Joseph T. Szolack (2009-2010) were the last two Pastors of St. Margaret Parish.



## Saint John Vianney Parish History

St. John Vianney Parish began in 1914 when Mass was celebrated in a private home. Masses were moved in 1929 to a newly constructed church known as “St. Agnes Parish” which became a mission of St. Teresa Parish in Runnemede.



In 1936 the church fell prey to fire and was destroyed. Construction of the present day church was completed in 1939 under the leadership of Fr. Joseph Fritz, the pastor of St. Teresa Parish.

On July 13, 1946, Bishop Eustace established St. Agnes Parish naming Father Martin D. McMahon as the first pastor. As of 1955, St. Agnes Parish was

the only Catholic Church in Washington, Gloucester, and Deptford Townships.

In February, 1971, St. Agnes Parish moved to its new home on Coles Road. Also in February 1971, Bishop Guilfoyle established the new parish of St. John Vianney. The first pastor, Fr. Walter Reilly, revitalized the parish under the patronage of St. John Vianney and had the present rectory built.

Father Reilly left in 1975 followed by Msgr. John B. Lubicky who retired in 1993. Pastor Msgr. James J. Rynne (1993-2004) over the years made numerous improvements to the church. Fr. Timothy E. Byerley (2005-2010) had the Grotto built, renovated the church and rectory.

Currently the former rectory is being utilized as a meeting area for smaller group meetings. As of July 1, 2016, this building was dedicated to the Pastor who was instrumental in the merger process and is now named; The Reverend Joseph T. Szolack Center.



# Infant Jesus Parish

## St. John Vianney and St. Margaret Parishes Merge

On April 3, 2008, The Most Reverend Joseph A. Galante, then Bishop of Camden, announced the mergers of parishes in the Diocese of Camden. Bishop Galante announced, among other parishes, that St. Margaret (Woodbury Heights) and St. John Vianney (Deptford) would merge with the primary worship site at St. Margaret. The intent of these mergers were to strengthen parish life and address many of the challenges facing the Church in the Diocese of Camden.

A Core Team (formed from members of both parishes) and Priest Convener, Reverend Joseph T. Szolack, (chosen by the Bishop) started the 15 month process of the merger. On October 19th, 2008, the Core Team was commissioned by the Bishop at St. Agnes Church.

On November 4, 2008, the Core Team had their first meeting. During the process of the merger a new name for the new parish was determined: Infant Jesus Parish. A letter was written to the Bishop with the following information: "After extensive reflection and intensive discernment, our communities request that you approve Infant Jesus Parish as the name of our new parish community and accept the Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord as our Parish Feast Day."

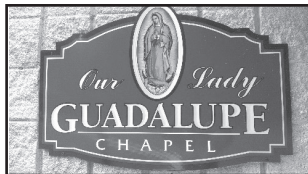
On December 4, 2009, the parishes of St. John Vianney (Deptford) and St. Margaret (Woodbury Hts.) received the official "Certificate of Consolidation" from the Diocese.

On January 13, 2010 the merger of St. John Vianney and St. Margaret parishes became official. The new name of the merged parish: Infant Jesus Parish. The first Pastor of Infant Jesus Parish was Reverend Joseph T. Szolack who served our parish from January, 2010 through June, 2016.

On July 1, 2016, Bishop Dennis Sullivan assigned a new Pastor to Infant Jesus Parish, Reverend Joseph L. Pham.

Today, we continue to celebrate the feast days of the merged parishes; St. John Vianney on August 4th and St. Margaret Mary Alacoque on October 16th. We also celebrate our parish feast day on the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6th).

Infant Jesus Parish flourishes with many ministries, two places of worship, and a school and community of active parishioners.



# Community and Parish Life Ministries

## **Athletic Association**

Moderator: Father Joseph L. Pham

Contact Person: Mike Tinges

Contact email: mtinges@gmail.com

Meeting information: Leaders meet every first Monday at 8:15 PM in the Ministry Center

Special requirements for membership: Willing to volunteer and help with the various sports program the parish offers the children.

**Mission/description:** The Athletic Association offers various sports to the children of both the school and parish - the sports include volleyball, basketball, cheerleading, softball, and track. We are committed to provide the children an opportunity to compete in sports and to learn good sportsmanship. Volunteers should be willing to volunteer and help with the various sports programs the parish offers the children.

## **Building and Grounds**

Moderator: Father Joseph L. Pham

Contact Person: Joe Remshard

Contact Email: jremshard@yahoo.com, 856-217-3536

Meeting information: Meets as needed in the Ministry Center.

Special requirements for membership: Preferably those in Trades, Engineers, Architects, etc., but not limited to those requirements.

Anyone interested in the upkeep and maintenance of the facility would be welcome.

**Mission/description:** Advises the Pastor on ways to maintain the church and school grounds.

## **Comforting Ministry**

Moderator: Father Joseph L. Pham

Contact Person: Eleanor Kandle

Contact email/#: ekandle86@comcast.net, 856-848-5781

Meeting information: First Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM from September to May in the Ministry Center.

Special requirements for membership: Ability to work with bereaved families. Answer questions and assist them with decision making within the confines of the Diocesan regulations, as it pertains to the funeral Mass.

**Mission/description:** This group meets with families of recently deceased to assist in planning the funeral Mass, to coordinate selections with Music ministry, to set up the church for the Mass, and to attend the Mass to assist family, readers, and gift bearers.

