

Immaculate Conception

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Mahwah, NJ 07430
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Tel - 201-327-1276
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March 10, 2024 4th Sunday of Lent

LAETARE SUNDAY

Laetare Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent in the Christian liturgical calendar, falling roughly in the middle of the Lenten season. The word "Laetare" is Latin for "rejoice," and this Sunday is also known as "Rose Sunday" because of the traditional use of rose-colored vestments and decorations. This deviates from the usual penitential purple or violet colors associated with Lent.

The theological meaning of Laetare Sunday lies in the anticipation of the joy that comes with the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. It serves as a moment of respite and encouragement for the faithful who are engaged in the Lenten journey of self-examination, repentance, and spiritual discipline. The Church invites believers to pause and reflect on the joy that awaits them at the end of the Lenten season.

The rose color symbolizes a shift in tone from the somber penitential focus of Lent to a more joyful and hopeful outlook. It represents the halfway point in the Lenten pilgrimage, signaling that

the Easter celebration is drawing near. The Church uses the color rose to express a sense of anticipation, hope, and the promise of redemption.

In terms of the Church's mind about this liturgical tradition, Laetare Sunday is viewed as a reminder of the ultimate triumph of light over darkness, life over death, and joy over sorrow. It encourages believers to persevere in their Lenten observances with a renewed sense of purpose and hope. The liturgy and readings for Laetare Sunday often emphasize themes of joy, hope, and the promise of salvation.

In summary, Laetare Sunday holds a theological significance within the Christian liturgical calendar by providing a moment of joy and encouragement during the penitential season of Lent. The use of rose-colored vestments symbolizes the anticipation of the coming resurrection and reinforces the Church's message of hope and redemption.

OFFICE HOURS: Sun: 8AM-1PM; Mon/Wed 9AM-1PM; Tue/Thurs: 9am-2:30PM; Fri/Sat: CLOSED



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Come Celebrate With Us!

HOLY MASS

Saturday
5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)

Sunday
7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 AM
(9:30 Mass is also Livestreamed
online at www.ICCMahwah.org)

Weekday
12:00 NOON

Holy Day & Holiday
As announced in the Parish Bulletin

RECONCILIATION

at the Oasis of Mercy Room
4:00 - 5 PM - Adorno Father

HOLY ROSARY

Daily at 11:30 am

CHAPLET OF THE DIVINE MERCY

Daily after Mass

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every First Friday of the Month
Morning: 10AM-12Noon; Evening: 7PM with Benediction



EMBRACING THE EXTRAORDINARY: AN INVITATION TO THE PROFOUND EXPERIENCE OF THE EASTER VIGIL

My dear parishioners,

I know, many of you may find it tempting to skip the Sacred EASTER VIGIL liturgy, deeming it an inconvenience with its evening timing and extended duration. However, I implore you to reconsider, for in doing so, you might be missing the most profound and transformative aspect of your Catholic journey.

The Easter Vigil is unlike any other liturgy we engage in. It demands our presence in the quiet of the night, asking us to step out of our comfort zones and join our church community. Yes, it may seem a bit uncomfortable to venture out after dark, and the liturgy may take a little more time than we are accustomed to. But, my dear friends, it is an experience that is not just desirable but crucial for our spiritual growth.

This sacred night is not merely a checkbox on our Catholic routine; it is

an immersion into the very heart of our faith life exercise. The extended duration is not a burden but an opportunity to delve deep into the mysteries of our salvation history, from the creation narrative to the glorious resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Imagine standing with your fellow believers in the hushed darkness, awaiting the kindling of the Easter fire. Envision the Paschal Candle, a radiant symbol piercing through the shadows, testifying to Christ's victory over sin and death. Picture the power of the Exultet resonating through our sacred space, proclaiming the triumph of the risen Lord.

Yes, it may be inconvenient, and yes, it may take longer than our usual liturgy, but the Easter Vigil is an experience that will shape and enrich your faith in ways you cannot imagine. It is a celebration of new beginnings, an opportunity to

witness the transformative power of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist in the life of our new member.

