

+ March 1, 2026 - Second Sunday of Lent +
St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Roman Catholic Church
1408 Easton Road, Hellertown, PA 18055



THIS IS MY
BELOVED SON,
WITH WHOM I AM
WELL PLEASED;
listen to him.

MATTHEW 17:5

© JPPC

Rev. John Anthony Hutta II,
Parochial Administrator

Rev. Dr. John A. Krivak,
Pastor Emeritus

Deacon David K. Rohner

Masses

Monday - Friday, 8:00am;
Saturday (Vigil Mass), 5:00 pm;
Sunday, 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am

Lenten Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays, 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Eucharistic Adoration,
no Confession

Fridays, 12:30 - 1:30
Eucharistic Adoration
with Confession

Confession

Saturdays, 4:00pm - 4:30pm

+ March 1, 2026 - Second Sunday in Lent +

Calendar, March 1 - March 8

Sunday, March 1

Children's Lenten Activities, Friendship Hall,
10:30am - 11:30am

Monday, March 2

"Unmasking the Enemy," Friendship Hall, 10:00am - 11:00am
Seniors meeting, Rectory LL, 12:00pm
KoC, Friendship Hall, 7:00pm
Boy Scouts, Parish Center, 7:00pm

Tuesday, March 3

Ladies Guild, Friendship Hall, 6:30pm
Good Samaritan Society, Parish Center, 5:00pm
Grief Support, Parish Center, 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Wednesday, March 4

PREP 1-6, Friendship Hall, 4:30 - 5:45
Family of Faith, Friendship Hall, 6:15pm
Stations of the Cross, Church, 7:00pm
Eucharistic Adoration, Church, 7:00pm - 8:00pm;

no confessions heard

Thursday, March 5

PREP 7, Friendship Hall, 6:00pm - 7:00pm
PREP 8, Parish Center, 6:30pm - 7:45pm
Choir practice, Church, 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Friday, March 6

Stations of the Cross, Church, 12:00pm - 12:30pm
Eucharistic Adoration, Church, 12:30pm - 1:30pm;

confessions WILL be heard

Saturday, March 7

Bingo, Friendship Hall, 6:00pm

Sunday, March 8

No meetings or events scheduled.

Mass Intentions, March 1 - March 8

Sunday, March 1 - Second Sunday of Lent

5:00pm (Sat.) - Sally Chaffier (Jackie Cheddar & family)

8:00am - Anna Paula Sa (Mom & Dad Henriques)

9:30am (PREP) - Adenuga family (Kirby family)

11:00am - Kate Cuppi (Mary Frances)

Monday, March 2 - Lenten Weekday

8:00am - Samantha Amore and family
(Grandmother, Cecilia Christman)

Tuesday, March 3 - St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin

8:00am - Holy Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, March 4 - St. Casimir

8:00am - Bruce Arnold (Tallarico family)

Thursday, March 5 - Lenten Weekday

8:00am - Mark Vorndran (Wife, Diane)

Friday, March 6 - Lenten Weekday

8:00am - Little Flower Society

Saturday, March 7 - Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs

8:00am - Kenneth Herb (Wife, Josephine)

Sunday, March 8 - Third Sunday of Lent

5:00pm (Sat.) - Frank and Bernice Wilk (Janice McKellin)

8:00am - Charles Bartolet (Jack & Minga Ferencin)

9:30am - Anna Paula Sa (Mom & Dad Henriques)

11:00am - Sally Chaffier (Cheryl Morykan Hancock, Brian G. Morykan)



Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

Friday, March 13
Friday, March 27
4:30pm - 7:00pm
Friendship Hall



Liturgical Ministers Schedule: March 8, Third Sunday of Lent

Mass time	Lector	EEM	Altar server(s)
5:00pm Saturday	Janice Sodemann	Janice Sodemann	Stella Graf
8:00am Sunday	Megan Kuronya	Deacon Dave	Genevieve & Arthur Tabor
9:30am Sunday	Joe Kazan	Carol Krakowski	Lay Brothers
11:00am Sunday	Matthew Kirby	Peggy Vietro	Ivo Kirby

ST. THERESA'S TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN



A Confident Start - A Faith-Filled Foundation - A Gift of Growth

WHAT IS TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN?