## **Deeper Dimensions**

Moderator: Deacon Frank Dunleavy

Contact Person: Dana Dariano, MS

Contact email/#: danadariano@verizon.net, 609-805-1896

Website: www.deeperdimensions.org or www.deeperdimensions.net

Meeting information: Every Sunday from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM via Zoom currently. See weekly bulletin for updates.

**Mission/description:** The mission of Deeper Dimensions is to educate, to empower and to free families from the debilitating chains of addiction and co-dependency and to foster an environment of serenity, sanity, hope, and healing in the Franciscan tradition. Addiction does not discriminate and neither do we. Come join us and witness the miraculous process of recovery!

## **Eucharistic Adoration Ministry**

Moderator: Deacon Frank Dunleavy

Coordinator: Julie Heenan (except First Fridays - First Fridays Contact Richard Macdonald)

Contact email/#: Julie: 856-468-3708; Richard Macdonald: 856-397-5989 (First Fridays only)

Meeting information: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday after 8:30 AM Mass until 6:00 PM. (First Friday overnight Adoration ends with 8:30 AM Mass on Saturday) in Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel (Behind St. Margaret's Church)

Special requirements for membership: Anyone of any age willing to spend time with the Lord.

**Mission/description:** St. Francis said, "Jesus is truly clearly seen in the Eucharist through His Love." Be a guardian of the Holy Eucharist who adores Jesus. Graces of our Lord through the Holy Eucharist is extremely powerful. Come and Adore Him every Friday. *"The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament will help bring about everlasting peace on earth."* (Mother Teresa)

## **Finance Council**

Moderator: Father Joe Pham

Contact Person: Bob Law

Contact email/#: theinfantJesusparish@comcast.net, 856-685-0019

Special requirements for membership: Accounting knowledge preferred, but not mandatory. Able to review and assess budget details. If you are interested in being part of the Finance Council, please contact Father Joe.

**Mission/description:** The Parish Finance Council has three main areas of responsibility: 1) Administration and finance: Review parish general financial condition, develop & subsequently monitor annual operating and capital budgets, Insure procedures are in place for intended use of cash and other resources, Prepare & deliver financial reports to parish congregation at least annually. 2) Facility management: Review and advise Pastor on all contracts being entered into by the parish and 3) Stewardship and development. Review and advise on parish fund raising programs. (A detailed list of responsibilities is available.)

### **Fundraising Committee**

Contact Person: Father Joseph L. Pham

Contact email/#: theinfantJesusparish@comcast.net, 856-848-0047

Meeting information: As needed.

Special requirements for membership: Energetic individuals with knowledge of fundraising.

**Mission/description:** Previous fundraising activities included: Basket/Bag Bingo, 50/50 raffles, Gertrude Hawk candies, Silent Auction, Parish cookbook, Parish apparel. Fundraising profits help to defray the costs of building repairs and maintenance.

### **Grief Support**

Contact Person: Ann Klein

Contact email/#: klein.ann@comcast.net, 856-686-0645

Meeting information: To be determined annually. See bulletin for updates.

**Mission/description:** As part of the Comforting Ministry, our mission is to continue to offer support to adults who have experienced the loss of a loved one through death.

### **King's Men**

Moderator: Father Alfred Mungujakisa

Contact Person: Walter Barnaniewicz (scheduler)

Contact email/#: waltb0127@yahoo.com

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/InfantJesusKingsMen>

Meeting information: Every Saturday at 7:00 AM in the Ministry Center.

We also meet to recite the Rosary at 9:30 AM in front of St. Margaret Church on Sundays before 10:00 AM Mass.

Special requirements for membership: Open to all men, age 18+, who are looking to grow in holiness with support and accountability from other men. Our meetings are 1.5 hours long. During this time, we pray the rosary and read from material related to masculine spirituality.

**Mission/description:** Under Christ the King's universal call to serve, we, as men, pledge to unite and build up other men in the mold of Leader, Protector, and Provider through education, formation and action. We wrap up our meeting by reviewing whatever commitments we have made in our battle to grow as men of God, confessing if we have failed in some way, challenging each other to preserve with the help of God's grace in our ongoing struggle for holiness, and confirming (i.e. strengthening) each other by mutual support.

### **Knights of Columbus**

Moderator: Father Joseph L. Pham

Contact Person: Rob Dietrich, Grand Knight

Contact Email: dietrichw@aol.com

Website: www.KoC13259.org

Meeting information: First and Third Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM in the ministry center for all members; Second Thursday at 7:00 PM, officers meeting in the Ministry Center.

Special requirements for membership: Open to any practicing Catholic male, 18 years or older.

**Mission/description:** Fraternity of Catholic men dedicated to Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

### **Men's over 30 Basketball**

Contact Person: Russ Farrell

Contact email/#: russellfarrell@comcast.net

Meeting information: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:00 PM-11:00 PM as available in the School Gym.

Special requirements for membership: Men over 30 who enjoy basketball

**Mission/description:** Socialization for men over 30 who enjoy playing basketball.

### **NA meeting**

Moderator: Father Joseph L. Pham

Meeting information: Meets every Thursday evening at 8:00 PM via zoom currently. See weekly bulletin for updates.

Special requirements for membership: Anyone recovering from addiction to drugs.