Let us not allow the discomfort of going out at night or the extended liturgy to hinder us from this profound encounter with our faith. Come, dear parishioners, come and be part of something extraordinary.

The Easter Vigil is a symphony of resurrection joy, an experience that will linger in your heart long after the night fades.

May the hope of the risen Christ inspire you to join us at the Easter Vigil, for it is in these uncomfortable and extended moments that we often find the most profound connections with our faith.

Fr. Manolo



Your EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS build a beautiful worship space

The beautiful Easter lilies and spring flowers that adorn our altar and sanctuary are a special part of the celebration of Easter at Immaculate Conception Church. We invite all parishioners to share in the experience through a **MEMORIAL OR THANKSGIVING GIFT** by using the Easter Flowers Memorial Envelopes. Donations toward the cost of Easter flowers in the Church may be made in memory or honor of your family members and friends. This is a wonderful way to remember loved ones, honor friends, and offer thanksgiving to God for prayers

answered and blessings received. Please place your envelopes in the collection basket or bring them to the Parish Office before **March 23/24**. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. The names of all those for whom our Easter flowers are in memory or in honor of will be in the parish bulletin on Easter Sunday.

LENTEN EVENING OF REFLECTION

"forgiveness"

FR. JIM CHERN



Tuesday, March 12 at 7PM

- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- Scripture Reading as Father Jim Chern reflects on the topic of "Forgiveness"
- Silent meditation and reflection
- In Closing with Benediction

Please take this opportunity to meet Jesus in the desert during this 4th week of Lent. Forgiveness and reconciliation create a clean heart in each of us. Please take an hour out of your busy schedule to spend a few moments of quiet time with our Lord and meet Father Jim Chern, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark.

He currently serves as Director of the Office of Campus Ministry at Montclair State University.

The evening will begin with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:00 p.m., followed by Scripture reading as Father Jim Chern reflects on the topic of "Forgiveness". Silent meditation and reflection will follow. The evening will close with Benediction. Please join us to welcome Father Jim Chern, support your fellow parishioners and support our ICC Spiritual Life Ministry.

FORGIVEN

LENTEN EVENING OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

Wednesday, March 20 at 7PM

As we journey through the sacred season of Lent, a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal, we invite you to partake in this truly transformative experience. This solemn evening provides a sacred space for us to come together as a community, seeking forgiveness, healing, and a deeper connection with our faith. The grace of this season allows us to approach the sacrament of Confession with open hearts and receive the boundless mercy of our loving God.

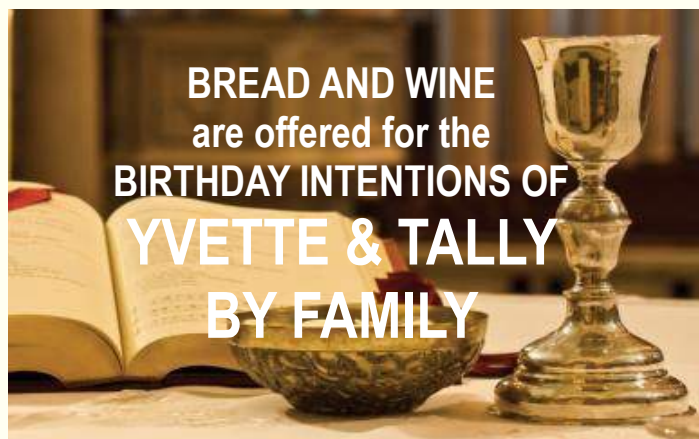
Let us embrace this opportunity for spiritual growth and healing as we prepare our hearts for the joyous celebration of Easter. Your presence adds to the richness of our faith community, and together, we can make this Lent a season of profound transformation.

Several priests will be available to listen, guide, and offer absolution. This is a unique opportunity to unburden your soul and experience the transformative power of God's mercy.

ANNUAL APPEAL PARISH GOAL FOR 2024

\$30,809.00

Starting from last year, 2023, the rebate on amounts exceeding our parish goal has been adjusted to 50%. We urge you to submit your pledges and/or finalize your donations by June 30, 2024, for our parish to receive a 50% rebate on any excess amount beyond our goal. Please be aware that any new pledges or payments made after this date will not be eligible for a rebate. Your timely contributions play a crucial role in supporting ICC.



IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE TIMELESS JOURNEY: THE GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Brace yourselves for an extraordinary odyssey into the heart of salvation! This Good Friday, we extend a fervent and impassioned invitation to an immersive experience like no other – The Stations of the Cross. Get ready to be swept away by the resounding echoes of transformation as pivotal characters in the grand narrative of Jesus' ministry share their gripping and powerful tales.

Step into the sacred narrative of redemption and grace as we invite you to witness the divine tapestry woven by the key figures who bore witness to the transformative ministry of Jesus Christ. From the daring quest of Joseph of Arimathea to the profound encounters with Nicodemus, the Samaritan Woman, and the complexities of Judas' journey – be prepared for a soul-stirring journey that transcends time.

This is not just an invitation; it's a fervent call to witness, to feel, and to be forever changed.

Join us for the Good Friday Stations of the Cross, where passion meets purpose, and redemption eagerly awaits your presence! Do not miss this unparalleled opportunity to be moved, inspired, and transformed by the profound meditations delivered by the very characters who walked alongside the Messiah.

As the voices of the past resonate with timeless truths, the invitation to grace beckons to you. Seize this chance to be part of an immersive experience where the sacred meets the profound, and where the heartbeat of salvation echoes in every tale. Let the flames of passion ignite your soul as you step into this divine narrative on Good Friday.

Join us on this sacred journey, where the resounding echoes of transformation will leave an indelible mark on your heart. Together, let us embrace the call to witness, to feel, and to be forever changed by the unmatched power of redemption.

Joseph of Arimathea: A wealthy council member who courageously asked for the body of Jesus, Joseph's heart was touched, and he became a devoted disciple.

Nicodemus: A Pharisee who visited Jesus by night seeking spiritual guidance, Nicodemus experienced a profound rebirth, learning the essence of spiritual transformation.

Woman at the Well: A Samaritan woman whose encounter with Jesus at the well shattered societal norms, revealing the boundless love and acceptance of Christ.

Judas: The complex figure who grappled with betrayal and redemption, Judas' story unfolds with raw emotions, highlighting the mercy that Christ extends even to the most broken.

Mary Magdalene: Once bound by darkness, Mary Magdalene's life was forever changed by Jesus' compassion, showcasing the power of forgiveness and redemption.

John the Beloved: The disciple closest to Jesus, John reflects on the profound love that bound them together, providing insight into the heart of the Messiah.

Simon of Cyrene: Forced to carry the cross, Simon's reluctant journey becomes a metaphor for unexpected encounters with Christ, illustrating the transformative power of compassion.

Veronica: In a simple act of compassion, Veronica offers Jesus her veil, receiving His image in return, a poignant reminder of the divine exchange that occurs in our acts of kindness.

The Shepherd Boy: A witness to miracles and teachings, this humble figure emphasizes the inclusivity of Christ's message, reaching out to the pure in heart.

Woman from Jerusalem: Moved by compassion, she weeps for Jesus on the road to Calvary, exemplifying the empathy that binds us to the suffering of Christ.

Zacchaeus: A tax collector transformed by Christ's acceptance, Zacchaeus shares the story of redemption, reminding us that no one is beyond the reach of divine grace.

Woman from Bethlehem: Representing the ordinary and the extraordinary, she reflects on

the significance of Bethlehem and the profound events that transpired there.

Adulterous Woman: Caught in sin, she experiences the radical forgiveness of Christ, embodying the message of redemption and the transformative power of divine mercy.

Longinus: The Roman centurion who pierced Jesus' side, Longinus discovers the true identity of the crucified Messiah, leading to a powerful conversion.

Peter: A passionate yet imperfect disciple, Peter's journey from denial to redemption serves as a testament to the enduring love and forgiveness found in Christ.

Blessed Virgin Mary: The Mother of Jesus, Mary's unwavering faith and maternal love provide a unique perspective on the profound sacrifice and resurrection.