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is a faith-based, play-based bridge between Preschool and Kindergarten aligned with PA Early Learning Standards. Rooted in Catholic values, it supports children who are ready for school but benefit from an extra year of growth. TK nurtures the whole child—spiritually, socially, emotionally, and academically—while preparing them for long-term success in a supportive, experienced learning environment.

Full &
Half Day
programs
available!

300 Leonard Street
Hellertown, PA 18055

secretary@stsprekhellertown.com

TYPICAL TK STUDENT

- Age: turning 5 during school year
- Birthday: Late June - Late December
- Curious, eager to learn & growing in confidence, maturity, and readiness skills

Called to Holiness: From Promise to Transfiguration to the Cross

We are invited — continually — to respond to God’s call to holiness. And that call is not simply a moral command; it is an invitation into relationship. Holiness is not first about perfection of behavior. Holiness is participation in the very life of God.

From the beginning of salvation history, God calls people not merely to tasks but to covenantal relationship. In the First Reading, Abram - who was later called Abraham - receives such a call. The Lord says to Abraham: “Go forth from your land... to a land that I will show you.” Abraham does not know where he is going. He does not know how the promise will unfold. Yet he goes. His obedience is rooted in hope — “assurance of things not seen.”

In that act of trust, a relationship is established between the Lord and Abraham and his descendants — not only his biological descendants (the children of Isaac and Israel, and of Ishmael), but also his descendants by faith. The promise of land, blessing, and countless offspring is repeated throughout Abraham’s life. The deeper promise beneath those visible signs is holiness — communion with God.

The Responsorial Psalm echoes this dynamic: trust in the Lord and wait for Him. Hope rests not in what is visible but in the fidelity of God’s promises.

St. Paul deepens this understanding in his letter to Timothy. The Gospel includes hardship — suffering is not excluded from Christian life — yet grace is always offered in Christ Jesus. He writes that Christ “has robbed death of its power and brought life and immortality into clear light through the Gospel.” Even in troubled times, perhaps especially then, hope is offered because relationship is offered.

The Gospel proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Lent each year is the Transfiguration. This placement is not accidental. In St. Matthew’s Gospel (as in Mark and Luke), the Transfiguration follows immediately after Jesus predicts His Passion and tells His disciples: “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.”

Peter resists the idea of suffering. Jesus rebukes him strongly. Only after this sobering exchange does Jesus take Peter, James, and John up the mountain. There He is transfigured before them — radiant as light. Moses and Elijah appear. A cloud overshadows them. A voice declares: “This is My beloved Son.”

The Transfiguration is “sandwiched” between predictions of suffering and death. It is not an escape from the Cross; it is a strengthening for it.

Lent — and indeed the whole Christian life — is a pilgrimage. Pilgrimages are long and demanding. The Christian does not walk toward a bed of roses but toward sanctification, which includes purification. Yet God, in His providence, grants moments of consolation along the way. These moments are not rewards; they are fortifications. They are foretastes of glory so that we may persevere through suffering.

Peter’s instinct is understandable: “Let us make three tents.” He wants to remain in consolation. But Jesus does not answer him. Silence itself becomes instruction. The mountain experience is not meant to be clung to. It is meant to prepare the disciples for descent — for Jerusalem.

The great Carmelite mystic John of the Cross teaches that spiritual consolations are gifts, but they carry danger if misunderstood. In *Ascent of Mount Carmel* and *Dark Night of the Soul*, he warns against “spiritual gluttony” — seeking the sweetness of God rather than God Himself. Consolations must be received in their giftedness, not demanded, not clung to. The deeper grace of the Eucharist, for example, is not what is felt by the senses but what is invisibly accomplished in the soul.

The Transfiguration reveals glory, but it also calls for detachment. It invites faith beyond feeling.

