Most Rev. James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Bishop of Metuchen

Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, D.D.
Bishop Emeritus

Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Zamorski, Rector
Rev. John Werner, Parochial Vicar
Rev. David J. Wejnerowski, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Virgil T. Tolentino, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Timothy A. Christy, VG, In Residence

Deacon J.P. Saggese
Deacon Rick Fortune
Deacon Emeritus Frank J. Cammarano
Deacon Emeritus Paul G. Licameli
Deacon Emeritus Guido J. Brossoni
Deacon Emeritus Ed Olegario, M.D.

SCHOOL  528 Main Street, Metuchen, NJ  08840
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL
Ann Major, Principal (732-548–3107)
www.StFrancisCathedralSchool.org

WEEKEND MASSES
Saturday Vigil  5:00 and 7:00 pm
Sunday  7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am; 12:00 noon

WEEKDAY MASSES
Monday-Friday  7:00, 8:00 am; 12:10pm
(Rosary 11:45 am)
Saturday  8:00 am

MORNING PRAYER Monday-Friday 7:40 am

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION  7:00am—11:00pm
(Monday—Friday) Lady Chapel - Parish Center

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Penance)
Saturdays  1:00-2:00 pm and 6:00-6:30 pm
or by appointment.

RECTORY  32 Elm Avenue, Metuchen, NJ  08840
Office Hours  Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-5:00 pm
Phone  732-548-0100
Emergency Phone  732-710-1416
Website  www.StFrancisCathedral.org
NEW PARISHIONERS are welcome to register by completing a form available in our Parish Office as soon as possible after moving to the area.

EUCHARIST FOR SICK/HOMEBOUND: Phone Rectory (548-0100) and arrangements will be made.

BAPTISM: 1:30 pm by appointment only (celebrated on most Sundays)

Baptismal Seminar: Pre-registration is required. Attendance during pregnancy is preferable. 7:45 pm, Rectory Meeting Room.

MARRIAGE: Registered parishioner(s) preparing for marriage should contact the rectory one year in advance.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES: Mon, Thurs: 4:00 - 5:05 pm; Tuesday evening: (8th grade) 6:30-7:35 pm.

MARIAN NOVENA/ROSARY: Saturdays after 8:00 am Mass.

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) - Those wishing to learn more about/be received into the Catholic Faith - please phone 548-0100. (Sara Sharlow).

SPONSORSHIP: Active practice of the faith, together with registration, is needed for sponsorship certificates and, possibly, the administration of some sacraments.
Masses For The Week...

SUNDAY, February 17 - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30am    -Margaret Yaros & Mary Noll r/o Jerry & Marlene
9:00am    -Annie Stankiewicz r/o Cyran Family
10:30am   -Robert Skwarek r/o Napolitano Family
Noon      -Patricia Wescott r/o Phil & Joan Hozeny

MONDAY, February 18 - Civil President's Day
*9:00am   -Living & Deceased St. Francis Parishioners

TUESDAY, February 19
7:00am    -Jim DeMary r/o Wife
8:00am    -Bernadette Halbing r/o Miriam DePasquale
12:10pm   -Lenny Klein r/o Carol

WEDNESDAY, February 20
7:00am    -Janet Winkler r/o Kurt Winkler
8:00am    -Feliciana Rayas r/o Imee Javier
12:10pm   -Eric Malinowski r/o Family

THURSDAY, February 21 - Saint Peter Damian
7:00am    -Charles Bruno r/o Tom & Janine Sharlow
8:00am    -Peter Barnes, Jr. r/o Mark & Bette Daniele
12:10pm   -George Einhorn r/o Cousins Kathleen, Virginia & Michael

FRIDAY, February 22 - The Chair of Saint Peter
7:00am    -Jervis Lynch r/o Petronella Family
8:00am    -Kevin Hamilton r/o Lapczynski Family
12:10pm   -Kelly Punzalan r/o Lori Mozo & Family

SATURDAY, February 23 - Saint Polycarp
8:00am    -Theresa Morgan r/o Abrams Family
5:00pm    -Albert DiLello r/o Family
7:00pm    -Frank & Anna Gurovich r/o Family

SUNDAY, February 24 - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30am    -Margaret Swarbrick r/o Jane & Art Paltz
9:00am    -Peggy Phillips r/o Family
10:30am   -Rita Marie Koehler r/o Joanne Markano
Noon      -Frank Zilinski r/o Family

The Sanctuary Candle for this week
has been donated
in loving memory of
Kevin Hamilton
by The SFC Religious Education Department

