Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi

32 Elm Avenue  •  Metuchen, NJ  08840

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. Gerard Paderon, Parochial Vicar
Rev. John Kavas, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Edmund Luciano, III, 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.

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

HOLY DAY MASSES
Vigil          5:00 pm
Feast Day      7:00, 8:00 am; 12:10, 7:00 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES
Monday-Friday  7:00, 8:00 am;
              12:10 pm (Rosary 11:45 am)
Thursday       7:30 pm Communion Serv. monthly
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
Live Stream http://cvp.telvue.com/player?id=T05325

SCHOOL  528 Main Street, Metuchen, NJ  08840
Barbara Stevens, MS, Principal (548-3107)
Website www.StFrancisCathedralSchool.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 (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 necessary for sponsorship certificates and, possibly, the administration of some sacraments.
Masses For The Week...

Mary The Holy Mother of God

SUNDAY, January 1 - Civil New Year’s Day
7:30a - Marie Petrick r/o Jerry & Marlene Yaros
9:00am - Frank Burke r/o Dolores Schneller
10:30am - Bob Flaherty r/o Terry Kohl
Noon - Peter Trecolis r/o Carol & Lenny Klein

MONDAY, January 2 - Saint Basil the Great & Saint Gregory Nazianzen
9:00am - Living & Deceased St. Francis Parishioners

TUESDAY, January 3 - The Most Holy Name of Jesus
7:00am - Joseph Cassidy r/o David & Kathleen Kleman
8:00am - Marion Janis r/o BHHSNJ Metuchen
12:10pm - Teresa Villani r/o Daughter Frances

WEDNESDAY, January 4 - Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
7:00am - Gloria Blake r/o Susanna Fitzgerald
8:00am - Danny McGuinness r/o McGuinness Family
12:10pm - Florence Murtaugh r/o Ann & Paul Battaglia

THURSDAY, January 5 - Saint John Neumann
7:00am - Sr. Anselm, M.C. and Yemen Companions r/o Howard & Eileen
8:00am - Lucy Mollica r/o Brian & Megan Taxeras
12:10pm - Joseph V. Costello, Jr. r/o Mary Anne Hale

FRIDAY, January 6 - Saint Andre Bessette - First Friday
7:00am - Philomena Aretino r/o Kervin & Lynn Penny
8:00am - Peter Trecolis r/o David & Kathleen Kleman
12:10pm - Rose Pellegrino r/o Susan & Edie

SATURDAY, January 7 - Saint Raymond of Penyafort
8:00am - Irene Mackowsky r/o Michael & Genevieve Kalicun
5:00pm - Robert Flaherty r/o Linda Dalton
7:00pm - The George Family r/o Angela Veronica George

SUNDAY, January 8 - Epiphany of the Lord
7:30am - James Schleck r/o Flanigan Family
9:00am - Ann Manos r/o Jack Salata
10:30am - Robert Flaherty r/o Gerard Bargoud
Noon - (Liv.) Int. Paul R. Licameli r/o Licameli Family

The Sanctuary Candle for this week has been donated in honor of
Angela & Justin Armbrust
by Self
(In the Cathedral)
Please Pray

SERVING OVERSEAS: In Germany: John-David Rizzuto; and for all those serving in Covert Operations


...all those recommended in the Book of Intentions

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 the Rectory for details and availability.)
—Sanctuary Candles: available weekly in The Cathedral and The Lady Chapel. (Donation: $20. Enclose in envelope with information and place in collection basket or mail 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.
—The Cathedral Music Ministry Fund: Memorials in the name of loved ones may be made to support the Cathedral music ministry and choirs. Memorialize a Hymnal at a cost of $20 per book. Please inquire at the parish office.

If interested in any of these, please phone the Rectory at 732-548-0100 x210.

