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, V G, 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; 12:10 pm (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.

How To Report Sexual Abuse: You are encouraged to contact the Diocesan Response Officer- 908-930-4558
(24 hours/7 days a week) or visit the diocesan website: https://diometuchen.org/report-a-suspected-abuse.
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.

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Masses For The Week...

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

MONDAY, February 25
7:00am    -Mildred Toupet r/o Stephen & Deborah Guralchuk
8:00am    -Raymond Mancini r/o Suzanne Kover
12:10pm   -Cole Hennessy r/o Conte Family

TUESDAY, February 26
7:00am    -Joseph Thang r/o Bill & Margaret Manza
8:00am    -Jervis Lynch r/o Lorraine & William Colavito
12:10pm   -Smith-Crowley Families r/o Family

WEDNESDAY, February 27
7:00am    -Francesco Pontoriero r/o Mr. & Mrs. Pasquale Calello
8:00am    -James Green r/o Mary & Marc Roth
12:10pm   -Marilyn Dunne r/o Frank Dunne & Family

THURSDAY, February 28
7:00am    -Marie Oras r/o Tania Dnistran Cappolino
8:00am    -Teofilo Macalintal r/o Ricardo & Anna Macalintal
12:10pm   -Margaret Smith r/o Family
*7:00pm   -Intention Body of Christ Prayer Group

FRIDAY, March 1 - First Friday
7:00am    -James Green r/o Josephine & Mark Czochasnki
8:00am    -Eugeniusz Kasztan r/o Mary Hopke
12:10pm   -Janice Grigo r/o Lorraine Carniglia

SATURDAY, March 2
8:00am    -Maria Coquia r/o Coquia Family
5:00pm    -James Watson r/o Popino Family
7:00pm    -Grace O’Hal r/o Husband Richard

SUNDAY, March 3 - Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30am    -Thorarinn Sigurdsson r/o Noel, Sarah & Brynn
9:00am    -Paul Francisco r/o Noel, Sarah & Brynn
10:30am   -Peter Abramchak r/o Family
Noon     -Gae Licameli r/o Licameli Family

The Sanctuary Candle for this week
has been donated
in loving memory of

Henry Cackowski
by his wife Mary Ann Cackowski
(in the Cathedral)
in loving memory of

Joanne Koob
Debbie Schurko
(in The Lady Chapel)
SERVING OVERSEAS: In Middle East: Jamie Lewandowski, Walker Luck; for all those serving in Covert Operations

SICK: Katherine Accumanno, Lourdes Awn, Angela Bianchini, Kathy Byram, Daniel Campbell, Donna Campisi, Cousin of Pat & Kathy Carroll, David Cascia, Peter Coakes, Frances Consordi, Anthony Criscitello, Douglas Horvath, Evie Fortune, Marty Gallagher, Carolina Guevarra, Mary Anne Hale, Maria Harrison, Franklin Hobayan, Douglas Horvath, David Kleman, Carol Kuligowski, Patricia LaPointe, Deacon Paul Licameli, Richard Levandoski, Sr. Dolores Lew, Eva Lucciola, Lois Lucey, RoseMary Lyons, Ellen Mahoney, Joseph Markano, Marilyn Muha, Pat Mulkerin, Bill Murphy, Baby Lorelai Pepin, Eleanor Phelan, Theodore Pichalski, Nadia Ruiz, Martha Schiachitano, Anne Scott, Gregory Sequeira, Joseph Sudnick, Sr, Leola Szlinsky, Mother of Lorraine Taurone, Kathy Werner, Joseph Wejnerowski

DECEASED: James Checchio, Jr., the father of Bishop Checchio, Kathleen Cushing, Eugeniusz Gromko, Joanne Koob, Robert Mueller, Margaret Smith

... all those recommended in the Book of Intentions

God’s Plan For Giving
Tithe
Thank you for your generosity the weekend of 2/10:
Envelopes & Loose Cash $14,160
Electronic Offerings $ 9,430
Total $23,590

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

The Immaculata Difference
Inviting all 6th, 7th and 8th grade families to an intimate, informative event regarding your high school decision-making process. Families interested in transferring into Grades 10 and 11 are also welcome. This event will take place on Thursday, February 28 from 6:30 - 8:30pm at Immaculata High School, Somerville. For more information and to RSVP, please visit www.ImmaculataHighSchool.org/Difference.

