

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Beacon of Ambler—Where Faith and Family are One

Main and Poplar Sts. Ambler, PA 19002

CONTACT: 215-646-0494 EMAIL: stjoeambler@gmail.com www.stjoeambler.org

Rectory Address: 16 S. Spring Garden St. Ambler, PA 19002 FAX 215-643-6389

PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR: **Father James T. Mc Guinn** PAROCHIAL VICAR: **Father Michael J. Saban**

PASTOR EMERITUS: **Father Eugene M. Tully**

RETIRED RESIDENT: **Father Charles J. Mc Elroy**

Deacon: **Mark Kuhn** (Fluent in Spanish) (contact number— 484-746-3414)

Pastoral Staff Mrs. Lisa Gallagher Parish Secretary, Music Ministry

Email: stjoeambler@gmail.com

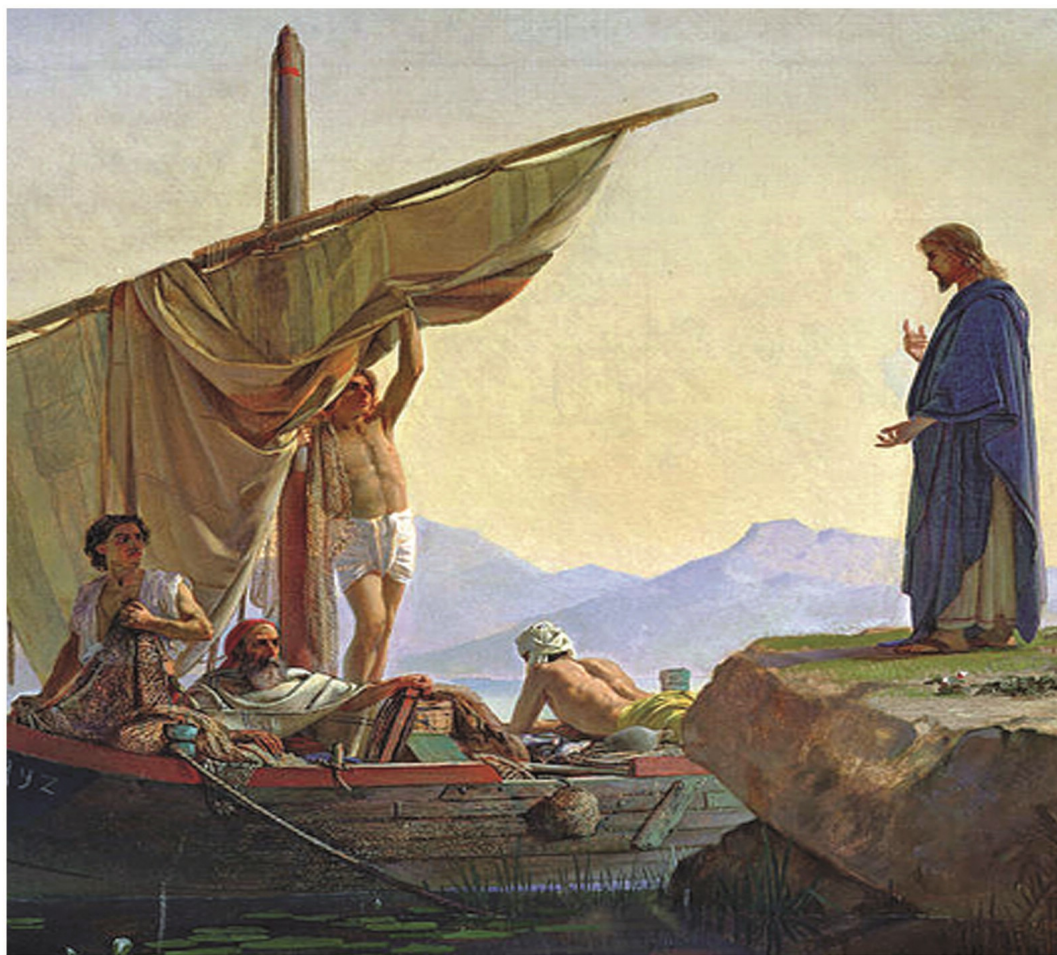
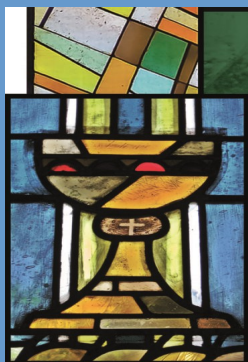
Mrs. Suzanne Kuhn: Director of Religious Education

(stjosephamblerdre@gmail.com)

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He walked along a little farther and saw James,
the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.
They too were in a boat mending their nets.
Then he called them.

