**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. John Werner, *Parochial Vicar*  
Rev. David J. Wejnerowski, *Parochial Vicar*

**Rev. Msgr. Joseph Celano, 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.

**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  
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

Barbara Stevens, MS, 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

**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.
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...

SUNDAY, December 31 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
7:30am - Helen & Arthur Paltz r/o Jane & Art Paltz
9:00am - Clelia Vasco & Joseph Tragni r/o Amorino & Horvath Family
10:30am - William & Dolores Schneller r/o Family
Noon - A.W. & Kathleen Smelas r/o Family

Mary, The Holy Mother of God

No New Year’s Vigil Masses on Sunday evening, December 31

Monday, January 1 - Mary, Mother of God
7:00am - Augusto Alcid r/o Tiangco Family
8:00am - Rodrigo Zapanta r/o Clarina Bautista
12:10pm - Josephine Norton r/o Virag Family

TUESDAY, January 2 - Saint Basil the Great & Saint Gregory Nazianzen
7:00am - John Walsh r/o Maureen & Ed Graham
8:00am - John Muska r/o Theresa Mazur
12:10pm - Teresa Villani r/o Daughter Frances

WEDNESDAY, January 3 - The Most Holy Name of Jesus
7:00am - Living & Deceased St. Francis Parishioners
8:00am - Allene Saggese r/o Saggese Family
12:10pm - Barbara Meehan r/o Meehan/Valenzuela Family

THURSDAY, January 4 - Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
7:00am - Jasel Esquivel r/o Deacon Guido & Mary
8:00am - Elizabeth Tremmel r/o Miriam DePasquale
12:10pm - Lenny Klein r/o John & Faith Murphy

FRIDAY, January 5 - Saint John Neumann
7:00am - Elinor Shepard r/o Brian Burke
8:00am - Giuliana Velona r/o Mom & Dad
*9:00am - **School Liturgy**
12:10pm - Elizabeth Horvath r/o Nancy & Bob Linkin

SATURDAY, January 6 - Saint Andre Bessette
8:00am - Souls in Purgatory r/o Anonymous
5:00pm - Horan Family r/o Pat Walsh
7:00pm - Alys “Sue” Milani r/o Brady Family

SUNDAY, January 7 - The Epiphany of the Lord
7:30am - Marisa Rose Tufaro r/o Teresa & Jim DeMary
9:00am - Kaare Sivertsen r/o Lucy & John Sivertsen
10:30am - Marguerite Silvent r/o Elizabeth Savner
Noon - (Liv.) Int. John & Joanne Franklin - 30th Wedding Anniversary

The Sanctuary Candles for this week have been donated (in the Cathedral)
in loving memory of

*Giovanni Vinci*
by *Rosalie Vinci*
in loving memory of

*Cletus Oparaoji*
by Genevieve Nwigwe & Family
(in The Lady Chapel)
SERVING OVERSEAS: In Bulgaria: John Paul Moore II; and for all those serving in Covert Operations

SICK: Kathleen Cremone, Joyce Martin, Adolfo Bolvito, Georgean Pichalski, Angela Bianchini, Helen Guerth, Miguel Cruz, Kathleen Carroll, Hilda Aluko, Deborah Mgbako, Patricia Mulkerin, Kristin O’Connor, Patricia Wakeman, Elizabeth & Peter Maduri, Donna Kenny, April Quinn, grandson of Sue & Bill Martin, Janice Grigo, Amy Olegario

DECEASED: Jeanette Franko, Jose Gaviero, Pauline Finocchio, Fred Radlmann, Miguel Lora, Eugene Reilly

...and all those recommended in the Book of Intentions

GOD’S PLAN FOR GIVING

Tithing
Thank you for your generosity the weekend of 12/24:
Envelopes & Loose Cash $22,054
Electronic Offerings $ 7, 962
Total $30,016
Thank you for your generosity in the Christmas Collection, which will be published in a few weeks

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

Eucharistic Adoration
If you like to pop into the Chapel whenever the Spirit moves you, would you prayerfully consider signing up an hour each week? Keep Jesus Company and help assure that Eucharistic Adoration remains ongoing at Saint Francis Cathedral parish.

AM PM
Monday 11:00 6:00, 10:00
Tuesday 11:00 4:00, 6:00, 10:00
Wed’day 9:00, 10:00 12:00, 5:00, 8:00
Thursday 8:00, 11:00
Friday 8:00,10:00 7:00
Contact Marie D’Amico: dghmad@aol.com/732-906-6537.

