



December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday  
of Advent  
Christmas

4th Sunday of Advent Prayer :  
*Lord God, teach us the difference  
between righteousness and  
self-righteousness. Free us from  
trusting in our own goodness and  
draw our hearts to trust Your  
promises instead. We often hide  
behind excuses when Your call  
feels difficult—give us courage to  
face what is morally challenging.  
Remind us that we too are sent to  
bear Your gospel; strengthen our  
apostleship with humility and zeal.  
And help us listen for Your voice—  
whether in dreams, in quiet moments,  
or in the gentle movements of daily  
life. Make us attentive, obedient,  
and ready to welcome Christ with  
open hearts. Amen.*



**Pastor:**

Very Rev. G. Scott Shaffer, VF x2203

**Parochial Vicars:**

Reverend Neiser Cárdenas x2221

Reverend Alan J. Bridges x2209

**Deacons:**

Robert M. Barnes; R. David Greiner;

Gerard Luongo; Edward Woram;

Michael A. Taylor

Francis J. Babuschak; Frank J. McKenna;

Patrick J. Stesner {retired}

**Parish Office:**

Hours: 9:00am - 4:30pm Monday-Friday

685 Hooper Ave., Toms River, NJ 08753

Tel: 732-349-0018 x2204

Email: parish@stjosephtomsriver.org

www.stjosephtomsriver.org

**Hispanic Ministry Center:** x2213

Hours: 10:00am - 4:00pm Mon-Thurs

**St. Joseph's Cemetery & Mausoleums:**

Hours: 9:00am - 3:00pm Monday-Friday

9:00am-12:00noon Saturday

Deacon Chris Buono, 732-244-3008

www.stjosephcemeterytr.org/cemetery

**Carpenter Shop:** 732-349-0018 x2248

**Mass Schedule:**

**Weekdays:** 7:00am & 9:00am

**Saturday:** 8:00am, 5:00pm

**Sunday:** 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00noon,  
5:00pm, & 6:30pm (Mass in Spanish) *Misa en Espanol*

**Devotions:**

Miraculous Medal & St. Jude Novenas:

Following Tuesday 9:00am Mass

Prayer in the Presence: 2nd Tuesday 7:00pm

**Reconciliation/Confessions:**

Saturdays 4:00 - 4:45pm

**St. Gertrude, Island Heights:**

**2nd Sunday of the Month:** 9:00am

**Summer Months:** Sundays at 9:00am

**Director of Faith Formation & Religious Education:**

Michelle Abi-Yaghi x2236

**Director of Music:**

Gina Corrao x2306

**Parish Schools:**

St. Joseph Grade School (SJGS)

Madeline Kinloch, Principal, 732-349-2355

Donovan Catholic High School

Darryl R. Heale, Interim Principal, 732-349-8801

## WHAT'S IN YOUR HEART?

Righteousness or self-righteousness? That is the question! Many of us are tempted to believe in our own moral goodness more than the promises of God.

- ◆ Do you think of yourself as living a virtuous life? Do others perceive you as righteous? What makes the difference between the righteous and self-righteous person?
- ◆ Like Ahaz, do you ever hide behind religious motivations in order to escape morally challenging situations?
- ◆ Joseph is a man who pays attention to his dreams. Do you listen to your dreams, by day or by night, or do you ignore what does not seem “real” or “practical?”

WHERE WE LIVE, SERVE, & WALK TOGETHER IN FAITH.

## Sacrament of BAPTISM



**Godparents are required.** For more information, to schedule a Baptism, or to register for a Baptism Prep Class, call 732-349-0018 x2202.

## Sacrament of MATRIMONY

We welcome and congratulate all who are seeking the Sacrament of Matrimony. Church arrangements and marriage preparation are best made one year in advance. Call the parish office as soon as possible at 732-349-0018 x2202.

If you are making plans for a "destination wedding," please call the parish office first. There is a way to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony before your destination wedding.

All couples are required to attend a Pre-Cana Conference as part of their preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage. Sign-up by registering online at: [www.dioceseoftrenton.org/precana](http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/precana).

