

We are **Church of the Presentation**,
a welcoming Catholic community leading people
into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ
through **Word, Worship, and Outreach**.

December 22-25, 2024 / 4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas



WELCOME & MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Our doors are open to everyone...

young, not so young, married, divorced,
single, LGBTQ, infants & toddlers, children &
teens, parents & grandparents, those new to
the area, those hurting and looking for healing,
those looking for a parish home and those
returning to church.

All are welcome!



Christmas Eve Masses - Tuesday, December 24
4pm, 5:30pm, 7pm, 10pm-with full choir (9:30pm carol service)

Christmas Day Masses - Wednesday, December 25
9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00pm

★ *If the attendance at the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass exceeds the church's capacity, we will accommodate the overflow by live-streaming the mass into the Community Room.*

★ *Our Christmas collection makes up a large portion of our budget. We ask that you prayerfully take this into consideration when making your Christmas offering.*

Feast of the Holy Family Masses - Sunday, December 29
Saturday Vigil at 5:00pm | Sunday at 8:00am, 10:00am, 11:30am, 6:30pm

Feast of Mary, Mother of God Masses - Wednesday, January 1
Tuesday, Dec. 31 at 5:00pm | Wednesday, Jan. 1 at 9am & 11am



Christmas Eve Parking Help Needed! Men & women high school age or older - we need you! If you can help, please call Barry Ervin at 201-327-7367.



We don't need any more "Packers" for our Packathon

But Donations Toward the Cost of the Meals Are Still Appreciated!

We are partnering with Haiti Health Promise of Holy Name Healthcare System's "Packathon" outreach program to help the neediest families in Milot, Haiti, served by Hôpital Sacré Coeur. You can support this effort by donating toward the cost of the meals. To donate, please visit the [parish website](#).



"Play-n-Worship"

Note: No meeting on Dec. 29

Our popular Sunday school for **ages 3 through Kindergarten** is during Sunday 10am Mass. Parents, you can now have a more meaningful worship experience with fewer interruptions, while your children learn about our faith in a fun environment with games, crafts & songs.

Parent(s) must sign their children in and out of the program, sign-in time starts at 9:45am. If you have any questions, feel free to email Catzel LaVecchia at catzel@churchofpresentation.org

Youth Ministry Happenings

churchofpresentation.org/youthministry

YM Gathering - Jan. 5 after 6:30pm Mass

IGNITE is back! Are you looking to grow in your relationship with the Lord with a deeper "youth group" connection? Join us on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30pm in the Antioch Rm. Come once, often, or weekly! **(No Ignite on Dec. 24 & Dec. 31)**

Attn. All High Schoolers: We are looking for Teen Lectors to read at mass. Contact Craig if interested.

Attn. H.S. Seniors: Are you interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister? Contact Craig for training.



Time to Plan for Your 2025 Retreat!

Men's Cornerstone
January 31 - February 1

A 26-hour overnight retreat at the parish center. Registration forms are around the parish center & also may be downloaded & printed from www.churchofpresentation.org/2025-retreats/

Women's Journey: February 21 - 23

A weekend away at San Alfonso Retreat Center, Long Branch NJ - **Deadline to register is Feb. 15.** Visit www.churchofpresentation.org/2025-retreats/ or scan the QR code to **register & pay online** or download & print a paper registration form. Registration forms are also located around the parish center.



Women's Cornerstone: February 28 - March 1
A 26-hour overnight retreat at the parish center.

LGBTQ Ministry

LGBTQ Ministry is a welcoming fellowship embracing the dignity and diversity of all Catholics by fostering a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and his people, through Word, Worship and Outreach.

For more information or to get involved, please contact LGBTQ@churchofpresentation.org



UPCOMING BULLETIN DEADLINES

The deadline for the Jan. 5 bulletin is Monday, Dec. 23 at noon.

The deadline for the Jan. 12 bulletin is Tuesday, Dec. 31 at noon



From the Pastor's Desk

Christmas week is ushered in by the Visitation, when an extremely young pregnant Mary visits an extremely old pregnant Elizabeth in the town of Ein Karem, south of Bethlehem.