MT 1:19-20



January 21, 2024



MASS SCHEDULE!
DAILY: MONDAYS-COMMUNION
SERVICE ONLY @ 6:30 AM

TUESDAY TO FRIDAYS MASS—
6:30 AM AND 12:05 PM. Miraculous Medal
 Novena Devotion takes place every Friday at the
 6:30 AM mass and at the 12:05 Mass. The rectory
 chapel is also opened daily during business hours—
 9AM TO 4 PM (Mon.-Thurs.) for visitation.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturdays- 3:00 PM- 3:30 PM

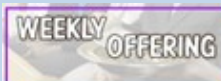
WEEKEND MASSES—
SATURDAY VIGIL— 4PM
SUNDAY— 9 AM AND 11 AM

HOLYDAYS— 6:30 AM AND 12:05 PM
(NO EVENING MASS)
ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH— 7 pm
mass

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS—
 MONDAY-THURSDAY 9:00AM-4:00PM
 (Closed for lunch from 12:30PM to 1:30PM starting in January)
 FRIDAY— 9:00AM TO 12:00PM
 OFFICE IS CLOSED ON ALL HOLYDAYS/ HOLIDAYS

*All those who are in need of our prayers,
 Victor Balten, Jimmy Cowman, Anthony D'Acunto,
 Diane Camasso, Clare Di Donato, Kathleen Hart,
 Donna McMullan lives of the Unborn, all who have
 been killed by unnecessary violence, people of the
 Ukraine, people of Israel and all those in our hearts.*

****Please continue to pray all who are ill or in need of
 prayers. Names of the sick will be removed at the end of
 the month unless notified. If you know anyone who
 would like to be on our prayer list, due to privacy issues,
they or a family member must call the rectory. Let us
 know if they can be removed from the list. It is so good to**

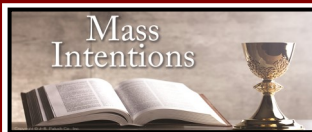


Sunday collection:

January 14th \$3662

Catholic Relief Services \$951

**Anyone needing their 2023 contribution
 information please contact the office by
 phone or email. Thank you!**



St. Joseph Our Patron
Pray for Us!
January 20-21

Saturday Vigil

4:00 PM—Agata Chung/Marchellino Yun Marianna Yun

Sunday

9:00 AM— Jerome Buttacavoli Nina/Joe Andrews & family

11:00 AM— Rob Swillo Family

1:00 PM— Mass in Spanish

WEEKDAY

Monday -COMMUNION SERVICE at 6:30 AM
(no intentions taken)

12:05 PM Agata Chung Marianna Yun

Tuesday

6:30AM Daniel Walsh/family John Strong

12:05 PM Catherine Moyer/family John Strong

Wednesday

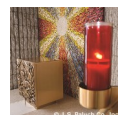
6:30 AM Nancy Yeardon/family John Strong
12:05 PM— Agata Chung Marianna Yun

Thursday

6:30 AM Harry Leopold III/family John Strong
12:05 PM Rosemary McCauley Donna/Ed McCauley

Friday

6:30 AM Holy Souls in Purgatory John Strong
12:05— Helen Pieffer Charles/Roseann Hofmann



Candle Memorials/Intensions
Remembering

The Sanctuary Candle
Rob Swillo

The Mary Candle

The St. Joseph Candle



Liturgical Schedule for Jan. 27-28

Celebrants: (subject to change)

4:00PM VIGIL

FATHER Saban

9:00 AM FATHER Saban

11:00 AM FATHER Mc Elroy

**TAKE THREE
 SECONDS RIGHT
 NOW AND PRAY
 FOR YOUR
 PARISH PRIESTS.**

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Reading 1 **Jon 3:1-5, 10**

The word of the LORD came to Jonah, saying:

"Set out for the great city of Nineveh,
and announce to it the message that I will tell you."