## Marriage Convalidation

The Convalidation of a Marriage is a special wedding ceremony by which one's marriage is recognized and blessed by the Catholic Church. Through this process your marriage will be fully embraced by the Church, granting it all the spiritual blessings and benefits it offers.

If you are interested in learning more about a Marriage Convalidation contact Deacon Ed Woram at 732-349-0018 x2254 or email [eworam@stjosephtomsriver.org](mailto:eworam@stjosephtomsriver.org).

## IN MEMORIAM

Please remember in your prayers those who recently died and for all the deceased members of our parish, the souls in purgatory and those who died in service of our country. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. Amen.

**John DeAngelis — Terence Foley**  
**Jodi Ann Grosso — Caroline Kelaher**

## PRIEST / CELEBRANT SCHEDULE

*Subject to Change*

**Dec. 27 & Dec. 28**

**Jan. 3 & Jan. 4**

|             |                                   |             |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Fr. Bridges | <b>Saturday</b><br><b>5:00 PM</b> | Fr. Bridges |
|             | <b>Sunday</b>                     |             |
| Fr. Spera   | <b>7:30 AM</b>                    | Fr. Spera   |
| Fr. Scott   | <b>9:00 AM</b>                    | Fr. Scott   |
| n/a         | <b>9:00 AM St. Gertrude</b>       | n/a         |
| Fr. Bridges | <b>10:30 AM</b>                   | Fr. Scott   |
| Fr. Reilly  | <b>12:00 Noon</b>                 | Fr. Scott   |
| Fr. Scott   | <b>5:00 PM</b>                    | Fr. Scott   |
| Fr. Neiser  | <b>6:30 PM (Spanish)</b>          | Fr. Reilly  |

*Please see Christmas & New Year's Schedule on page 4*

## OFFERTORY

*In an effort to keep our parish family regularly informed regarding finances, each week we publish actual weekly offertory figures and the necessary budget amounts for the week.*

**Donations needed to meet our budget:**

**\$29,490.00**

**Actual donations received 11/30/25 - 12/5/25:**

**\$37,668.25**



"Look up, you whose gaze is fixed on this earth, who are spellbound by the little events and changes on the face of the earth. Look up to these words, you who have turned away from heaven disappointed. Look up, you whose eyes are heavy with tears and who are heavy and who are crying over the fact that the earth has gracelessly torn us away. Look up, you, who burdened with guilt, cannot lift your eyes.

Look up, your redemption is drawing near, something different from what you see daily will happen. Just be aware, be watchful, wait just another short moment.

Wait and something quite new will break over you: God will come."

— *Dietrich Bonhoeffer, God Is In the Manger*

## MEMORIALS—WEEK OF DECEMBER 22

**Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**Votive Candle**  
Jennifer Drew  
Requested by  
Her Mother & Family

**St. Joseph**  
**Votive Candle**  
In Loving Memory of  
Brian Connolly  
Requested by Donna & Greg

**Tabernacle**  
**Lamp**  
John B. DiPreta  
Requested by  
His Family





## FROM THE PASTOR

My Dear Parish Family,

When my older sister was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, she came home from school proudly clutching an Advent calendar she had won in a contest. You opened one of the doors or windows each day, and there would be a little picture hidden behind it along with a trinket or a piece of chocolate. She told us she would open only the one door each day.

I was tempted by the possibility of chocolate, (the top of the food pyramid for me). I figured she would notice right away if any of the upcoming doors were tampered with, so I went for the ones just before Christmas. I opened them, took the chocolate, and then closed it back up carefully. Imagine my sister's surprise the last few days before Christmas, when the waiting should have made the chocolate all the more sweet, when there was nothing behind the doors at all! It confused and devastated her. After all that waiting, there was no payoff. Mom stepped in and assured her that it must have been a faulty calendar. No one thought of accusing me (perfect child), so I felt fine until my Mom bought Cindy a 12-inch chocolate Christmas tree! It was bigger than anything that could have been part of the calendar.

I guess that all this is to say that Advent works in different ways for different people. My sister was ironically given a great gift: a sign of God's love and generosity this season because of my selfishness. She offered me a piece of that beautiful chocolate tree and gave me a quizzical look when I declined it. I was feeling too guilty. The prophet Isaiah tells us that the signs of the season are all around us. We only need to open the windows and doors and find what we have been patiently waiting for.

