

# Church of the Visitation

755 Mantoloking Road, Brick, N. J. 08723



*Welcome!*

*The entire parish community extends a warm welcome to all visitors and new parishioners*

**Rectory Office Phone:** 732-477-0028

**Religious Education:** 732-477-5217

**Rectory Fax:** 732-477-1274

**Rectory Address:** 730 Lynnwood Ave. Brick, NJ

**Website:** [www.visitationRCChurch.org](http://www.visitationRCChurch.org)

**REV. EDWARD BLANCHETT, PASTOR, EXT. 201**

**REV. JAMES O'NEILL, PAROCHIAL VICAR, EXT. 220**

### Assisting Priests

Rev. James Sauchelli	Rev. Bernard Mohan
Rev. Msgr. Ricardo Gonzalez	Rev. Msgr. Vincent Doyle
Rev. Philip Franceschini	Rev. Richard Carlson

### Deacons

<b>Salvatore Vicari, Ext. 218</b>	<b>Nicola Stranieri, Ext. 102</b>
<b>Richard Johnston, Ext. 221</b>	<b>Edward Fischer</b>

### Staff

<b>Denise Patetta, Ext. 201</b> Parish Secretary/Bulletin Editor	<b>Nancy Grodberg Ext. 219</b> Coordinator of Religious Education
<b>Vicki Cottrell, Ext. 216</b> Pastoral/Business Admin	<b>Dee DeTuro, Ext 219</b> Religious Education Asst.
<b>Natalie Bencivenga, Ext. 217</b> Music Director/Organist	<b>Dale Zanetti, Ext.214</b> Coordinator of Adult Faith Formation
<b>Christie Winters, Ext. 105</b> Youth Ministry Leader	
<b>Christie Winters, 732-746-3456</b> Director of Visitation Relief Center	

### **RECTORY OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday thru Friday:** 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Closed for Lunch 12:30 to 1:30 PM

### Parish Registration

The Church of the Visitation is obliged to serve and minister to all baptized Catholics living in our local area. **PLEASE REGISTER** – it assists the staff in knowing you as a parishioner, providing for your needs, informing you of parish programs and activities, and utilizing your gifts and talents in service of the Church and one another. Envelopes for weekly contributions are available to you once you are registered. Please contact Deacon Sal Vicari at ext. 218 to register.

### Sacramental Sponsor Certificates

The following is required by Canon Law to be a Catholic Godparent/Sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation. 1. Be at least 16 years of age. 2. Have completed the Sacraments of the Initiation. (Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation) 3. Be a registered and active parishioner living a life of faith. If married, have a marriage that is canonically valid and recognized by the Catholic Church.

### **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**Weekend:** Saturday 4:00

**Sunday:** 6:45, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM

**Daily:** Monday-Saturday 7:30 and 8:15 AM (Daily Chapel)

**Holy Days:** See Current Bulletin

**Holy Hour:** First Fri. of the month 7:00 to 8:00 PM (Church)

### Baptism

Parents or legal guardians are encouraged to register 2 months in advance to schedule a baptism. Parents and Guardians are required and sponsors are encouraged to attend the Baptismal Formation Session prior to the Baptism. Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays following the 12:30 Mass at 1:45 PM. Please contact Deacon Sal Vicari at ext. 218 to make arrangements.

### Marriages

The Sacrament of Marriage requires a time of spiritual preparation. According to the Common Policy adopted by the Bishops of New Jersey, this preparation requires sessions with a priest or deacon, Focus review and attendance at a Marriage Preparation Programs such as Pre Cana. Therefore couples should make arrangements with the Church at least 1 year before the planned wedding date and finalizing any social plans. Couples must also verify freedom to marry before dates and arrangements can be made. Please contact Deacon Sal Vicari at ext. 218 to make arrangements.

### Anointing of the Sick

Please notify the Parish Office when serious illness occurs and when the sick, aged, or incapacitated are confined to home for extended period. In an emergency call Parish office anytime.

### Penance/Reconciliation

Saturday from 3:15 to 3:45PM in the Church or anytime by appointment. A Penance Service is held during Advent and Lent.

### Religious Education (CCD)

Our Religious Education and sacramental preparation for our children meets on Sunday from 9:15 to 10:30 AM in Lake Riviera Middle School, weekday classes in the Church Rectory. Pre-registration is required. Please call Nancy Grodberg at 732-477-5217.

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

This is the process by which adults become full, active, participating members of the Catholic Church. Please call Dale Zanetti at ext. 214 for more information.