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.

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.

FYI: Anyone wishing to bring up the gifts at the Offertory of the Mass, especially if it is for a loved one, should speak with one of the Ushers before Mass.
Upon entering the Cathedral, please be kind enough to turn off all cell phones. Thank you.

Parish Notes...

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**2020 Mass Book Opening: Wednesday, February 27,** starting at 9:30am (please do not come earlier). Masses will be available from January, 2020 through December, 2020.

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---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 Rm.; **MSYGroup** 6:30 - 8pm, CYO.

---MONDAY: **Mass at Senior Residence**, 1:30pm.

---TUESDAY: **Prayer Group** meets at 1:00pm, JP II Room.

---WEDNESDAY: **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; **Bereavement Program, Journey Through Grief I**, begins at 7:00pm in the Joseph Room/Solarium.

---THURSDAY: **Bible Study** continues *The Story of Salvation* at 1:00pm in Joseph Room and 7:15pm in JP II Room; **Catechist Training** at 7:00pm in the Joseph Room; **Fr. John Werner** will celebrate Mass at 7:00pm and the **Body of Christ Prayer Group** will attend. All are welcome.

---FRIDAY: **Legion of Mary**, 11:00am, JP II Room; **Widows & Widowers** meet at 1:00pm in the Solarium; **Youth Group Family Bingo Night** takes place at 6:00pm in the Community Room.

---NEXT SUNDAY: **Family Centered Religious Education** at 9:15am in the Community Room; after attending 10:30am Mass, Rosary Altar Society members gather in the Solarium for their monthly meeting; **Mandatory First Holy Communion Parents Meeting** at 5:00pm in the CCR; **MSYG Meeting**, 6:30 - 8:00pm, CYO.

---NEXT WEEKEND: **RCIA Prayer Cards** of this year’s Candidate/Catechumens will be distributed. Please take one home and pray for the person listed on the card as he or she enters the final phase of Preparation. Please read their biographies on page 8 of this bulletin.

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**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 New Evangelization, Pray for us.*

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 this year. Sign up: info@stfranciscathedral.org/732-548-0100.

**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’l 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.
WANTED: A LITTLE HOPE

Today’s psalm tells us: ‘Merciful and gracious is the LORD, slow to anger and abounding in kindness. Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes.’ Doesn’t that sound like someone you would like to know? Come 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. Info: RCIA at 732-562-1990 x 1633.

Summer Camp 2019 Has Arrived!

Camp will run for eight weeks beginning on June 17 and ending on August 9. Our program is open to all children ages 4 - 13. A Camp Information Night has been rescheduled and will take place on Tuesday, February 26 at 7:00pm in the Community Room. Campers will go on weekly trips, swim at the Metuchen Pool twice a week, participate in arts & crafts, Gym, Computers and outdoor play. Please contact Mrs. Rizzo at 732-548-3107/RizzoM@stfranciscathedralschool.org. Forms are at www.stfranciscathedralschool.org under the parents/students tab.

For Families Affected by Mental Health Issues

A Catholic Prayer & Support Group for Families Affected by Mental Health Issues will take place at St. Patrick Church, Belvidere on Wednesday, March 13 at 10:00am AND 7:00pm. Elaine Eckard, President of Warren County Chapter of National Alliance on Mental Illness will serve as the facilitator. This newly-formed group strives to offer spiritual support and tips on how to cope with this health issue that is still misunderstood in our culture. Info: 732-765-6432.

Catholic School 2019-2020 Tuition Assistance

Online Application Process

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.

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.

FYI: Bishop Checchio will lead a pilgrimage to Mexico to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe Oct. 20-24, ’19. Pilgrimage Information Meeting will take place at the Diocesan Center on Wed. Feb. 27 at 7:30pm and at Immaculate Conception, Somerville on Thurs., Feb. 28 at 7:00pm.

Women’s Retreat

Do you ever wonder what God is doing and has done in your life, even without your help? In Scripture, God says, “You will be like a watered garden.” (Is 58:11-12) The blooms in the garden take root in the silence. Although the garden needs tending and harvesting, often in our busyness we miss the beauty that comes on its own. Come to Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer and spend time in the garden of your life. Fri., Apr.12, 6:45 - 9:30pm and Sat., Apr. 13, 10am - 5pm. Call 908-753-2091/www.msmhope.org.

