

**JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY CLOSÉS** — The Diocese of Metuchen celebrated the 35th Anniversary of its founding, last weekend with some 3,000 of our flock journeying to the National Shrine of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. As pilgrims we marked the close of this extraordinary year passing through the Holy Door, fasting, praying, and celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The closing liturgy was celebrated at the basilica with our Bishop James Checchio and the main celebrant, The Most Rev. Archbishop Christophe Pierre - *the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States*. It was an exciting and spiritually moving day. The festivities continued on our return to our individual parishes with the Feast of Christ the King. Last Sunday's prayer concluded at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi with solemn Evening Prayer and families gathered again from across the diocese. This time was dedicated to recognizing and honoring individuals, couples and parish groups presented to the bishop by their pastors as **Disciples of Mercy**. From the Church of the Sacred Heart, **Neil and Helen Towey** were recognized for their many years of dedicated service to the Poor and Needy in our parish family, our South Plainfield Community and beyond. Applying the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy flows naturally through the efforts and ministry they and others have offered through earlier years with our parish St. Vincent DePaul Society and now with the many activities, outreach and assistance offered through our parish Social Concerns Ministry.



May God bless them and those other dedicated parishioners who serve in love and mercy every day, week after week, year after year.

**PAPAL QUOTE AND CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING - THEME 6: Care for God's Creation:**

We show our respect for the Creator by our *stewardship of creation*. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

"...Saint John Paul II became increasingly concerned about this issue. In his first encyclical he warned that human beings frequently seem "to see no other meaning in their natural environment than what serves for immediate use and consumption"... Subsequently, he would call for a global ecological *conversion*.... My predecessor Benedict XVI likewise proposed "eliminating the structural causes of the dysfunctions of the world economy and correcting models of growth which have proved incapable of ensuring respect for the environment"... Pope Benedict asked us to recognize that the natural environment has been gravely damaged by our irresponsible behavior... With paternal concern, Benedict urged us to realize that creation is harmed "where we ourselves have the final word, where everything is simply our property and we use it for ourselves alone." #5&6, ENCYCLICAL LETTER, **LAUDATO SI**, On Care For Our Common Home, Pope Francis I, May 24, 2015.

*Are you praying your Morning Offering?*  
VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM — SACREDHEARTSPNJ

**O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all my relatives and friends, and also for the intentions of our Bishop James and the Holy Father. Amen.**



*"Anything we do, without offering it to God, is wasted."  
— St. John Vianney*

**DAILY INTENTIONS**

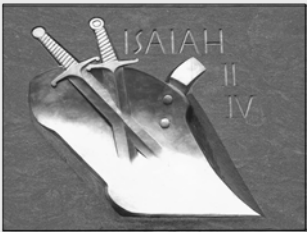
<b>Sunday</b>	That the Gospel message of Joy, Mercy and Reconciliation, may open hearts and minds to Christ Our Savior
<b>Monday</b>	<b>For the Sick and Persons with Disabilities</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	For Those who Suffer Discrimination regardless of its source (Age, Gender, Race, Religion, Disability, National and Ethnic Origin, Sexual Identify, Social Status)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>For Military &amp; Emergency Response Services Personnel</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	For all Pregnant Mothers and their Unborn Children
<b>Friday</b>	<b>For all Civil and Religious Leaders</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	For our Families, our Bishop James & his intentions, and the intentions written in our Parish Intention Book

**THOUGHTS ON PRAYER: ADVENT PRAYER**

Father in this season of Advent we prepare our hearts for Your coming. You are the vine, we are the branches. Come and tend us, prune us, clean us. Discard in us everything that will not bear fruit. Nourish in us everything that bears much fruit.

As we celebrate your first coming as a vulnerable baby, our hearts await your glorious coming as the eternal King. Nurture in us expectant hearts, O Lord. Cultivate in us a deep longing for more of you, O God. Until that day when you burst through the heavens, and flood our horizons with your glorious splendor. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, though out all ages and generations.

**Amen.**



CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080

Call: 908-756-0633 Online: [churchofthesacredheart.net](http://churchofthesacredheart.net)

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2016

Celebrate the rich traditions and spiritual treasures of the Seasons of Advent and Christmas with family and friends, in Church and at Home.

**The Advent Wreath** is a four week “calendar” of prayer inviting us to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World who calls us to everlasting life — candles, light, evergreen in an unbroken circle.



**The Christmas Crèche** was first presented by St. Francis of Assisi in the 13th century at a chapel in Greccio, Italy. It brings to our view the place, people and animals gathered around Jesus at His birth. It is a reminder also that the Wood of the Crib would become the Wood of the Cross. May we never lose sight of God's incredible love for us!

### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 10:00AM

### CHRISTMAS EVE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 —

5:00PM & 12:00 Midnight

4:45PM - Prelude with Choral & Handbell Choirs

11:45PM - Prelude with the Adult Choir

### CHRISTMAS DAY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 — 9:00AM &  
11:30AM

### THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30 —  
9:00AM

### THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

*World Day of Prayer for Peace*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2017 —

SATURDAY VIGIL: 5:00PM

SUNDAY - 9:00AM & 11:30AM

### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 —

SATURDAY VIGIL: 5:00PM

SUNDAY - 9:00AM & 11:30AM

*The Children's "Procession of Stars" begins Sunday at 8:50AM*

### THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

MONDAY, JANUARY 9 —

7:00PM

### EL SANTO NIÑO

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14 - 1PM