Jesus: The central figure of this divine drama, Jesus' words and actions come to life through the heartfelt testimonies of those who witnessed His transformative ministry.

the celebrations of **HOLY WEEK & EASTER**

PALM SUNDAY, BLESSING OF PALMS

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 - MASS AT 5:00 PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 24 - MASSES AT 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 AM

THE TRIDUUM: OUR THREE HOLIEST DAYS

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 28

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER, 7:00 PM

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT following Mass until 11:00 PM

Holy Thursday is the beginning of the EASTER TRIDUUM. The Gospel tells the story of the Last Supper and commemorates the [institution of the Eucharist and the institution of the Priesthood](#).

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29

LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION, 3:00 PM

There is NO Mass today; the altar is bare and the door of the tabernacle is open. We begin and end our service in silence as we remember Christ's suffering and death.

VENERATION OF THE CROSS

As we venerate the cross, each of us is asked to contemplate the magnitude of Christ's redemptive sacrifice along with our own death to sin in the death of the Lord.

THE DEATH OF THE MESSIAH: Praying the Stations of the Cross - 7:00 PM

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 30

EASTER VIGIL, 7:00 PM

BLESSING OF FIRE AT THE PLAZA

SERVICE OF LIGHT - THE PASCHAL CANDLE

ESTER PROCLAMATION - THE EXULTET

LITURGY OF THE WORD - THE HISTORY OF OUR SALVATION

THE SINGING OF THE GLORIA

THE BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND FIRST COMMUNION OF CATECHUMEN

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

This is the central celebration of the entire liturgical year! It is the night on which ancient Christians 'kept watch' for the resurrection as marked in the sunrise of Easter morning. The liturgy also emphasizes the story of our salvation history through a Service of Light and Liturgy of the Word. This year, **Andrew Manzo** will be Baptized, Confirmed and will receive the Eucharist for the first time.

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31

MASSES - 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 & 12:00 NOON

ALL MASSES ARE IN CHURCH

Please carefully take note of the special Easter Schedule of Masses

Easter is a day of celebration because it represents the fulfillment of our faith as Christians. Through his death, Christ saved mankind from bondage to sin, and He destroyed the hold that death has on all of us; but it is His Resurrection that gives us the promise of new life, both in this world and the next.

That new life began on Easter Sunday. With the resurrection of Christ, God's Kingdom is established on earth, in the form of the Church. Easter isn't a spiritual event that happened just once, long ago; we don't say "Christ has risen" but "Christ is risen," because He rose, body and soul, and is still alive and with us today.

EASTER EGG HUNT FOR CHILDREN immediately following 9:00 AM Mass



The Prominence of the **PASCHAL CANDLE** at Easter Vigil: Illuminating the Resurrection Hope

powerful symbol of Christ's Resurrection, serving as a luminous proclamation of the triumph of life over death. This ceremonial candle, often towering and adorned with intricate symbols, is lit from the new fire, signifying the moment when the Light of Christ breaks through the darkness of sin and despair.

The Vigil's Solemn Beginning: As the congregation gathers in the dimness of the Easter Vigil, the Paschal Candle emerges as the focal point of the liturgy. The lighting of the Paschal Candle from the new fire marks the commencement of the vigil, a moment pregnant with anticipation and significance. The flame, representing the Risen Christ, dispels the shadows and kindles the hope that springs eternal.

Embedding of Incense Grains: Paschal Candles feature grains of incense, symbolizing the fragrance of Christ's sacrifice and the rising of prayers to heaven. Arranged in the shape of a cross, these grains emphasize the sacrificial nature of Christ's death.

Alpha and Omega: The Paschal Candle, often inscribed with the symbols of Alpha (A) and Omega (Ω), becomes a visual proclamation of Christ as the beginning and the end. In this gesture, the eternal nature of Christ is depicted — the One who transcends time, the source of all creation, and the fulfillment of divine promises.

Liturgical Proclamation: During the Easter Vigil, the Paschal Candle takes on an eloquent role in the liturgical proclamation. The singing of the Exsultet, a hymn specifically dedicated to the Paschal Candle, unfolds like a poetic narrative, eloquently articulating the theological significance of Christ's triumph over sin and death. The Exsultet breathes life into the symbols adorning the Paschal Candle, weaving a tapestry of salvation history.