Mary trekked there to help her older cousin who was much further along in her pregnancy, and perhaps also to get away from the town gossip about her own condition.

Absolutely no one would expect that God's magnificent cosmic revolution against sin and death is at ground zero in the bodies of these two women. The scene could not be more unassuming. Yet without a single weapon drawn, the power of Hell is defeated in Elizabeth's house. As Mary said in what we know as the Magnificat, *"The mighty will be cast down and the lowly lifted up."*

* * *

A warm welcome to extended families, returning college students, and to those who haven't been to church in a while, we're glad you're here! You're always welcome to come home and we hope your worship experience here at Presentation has been a positive one.

As we look ahead to the New Year, many resolutions are centered on our physical health...losing weight, exercising more etc., but how about a resolution to nurture our spiritual health in the New Year? We have wonderful retreat offerings for you to consider. The **Men's Cornerstone** retreat is January 31-February 1, the **Women's Journey** retreat is February 21-23 and the **Women's Cornerstone** retreat is February 28-March 1. I encourage all of you to make room in 2025 for some quality time with our Lord.

We hope that as you learn more about who we are and how we fulfill our mission, you'll find reasons to come back again and again!

A Blessed Christmas to All!

Fr. Bob

Catholic Faith Inquiry

Whether you are a non-Catholic adult with a desire to become a Catholic, or a Catholic adult who would like to complete your initiation by receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist, please feel free to call Diane Carr at 201-327-1313 ext. 821 for more information.

A Christmas Grace



O Loving Father, we celebrate this day of our Lord's birth and rejoice and give praise for the gift of your Son, Jesus. We give thanks for Your Presence with us at our table and Your gift of this festive meal. May Your Blessings be upon our family and friends. Bless this food we are about to receive and Bless the loving souls and hands who prepared it. Make us grateful for all of our gifts. May we always be mindful of the needy and those who are hungry. May all who join this meal find Christ's light and love, through Peace on Earth.

Amen.

Sharing the Blessings of the Year Christmas & Year-End Giving Opportunities

With the year drawing to a close, now is a time when many parishioners offer a year-end gift to Presentation, making the most of their donation thanks to various tax benefits. The deductions allowed by the IRS for charitable giving help individuals grow their generosity and help our parish continue its mission.

Did you know that...

***You don't have to use cash to make your gift** — donate appreciated securities instead. The deduction is the same as for a cash gift, and you pay no capital gains tax on the transfer.

***You can also transfer your Required Minimum Distribution** to Presentation directly without having to pay income tax on the transfer. Simply coordinate for a "Qualified Charitable Distribution."

***Give an asset that may help us more than it's helping you** — such as a life insurance policy whose coverage your family no longer needs, or real estate like a second home or a parcel of undeveloped land, or valuable collections or artwork you no longer have room to display.

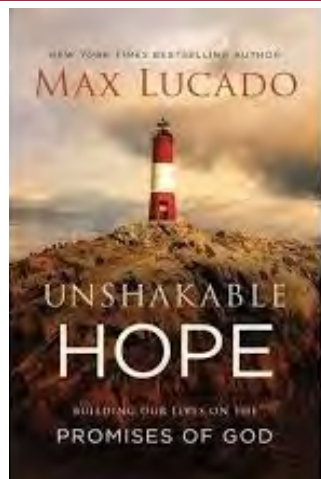
***You can make a gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime** — name your parish as a beneficiary of your will or revocable trust, or of your retirement plan.

***You can make Presentation a partner in your giving** — you can deed us your home but continue to live there.

***Will my employer match my gift?** Many companies offer to match an employee's gift, but there may be an issue with matching gifts to religious institutions. If you have a question or issue regarding matching gifts, contact Bob Rooney.

***How do I start?** To find out your giving options or to learn more, please contact Fr. Bob or Bob Rooney.

Thank you for all that you do throughout the year to help Presentation help others!



**Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year with the Theme
“Pilgrims of Hope.”**

Celebrate with us and explore this theme of Unshakable Hope in our six-week small group faith sharing experience!

**Join us at 9:30am-11:00am OR 7:00pm-8:30pm on the following
Mondays: January 13, 27, February 3, 10, 24, March 3**

To register, scan the QR Code or visit the [parish website](#), where you can also view an introductory video.



Questions? Feel free to email Catzel at Catzel@churchofpresentation.org.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



A Body Prepared

Saving God,
you shepherd your flock
and give new life.
Preparing to welcome the king of all nations,
we call upon your name.
Let us see your face,

guide us to serenity so we can discern
your will.
Grant us the courage to respond to you.
Come to save us!
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Leaping for Joy



Today's readings: Micah 5:1-4a; Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45. Just before today's Gospel, the angel Gabriel tells Mary that she will “bear a son” (Luke 1:31). As confirmation of the pregnancy, Gabriel says that Elizabeth, is also pregnant. Since Elizabeth is past childbearing age, Gabriel implies that if Elizabeth is pregnant, Mary can be as well: “for nothing will be impossible for God” (1:37). Finally, when Elizabeth greets Mary, we hear that she is blessed because she “believed that what was spoken . . . by the Lord would be fulfilled.”

This fulfillment is proclaimed in the first reading as Micah shares his prophecy of salvation: “From you shall

come forth for me / one who is to be ruler in Israel / . . . / his greatness / shall reach to the ends of the earth; / he shall be peace.” The Letter to the Hebrews tells of Jesus’ sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins, for as is sung in the refrain of the responsorial psalm, “we shall be saved.”

Knowing this, Elizabeth exclaims, “the infant in my womb leaped for joy” the moment she heard Mary’s greeting. Overcome by the Holy Spirit, mother and son anticipated the coming of the Lord. As we enter the final week of Advent, how can you ready yourself so that you, too, can leap for joy when the Lord approaches?



SCRIPTURE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EXODUS

On **Thursday, January 9**, we will begin a study of the Book of Exodus, a central event of the Old Testament. Its themes of liberation, wilderness, Passover, covenant & God's dwelling are central to the entire Bible.

The meeting on January 9 will be a "no obligation" orientation and series overview. The weekly program, from 7:30-9pm in Meeting Room 1, will run on Thursday evenings from **January 16 through March 13**. Cost of the program is \$25 per person, which includes all materials. For more info and to register, contact Fran Madsen at franmadsen@optonline.net or (845) 357-6132. New members are always welcome. Come and join us!

The **CAREER MANAGEMENT GROUP's** next session is on **Monday, January 13 at 7:30pm in the Jerusalem Rm.** We are here for those who are unemployed, under-employed, looking to enhance their career or considering a career change. We meet in a welcoming, low-pressure setting. All are welcome! Email presentation.cmm@gmail.com with any questions &/or to join our network.



Presentation Seniors

Our first meeting in the new year will be **Tuesday, Jan. 14 (9:45am)**. **Singer & Entertainer, Mary Taylor**, will bring us back to the 1960's with music and songs - Greasers, Hippies, Marilyn Monroe and more! Feel free to dress in your best 1960's outfit and add to the fun!!!!

Have a blessed Christmas & a Happy New Year!



Monday Yoga Classes

at 9:45am in Gathering Room North. Wear loose clothing, and bring a mat, towel & water. Donations welcome.

Caring Stitches - Tuesday, Jan. 14

We knit, crochet & quilt for the benefit of the sick and bereaved. Patterns and yarns are available. Join us from **6:30-8:30pm** in Gathering Rm. South. We generally meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. *Contact Michele Baron with any ?s.*



THE PRESENTATION MEN'S 6AM SCC PRESENTS ANOTHER... KEVEN A LAWLER 6AM MEN'S BREAKFAST MEETING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15 6:00am-7:30am in the Community Room