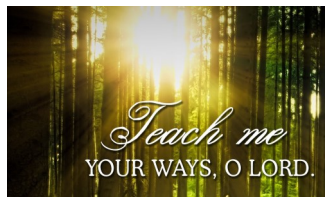
So Jonah made ready and went to Nineveh,
according to the LORD'S bidding.

Now Nineveh was an enormously large city;
it took three days to go through it.

Jonah began his journey through the city,
and had gone but a single day's walk announcing,
"Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed, "
when the people of Nineveh believed God;
they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and
small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw by their actions how they turned
from their evil way, he repented of the evil that he
had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*



Responsorial Psalm

Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R. *Teach me your ways, O Lord.*

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;
teach me your paths,
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my savior.

R. *Teach me your ways, O Lord.*

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,
and your love are from of old.
In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD.

R. *Teach me your ways, O Lord*

Good and upright is the LORD;
thus he shows sinners the way.
He guides the humble to justice and teaches the hum-
ble his way.

R. *Teach me your ways, O Lord.*

Reading 2 **1 Cor 7:29-31**

I tell you, brothers and sisters, the time is running
out.

From now on, let those having wives act as not
having them, those weeping as not weeping,
those rejoicing as not rejoicing,
those buying as not owning, those using the world
as not using it fully.

For the world in its present form is passing away.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel **Mk 1:14-20**

After John had been arrested,

Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of
God:

"This is the time of fulfillment.

The kingdom of God is at hand.

Repent, and believe in the gospel."

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon
and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the
sea; they were fishermen.

Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make
you fishers of men."

Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.

He walked along a little farther and saw James, the
son of Zebedee, and his brother John.

They too were in a boat mending their nets.

Then he called them.

So they left their father Zebedee in the boat
along with the hired

men and followed
him.

The Gospel of the
Lord. *Praise to you
Lord Jesus Christ.*



A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer. – Pope Saint John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae, no. 100
Join thousands as we pray.

To Answer the Call

Something very profound is going on in this brief passage about the call of the first apostles. Jesus calls, they follow. It's a pretty simple cause and effect scenario. Yet, you and I both know that following Jesus is anything but simple these days...right? Or could it be that this passage is the perfect model for just how radical it is to follow Jesus?

Jesus offered the first apostles no explanations, He didn't try to sway them. He boldly called out an invitation and issued a promise. He continues to stand by the shore near our boats and offer the same to us.

First, He invites us. It's a call, a challenge, a summons to adventure. "Come on, let me show you where you could go." However, Jesus always respects our free will. We freely choose to follow, or to remain behind. The choice is ours.

Then, he makes a promise, "I will make you fishers of men." What does that mean exactly? Each baptized individual is called to be a witness of the faith. This mission looks different for each person. I am called to witness to the faith in this written format. I am also called to share the faith with my children. Others are called to be a witness in the workplace. Some of you might witness before large groups of people. Others will share the faith one person at a time, helping to share the light of Christ candle by candle.

We are invited, each in our own unique way, to participate in Jesus' mission to build the Kingdom of Heaven. No matter who we are, Jesus invites us to get up and go on an adventure with Him.

I think the word "abandoned" is important here. Abandoned is a very active word, it paints a vivid picture of someone throwing an object aside, forgetting it's very existence. The first apostles abandoned their nets when they answered Jesus' summons. They didn't hold onto their tools, just in case. They didn't ask to stow their boats first so they wouldn't get stolen.

The apostles show us how to let go of everything to follow Jesus. This isn't an easy task, and fortunately we have a God who is not outdone in generosity. There isn't a time limit on Jesus' call to discipleship. He calls us every day, every moment. Over and over again, we have the opportunity to more freely say "Yes!" and abandon our own nets to follow Jesus. By Kate Taliaferro

Living Stewardship Now

God does not demand moral perfection before you can be of worthy service. God asks for a loving heart and a willingness to stick with your commitment. Copyright © 2011, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