Please Let Us Know:

If you know of anyone who is sick and unable to get to Mass/Church, whether it be at home, in the hospital, or in a nursing facility, please call the Rectory Office (732-548-0100) and let us know. We will be happy to bring Holy Communion or arrange for Reconciliation, or just come by for a friendly visit.
“Merciful and gracious is the Lord, 
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.”
Psalm 103:8

DO NO HARM

We listen quite a while before we get to the “punch line” of the first reading today: even though it would be an easy thing to do, David will not harm the anointed one of the Lord. We, of course, know that Jesus is the Messiah, the anointed one of God, but the Bible uses this term for many different people. It is scripture’s way of indicating who has been chosen by God for a special place and mission in salvation history.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus presents a greatly enlarged list of those who, as children of God, we should not harm, but love instead: our enemies, those who curse us or do us harm, those who owe us money, the ungrateful, the wicked. The point of Jesus’ teaching is not to encourage these kinds of behaviors in others, but rather to form us in the image of our heavenly Father by increasing our opportunities to love unconditionally, expecting no return; to be merciful and forgiving, even when it would be easier not to.

Reflection

When we make mistakes or even when we fail willfully and grievously, we tend to excuse ourselves and plead that we are "only human," by which we mean weak and fallible. Jesus knows we are only human. He also asks, in effect, that we try to be like God by imitating God's compassion. He does not command us to take things into our own hands, to even the playing field, to exact an eye for an eye or a tooth for a tooth. The God of Jesus does not keep books. God's business is kindness and mercy, and this is to be our business.

The responsorial psalm readies us for this good news proclaimed today. We sing of a God who pardons, heals, redeems, is slow to anger and rich in kindness. These are the true acts of God. And these are the very acts we are to imitate in our dealings with one another. The compassion and mercy that most perfectly describe God must also describe us. That is Jesus' command to us today: "Be merciful, as your Father is merciful."
GINA MOONEY lives in Metuchen with her husband, Brian and her son Caiden. Her interests include traveling, movies and reading. Gina, a Buddhist, inquired about the Catholic Church to unite her family in the Catholic faith. Through her RCIA journey, Gina has grown closer to Jesus through prayer, and she is learning more about God the Father. As a Catholic, Gina hopes to continue to grow close to God, and to share her faith with others. She looks forward to attending Mass and praying together as a family. Her son, Caiden, will receive First Eucharist this spring. Gina will receive the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil.

INDRA RAMLAKAN
Indra lives in Edison with her family, Stephanie and Sydney. Indra was thinking about joining a church and was drawn to the Catholic faith. Through her RCIA journey, Indra has found a greater peace through Jesus and has grown spiritually through prayer. As a Catholic, Indra looks forward to growing closer to God through her Catholic faith. Indra will be receiving the sacrament of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation at this year’s Easter Vigil.

ROSS MILLER
Ross, already baptized in the Methodist faith, will receive the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation at this year’s Easter Vigil. Ross lives in Lake Hopatcong and enjoys collecting sports memorabilia, hiking and reading. Ross has been attending Mass for 7 years with his fiancé, Sara. The couple will be married in May, 2019. As Ross has grown through the RCIA process, he is learning to place his trust in God. As a Catholic, Ross looks forward to educating and raising his children in the Catholic faith.

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.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY: Prior to setting the Reception date, contact Margaret Manza (732-548-0100 x212) for initial information about celebrating weddings at the Cathedral. Proper preparation usually requires one year advance planning.

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.

Keep up with Bishop Checchio around the diocese
The Bishop’s schedule and more can be found on our diocesan website:http://diometuchen.org/bishop/
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. Residence 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. Group will meet 7 Wednesdays.
DATE: February 27*   TIME: 7:00 - 9:00 pm
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

All Food donations should be dropped off at the Social Concerns Bin located in the main entrance Cathedral vestibule. Thank you for your generosity.

Job Bank: Seeking Daytime Home Healthcare Worker, Edison, please call the Rectory (732-548-0100); SFCathedral 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.

FYI: If you are suffering after an abortion, confidential, non-judgmental help is available. Experience God’s merciful love and begin the healing journey: Project Rachel -877-877-4300.