ALL ARE WELCOME!
Whatever your present status in the Catholic Church, whatever your current family or marital situation, whatever your past or present religious affiliation, whatever your personal history, age, background, race or color, you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected at the Parish Family of St. Anthony of Padua.

There are no Strangers at St. Anthony’s - Only Friends We Haven’t Met

St. Anthony of Padua Worship Site
436 Port Reading Ave., Port Reading, NJ
732-634-1403  Fax: 732-602-0119

The Holy Eucharist
Saturday, Evening: 4:00 PM
Sunday, 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM
Daily:  Tuesday & Wednesday: 7:30 AM
       Thursday: 7:00 PM
Tuesday—Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal following 7:30 AM Mass
Thursday—Novena to St. Anthony following the 7:00PM Mass

Liturgy of the Hours - Prayed 20 minutes before Daily Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Thursday Evening: 6:30 PM
Saturday: 3:15 PM

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Worship Site
280 Amboy Ave. (Rt.35), Woodbridge, NJ

The Holy Eucharist
Saturday, Evening: 5:30 PM
Sunday, 9:30 AM Rosary prayed in Hungarian before Mass.
       Divine Mercy Chaplet prayed after Mass.
Daily:  Monday, Friday & Saturday: 8:00 AM

First Friday of the Month
       Devotions to the Sacred Heart
       Following the 8:00 AM Mass

First Saturday of the Month
       Devotions to Mary following Mass

Liturgy of the Hours - Prayed 20 minutes before Daily Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 4:45 PM

LET EVERY DAY
BE CHRISTMAS

Christmas is forever, not for just one day, for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away
Like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.
The good you do for others is good you do yourself.

Peace on Earth, good will to men,
kind thoughts and words of cheer,
are things we should use often and not just once a year.

Remember too the Christ-child, grew up to be a man;
to hide him in a cradle, is not our dear Lord’s plan.
So keep the Christmas spirit, share it with others far and near,
from week to week and month to month, throughout the entire year!

Amen

Prayer Time with Father Smith
for the people of the parish and the needs of the parish
Tuesday, January 2nd, 2018
7:00PM
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Worship Site
Mass Intentions

at St. Anthony of Padua Worship Site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Mass Intention</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, January 1st</td>
<td><strong>Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00AM Thomas Lacovara req. by Tom &amp; Mary Balint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 2nd</td>
<td><strong>Sts. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30AM Pauline Monticello req. by Mary Melillo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 3rd</td>
<td><strong>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30AM Don Harmon req. by Adams &amp; Fitzsimmon Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 4th</td>
<td><strong>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00PM Bill LeBlanc req. by Ed &amp; Vera Lagomarsino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, January 6th</td>
<td><strong>St. André Bessette</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:00PM Maria Vieira req. by Maryann Scarpelli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, January 7th</td>
<td><strong>The Epiphany of the Lord</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00AM Louis Masters req. by Ed &amp; Vera Lagomarsino</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30AM Joseph &amp; Carmella Zullo (75th Wed. Anniversary) req. by daughter, Carolyn &amp; Robert Fischer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:30AM James DeSpirito (2nd Anniversary) req. by his wife, Margaret</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have requested a Mass to be celebrated you have the right to present the bread and wine that will become the Body and Blood of Christ during that particular celebration of Mass. If you would like to fulfill this responsibility, please inform one of the Ministers of Hospitality (Ushers) before Mass. If you don’t inform the Ministers of Hospitality, they will ask another person to fulfill that responsibility.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish
SOLEMNITY, MARY MOTHER OF GOD