*Elevator is located on the side of the Church near the Bell Tower*

# FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>February 6</b>
4:00 PM	Linda Lutkiewicz/req. Kozak Family
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>February 7</b>
6:45 AM	Jerry Gilbrain/req. Domogauer Family
8:00 AM	Living & Dec'd. Members of The Rosary Altar Society
9:30 AM	Walter Sitnik/req. Bencivenga Family
11:00 AM	People of the Parish
12:30 PM	James O'Donnell/req. O'Donnell Family
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>February 8</b>
7:30 AM	Linda Lutkiewicz/req. Donald Bailey
8:15 AM	Mary Ghirlanda/req. Syvertsen Family
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>February 9</b>
7:30 AM	Emmily Silla/req. Jeff Thelen
8:15 AM	Lucy Stizza/req. John & Dolores
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>February 10</b>
7:30 AM	Marie Daidone/req. Peter & Joan Kallos
9:00 AM	Kathleen Madden/req. McDonnell Family
7:00 PM	Philip LaManna/req. Dee DeTuro
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>February 11</b>
7:30 AM	Dorothea bacheson/req. Rita & John Fcasni
8:15 AM	Harry Karpinsky/req. Nancy & Len Minkler
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>February 12</b>
7:30 AM	Arnold Pecht/req. Fred & Carol Buehner
8:15 AM	Josephine Crai/req. Daughter Linda
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>February 13</b>
7:30 AM	Helen Pascucci/req. Rebar Family
8:15 AM	Raymond Marcus/req. Sue & Jim Vendemia, Nicole & Robby Distelcamp
4:00 PM	Linda Lutkiewicz/req. Maureen & Jerry Shapiro
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>February 14</b>
6:45 AM	Michael Zarzecki/req. Betty & Kwaider
8:00 AM	Living & Dec'd. Members of The Holy Name Society
9:30 AM	Joe McKenna/req. Peter & Cheryl Cassie
11:00 AM	People of the Parish
12:30 PM	Mary McBain/req. Peter & Eileen Singagliese

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 7</b>
Masses	Church
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 8</b>
M M & Saint Jude Novena	8:15 AM Church
Rosary Altar Society Meeting	12:00 PM Parish Hall
Rosary For Life	1:30 PM Daily Chapel
CCD	4:00 PM Rooms A, B, C
Cub Scouts.	6:30 PM Old Church & Parish Hall
Liturgy Team Meeting	7:30 PM Room B
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 9</b>
Bingo	11:00 AM Parish Hall
CCD	6:00 PM Rooms A & C
Boy Scouts	6:30 PM Old Church
Alanon	7:00 PM Parish Hall
Adult Faith Formation Mtg.	7:30 PM Room B
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 10</b>
Ash Service	12:00 PM Church
Community Lunch	12:00 PM Parish Hall
Ash Service	4:00 PM Church
CCD	4:00 PM Room A & C
Youth Choir Practice	7:30 PM Parish Room C
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 11</b>
Bible Study	9:45 AM Parish Hall
CCD	6:00 PM Room A & C
Adult Choir Practice	7:15 PM Church
Open Our Hearts	7:30 PM Room B
AA	7:30 PM Parish Hall
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 12</b>
Traditional Stations	4:00 PM Church
Adult Confirmation Orientation	7:00 PM Daily Chapel
Children of Light Prayer	7:00 PM Parish Room C
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 13</b>
Confirmation Retreat	9:00 AM Parish Hall
RCIA Teaching	5:00 PM Parish Hall

## For the Week of February 7, 2016



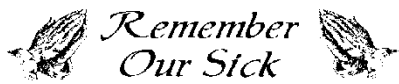
**Church Sanctuary Candle** is "In Loving Memory" Bernadette Galgon/req. Doug & Vicki Cottrell  
**Chapel Sanctuary Candle** is for the healing of Joe/req. Natalie Hajec  
**Blessed Mother Candle** is "In Loving Memory" of Julie

O'Connell/req. Clair Elder  
**Sacred Heart Candle** is No Intentions

## Readings for the Week


**Monday:** 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Ps 132:6-7, 8-10; Mk 6:53-56  
**Tuesday:** 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Ps 84:3-5, 10-11; Mk 7:1-13  
**Wednesday:** Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18  
**Thursday:** Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25  
**Friday:** Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15  
**Saturday:** Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32  
**Sunday:** Dt 26:4-10; Ps 91:1-2, 10-15; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

# **"IN THE SIGHT OF THE ANGELS I WILL SING YOUR PRAISES"**



## **III. Anna Marie Blumensteel**

."REMEMBERING OUR SICK" LIST IS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE IN NEED OF SPECIAL PRAYERS. THEY WILL REMAIN ON THE LIST FOR FOUR WEEKS. IF EXTENDED PRAYERS ARE NEEDED, PLEASE CONTACT VISITATIONS PRAYER CHAIN AT 848-373-4239.