Reflecting on this event, some have compared it to elements found in Near Death Experiences — overwhelming light, encounters with the spiritual realm, loss of fear, clarity of purpose, compassion, deep gratitude. Whether or not one focuses on that comparison, the pattern is illuminating. Those who describe such experiences often speak of:

- Living fully in the present
- Deep confidence without anxiety
- Decreased attachment to material things
- Certainty of spiritual reality
- Increased compassion
- Clear sense of purpose
- Awareness of interconnectedness
- Love of solitude and silence
- Wonder and gratitude
- Commitment to communal life

When viewed through the lens of the Gospel, these characteristics resemble the life of Christ Himself. Jesus lived in complete trust of His Abba-Father. He was unattached to possessions. He lived with compassion, purpose, gratitude, and communion. He withdrew into solitude for prayer. He built community. He moved toward suffering without fear because His identity was secure: “Beloved Son.” In this sense, the Transfiguration reaffirms Jesus’ mission. It strengthens Him for what lies ahead. It confirms that the path of suffering is not failure but fidelity.

For the Christian, holiness involves a similar dying. As St. Paul writes in Epistle to the Galatians: “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” The death to which we are called is not primarily physical. It is the death of self-centeredness, ego, control, attachment, fear. It is surrender.

Fr. Richard Rohr once remarked that we need to experience death in order to begin to live. The mystics speak similarly. Until we die to the life we have constructed for ourselves, we cannot receive the life God desires to give us. True life begins when Christ lives in us.

Thus, the call to holiness is inseparable from hope. Abraham hoped without seeing. The Psalmist trusted without possessing. Paul endured hardship because he knew death had been conquered. The disciples glimpsed glory so that they might endure scandal.

Holiness is relationship realized. It is life lived in union with Christ in the Spirit before the Father. It is confidence without arrogance, detachment without indifference, compassion without exhaustion, hope without naïveté.

We are called — as Abraham was called — to walk without always knowing the destination. We are invited — as the disciples were invited — to climb the mountain and then descend. We are warned — as St. John of the Cross teaches — not to cling to spiritual sweetness but to seek God alone. The personal questions naturally arise:

When have I experienced God’s call?

What has strengthened my response?

Have I known moments of light that prepared me for suffering?

Which of those deeper values — trust, detachment, compassion, gratitude, silence — are taking root in me?

To whom am I sent as a result of my call?

The voice that spoke on the mountain continues to echo in the Church: “This is My beloved Son.” And through Christ, that declaration extends to us. The call to holiness is not abstract. It is a summons into communion — now, through suffering, through grace — toward eternal life with God.

May we continue to respond to that call. May it motivate us to live lives filled with faith, hope, and compassion. And may every glimpse of glory strengthen us to walk faithfully toward the Cross, confident that it leads to life.

BINGO

is back

Saturday, March 7
Friendship Hall

Doors open 6:00pm. \$25 packet includes 15 regular games PLUS specials. Light refreshments will be served.

You must be at least 18 to play.
For information, call Isabella at 484-241-1296.



A **St. Monica Ministry Holy Hour** of Petition and Hope will take place at St. Theresa's on Tuesday, March 10 at 6:00pm. Presiding will be Rev. Christopher Zelonis, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Lehighton. Join us in praying for the return of those who have left the Church.

If you or a family member needs pastoral care, the parish must be contacted directly. Please call the rectory at 610-838-7045. Your call allows us to care for you spiritually in times of illness and difficulty.

Devotional Candles, March 1 - March 8

Sanctuary Candle

Erika Groegler
(offered by Erika & Earl Hill)

St. Theresa Candle

Brenda Krajci
(offered by Sally & Gary Strawn)

BVM Candle

Sr. Miriam Dennis Sculley, I.H.M.
(offered by Gary & Sally Strawn)

St. Joseph Candle

Salvatore Schiavone
(offered by Isabella LaTassa)



The Good Samaritan Society

offers short term assistance to residents of Hellertown and Lower Saucon Township. If you or someone you know needs help, the society can be reached confidentially at 610-509-5863.

The Good Samaritan Society will meet Tuesday, March 3 at 5:00pm in the Parish Center.

Please stop by and see what the Good Samaritan Society is all about.

Have you been collecting the items listed on the Reverse Lent calendar?

Your donations make a difference!

Join Fr. John Anthony Hutta for

"Unmasking the Enemy," a study of C. S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*.

Sessions will take place on Mondays from 10:00am to 11:00am in Friendship Hall.

