**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 Kenneth Hamilton

Deacon J.P. Saggese

Deacon Rick Fortune

Deacon Emeritus Frank J. Cammarano

Deacon Emeritus Paul G. Licameli

Deacon Emeritus Guido J. Brosseoni

Deacon Emeritus Ed Olegario, M.D.

**JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY**  Beginning December 20, the Cathedral will remain open daily from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for parishioners of the diocese to make pilgrimages through the Holy Door.

**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, Tues, 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.

**Gift Shop:** 548-0100 x 225 - Located in Parish Center 45 LibraryPl. Use main entrance. **Hours of Operation:** Sat.: 4:30 - 8:30pm; Sun.: 8:30am - 1:30pm Mon., Tues., Thurs.: noon - 6:00pm

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**Parish Contacts**

- **Parish Served By**
  - Executive Assistant: Kara Kwiatkowski
  - Religious Education: Debra Schurko, PCL (548-0100 x226)
  - Business Manager: David Liantonio
  - Pastoral Council: Ed Williamson, Chairman
  - Finance Council: George Trapp, Chairman
  - Social Ministry: Josepha Flanigan (548-0100 x225)
  - Coordinated Ministries: Cheryl Saggese (632-9564)
  - Music Ministry: Thomas DeLessio, (548-0100 x235)
  - Youth Ministry: Sr. Maria Lan Nguyen CYO Coordinator: SFCYOCoordinator@gmail.com

- **ParishCOORDINATORS** -
  - Advocates for Disabled: Jane Conlon (549-2580)/Janet Onufer Michael (672-8000)
  - Lectors: Jerry LaPointe (549-3498)
  - Ushers: Tom Hansen (494-3106)

- **PARISH GROUPS** -
  - Adult Acolytes: John Grigo (548-5193)
  - Adult Faith Formation: Dcn. Ken Hamilton (848-260-0136)
  - Body of Christ Prayer Group: Thursdays, 8:00pm, CCR - (Monthly Communion Service, 7:30pm)PamGendlek491-6042 -Cathedral Choirs: Folk - Steve Kirbos (821-7950).
  - Adult; Youth (8-high school); Junior (grades 3-7); Kids of the Kingdom (K-2) - Thom DeLessio:548-0100 x 235
  - Central Jersey Catholic Singles (Over 40): Marisa Busacca (722-7902)
  - Eucharistic Adoration: Marie D’Amico (906-6537)
  - Evangelization: Ralph Quaglia (287-4739)
  - Filipino/American Families: Gil Vendiola (718-801-2315); Helen Vendiola (848-219-0488)
  - Greeters: Robert/Susan Riolo (548-0326)
  - Home School Assn. Co-Presidents: Jenn Cascio (603-9428)/Kathleen Gwozdz (662-7131)
  - Knights of Columbus: KotFC3272.webs.com
  - Legion of Mary: Wed. 7:00 p.m.- Rod Altz (548-0151) - Marriage Encounter: Russ and Janet Baker (494-3188) - Marriage Prep: Pam Schleck: schleckfamily@gmail.com
  - Mens’ Group: Tom Thomas (205-1541)
  - MOMS Group: Sandra Spinelli (494-0265)
  - Newsletter: StFrancisCathedral.org
  - Parish Historical Guild: Carmen Collins (494-0321) - Parish Prayer Tree:Belinda Coakes:spfprayertree@msn.com; -Rosary
  - Altar Society: Carmela Guarnera (549-7587) - Scouting – Cub Scouts: Michael Quinn (662-7476)
  - Girl Scouts, Brownies, Daisies: GSCS NJ Interest Form at 800-582-7692
  - Boy Scouts: V.Saulys (603-9204)/K. Gough (777-0023)
  - Scripture Study: Saturday (P.Morgan - 548-9743); Thursday (C. Gerhold: 744-1120)
  - Widows/Widowers: naunijd@hotmail.com

- **SOCIAL MINISTRY** - 548-0100 x225
  - Support Groups (as scheduled):
    - Bereavement Separated/Divorced Caregivers
    - Prayer Shawl Ministry
    - Pro Life: contact Elaine Yunker (548-8754)
    - Nat Fam Planning Hotline:800-334-0699/562-1990 x1623
    - Ozanam (Provide-A-Meal) Committee
    - Friendly Visitors (Visit with elderly or homebound)
    - Elizabeth Min (Share sanctity of life with mothers/mothers-to-be)
    - Social Concerns Committee (Serves the poor confidentially)
    - Intrfth Netwk Care(Volunteers for homebound/caregivers)
    - Unemployment Support Group (Networking)
Masses For The Week...

