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.

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: 1:30pm 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 - 5:05pm.; Tuesday evening: (8th grade) 6:30-7:35

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

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

SPONSORSHIP: Active practice of the faith, together with registration, is needed for sponsorship certificates and, possibly, the administration of some sacraments.
Masses For The Week...
SUNDAY, February 4 - *Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time* change
7:30am  - Marisa Rose Tufaro r/o Roger & Donna Tufaro
9:00am  - Vincent Ferraro r/o Elaine & Bob Yunker
10:30am - Mary Rapach r/o Maureen Rapach
Noon   - Ricardo Santiago r/o Lourdes Santiago

MONDAY, February 5 - *Saint Agatha*
7:00am  - Oliva Cervantis r/o Norma Luna
8:00am  - Giuliana Velona r/o Grandparents
12:10pm - Poligena Balbido r/o Marisa Plaras

TUESDAY, February 6 - *Saint Paul Miki & Companions*
7:00am  - Teresa Nguyen r/o Family
8:00am  - (Liv.) Int. Ferry Firmansjah r/o Family
12:10pm - Rita Fredericks r/o Husband Ray

WEDNESDAY, February 7
7:00am  - Raymond Wilson r/o Danny & Doris Tiango
8:00am  - C.E. Dominic r/o Shirley Fernandez
12:10pm - John & Elizabeth Vochelewicz r/o John & Johnny

THURSDAY, February 8 - *Saint Jerome Emiliani & Saint Josephine Bakhita*
7:00am  - (Liv.) Int. Angelina Van Den Bos r/o Cecelia Florentino
8:00am  - William Lennon r/o Speckin Family
12:10pm - Betty Awn r/o Razal Family

FRIDAY, February 9
7:00am  - John Witkowski r/o Joe & Betty Gutkowski
8:00am  - Teresa O’Connell r/o Flora Buchbinder Cowen
12:10pm - (Liv.) Special Intantion r/o Frances Villani

SATURDAY, February 10 - *Saint Scholastica*
8:00am  - Clyde McCarthy, Jr. r/o Bill & Margaret Manza
5:00pm  - Nicholas Donofrio r/o Rosemarie Schwarzman
7:00pm  - (Liv.) Int. Life Choices Resource Center r/o Riggio Family

SUNDAY, February 11 - *Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
7:30am  - James DeMary r/o Sheila Tynday
9:00am  - Eleanor Morrissey Kelly r/o Frank & Joan Belmont
10:30am - Herminia Labao r/o Nenita Almeda
Noon   - Anne Oghia r/o Husband Dr. Hady Oghia

The Sanctuary Candles for this week have been donated in honor of *Nadia Ruiz* by The Kwiatkowski Family (in the Cathedral)

in loving memory of *Jeanette Franko* by Agatha & Jim Loyacano (in The Lady Chapel)
SERVING OVERSEAS: In Bulgaria: John Paul Moore II; and for all those serving in Covert Operations

SICK: Margaret Swarbrick, Mark Annichiarico, Kimberly Travers, Kathy Byram, Thomas Chanowski, Gail Giordano, Jean Takach, Gary Gronroos, Margaret Finnegan, Jane Burke, Barbara Getty, Nadia Ruiz, Mary Anne Hale, Peter Barnes, Sr., David Kleman, Jacqueline Stack, Eileen Lee, James Flynn, Kathleen Carroll, Patricia Mulkerin, Michael Russomanno, Kathleen Cremona, Joyce Martin, Kathleen Carroll, Patricia Mulkerin, April Quinn, grandson of Sue & Bill Martin, Janice Grigo, Amy Olegario

DECEASED: Nephew of Sister Maria Lan, Brother of Dan Kovach, Veronica Uscocovich, Roseann Grauso, James Reilly, Arda Berdel, Elinor Schladale, Julio Velazquez, Anne Sadofsky, Sonia Quintana DeLaCruz, Edward Fitzgerald, Vincent LaStella, Ann Schreck, Arthur Murray

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

GOD’S PLAN FOR GIVING

Tithing

Thank you for your generosity the weekend of 1/28:
Envelopes & Loose Cash $17,067
Electronic Offerings $ 8,933
Total $26,000

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

Youth Group Valentine’s Dance
On Sunday, Feb. 11, 6:00 - 8:00pm in the CYO, our MSYG is celebrating Valentine’s Day with a Dance. You can take a free photo, so wear Valentine clothing and bring props for pics. The non-refundable cost before Feb. 5:$8; after Feb. 5 and until Feb. 10: $12, at the door: $15. Also Candy Gram for $1, Raffles for $1 and door prizes. HSYG members can help for service hours. SML (732-770-2506/smlorchid@hotmail.com.