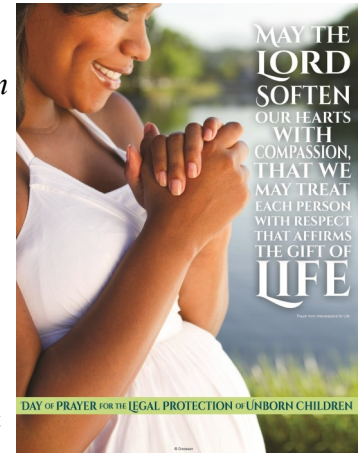
A New Way, A New World

In the reading from Jonah, God told him to preach repentance to the people of Nineveh. When the whole city repented the very first day, they showed it by wearing sackcloth and fasting from food. Sometimes we might think that way: That repenting means punishing ourselves or feeling sorry. Jesus sees things differently.

He preached repentance that was a change of heart, a new way of looking at things, a new way of acting. In the gospel today, we see an example. The first people he calls to be disciples were fisherman. They would have considered their family, their partners, and their boat as the most important things in their lives. You need all of them to be a successful fisherman. One man sitting on a dock with a pole could barely keep himself fed, much less support a family.

Yet the disciples don't even hesitate when called by Jesus. They leave behind their boats, their nets, even their father, to follow Jesus. They don't worry about what they will do, or look back at what they are leaving behind. Now they are fishers of men. Their "repentance" was more than just giving up sins. They were beginning a new life and a new way of looking at the world.

Saint Paul refers to this as a new world. By following Jesus, we put the values of the present world behind us and look forward to a new one. His examples could apply today as much as in his time. Marriages, joy, sadness, buying property are still considered important to worldly people. Paul doesn't expect everyone to stop doing those things. When he talks about not using the world fully, he means not fully engaged in the world, but looking to a better one, where God is more important than any passing pleasure or pain. Is your marriage an example of God's love for your friends and relatives? When you are rejoicing, do you give thanks to God? When weeping, do you ask for his help? When you are shopping, do you buy what you really need, or what you think will make you happy? Jesus calls us all to this new way of living. With Jesus, we can make a new world. Tom Schmidt



NOTHING COMPARES to Being There



We are always happy to welcome new parishioners!
If you are interested in joining our wonderful Parish family, please register after any of the masses or:

- register online at stjoeambler@gmail.com
- visit our website at stjoeambler.org or
- contact the rectory office at 215-646-0494.

PREP



Parish Religious
Education Program

For 2024, the PREP mass will be moved to the last Sunday of the month. The next family prep mass is on January 28th at 11:00 am. This mass will now be bi-lingual as the second reading will be

in Spanish as well as the "Lord have mercy". Donuts and refreshments will be served in the Heritage Room after that mass. All are welcome!



Beautiful Eucharist is an invitation to encounter the life-giving presence of Jesus in the Eucharist so you can be a life-giving presence in the world. Please help yourself to these books generously donated. We hope you enjoy this wonderful gift of love.

OUR LADY OF ALTAGRACIA

January 21

In 1502, on the island of Hispaniola, the Blessed Virgin Mary was honored under the title of *Nuestra Señora de la Altagracia*. Her image had been brought from Spain by Alfonso and Antonio Trejo, brothers who were among the first European settlers of the island. She is now patroness of the Dominican Republic.

OUR LADY OF DAMASCUS

January 24

An ancient icon of Our Lady of Damascus was brought to Malta from Rhodes by the Knights of St. John in 1530, and venerated in the Greek Catholic Church in Valletta.

Living God's Word

There is one problem with Christian discipleship. No one will ever become a master. The most we can strive for is to be journeymen, like Jonah and Jesus' disciples. We can only show others the way if we commit ourselves to the journey and walk at the Master's side, trusting and listening and following the ways of the Lord. Copyright © 2014, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

Scripture Readings For the Week of January 21, 2024

Sunday Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

Monday Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26; Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday Memorial of Saint Vincent, Deacon and Martyr and Saint Marianne Cope, Virgin

2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19; Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday Memorial of Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

2 Sm 7:4-17; Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30; Mk 4:1-20

Thursday Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle

Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18

Friday Memorial of Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops

2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10; Mk 4:26-34

Saturday Memorial of Saint Angela Merici, Virgin

2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Mk 4:35-41

Reflecting on God's Word

First apprentice, then journeyman, and finally master. That's the way someone "travels" when learning a trade. But before "setting out" one must find a trustworthy master who will accept him to study with her. Then he must commit himself to the "journey" of learning the trade. By watching and listening to the master, by imitating her example and following her advice, the disciple gradually learns her "ways."