(in the Cathedral)

Counseling Services Available: Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen, offers Counseling & Wellness Services. Individual and family therapy is available for children and adults. If you, or someone you know, is in need of counseling, or has been impacted by addiction, we can help. Make an appointment by calling 800-655-9491.
SICK:
Katherine Accumanno,

DECEASED: James Checchio, Jr., the Father of Bishop Checchio, Kathleen Cushing, Marion Kiessler, Joanne Koob

Opportunities For Memorials
Did you know that in addition to Mass intentions for your loved ones you may remember them through the following memorial opportunities:
—Altar Flowers: Available weekly in the Cathedral at the High Altar for memorials, weddings and other occasions. Please contact Rectory Office for details.
—Sanctuary Candles: Available weekly in the Cathedral and The Lady Chapel. Donation: $20. Please enclose in an envelope with information and put in collection basket or mail or bring to Rectory.
—Msgr. Behl St. Francis School Endowment and The St. Francis Scholarship Fund: Memorial gifts may be made to either of these funds which are used to enhance the academic excellence of the parish school and offer tuition assistance. Please inquire at the parish or school office for further information.

Catholic School 2019-2020 Tuition Assistance
Online Application Process is Open
Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen Catholic elementary or high school may do so. The application process is online through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment. Online applications must be completed (including supporting documentation) by no later than March 31, 2018. Applications are in English/Spanish.

God’s Plan For Giving
Tithing
Thank you for your generosity the weekend of 2/10:
Envelopes & Loose Cash $18,153
Electronic Offerings $9,430
Total $27,583

e-Giving: Please consider using our parish e-Giving program. Sign up at: http://www.stfranciscathedral.org/FaithDirect
Parish Notes...

–SUNDAY: *Scrip* is available for purchase. Please support this fundraiser which benefits SFCSchool.

–MONDAY: President’s Day is observed. Please pray for the leaders of our country, past and present. One Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral at 9:00am. The Rectory Office will be closed, as is SFCSchool and there will be no CCD classes that day.

–TUESDAY: Prayer Group meets at 1:00pm in the JPII Room; SFCS Evening Registration will take place from 6:00 - 7:30pm in the Community Room for Pre-K - 7th grades.; Men’s Group meets at 7:30pm in the Solarium.

–WEDNESDAY: The MOMS’ Group meets at 9:30 am in the Mary Room/St. Francis Room; Every Wednesday, following 12:10pm Mass, parishioners will gather in front of the Cathedral to walk around the block reciting the Rosary for the intention of the Year of Consecration to Our Lady of Guadalupe; Patriotic Program to honor veterans takes place at 7:00pm in Community Room; Body of Christ Pastoral Team meets at 8:00pm in the JPII Room.

–THURSDAY: Bible Study continues The Story of Salvation at 1:00pm in Joseph Room and 7:15pm in JPII Room; Catechist Training at 7:00pm in the Joseph Room; Body of Christ Prayer Group at 8:00pm in the Community Room.

–FRIDAY: Legion of Mary, 11:00am, JPII Room; children in Group 1 will receive First Penance in the Cathedral at 6:00pm.

–SATURDAY: Children in Group 2 will receive First Penance in the Cathedral at 11:00am.

–NEXT SUNDAY: Filipino-American Community, 1:00pm, Joseph Room; Catholic Scouts BSA meet at 1:30pm in the Solarium; Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message, 3:00pm, Community Room; MSYGroup Meeting at 6:30 - 8:00pm in CYO..

Lighting Hearts On Fire

Diocesan Marian Consecration Preparation Year
Bishop Checchio will consecrate the Diocese of Metuchen to Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2019. A year-long preparation process was launched December 12, 2018, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, with Evening Prayer at the Cathedral. We implore Our Lady’s never-failing intercession by praying the following:

*God Our Loving Father,*

We lift up our hearts in gratitude for sending Our Virgin Mother of Guadalupe to set hearts on fire in the “New World” with the saving message of the Gospel.

She is our compassionate Mother and she desires to remedy our troubles, miseries and pain by bringing us into a saving friendship with her Son Jesus Christ.

We turn again with renewed confidence and outstretched arms to our Virgin Mother of Guadalupe to set our hearts on fire in our Diocese of Metuchen as we prepare to be consecrated to her maternal care.

Give to each one of us a desire to be a missionary disciple - - so that the world may come to know the transformative love of Christ through us. Mother of the Americas and Star of the New Evangelization, Pray for us.