“Do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.” –Benjamin Franklin

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:

- Advent Wreath & Stand: Available to memorialize or honor a loved one. Please contact the Rectory Office for details (732-548-0100).
- 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 place in collection basket or mail or bring to the 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.

Become An Apostle of Prayer
Our Diocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities is seeking people to become Apostles of Prayer - offering prayers each day for those who make requests through our 24 hour prayer line. As a member of the apostolate, you would make a commitment to pray the Prayer for Persons with Earthly Crosses, at least once a day or more often if possible. (A copy of the prayer will be sent to you.) If you are interested in participating in this prayer ministry, please contact our office at 732-765-6432/catholicswithdisabilities@gmail.com. Please leave your name, telephone number and mailing address.

COME & SEE
Did you ever wonder about the life of a Sister? Who are these women choosing to live a life of consecrated love? How do they serve the Church? Why did they join their community? If you have wondered, SAVE THE DATE: January 5 - 7, 2018. The Sisters of Christian Charity will be hosting a Come & See Weekend. We invite you to share in a weekend experience of prayer, reflection and community. Come hear our stories. Contact Sr. Bernadette McCaulley at 973-543-6529 or visit website:www.scceast.org.
Monsignor Bob Zamorski, Fr. John Werner and Fr. David Wejnerowski wish you and your families a Blessed New Year.

--SUNDAY: Masses at the usual times: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30am; 12 Noon. There will be no evening New Year’s Vigil Mass.

–MONDAY: New Year’s Day - - Masses at 7:00am, 8:00am, 12:10pm. Rectory Office is closed. SFCS School 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: Journey Through Grief, 7:00pm, SOL.
–WEDNESDAY: MOMS’ Group meets at 9:30am, Mary Room/SFR; Provide-A-Meal & Social Concerns meet at 7:00 and 7:30pm respectively in the Solarium; CYO Board Meeting 8:00pm, CYO.

–THURSDAY: Rosary Altar Executive Board meets at 9:00am in the Solarium; SFCS HSA Board Meeting at 7:00pm in the School; Body of Christ Prayer Group meets at 7:30pm in Community Room.

–FRIDAY: Students of SFCS will participate in a School Liturgy at 9:00am; members of the Legion of Mary will gather at 11:00am in the JPII Room; Widows & Widowers meet at 7:00pm in the Solarium.

–SATURDAY: Confessions will be heard at the usual times: 1:00 - 2:00pm and 6:00 - 6:30pm.

–NEXT SUNDAY: After attending 10:30am Mass, Rosary Altar Society members gather in the Solarium for their monthly meeting; Annual Christmas Concert, 5:00pm in Cathedral; MSYG, 6:30 - 8:30pm, SJB.

–NEXT WEEKEND: You will have the opportunity to give something back to God by contributing to the annual Together in Charity Collection. This collection funds our Catholic Charities’ Emergency Assistance Program which aids parishes when individuals/families are faced with urgent financial, housing or medical needs beyond a parish’s capacity to meet. In the last year, 59 (or 66%) of our parishes turned to Catholic Charities for emergency assistance. In total, 437 households, consisting of 693 adults and 578 children were helped by those who gave to the Together in Charity Collection. Please give generously.

Our Beloved Departed...

As one civil year ends and another begins, we remember our Parishioners who died during 2017. May they be enjoying fullness of life with Christ, our reigning Lord.


Banns of Marriage

III Melissa Johnston/Antonio Esparza

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. The list will be published during the Christmas season.
“My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all the peoples.”   Luke 2:30-31

WE ARE GOD'S HOLY FAMILY

The scriptures of Israel are filled with many stories of barren couples who were miraculously granted the gift of children by God. Surely the best known among these is the first reading from today, from which Luke took inspiration when he recounted the miraculous birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah and Elizabeth, and the more miraculous birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph. In each instance, we are given examples or role models of those who trusted in God. More than examples of those who trust, they are models of self-surrender. They abandoned their own presuppositions and prejudices about the workings of the world and turned their lives over to belief in a God who can make life grow where none ought to; a God who can turn death around into a new and unimagined life; a God who can, today, take a tiny child of humble parents in an insignificant town and make Him into a light for all the world. This is what we, as God's holy family, are called to do each day: to trust not in ourselves and the way we think things should be, but to open ourselves and surrender ourselves in faith to a God of endless promise.