Please call the rectory to register.



NUT ROLL SALE ORDER FORM

Name _____ Phone: _____

Walnut _____ Poppyseed _____ Lekvar _____

Seedless Raspberry _____ Apricot _____ Pumpkin Cheese _____

Total # of rolls _____ x \$18 = \$ _____

Order early to ensure availability! Order form and payment must be received by **March 2**. Cash or checks accepted. Please make checks payable to St. Theresa's Ladies Guild. Drop off order or send to St. Theresa Church Rectory, 1408 Easton Road, Hellertown, PA 18055.

St. Theresa Grief Support offers educational support and emotional and spiritual healing. Each session includes prayer, information, and sharing in a confidential setting.

The Grief Support Group will meet on Tuesdays in the Parish Center. Dates are March 3, 10, 17, and 24, and April 7 and 14.

For more information, please contact Miriam Martin at 610-442-0947.



We Are Going Up to Jerusalem: *Walking the Road That Changes Everything*

Lent is not simply a season on the calendar - it is a journey of the heart. Join the community at St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish for a powerful Lenten Day of Mercy featuring a dynamic reflection by the Very Rev. Gregory Noga of the Eparchy of Passaic. Father Noga will lead us in a stirring meditation on walking with Christ toward Jerusalem — toward surrender, sacrifice, and the saving love of the Cross.

Holy Tuesday, March 31 *beginning with 8:00am Mass.*

The day will include:

- Eucharistic Adoration
- Confessions throughout the day
- Lenten Reflection by Very Rev. Gregory Noga
- the Mystery of the Holy Anointing in the Byzantine tradition.

During this sacred time, we will rediscover how:

- Faith strengthens us to trust God when the road is steep.
- Hope opens our eyes to resurrection beyond suffering.
- Love fulfills the human heart through self-giving.

Come and sit before the Lord in Adoration. Come and receive His mercy in Confession. Come and experience His healing through Anointing.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY IS APRIL 12, 2026

Did you know? The Divine Mercy message is as simple as ABC:

A. Ask for His mercy. God wants us to approach him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins, and asking HIM to pour out HIS mercy out upon us and the whole world.

B. Be merciful. God wants us to receive HIS mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as HE does to us.

C. Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that all the graces of HIS mercy can only be received when we trust. The more we open the door of our hearts and live with trust in HIM the more we can receive.

At all entrances of the church are blessed Divine Mercy Cards. Please help yourself!

Have you prayed your rosary today?



Do you have an announcement for the bulletin?

Please email your publication-ready blurb to bulletin.sttheresacj@gmail.com ten days before the desired date of publication.



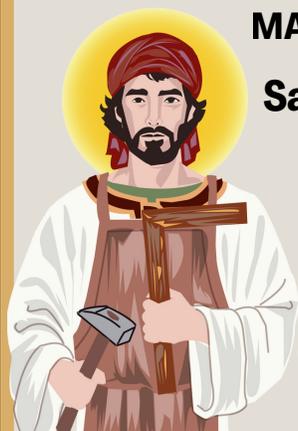
Women's Lenten Conference

Saturday, March 7, 8:00am - 3:00pm
Cathedral of Saint Catharine of Siena
1875 West Turner Street, Allentown

Join us for Mass with Bishop Schlert, lunch, confessions, Eucharistic adoration, and presentations. Hear from cultural commentator Noelle Mering, author of *Awake, Not Woke*, as well as psychologist Dr. Ray Guarendi, who is known for faith-based counsel on Catholic family life.

Register at www.allentowndiocese.org/catholic-life/resources-women/love-hope-holiness-womens-lenten-conference-2026

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Saint Joseph's Table

Sunday, March 22
Friendship Hall

immediately following
the 11:00am Mass.

*Come celebrate an
age-old tradition with
the parish community!*



It's the Ladies Guild annual Easter Bake Sale A St. Theresa's tradition

Saturday, March 28, 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Sunday, March 29, 8:30am - 1:00pm

Friendship Hall

Watch the bulletin for details.

CYO Track & Field

St. Theresa parish members in grades 2nd through 8th are invited to join **CYO Track & Field**.