SUNDAY, September 11 - Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30am  - Marie Szepanski r/o Matthew Szepanski
9:00am  - Sarah & James Bransfield r/o Bernice Bransfield
10:30am - Mary Wojciechowski r/o Family
Noon   - 9/11 Commemoration

MONDAY, September 12 - The Most Holy Name of Mary
7:00am  - Stephen Sorace r/o Tom Zatonski
8:00am  - Karl Kocian r/o G.K. Youth Team & Coaches
12:10pm - Andrew Brislin r/o Robert Boris

TUESDAY, September 13 - Saint John Chrysostom
7:00am  - John McCauley r/o Sister Mary Elizabeth
8:00am  - Phyllis Tenore r/o Margaret DiBona
12:10pm - Bruno Empestan r/o Locsin Family

WEDNESDAY, September 14 - Exaltation of the Holy Cross
7:00am  - Dionisia Plaras r/o Marisa Plaras
8:00am  - Almando Alvira r/o Lucy & John Sivertsen
12:10pm - Diego Lumauig r/o Family

THURSDAY, September 15 - Our Lady of Sorrows
7:00am  - Alice Monagle r/o Ann Marie Regan
8:00am  - (Liv.) Int. Renato R. Razal r/o Family
12:10pm - Kenneth Burke r/o Wife & Family

FRIDAY, September 16 - Saint Cornelius & Saint Cyprian
7:00am  - Esperance Pereira r/o Family
8:00am  - Lucille Feretich r/o Sam & Elaine Convery
12:10pm - John Willis r/o Willis Family

SATURDAY, September 17 - Saint Robert Bellarmine
8:00am  - (Liv.) Blessings for Msgr. Bob r/o Family
5:00pm  - Angela Dowdy r/o Dennis Reilly
7:00pm  - Al Kattenhorn r/o Wife Maureen

SUNDAY, September 18 - Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30am  - Andrew Brislin r/o Thomas & Susan Meriam
9:00am  - Antonio Calello & Rosalia Fiamingo r/o Serafino Calello
10:30am - (Liv.) Int. Susan Duda r/o Virginia Walsh
Noon   - Anthony Robertelli r/o Joseph Monteleone

The Sanctuary Candle for this week
has been donated
in honor of
the intentions of
Frances Villani
by Self
(in the Cathedral)
PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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


DECEASED: Cousin of Sr. Maria Lan, Edith Altavilla, Suzanne Whelan, Richard Savner, Carol Gronroos, Carol Trapp, Father of Chito & Juancho Ciocon, Anne Fanelli, Donato Corrente, Patricia Burns, Angela Accinno, Jeanne Grigo, Jonathan Youhas

...and 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.

A Catholic Guide to End-of-Life Decisions is a resource made available by the National Catholic Bioethics Center. This document provides a clear explanation of the Church’s teaching on end-of-life care, including advance directives and physician assisted suicide. Individual copies of this guide can be downloaded or ordered online at www.ncbcenter.org.

Miracle of Life in the Making - The First 9 Months

Thanks to recent advances in medical science and imaging techniques, we have the privilege of observing developing life within the mother’s womb. With current technology, we can see the miraculous fusion of two cells that culminate in a fully formed human life. Follow along with us in the upcoming weeks as we continue our journey through the first 9 months of life.

Week 40: The baby is now approximately 20 inches long and weighs 7 to 8 pounds and continues to grow and mature. He or she has a plump body and a firm grasp. Typically, the baby is head-down in the mother’s pelvis and awaiting birth.

GOD’S PLAN FOR GIVING

Tithing

Thank you for your generosity the past 2 weekends

August 28 Total $27,401
September 4 Total $26,730

e-Giving

Please consider using our parish e-Giving program. To sign up, go to

http://www.stfranciscathedral.org/FaithDirect/
Parish Notes...

–THIS WEEKEND: Annual Peter’s Pence Collection will be taken to provide the Holy Father with the funds he needs to carry out his most important charitable works. The proceeds benefit the most disadvantaged: victims of war, oppression, natural disasters. Through your generosity, we can cast the peace of Christ upon the world; Please support the Middle School Bake Sale which takes place in the breezeway after Masses; SFCCFA selling Concert Tickets after Masses for the Philippine Madrigal Singers on Oct. 28 at St. Cecelia Church.