As you plan your Christmas gift for Saint Joseph's this year, I ask you to please be as generous as possible and know that you are loved, cherished and appreciated. God bless you all and *Oremus pro invicem*.

*Father Scott Shaffer*

In observance of  
*Christmas,*

the Parish Office will be closed on  
Wednesday, December 24,  
Thursday, December 25,  
& Friday, December 26.



## READINGS FOR MASSES THIS WEEK:

SUNDAY Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24 MONDAY 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56 TUESDAY Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66  
WEDNESDAY *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79  
THURSDAY Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25  
*Night:* Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 *Day:* Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18  
FRIDAY Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22 SATURDAY 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

## MASS INTENTIONS

## Saturday, December 20

8:00 **Rosemary Leone** req. by the Leone Family  
5:00 **Bridget Mauer** req. by Family

## Sunday, December 21

7:30 **Clara Pedro** req. by her Daughter  
9:00 **Julia Besante** req. by the 7:30 Eucharistic Ministers  
10:30 **Catherine Ann Hemler** req. Douglas & Eleanor Phelps  
12:00 **Frank Ziembra** req. by Patricia Dul  
5:00 **Scott Gates** req. by Jennifer & Sam Gates  
6:30 **For the Parishioners of St. Joseph's Church**

## Monday, December 22

7:00 **Elizabeth J. Knych** req. by Mary & Jim Stewart  
9:00 **Martha Serpico** req. by Family

## Tuesday, December 23

7:00 **Betty Cewinski** req. by Lisa & Aunt Cookie Paldino  
9:00 **Rose Zagarella** req. by Lonnie & Jack Raia

Wednesday, December 24 (*Christmas Eve*)

4:00 **For the Deceased Members of the Stahl & Greiner Families** req. by the Greiner Family  
6:00 **Patricia & James Jansen** req. by the Jansen/Suskevich Family  
12:00 **Martha Serpico** req. by Family

Thursday, December 25 (*Christmas Day*)

8:00 **Andrew, Connie & Nelson Riccardi** req. by Dorothy Riccardi  
10:00 **Michael, Viola, Patricia & Denise Stefanelli**  
12:00 **Kenneth Bruder** req. by Maureen & Kevin Riley

## Friday, December 26

7:00 **Michael Hutman** req. by Family  
9:00 **Timothy J. O'Conner** req. by Family

## Saturday, December 27

8:00 **Charlie Triolo** req. by his Wife, Marie  
5:00 **Pat & Robert Kusnic** req. by Pat Kusnic

Sunday, December 28 (*Holy Family*)

7:30 **John Lyon & Nancy Barrett** req. by Tom & Betsy Morena  
9:00 **Jerry Scala** req. by Michilina Scala  
10:30 **Rev. Tanios Abi-Yaghi & Deceased Family** req. by Family  
12:00 **John B. DiPreta** req. by Family  
5:00 **Anthony Scafani** req. by Anita Czuchnicki  
6:30 **For the Parishioners of St. Joseph's Church**

## Annual Christmas Ham Fund

Monetary donations are now being accepted at the Parish for our Annual Christmas Ham fund.



If you prefer to donate a canned or frozen ham, please bring it directly to our Food Pantry Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 10:00am—4:00pm; or Tuesday and Thursday: 10:00am-2:00pm. *Thank you and God Bless!*



# Christmas & New Year's Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 \*\*

4:00pm (Angels & Shepherds Childrens' Mass)  
6:00pm, 7:30pm (Spanish), & 12 Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY • THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

8:00am, 10:00am, & 12noon

NEW YEAR'S EVE • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31 \*\*

5:00pm (Vigil)

NEW YEAR'S DAY • THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

9:00am & 12noon

*\*\* There will be a 7:00am and 9:00am daily mass on December 24 & December 31 but they DO NOT fulfill the obligation of those holy days.*



*On the Feast of the Epiphany,*

we will celebrate the visitation of the three Magi (3 Kings) to the infant Jesus, and also commemorate the Baptism of Christ. It is a long-held Catholic tradition to bless one's home on (or near) the celebration of the Epiphany by using holy water and blessed chalk to write a special inscription above the home's entrance, as a sign of Christ's constant presence in our homes.

