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

EUCARISTICADORATION  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.

EUCARIST 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 pm.

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

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

SPONSORSHIP: Active practice of the faith, together with registration, is needed for sponsorship certificates and, possibly, the administration of some sacraments.
Masses For The Week...

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

MONDAY, February 12 - Saint Agatha
7:00am - Vincent DeAndrea, Jr. r/o Bob & Dee Sneddon
8:00am - Patricia Sacco r/o Mom
12:10pm - John Varley r/o Maureen Varley & Boris Moczula

TUESDAY, February 13
7:00am - Carmela D’Amico r/o Family
8:00am - Benigno Balbido r/o Marisa Plaras
12:10pm - Helen & Walter Zamorski r/o Family

WEDNESDAY, February 14 - Ash Wednesday
7:00am - Msgr. Dominic Turtora r/o Cathedral - 19th Anniversary
8:00am - Dorothy Radlmann r/o Flanigan Family
12:10pm - Lenny Klein r/o Carol
*7:30pm - Annabelle August r/o Carol August

THURSDAY, February 15 - Saint Jerome Emiliani & Saint Josephine Bakhita
7:00am - Trinidad Chan r/o Danny & Doris Tiangco
8:00am - Joseph Urso r/o Urso, Long, Natkie & Bridgeman Families
12:10pm - (Liv.) Int. Ernie Gutierrez r/o Family

FRIDAY, February 16
7:00am - Bill Zatorski r/o Russ & Janet Baker
8:00am - Charles Barker, Sr. & May Barker r/o Charles Barker, Jr.
12:10pm - Dorothy Gurgone r/o Gerry & Joe Monteleone

SATURDAY, February 17 - The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
8:00am -(Liv.) Int. Steve Spiewak/Stacie Freeman r/o Gerry & Joe Monteleone
5:00pm - Frank Colasuonno r/o Family *Rite of Sending*
7:00pm - Margaret Yaros & Mary Noll r/o Jerry & Marlene

SUNDAY, February 18 - First Sunday of Lent
7:30am - Jim DeMary r/o Wife
9:00am - Marianna Pugliese r/o Mr. & Mrs. Pasquale Calello
10:30am - Bill Zatorski - 10th Anniversary r/o Bea & Family
Noon - Frank Zilinski r/o Family

The Sanctuary Candles
for this week
have been donated
in honor of

Oden William Simms
by his Grandparents Maryann & Bill Simms
(in the Cathedral)

in loving memory of
Mary Dougherty
by The Flaherty Family
(in The Lady Chapel)
SERVING OVERSEAS: In Bulgaria: John Paul Moore II; and for all those serving in Covert Operations

SICK: Baby Genevieve Bonk, Rose Abatemarco, Margaret Styner, Kathy (KJ) Phillips, Jean Sberna, John & Mary McCabe, Edmund Pianko, Karen Kovach, Marilyn Barrett, Margaret Swarbrick, Mark Annichiarico, Kimberly Travers, Kathy Byram, Thomas Chanowski, Gail Giordano, Jean Takach, Gary Gronroos, Nadia Ruiz, Mary Anne Hale, Peter Barnes, Sr., Kathleen Carroll, Patricia Mulkerin, Kathleen Cremone, April Quinn, grandson of Sue & Bill Martin, Janice Grigo, Amy Olegario

DECEASED: Eileen Lee, Kathleen Stoffers, Roseann Grauso, Nephew of Sister Maria Lan, Brother of Dan Kovach, Veronica Uscocovich, James Reilly, Arda Berdel, Eleanor Schladale, Julio Velazquez, Ann Sadofsky

...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:

– 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.

– FYI: If you are able to donate some time to be a Eucharist Minister at JFK Hospital, Edison, please contact Fr. Pauly Thekkan at 732-762-6963. Weekdays or weekends needed.

Did You Place A Child for Adoption in NJ?
New Jersey’s adoption law has changed. Beginning January 1, 2017, adoptees and certain relatives have been able to obtain a copy of their original birth certificate without a court order. The birth certificate will include the names of the birth parents who placed children for adoption unless a birth parent requests their name be omitted. Birth parents who wish to preserve their privacy must submit a Redaction Request Form to the New Jersey Department of Health. The form can be obtained by calling 866-649-8726 x582. The Catholic Church has always supported reunions between adoptees and birth parents, if such reunions are by mutual consent. The Church continues to do so through its Catholic Charities agencies. Please alert someone you know who could be affected by the changes to the NJ Adoption law. Anyone needing assistance can call a HELPLINE at 609-989-4809.
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: Distribution of RCIA Prayer Cards.
- SUNDAY: Celebrate World Marriage Day! Family Centered Religious Education Session takes place 9:15 - 11:30am in the Community Room; Filipino American Community gathers at 1pm in the Solarium; MSYG Valentine Dance takes place in the CYO from 6-8pm

- MONDAY: The Rosary will be prayed at the Senior Citizen Residence at 1:00pm; at 1:30pm, Mass will be celebrated there; Prayer Shawl, 7:00pm, Solarium.