Renewal and Regeneration: The lighting of the Paschal Candle is not a mere ritual; it is a profound symbol of renewal and regeneration. Lit from the new fire, it signifies the eternal cycle of death and rebirth, mirroring the Christian understanding of death leading to eternal life. In this act, the Paschal Candle becomes a timeless witness to the Resurrection's transformative power.

Baptismal Connection: Intimately connected to the sacrament of Baptism, the Paschal Candle symbolizes the Christian's sharing in the death and resurrection of Christ. The flame passed from the Paschal Candle to individual candles in the congregation signifies the spreading of Christ's light among the believers, echoing the words of Christ to be the light of the world.

Undying Flame: The flame of the Paschal Candle, unbroken and unwavering, becomes a visual reminder of the undying presence of Christ in the midst of His people. It transcends the historical event of Christ's Resurrection, becoming a living reality that continuously illuminates and guides the Church through the pages of history.

In the grand tapestry of the Easter Vigil, the Paschal Candle stands as more than a ceremonial accessory; it is the radiant symbol of hope, the embodiment of the Resurrection message. As it flickers in the solemn stillness of the vigil, the Paschal Candle invites the faithful to behold the Light of Christ, dispelling the darkness, and embracing the promise of new and eternal life. In its prominence, the Paschal Candle becomes a radiant testimony to the central tenets of the Christian faith, making the Easter Vigil an unforgettable journey from darkness to light, from death to life.

In the tapestry of liturgical celebrations, the Easter Vigil stands as a pinnacle, a sacred threshold where the Church ushers in the glorious dawn of Easter. Central to this profound and sacred event is the Paschal Candle, a beacon of light that holds unparalleled prominence during the Easter Vigil.

Pure Beeswax in the Paschal Candle:

Crafted from pure beeswax, the Paschal Candle symbolizes the purity and sweetness of Christ's sacrifice. The choice of this noble material reflects the reverence for Christ's sinless nature, portraying Him as the "Lamb without blemish." The sweet fragrance of beeswax mirrors the profound sweetness of Christ's sacrificial love, while its rarity and preciousness underline the exalted nature of redemption. Like the bees working harmoniously in a hive, the Paschal Candle signifies the unity of believers in the Body of Christ. The transformative process from honeycomb to candle mirrors the journey from sin to redemption, making the Paschal Candle a tangible reminder of the pure and sweet love embodied in Christ's redemptive work.

Symbol of Christ's Resurrection: The Paschal Candle takes center stage as a

MEMORIALIZE OUR 2024 PASCHAL CANDLE

We are thrilled to extend a warm invitation to participate in a beautiful tradition — the Shared Memorialization of the Paschal Candle for the year 2024! This sacred ceremony holds deep significance in our community, symbolizing the light of Christ and the hope it brings. As we embark on this journey together, we invite you to be a part of this meaningful experience.

Here's the exciting part - this year's memorialization will be shared! For a minimum contribution of \$100.00, the names of the individuals being memorialized and/or honored will be inscribed in our parish bulletin on Easter Sunday, alongside the names of the generous donors.

Moreover, the Paschal Candle, aglow with the collective memory and celebration, will illuminate our church throughout the entire Easter Season, visible to all, as a symbol of our shared commitment and unity throughout the year. Join us in creating a luminous tapestry of memories and shared faith. Your involvement will not only enrich our communal bond but also illuminate our worship space with the enduring light of unity and love. Don't miss the chance to be a part of this touching tradition!

Let us come together to celebrate, remember, and create a radiant legacy for our parish. Stay tuned for more details on how you can be involved!