The Scriptures this week present a journeyman, Jonah, and a master, Jesus. Why did people trust and follow them? People responded to Jonah because he was traveling the way of the Lord himself; he had repented and set out on the journey of discipleship. They responded to Jesus because he was a master worthy of their trust and because he invited them to be his disciples, to walk at his side and to study his ways. People followed them not because of their words, but because they knew the way. —Virginia Stillwell

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AROUND TOWN.....

Villa Maria by the Sea Retreat Center, Stone Harbor, NJ, has posted its schedule of programs for the winter and spring of 2024. For more information or to register: www.VMbytheSea.com.

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 8:45 a.m.—2:45 p.m. \$60* **Close up of friends of Jesus: Mary, Martha and Lazarus** presented by Sr. Mary Henrich IHM
Jesus shared a special relationship with Mary, Martha and Lazarus. He needed and valued their friendship. What can be learned from the close friendship, the intimacy, the sacred bonds? This Lent, explore your friendship with Jesus and others. Coffee and check-in begins at 8:45 a.m. The day includes Mass and lunch.

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024
8:45 a.m.—3:00 p.m. \$60***

"The Lord is Kind and Merciful" presented by Sr. Pat McDermott IHM
In a contemplative atmosphere, we will use Scriptural passages as well as other writings for our reflections. Coffee and check-in begins at 8:45 a.m. The day includes Mass and lunch.

*You may opt to stay overnight the evening before these day events for an additional \$95.

Sister M. Emily Vincent, IHM
Program Director
Villa Maria by the Sea Retreat Center
101 111th Street
Stone Harbor, NJ 08247
609-964-7696

www.VMbytheSea.com

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Follow us on Instagram: instagram.com/VMbytheSea

Saint Anthony of Padua Ambler

Most Precious Blood Chapel of Perpetual Adoration

Come to the chapel to connect with the Lord and gaze upon His Real Presence. We encourage you to pray for the return of all children to the practice of the faith, and for families to be reconnected in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. "...

How much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" – Jesus Christ

"To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek Him, the greatest adventure; to find Him, the greatest human achievement." – St. Augustine

The chapel is open 24/7 to those with a code. If you do not yet have your unique entry code, go to bit.ly/chapelaccess. Questions? Please email the Chapel Coordinator at mostpreciousbloodchapel@gmail.com.

St. Mary Polish American Society is accepting applications for the second annual Felicia Jemionek Rzeznik Memorial Scholarship, a \$1,500 scholarship to a qualified student of Polish ancestry residing within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia pursuing full-time undergraduate studies at an accredited college or university in the United States. Full information about the scholarship is included in the QR code. For any questions, please call Dorothy Swedkowski at 610-630-0861.



The Catechetical Institute (CI) at The School of Theological Studies (STS) at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary offers affordable online non-credit courses for Catholic adults 18+ with a high school diploma or equivalent who are seeking to deepen their knowledge of the Catholic Faith or who are required to obtain catechetical certification in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Registration is now open for the February courses *Person of Jesus* and *New Testament*. The cost is \$60.00 per course. Please visit <https://www.scs.edu/school-of-theological-studies/catechetical-institute/> for more details and to register.

Martin Saints Classical High School

Admissions Open House: January 28th, 2024

Location: 3006 Keenwood Road, East Norriton, PA 19403

7th Grade Visitation Day: March 12th, 2024

www.whymsc.org

Come be "fully alive" with us! Any questions? Contact: Ms. Laura Lindmeier (llindmeier@martinsaintsclassical.org)

THE RAW MATERIAL

Imagine Jesus sending his disciples for psychological testing today. "The men you have picked for management in your new organization have been thoroughly tested. Most appear to lack the background, education, and skills necessary for your enterprise. Peter needs a firm hand and anger management. Andrew shows no leadership qualities. James and John place personal ambition above loyalty. Thomas's skepticism could undermine morale. Matthew's previous business was blacklisted in Jerusalem. James, son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus are political radicals. Only one candidate shows real potential. He is socially skillful, resourceful, highly motivated, and enjoys contacts in high places. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your right-hand man." Like the apostles, we lack faith, we have much to learn, we are selfish, we have a past, and we doubt. If Jesus used them he can use us, and with his help we can grow stronger and accomplish great things for him. Jesus' call is urgent. Answer now.