THE GOSPEL OF FAMILY

On Christmas we celebrate God becoming human. Christmas, however, is not a single day, but an entire season. Today, the Sunday after Christmas, we ponder the Holy Family. What difference does this mystery of the Incarnation make for families? Jesus came to bring together the children of Israel into a new family, a family united not by blood but by faith in Him. So in today's Gospel we see some of the first members of that family. Luke's Gospel has been called the Gospel of Jesus, the Gospel of prayer, the Gospel of the Holy Spirit; we can also think of it as the Gospel of family. He first introduces us to Mary's cousin, Elizabeth, and Elizabeth's husband, Zechariah, parents of John the Baptist. Then we meet Mary and Joseph. Today we meet two other family members, Simeon and Anna, not related by blood, but only by faith in the promises of the God of Israel. Each sees in the child Jesus the glory of Israel and the light for the Gentiles. Christmas reminds us that by baptism into Christ we are now part of God's family. As God's family, "God's chosen ones," as Paul reminded the Colossians (3:62), we are to put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another.   --James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.
January 7, 2018
Solemnity of the Epiphany

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The visit of the magi to the Christ Child has always had a strong hold on the Christian imagination. We like stories that turn conventional expectations on their head. The Old and New Testaments are filled with accounts of God’s goodness to human beings, but here, in the magi’s gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, we have the reverse: the goodness of human beings towards God. There is something not only very appropriate, but very appealing, about that.

But how can we ever begin to repay the LORD for the many ways he has blessed us? Actually, Jesus answered that question in one of his parables:

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me [...] Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one the least brothers of mine, you did for me (Mt 25:35 - 36, 40).

Next weekend you will have the opportunity to give something back to God by contributing to the annual Together in Charity Collection. This collection funds our Catholic Charities’ Emergency Assistance Program, which aids parishes when individuals and families are faced with urgent financial, housing, or medical needs beyond a parish’s capacity to meet. Your parish may have been one of those helped by the program, since in the last year 59 (or 66%) of our parishes turned to Catholic Charities for emergency assistance. In total, 437 households, consisting of 693 adults and 578 children, were helped by those who gave to the Together in Charity Collection.

Please consider giving a gift to the Jesus who is present in the senior citizen who cannot afford a needed prescription or the family facing eviction or the loss of utilities - - not gold, frankincense and myrrh, but a monetary donation as your means allow.

I thank you in advance for your generosity and assure you of my prayerful good wishes for the year ahead.

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Bishop of Metuchen
St. Francis Cathedral School OPEN HOUSE
2017 National Blue Ribbon School
Pre-K - Grade 8: **Wednesday, January 10, 9:00am**
Pre-K & Kindergarten only also at 7:00pm

Pre-K - Grade 8: **Sunday, January 28, 1:00pm**
Please see website: www.stfranciscathedralschool.org or call school office: 732-548-3107.

**Kerygma Retreat**
The Office of Evangelization will offer Kerygma, a Catholic Bible-based retreat which gives participants an opportunity to encounter the Lord Jesus through hearing and responding to His Word. It will take place on **January 27, 9:00am** - **5:00pm** and **January 28, 9:00am** - **1:00pm**. Renew the gifts and graces received in Baptism and Confirmation. Cost: $25. Meals are not included. Bring a bagged lunch on Saturday the 27th. For details or to register, call 732-562-2469 or visit www.diometuchen.org/evangelization/courses.

**Baby Bottle Blessings**
A few weekends ago, empty baby bottles were distributed at all Masses. Our hope is that you will fill them with spare change/money during the Christmas season and return them by Jan. 7. Proceeds will benefit Life Choices Resource Center in Metuchen. Please pray for the women and children who will be helped by your donations.

**St. Francis Cathedral**
**Maintenance/Custodian Job Available**
The Maintenance/Custodian position is essentially a handyman position responsible to undertake upkeep and repair tasks on both the interior and exterior of the St. Francis Cathedral property and school. The candidate for this position should be a self-starter and an initiative who is well organized with strong general repair skills. A keen eye for detail and physical stamina are valued greatly in this job. Interested individuals should forward a resume to the Rectory Office to the attention of David Liantonio - x233.

**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.

**Cathedral Christmas Concert**
Benefitting Pipe Organ Restoration
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 on **Sunday, January 7 at 5:00pm**. Join in singing favorite Christmas carols accompanied by brass and organ, and expect the whole family to feel their hearts warmed and spirits lifted. No tickets are required, but a free will offering will be taken to benefit the Pipe Organ Restoration. For further information, see http://www.stfranciscathedral.org/732-548-0100 x235.