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:

–The Cathedral Pipe Organ Restoration Fund:
Memorials in the name of loved ones may be made to support the restoration of the Cathedral pipe organ. Memorial pipes of various sizes are available for $ 100, $ 300, $500, or $ 1,000. Major gift opportunities also are available. Please inquire at the Rectory Office at 732-548-0100 x210.

–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.

Retrovaille - - Re discovery

Thinking about Separation or Divorce? You Can Help Save Your Marriage. Are you frustrated or angry with each other? 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, 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. Communication techniques 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). Next Session: February 9 - 10 - 11.

FYI: If you have unwanted same sex attraction, confidential Catholic pastoral care is available through Courage at 732-562-2476 or email: couragecnj@gmail.com. Family members can receive support at Encourage at 732-248-9460. Watch EWTN Church Universal: Feb. 4, 5pm; Feb. 6, 5am; Feb. 7, 11pm; March 20, 5pm.
Upon entering the Cathedral, please be kind enough to turn off all cell phones. Thank you.

Parish Notes...

Mardi Gras Bingo, originally scheduled for Friday, Feb. 2, has been postponed to Friday, April 13. If you wish a refund, please phone the Rectory at 732-548-0100.

–THIS WEEKEND: Girl Scout Cookie Booth after Masses. Please support our Scouts!

–SUNDAY: Cub Scouts recognized at 9am Mass; after attending 10:30am Mass, Rosary Altar Society members gather in the Solarium for their monthly meeting; HSYG Meeting, 6:30 - 8:00pm, SJB Room.

–MONDAY: Catechist Training, 7:00pm, Joseph Rm.

–TUESDAY: Prayer Group at 1:00pm in the Joseph Room; Journey Through Grief II, 7:00pm, Solarium; Men’s Group meets at 7:30pm in the Solarium.

–WEDNESDAY: MOMS’ Group meets at 9:15am in the Mary Room/SFR; Bereavement continues at 7:00pm in the Joseph Room; Provide-A-Meal & Social Concerns meet at 7:00 and 7:30pm respectively in the Solarium.

–THURSDAY: Bible Study of David the King continues in the JPll Room at 1:00pm or 7:15pm as you prefer; Body of Christ Prayer Group meets at 7:30pm in the Community Room; CYO Board Meeting 8:00pm in the CYO.

–FRIDAY: SFCS New Family Registration at 9:00am for students K - 7th & 1:00pm for Pre-K in Community Room; Legion of Mary at 11:00am in the JPll Room.

–NEXT SUNDAY: Family Centered Religious Education Session takes place 9:15 - 11:30am in the Community Room; Filipino American Community gathers at 1:00pm in the Solarium; MSYG Valentine Dance takes place in the CYO from 6:00 - 8:00pm.

–NEXT WEEKEND: Distribution of RCIA Prayer Cards.

Baptisms

The following children were recently welcomed into our Church/Parish Family through the sacrament of Baptism:

Natalia Abril Alarcon - Lana Rey Angeles
Lily Evelyn Contrastano - Luke Logan Crawford
Zachary Dean Crawford - Robert Anthony Cushing
John William Eppensteiner IV
Elizabeth Cynthia Fackler - Whitney Patricia Guanlao
Brynnlee Renee Habik - Caden Kloske
Juliette Aria LaPine - Ava Juliet Luis
Liliana Michaela Lynch - Lina Monae Malamug
Connor Patrick McGee - Crew Joseph Pagel
Luke Joseph Perrone - Rowan Proietto
Bobbi Shipman Romanak - Jordan John Scalise
Grayson Brock Tacopino

You’re Invited!
Life Choices Resource Center’s Annual Charity Banquet “Visions of Love” Sunday, February 25, 2018 (4pm-8pm) Pines Manor, Edison, NJ

INSPIRATIONAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Shari Richard of www.Unborn.com

Tickets are $65.00 per person
For more information call: (732) 516-0911
Or Download a Reply/Sponsor Form @ www.LifeChoicesRC.com

Booster & Sponsorship Opportunities Still Available

Men’s Group News: Come together with parish men of all ages to share and discuss topics pertinent to our Catholic faith. Form or re-establish friendships with other men through Jesus Christ. Come to our next meeting: Tuesday, February 6 at 7:30pm in the Solarium. For information contact Tom Thomas (732-692-4819) or Facebook at SFC.MensGroup.

February is Catholic Press Month. Please use your tithing envelopes, or your e-Giving, to donate to our diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Spirit. Thank you.
HELP NEEDED!