FAMILIES

Today’s Gospel tells us about the shepherds finding the Holy Family in the stable. In his prayer for families, Pope Francis prays: “Holy Family of Nazareth …make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God’s plan.” To be Catholic is to be a member of a faith family. If you, or someone you know would like to know more about the Catholic faith family, about God our Father, about Jesus who unites us as brothers and sisters, and about the Spirit that lives within us, come to an RCIA Inquiry session - open to all the unbaptized, those baptized into another Christian denomination, or those baptized Catholic but have never received BOTH Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. For more information, call Sara at RCIA – 732-562-1990 X 1633. Wishing you a holy and peace-filled New Year!!!
Parish Notes...

Monsignor Bob Zamorski, Fr. Gerry Paderon and Fr. John Kavas wish you and your families a Blessed New Year.

–SUNDAY: Filipino-American Community meets at 1:00pm in the Solarium for a Christmastime Gathering.

–MONDAY: Rectory Office is closed in observance of the New Year’s holiday; SFCSchool is closed and there is NO CCD; Eucharistic Adoration in the Lady Chapel takes place during its regular hours of 7:00am - 11:00pm.

–TUESDAY: Prayer Group meets at 1:00pm, JPII Room. Following prayer is Rosary Making for anyone interested; Journey Through Grief II meets at 7:00pm in the Solarium.

--WEDNESDAY: MOMS’ Group meets at 9:15am in the Mary Room/SFR.; Legion of Mary meets at 7:00pm in JPII Room; SFCSchool handbell and vocal choir, under the direction of Mr. Dan Mahoney, will perform their Epiphany Concert at 7:00pm in the Community Room. Provide-A-Meal ad Social Concerns meet at 7:00pm in the Solarium.

–THURSDAY: Rosary Altar Executive Board meets at 9:00am in the Solarium; Bible Study at 1:00pm & 7:30pm in the JPII Room; Body of Christ Prayer Group meets at 7:30pm in the Cathedral Community Room.

–FRIDAY: Widows & Widowers at 7:00pm in the Solarium.

–NEXT SUNDAY: Rosary--Altar Society members will attend 10:30am Mass and then meet in the Solarium; Family Centered Religious Education takes place 9:15 - 11:30am in the Community Room; Filipino-Americans at 1:00pm in SOL; Cathedral Christmas Concert at 6:30pm; we ask that you return filled Baby Bottles next weekend to help babies and mothers.

--Christmas Flower Envelopes are available at Cathedral entrances for those who wish to contribute to the Christmas decorations. These donations may be made in memory of or in honor of a loved one or simply as a gift to the Church. Please indicate your intention on the envelope. List is published during the Christmas season.

--2017 calendars are available at Cathedral entrances for our Parishioners. We are grateful to the Costello-Runyon Funeral Home and Flynn and Sons Funeral Homes for their kindness in providing the calendars.

Our Beloved Departed...

As one civil year ends and another begins, we remember our Parishioners who died during 2016. May they be enjoying fullness of life with Christ, our reigning Lord.


Cathedral Christmas Concert

Looking for a way to begin the New Year by sharing in an experience that draws family a little closer in love, values and faith? Enjoy the angelic harmonies of the St. Francis Cathedral adult, youth, children and handbell choirs at their annual Christmas Concert next Sunday, January 8 at 6:30pm. With an entertaining mix of new songs and Christmas favorites, expect the whole family to feel their hearts warmed and spirits lifted. No tickets are required but a free will offering will be taken. This year’s concert is performed in memory of Msgr. Behl. Net proceeds will be divided evenly between music ministry and The Monsignor Richard A. Behl Endowment Fund of St. Francis Cathedral School. See http://www.stfranciscathedral.org/ or call 732-548-0100 x235.

Parish Notes...

Upon entering the Cathedral, please be kind enough to turn off all cell phones. Thank you.
Baby Bottle Blessings: Recently empty baby bottles were distributed at all Masses. We ask that you fill them with spare change/money during the Christmas season and return them by next Sunday, January 8. Proceeds will benefit Life Choices Resource Center in Metuchen. Please pray for the women/children who will be helped by your donations.