FR. JM MANOLO A. PUNZALAN, STL-MA

Pastor, phone extension # 12

Fr.Manolo@ICCMahwah.org

ADORNO FATHERS**SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO**

Weekend Assistants / Confessors

DEACON JOSEPH YANDOLI

Permanent Deacon

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kathydevine@optonline.net

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Sacristan & Altar Servers Ministry Coordinator

ANN MARIE KELLY

Lazarus Ministry Coordinator

Baptismal Preparation Coordinator

9:30 & 11:30 Liturgical Ministers' Coordinator

amrak@optonline.net

PEG THORNTON

5:00 & 7:30 Liturgical Ministers' Coordinator

pegthornton7@verizon.net

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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 9, St. Frances of Rome

9:00am

Living & Deceased Members of ICAPs

John Gahwyler & Donald Parker by ICAPs

4:00 p.m.**Confession by Adorno**

5:00 p.m.

Arlene & Tom Allen by Terri, Rob & Sarah Herpst

Sunday, March 10 – 4th SUNDAY of LENT– LAETARE SUNDAY

7:30 a.m.

Josephine Collins by Christine Advincula

9:30 a.m.

Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

Mary-Ann McGovern by Tom & Sheila Stanford

11:30 a.m.

Joseph & Isabelle Avanzato by George & Ann Marie Kelly

Patrick O'Connor by Bridget O'Connor

Monday, March 11

12:00 p.m.

In Thanksgiving by Georgette K. Lentz-Straub

Bday Intentions of Nestor Hernandez by Ann Marie & George Kelly

Tuesday, March 12

12:00 p.m.

Birthday Intentions of Pat Flaherty

Wednesday, March 13

12:00p.m.

Annette Houk by Fleisch Family

Bday Intentions of Nestor Hernandez by Anne Mari & George Kelly

Thursday, March 14

12:00 p.m.

Angelo B. Maglio & Angela Maglio-Perine by Daughters

Friday, March 15

12:00 p.m.

Francine Albert by Catherine Ilardi

Oralia Martinez Menendez by Terri & Rob Herpst

Saturday, March 16**4:00 p.m.****Confession by Adorno**

5:00 p.m.

Gertrudis Silva by Marilyn Pena

Dean Toher by Peg Thornton

Sunday, March 17 – 5th SUNDAY of LENT

7:30a.m.

Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

9:30 a.m.

Delia & Patrick Lohan by Andrew & Ileen Lohan

Anne Gale Feehan by William & Nancy Sands

11:30 a.m.

Michael O. Bertone by Marianne La Croce

PRAYER REQUESTS

Linda Connor, Jonathan Cook, Thomas Derowitsch, Lynn Goodman, Rita Hetzel, Ryan Ilardi, Eleni Lambrinides, Belisario Machado, Sandra Machado, Kristen Mansfield, Adeline Grace Shelhorse, Jeff Steele, Erlinda Tabije, Jack Valentine, Donna Wolf, Susan Diane Longobardo, Giulia DeSantis-Belfert, Valerie Jahn, Sondra Berman Phillips, Caroline Shelhorse, Maryanne Kohutich, Joseph Welch, John Egan, Russ Kamp, Fred Hettinger, Joan Welch, Darryl Zack, Ryan Morel

REST IN CHRIST'S LOVE

Our Deceased Loved Ones whose funerals were held at ICC

If you lost a loved one whose funeral Mass was held elsewhere, please call Sr. Juanita for their names to be included in our list.

APR Mary Fleisch, Robert Loeber **MAY** Dennis Dodson, Eileen Cipollone, Ronald R. Longobardo **JUN** Daniel Mech, Eleanor Watson, Robert Watson, **JUL** Rado Petric, Michael Bertone, Ruth Anita Sommers, Rosemarie Murken Lang, Susie Smith **AUG** Jean Pierre Herve, Dennis O'Keefe **SEPT** Thomas Joseph Deheny, Helen Deheny, Joseph Recchione, Robert Andrew Lord **OCT** Joseph Chervony, Anne Feehan, Anne DeNicola, Rita O'Connell, Christine Howard, Maura Anne McGowan, Francis Schuh, Gerladine DiRisio, Roderick DiRisio, Maria Stach **DEC** Judith Ann Lowry **2024 JAN** John D'Avirro, Gloria Mahon, Arthur Keys, Josephine Collins, Florence Santimauro, Loius Raimondi, Jeanmarie Livi, Ann Dorothy Guarino, Joan Remo

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