- TUESDAY: Prayer Group meets at 1:00pm in the Joseph Room; Summer Camp Information Night takes place at 7:00pm in the Community Room.

Ash Wednesday: A day of fast and abstinence. Masses at 7:00, 8:00am; 12:10, 7:30pm. Blessed Ashes will be distributed at all Masses and at Prayer Services at 9:30am and 4:15pm.

LENTE OBLIGATIONS: See Page 6

- WEDNESDAY: Bereavement continues at 7:00pm in the Joseph Room/Solarium.

- THURSDAY: Bible Study of David the King continues in the JPII Room at 1:00pm or 7:15pm as you prefer; Body of Christ Prayer Group meets at 7:30pm in the Community Room.

- FRIDAY: Legion of Mary at 11:00am in the JPII Rm; Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 12:50pm and 7:30pm. Join us as we journey with Christ to Calvary.

- SATURDAY: During the Lenten Season, the different Rites/Scrutinies of the RCIA process will be celebrated at various Masses, beginning with the Rite of Sending at Saturday’s 5:00pm Mass.

- NEXT SUNDAY: Rite of Election and Rite of Calling Candidates to Continuing Conversion at 3:00pm in the Cathedral.

2018 Bishop’s Annual Appeal Lighting a Fire in the Heart of Our World

Twenty-four percent - - $1.7 million dollars - - of the funds raised by the 2018 Bishop’s Annual Appeal is earmarked for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen. Through more than 100 programs, Catholic Charities serves those most in need of our assistance. If you have yet to make your pledge to this year’s Bishop’s Annual Appeal, you will have the opportunity to do so the weekend, February 24/25, which has been designated as Bishop’s Annual Appeal In-Pew Weekend. Help us reach our target of 100% participation. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Rite of Election

Next Sunday at 3:00 p.m Bishop Checchio will celebrate the Rite of Election for Catechumens (persons preparing for Baptism) and the Rite of Calling Candidates to Continuing Conversion (those baptized persons preparing to be received into full communion with the Church). These Rites prepare them for receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. A reception in the Community Room will follow.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

LENT begins in just a few days. These six weeks are a time of preparation for Holy Week and the great Feast of the Resurrection. Take advantage of the many opportunities offered at the Cathedral for spiritual renewal.

Daily Mass: Monday - Friday, 7:00, 8:00am; 12:10pm; Saturdays at 8:00am.

Lenten Morning Prayer: Monday - Friday, 7:40am.

Rosary: Monday - Friday, 11:45am; Saturday, 8:45am, preceded by Novena to Our Lady.

Bible Study: Thursdays, 1:00pm & 7:15pm, JPII Room through March 8.

Lenten Mission: March 19, 20 & 21 directed by Sister Miriam Heidland, SOLT. Sr. Miriam is a renowned speaker - - don’t miss your chance to hear her.

Eucharistic Adoration: Lady Chapel, Monday through Friday, 7:00am - 11:00pm.

Friday Stations of the Cross: 12:50pm and 7:30pm; March 23 at 7:30pm is Mary’s Way of the Cross.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays, 1:00 - 2:00pm & 6:00 - 6:30pm or by appointment; not on Holy Saturday, March 31.

Living Stations of the Cross: Presented by the Youth of the Cathedral Parish on Palm Sunday, March 25, 7:00pm
Lenten Obligations

So that the Church of Metuchen may be spiritually one in a common observance of Lent, the following days of fast and abstinence are to be observed by all Catholics of the Diocese who enjoy the blessings of good health:

1. The days of fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

2. All other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

3. From the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday until the celebration of the Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday, the Easter fast is suggested so that, with uplifted and welcoming hearts, we may be ready to celebrate the joys of the Resurrection. This ancient tradition, intimately connected with the *Rites of Holy Week* and the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, is encouraged, especially in those places baptizing catechumens at the Easter Vigil.

The obligation to fast applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59. To fast in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal during the day so as to experience hunger.

The obligation of abstinence affects all Catholics who have reached the age of 14. Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat.

The obligation of fast and abstinence, as a whole, is a serious obligation. While failure to observe any penitential day in itself may not be considered serious, the failure to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of them without good cause, would be considered a grave matter. Those unable to abstain for a valid reason on any given Friday of Lent are asked to perform some other penitential act, or to abstain on another day.