**The week of January 11-17, Fr. Bridges will be offering Epiphany house blessings.**

Please email (frbridges@stjosephtomsriver.org) or call the Parish Office to give Father a few preferred days and times (morning/afternoon/evening), a contact email and address to arrange for house blessings. Father will reach out to schedule a visit for the blessing!

Please sign up no later than January 4th.



## HELP WANTED: Children's Nativity

All children of St. Joseph's Church are invited to dress as an angel, shepherd, or nativity animal to help us celebrate the Children's Christmas Eve Mass!

We are also seeking children in grades 2-5 to serve as Mary, Joseph, and the three Magi. Costumes are available in limited supply. Call the Office of Religious Education at 732-349-0018 x2225 to reserve a costume for your child.

*Mandatory Practice:* Tuesday, December 23 at 3:00pm

*Christmas Eve Liturgy:* 4:00pm (arrive 30 min. prior)

Academy students: BOTH Practice + Liturgy = Two Academy Card stamps



On behalf of Father Scott, Father Bridges, Father Neiser, all the Clergy, and the St. Joseph's Church Parish Staff

# Merry Christmas

Wishing you the blessings of Christmas—  
filling your days with grace, your hearts with joy,  
and your lives with His everlasting peace.



## End of Year Giving 2025

### Together, Let's Light the Way Forward



Your end-of-year gift helps illuminate our parish with faith and compassion, spreading Christ's light to all we serve.

As we approach the end of 2025, we enter a season to come together and share our many blessings. We are deeply grateful to all who continue to support our parish with such faith and generosity. End-of-year giving offers a meaningful opportunity to make a lasting impact—helping our church flourish while providing valuable tax advantages. Capture the true spirit of Christmas by closing the year with faith, generosity, and gratitude.

#### IT'S EASY TO MAKE A GIFT...

To give electronically: Scan the QR Code



To give by mail: Please make check payable to "St. Joseph's Church"  
Attn: Jeanmarie Lamme, Office of Advancement  
711 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08753

Thank you, and may God bless you abundantly for the light you help shine through your giving.

*C. Scott Shaffer*  
Very Rev. C. Scott Shaffer, VF

*"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." — Matthew 5:16*

## YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY

### New Years Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

#### TO SUPPORT OUR PARISH



Sunday, January 18, 2026 • 8am - 12noon  
Cost: \$12.00 • Children 3 and under are Free  
Donovan Catholic High School Cafe

Three seating times available: 8:30am, 9:45am and 11:15am

INCLUDES: Pancakes, Sausage or Bacon, Homemade Potatoes, Coffee & Juice

- Tickets will be sold after all Masses on January 3rd & 4th.
- Purchase online ~ scan QR Code.
- Checks payable to "Rosary Altar Society". Include your name, address, phone number, and your preferred seating time.

Mail it to: Helen DiPaola, 325 Van Pelt Place, Bayville, NJ 08721

OR place it in the collection basket at Mass.

For questions, call 732-232-4028



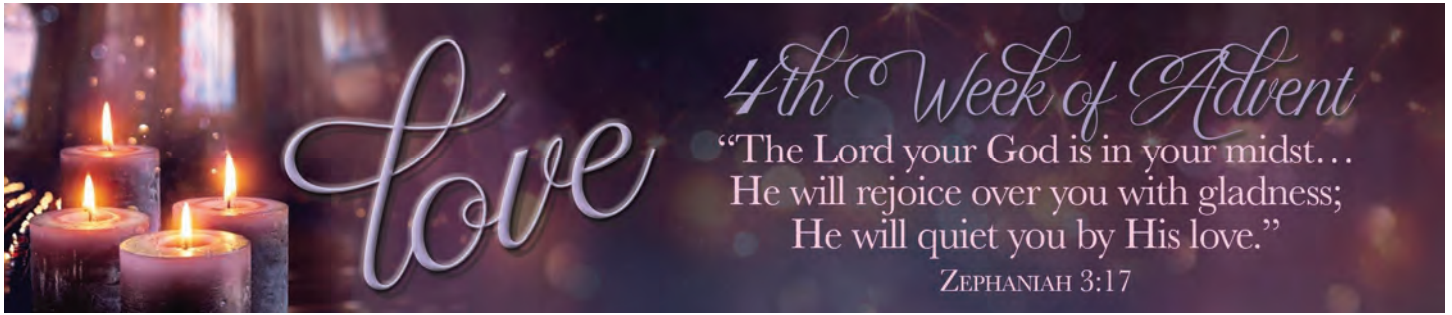
The Missionary Childhood Association's paper bank allows children to collect and contribute funds that will help children in other parts of the world that do not have the items we have here.