--SUNDAY: Rosary-Altar Society members will attend 10:30am Mass and then meet in the Solarium; noon Mass will be celebrated to commemorate the Fifteenth Anniversary of the 9-11-’01 tragedy. During the liturgy, we will remember those who lost their lives or their loved ones. Please remember prayerfully the victims and the bereaved on this day; Filipino-American Community will gather in the Community Room at 1:00pm; HSYGroup will meet at 6:30pm in the St. John Bosco Room.

--MONDAY: SFCS Volunteer Meeting takes place at 8:00am in the Community Room; Traditional CCD Classes resume at 4:00pm; Prayer Shawl Ministry resumes after summer at 7:00pm in the Solarium.

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

–WEDNESDAY: Mass will be celebrated at the Metuchen Senior Residence at 1:30pm; K - 5 Back-to-School Night at 7:00pm in the Community Room. Parents should make every effort to attend; Legion of Mary meets at 7:00pm, JPII Room.

–THURSDAY: Traditional CCD Classes resume at 4:00pm; Life in the Spirit Seminar will meet at 8:00pm in the CCR.

–FRIDAY: Filipino-American Choir will practice in the Server Sacristy beginning at 4:00pm.

–SATURDAY: Protecting God’s Children, 9:00 - 11:30am in the Solarium.

–NEXT SUNDAY: Family Centered Religious Education Session takes place today from 9:15 - 11:30am in Community Room; Welcome Reception for new parishioners will take place after the noon Mass in the Community Room; MSYG will meet in the CYO at 6:30pm.

–NEXT WEEKEND: Representatives from our Music Ministry will greet parishioners after Masses to answer questions and discuss the benefits of joining the Choir. Please stop by their table.

Banns of Marriage

I Kathleen Evans/John Redpath

Holy Hour For Priests

Today, Sunday, September 11 at 3:00pm, a Holy Hour for Priests will be held at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway. All are welcome to come and pray for our priests. For information go to www.diometuchen.org/evangelization and click on “Intercessors for the Shepherds” or call 732-765-6438.

Save The Date: November 19, 2016

Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Shrine

Bishop Checchio will lead a pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, November 19, 2016. This event will conclude the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy and will celebrate the Thirty-fifth Anniversary of the creation of the Diocese of Metuchen by St. John Paul II. More details about the pilgrimage, including how to register, will appear in the bulletin in coming weeks.

Golden/Silver Wedding Anniversaries

Couples observing 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversaries are warmly invited to celebrate with the Church of Metuchen. Renew your marriage vows at a special Evening Prayer Service celebrated by Bishop James Checchio here in the Cathedral on Sunday, October 30, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. Application forms must be signed by your priest, pastoral minister or deacon and returned to the Family Life Office by the Parish Office. The deadline for registration is Monday, October 17, 2016. A confirmation letter with further details will be sent once your application has been processed. For additional information, please call the Family Life Office (732-562-1990 x4573) or email-amatos@diometuchen.org. Application forms may also be secured by contacting the parish office or by logging on to the diocesan website: www.diometuchen.org; click EVENTS tab (top of page).

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.
Are you looking for a quality Pre School Program for your 3 or 4 year old? Look no further than St. Francis Cathedral School! We offer a two half-day program for 3 year olds and three and five full-day programs for 4 year olds. Please call our school office at 732-548-3107 or check our website www.stfranciscathedralschool.org for more information.

Catechetical Conference - October 1, 2016
Call To Discipleship - Nurturing God’s Children
Bishop James Checchio will celebrate 8:30am Mass at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center. It will be followed by a keynote address by Dr. Sandra Kennedy. There will also be workshops on a variety of teaching methods and practical ideas for catechists, parish catechetical leaders, Catholic school teachers and principals. Online Registration/details at: http://diometuchen.org/catechetical-conference.