**Garden of Mary’s Children**
Engraved pavers for the Garden of Mary's Children and the Memorial Pathway are available for purchase for a limited time. 4X8 bricks are $100; 8X8 bricks are $150. Forms are available in the pamphlet racks at the Cathedral entrances. Orders must be received by January 2nd. Dedication of these bricks will be in the spring - - the date has yet to be determined. Please contact Katie Barnes (732-603-8946) if interested.

**Diocesan Eucharistic Adoration**: Commencing in February, Eucharistic Adoration will be held in the chapel at the St. John Neuman Pastoral Center. Volunteer adorers and intercessors are needed Monday through Friday during business hours to pray for the intentions of our diocese. Info: Laura at 732-529-7932.

**Pro Life Corner: 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 22, 2018. This event is for those whose schedules do not permit an entire day in Washington, D.C. for the March for Life on Friday, January 19. 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 bring everyone back 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 or call 732-562-1990 x1543 or x1629.
2017 Christmas Flower Donations

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

In Memory Of

DeGeorge & Lewczuk Families
Josefa Magdaleno
Ford/Clohessy Families
Dooley/Fennessy Families
Savage/Barker Families
Gallagher/O’Connell Families
John D. & Helen F. Fennessy
Charles A. Barker, Sr.
Merry F. Barker
Alice S. & Willis P. Brewer
Mary A. Brewer
Albert & Anne Gore
Karen Gore Didzbalis
Genevieve & Joseph Fortunato
RoseMarie & Carl Lewendowski
Robert Fortunato
Sophie Campagna
Katherine & Julius Guarnieri
Stanley Laurich
Doris & Ralph Borrello
Mary & Walter Danner
Joseph Yoschak
Francis J. Coleman
Nicholas L. Santowasso
Ludmilla “Lee” Romaro
Kathy McCriskin
Partick Griffin
Frank J. Carniglia
John A. Burke
Jane Schreck Timoney
Catherine/Hugh McGovern, Jr.
Shirley & Charles Schreck, Sr.
John C. Schreck
Ellen T. Canny
John Hamilton
Anna & Helen Reilly
Angeline & James Monek
George Hutchinson
Joseph Schwalje
Roslyn Macchia
Johnny Karouf
Ignatz Molnar
Veronica Arndt
Sophie & Stanley Wolianski
Stanley Wolianski, Jr.
Emma O’Donnell
Gromko & Klosowski Family
Sidlowski Family
Annette Amodeo
Michael & Jennie Donofrio
Arlene Georgio
Swartz & Williamson Families
Loeffler & James Families
Sonny Perullo
John J. Swykowski
Dolores Swykowski
Lynch/Toth Families
Golian/Halasnik Families
Thomas Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Ting Kiang Koh
Burke & Sessa Families
Pasquale D’Albenzio
Joseph & Helen Buckewicz
Robert T. Donnenwirth, Jr.
Robert & Anne Hoffman
Paul & Nina Kozub
William & Mary Phillips
Phyllis Hoffmeister Grushewsky
Robert M. Kossick
George H. Perry
Gary J. Beyer
Ray Manzarek

Eucharistic Ministers: January 6/7

5:00pm: C. Coleman, J. Onufre, L. Dalton, S. Francis, J. Franklin, D. Reilly, S. Tamasco, C. Saggese
7:00pm: J. Pasquale, J.G-Campbell, M. & W. Manza, N. Davis, J. Bundoc
7:30am: S. Rio, J/K Burke, D. Monek, C. Kozak, J. Carey, R. Dowdy
9:00am: P. Zensky, L. Moriarty, P. John A. Cirelli, T/N Rossi, R. Altz, R. Quaglia
10:30am: F. Belmont, M. Garni, R & R Coquia, D. Pappalardo, A. Bianchini
12:00pm: E. Swan, D. Rossi, M. Kolomatis, J&M Hernandez, R. Cron, S. Fernandez

Lectors: January 6/7

5:00pm: Al & Judy Kendziora
7:00pm: Jerry LaPointe
7:30am: Kathleen Burke
9:00am: Russell Lawyer
10:30am: Michael McCunney
12:00pm: Joachim Licameli

Altar Servers: January 6/7

5:00pm  Team 8
7:00pm  Team 9
7:30am  Team 10
9:00am  Team 11
10:30am Team 12
12:00pm Team 13

Gift Of

Kenneth Schreck
Yolanda Payne
Carl Zeitz
Mr. & Mrs. Howard W. Myers
Maryann C. Sullivan
Jeannine Burton
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Quilingan

[ list to be continued ]