Marriage Encounter: For a truly meaningful and long-lasting Christmas present, why not give your spouse the gift of a Marriage Encounter Weekend? Such a weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. The Next WWMEW is Jan. 13 - 15, 2017 www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org /732-904-9636.

Retrovaille -- Ministry to Couples in Troubled Marriages

Thinking about Separation or Divorce? You Can Help Your Marriage. Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Are you bored? Do you argue...or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrovaille is sponsored by the Family Life Office/Diocese of Metuchen to help couples through difficult times in their marriages. A French word meaning “rediscovery,” Retrovaille helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love that brought them together in the first place. If your marriage has become unloving and uncaring, or if your relationship has grown cold and distant, if you are thinking of separation or divorce, or if you are already separated or divorced, but (both of you) wish to try again - - then the Retrovaille program may help you. It consists of a weekend experience, Friday night to Sunday afternoon, for couples (no group discussions) and six follow-up sessions. During the weekend, presentations are made by three married couples and a priest. Techniques of communication that enable a couple to examine their relationship are presented. Phone the Diocesan Family Life Office (732-243-4573. Call the McTagues (evenings - 732-583-4468) or the Colasunno's (days -732-236-0671). Next Session: February 10 - 12, 2017.

In God’s Image

Faith Sharing Group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people at Sacred Heart Church, South Plainfield. Next Meeting: Jan. 11 at 7:00pm in the Annex. Open to LGBT adults 18 and over, and their families. All are welcome for faith sharing, prayer, conversation and support. Contact Fr. John: 908-756-0633 x125/ sacredheart@gmail.com.

Catholic’s Divorce Survival Kit

Sponsored by Family Life Office for men and women seeking healing from divorce. Based on teachings of Catholic Church. Open to anyone who needs comfort, counsel and clarity after divorce. Meets certain Wednesday evenings through January 18, 7:00 - 8:30pm at Pastoral Center. Call Ro at 908-313-5947.

Discerning The Priesthood?

Are you, or do you know someone, who is considering a vocation to the Priesthood? The St. John Vianney House of Discernment is having meetings this fall and winter, 7:30-9:00pm to assist you in your journey. The remaining date and topic is: Jan. 18: “Q & A with Seminarians” Info: 732-562-2457.

Calling All Young Adults 18 - 39

What is your deepest desire? Is it to live a happy and meaningful life? This retreat series is for all young adults who want to live life to the fullest in peace and joy! Consisting of afternoons of prayer, each session will focus on one aspect of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. Sessions take place on Sundays from 2:00 - 7:00pm at Loyola Jesuit Center, 161 James Street, Morristown. Dates are: Jan. 15, Mar. 19 and June 4. Suggested Donation for the Sunday afternoons is $10, which will help cover costs. The weekend of June 23 - 25, 2017 will end the series and more information about it will follow. Go to www.diometuchen.org/young-adult- retreats or phone 973-539-0740.

History of Our Diocese’s Beginnings

On November 19, the Diocese of Metuchen celebrated the 35th anniversary of its founding by Pope St. John Paul II. Msgr. John Szymanski, who served then-Bishop McCarrick as chancellor and, later, as vicar general in the early years of the Diocese, has written a history of how the Diocese came to be established and a chronicle of its first five years. Entitled, The Lighting of the Watch Fires, this book is available for purchase at a cost of $25. Please send your check to: Rev. Msgr. John B. Szymanski, The Maria Regina Residence, 5 Dellwood Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873.

How To Report Sexual Abuse

If you were sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or you know of someone who was, you are encouraged to report that abuse to law enforcement, through the diocesan website (www.diometuchen.org) or by calling Lawrence Nagle, diocesan office of Child & Youth Protection at 732-562-2413.
The Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Born of a Woman
In his Letter to the Galatians, Paul upholds both the divinity and humanity of Jesus the Christ: “God sent his Son, born of a woman.” The Messiah came to free those bound by the Law of Moses and offer a relationship to God like his own. The language of “ransom” here can be misleading; the word used more properly means “redeemed.” This terminology of redemption is rooted in ancient Israelite tribal culture in which each family had a designated “redeemer” whose role was to restore to the family anything or anyone taken from it. Sometimes this would require paying a ransom. Paul proposes that through Christ, believers are adopted into God’s own family as sons and daughters. As proof of this filial relationship, he points out that Christians participate in the Spirit, the powerful presence of the crucified and resurrected Christ, and so with Christ, they can address God as He did: “Abba, Father.” Further, the adopted sons and daughters of God then also share in Christ’s inheritance: fullness of life of the final age of salvation.