 *In Your Charity* please pray for the happy repose of the souls of deceased members of the Parish, your friends, relatives and benefactors especially; *Mary Caruso, Antonia Welsher, Mary Giunta, Bernatte Galgon, and Virginia Passarella.*



## **HOW WILL YOU BE REMEMBERED?**

Please consider "Creating a Legacy" that will last for generations to come. When you remember Church of the Visitation in your will, you will help to provide for the many organizations and ministries after you are gone. For more information, please contact the Parish office at 732-477-7059 ext. 216.

## **SACRIFICIAL GIVING**

**Offering for the Week of January 31, 2016**

<b>Regular</b>	<b>\$13,180.67</b>
<b>On Line</b>	<b>\$637.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,817.67</b>

## **Parish eCommunity**

Have you joined our electronic community yet? Members received notice of events and cancellations with plenty of time to plan as well as great information about our faith! You can choose how you want to receive the information (text or e-mail) and what topics you wish to follow. Simply text VisitationBrick to 84576 or visit our parish Website [www.visitationRCchurch.org](http://www.visitationRCchurch.org) to join and receive great information about our faith!



## **Online Giving**

Eliminate the hassle of writing checks and getting your donation envelope ready before rushing to church! Sign up now and have complete control over your On-line Giving by visiting us on the World Wide Web at [www.visitationrcchurch.org](http://www.visitationrcchurch.org).

## *Reflections for*

## *The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary time*

In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches from Simon's boat. Jesus turns to Simon and instructs him about where to lower the fishing nets. Simon and others have been fishing throughout the night and have not caught anything. Simon protests, claiming that such an effort would be futile. Simon ultimately obeys Jesus and lowers his nets into the deeper water as directed. Notice here that Peter calls Jesus by the title "master." He already recognizes Jesus as a person of authority. They catch so many fish that the nets begin to tear; Jesus' presence has created abundance out of scarcity, just as it did at the wedding feast at Cana, which we heard at Mass just a few weeks ago.

Simon Peter becomes a follower of Jesus immediately. He calls Jesus "Lord"—the title given to Jesus after his Resurrection—and protests his worthiness to be in Jesus' presence. Today's Gospel, therefore, marks a turning point in the relationship between Jesus and Peter.

Two of Simon's partners are also named as witnesses to the event described in today's Gospel: Zebedee's sons, James and John. Yet Jesus' words are addressed only to Simon. Jesus gives Simon a new job, telling him that he will become a different kind of fisherman. No longer will he catch fish; instead he will catch people. In these words, we hear the beginning of the leadership role that Peter will have within the community of disciples. Peter was chosen for this role. His task will be to bring others to Jesus. Already he is doing so; the Gospel tells us that all the fishermen with Peter also left their nets and followed Jesus.

We continue to speak of Peter's leadership and influence in the Church today when we call the pope the "successor of Peter." We participate in the mission of the Church when we bring people to Christ through the example and positive influence of our lives. *Loyola Press*

**NEXT WEEKEND THERE WILL BE TWO COLLECTIONS. PLEASE PLACE YOUR REGULAR WEEKLY ENVELOPE IN THE FIRST BASKET AND THE ENVELOPE FOR BLACK AND NATIVE AMERICAN IN THE SECOND BASKET**

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS. ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK**

***WEATHERHEAD & YOUNG FUNERAL HOME***

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# **FEBRUARY 7, 2016**

**FROM THE DESK OF**  
*Fr. Jim O'Neill*

Dear Parishioners,

I'm writing this on the Feast of the Presentation, February 2nd. Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the Temple. Simeon recognized him as light to the Gentiles and glory for Israel. In today's first reading from Isaiah, we hear about Isaiah's vision of the Lord whose glory fills the earth. Isaiah is terrified that he will die from fright at having seen the glorious Lord.

Yet, we know that Jesus wants us to see him, to experience the fullness of his glory in Heaven. What are some of the ways that God prepares us to receive Him who is Love?

In nature, we experience light and dark. Today, 2/2, the sun is shining quite pleasantly. Yet, there's a distance to the sunlight. It's not like high noon on 6/21. Tomorrow, 2/3, we're expecting darkness with April like showers. This won't be a despairing darkness because we hope it will wash away the snow.

These natural experiences of light and dark can help us understand greater realities of light and dark in the spiritual life. We experience darkness when we sin, saying no to God. We experience light when we repent and receive his mercy. When we are new in the spiritual life, the light of Christ is quite pleasant and does not overwhelm us. As we grow closer to Him, we recognize a growing intensity of the light.

When advanced in the spiritual life, we sometimes experience darkness. We wonder what we've done wrong, what sins we've committed. Yet, we might not have sinned even in the slightest. God might be using the darkness to purify us of even our attachments so that we become spiritually married to Him as members of the Bride of Christ, the Church. Or we might be immersed in such light that our spiritual eyes can't take it in. It's like emerging from a dark cave into wonderful light. It takes time for our eyes to adjust.

As Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, we have an opportunity to freely enter a purifying darkness. We can fast from some good thing like ice cream or make some kind of sacrifice. We can enter a spiritual desert in order to allow the Lord to purify us from our unhealthy attachments. After this time of purification, we will be more ready, more attuned to seeing the Light of Christ at the celebration of His Resurrection!

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## **Suggestions for a Meaningful Lent**

**Lent** is a time of prayer, penance and sacrifice, a time for the family of God to be more attentive to the words of Jesus and to each other.

It is a time to try harder to put Christ's teachings into practice; to make a concentrated effort toward the springtime of spiritual growth, or rebirth and renewal. It is 6 weeks of Retreat. It is a 40-day journey with Jesus. Lent means doing something as well as giving up something.

*Here are some things you may want to think about to enhance your 40 day journey:*

### **Hope and Lent** –

The Sacrament of Reconciliation can be an open door to holiness

### **Signs of Love for Lent** –

Practice the 3 C's – give 3 compliments a day to your spouse, your child or to someone else.

Remove something from your calendar and spend that time with your family.

### **Blessing** -

Parents, bless your children by making the sign of the cross on their forehead before they go to bed at night or when they leave for school each day. Recall your blessings each night before sleep.

### **Clay Pot** -

Shatter an inexpensive clay pot and give each family member a piece to keep during Lent as a reminder that we are like clay in God's hands. During Lent, we can allow God to shape us into new vessels.

### **Fasting during Lent** -

Fast from fast food

Fast from TV one day a week

Fast from electronic games one day a week.

Fast from using the computer and spend that time with your family.

Fast from buying anything that is unnecessary during Lent.

Fast from bad habits that need to be changed/given up.

### **Plan a simple meal** -

A yummy meatless dish.

Talk about ways to help the hungry at your table

### **Family** –

Schedule a Family Night. Plan time together and enrich your family life.

*Share these ideas and ask God to help you carry out one of them.*

**LENT INSTRUCTION**

The days of **fast and abstinence** are **ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY**.

The other **Fridays of Lent** are **DAYS OF ABSTINENCE**.

Those between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine are obliged to fast. By this obligation, the individual is permitted only one full meal a day.

At the age of fourteen, people are obliged to abstain. This obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat.

Missing abstinence on any one (1) Friday is not a serious sin. Missing abstinence most of the Fridays of Lent (or more than half of them) is a serious sin that needs to be confessed & absolved.

The obligation of receiving the Eucharist at least once a year should still be fulfilled during the period from the **First Sunday of Lent, February 22, to Trinity Sunday, May 31**. However, the Code of Canon Law does permit this precept to be fulfilled at another time during the year when there is a just cause.

**FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS**

Those who have lost a loved one to suicide face a unique challenge in their grief. If you have been touched by such a tragedy and are willing to help others in the healing - or are in need of such healing yourself - please contact the Ocean County support group at [ForeverInOurHearts@comcast.net](mailto:ForeverInOurHearts@comcast.net) or 732-269-3236. If enough are willing to participate and help, we can consider beginning this ministry here at Visitation Parish.

**ROSARY ALTAR BUS TRIP**

The Rosary Altar Society is running a bus trip to The Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to see the hilarious comedy classic "Rumors". Please join us on Monday, April 25. The bus will leave Visitation parking lot at 8:45 am and return 5:15 pm. There is an \$85 per person (non-refundable) fee which includes the cost of the bus, the show and lunch. For additional information or to make reservations, please call Terri Deegan 732-903-7527 or Marilyn Emery 732-920-9763.

**BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY**

Our Spring Bereavement Consolation Group will be meeting on Tuesday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 from April 5 through May 17, 2016. Please call Deacon Rich Johnston at 732-477-7059 ext. 221 if you're planning on attending or for additional information.



On February 14, 2016 at the 11:00 AM Mass we will be celebrating the Rite of Sending our Catechumen, Nicole Rita Kindnersky, to Election by our Bishop David O'Connell. She will write her name in the Book of Life and from now on be called the Elect. We welcome Nicole Rita Kindnersky to our parish life and pray and support her on her journey to the Easter Sacraments.



The Community Luncheon is open every Wednesday 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. The third Wednesday of the month we will serve our hot luncheon; on the remaining Wednesdays of the month we will serve soup, salads or sandwiches.



The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the US Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and to its own policies and guidelines in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church or if know of someone who was, you can report the abuse through the diocesan **ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965** or via e-mail at [abuseline@diocesoftrenton.org](mailto:abuseline@diocesoftrenton.org). The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to the local enforcement authorities.