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SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM and CONFIRMATION ROLE OF SPONSORS

A baptismal preparation evening class is mandatory for all parents who are requesting Baptism. The class is usually provided on the **third Thursday** of each month. **Baptisms are on the Second Sunday of each month.** Please contact the rectory office for more information.



Godparent or Sponsor Requirement- You must be a practicing Catholic, in good standing, and attend mass regularly, (married validly if married), at least 16 years of age, and have received the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist). Eligibility Certificates for another Parish- ***We cannot issue certificates of eligibility to any parish if a person is not regularly attending Sunday mass and/or isn't properly registered in St. Joseph Parish.**



SACRAMENT OF THE SICK In case of serious illness, please contact the Pastor at the Rectory or call the emergency number if after office hours.



SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE



Parishioners planning wedding dates must make an appointment to set a wedding date at least six months or more prior to that wedding date. They must also arrange for Marriage Preparation Class by contacting www.philamarriageprep.com or call **610-873-2017**. Weddings are scheduled on Fridays and Saturdays.

Saturday weddings cannot be scheduled any later than 2PM. Non-parishioner weddings are up to the Pastor's discretion. If a couple is not a member of this parish, they should request a letter of permission from their 'home' parish.



MINISTRY SPOTS AVAILABLE... Is God calling you to 'step out of your comfort zone'?

NOW IS THE TIME TO ASK YOURSELF...HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED IN MY CHURCH? IF I AM ATTENDING MASS ALREADY, WHY NOT CONSIDER BEING AN USHER, LECTOR, EUCHARISTIC MINISTER, ADULT SERVER, OR CHURCH SACRISTAN? *The work is easy, but the benefits are out of this world!*

For our younger members: We welcome you to join in our church ministries. If you have received the Sacrament of Confirmation and would like to be a **lector** to proclaim the Word of God at any of the weekend masses, please contact the office or see Father after any of the masses.

If you are 10 years of age or older and would like to become an altar server, please have your parents contact the rectory office or email stjosephdre@gmail.com.

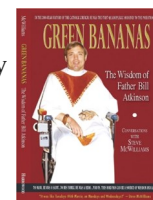


Our country, our military, police and first responders all need our prayers now! Please continue to pray for all in harms way who help protect us and our country. God bless and protect them all. Many have returned home and need both physical and emotional care. They cannot be forgotten. Pray for all those who have unselfishly given up their lives for our freedom. Jesus has said, *"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for a friend"*. May God give them strength and courage to continue to fight the battles they struggle with abroad and here at home!

Universal Prayers for Peace in the Middle East

We offer these special Universal Prayers for those affected by the violence in the Middle East: For an end to the tensions escalating in the Middle East, may they be transformed by the peace that comes from God; the peace that surpasses all human understanding, let us pray to the Lord. For those who have died in the violence in the Middle East, may they find perpetual peace and rest in the comforting arms of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. For those who are mourning the deaths of friends or family members, and those whose loved ones are missing, may God console them in their pain and grief and grant them strength, let us pray to the Lord. For all innocent people in the Middle East harmed by violence or instability, may God's grace sustain and strengthen them and keep them from harm, let us pray to the Lord. Amen.

Father Bill Atkinson's Cause for Canonization: Please continue to pray for his intercession.. **For favors received or for more information, write Fr. Bill's Cause-Augustinian Provincial Offices PO Box 340- Villanova, PA 19085 610-527-3330** www.augustinian.org



As you know we continue to remember and pray for Father William Atkinson's 'call to Saint-hood'. Father Atkinson has a beautiful story of his journey of faith and carrying his cross. Please continue to pray for Father Atkinson and all those whose lives were touched because of him.



Please continue to patronize all our advertisers who we recognize weekly and who supply our bulletins. Through their generosity we receive our paper and digital bulletin. Don't forget to also patronize all our local community stores and restaurants.