**Mission/description:** Ministry of recovering from narcotics addiction using the 12 step program.

### **Nursing Ministry**

Moderator: Father Joseph L. Pham

Contact Person: Madeline Mills

Contact email/#: nursingministry14@gmail.com, 856-580-4818

Meeting information: Meets 2 times a year and as needed plus special programs offered for parish. Check bulletin for meeting information.

Special requirements for membership: Professional nurses who want to share their talents as health educators.

**Mission/description:** To enhance the quality and promote the dignity of life for the elderly, persons with disabilities and their families, through services that address the health and well-being of body, mind, and spirit. The parish nurse provides support for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of all who seek their services.

### **Overeaters Anonymous (OA)**

Moderator: Father Joseph L. Pham

Contact Persons: Bob L., 856-685-0019 or John D., 561-632-5202

Meeting information: Meets every Monday evening from 6-7:00 PM in the Ministry Center, Room B.

Special requirements for membership: Meetings are open to anyone with a desire to stop eating compulsively.

**Mission/description:** Overeaters Anonymous is not a diet club. There are no dues, fees, or weigh-ins. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively. OA views compulsive eating as a physical, emotional, and spiritual disease that can be arrested but not cured. Members seek recovery on all three levels by following a Twelve Step program patterned after that of Alcoholics Anonymous. To find out more, go to [oa.org](http://oa.org) or [oasouthjersey.org](http://oasouthjersey.org)

### **Parish Council**

Moderator: Father Joseph L. Pham

Contact Person: Richard Macdonald

Contact email/#: [rhmacdonald@hotmail.com](mailto:rhmacdonald@hotmail.com)

Meeting information: Meetings are held at 7:00 PM monthly in the Ministry Center. (Meeting dates are announced in the Bulletin and are on the Parish Calendar.)

**Mission/description:** The Pastoral Council acts as an advisory Board to the Pastor and members of the clergy in matters pertaining to the spiritual, social, civic, financial, educational and moral life of the Parish.

### **Prayer Group**

Moderator: Father Joseph L. Pham

Contact email/#: [theinfantJesusparish@comcast.net](mailto:theinfantJesusparish@comcast.net), 856-848-0047

Meeting information: Check bulletin for dates and times.

Special requirements for membership: All are welcome.

**Mission/description:** Coming together to pray and become closer to the Lord.

### **Pro-life**

Moderator: Father Alfred Mungujakisa

Contact email/#: Ann Smith, [veritas007@comcast.net](mailto:veritas007@comcast.net)

Special requirements for membership: Respect for all human life from conception to natural death.

**Mission/description:** As disciples of Jesus Christ, our mission is proclaim the Gospel of Life in its fullness in order to inculcate the Culture of Life into our society and defeat the culture of death in all its forms. To that end, we foster respect for all human life from conception to natural death, promote the virtues of modesty and chastity as part and parcel of God's plan for human sexuality, and support the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony as the only building block of the civilization of love - the kingdom of God.



### **Security Ministry**

Moderator: Father Joseph L. Pham

Contact Person: Steve Graham (856-430-8082), Deacon Joseph Farro  
(609-970-4300)

Contact Email: grahamcomm@comcast.net

Meeting Information: Meetings are held on a quarterly basis and sometimes on an as-needed basis.

**Mission/description:** The safety of all who worship at Infant Jesus Parish is a priority of our Pastor, Father Joseph Pham. The Ministry takes steps necessary to help safeguard our parishioners, our properties, and the consecrated Eucharist, particularly during Sunday Mass. The Safety Ministry facilitates the safety and welfare of our staff and parishioners. A law enforcement background is not a requirement for membership, but would be considered an asset. No physical or firearm training is required or offered by this ministry.

### **Stephen Ministry**

Moderator: Father Joseph L. Pham

Contact Person: Madeline Mills

Contact email: nursingministry14@gmail.com

**Mission/description:** *“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2, NRSV)*

Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations. The Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers - called Stephen Ministers - to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. Check out the parish bulletin for more information as this ministry grows in our parish. If you would like to be part of the Stephen Ministry, please contact Madeline Mills.

### **School Carnival Committee**

Moderator: Father Joseph L. Pham

Contact Person: Richard Macdonald

Contact email/#: rhmacdonald@hotmail.com

Website: [www.saintmargarets carnival.com](http://www.saintmargarets carnival.com)

Meeting information: Meets monthly until May, then weekly 7:00 PM in the Ministry Center. (Check bulletin for more info.)

**Mission/description:** Community building event that encompasses Infant Jesus Parish, St. Margaret Regional School, Incarnation Parish and Woodbury Heights and surrounding areas. The proceeds from the carnival help with the fundraising efforts of St. Margaret School.

### **Senior Citizens**

Moderator: Father Joseph L. Pham

Contact Person: Julie Crumsho

Contact email/#: jcrumsho@gmail.com, 856-845-5804

Meeting information: General Meeting: Third Thursday of the month, 11:30 AM in the Ministry Center; Executive Board meets first Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM.

Special requirements for membership: Men and Women over the age of 55.

**Mission/description:** Social outlet for senior members of the parish.

We have monthly meetings where a light lunch is supplied for a nominal cost, and we sometimes have a speaker.