**RCIA**

**ADULTS and TEENS** who wish to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation**, sessions are now forming. Confirmation, like baptism, is a sacrament of initiation into the Christian life. It is a sacrament that Jesus Christ instituted within his Catholic Church to further strengthen those who have reached adulthood.

To receive the sacrament it is required that you have received Baptism and Holy Communion in the Catholic Church. You should be an active Catholic and, if married, your marriage should be in accordance with the laws of the Church.

Orientation and registration will be on Friday, February 12, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Daily Chapel. There are 11 instruction weeks, 1 Retreat, 1 practice session and Confirmation Day. First session is Saturday February 13, 2016. Confirmation will be on Sunday, May 15, 2016, the Feast of Pentecost, at the 9:30 AM Mass. The sessions begin at the Saturday. 4:00 pm Liturgy of the Word and continue in the auditorium until 6:30. Refreshments are served. You may register at Orientation on February 12, 2016, or registration forms are available on the website at [visitationrcchurch.org](http://visitationrcchurch.org), call Dale Zanetti, in the Adult Faith Formation Office at 732-477-7059 ext. 214 or email [dale@visitationchurch.com](mailto:dale@visitationchurch.com).



**OPEN OUR HEARTS**

“Open our Hearts” is an exciting parish-based Lenten experience designed to help our parish foster spiritual growth and discipleship in us through God’s Word during the season of Lent as we embark on our journey up the mountain toward Easter. If we are open to the Spirit of God, that Spirit will lead us to greater joy and deeper holiness; that Spirit will lead us into the very heart of God. How open are you to allowing the Holy Spirit to help you reflect on your life and be changed this Lent? Your renewed spiritual life will help you better connect with your church community as you share your faith and deepen your relationship with Christ during this Easter Season.

Come take this Lenten journey that will help you connect with God in a deep and personal way. Sessions will be held Thursday evenings in Meeting Room B starting-7:30pm. to 9:00pm each week for 6 weeks beginning February 11 and ending March 17. This will be facilitated by Dee Bringhurst.

We are asking for a one- time fee of \$3.00 to defray the cost of books needed for the program. Please call Dale Zanetti at 732-477-7059 ext 214 or contact [dale@visitationchurch.com](mailto:dale@visitationchurch.com) to Pre-register.



**RCIA CORNER**

**Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent for us Catholics this week. Forty days of fasting and abstinence prepare us for the great Holy Week and the Resurrection of Our Lord. The word sacrifice comes from the English word – to offer. To sacrifice means serve God and offer sacrifice-zealously. We should find different ways to sacrifice during Lent to show our love for what God has done for us.

During Lent – we fast and abstain. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, we have only one full meal a day and abstain from eating meat. On the other Fridays of Lent, we the faithful, also go without eating meat. Remember prayer is part of our sacrifice and remembering that Jesus sacrificed so much for us that we are willing to do without for him.

We are encouraged "to give up something" for Lent as a part of our sacrifice. However, on Sundays and solemnities like St. Joseph's Day (March 19), one can partake of whatever has been offered up for Lent. Praying and remembering also plays an important part in this portion of our sacrifice.

From our reading from the Book of Joel on Ash Wednesday we hear “rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord your God.” Joel is calling upon the people to repent and return to their God. This is a call that is extended to us too, and to all. Let us find ways to love more and revisit our spiritual exercises.

Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians shows us why we reform our lives as presented by Joel. Jesus took our sins by his death on the cross, so that we might “become the very holiness of God.” Now is the day of Salvation!

Our gospel tells us about sacrifice - almsgiving, prayer and fasting. Three things we must concentrate on during Lent. These practices will enable us to enter into a deeper walk with him.

We have one Catechumen who is getting ready for her journey to the Easter Sacraments. Next Sunday, February 14, 2016, we will celebrate the Rite of Sending with her. She will take part in the rite in which she will write her name in the book of life and then our Bishop will recognize her as being elected by God for full entry into the Catholic faith. Please keep Nicole Rita Kindnersky in your prayers as we journey with her as her community of faith.

## ***FEBRUARY 7, 2016***

### **SMUDGED WITH ASHES, SMEARED WITH OIL**

On a somber Wednesday (February 10) we will gather to smudge every forehead with ashes, admonishing each other to remember that dust returns to dust and that the only way through death to life is Christ. The ashes are made by burning palms—given to us on Passion Sunday a year ago with the invitation to “go forth in peace, praising Jesus our Messiah, as did the crowds that welcomed him into Jerusalem.” Our baptismal life is a lifelong pilgrimage with Christ toward Jerusalem. Yet like our best intentions, last year’s palm branches now have become dried and brittle—fodder for the fire. So our pilgrimage leads us to Lent. And a hostile climate of sin and suffering necessitates drastic measures: We are marked with ashes as a sign of our willingness to pray, fast and give alms.