Events include running, jumping, and throwing.

Practices start in mid-March. Meets are on Saturdays at Notre Dame High School, starting in early April and ending in mid-May. Interested?

Please email Coach Tony Karwacki at

tgkarun@aol.com



Would you like to join St. Theresa Parish ?

*Our Roman Catholic
Family of Faith welcomes you!*

Please call 610-838-7045.

St. Joseph's Feast Day Mass

St. Joseph's Church
413 E 5th Street, Bethlehem

Thursday, March 19

Doors open at 10:00am; Mass is at 11:00am

After the Mass, a buffet luncheon will be held in the Tavern Room at the Grist Mill, 170 West Walnut Street, Hellertown.

Cost: \$24.00 for SSJB Members and Friends;
\$29.00 for Non-members

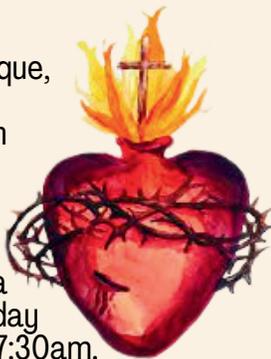
To RSVP, email the Society at
SSJB@SocietyStJosephBethlehem.org
or call Paula at 504-258-6018.

The Society of St. Joseph of Bethlehem exists to preserve St. Joseph's Church as a chapel and a landmark of Southside Bethlehem.

Our chaplain is Fr. Brendon Laroche.
Visit **www.facebook.com/SSJBPA**

In His appearances to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Our Lord designated the first Friday of each month as a day to honor His Sacred Heart and to make reparation for sin.

Please join the St. Theresa community in its First Friday devotions on March 6 at 7:30am.



"Speak, Lord" Women's Discernment Group

Friday, March 27, 5:30pm

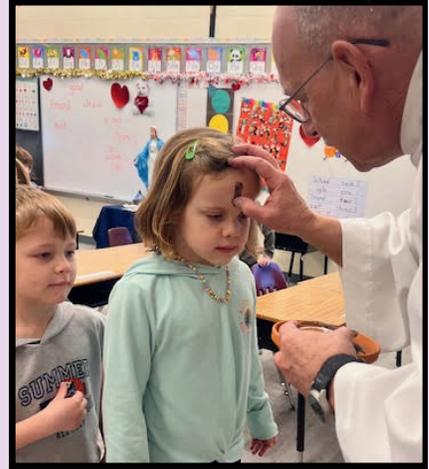
St. Theresa Convent, 1408 Easton Road

Women ages 18-40 are invited to come pray, be in community, and learn more about the vocations of marriage and religious life. Meetings include Adoration, a vocations talk, a pizza lunch, and fellowship. Meetings take place the 4th Friday of each month. For information call 267-775-1222 or email **marianmisioneras@gmail.com**

*The collection total for
February 22 will be published next
week. Thank you for your generosity!*

The St. Theresa Parish Prayer Line offers prayers for your intentions. Prayer requests may be emailed to Colleen Fitzgerald at colleenfitz0@gmail.com or called in to Fred Giordano at 610-838-6490.

This week at St. Theresa Preschool, our students learned about Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent, and that the cross is a symbol of God's love for us as we prepare our hearts for Easter.



RECTORY OFFICE: 610-838-7045

EMAIL: sttheresacj@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.sttheresaotcj.org

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

EMAIL: PREPsttheresacj@gmail.com

PREP OFFICE: 610-838-1020

ST. THERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS PRESCHOOL

DIRECTOR: Mrs. Mary J. Morsbach

PRESCHOOL OFFICE: 610-838-8161

secretary@stsprekhellertown.com

DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE

DIOCESAN COORDINATOR: Ms. Wendy Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC

VICTIM ASSISTANCE HOTLINE: 1-800-791-9209

EMAIL: victimsassistance@allentowndiocese.org

DIOCESAN SAFE ENVIRONMENT

DIOCESAN COORDINATOR: Pamela J. Russo, MSW, MS

TELEPHONE: 610-871-5200, ext. 2204

EMAIL: prusso@allentowndiocese.org

CATHOLIC BISHOP ABUSE REPORTING SERVICE

If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please visit www.ReportBishopAbuse.org OR call 800-276-1562.