World Marriage Day

*World Marriage Day* is held each year on the second Sunday of February and honors the lifelong commitment of husband and wife. The commandment given to us by Jesus in John 15:12 is to “love one another.” Covenantal love between a husband and a wife is a daily decision, simple but challenging. It is an ongoing process of learning about each other and how to accommodate differences. Marriage between a man and a woman makes a unique and irreplaceable contribution to society, especially through the loving acceptance and education of children. Over a lifetime, marriage is a great good to the spouses, their families, communities and society. It is a gift to be cherished and protected.

“The fullness of joy is to behold God in everything.”

–St. Julian
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On February 14, we enter the holy season of Lent while we also celebrate Valentine’s Day throughout our country. I remember as a child exchanging Valentine Day cards with all the girls in our class, while we boys received them from all the girls. Later, of course, it was an important day to have a date to go to the movies, dinner, roller skating or such. Today, husbands and wives and those in love still exchange cards or gifts, particularly flowers and chocolates, and often dinner out.

Ash Wednesday is not a time for happy celebrations. Chocolates and flowers do not fit in well with the somber mood of the day. So how are we to celebrate Ash Wednesday and Valentine’s Day this year on the same day? It would be good to postpone dinner and save those chocolates for another day or give them on Mardi Gras, the day before. But, we should all keep in mind that both days give us an opportunity to express our love. Valentine’s Day is always associated with love. Ash Wednesday and Lent are a time that calls us to love God and others, as we turn to the Lord anew with all our hearts, minds and strength.

At the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, I am so pleased that we will begin a new adventure in love February 14. On that day, we will begin offering daily Eucharistic Adoration in our chapel. Last year, we began daily Mass, and now we will extend the blessings the Lord offers us in Eucharist through Adoration. The work of the pastoral center is to promote evangelization, which has to be rooted in prayer!

At each Mass, we climb Calvary anew to enter into the Lord’s sacrifice for us. It was His greatest moment of love, a love that lasts until our day, and will endure forever. It is a great mystery for us to enter in to, and it is the love which feeds and sustains us in the other loves of our lives, even those of Valentine’s Day.

At baptism, we each took on three lifelong disciplines, that of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These disciplines help us to return to or stay committed to our baptismal promises. Regularly communicating intensely with our Beloved, exercising self-control so as to emphasize the supreme importance of the spiritual over the material in our lives, and finally generously sharing with those in need. These disciplines are the marks of our Lent. Just as we are marked by ashes on Ash Wednesday, which call us to penance, a reminder of our sinfulness and the power of God to create holy people out of sinners, so these three disciplines should also be marked more clearly within us today.

As part of your efforts to spend more time in prayer this Lent, I encourage you to consider coming to the Pastoral Center for Eucharistic Adoration and Mass. On Ash Wednesday, I will celebrate Mass in the chapel at 9 a.m. Immediately afterwards, our Eucharistic Adoration will begin, ending at 11:45 a.m. On all other days the Pastoral Center is open, Adoration will be held in the chapel from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. followed by Mass.

For our almsgiving and fasting, perhaps consider participating in our Rice Bowl initiative, which combats hunger locally and around the globe (www.crsricebowl.org). Thanks to your efforts, our diocese has been a leader in our country with this worthy effort. Our Bishop’s Annual Appeal, which takes place during Lent, is another way to help those in need and support so many good pastoral initiatives and charitable efforts in our diocese. Your parish will be sharing information on our Appeal with you and you can also learn more about it on our website: www.diometuchen.org. Whatever you choose to do for Lent will no doubt help unite us in loving God and neighbor more fully.

Indeed, may this Lent be a time of turning anew to the Lord for you, may it be a time of deepening your love. Know of my prayers and love for you, and I count on your prayers too, especially during this holy season of Lent. God bless you!

The Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Bishop of Metuchen
2018 RCIA Biography
CATECHUMEN (unbaptized)

DANA ABBEY lives in Edison with her parents, Margaret and Albert, and her sister Danielle and her brother Danel. She attends Herbert Hoover Middle School and is in the seventh grade. Dana’s interests include drawing, painting and shopping. She will receive the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil this year. Dana realized that she wanted to learn more about God and so began the RCIA process. Through this process she has grown in her relationship with God through prayer and attending Mass. As a Catholic, she looks forward to becoming more involved in church activities and sharing her faith with others through her artwork.