But this gritty smudge that we accept on our foreheads is not a death sentence. It is not the mark of Cain. A reminder of our fragile mortality, it is nonetheless shaped in the great sign of salvation: The ashes form a cross, a thumb-printed cross that marks the same heads that were smeared with chrism at baptism. Anointed with that royal oil, we are committed to conversion, to continually setting out for the New Jerusalem, to leaving behind forever our captivity in Egypt.

This gritty ashen sign reminds us that on the way there is soil and toil, sweat and hard work before we come to the oasis in this desert—the Easter bath of baptism. At the font, on a damp and chilly night, water will wash away soil and oil will soothe away toil to make new Christians royal: heirs of the reign of God. The dusty smudges will be gone, and in the light of the paschal candle the oily heads of the newly baptized will shine like the moon and the stars, reminding us of our destiny. What begins in ashes ends in water and in fire.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

**7:30 AM MASS**

**9:00 AM MASS**

**12:00 PM ASH SERVICE ONLY**

**4:00 PM ASH SERVICE ONLY**

**7:00 PM MASS**

**ALL MASSES AND SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN THE CHURCH**

### **LENTEN DEVOTIONS**

Lent is not only about sacrifice. It is a time that provides us with opportunities to strengthen our prayer life and our commitment to be faithful servants of God. Here at Visitation, in addition to the year round devotions available, activities are available at various times to meet a variety of schedules.

Our prayers help us remember that we are totally dependent on God. In prayer we recognize and express the sovereign nature of our Creator. No Christian Prayer can occur without the action of the Holy Spirit. It is this action that unites the whole Church. The Church is a community. It expresses its nature as a community in its coming together in prayer.

Private prayer is good. But prayer as a community adds another dimension to the experience of prayer. Joined as a community, we experience the Body of Christ as members of the Church. You may recall that as a Church we believe the Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

**Traditional Stations of the Cross** are available every Friday at 4:00 in the Church.

**Contemporary Stations of the Cross** are held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM during Lent in the quiet of the Daily Chapel. They provide time for meditation as well as a dialog between Christ and each one of us. As we follow the stations, each meditation is an authentic application of Jesus' suffering to our personal lives. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend some time in the presence of God and experience the depth of the Lenten Season. The prayers used in this encounter help us connect Christ's last steps on this earth to our own daily lives

**FEBRUARY 7, 2016**



**It's not too late to get your  
Monthly 50/50 Annual Subscriptions for 2016**



Annual subscriptions make great, Birthday, Anniversary or thank you gifts. The proceeds from this major fundraiser are used for a wide variety of maintenance and renovation projects including upgrades to the parking lot. A \$20 annual subscription gives you 12 tickets for monthly drawings of your choice throughout 2016.

**All ticket holders must be 18 years of age or over.**

Simply mail back, bring to the rectory or place in the collection basket. **A certificate with your raffle number (for yourself and/or gift recipients) will be mailed to you.** For questions or more information, call 732-477-7059 ext. 216 or e-mail [vcottrell@visitationRCchurch.org](mailto:vcottrell@visitationRCchurch.org).

Number of subscriptions for Purchaser (self) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Gift subscriptions \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method  
 Cash  
 Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit card

**Purchaser:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City/St/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Each subscription has 12 chances to win – you select how the 12 tickets are to be distributed. Use a separate piece of paper for additional gifts.

**All ticket holders must be 18 years of age or over.**

**Gift Recipient Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Months and # of ticket request for each month (total of 12):**

- |                                   |                           |                                    |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> February | <b># of Tickets</b> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> August    | <b># of Tickets</b> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March    | <b># of Tickets</b> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> September | <b># of Tickets</b> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April    | <b># of Tickets</b> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> October   | <b># of Tickets</b> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May      | <b># of Tickets</b> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> November  | <b># of Tickets</b> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> June     | <b># of Tickets</b> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> December  | <b># of Tickets</b> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> July     | <b># of Tickets</b> _____ |                                    |                           |

**Below For Credit Card Orders Only:**

Account Number _____	Expiration Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Discover
Billing Address * _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Visa
City, St., Zip * _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Master Card
E-mail Address ** _____		<input type="checkbox"/> American Express
Signature _____		

\*If different than ticket mailing address

\*\*Credit Card Receipt will be e-mailed to this address



## ***FEBRUARY 7, 2016***

### **MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **Liturgical Ministries**

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR** see Youth Ministry

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION** distributes Holy Communion at Masses, as well as to the homebound, hospitalized, nursing home, and Senior Housing residents. 732-477-9672, ext. 216 – *Vicki Cottrell or Vicki@visitationchurch.com*