### **Saint Vincent de Paul Society**

Moderator: Father Joseph L. Pham

Contact Person: Charles Connell

Contact email/#: svdpinfantJesus@gmail.com, 856-848-0047

Special requirements for membership: A willingness to serve those who are in need, through the Christian calling to seek and find the forgotten, the suffering, or the deprived, that we may bring them God's love.

Facebook Page: Infant Jesus Parish St. Vincent de Paul Society

Meeting information: First Monday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Ministry Center

**Mission/description:** The St. Vincent De Paul Society is a layperson ministry made up of men and women from Infant Jesus Parish. One of the ways SVDP accomplishes their mission is through home visits to meet and listen to those in need, regardless of race, creed, or national origin. We assist with food baskets and gifts for children in need through our Christmas Giving Tree. Throughout the course of the year we have collections of: winter coats, personal care items, diapers for infants, school bags, school supplies, and fans to help with summer's heat. Through these good works, we offer human dignity and confidentiality to all those that come seeking our help, love and support. Our SVDP Conference extends a welcome to all Parishioners who feel a calling to get involved in the Gospel message to serve God and our neighbor.

### **Special Events Committee**

Moderator: Father Joseph L. Pham

Meeting information: on an "as needed" basis

**Mission/description:** Our committee coordinates and arranges planned parish events, for example anniversary parties for religious and feast day festivities. Requires individuals that enjoy planning parties.

34 Hunter Street  
Woodbury, NJ 08096  
856-845-0888  
Richard A. Bonczak  
Manager  
N.J. Lic. No. 4254



573 Egg Harbor Road  
Sewell, NJ 08080  
856-582-3800  
Richard A. Bonczak  
Manager  
N.J. Lic. No. 4254

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### **Infant Jesus Parish Women's Club**

Moderator: Father Alfred Mungujakisa

Contact Person: Neen Raspa

Contact email/#: Neenie@comcast.net

Meeting information: Executive meeting – 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:45 PM in the Ministry Center, General meeting following at 7:30 PM.

Special requirements for membership: All Catholic women who are out of high school, or equivalent age, shall be eligible for active membership.

**Mission/description:** The Infant Jesus Parish Women's Club is a spiritual, financial, and social ministry. We are committed to financially assisting the Church and School, as well as helping local agencies through social activities while having fun and enjoying friendships!

### **Youth Ministry**

Contact Person: Father Alfred Mungujakisa

Contact #: 856-848-0047

Meeting information: TBD (Check out bulletin for any new information)

Special requirements for membership: Adults must be fingerprinted and must attend a Virtus session. Adults must work well with the youth.

Youth requirements: All students in grades 6-12 are welcome to join.

**Mission/description:** Connect teens with other teens who want to grow in their Catholic faith and be an outlet of Christian fellowship.

## Education Ministries

### **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)**

Moderator: Deacon Joseph Farro

Contact email/#: deaconjosephfarro@icloud.com, 856-848-0047

Meeting information: TBD

Special requirements for membership: RCIA is open to any non-Catholic Christian or unbaptized person who wants to enter the Catholic Church. It is also open to those baptized Catholics who for one reason or another have missed receiving their Sacraments at the typical ages.

**Mission/description:** The RCIA team is committed to forming others in the Catholic faith through Christian fellowship, teaching fully and faithfully the Church's doctrines, and sharing one's own faith journey.

### **Religious Education**

Moderator: Father Joseph L. Pham

Contact Person: Sr. Vilma Butron

Contact email/#: reledakaccd@comcast.net, 856-845-5251

Meeting information: Sundays 8:30 AM-9:45 AM, Mondays: 4:30 PM-5:45 PM, summer sessions held first 2 full weeks in August from 9:30 AM-12:30 PM. (Check the bulletin or website for exact dates and time changes.)

Special requirements for membership: Teachers/Aides/Subs needed. Must be fingerprinted and have attended a VIRTUS session.  
Students: Grades 1-8.

**Mission/description:** Religious Education Program is for all the children 1st to 8th grade and young adults. It is established to assist our parents who are the most important educators in the faith formation of their children. The Program is designed to help our children deepen their knowledge of God and grow in their personal relationship with Him.

**St. Margaret Regional School**

Moderator: Father Joseph L. Pham

Contact Person: Sr. Michele DeGregorio, fmij

Contact Email/#: smdegregorio@stmargarets-rs.org, 856-845-5200 ext. 104

Website: [www.stmargarets-rs.org](http://www.stmargarets-rs.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/smswoodburyheights>

Mission/Description: St. Margaret Regional School is a Pre-K to 8th grade regional Catholic educational institution with 60 years of service in the Franciscan Tradition. At St. Margaret's, Catholic values are a top priority. We offer a secure and disciplined learning environment. We strive for a traditional and comprehensive education, which includes growth in religious awareness and appreciation of morals and values, for each of our over 400 students.

**Mission Statement for St. Margaret School:**

Inspired by the lives of Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Saint Margaret Regional School provides a challenging curriculum complemented by Catholic traditions, engaging activities, and competitive athletic programs that nurture a child's spiritual, intellectual, and physical development. As a Catholic environment, enriched by prayer and the tradition of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Infant Jesus, the school creates a foundation for children in pre-school through eighth grade to realize their potential as children of God.

**Sunday School**

Moderator: Father Joseph L. Pham

Contact Person: Colleen Phifer

Contact email/#: [reledakacd@comcast.net](mailto:reledakacd@comcast.net), 845-5251 or 848-0047

Meeting information: During 10:00 AM Mass from September to June

Special requirements for membership: Children must be potty trained and 3-5 years old. Adults who volunteer must be fingerprinted and have attended a CAP session.