...featuring **Jim White**. Jim has spoken at numerous organizations as an inspirational and vibrant speaker. In 1984, Jim was hired as Executive Director of Covenant House NJ, and to this day fulfills his vision of transforming the lives of young people. Over the last 30 years, Jim has opened up shelter programs in NJ & NY for homeless youth and has assisted others in developing programs around the country, which have included outreach programs, crisis transitional housing, and numerous homes and programs for young mothers. Jim also opened a program in Guatemala for trafficked young girls and co-authored a report on the most comprehensive study on trafficked homeless youth. **Please join us for a full breakfast, music and spirituality. We promise you'll get to work on time.**



ALL MEN ARE INVITED, YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED!
PLEASE RSVP TO LENNY DITOMASO at Lenditomaso@gmail.com or call 201-803-6510.

Women's Morning Group:

Thursdays at 7:30am via Zoom

All women are invited to join us every Thursday morning at 7:30am for an hour. Weekly attendance not required, but you are most welcome! Email Kathleen at kmartorano@churchofpresentation.org for the Zoom link. *Let's share the gift of faith together!*



Eucharistic Exposition

Note: No Exposition on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1.

Come anytime on Wednesdays from noon-6pm to spend time with our Lord in the Nazareth Room.



Church of the Presentation 271 West Saddle River Rd., Upper Saddle River NJ 07458

Phone: 201-327-1313 **Fax:** 201-760-2570

Website: www.churchofpresentation.org

Information Desk: Sun. 9am-12:45pm in the Narthex

Mass Schedule: See "Mass Intentions" on this pg.

Summer Office Hrs: (Memorial Day-Labor Day): 9:30am-4pm Mon-Thu

"Non-Summer" Office Hrs: 9:30am-5pm Mon-Thu. | 9:30am-4pm Fri.

Confession: Mon-Sat after 9am Mass, Sat 3:30pm-4:45pm, or by appt.

Email Addresses: Except as otherwise noted, all of our email addresses end with: @churchofpresentation.org

Rev. Bob Stagg, Pastor ext. 820 bstagg@

Fr. Bob's asst.: Melanie Cheplic ext. 827 mcheplic@

Rev. Richard Francesco ext. 829 rfrancesco@

Pastoral Council pastoralcouncil@

Bob Rooney (Accounting, Finance, Plant Management)

ext. 818 brooney@

Catzel LaVecchia (Lifelong Learning, Junior High,

Play-n-Worship) ext. 828 catzel@

Craig Johnson (Youth Ministry, Confirmation) ext. 819

cjohnson@

Diane Carr (OCIA, Catholic Faith Inquiry) ext. 831 dcarr@

Kathleen Costello (Family Faith Formation) ext.840 kcostello@

Kathleen Martorano (Parish Registration, Facebook, Protecting

God's Children, LGBTQ Ministry) ext. 835 kmartorano@

Lisa Dempsey (Music) LDempsey@

Liz Cosentino (Bulletin, Parish Website) LizC@

Marilou Tenazas (Livestreaming & Tech Support, Family

Faith Formation, FFF Website) ext. 815 mitenazas@

Maureen Murphy (Outreach) ext. 844 mmurphy@

Michele Baron (Meeting Room Reservations, Scheduling,

Volunteering) ext. 847 mbaron@

Nancy Mierswa (Baptisms, Weddings, Worship) ext. 839

nmierswa@

Patty Dodwell (First Eucharist, Family Faith Formation)

ext. 832 pdodwell@

Altar Server Training: Nancy Mierswa, ext. 839 nmierswa@

Bereavement Support: ext. 872

Bulletin Advertising: Bon Venture Services 800-364-0684

Celiac Communion: Nancy Mierswa ext.839 nmierswa@

Communion Calls: Kyle Lippman ext. 879 pastoralcare@

Emergencies (hospital/funeral) ext. 899

Envelopes (Parish) Kathleen Martorano ext. 835 kmartorano@

Funerals: ext. 899

Knights of Columbus: www.kofc6033.org kofc6033@

Meeting Room Setups: Cesar da Gama ext. 823

Prayer Tree Ministry: prayertree@

This Week's Mass Intentions

*Bread & Wine: Patricia M. Finucane, by the Finucane Family
Sanctuary Light: Fred DiRossi, by his wife, Lisa*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