**LECTORS** enhance the community's celebration of the Mass by meaningful reading of God's Word and by providing direction and overviews during the Liturgy. 732-477-9672, ext. 216 – *Vicki Cottrell or vicki@visitationchurch.com*

**LITURGY TEAM** meets monthly to plan liturgical and worship services that are meaningful and spiritual.

**ART AND ENVIRONMENT TEAM** visually enhances the celebration of the Mass by providing decorations that highlight the liturgical seasons. – *Fr. Ed* 732-477-9672, ext. 201

**MUSIC MINISTRY** spiritually enhances the celebration of the Liturgy. We are always seeking individuals who would like to share their gift of music through songs and prayers. **Adult Choir** assists and encourages the congregation in singing. Practice is on Thursday evenings at 7:15 PM in the Church. Adult choir sings on Sundays at 9:30 am Mass. **Youth Choir** welcomes all from ages 13 – 18 years of age to share their gift of music through songs and prayers. The Youth Groups sings on Sundays at 11:00 AM Mass.

**Bell Choir** is open to all ages. 732-477-9672, ext. 217 - *Natalya Bencivenga or natalie@visitationchurch.com*

**USHERS** promote hospitality by assisting parishioners, taking up collections and preparing Offertory gifts for presentation at Mass. 732-262-4186 – *Kathy Cifelli*

**VISITATION ALTAR SERVERS TEAM** see Youth Ministry

#### **Sacrament Preparation**

**BAPTISMAL TEAM** assists the Priests and Deacons with Baptismal Formation Sessions, as well as the actual ceremony. 732-477-9028 - *Donna Stawicki or SewSimple@aol.com*

**RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)** is the process used to welcome those who wish to complete some or all of the sacraments of initiation in the Church. 732-477-9672, ext. 214 - *Dale Zanetti or dale@visitationchurch.com*

#### **Education and Evangelization Ministries**

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION** provides educational and growth opportunities for parish adults. 732-477-9672, ext. 214 - *Dale Zanetti or dale@visitationchurch.com*

**BIBLE SHARING** offers day sessions to all who wish to deepen their understanding of Scripture. Meetings are held on Thursdays at 9:45 AM in the Church Auditorium. 732-477-9672 ext. 214 - *Dale Zanetti or dale@visitationchurch.com*

**EVANGELIZATION TEAM** promotes and fosters evangelization in all ministries by reaching out and encouraging all to live life as active Catholics. 732-477-9672, ext. 218 - *Deacon Salvatore Vicari or ext. 214 - Dale Zanetti or dale@visitationchurch.com*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CCD)** meets on Sunday from 9:15 to 10:30 AM in the Lake Riviera Middle School and weekdays in the church rectory during the school year. Pre-registration is required. 732-477-5217- *Nancy Grodberg or nancy@visitationchurch.com*

#### **Prayer Groups**

**CHILDREN OF LIGHT CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** meets every Friday at 7:00 PM in Parish Room C to pray and work for spiritual renewal. 732-255-2728 - *Paul Rollis or paulr63@juno.com*

**ROYAL HEART OF JESUS & MARY CATHOLIC PRAYER GROUP** meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM in the Parish Room A. All are welcome. 732-742-2600 – *Joellen Arrabito – 732-262-3938 – Mary Casella or mnick123@aol.com*

**PRAYER CHAIN** is for anyone who feels the need for prayer or would like to join the group. 848-373-4239.

#### **Pastoral Care Ministries**

**BEREAVEMENT TEAM** provides support and meets Spring and Fall. 732-477-9672, ext. 221- *Deacon Richard Johnston.*

On-going support to grieving families is available- *Linda Conroy 908-902-2741 or lconroy58@verizon.net*

**FUNERAL LITURGY MINISTRY** helps plan liturgy for funeral masses. 732-367-5329 – *Rosemary Russell.*

**VISITATION CAREGIVERS** provide supportive services to the frail elderly and homebound in our community such as friendly visits, food shopping, transportation to medical appointments and respite care for families. 732-505-2273 ext. 211- *Mary Malagiere or marym@caregivervolunteers.org*

#### **Services**

**ANNULMENT TEAMS** are available to assist a parishioner in rectifying his/her marital status in accordance with the law of the Catholic Church and enable parish members to participate in a full Christian life. 848-333-2671- *Eleanor Troiano ~ 732-477-7059* ext. 218 – *Deacon Salvatore Vicari*

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION** is offered to anyone in the community who yearns to deepen their relationship with God. 732-477-9672, ext.221 *Deacon Richard Johnston*