**Mission/description:** Bible lessons geared to preschool children, crafts and music.

# Faith & Evangelization Ministries

## **Legion of Mary**

Spiritual Director: Father Alfred Mungujakisa

Contact Person: Anne Fleming

Contact email/#: flemingsbeechhouse@yahoo.com/856-686-1885

Meeting information: Every Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM in the Ministry Center in the summer. September-June 4:00 PM Wednesdays in the Ministry Center.

Special requirements for membership: Open to practicing Catholics

**Mission/description:** Largest lay apostolic organization in the Catholic Church, whose primary focus is on spiritual works of mercy, including conversion, conservation, and consolation.

## **Legion of Mary Juniors**

Spiritual Director: Father Alfred Mungujakisa

Contact Person: Anne Fleming

Contact email/#: flemingsbeechhouse@yahoo.com/856-686-1885

Meeting information: Every Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM in the Ministry Center in the summer. September-June 4:00 PM Fridays in the Ministry Center.

Special requirements for membership: Open to practicing Catholics.

**Mission/description:** Largest lay apostolic organization in the Catholic Church, whose primary focus is on spiritual works of mercy, including conversion, conservation, and consolation.

# Liturgy Ministries

## **Altar & Rosary Society**

Moderator: Father Alfred Mungujakisa

Contact Person: Loretta Petito, 856-848-5890/Julie Heenan, 856-468-3708

Contact email/#: lpetito11@yahoo.com

Meeting information: The Altar & Rosary Society meets with the Liturgical Committee as needed.

**Mission/description:** Dedicated group of individuals, who are committed to decorating the altar with flowers, plants, and linens, according to the liturgical calendar, in order to enhance the beauty of the churches for the Christmas and Easter seasons and other special occasions.

### **Altar Servers**

Moderator: Father Alfred Mungujakisa

Contact email/#: fral.ijp@gmail.com, 856-848-0047

New Servers: Training will be conducted each year.

Special requirements for membership: All young persons of Infant Jesus Parish in grades 3-12 who have completed training and have faithfully fulfilled their ministry in the previous year. All minors must have a parental permission slip on file.

**Mission/description:** Altar servers are called to not only worship God Almighty, but to help others to worship well, too. Altar servers beautify our liturgies by praying devoutly and giving a good example to others; walking in procession; carrying sacred items such as the incense, Crucifix and candles; assisting priests and deacons with the sacred rites; assisting with the distribution of Holy Communion in a devout manner; assisting at joyful celebrations like baptisms and weddings; and helping other to grieve by serving at funerals.

### **Choir/ Music Ministry**

Moderator: Father Alfred Mungujakisa

Contact Persons: St. Margaret Church - Mary Koza; St. John Vianney Church - Sarah Johnston

Contact email/#: mkoza.ijp@gmail.com, 609-617-3016 or skjohnston2010@gmail.com

**Meeting information:** St. Margaret Church: Practice Sunday before the 10:00 AM Mass; sings Sundays 10:00 AM Mass Sept. to June.  
St. John Vianney Church: Practice – Sunday before the 11:30 AM Mass; sings Sundays at 11:30 AM Mass.

**Youth choir:** Practice twice per month at 5:15 PM on Sundays. (See weekly bulletin for updates) The youth choir sings at the 4:00 PM Mass on the 4th Sunday of the month.

Special requirements for membership: For choirs – attend practices and willingness to learn; Cantors and instrumentalist have the ability to be leaders of song, read music and learn new music as needed.

**Mission/description:** Come to us with a devotion to God, a love of music, and a cooperative spirit, and we'll make a singer of you. Infant Jesus Choir is made up of ordinary folks who love God and love music. Most of us are not trained singers, but we take whatever talent the Lord has given us- big or small- and send it back to Him and our fellow parishioners. Together, we make beautiful, spiritual, uplifting music for Sunday Masses and other special occasions. We work hard, but we also have fun and take great pleasure in the quality of the music ministry at Infant Jesus Parish.

### **Eucharistic Ministers**

Moderator: Deacon Frank Dunleavy

Contact Person: Walter Barnaniewicz (scheduler)

Contact email/#: waltb0127@yahoo.com

Meeting information: Meets as needed

Special requirements for membership: Must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church, have permission from their pastor to serve, and attend a training course from the diocesan school of liturgy.

**Mission/description:** Eucharistic ministers assist at the celebration of the Sunday Mass and special liturgical events. They are responsible to help the priest and deacon distribute the Body and Blood of Christ at the Holy Mass. An essential and vital part of this ministry is to also provide service to those members of our community who may be homebound and/or unable to attend our liturgies.

### **Lectors (Readers of the Word)**

Moderator: Father Alfred Mungujakisa

Contact Person: Walter Barnaniewicz (scheduler)

Contact email/#: waltb0127@yahoo.com

Meeting information: Meets as needed

Special requirements for membership: Strong, loud, clear voice, good reader. All Lectors must attend a Diocesan training program and be approved by the Pastor. Youth lectors, who are high school age, must have completed Confirmation.

**Mission/description:** The Lector's role is to proclaim the Word of God through the liturgical readings during Holy Mass.