Children learn how to make the Advent season even more meaningful by offering prayers and sacrifices for children in need who await the "Good News" of Jesus.

All Children: Pick up a box found in the gathering space of our Church and return on Christmas Eve at the Children's Mass at 4:00pm. If you won't be able to make that mass, return it to the parish office or put in any mass collection.











## The Society of Saint Vincent dePaul

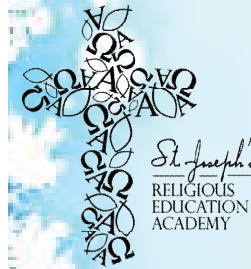
Dear Parishioners & Friends:  
Thank you for your on-going support of the Society of

St. Vincent dePaul. Because of your generosity, during the last fiscal year, volunteers met with 49 deserving families, totaling 129 people. We begin each meeting in prayer to offer additional support to these neighbors during their difficult times.

Our ministry provided families with overdue rent and mortgage payments to avoid evictions, car repairs, and cell phone costs. We assisted families with utility costs including: electricity, gas and water, as well as storage units. Our ministry also reserved five nights in a local motel for a homeless family with no car and medical problems.

The National Society of St. Vincent dePaul reached out to our conference regarding their National Disaster Relief Fund. Because of your generosity, our Conference was able to donate to this drive. Each family also received a \$50.00 gift card to ShopRite. Thank you! Wishing all parishioners and friends a blessed Christmas!

If you are interested in learning more about SVdP, please email Eileen at [eileenomccullion@gmail.com](mailto:eileenomccullion@gmail.com) and include your phone number.



## DECEMBER 2025 ACADEMY CARD ACTIVITIES

See our e-newsletter and website below for more info. All students must be accompanied by an adult.

December 23 (3PM) AND December 24: Dress as an angel, shepherd, or your favorite animal and participate in the Nativity for the Christmas Eve Children's Liturgy! The December 23 practice is required in order to participate and this is a two-stamp activity. All students, participating or not, and families are invited to attend the Christmas Eve Children's Liturgy beginning at 4:00pm! St. Joseph's Church

December VIRTUAL Option: Last virtual option before 2026 Summer Academy registration! Did you know that Mother Mary, the mother of Jesus, was pure and holy from the very beginning of her life? This special gift from God is called the Immaculate Conception and is all part of God's plan to prepare her for becoming the mother of God. Find out more and put together a fun puzzle to see the image of the Immaculate Conception!

The last week of January 2026 is early registration for the 2026 Summer Academy for all returning students who have earned 4 stamps on their Academy card. Standard registration for new and remaining returning students begins February 1, 2026. Registration information and 2026 Academy dates are on our website and will be provided in the January 2026 e-newsletter.

Academy Card Activities are optional activities designed to grow your child's faith, enhance their religious education, and experience God throughout the year. Cards with stamps are provided at the event. See our website for more info: [stjosephthomsriver.org/religiouseducation-academy](http://stjosephthomsriver.org/religiouseducation-academy)

## Looking for a Meaningful Christmas Gift? Give a Gift That Lasts Forever.

Honor a loved one – living or deceased, with a personalized paver at St. Padre Pio Plaza at the Church OR St. Joseph's Cemetery & Mausoleums.



Thank you CYGNUS for another  
Awesome Advent!  
We'll see you in January!