God comes to us as a human baby, born of a human mother, to show us that we are so much more than we tend to think we are. We are not slaves, but heirs of God. In Jesus, through Mary, God shines upon us kindly and gives us peace.
Holy Hour for Priests
On January 22, 2017 at 3:00pm, a Holy Hour for Priests will be held at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway. All are welcome. For more information, go to www.diometuchen.org/evangelization and click on ‘Intercessors for the Shepherds’ or phone 732-765-6438.

24 Hour Prayer Line: Our Diocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities has a 24 hour Prayer Line for those who desire prayer for special needs. If you, a family member or friend would like to be remembered in prayer for a temporary or permanent illness, please call us and leave a detailed message at 732-765-6431.

–Memorializing a Hymnal is a great Christmastime present. It honors the person memorialized and brings joy to the recipient. It is a gift that keeps on giving. Fill out the form below and return to the Rectory if you are interested.

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<tr>
<td>SUBSCRIBE TO A HYMNAL</td>
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<td>In the Christmas gift-giving season, why not consider giving your loved ones a lasting tribute by subscribing to a Parish Hymnal in their honor. Our parish “Gather” hymnals include most of the hymns currently in use at the Cathedral as well as many newer mainstream compositions. Also included are the people’s responses of the current edition of the Roman Missal. These books are available as memorials for the deceased, tributes for the living or simply as a gift to our parish at a cost of $20.00 per book. Please place the form below in the collection basket or mail it to the Rectory if you would like to subscribe to one. Please circle:</td>
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SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY: Contact Margaret Manza (548-0100 x212) for initial information about celebrating weddings at the Cathedral. Proper preparation usually requires one year advance planning.

Scouting News
A program for Boy Scouts will be starting in January. The purpose is to help Catholic Boy Scouts to more fully develop a Christian way of life within a Christian community. Ad Altare Dei Program is for Scouts who have completed the 6th grade. Pope Pius XII Program is for Scouts who have started 9th grade. Boy Scouts in the parish are encouraged to participate. For information, please contact Nancy Conroy, Program Coordinator at 732-549-7010.

March For Life...
is a prayerful, peaceful walk up Constitution Avenue, past the Supreme Court. It will take place on Friday, January 27, 2017. Begin the day with 6:30am Mass in the Cathedral and the bus will leave Library Place at 7:00am sharp. One rest stop on the way to D.C; bring your own bag lunch. Light refreshments will be provided free of charge on the bus. One rest stop on the way down. On the way home we stop for dinner on your own at Baltimore Inner Harbor. There is no cost for the bus or metro tickets, thanks to Msgr. Bob Zamorski. Call Elaine Yunker at 732-754-3692 or e-mail: elbo1974@yahoo.com.

Rally for Life The Diocese of Metuchen’s Respect for Life office will be running a bus trip to Trenton for the Rally for Life on Monday, January 23, 2017. This event is for those whose schedules do not permit an entire day in Washington, D.C. on Friday, January 27. There are two different days this year because of the timing of the Presidential Inauguration. Passengers must reserve their seats for the bus ride which is free of charge. Travelers will board the bus at the Diocesan Center, Piscataway at 9:30am. The Rally at the NJ State House begins at 11:00am and ends at 1:00pm. The bus will return to the Diocesan Center between 2:00 & 2:30pm. If you have any questions or would like to reserve a seat, please email amarshall@diometuchen.org.