Going to Rutgers in New Brunswick?
The Catholic Center at Rutgers, located at 84 Somerset Street on the College Avenue Campus, is looking forward to welcoming you to the New Brunswick/Piscataway campuses. Please note the following information:

Sunday Mass Schedule
12:00 PM Busch Student Center, Rm. 120ABC
6:00 PM Cook Student Center, Rm. 202ABC
6:00 PM Livingston Student Center, Rm. 202ABC
8:00 PM St. Peter’s Church, 94 Somerset St. (CAC)

Daily Mass (Monday - Friday) Schedule
12:15 PM Catholic Center Chapel (located inside CC)

Opening Activities
Monday, Sept. 5: Luau, 6pm, Catholic Center Thurs.
Sept. 8: Pizza on the plaza, 5 pm Livingston Friday,
Sept.9: Chill Out Social 7 pm, Catholic Ctr.
Friday, Sept. 16: Googa Mooga Game, 7pm, C.C., a
great game played outside in the dark.

Check us out at the Involvement Fair on Sept. 5!!!
Visit us online at www.catholic-center.rutgers.edu
Also check us out on Facebook:
Rutgers Catholic Student Association

A “New Evangelization” Course
Beginning this month, the Diocese of Metuchen will offer a nine month course, Fire Upon The Earth, to form people for the mission of evangelization. The classes will take place monthly on Saturdays from 9:00am - 12:00pm at the Pastoral Center in Piscataway. The course will provide a basic introduction to evangelization from the Catholic perspective and will work to both inform the participants about evangelization and transform them into evangelizers. They will be shown methods and practical tools that they can use to implement evangelization. Classes will run through May, 2017. Registration is required. Info: contact the Office of Evangelization at 732-562-1990 x1634 or email evangelization@diometuchen.org or go to www.diometuchen.org/evangelization.

Protecting God’s Children
Our parish offers opportunities to attend the “Protecting God’s Children” workshop which is designed for anyone who has significant contact with children. Therefore, new faculty, CCD Teachers, Coaches, Scout Leaders and all other new volunteers must register for one Protecting God’s Children session. Participants are asked to register online at www.virtus.org, then follow the directions to register. You may also phone 732-767-0415 with questions about registering. Upcoming Cathedral Sessions, all of which will be in the Solarium:
Saturday, Sept. 17 from 9:00 - 11:30am
Tuesday, Sept. 20 from 7:00 - 9:30pm
Tuesday, Oct. 11 from 7:00 - 9:30pm

This Catholic Bible Study Training Course is sponsored by the Evangelization Office. The course offers a basic introduction to the Sacred Scriptures for people who desire to understand the Bible better and/or may wish to facilitate Bible Studies. The classes lay a foundation in the Catholic approach to reading and interpreting the Word of God. Anybody who is interested in growing in knowledge and love of the Scriptures is invited to participate. The course will be offered on Saturdays at St. Mary, Alpha and Our Lady of Victories, Sayreville. Classes begin in September and run through May, 2017. Contact the Office of Evangelization at 732-562-1990 x1634 or evangelization@diometuchen.org.

Hispanic Heritage Mass
The Diocese of Metuchen invites all to the 2016 Hispanic Heritage Mass on Friday, October 28, 2016 at 7:30pm in the Cathedral. This event is sponsored by the Office of Hispanic Ministry. Theme: We celebrate our Faith! Sisters and Brothers Together! Sent forth to Evangelize! Call the Office of Hispanic Ministry at 732-243-4573.
RECONCILIATION
True reconciliation is emotional, dramatic, and cleansing. When two people meet heart to heart and work through old hurts, misunderstandings, and careless words, cleansing tears often flow and the encounter ends with an embrace that fills both with the warmth of a love too strong to fade.
The readings this weekend assure us of this healthy release that comes with reconciliation. They give us the courage to reach out to someone with whom we need to reconcile ourselves, and give us the courage to ask for forgiveness from God, too.
In the reading from Exodus, we see how God refuses again and again to give up on the Israelites. Even though they grow impatient with God and turn to false idols, God still calls them back. Luke’s Gospel assures us that God rejoices when we turn away from sin. Paul’s letter to Timothy encourages us, like Paul, to look back on our lives and recognize where God’s patient mercy has been shown to us.