at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Worship Site

Sunday, December 31st Vigil Mass 5:30pm

at St. Anthony of Padua Worship Site

Monday, January 1st 10:00am

This Week’s Scripture Readings

Sunday: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
|        | Psalms 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] or Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 |
|        | Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17              |
|        | Luke 2:22-40                                                     |
| Monday:| Numbers 6:22-27                                                  |
|        | Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8                                          |
|        | Galatians 4:4-7                                                 |
|        | Luke 2:16-21                                                    |
| Tuesday:| 1 John 2:22-28                                                  |
|        | Psalms 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4                                       |
|        | John 1:19-28                                                    |
| Wednesday:| 1 John 2:29--3:6                                               |
|        | Psalms 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6                                        |
|        | John 1:29-34                                                    |
| Thursday:| 1 John 3:7-10                                                  |
|        | Psalms 98:1, 7-8, 9                                            |
|        | John 1:35-42                                                    |
| Friday: | 1 John 3:11-21                                                 |
|        | Psalms 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5                                       |
|        | John 1:43-51                                                    |
| Saturday:| 1 John 5:5-13                                                   |
|        | Psalms 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20                                   |
| Sunday: | Isaiah 60:1-6                                                   |
|        | Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13                                 |
|        | Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6                                          |
|        | Matthew 2:1-12                                                  |

Responsorial Psalm in Hungarian for December 31, 2017
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Boldog ember, ki féli az Urat, aki az Úrnak ösvényén halad.

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

Könyörüljön rajtunk az Isten, és áldjon meg minket.

at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Worship Site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Mass Intention</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, January 5th</td>
<td>St. John Neumann</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8:00AM Deceased Members of the Former Rosary Society req. by Former O.L. M. C. Rosary Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, January 6th</td>
<td>St. André Bessette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00AM Purgatorial Mass Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:30PM Victor Amaya req. by Maria Amaya &amp; family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, January 7th</td>
<td>The Epiphany of the Lord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30AM People of the Parish Family</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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St. Anthony of Padua Parish
SOLEMNITY, MARY MOTHER OF GOD

at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Worship Site

Sunday, December 31st Vigil Mass 5:30pm

at St. Anthony of Padua Worship Site

Monday, January 1st 10:00am

This Week’s Scripture Readings

Sunday: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
|        | Psalms 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] or Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 |
|        | Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17              |
|        | Luke 2:22-40                                                     |
| Monday:| Numbers 6:22-27                                                  |
|        | Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8                                          |
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| Friday: | 1 John 3:11-21                                                 |
|        | Psalms 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5                                       |
|        | John 1:43-51                                                    |
| Saturday:| 1 John 5:5-13                                                   |
|        | Psalms 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20                                   |
| Sunday: | Isaiah 60:1-6                                                   |
|        | Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13                                 |
|        | Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6                                          |
|        | Matthew 2:1-12                                                  |
The Parish Family of St. Anthony of Padua Mission Statement

The Parish Family of St. Anthony of Padua
Is a diverse Community of Faith
Formed in July 2012 by the merging of
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Woodbridge (est. 1920)
with St. Anthony of Padua Church, Port Reading (est. 1904).
We proclaim the “Good News” of Jesus Christ
And the beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church.

We are committed to maintaining worship as a
Powerful experience of the presence of God through
Word, Sacrament, Music and Community.

We have a passion for Social Justice
and our duties toward all people.

We enrich the Faith of those in need through a
variety of ministries.
All are Welcome.

We strive to be a beacon of Faith, Hope and Love
while honoring God’s Presence in every person.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
….an HOUR WITH JESUS

We are blessed to have Eucharistic Adoration at
St. Anthony of Padua every Thursday from
2:00PM to 9:00PM.  The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosary
are prayed at 3:00PM.  Please consider joining us for the
hour or even a half-hour.  Please feel free to join us
whenever and as often as you wish. All are welcome!

GOD’S LITTLE HELPERS
St. Anthony’s Pre-school Program for 3, 4 and 5
year olds (potty trained, of course).  We meet on
Sunday mornings at 9:30AM to 10:30AM .  There is NO
FEE!  Registration forms are available on the desk in the
narthex and the parish office.  Have questions please call
Jackie at the parish office 732-634-1403.

ALL PARISHIONERS
are invited and encouraged to share
Coffee & Conversation
On the first Sunday of the month,
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th
In Father Milos Hall after the
8:00AM and 9:30AM Mass

Parish Office Hours
Monday, January 1st New Year’s Day—Closed
Tuesday 10:00AM—3:30PM
Wednesday 8:30AM—3:30PM
Thursday 8:30AM—5:30PM; 6:30PM—9:00PM
Office is CLOSED on Fridays
Closed for lunch each day at 12:45PM—1:30PM

www.saintanthonyofpadua.org
We’re on FACEBOOK, come and check us out!

