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REVEREND FUN WWW.REVERENDFUN.COM



THANKS TO HIS COMPETITIVE SPIRIT AND IMPRESSIVE HEAD START, HE TOTALLY KICKED BUTT IN THE CHURCH FAST

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Easter Flowers

Easter Day is April 4 this year, and therefore it is now time to make donations for Easter flowers. You can designate flowers in memory of a loved one, in thanksgiving for some occasion, or in honor of someone you admire. Like the regular Sunday flower memorials, these donations help us pay for the beautiful flowers that adorn our church on festival occasions.

Donations received in the office by March 29 will be noted in the Easter bulletin. (Later donations will be acknowledged at a subsequent time.) If



writing a check, please mark "Easter Flowers" in the memo line. Be sure to include your name, and the name(s) of the person(s) or event(s) to be remembered in a note. You may place these donations in the Sunday offering or in the mailbox marked "Flowers" in the parish hall. ✕

Lent Continues

In this season of Lent, it is our responsibility as Christian people to special attention to our spiritual life. Some people give things up, in order to simplify their life and find a bigger place for God in it. Others take on something, such as a service project, in order to be the servant hands of God in the world.

Our prayer book suggests we observe a holy Lent by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. Whatever your choice, you are invited to take part in our parish's ongoing Lenten programs.

On Sundays, from 9:15 to 9:45 we have a simple Bible study. There is no prior experience or knowledge required here, as we seek to hear what God is saying to each of us today, not what scholars may have said about a given passage.

Scheduled throughout the Lenten season, our House Gatherings will this year take the shape of a symposium of Late Antiquity. The symposium was a common form of house gathering, and it served as the model for the Eucharist. We will break bread, share a meal, pass a cup of wine, and then participate in a focused discussion on a Lenten theme. ✕

Your Prayer Requests

Here is one way to submit names for the parish prayer list, by using this form:

Prayer Request
<i>Please add this name to the Prayers of the People:</i>
Name _____
Relationship to You _____
Concern or Illness _____
Your Name _____
Date to Remove _____
<i>Please leave this form in the Administrator's mail box. Instead of using this form, you may send a request containing this information via electronic mail to administrator@annunciationoradell.org.</i>

When was the last time you took a look?

www.annunciationoradell.org

Your Pledge for 2010

If you are among those who made a special gift to close the budget gap in 2009, thank you! We finished the year with over \$15,000 in deficit-reduction donations. If you remember the original challenge, you may recall that it asked you to raise your pledge—something we imagined would continue into 2010—and not simply make a one-time special gift. Please prayerfully consider whether you can continue this enhanced level of support. Your parish church sure needs it!



If you have not yet made a pledge, please consider doing so. The Vestry relies on your commitment in making plans for the year—and it is good for your soul! ✕

Cash and Checks

If you are giving actual dollar bills in the offering plate, please use one of the little envelopes found in the pew, and be sure to write your name on the envelope. This way we can see that you get proper credit for your donation. If you are putting a check in the plate, please do so without any envelope, thus saving our financial stewards the job of opening it, our cleaner the job of collecting it, and our volunteer the job of putting it out for the recycling. ✕



Your Two Cents' Worth

Contributions to our e-News are always welcome! Our hope is to have each month's edition posted online no later than the first of that month, and distributed on paper by the first Sunday of the month—so your input would be needed well before those deadlines. If you have a reminiscence, report from your group or guild, or musing to offer, please do! Send these to Barrie via electronic mail, if possible (rector@annunciationoradell.org). Your fellow parishioners would love to hear what you have to say. ✕



Absent Guests

Each week, we take a second collection at the altar steps. You probably have noticed the little chair with a basket on it; you pass by on your way to the communion rail. This is the Absent Guest Plate, and in it we collect money to give away to charitable purposes. Last year, we donated 3,853 to such causes, which include organizations and causes we regularly support an emergency funding for natural disasters and emergencies. Each month in e-News, we will highlight one of the recipients of this collection.