Lighting Hearts On Fire

The Lighting Hearts on Fire Program is hosting a Movie Night for our parishioners. The movie is entitled *Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message* and it depicts the most important event in the evangelization of the New World: the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It will be shown next Sunday, February 24 at 3:00pm in the Cathedral Community Room. All are invited to view this film as part of our year of preparation for consecration to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Snacks will be provided. To register: email: info@stfranciscathedral.org or call the Rectory Office: 732-548-0100.

In addition, all parishes within our diocese are participating in the year of preparation through the regular recitation of the Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe which was composed for this purpose. Besides this, individuals and families are urged to pray together and prepare for consecration by hosting a traveling image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in their homes for a week during this year. To sign up: info@stfranciscathedral.org/732-548-0100.
WANTED: A LITTLE HOPE

Today’s psalm tells us: “Blessed are they who hope in the Lord. They are like a tree planted near running water that yields its fruit in due season, and whose leaves never fade.” If you, or someone you know, would like to know more about this God of hope, we invite you/them to an RCIA inquiry session. Inquiry sessions do not assume a commitment to join the Catholic Faith Family. Inquiry sessions are opportunities to ask questions about God, Jesus, the Catholic Faith Family. All who are unbaptized, baptized into another faith denomination, or baptized Catholic but have not received Eucharist or Confirmation, are invited. Inquiry sessions are for those who wish to inquire, explore, and search for ways to grow in relationship with God. For more information, call RCIA at 732-562-1990 x 1633.

Remember, as a faith family, we are connected to our current candidate (Ross Miller) and catechumens (Indra Ramlakan and Gina Mooney)...they need our continued support, encouragement and prayers.

You’re Invited!

Life Choices Resource Center’s
Annual Charity Banquet “Surprised By Joy”
Sunday, February 24, 2019 (4pm-8pm)
Pines Manor, Edison, NJ
An inspirational evening highlighting God’s love at work at Life Choices Resource Ctr., Metuchen
Tickets are $65.00 per person
For more information call: (732) 516-0911
or Download a Reply/Sponsor Form @ www.LifeChoicesRC.com
Booster & Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Valentine’s Day is Every Day
No reason why Valentine’s Day should be just one day each year. Why not give your spouse a gift that lasts every day? A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. The Next WWMEW is March 22 - 24. Phone 732-904-9636 or visit www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org.

February is National Catholic Press Month.
The annual drive to support our diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Spirit, takes place this month. Please support its good work by using the envelope in your tithing packet, or use e-Giving, to donate to our diocesan newspaper. Any amount you contribute will show your support for the ministry of The Catholic Spirit and will be greatly appreciated. And please remember to take home a copy of the paper. Thank you.

8-Day Pilgrimage To France
July 7 - 14, 2019
Normandy, Lisieux, Mont-St.-Michel, Paris. There are 20 spots open for a July 7 - 14, 2019 pilgrimage to France hosted by the Cathedral Choir. No singing necessary. Just enjoy the tour. The cost is approximately $3,445 per person double occupancy, which includes round-trip economy class transportation Newark - Paris, accommodations at a first-class hotel (4 stars European standard), Masses at well known churches, entrance fees to all sights, tour guides, daily breakfast and some dinners, plus all ground transportation. RSVP to Choir@StFrancisCathedral.org.

Patriotic Program
Please join the students of Saint Francis Cathedral School as they honor our country’s veterans, past and present, at our Patriotic Assembly on Wednesday, February 20 at 7:00pm in our school cafeteria. RSVP to Ms. Leila Toomey at 732-548-3107 with your name and branch of service, so that we can recognize your contributions.

Saint Francis Cathedral School
Registration for 2019 - 2020
Daytime Registration for New Families to our School took place on February 8. If you have missed the date and would like to register, Evening Registration is available:

EVENING REGISTRATION- Tuesday, Feb.19
6:00 - 7:30pm Pre-K - 7th Grades
Registration held in the Cafeteria - Community Room
NO SNOW DATE for Evening Registration
"Blessed are you who are poor,
for the kingdom of God is yours.
Blessed are you who are now hungry,
for you will be satisfied."

-- Luke 6:20-21a

PEOPLE OF THE RESURRECTION

In the past few weeks we have been hearing about the beginning of Jesus' ministry as written in the Gospel of Luke. Jesus began His ministry in the synagogue in Nazareth by reading, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me / because He has anointed me / to bring glad tidings to the poor" (Luke 4:18). With those words Jesus announced the whole purpose of His ministry. He himself was to bring the kingdom of God to the poor. This is the good news of salvation that He preached and brought about during His ministry.