*"Do not be afraid; for behold, I  
proclaim to you good news of great  
joy that will be for all the people.  
For today in the city of David  
a savior has been born for you who  
is Christ and Lord."*

Christmas Blessings to all!

CYGNUS ST. JOSEPH YOUTH MINISTRY  
[stjosephthomsriver.org/youth-ministry](http://stjosephthomsriver.org/youth-ministry)



## MENSAJE DEL PARROCO

Mi querida familia de la parroquia:

Cuando mi hermana mayor estaba en sexto grado, llegó a casa de la escuela con orgullo agarrando un calendario de Adviento que había ganado en un concurso. Se abría una de las puertas o ventanas cada día y había una pequeña imagen escondida detrás, junto con una baratija o un trozo de chocolate. Nos dijo que solo abriría una puerta cada día.

Me tentó la posibilidad del chocolate (la cima de la pirámide alimenticia para mí). Pensé que se daría cuenta enseguida si alguna de las puertas que estaban por llegar era manipulada, así que opté por las que estaban justo antes de Navidad. Las abrí, tomé el chocolate y las volví a cerrar con cuidado. Imaginen la sorpresa de mi hermana los últimos días antes de Navidad, cuando la espera debería haber hecho que el chocolate fuera aún más dulce, ¡y no había nada detrás de las puertas! La confundió y la devastó. Después de tanta espera, no hubo recompensa. Mamá intervino y le aseguró que debía de ser un calendario defectuoso. A nadie se le ocurrió acusarme (a mí, el hijo perfecto), así que me sentí bien hasta que mi mamá le compró a Cindy ¡un árbol de Navidad de chocolate de 30 cm! Era más grande que cualquier cosa que pudiera haber formado parte del calendario.

Supongo que todo esto quiere decir que el Adviento funciona de forma diferente para cada persona. Irónicamente, mi hermana recibió un gran regalo: una muestra del amor y la generosidad de Dios en esta época debido a mi egoísmo. Me ofreció un trozo de ese precioso árbol de chocolate y me miró con curiosidad cuando lo rechacé. Me sentía demasiado culpable. El profeta Isaías nos dice que las señales de la época están a nuestro alrededor. Solo tenemos que abrir ventanas, puertas y encontrar lo que hemos estado esperando pacientemente.

Al planificar su regalo de Navidad para San José este año, les pido que sean lo más generosos posible y sepan que son amados, apreciados y apreciados. Que Dios los bendiga a todos y Oremos unos por otros (*Oremus pro invicem*).

*Padre Scott Shaffer*



## HORARIO DE MISAS

**En Semana:** 7:00am & 9:00am de lunes a viernes en inglés.

**Sábado:** 8:00am, 5:00 pm (ingles)

**Domingo:** 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00pm, 5:00pm en ingles & 6:30pm español

**Confesiones :** Sábado 4:00- 4:45pm

## HORARIO DE LA OFICINA HISPANA

Lunes a Jueves de 10:00am a 4:00pm  
732-349-0018 x2213

**Bautismos:** El sacramento del Bautismo se celebrará el primer domingo de cada mes durante la misa dominical. Para mas información comuníquese con la oficina hispana.

**Unción, confesión y comunión de los enfermos.** Comuníquese con la oficina hispana

**Bendiciones:** Si quiere bendecir su casa, familia, o negocio comuníquese con la oficina hispana.

**Matrimonios:** Comuníquese con la oficina hispana para mas información.

**Renovacion Carismatica:** Se reúnen todos los viernes de 6:30 a 9:30 pm en el sótano de la iglesia.

**Divina Misericordia:** Se reúnen en las casas para petición llamar a la oficina hispana.

**Ministerio de Oracion: Maria Estrella de la Evangelizacion:** Se reúnen los Jueves de 6:30 a 9:00 pm en el sótano de la iglesia.