9:00am Mary G. Monks, by Jim Monks

CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY

All Masses (see the cover) People of the Parish

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

9:00am Donna, Rose & Nicholas D'Aquino, by Cynthia D'Aquino

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

9:00am William & Bernadette McGowan, by Maureen Cinelli

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

9:00am Helen Curley, by Kathleen McCormick

5:00pm Edward McDonald, by Ann McDonald

Kevin Sterbenz, by Peggy Sterbenz

Peter Regan, by Renée Tracey

Patrick Coyne, by Stephanie & Joe Coyne

John LaVecchia, Sr., by Lori Force

Deborah Byrne, by Pete & Clare Finlay

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

8:00am Mike Monks, by Jim Monks

10:00am Fr. Ed Ciuba, by Denise Rover

11:30am Bert Coudriet, by the Coudriet Family

Gerard Kennedy, by the Morrissey Family

Robert J. Dowd, by Joann Piccininni

Christopher Davi Moore II, by JoAnne Giordano

Robert R. Brown, by Darya D'Angelo & Jeff Lombardi

Don Mullen, by Pat Boffa

6:30pm David Force, by the Force Family

We also pray for the following ill: Ashley Mortensen, Jomny Andrade, Fred Parodi, Kimberly Berardino, Christina Grenzer, Birgit "Ana" Borgman, Bernhard Freund, Veronica, Bill Partlan, Mike O'Donnell. Bob DePellegrini, Bobby Vandal, John & Wilma Mcmurrans & family, Christopher Noel Hanna, Cornelius Hanna, Doreen D., Mary Louise Gallagher, Frances Gerbino, Doug Quackenbush, Kathie McKinless, Charlie Aiello, Charlie Cerullo, Joyce Somers, Robert Doidge, Helga Scholton, Lucy Schneider, Jose Ruiz, Mary Lou Murphy, Evelyn Roberts, Michael Keane, Phil Kipnis, Jose Ruiz, Elizabeth Van Nostrand, Charlie Musumeci, Jerry Crean, Margaret Taylor, Marie Egan, Phyllis Clark, Graham N., Lisa White, Joe & Judy Schneider, Baby River Budes, Marianne & Bill Hurley, Holly Holland, Ronnie Mojo, Francis J. Neeson Jr., Michele Pesanello, Jamie Brown, Rosemary Fuhrman, Patti Murray, Ray McSherry, Clara Willey, William Hardy, Louis D'Amico, Ethan Benjamin Berkowitz, Marie Hiles, Jon Rapkin, Guy Gaudenzi, Steven Chakonis, Cathy Mostyn, Kevin Flood, Dirk & Donna Kinney, Mary Anne Nardini, Cathy Mueller, Susanne Knoepfle, Virginia Kondrat, Anne Downs, Seth Gopin, Adrienne Stephens, Karin Elliott, Frank Cirillo, John Nazzaro, Marie Kaspar, Cheyanne Emmons, Gloria Zoda, Bill Brown, Scott M. Koenig, Ken Genalo, Mary Goldberg, Thomas Doorhy, Sab Caponi, Rosemary Tocci

and recently deceased: Edward Decker

To request prayers **in the bulletin** for the **ill or recently deceased**, email LizC@churchofpresentation.org. See pg. 2 for the upcoming bulletin deadlines. The name is not kept on the list indefinitely. If the ill person still needs prayers after their name is removed, feel free to email Liz to have their name printed again in the bulletin.

For **mass cards & mass intentions**, call or visit the parish front office, or visit the Information Desk in the narthex on Sunday mornings.

Weekdays after 9am Mass, all are welcome to stay in the church to pray the Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet.

We ask that you prayerfully consider using electronic donations through Faith Direct. Visit membership.faithdirect.net/NJ854 or the parish website to enroll or make a one-time donation. Thank you for your support!