

A festive Christmas wreath is centered on a dark red, paneled door. The wreath is made of green pine branches, yellow pine needles, and several large, brown pinecones. A large, shiny gold ribbon is tied in a bow at the bottom of the wreath, with red holly leaves and berries tucked into it. The text "PEACE" is written in large, white, serif capital letters across the middle of the wreath. Below it, the words "On Earth" are written in a white, cursive script font.

PEACE
On Earth

What's Happening This Week?

Today
No Rel. Ed.
No 7pm mass)



Christmas
Christmas Eve: 5 & 10:30 pm
Christmas Day: 9 & 11am
Next Sunday

Next Sunday
Regular Schedule; no 7pm mass)
No Rel. Ed.

Jan. 1 – New Year
New Year's Eve
5 pm
New Year's Day
10 am
January 1 is the Feast of the Mother of God and a holyday. Since it falls on a Monday this year, it is not a day of obligation.

Every Sunday
Pound A Week

Stewardship of Treasure



Last week: \$ 6618

Mail: P.O. Box 286
Convent Station, NJ 07961

973-267-5330

Weekly Eucharists

Saturday 5 pm
Sunday, 9 am, 11 am, 7 pm
Monday – Saturday: 8:15 am
Reconciliation
Saturday 3:30 pm or by appt.
Holy Days
8:15 am, 12:10 0m, 7 pm

Parish Office Hours
Mon. - Wed, 9:30–2 pm
Other times & days, call to see if office

This Week's Question
For Adults:
What will you do this season to reflect on God's gift of the Savior?

For Children:
What would you say to Jesus as you stand before the nativity in your home or church?



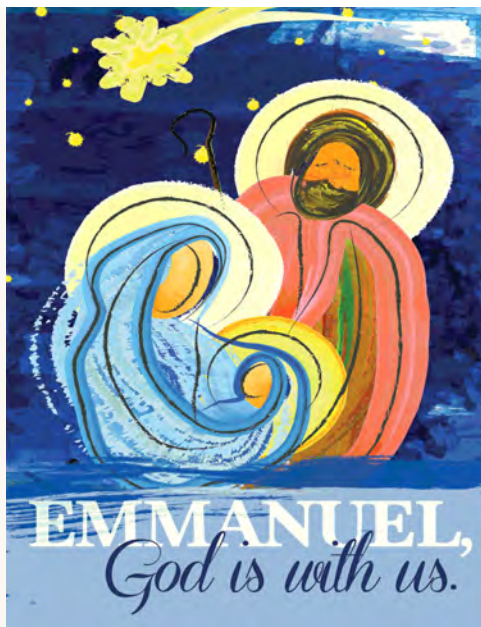
WELCOME

To all our visitors this weekend

Please remember the sick and homebound of our Parish.

We are all called to prayer. As a faith community, let us keep in mind all those who have asked us to pray for them, that they may experience the healing power of our gracious God

Special requests for prayers at liturgy and donations made in honor of loved ones. These intentions and names of our sick are noted on the Gifts Table in the Remembrance Book and on the Weekly Sheet.



GIVE YOUR GIFT ONLINE FOR ONE TIME DONATION OR ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS

CLICK LINK FOR "ONLINE DONATIONS" ON OUR WEBSITE

OR USE THIS QR CODE

Donate using your debit, credit card, checking or saving account.

1. Visit the parish bulletin and click **Online Donations**
2. Click on the collection you wish to donate to.
3. Click **Recurring Donation**, enter your donation amount and frequency.



Contact the parish office for help or questions



IT'S SAFE · IT'S SIMPLE · IT'S CONVENIENT

Don't forget to check out our website regularly. Besides parish news, there is world church news, spirituality resources, weekly bulletins and lots of other information. You can even check our our Facebook Page right from the website.
Why not set your browser homepage to www.stmnj.org!

NOTHING BUT BAD NEWS AND MISERY



EVERYWHERE I LOOK, THAT'S ALL I SEE...



YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO WRECK A BAD MOOD, DON'T YOU?