LAVISH FORGIVENESS
Moses appeals to God for compassion in today's first reading. The point of Moses' pleas is not to provide a blueprint for pacifying an angry God, but to demonstrate that no matter our sin and its grievousness, God will always forgive.
In his Letter to Timothy, Paul uses himself, the great sinner, as an example of just how great is God's forgiveness. Finally, today's Gospel parables create a mural of God's forgiving love. Like a diligent housekeeper, a good shepherd, a loving father, God goes out of the way to recover the lost and to forgive. By pointing out that the woman leaves her nine silver pieces, that the shepherd leaves his ninety-nine sheep waiting, and the father leaves his elder son upset, Jesus urges us to abandon a stingy view of life. If God can be so generous, so forgiving, and so loving to those deemed unworthy, we must act likewise.
**Diocesan Youth Concert**
The Diocese of Metuchen will host a Youth Concert on Sunday, October 16 at 6:00pm at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway. Tickets and online registration are available at [www.diometuchen.org/youthconcert](http://www.diometuchen.org/youthconcert). Call 732-529-7931 or email youthministry@diometuchen.org for information.

**Pro Life Corner:** Please support A3452/S2026, the New Jersey Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. There is substantial medical evidence that babies in the womb feel pain at a very early stage of gestation. Thanks to advances in medicine, babies as young as 20 weeks post-fertilization can survive and thrive with appropriate care and treatment. Experts in the field of Maternal-Fetal medicine routinely administer pain medication as standard medical practice when performing fetal surgery because they recognize these babies as patients. The NJ Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (A3452/S2026) will protect babies in the womb at 20 weeks and older who are capable of feeling pain and ensure that babies born alive during an abortion will be given the same proper lifesaving medical care given to premature infants.

We are happy to report that A3452/S2026, the NJ Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act has been introduced in the New Jersey Legislature. We thank the sponsors of this bill for wanting to protect babies in the womb and the lives of women. The bill is modeled after H.R. 36, the Federal bill by the same name. Passing this legislation is part of the 2020 Project, a collaborative effort by pro-life groups in New Jersey to protect babies in the womb who are capable of feeling pain at 20 weeks gestation. **TAKE ACTION NOW!**

![magnet/sticker](http://www.babiesinthewombfeelpain.com)

Pray for the protection of babies in the womb and their families!

Contact your NJ State Senator and Assembly Members and ask them to support A3452/S2026 which is the “Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.” To find your Senator and Representatives by district/town, visit: [http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts/municipalities](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts/municipalities)

For more information on this initiative, or to obtain a car magnet/sticker, see: [www.babiesinthewombfeelpain.com](http://www.babiesinthewombfeelpain.com)

**Life In The Spirit Seminar**

“...I will ask the Father and He will send you another Advocate to be with you always.” (Jn 14:16)

God is calling you to a closer relationship with Him. Please answer the CALL! Attend this seminar on Thursday evenings through October 20 from 8:00 - 9:30pm in the Cathedral Community Room.

**In God’s Image:** Faith Sharing Group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people at Sacred Heart Church, South Plainfield. **Next Meeting:** Sept. 14 at 7:00pm in the Annex. Open to LGBTadults 18 and over, and their families. All are welcome for faith sharing, prayer, conversation and support. Contact Fr. John: 908-756-0633 x125.

**2016 Critical Life Issues Conference**

On Saturday, Oct. 29 the Diocese of Metuchen will sponsor the Annual Critical Life Issues Conference. Expert speakers will address pertinent issues. Fr. Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D., Director of Education at National Catholic Bioethics Center, will present *Grace and Mercy at the End of Life’s Journey;* Renee Bondi, Singer and Author, will present *Disability: God’s Mercy in Disguise;* Theresa Flores, LSW, MS, Human Trafficking Survivor will present *The Hidden Epidemic: Human Trafficking;* David Hajduk, Ph. D. will present *The Contraception-Abortion Connection.* Speakers will give thought-provoking testimony of real-life experiences.

Conference will be held at Saint John Neumann Center, Piscataway. Opening Mass at 8:30am will be celebrated by Bishop Checchio. There will be Eucharistic Adoration throughout the day, which ends at 3:30pm. Cost: $25 includes lunch and handouts. Registration: Call 732-562-1990 x1629 or X1543, or email amarshall@diometuchen.org. Limited seating.

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-awake the love, trust and commitment that brought them together in the first place. It affords the couple the opportunity to examine and strengthen their relationship in a non-threatening faith environment. 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 (562-1990 x1624) or visit the website at [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com) Call the McCaughey (evenings - 732-583-4468) or the Cusanouosnos (days -732-236-0671). **Next Session:** September 16 - 18, 2016.