### **Liturgy Committee**

Moderator: Father Alfred Mungujakisa

Contact email/#: fral.ijp@gmail.com, 856-848-0047

Meeting information: At least quarterly in the ministry center at 7:00 PM  
(To be announced)

Special requirements for membership: Committee members are appointed by the pastor and have some formation in some area of liturgical ministry and/or some special skill that would either beautify our liturgy celebrations or facilitate the smooth running of various liturgies. Members must be dedicated to following all liturgical norms as given by the Church.

**Mission/description:** Aids the Pastor and clergy in planning liturgies, such as, Easter, Christmas and other Holy Days. Helps to foster a healthy liturgical piety in our congregation.



## **Ushers**

Moderator: Father Alfred Mungujakisa

Contact Person: Mike Spina

Contact email/#: me.spina@comcast.net

Meeting information: As needed

Special requirements for membership: The persons must be punctual and dependable, and be able to serve at Masses and other functions of the Church (Confirmation, First Holy Communions, Stations of the Cross, Lenten Services, etc.)

**Mission/description:** Dedicated to serve the Church by helping parishioners to their seats, taking up the collection, distributing church bulletins, taking a count of parishioners at Mass for the Diocese, and helping in any other way as may be needed.

# Sacramental Ministries

## **Baptism Preparation Class**

Moderator: Father Alfred Mungujakisa

Contact Persons: Kevin and Lisa Rice (schedule coordinators)

Contact #/Email: allwheats@msn.com, 856-848-0047

Special requirements for membership: We are looking for married couples with children who are willing to be a witness to other families of the joys of raising a child in the ways of the Catholic Faith.

Meeting information: Monthly on the 3rd Saturday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Ministry Center.

**Mission/description:** This ministry is comprised of Infant Jesus volunteer couples that assist the priest with baptismal classes. These couples are “spiritual role models” to the families about to initiate the sacrament of Baptism for their child. The couples lead roundtable discussion questions and share stories of their own faith journey with those in attendance, as well as talk about how they instill and practice the values of being Catholic today within their own families.

## **Pre-Cana**

**Moderator:** Deacon Frank Dunleavy

Contact email/#: frankdunleavy@yahoo.com, 856-845-6871

Meeting information: Three/four times per year, usually in March, May, September/October. All sessions are held in the rectory.

**Mission/description:** Pre-Cana is a series of talks and discussions given by a married Catholic couple and a witnessing Priest to engaged couples planning to be married in the Catholic Church.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What are the rectory office hours?**

9:00 AM-4:00 PM Monday through Friday and 6:00 PM-8:00 PM Monday through Friday.

In case of an emergency, call the parish emergency line anytime at 856-848-0047.

**How do I register in the Parish?** Visit the rectory during regular office hours. Call if you have any further questions.

## **Where are the buildings/rooms that are referred to in this handbook?**

Infant Jesus Parish Rectory, 334 Beech Avenue, Woodbury Hts., NJ 08097  
St. John Vianney Church, 2901 Good Intent Road, Deptford, NJ 08096 (SJV)  
The Reverend Joseph T. Szolack Center is located next to St. John Vianney Church (FSC)

St. Margaret Church, 845 Third Street, Woodbury Hts., NJ 08097 (SMC)  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel is located behind St. Margaret Church. (OLOG)  
Ministry Center is located at 773 Third Street, behind St. Margaret School adjacent to St. Margaret Church. (MC)

**How do I arrange for a funeral?** Most of the arrangements for a funeral are made through a funeral director. The funeral director contacts the parish for the funeral date and time. The Comforting Committee will contact the family to plan the funeral liturgy.

**How do I get a letter of eligibility to be a Godparent or sponsor?** A letter of eligibility is issued by the current parish of a potential sponsor. This letter states that the Godparent or sponsor is in good standing with the Catholic faith. If you are a member of Infant Jesus Parish, please call 856-848-0047 or email your request to: [theinfantJesusparish@comcast.net](mailto:theinfantJesusparish@comcast.net).

**What are the requirements for a sponsor for Baptism and Confirmation?** A Catholic Godparent or sponsor must be a practicing Catholic; have received the three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist); be at least 16 years old (or have approval of pastor); and if married, the marriage must have been approved by the Church. Parents may not be Godparents or sponsors. One of our priests would be happy to help in any of these matters.

**How do I obtain a Mass intention?** Contact the rectory during regular office hours. The donation for an announced Mass is \$15.00. (The date and time are published in the church bulletin.) The donation for an unannounced Mass is \$10.00. (Unannounced Masses are offered privately,)

**How does my organization reserve a room and get an event on the parish calendar and in the bulletin?** Contact the rectory during regular office hours. The calendar is done on a fiscal year basis. Calendar dates are requested in July for September through June. Please contact Sharon Sandone for calendar concerns. Infant Jesus Parish utilizes all our facilities for parish functions. We are unable to rent our facilities to the public.

**My family is Catholic, but my child or I never received Baptism, Holy Communion or Confirmation. What can I do?** Contact the parish office at 856-848-0047. You will be directed to either the Religious Education or RCIA Office (or both depending upon age) to begin the process.

**I was raised either as a non-Catholic, Christian - or - as a non-Christian and would like to talk about becoming a Catholic. What should I do?** Contact Fr. Joe Pham ext. 106 at 856-848-0047. He will schedule a meeting with you to discuss the process according to your circumstances.