Widows & Widowers Social Group
Our group is comprised of widows and widowers who gather for enjoyment and participate in a variety of social activities. If you enjoy laughing, making new friends and being busy on weekends, then our friendly group is definitely for you. Meetings are scheduled on the first Friday of every month in a Cathedral meeting room. The next meeting is on Friday, January 6 at 7:00pm in the Parish Center Solarium. If you are interested, please email naunijud@hotmail.com and include your telephone number. We will return your email and call you.
2016 Christmas Flower Donations

We are grateful to so many parishioners who have contributed to the Collection for Christmas Flowers

In Memory Of

Marcella Pericci
Irene Kaputa
John Natishyn
Florence Natishyn
Stanley Laurich
Francis Buddy Massa
Carol Trapp
Roslyn Macchia
Georgia Amis
Mr. & Mrs. Ting Kiang Koh
Albert & Anne Gore
Karen Gore Didzbalis
Maureen Kirk
The James Breen Family
Lorraine McMeekin
Ted Smyk
Anthony & Helen Szcerba
Matthew & Anna Herber
Carmen Medina
Joseph & Helen Buckewicz
Robert T. Donnenwirth, Jr.
Robert & Anne Hoffman
Paul & Nina Kozub
William & Mary Phillips
Phyllis Hoffmeister Grushesky
Robert M. Kossick
George H. Perry
Gary J. Beyer
Ray Manzarek
Joseph M. Rapach
Michael & Mary Rapach
Chiua Quintin Family
Louis N. Del Vecchio
Teofil & Josephine Surgos
Kathy McCriskin
Patrick Griffin
John Sheehan
Thomas & Bridget Sheehan
William Magrino

Mark Colby
Frank Carniglia
Ford/Clohesy Families
O'Dea/Fennessy Families
Savage/Barker Families
Gallagher/O'Connell Families
John D. & Helen F. Fennessy
Charles A. Barker, Sr.
May F. Barker
Alice S. & Willis P. Brewer
Julius W. Bonk
Frank & Adeline Adinolfi
The Bartnik Family
Maureen Scala
Arlene Georgio
Regina Delia
Michael Kostrey
The Yalicki Family
Rosemarie Staub
Judith Sommerstein
Rafaelie Marzella
Dorothy Mangieri
Jane Schreck Timoney
Catherine/Hugh McGovern, Jr.
Shirley & Charles Schreck, Sr.
John C. Schreck
Ellen T. Canny
John Hamilton
Karen O'Brien Brady
Anna & Helen Reilly
Angeline & James Monek
Gaetana Polacco
Jane Hudson
Louise Sprauer
Augustine Eosso, Jr.
Filomena & Augustine Eosso, Sr.
William E. Donoughue, Sr.
Joseph Yoschak
Anna Dennis
The Villani Family

Eucharistic Ministers - Jan. 7/8
5:00pm: E. Yunker, S. Sweeney, L.
Dalton, N. Davis, C. Tomaro, L.
Zelesnick, K. Garner, P. John
7:00pm: M. Brossoni, R & K Aiello,
D. Reilly, D. Zensky
7:30am: S&D Kovach, A. Ferrara,
A. McCadden, D. Monek
9:00am: M. A. & R. Lawyer, R. Altz,
K Kwiatkowski, A. Major, J. Morrison,
K. Schreck
10:30am: R./M. Fuchs, R. Bonk, J. & J.
Grigo, J. Onufer, F. Belmont, R. Baran,
F. Corrente, M. Garni
noon: P. Morgan, A. Bautista, D.
Rossi, T./N. Rossi, J. & R. Baker, C. &
C. Evangelista

Lectors: Jan. 7/8
5:00pm: John Porpora
7:00pm: Paul Zensky
7:30am: Ralph Quaglia
9:00am: James Dudley
10:30am: Marty/Mary Ellen Malague
noon: Catherine Murphy-Barron

Altar Servers: Jan. 7/8
5:00pm Team 22
7:00pm Team 23
7:30am Team 24
9:00am Team 25
10:30am Team 26
12:00pm Team 27

Happy New Year