## ***FEBRUARY 7, 2016***

### **Social Ministries/Activities**

**BINGO** is held in the church auditorium on Tuesdays at 11:00 AM. 732-477-9672 ext. 201 – Tuesday *Cindy Maguire*;  
**EVENT DEVELOPMENT TEAM** meets as needed to develop and implement social activities (such as the Gift Auction and Wine Tasting/Art Auction) for the purpose of raising money for the building fund. 732-477-9672, ext. 216 – *Vicki Cottrell-vicki@visitationchurch.com*

### **Social Concerns**

**COMMUNITY LUNCH (SOUP KITCHEN)** provides lunch Wednesdays each week to members of the parish and community. 732-255-2835 - *Isabel Kronicz or fkronicz@comcast.net*

**RESPECT LIFE** focuses on pro-life issues and needs through education and support of other organizations in support of pro-life issues. The group gathers every Monday in the church at 1:30 PM to recite the Rosary. 732-262-2047 – *Charles Pocher*

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL** operates the Thrift Shop in the old church and manages the funds from the poor boxes to assist the needy in our parish and the surrounding community. Hours of operation are Monday – Saturday 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM. 732-477-9672, ext. 160

**VISITATION FOOD BANK** accepts donations of nonperishable food at the VRC location and in Church. These donations assist the hungry of our community. 732-746-3456 - *Visitation Relief Center*

### **Youth Ministries/Activities**

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR** welcomes all from 3 to 12 years of age to share their love for Jesus through music. The choir sings monthly at the 12:30 PM Mass and performs at various community events. No tryouts are required. 732-477-9672 ext. 217 - *Jim Daniels*

**CYO BASKETBALL TEAM** practices at Lake Riviera Middle School. They were the 2007 Ocean County CYO champs. 201-522-3679 – *Coach or doug\_roman4@yahoo.com*

**VISITATION ALTAR SERVERS TEAM** provides assistance to the Priest in celebration of the Mass and other liturgical celebrations Open to all adults and boys and girls third grade and higher who have received their Holy Communion. 732-458-1492 - *Sue Straneri or stranieri.sue@gmail.com*

**VISITATION TEEN MINISTRY** provides a safe place for high school teenagers to come together, meet new people, and have fun while serving God and the community. For additional information please contact 732-477-7059 ext. 105 – *Christie or youthministry@visitationchurch.com*

### **Temporal Welfare**

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS TEAM** works to improve and enhance the appearance and safety of the existing church, former church, rectory building, and the associated grounds. The goal of this team is to adhere to all current safety and building codes and ensure that the house of God is maintained in an appropriate manner. - *Fr. Ed* 732-477-9672, ext. 201

**FINANCE COUNCIL** oversees the financial aspects of the parish 732-477-9672, ext. 216 – *Karen Smith*

**FUTURES TEAM** assesses and implements the needs of the parish to ensure that we are prepared for the future. The various teams coordinate all activities pertaining to the development of the Faith Formation Center. 732-477-9672, ext. 216 - *Vicki Cottrell-vicki@visitationchurch.com*

### **Organizations**

**AA MEETINGS** are held on Thursdays at 7:30 PM in the church auditorium.

**AL-ANON MEETINGS** are held on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the Church Auditorium. Call Ann at 732-861-9051 or email *annern508@comcast.net*.

**CUB SCOUT PACK #38**, sponsored by the Rosary Altar Society, meets on Mondays at 6:30 PM in the Auditorium. No meeting during July & August. 732-451-0252 *Kim Gorman or kimmyg627@aol.com*

**BOY SCOUT TROOP #38**, sponsored by the Holy Name Society, meets Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the old church. 732-262-8977 - *Matt Powell or matthewapowell@verizon.net*

**HOLY NAME OF JESUS SOCIETY** promotes respect for the Holy Name of Jesus and His Holy Catholic Church. Society members attend the 8:00 AM Mass the second Sunday of the month and meet the Tuesday following the second Sunday at 7:15 pm in Rectory Room B. There are no meeting July & August, however members still attend mass. 732-239-2449 – *Deacon Nick Stranieri or deaconnick@visitationchurch.com*

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #836** work with the local parish and contribute many hours of volunteer work to our community annually. They meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Council Home on the corner of Cedarbridge Avenue and Route 70 East.

**ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY** honors the Blessed Virgin Mary to secure her patronage through the daily recitation of the Rosary for the spiritual benefit of the parish community. Members attend the 8:00 AM Mass on the first Sunday of the month. The Monday following the first Sunday of the month they meet at 11:30 AM in the Church Worship for the Rosary. The meeting will follow at 12:00 noon in the Church Auditorium. There are no meeting July & August, however members still attend mass. 732-232-7132 – *Dee DeTuro or deed@visitationchurch.com*

### **Bulletin Deadline**

***Bulletin & Announcement Deadline: Ten days prior to publication weekend as space allows.***