**My spouse and I were married outside the Catholic Church and would like to have our marriage “blessed” (i.e. convalidated) by the Church. What should we do?** If one or both of the spouses is a Baptized Catholic, then the Church normally requires that the wedding ceremony be celebrated in the Catholic Church by a properly delegated officiant. Contact one of the parish’s clergy through the office (856-848-0047) to discuss your unique circumstances.

**My spouse or I were previously married and are divorced - or - I am currently single and am divorced. Do I have to seek an annulment? If so, how?** Such situations can be more or less complex depending on circumstances. The first step is to talk with one of the parish priests who can advise you in your case. Many times it is easier than one believes. Contact the parish office at 856-848-0047 to schedule an appointment.

# Sacraments at Infant Jesus Parish

## **Contact the Parish Office:**

Information concerning the preparation and celebration of each of the Seven Sacraments can be obtained by initially contacting the parish office at 856-848-0047. You will be directed to the appropriate office to work out the details as needed. Some of the arrangements are made through the parish staff, and others are coordinated with the parish clergy. The clergy are always available to talk if you have specific questions.

## **General Information:**

Each of the Seven Sacraments are outward signs instituted by Jesus to give us sanctifying grace. They are tangible ways for individuals to receive God's redemptive love and to come to share in His divine life. They also enable the faithful to respond to God's love personally as His disciples and corporately as His Catholic Church.

On the one hand, each Sacrament requires sufficient preparation in order to be celebrated fruitfully. On the other hand, Sacraments should never be unnecessarily delayed. The appropriate time to receive each respective Sacrament ordinarily coincides with the various stages of life and its significant moments beginning from birth until progressing to death.

But it is never too late to receive Sacraments. God invites everyone to receive the outpouring of His love and to share in His divine life through the Sacraments—even adults and those brought up in other Christian denominations or without a Christian upbringing. Simply contact the parish office as noted above for more details. Information regarding specific Sacraments is as follows:

## **Baptism:**

Infant Jesus Parish celebrates the sacrament of Baptism each Sunday at Saint Margaret Church, Woodbury Hts. (immediately following the 10:00 AM Mass) or Saint John Vianney Church, Deptford (immediately following the 11:30 AM Mass).

Parents must attend a Baptism Prep Class. Baptism Prep Classes are from 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon. (Usually the 3rd Saturday of the month.) Please be sure to call the Parish Office (856-848-0047) and register to attend an upcoming Baptism class. At least one sponsor must be Catholic, and a letter of eligibility must be given to the parish prior to the Baptism. See FAQs for more details. For information on the Baptism of older children and adults, see FAQs.

### **Penance/Confession:**

The frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged as an essential part of discipleship and vibrant spiritual life. Accordingly, at Infant Jesus Parish, we make every effort to make the Sacrament as widely available as possible, as follows: Saturdays from 9:00-9:30 AM and 2:30-3:30 PM at St. Margaret Church, Saturdays from 5:15-5:45 PM at St. John Vianney Church.

First Penance is prepared through our Religious Education Office. For more information, please call 856-845-5251. If you need to receive the Sacrament of Penance at a time not listed, please call the Parish Office at 856-848-0047 to make an appointment with an available priest.

### **Holy Communion:**

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental Confession *except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity to receive the Sacrament in a reasonable timeframe*. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible. (cf. *Code of Canon Law*, canon 916)

If you are a parishioner who is unable to attend Mass and would like Communion brought to you, please contact the Parish Office at 856-848-0047. The clergy will distribute Communion to parishioners who are homebound on the first Friday of the month upon request. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion bring the Eucharist at other times.

First Holy Communion for children is usually scheduled for the first Saturday in May through the Religious Education Program at 856-845-5251. It is important to note that preparation is a 2-year process. Please check the bulletin for any changes. For information concerning older children and adults, see FAQs.

### **Confirmation:**

Preparation for 8th Grade Confirmation is done through our Religious Education Office (856-845-5251). For information on the Confirmation of teens and adults, see FAQs.

### **Holy Matrimony:**

Between the Baptized, the marriage of a man and woman is elevated by Jesus to the dignity of a Sacrament, Holy Matrimony. As such, the celebration of Holy Matrimony is a sacred act and is properly celebrated in a Church. To be valid, it must be celebrated according to the canonical form of the Church, which includes a properly delegated Catholic priest or deacon as officiant and two other witnesses (usually the best man and maid of honor). By means of this Sacrament, God consecrates the love of a man and woman and makes it an ongoing source of grace and growth in holiness.

Preparation to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony requires a commitment of time, which includes several meetings with clergy and an approved Pre-Cana class. The preparation process for your wedding should begin as soon as a couple becomes engaged, even if that is more than a year before the proposed wedding date. This will give couples an adequate and less stressful time to prepare for the details of the wedding celebration and to reflect more deeply and prayerfully upon your upcoming marriage. Please call the Parish Office at 856-848-0047 for more information.

### **Anointing of the Sick:**

Times of sustained sickness, serious surgery and the difficulties that inevitably accompany advanced age can be a cause for both physical and spiritual suffering. Jesus knew this well, so He gave His faithful a Sacrament to strengthen and sustain them in union with His own suffering on the Cross. As a Sacrament of Healing, the Anointing of the Sick helps one to grow in holiness through sickness so that even as the body weakens one's soul is greatly strengthened.