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays, 4:00pm - 4:30pm; First Fridays, 12:00pm - 1:00pm.

DEVOTIONS

FIRST FRIDAYS: 7:30am recitation of prayers to the Sacred Heart followed by 8:00am Mass. Confessions are heard after Mass.

FIRST SATURDAYS: 7:30am rosary recitation followed by 8:00am Mass. Confessions are heard after Mass.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Tuesdays, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

ROSARY will be prayed every weekday in the church immediately following the 8:00am Mass.

ENROLLMENTS AND CANDLES

ST. THERESA MEMORIAL ENROLLMENT: For deceased loved ones, a monthly Mass is offered. Suggested offering \$25.

LITTLE FLOWER SOCIETY ENROLLMENT: To commemorate a special occasion, enrollees are remembered in a monthly Mass. Suggested offering \$15.

The Sanctuary, St. Joseph, Blessed Virgin Mary, and St. Theresa candles may be lighted for the deceased and for the intentions of the living. Suggested offering \$10.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION for ADULTS

Please call the rectory: 610-838-7045.

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Matthew Sweitzer (choirofthelittleflower@gmail.com)

LAY MINISTERS

Linda Dull (Linda.s.dull@gmail.com), Loretta Ulincy

PARISH SECRETARY

Isabella LaTassa, sttheresacj@gmail.com

FINANCE MANAGER

Susan Cavataio, finance.sttheresacj@gmail.com

BULLETIN EDITOR

Celeste Behe, bulletin.sttheresacj@gmail.com

GIRL SCOUTS/C.Y.O. - Hilary Jebitsch

HOLY NAME SOCIETY - Thomas Wiley

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - Bernard Antonovich (knights14990@gmail.com)

BOY SCOUTS - Steven Moser (smoser@ptd.net), Curt Fitzgerald

LADIES' GUILD - Stephanie Velez (sdvelez@ptd.net)

PRAYER LINE - Colleen Fitzgerald (colleenfitz0@gmail.com), Fred Giordano (610-838-6490)

SENIORS GROUP - Nancy Mosko (610-360-3738)

GRIEF SUPPORT - Miriam Martin (610-442-0947), Ellie Fenner, Jacqueline Yelovich

SALESIAN LAY ASS'N FOR MARRIED & SINGLES (S.L.A.M.S.) - Tom Vresics (tvresics1@gmail.com)

I.H.M. COMPANIONS - Priscilla Dole (priscilla.dole@gmail.com)

FUNERAL LITURGY TEAM - Linda Dull (Linda.s.dull@gmail.com), Bob Martin, Miriam Martin

LECTORS/EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - Lisa Albitz (Lisa.Albitz@yahoo.com), Dr. Francis J. Vasko (Vasko@Kutztown.edu)

DIVINE MERCY CENACLE - Felicia Wallach (wallach20@rcn.com)

ALTAR SERVERS (Youth and Adult) - William Ripper (wjripper@gmail.com)

GOOD SAMARITAN SOCIETY - Steven Moser (smoser@ptd.net), (610-509-5863)

ST. MONICA MINISTRY - Celeste Behe (stmonicaministry27@gmail.com)

LAY CARMELITES, PROVINCE OF ST. ELIAS - Linda Dull (Linda.s.dull@gmail.com), Deacon Maurice Kelly

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (CGS) - Maria Jones (marialellis@gmail.com)

HOSPITAL VISITS: On being admitted to any area hospital, please notify the Rectory Office and provide the hospital with our parish code, which is #177. Pastoral services cannot be obtained without the patient's explicit authorization.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: To arrange for the Anointing of the Sick, please call 610-838-7045, day or night.

COMMUNION CALLS: To arrange for Holy Communion to be brought to the ill or homebound, please contact Bob Martin. Call (732)589-1168 or email Gman3700@aol.com.

WEDDINGS: Engaged couples should make arrangements at least one year in advance of their wedding date. A marriage preparation program must be completed at least six months before the wedding.

BAPTISMS: Parents who desire baptism for their child(ren) are asked to call the rectory at 610-838-7045.