EMAIL:
Office:  info.StAnthony1@gmail.com
Religious Education:  religiouss.StAnthony1@gmail.com
Bulletin:  bulletin.stanthony@gmail.com
Study Hall:  studylhalloffice@gmail.com or
studyhalldirector@gmail.com
VOTIVE CANDLES
Votive candles burn constantly as a form of prayer and adoration. The candles burning this weekend are dedicated

at St. Anthony of Padua Worship Site

TABERNACLE
In Loving Memory of John J. Kalina, Jr.
Celebrating his 2nd Anniversary with our Lord
req. by sister, Jackie Bamber & family

Thank you for Blessings Received
req. by Patricia & Marty Martino

In Loving Memory of Danielle & Brian Caynor
req. by Richie & Adrienne

GOOD SHEPHERD
In Loving Memory of Gordon & Ann Ur, John Patrick & Owen

Pray for our brave soldiers & their families, our parishioners residing in nursing homes and care centers, the sick and homebound of our parish family, especially:

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

Jan. 1 Our Holy Father, Pope Francis I
Jan. 2 Rev. Blaise Baran
Msgr. William Capik
Jan. 3 Rev. William Warman
Rev. John Zec
Jan. 4 Rev. Sean Kenney
Rev. Kenneth Kolibas
Jan. 5 Rev. Wojciech Kusek, CSsR
Rev. John Stec
Jan. 6 Rev. Kent McCord
Rev. James De Filippis
Jan. 7 Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, DD
Bishop Emeritus of Metuchen Diocese

During the month of January, let us join with Pope Francis I’s prayer intention for Evangelization: Religious Minorities in Asia.

That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.

REST IN PEACE
Please remember in your prayers the souls of:

Joao Morais—October 20, 2017
Kathy Lisicki - November 2, 2017
Richard Mazey—November 5, 2017
Diane Hauselt—November 13, 2017
Patricia Ercolino—November 20, 2017
Joan O’Brien—November 25, 2017
Charles Schimpf—December 9, 2017
Robert Gentile—December 12, 2017

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARIES:
During the month of January, please remember those parishioners who died a year ago:

Anniversary of Death
John Mansfield—January 9th
Adrienne Mahon—January 13th
Andrew Fortuny—January 19th
Genevieve A. Antonelli—January 22nd
Bernadette Grzesik—January 31st

MISSION MASS
The souls of: Requested by….
Frank Smith
Diane Hauselt
Margaret Van Pelt
Aniello Travaglione Jr.
A Mass will be offered in private.

PURGATORIAL MASS SOCIETY
The souls of: Requested by….
Madeline Salzano Pedati
Margaret Van Pelt
Diane Hauselt
Aniello Travaglione, Jr.
Frances Julia Fisco
Joan O’Brien
Mary Pat Pace
Kathleen Rosenkranz
Kathleen Rosenkranz

They have been enrolled into the St. Anthony’s Perpetual Mass Society. They will be remembered in a special Mass during the first week of the month alternating between our two worship sites.

(Ord) days on the First Saturday at 8:00AM at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel; even months on the First Wednesday at 7:30AM at St. Anthony of Padua and remembered daily at the Altar in the Eucharistic Prayer.
**The Week Ahead at St. Anthony of Padua Worship Site**

**Monday, January 1st**  Parish Office & Study Hall Closed

- **BINGO** 2:00PM Fr. Milos Hall
  (door open at 12:45PM)

**Tuesday, January 2nd**

- Study Hall 6:30AM Fr. Milos Hall
- AA 7:30PM Fr. Milos Hall

**Wednesday, January 3rd**

- Study Hall 6:30AM Fr. Milos Hall
- Port Reading / Sewaren Srs. 11:00AM Sycamore Center