**Ese hombre eres tu (TMIY)** se reúnen los martes de 7:30 a 9:30 pm en el sotano de la Iglesia.

**Clases PreBautismales:** Ultimo sábado del mes 6pm –7:30pm en el (PMC) Parish Ministry Center, 509 Hooper Ave., Toms River, NJ 08753



## ANUNCIOS DE VIDA COMUNITARIA



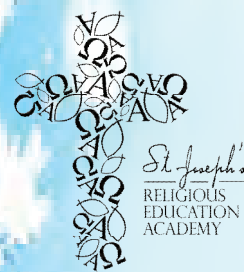
*Misas de Navidad & Año Nuevo*

|                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>NOCHE BUENA</b><br><b>DICIEMBRE 24</b><br><b>MISA 7:30PM</b><br><b>(ESPAÑOL)</b>            | <b>MISA DE AÑO NUEVO:</b><br><b>JUEVES, 1 DE ENERO</b><br><b>9:00am y 12:00</b><br><b>del mediodía. (Ingles)</b><br><b>No habrá misa</b><br><b>en Español</b> |
| <b>MIÉRCOLES,</b><br><b>DICIEMBRE 31</b><br><b>5:00pm vigilia NO misa</b><br><b>en español</b> |                                                                                                                                                               |

**(Habrá una misa a las 9:00 am el Miércoles 24 de Diciembre (Ingles) y 7:00 am y 9:00 am el 31 de diciembre) (Ingles)**

**EN LA FESTIVIDAD DE LA EPIFANÍA,** celebraremos la visita de los tres Reyes Magos al niño Jesús y también conmemoraremos el Bautismo de Cristo. Es una antigua tradición católica bendecir el hogar durante (o cerca de) la celebración de la Epifanía usando agua bendita y tiza bendita para escribir una inscripción especial sobre la entrada, como señal de la constante presencia de Cristo en nuestros hogares.

La semana del 11 al 17 de enero, el Padre Bridges ofrecerá bendiciones de hogares por la Epifanía. Por favor, envíe un correo electrónico a [frbridges@stjosephthmsriver.org](mailto:frbridges@stjosephthmsriver.org), llame a la Oficina Parroquial o una dirección de contacto para indicarle al Padre algunos días y horarios preferidos (mañana/tarde/noche) ¡El Padre se pondrá en contacto para programar una visita para la bendición! Por favor, inscríbase a más tardar el 4 de enero.



### ACTIVIDADES DE LA TARJETA ACADEMIA - DICIEMBRE 2025

Consulta nuestro boletín electrónico y sitio web (enlaces abajo) para más información. Todos los estudiantes deben estar acompañados por un adulto.

**23 de Diciembre (3:00pm) Y 24 de Diciembre:** ¡Vístete de ángel, pastor o tu animal favorito y participa en el Nacimiento para la Liturgia Infantil de Nochebuena! Es necesario asistir al ensayo del 23 de Diciembre para participar. Esta actividad otorga dos sellos. ¡Todos los estudiantes, participen o no, y sus familias están invitados a asistir a la Liturgia Infantil de Nochebuena a partir de las 4:00pm! Iglesia de San Jose

**Opción VIRTUAL - Diciembre:** ¡Última opción virtual antes de la inscripción a la Academia de Verano 2026! ¿Sabías que la Virgen María, la madre de Jesús, fue pura y santa desde el principio de su vida? Este regalo especial de Dios se llama la Inmaculada Concepción y forma parte de su plan para prepararla para ser la Madre de Dios. ¡Descubre más y arma un divertido rompecabezas para ver imagen de la Inmaculada Concepción!

La última semana de enero de 2026 es la inscripción anticipada para la Academia de Verano 2026 para todos los alumnos que regresan y que hayan obtenido 4 sellos en su tarjeta de la Academia. La inscripción regular para los alumnos nuevos y los que regresan comienza el 1 de febrero 2026. La información sobre la inscripción y las fechas de la Academia 2026 están disponibles en nuestro sitio web y se incluirán en el boletín electrónico de enero 2026.

*Las actividades de la Tarjeta de la Academia son opcionales y están diseñadas para fortalecer la fe de su hijo/a, enriquecer su educación religiosa y permitirle experimentar la presencia de Dios durante todo el año. Las tarjetas con sellos se entregarán en el evento.*

Visite nuestro sitio web para obtener más información: [stjosephthmsriver.org/religiouseducation-academy](http://stjosephthmsriver.org/religiouseducation-academy).

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