This month, the spotlight falls on Starfish. Starfish of River Edge and Oradell began its ministry of outreach in February 1975. Starfish provides transportation to and from doctors and other medical facilities for those unable to drive themselves. Staffed entirely by volunteers, Starfish does not charge for this service. Our expenses are met with donations from the towns' houses of worship and from those we assist. In 2009, Starfish completed more than 300 calls. Volunteer drivers and people to work from home and receive incoming phone calls once a month are very much needed. For more information about how you can help or be helped by Starfish, contact Ginny Baird (201-261-4731). To arrange for Starfish services, contact them at 201-265-7777. And please be generous the next time the Absent Guest Plate is designated for Starfish. ✕

Finance Report

Thanks to the hard work of our Treasurer, Dave Dziemian, this new feature will appear regularly in our e-News. The hope is to educate parishioners better about the state of our finances. Simply put, we need to close a budget gap of nearly \$25,000 this year. If we work together, we can do this with God's help.

As of January 31:

	Since Jan.	Annual Budget
Offerings Received	10,407	91,500
Offerings Promised	7,030	91,500
<i>Difference</i>	<i>+3,337</i>	
Total Income	15,258	139,860
Total Expense	31,312	164,627
<i>Difference</i>	<i>-16,054</i>	<i>-24,767</i>
Unrestricted cash on hand:	\$22,144	
Total pledges for 2010:	\$82,000	

Wednesdays

Our Wednesday services in the Lady Chapel offer an opportunity to worship in an informal and intimate manner. Each week, we hear tales of ancient saints, pray for the needs of the world, receive the laying-on of hands and anointing for God's healing, and share in Communion. These services also offer the opportunity for a simple Lenten discipline, as they will be held each Wednesday in Lent at 11 a.m. until Holy Week.



Beginning in Easter, we will switch to a twice-a-month format, with the service time moving back to 10 a.m. This earlier hour is more convenient for those who attend.

Here is the schedule for the transition and first few weeks of this new format for Wednesdays:

March 24	11 a.m.
March 31	No service
April 7	10 a.m.
April 14	No service
April 21	10 a.m.
April 28	No service
May 5	10 a.m.

The schedule may not always be as simple and clear as alternating weeks, so check the online calendar and read the printed Sunday announcements for up-to-date information. ✕

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, March 28: Liturgy of the Palms (in the parish hall), Procession, Reading of the Passion, and the Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 1: Footwashing, the Holy Eucharist, and Stripping of the Altar, 7 p.m.

Good Friday, April 2: Reading of the Passion, Solemn Collects, and Veneration of the Cross, 2 p.m.

Easter Even, April 3: Children's Easter Vigil: Fire, Song, Stories, Water, and the First Communion of Easter—all in under an hour, 4 p.m.

Easter Day, April 4: Festival Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt following. ✕



Special Thanks to...

Chuck May, for shoring up the Rectory fence when part of it blew down in a windstorm, and for installing a plaque, bulletin boards, a pencil sharpener, and various other important objects in our new office.

All those who helped clean up the parish hall and the old counting room on January 31. Our parish hall looks not like a junk heap but almost like a parish hall again! ✕

Coffee, Anyone?

We need some coffee-hour hosts. Won't you consider doing this, even once a year? The simple instructions and sign-up sheet are on the bulletin board by the kitchen door. It is an important ministry of hospitality, one that will be greatly appreciated by your sisters and brothers in Christ. ✕



Michael Wins!

Our [Michael Kooman](#) has received a prestigious Jonathan Larson Grant. Larson, who died in 1996, was the composer-lyricist-librettist of the blockbuster musical *Rent*, which in turn was inspired by the opera *La Bohème*. The grants are given annually "to honor emerging talent and infuse the musical theatre community with new work."

Michael and his collaborator, [Christopher Dimond](#), have this to say about themselves: "As musical story tellers, we aspire to expand the boundaries of a form limited only by imagination itself, to explore the depths of the human soul, particularly in its emotional extremes. It is therefore the goal of our work to explore hope in the face of despair, to find beauty and laughter in moments of supreme darkness."