**RCIA:** All of the parables in today’s Gospel remind us of our importance to God. He loves us as if we were the only person on earth. Most especially, these stories remind us that no matter how far we stray; God will always be waiting for us. If you are unbaptized or baptized into another faith denomination and you are worshiping with us, we welcome you and hope you will return. We would like to meet with you or any baptized Catholic who has not received Eucharist or Confirmation to talk more about God’s love. If you are interested, please call Sara at RCIA – 732-562-1990 x 1633.
Social Concerns

45 Library Place - Metuchen 08840 - Parish Center
732-548-0100 x225

Food Collection Weekend: Thank you for your ongoing donations and generosity to those in need.

“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 8 Wednesdays.

DATE: Oct. 5 - Nov. 16 & Nov.30  TIME: 7:00pm
PLACE: Parish Center - Joseph Room/Solarium
CONTACT: Jo Flanigan (732-548-0100 x225)
Jessie Flynn (732-895-2563)
There is no fee - - Pre-registration is required.

--Journey Through Grief - Step II: Monthly meetings will resume on Tuesday, September 13 at 7:00pm in the Parish Center Solarium & Joseph Room. Anyone who has suffered a loss and is in the healing process is welcome.

--Put A Candle On The Cake to wish Interfaith Network of Care a Happy 20th Anniversary. In honor of its Twentieth Anniversary, Interfaith Network of Care warmly invites individuals, businesses and organizations to purchase a special candle to benefit INC and honor those volunteers who have brought light and love to thousands! What a great way to honor or memorialize a special person in your life. There are two giving opportunity levels. Donations are $200 for a candle on the top tier, while donations of $20 place a candle on the remaining tiers. Set the world aglow with a gift for the elderly and people with disabilities. Names of donors will be placed in a newsletter following Oktoberfest (Sept. 16). Please send Donor Name, Address, Honoree Name to INC, 62 South Main Street, Milltown, NJ 08850 by August 31, 2016.

Please support our local poverty relief efforts by donating gently used clothing, bedding – Help Support Catholic Charities:

Main Street, Milltown, NJ 08850 by August 31, 2016.

In honor of its Twentieth Anniversary, Interfaith Network of Care warmly invites individuals, businesses and organizations to purchase a special candle to benefit INC and honor those volunteers who have brought light and love to thousands! What a great way to honor or memorialize a special person in your life. There are two giving opportunity levels. Donations are $200 for a candle on the top tier, while donations of $20 place a candle on the remaining tiers. Set the world aglow with a gift for the elderly and people with disabilities. Names of donors will be placed in a newsletter following Oktoberfest (Sept. 16). Please send Donor Name, Address, Honoree Name to INC, 62 South Main Street, Milltown, NJ 08850 by August 31, 2016.

Eucharistic Ministers: September 17/18
5:00pm N. Davis, M.Conroy, M. DePasquale, M. & A. Quizon, E. & J. Lyons, K.Garner
7:00pm E. Gutierrez, J. Pasquale, N. Cadorna, E. Lishinsky, C. Roberts, C. Evangelista
7:30am C. Kozak, D. Monek, M &J Cyran, B&R.Cushing
9:00am M. Kushnerick, D. Heyden, J. Morrison, M.D’Amico, A.Bianchini, G.Montealeone,A.Major,SM&Santangelo
10:30am E. Beyers, J. Kelly, B.Lumauig, R. Bonk, S.Francis, B. & E. Williamson, J.Bundoc
12:00pm K. Manchery, P. Morgan, T/N. Rossi, A. McGuire, R. Cron, E & T. Pana, M. Licameli

Lectors: September 17/18
5:00pm: Larry Mc Hugh/7:00pm: Jack Swartz
7:30am: Eileen Lishinsky/9:00am: Elizabeth Rooney
10:30am: Boris Moczula/Maureen Varley 12pm:M.K.Cranley

Altar Servers - September 17/18
5:00pm Team 5 7:00pm Team 6
7:30am Team 7 9:00am Team 8
10:30am Team 9 12:00pm Team 10

Be A Greeter: Come to Church 15 or 20 minutes before Mass to greet fellow parishioners and visitors. We strive to have someone at each of the three main Cathedral entrances. Bring Christ to others. All you need is a friendly smile or handshake. You choose the Mass you want to attend. If you want to share your smile, contact Susan/Bob Riolo (732-548-0326).