Today we hear the Beatitudes, in which Jesus explains more fully what those "glad tidings" really mean. The good news is about salvation from suffering on earth and in the life to come. It is about divine favor resting on those who trust in God's love and mercy, rather than on those who trust in human plans, possessions, and power.

BLESSED

When we think of the word “Beatitude” we think of today’s discourse from Luke’s Gospel, or the more familiar one from Matthew (which begins “Blessed are the poor in spirit . . . ”). Actually, beatitudes occur throughout the prophets and Gospels. Today in Jeremiah (with an echo in the psalm) we hear, “Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord” (Jeremiah 17:7). Following His Resurrection in John’s Gospel, Christ proclaims, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed” (John 20:29). The evangelists placed these sayings throughout the Gospels as short reminders about the characteristics that one will find in a follower of Christ, characteristics that will help spread the Good News in this life and lead to eternal blessings in the next. In Latin, the saints are called the Beati, the “Blessed,” for they are the ones who lived the “blessed” life as described by Jesus throughout the Gospels. How blest are we, when we also strive to make our own days a living beatitude.
Kudos for The True Story of Cinderella

We congratulate and applaud Thom DeLessio, and members of the Cathedral and Diocesan Choirs, for their outstanding rendition of *The True Story of Cinderella* last Sunday. This original musical work by Warren Martin (1916-1982) was musically delightful, lyrically humorous, and performed with engaging talent, wit and verve. The capacity crowd of over 200 showed their approval with a standing ovation. All who attended left smiling and looking forward to the next Cathedral Choir offering.

Steubenville...

A weekend getaway for teens (8 - 12 grade), highly recommended, inspirational, grace-filled gathering of 5,000 youth from all over United States. Ours will be held at St. John’s University (8000 Utopia Parkway, Queens NY 11439) on July 19-21, 2019. Cost for the weekend prior to May 15 is $310; after May 15 it is $350. Cost includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, drinks, coach bus, and conferences/Speakers. A $50 deposit is required to save your spot. Check payable to St. Francis Cathedral Youth Group. We will leave CYO parking lot at noon on Friday, July 19, return 2:30pm on Sunday, July 21. Steubenville helps to ensure that all teens have an encounter with the God who loves them through Gospel message, prayer and fellowship. Provide email and phone # to Sister Maria Lan for permission slip or call her at 732-770-2506.

8-Day Pilgrimage To France

July 7 - 14, 2019

Normandy, Lisieux, Mont-St.-Michel, Paris. There are 20 spots open for a July 7 - 14, 2019 pilgrimage to France hosted by the Cathedral Choir. No singing necessary. Just enjoy the tour. The cost is approximately $3,445 per person double occupancy, which includes round-trip economy class transportation Newark - Paris, accommodations at a first-class hotel (4 stars European standard), Masses at well known churches, entrance fees to all sights, tour guides, daily breakfast and some dinners, plus all ground transportation. RSVP to Choir@StFrancisCathedral.org.

Inseparable: Faith and works are like the light and heat to a candle; they cannot be separated.

—Anonymous

Living Stations of the Cross

Middle School & High School Youth Group Living Stations of the Cross will be presented on Palm Sunday, April 14 at 7:00pm in the Cathedral. Please encourage your children to participate in and be committed to this project. *The Living Stations* will give everyone a chance to pray, reflect and meditate on the love Jesus has for each of us as shown through His suffering and death on the cross. Initial meeting is Friday, March 15 at 5:00 - 7:00pm in the St. John Bosco Room of the Parish Center, near the Pre-K door. Sister will talk to the children about the characters, and parts will be given out. A light supper will be provided for the children after each practice and parents are invited to volunteer to prepare a meal by giving name/phone # and date to Sister. Additional Practices, all from 5:00 - 7:00pm will be in the Church, will be on March 22, 29 (dress rehearsal), April 5 (dress rehearsal) and April 12 (dress rehearsal). On Sunday, April 14, meet in Church at 6:00pm. All are welcome to pray with us. Parts available are: Veronica, readers, Mary of Jesus, Mary of Cleophas, Mary of James, weeping women, the crowds, witnesses, Simon, Barabbas, Pilate’s wife, good thief, bad thief, Chief soldier, soldiers, singer, 12 apostles or “I will do whatever Sister needs me to do.” Sr. Maria Lan at 732-770-2506; sml@stfranciscathedral.org.