Jesus, through His words and actions, teaches us that care for one another and compassion for the unfortunate are hallmarks of the Christian. Our care and compassion should also extend to the spiritual well being of others. We Christians tend to take our faith for granted and we overlook possibilities for evangelization. Yet everywhere people struggle with faith issues. Isn't there someone in your life who seems to be searching for spiritual growth...asking questions about God, about Jesus, about the Catholic Church? Bring that person to an RCIA Inquiry Session. At Inquiry Sessions, those who are unbaptized, baptized into another Christian denomination, or baptized Catholic who have never received BOTH sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, can inquire about God, Jesus, the Catholic Church..and other issues affecting their spiritual life. The Inquiry Sessions are for people who are inquiring about the Catholic Church in order to make a more informed decision about joining the Catholic Family. For more information please call the RCIA office at 732-562-1990 x 1633.

SPIRITUAL SPONSORS: Prayer Cards for Dana Abbey, our Catechumen will be distributed at every Mass next weekend. We invite you to become her Spiritual Sponsor. We suggest that you take the card home and put it some place (refrigerator door, desk, bulletin board, etc) where you will be reminded to pray for Dana. Spiritual sponsorship is the way the community can encourage support and help those who are preparing for their sacraments. The sole responsibility of the spiritual sponsor is to focus their prayers or offer their sacrifices during the Lenten Season for a candidate or catechumen. If you are an adorer, perhaps you can offer your hour of adoration for Dana. Please be generous and volunteer to be a spiritual sponsor for Dana who will be baptized and received into full communion with our Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil this year.

Eucharistic Adoration in The Lady Chapel
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.

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Contact Marie D’Amico: dghmad@aol.com./732-906-6537.

Catholic School 2018-2019 Tuition Assistance
Online Application Process OPEN
Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen Catholic elementary or high school may do so now. The application process is online through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment. Online applications must be completed (including supporting documentation) by no later than Saturday, March 31, 2018. Applications are available in English & Spanish. Families that need assistance completing the online application, or need access to the technology to apply, may register for one of the two Application Workshops, which will be held in 2 locations in February www.diometuchen.org/tuition-assistance and follow the Workshops link.

Summer Camp 2018 Has Arrived! Camp will run for eight weeks beginning on June 18 and ending on August 10. Our program is open to all children ages 4 - 13. There will be a Camp Information Night on Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00pm in the Community Room - please join us if you can. Campers will go on weekly trips, participate in daily activities and swim at the Metuchen Pool twice a week. They will also participate in arts& crafts, Gym, Computers and outdoor play. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Rizzo at 732-548-3107/ RizzoM@stfranciscathedralschool .org. All forms available at www.stfranciscathedralschool.org under the parents/students tab, then go to summer camp.

Senior Bible Study Classes
As a way of ministering to maturing adults, Fr. Greg Uhrig will offer a program of “Spring Bible in preparation for Sunday Mass.” Fr. Greg enjoys working in Catholic adult faith formation and the formation of small communities of faith. His teaching will cover all three readings of the following Sunday’s liturgy, as well as how to use the Bible as a prayer book. The program, sponsored by the Family Life Office, Diocese of Metuchen, takes place at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center on Wednesdays through March 21 from 10:30am - 12:30pm. Registration fee: $5.00 per session. For info, email: amatos@diometuchen.org/732-562-1990 x1705.

Help & Hope After Abortion: The Sisters of Life offer a Day of Prayer and Healing for women who have had an abortion. Call 866-575-0075 or postabortion@sistersoflife.org for information about the next session.
“The Lord tells the number of stars and calls them by name.” –Psalm 147:4

THE GOOD NEWS

Today's readings begin with a few verses from the book of Job. First, Job complains that his nights drag on endlessly. Then, worse yet, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle; / they come to an end without hope" (Job 7:6). Not exactly encouraging, these lamentations, not when taken alone.

Most of us have been there, though, and the antidote is the "good news" that Paul found so compelling that "an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it!" (1 Corinthians 9:16). Paul felt driven to announce the gospel to as many people as possible, "to save at least some" (9:22).

This good news is the mystery of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who lifted Simon Peter's mother-in-law from her sickbed with a mere touch of His hand. "The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons" (Mark 1:33-34)). Our woes and demons are as real as Job's, and Jesus is our savior.

TIRELESS DISCIPLESHIP

The Gospel of Mark, unlike those of Matthew and Luke, has no infancy narrative, nor does it have a lengthy prologue to introduce it, as John's Gospel does. In Mark's account, one could say, Jesus hits the ground running. The stories we've been hearing these weeks come from the very first chapter of Mark, and they show us the public ministry of Jesus in its infancy. Today's account shows some of the strain or adjustment of His new life of preaching the reign of God, healing the sick, and casting out demons. Notice that after sunset, when darkness ended the workday, people brought the sick and possessed to Jesus. The following day He rose before dawn to get away by Himself to pray, but to no avail. Simon Peter and the others don't just look for Him, they pursue Him, filled with the fervor that His ministry has incited. With the self-sacrificing example He gave until the end of His earthly life, He tells His followers that this is His whole purpose. Through Mark, He is also telling the early church, and He is telling us, that this is our purpose, our vocation: to be tireless in our pursuit of proclaiming the Good News, and in bringing the healing, reconciling touch of Christ to the world.
Living Stations of the Cross  
Middle School & High School Youth Group  
Living Stations of the Cross will be presented on Palm Sunday, March 25 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, February 23 at 5:00pm in the St. John Bosco Room of the Parish Center. 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 2, 9, 16 (dress rehearsal) and March 23 (dress rehearsal). On Sunday, March 25, meet in Church at 6:00pm. **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

Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Dinner  
On Friday, March 9 from 5:30 - 7:30pm in the Community Room, St. Francis K of C will host a Spaghetti Dinner. The menu will consist of Salad, Garlic Bread, Spaghetti or Linguine, Marinara or Clam Sauce and Dessert. Cost is $10/per person; $20/family of 4; $9/Senior Citizen. The proceeds will be donated to the SFC Organ Restoration Fund. Call Eric at 732-512-8332.

The Catholic Spirit  
The annual drive to support our diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Spirit*, is taking place during the month of February, National Catholic Press Month. Please support its good work by using the envelope in your tithing packet or contribute through e-giving. Any amount you contribute will show your support for the ministry of *The Catholic Spirit* and will be greatly appreciated. And please remember to take home a copy of the paper - - it has a special role to play in your life as a practicing Catholic.

FYI: From playboy to priest to hermit to saint, learn about **St. Charles De Foucauld** at Mt. St. Mary House of Prayer on Jan. 30 at 9:30am or 7:00pm (908-753-2091).  

Saint Francis Cathedral School  
Registration for 2018 - 2019  

The information below is for “New Families” to our school - - Pre-kindergarten - 7th grades. Please share this information with interested families. This applies to our current pre-k families as well. Thank you.

**Registration Dates: New Families to our school**  
Friday, February 9, 2018  
9:00am New Student Registration - - K - 7th  
1:00pm New Student Registration - - Pre-K  
Registration held in the Cafeteria - Community Room  
**SNOW DATE: Tuesday February 13,** same time and place as February 9.

**EVENING REGISTRATION- Tuesday, Feb. 20**  
6:00 - 7:30pm Pre-K - 7th Grades  
Registration held in the Cafeteria - Community Room  
**NO SNOW DATE for Evening Registration**

Diocesan Eucharistic Adoration  
Eucharistic Adoration will begin in the chapel at the St. John Neuman Pastoral Center, Piscataway on February 14, immediately following the 9:00am Ash Wednesday Mass. The celebrant will be Bishop James F. Checchio. All are invited to attend. Volunteer adorers and intercessors are needed Monday through Friday 9:00 - 11:45am to pray for the intentions of our diocese. Daily Mass is held at 11:45am. Info: Laura at 732-529-7932 or email evangelization@diometuchen.org.

Respect Life Contests  
All students in grades 1 - 8 are invited to participate in the Respect Life Poster Contest. High School students are invited to create a Youtube video by interviewing someone facing a challenge. Theme for both: How Can You Share Your Life With Another Person Who is Different From Yourself and is facing Challenges or Problems in Life? Contest is open to all Catholic School, Religious Education and Home Schooled children. First Place Winners receive a Cash Prize. For contest details, visit http://diometuchen.org or call 732-562-1990 x1543 or 1629.
---Food Collection This Weekend: Donations may be brought to Church entrances. Thank you for keeping our Food Bank stocked during this cold winter and for your ongoing generosity to those in need. Students seeking service projects often conduct Food Drives; we welcome all.

---Journey Through Grief - Step II: Monthly meetings Tuesday evenings; next meeting: February 6 at 7:00pm in the Parish Center Solarium. Anyone who has suffered a loss and is in the healing process is welcome. Our facilitator is Jessie Flynn, a certified bereavement counselor for 25+ years.


Union Catholic High School
Annual Fish Fry
A dinner consisting of Fish & Chips or Baked Ziti will be served on Friday, Feb. 16, 5:30 - 8:00pm at Union Catholic H.S., Scotch Plains. The dinner will be catered by Argyle Restaurant in Kearny. Tickets are $15 for the fish and $10 for the pasta. Dessert and beverages are included and Take-out Orders are available. Contact ethornton@unioncatholic.org for questions or tickets.

Patriotic Program
On Wednesday, February 21, students of SFCSchool will honor current and former servicemen and servicewomen at their Patriotic Assembly in the Community Room at 7:00pm. If you would like us to recognize your service, or that of a family member, please call Ms. Leila Toomey at the school office (732-548-3107) with information including your name, branch of service, rank and conflicts in which you served. We want to recognize your service to our great country. Please join us.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, November 6 - 16, 2018

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