PREPARING FOR NEXT SUNDAY'S LITURGY

Feast of the Holy Family

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6; 17:5-16; 21:1-7

In ancient Near Eastern culture, it was thought essential to have a male descendent to carry on the family line and inherit all that his parents had worked for. But the elderly Abraham and Sarah were still childless, which seemed to contradict God's earlier promise to them. Today's passage will tell us how this problem was resolved.

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8-19

The author of the letter to the Hebrews frequently held up Old Testament heroes as models of faith. He did this because he was writing to a community whose faith was wavering. Today he presents, as examples, Abraham and Sarah whose faith had survived severe testing.

Blessing of the Christmas Tree

One family member should be ready to light the tree, and another to place a new or special ornament on the tree. All gather around the unlit Christmas tree. Sing a favorite carol, the Sign of the Cross, and then the following prayer of blessing



*God of all creation,
as we gather around
this tree,
we ask your blessing upon us.*
(Light the tree.)

*May your light surround us,
and show us the way to love and serve
you throughout this Christmas season.*
(Place the ornament on the tree.)

*May all who gather here with us
enjoy the beauty of this tree,
the warmth of laughter,
and the gift of friendship.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
AMEN.*

God's Grace is Young Enough

For the Young and Young At Heart

Readings for this Christmas
Isaiah 9:1-6 Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

Today is Born a Savior
Suggested Reflection Questions

- In Isaiah's time, the northern Jewish Kingdom of Israel was laid waste by the armies of Assyria. Today's passage offers the conquered people hope for a glorious future under a wonderful king. Christians have seen Jesus as fulfilling this prophecy. Where do you look for hope in your life?
- The letter to Titus was written about 30 years after Paul's death, and was written in Paul's name, a practice common in the ancient world. Titus was a traveling companion of Paul, and later was in charge of a Christian community on the island of Crete. He writes that the Spirit of God is poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life? How have you been blessed? Name the ways that God has graced you.



CHRISTMAS 2017

A Christmas Prayer



Loving Father,
 Help us remember
 the birth of Jesus,
 that we may share
 in the song of the angels,
 the gladness of the shepherds,
 and worship of the wise men.
 Close the door of hate
 and open the door of love
 all over the world.
 Let kindness come
 with every gift
 and good desires
 with every greeting.
 Deliver us from evil
 by blessings
 which Christ brings,
 and teach us to be merry
 with clear hearts.
 May the Christmas morning
 make us happy
 to be thy children,
 and Christmas evening
 bring us to our beds
 with grateful thoughts,
 forgiving and forgiven,
 for Jesus' sake. Amen.

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Welcome, Visitors and Family Members


Christmas is about strangers as much as it is about family and friends. The scriptures speak of Magi and messengers, shepherds and angels, people on the fringe, at best. The travelers Joseph and Mary, a foreign guiding star and even a murderous king. Among them arrives, Emmanuel, the Christ, the uninvited guest. But it was the presence of the Christ and the divine plan that brought these unlikely disparate groups together as part of God's plan of salvation, strangers no more.

We welcome the many visitors this weekend and former parishioners who are returning to celebrate Christmas with family and friends. Here, there are no strangers, just new friends. So please feel at home.



Connect with us
 thru
FLOCKNOTE

Keep in touch! Get important parish updates via email & text
Visit our church at:
flocknote.com/stmnj
or Text: stmnj to 84576
from your phone to subscribe

We  love having you
 as part of *our* flock

HOW you can HELP

Sharing time and talent is the backbone of the life of parishes. Fuller participation in parish life is most beneficial to you as well the parish. We urge you to help enliven parish life. Some avenues are obvious, you can serve as a reader, usher/hospitality minister, eucharistic minister, assisting in the young people's ministries, But there are many less visible aspects of parish life. We could use help in areas of technology, digital communication, desktop publishing, website, media, social outreach. Looking for a New Year resolution?

Stay Connected

Sometimes schedules may not allow you to be here on a regular basis. If you cannot visit as much as you like, you might want to check out our website at <www.stmnj.org>. You will find current church news, weekly bulletins and other resources. You will also find an Online Donation link that can allow you to continue to support the parish even when out of town, working weekends, or attending Mass at another parish. It is an easy, safe and secure way of giving. Just click on the link on the top of our website.