Youth Group News

–Feb. 17: No Meetings - President’s Day Holiday.
–Feb. 23: St. Vincent De Paul - - Both YG meet in breezeway at 7:50am for 8am Mass, leave right after, bring money for lunch, return at 3:00pm. Service Hours.
–Feb. 24: MSYG Meeting, Speaker will present “Missionary Call” share and discussion.
–Mar. 2: NYC Trip to Broadway Show, leave CYO at 9:00am, 2:00pm Show, Mass St. Patrick Cathedral, return 7pm. Sr. MLan at 732-770-2506 /sml@stfranciscathedral.org.

Youth Group Family Mardi Gras Bingo Night, Mar. 1, 6:00 - 8:30pm, Community Room. By Reservation Only. $35 for a family package for 4 includes your choice: Choice 1: 1 pizza, 4 games, 1 drink per person (buy additional drinks). Choice 2: New Orleans style Cajun dish includes chicken gumbo, red beans & rice with chicken, and jambalaya with ham (3 small portions per plate for each person) NOT SPICY!! 4 games, 1 drink per person (buy additional drink) Choice 3: 4 games, 1 drink, 4 egg rolls pp, 4 fried wonton pp, (buy add’t drinks $1) Additional Food: Vietnamese egg rolls $1.50, chips $1, desserts, hot chocolate, Don’t miss this annual night of fun for the whole family. All proceeds go to benefit YG Steubenville Conference in July. Thank you for your support.
Mentoring: Catholic Charities is seeking volunteer mentors, both male and female, to participate in one-to-one activities and be a role model to young people. Do you:
1. Have 3 hours per week to offer a child?
2. Like having fun?
3. Reside in Middlesex County or Franklin Twp?
4. Want to make a difference in a child’s life?
Contact Jeanette Cullen at 732-738-1323 or jcullen@ccdom.org for more information.

“Journey Through Grief”: A program for those who have recently experienced the death of a parent, spouse, child, friend or any loved one is being formed at the Cathedral. The Support Group will meet 7 Wednesdays.

DATE: February 27*    TIME: 7:00 - 9:00pm
PLACE: Parish Center - Joseph Room/Solarium
CONTACT: Jessie Flynn (732-895-2563)
Marybeth Connolly (732-512-8901)
There is no fee; Pre-registration is required

* Note Start Date Change

Caregiver Help Available: Interfaith Network of Care, Inc. (INC) currently has openings in our Respite Program. This is an ideal program if you are taking care of a loved one and they reside with you, and you and they could each use a change of scenery and a much needed break. We provide a 4 hour break once a week. While your loved one is with us, we share a hearty meal, music and do mind exercises. Info: 732-247-1655.

Job Bank: SC Cathedral seeking a Separated & Divorced Facilitator who is empathetic and exhibits acceptance of those who are divorced. Candidate must have correct knowledge of the Church’s teaching regarding divorce/remarriage. Candidate must be a good listener, since participants want to share their journey with others, without advice or criticism. If interested, call 732-548-0100 x225; Our Lady of Peace, Fords is seeking a Director of Music and Liturgy. Candidate must be a talented, accomplished musician, familiar with the Roman Catholic Liturgical tradition. Position begins the first weekend of July, 2019. Please send a detailed CV and three professional letters of recommendation to Rev. Matthew R. Paratore, 26 Maple Avenue, Edison, NJ 08837.

Eucharistic Ministers - February 23/24
5:00pm M. Roth, N. Hamilton, D. Reilly, C. Tomaro, E. Munoz, J. Franklin, P. Bershak, K. Garner
7:00pm K. Konick, C. Saggese, R. & K. Aiello, E. Swan
7:30am D. Kovach, D. Ulbrich, C/J. Donahue, S. Riolo,
9:00am A. Monteleone, A. Cirelli, B. Zatorski, M.D’Amico
R. Quaglia, D. Heyden
10:30am M. Conroy, B. Coakes, R. Baran, F. Corrente,
J. Grigo, D. Pappalardo, J. Bundoc, E. Beyers
12:00pm M. Licameli, M. & J. Hernandez, J.& R. Baker,
K. Manchery
12:00pm M. Licameli, M. & J. Hernandez, J.& R. Baker,
K. Manchery

Lectors - February 23/24
5:00pm: Maria Tomaro  7:00pm: Kieran Esposito
7:30am: Mary Brosston  9:00am: Marnie Jeney
10:30am: Sr. Bridget Harakal  12:00pm: Dawn Gomes

Altar Servers - February 23/24
5:00pm Team 12 7:00pm Team 13
7:30am Team 14 9:00am Team 15
10:30am Team 16 Noon Team 17