The Anointing of the Sick is best celebrated while a person is still alert and of sound mind. It is often accompanied by the celebration of Confession and the reception of Holy Communion. The Last Rites; Viaticum and the Apostolic Pardon, which carries with it a plenary indulgence; are added to the celebration only as death grows near. If you need the Anointing of the Sick, please contact the Parish Office at 856-848-0047.

### **Holy Orders:**

“God does not choose the qualified; He qualifies the chosen.”

-- Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

If you are thinking about a vocation in the priesthood, the permanent diaconate, or to the consecrated life as a religious sister or brother, please contact one of our parish priests at 856-848-0047.

The Lord calls us in many different ways. Holy Orders is a Sacrament through which deacons and priests are conformed to Jesus to share more fully in His saving work of teaching, sanctifying and serving in charity. Those called to the Religious Life as either a brother or sister are specially consecrated to God so as to live out more fully the graces of Baptism as a sign and inspiration for all Christians and people of good will.

# Important Dates and Church Events for 2023-2024

*(Please check the website [www.theinfantJesusparish.org](http://www.theinfantJesusparish.org) and bulletin for changes)*

October 16, 2023 - St. Margaret Mary Alacoque – (see bulletin for details)

November 1, 2023 - Feast of All Saints Day

November 2, 2023 - Feast of All Souls Day – (Memorial Mass for deceased parishioners - see bulletin for details)

November 11, 2023 – Veteran’s Day

November 26, 2023 - Feast of Christ the King

November 23, 2023 – Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9:00 AM

December 3, 2023 - 1st Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2023 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception

December 25, 2023 - Christmas Day - The birth of our Lord, Jesus. – Holy Day of Obligation

January 1, 2024 - Feast of Mary, Mother of God – (New Year’s Day) - Holy Day of Obligation

January 7, 2024 - Feast of the Epiphany - (Infant Jesus Parish Feast Day)

January 13, 2024 – 14th Anniversary of the merger between St. John Vianney Parish and St. Margaret Parish

February 14, 2024 - Ash Wednesday

February 19, 2024 – President’s Day

March 24, 2024 – Palm Sunday

March 28, 2024 – Holy Thursday (Mass at 7:00 PM)

March 29, 2024 – Good Friday (Service at 3:00 PM)

March 30, 2024 – Holy Saturday (see bulletin for Vigil time)

March 31, 2024 - Easter Sunday

May 9, 2024 - Ascension of Our Lord

May 19, 2024 – Pentecost

May 26, 2024 - Feast of the Holy Trinity

June 2, 2024 - Body & Blood of Christ

June 7, 2024 - Sacred Heart of Jesus

July 4, 2024 – Independence Day

August 4, 2024 - St. John Vianney Feast Day (see bulletin for more information)

August 15, 2024 - The Assumption of Mary

September 2, 2024 – Labor Day

## Time, Talent & Treasure

Sharing our time with God and His community: All time is God's time, so time can be reasonably looked at as life itself. The time we have been gifted with in order to become Disciples of Jesus. As with all God's gifts it is ours to use, not to keep. We are accountable for how we use our lives/ God's time. Knowing we are accountable for how we use the time given us by God, what in our ordinary daily routine, could we do differently to acknowledge God's gift to us? Everyone has time; it is a manner of how we use that time as Stewards of this Gift. Catholic Christians are to live our lives growing in both faith and understanding that every decision we make is made within God's time; every choice and every action.

In liturgy, the Mass we celebrate is our participation in the Paschal mystery of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Not another or different Mass but a re-presentation of the sacrifice of Jesus which is our salvation. St. Paul teaches us, "It is not I who live, but Christ who lives in me." If it is Christ who lives in me, then I am to live His life as He lived it, always in union with the Father and giving glory to God in everything I do.

Looking at life this way, challenges us to be constantly open to doing God's will in everyday events and relying more and more closely on God's guidance in how to respond. Sharing Talents with God and His community: We are made in the image and likeness of God. The Holy Spirit dwells in each of us as Baptized Catholic Christians. We have received gifts from God that are ours alone to use. No one else, even those who have been given similar gifts, can do the work God has for us to do. Everyone has talents; it is a matter of how we use that talent as Stewards of this Gift.

Sharing our Treasure with God and His community: A charity that comes from love of God cannot be separated from our acting justly. Our work/ labor provides for self and family and must be joined in charity/love to others. No member of the lay faithful is to relinquish/avoid participation in public life. Consider these questions: In my continuing development as God's people has my return kept pace or remained the same? Does my offering to God come in equal proportion from all my gifts? Where do I draw the line in my giving back to God?

Sacrificial giving means giving the "first fruits", not the leftovers (do you give off of the top? or after everything else is paid?). There is a personal need of each Christian to give ('the need of the giver to give'). This won't happen unless it is planned. Experience the joy that comes to those who give God the first share of their time, talents and money as a way of expressing their gratitude and trust in God. It is important that there is a balance in the giving of all three ... time, talent and treasure.

There are several ways to donate to Infant Jesus Parish. You can request church envelopes (if you are not receiving them), you can put cash or checks in the collection basket, or you can give electronically through Parish Giving. (See the Website: [www.theinfantJesusparish.org](http://www.theinfantJesusparish.org) for more details and click on the "on-line giving" button on the front page.)



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# Notes

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