An Invitation To A Rite of Sending
Next Saturday, at the 5:00pm Mass, we will celebrate the Rite of Sending. This is the second of the public rites celebrated in the process of initiation. During this ritual, testimony will be heard regarding the readiness of our catechumen, Dana Abbey, who has been in the Catechumenate phase of the initiation process for the past year. As part of the Rite of Sending, this parish community, in light of the testimony on Dana’s readiness, will recommend her (send her) to a Diocesan Celebration where she will be officially received into the final period of preparation for full initiation into the Church. All are invited to attend the Rite of Sending.

SPIRITUAL SPONSORS: Please take one of the Prayer Cards for Dana that will be distributed at every Mass this weekend. We invite you to become her Spiritual Sponsor. She needs our prayers, encouragement, support, etc., as she enters the final period of her preparation to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. A nice way to show your support is to drop her a note, telling her that you are praying for her. Please put her name on the envelope, c/o RCIA, and drop it off at the Rectory, or in the collection basket at any of the Masses during Lent.

INQUIRY SESSIONS: If you are, or anyone you know is considering becoming part of the Catholic Family and would like to know more about God, Jesus, the Catholic Faith - we invite you to Come and See at an Inquiry Session. Call RCIA at 732-562-1990 x 1633.

Let’s Remember Where We Are
Monsignor Bob has received a letter from a longtime parishioner expressing disapproval over the fact that so many Mass-goers “hold side-line conversations while standing inside the church, while others are kneeling, praying with heavy hearts or praying the Rosary….I find it difficult to pray with so much noise and laughter around me when I am in need of God.” Since it is the beginning of a new year, we think this is a good time to ask people to take their conversations outside the church. There is plenty of room in the vestibule, side entrances and parking lots to meet & greet and have a weekly catch-up. So we ask everyone’s cooperation in respecting the needs of others, and most especially, respecting the fact that the Body and Blood of Christ is always present in the tabernacle and are due appropriate silence and reverence.

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.

“To keep the heart unwrinkled, to be hopeful, kindly, cheerful, reverent - - that is the triumph over old age.”
–Thomas Bailey Aldrich

February is Catholic Press Month. Please use your tithing envelopes, or your e-Giving, to donate to our diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Spirit. Thanks.
Social Concerns
45 Library Place - Metuchen 08840 - Parish Center
548-0100 x225

–Food Collection Last Weekend: 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.
–We are very grateful to the parish, the families of St. Francis Cathedral School and our parish friends for the overwhelming donations to assist those in need during Christmas holidays.


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 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

This Weekend: Distribution of RCIA Prayer Cards
SUN: -World Marriage Day
  -Family Centered CCD, 9:15am, CCR
  -Filipino-American Community, 1:00pm, SOL
  -YG Valentine Dance, 6:00 - 8:00pm, CYO
MON: -Rosary & Mass at Senior Residence, 1:00pm
  -Prayer Shawl, 7:00pm, SOL
TUE: -Prayer Group, 1:00pm, JPII
    -Summer Camp Info Night, 7:00pm, CCR
WED: -Ash Wednesday - Fast & Abstinence
    -Bereavement Program, 7:00pm, JR
THU: -Bible Study, 1:00 & 7:15pm, JPII
    -Body of Christ Prayer Group, 7:30pm, CCR
FRI: -Legion of Mary, 11:00am, JPII
    -Stations of the Cross, 12:50 & 7:30pm
SAT: -Rite of Sending, 5:00pm Mass
SUN: -Rite of Election & Calling Candidates, 3:00pm

Advance Notice: 2/19: President’s Day -1 Mass, 9:00am
Rectory & SFCS Closed - No CCD

Eucharistic Ministers: February 17/18
5:00pm: N. Davis, M. DePasquale, M. & A. Quizon, E. & J. Lyons, J. Bundoc, K. Garner
7:00pm: E. Gutierrez, J. Pasquale, N. Cadorna, E. Swan, C. Roberts, C. Evangelista
7:30am: C. Kozak, D. Monek, B&R. Cushing, T&J Sharlow
10:30am: P. Bixel, E. Beyers, J. Kelly, R. Bonk, S. Francis, B&E Williamson, A. Bianchini
12:00pm: L. Moriarty, K. Manchery, T./N. Rossi, A. McGuire, R. Cron, E & T. Pana, M. Licameli

Lectors: February 17/18
5:00pm: Larry McHugh  7:00pm: Maria Walsh
7:30am: Eileen Lishinsky  9:00am: Maureen K. Cranley
10:30am: Boris Moczula & Maureen Varley
12:00pm: Elizabeth Rooney

Altar Servers: February 17/18
5:00pm  Team 20  7:00pm  Team 21
7:30am  Team 22  9:00am  Team 23
10:30am  Team 24  12:00pm  Team 25
Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, 7:30pm, Team 19