To learn more about our talented musician, visit his website (www.koomandimond.com). Congratulations, Michael! ✕

The Church of the Annunciation

A Parish of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Newark
343 Kinderkamack Road, Oradell, New Jersey 07649
201-262-7222 ✕ www.annunciationoradell.org

A Seven-Week Advent?

Recent developments in the theology and practice of Advent has led to a proposal to expand our observance of Advent from four to seven Sundays. The response within the church to the obscene consumerism of the time leading up to Christmas Day supports this change, and will help pull the focus away from shopping days and back onto the hope of our salvation.

You may remember talk of the Advent Conspiracy last year. What was once a time to celebrate the birth of a savior has somehow turned into a season of stress, traffic jams, and shopping list. The Advent Conspiracy envisions Christmas becoming a world-changing event again. It encourages us to worship fully, spend less, give more, and love all. (See adventconspiracy.org for more information.)

One aspect of worshipping more fully will be to observe this expanded seven-week Advent this year. We will continue to use purple as our liturgical color for this longer season. Purple is the color of royalty, and it symbolizes our welcome of Christ the King. If we can figure out how, we will also keep a pink candle for *Gaudete* Sunday.

Advent is far more than marking a 2,000-year-old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God. This is the moment when the World became flesh, a revelation whereby all creation is reconciled to God. It is also a time when we reflect on the promised second Advent, including themes of accountability for faithfulness, judgment for sin, and hope of eternal life.

In this double focus on past and future, Advent also highlights our spiritual journeys—as individuals and together as a community. These journeys affirm that Christ has come, that he is present in the world today, and that he will come again in great power.

Acknowledging this provides a basis for “Kingdom ethics,” which calls us to holy living in this “between time.” As Christians, we are called to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to us as God’s people—not the people who spend \$450 billion on Christmas each year (as we Americans do!).

Our small change to a seven-week Advent will help us wait in expectant hope for such signs of hope. ✠

Parishioners’ Milestones

Birthdays: Alice Bezdjian 1, Nick Gray 2, Kathiann Krott 2, Nick Palladino 8, Jan Atwater 14, Briana Cottone 14, David Palladino 15, Leanna Cottone 17, Sam Wekselblatt 17, Nicole Garcia 21, Anthony Palladino 22, Janet Corrado 28, Mauro Palladino 29, Ava Bramson 30.

Baptisms: Kay Benning 1, Nick Gray 3, Chuck May 31.

Confirmations: Kay Benning 7, Marilyn Youakim 20, Emily Oliff 24.

Weddings: Eric & Nancy Olsen 22,
John & Nancy Tyrell 24.



Flower-memorial donations were received in loving memory of: Belle Schwoebel, Annie Hearle, Mary Ruth Allison, Bob Stone, and Warren Grefrath.

Memorial Fund donations were received, in memory of: Dorothy Craig, and Christopher Hrbek . ✠

Parish Prayer List

The printed parish prayer list on Sundays serves as a resource for you, so that we can include those in special need in our daily prayers. Names are ordinarily kept on the list for a period of four weeks, unless circumstances warrant otherwise. To add a name to the list, please leave a note in Gayle’s mailbox, using the form on page 1. Or, better yet, send her electronic mail (administrator@annunciationradell.org). Be sure to write clearly, and include your name, the name of the person to be added to the list, their relationship to you or the parish, a summary of their complaint, and a date to take them off the list. Thanks! ✠

Worship Leaders

Please note that our Financial Stewards are now counting *upstairs* in the new office area. I have a request to make of you, in exchange for the lack of inconvenience. I ask you—and everyone—to remain with us in worship until the service has come to its end and we are dismissed. Please don’t leave early, but remain in church, acting as role models and exhibiting leadership for the entire congregation. When we worship, we are doing the single most important thing we Christians can do together. So, please, let’s stay together her until the service is over! ✠