**Thursday, January 4th**

- Study Hall 6:30AM Fr. Milos Hall
- Eucharistic Adoration 2:00PM Chapel
- Chaplet / Rosary 3:00PM Chapel
- **Confessions** 6:30PM Church
- AA 8:00PM Fr. Milos Hall

**Friday, January 5th**

- Study Hall 6:30AM Fr. Milos Hall
- Bingo 7:30PM Fr. Milos Hall
  (door open at 6:00PM)

**Saturday, January 6th**

- **Confessions** 3:15PM Church

**Sunday, January 7th**

- Coffee & Conversation after the 8:00 & 9:30AM Masses
  - Fr. Milos Hall
- **God’s Little Helpers** 9:30AM Fr. Milos Hall

**MONDAY, January 8th**

- **BINGO** 7:30PM Fr. Milos Hall
  (door open at 12:45PM)

**COUNTING TEAMS**

**SUNDAY, December 31st**
  Team #6  A. & J. Pannullo

**MONDAY, January 8th**
  Team #8  N. Cinelli, F. Romardo

**The Week Ahead at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Worship Site**

**Prayer Time / Fr. Smith** 7:00PM Church

**Friday, January 5th**

- Novena (Sacred Heart of Jesus) 7:30PM
- **First Friday Mass** 8:00PM Church
  Followed by fellowship in Church basement

**Saturday, January 6th**

- Mass followed by 2000 Hail Mary’s 8:00AM Church
- **Confessions** 4:45PM Church

**BINGO**

**MONDAY, January 1st** 12:30PM
  - Captain – R. Sorbanelli
  - Caller – M. Oddo
  - Kitchen - D. Bortner, R. Masters

**FRIDAY, January 5th** 7:30PM
  - Captain – C. Volk
  - Caller – M. Moricz
  - Kitchen Team M. Herczeg, A. Czum

**MONDAY, January 8th** 12:30PM
  - Team #1 Captain R. Sorbanelli
  - Caller – J. Nelen
  - Kitchen - J. Ballance, D. Bortner, B. Walliser

**FRIDAY, January 12th** 7:30PM
  - Captain – C. Volk
  - Caller – M. Moricz
  - Kitchen Team M. Gesso

**RING IN THE NEW YEAR!**

**BINGO**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018** 2:00PM
  - Doors Open at 12:45PM
  - (Pick up a flyer for more information.)

**Volunteers are needed... please come if you're able to help.**

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**Stewardship: God’s Plan for Giving**

Offertory for December 17, 2017  $6,190.00
Simbang Gabi  $223.00

*Tis the season...for early submission of our bulletins to our publisher. Contributions will be published as available at the time each bulletin is submitted.

Next weekend the annual “**Together In Charity Collection**” will be taken up at all Masses. Please give generously to this collection and contribute to making this a grace-filled new year for a family or individual in crisis.

“…as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive.”
- Colossians 3:13

Forgiveness – one of the hardest things for people to do. It’s amazing how long we can hold a grudge or be angry with someone. As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, take this opportunity to give the gift of forgiveness to someone - maybe someone in your family, maybe a friend, maybe a co-worker or neighbor or, maybe yourself. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

**As a Parish Family we rejoice and celebrate the gifts of life and love that God has given to us all. We offer to all those celebrating their birthdays in December our best wishes and prayers that God may continue to bless them abundantly in the years ahead.**
**STEP UP...** When you come for Mass if you notice that there is no altar server, please volunteer to substitute. Just speak to Fr. Smith. Extra Albs are available.

**ST. ANTHONY STUDY HALL PROGRAM**

Do you have your before and after services setup?

St Anthony Study Hall meets and exceeds your childcare needs for children in grades kindergarten to 8th grade. Pick up a flyer from the information desk in the entrance area of our narthex, go online to our parish website under childcare services for all forms and prices, call the Study Hall office line 732-634-6800 or Frank 732-754-8401.

**MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN OFFICE OF CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION**

**HOW TO REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE**

If you were sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or you know of someone who was, you are encouraged to report that abuse to law enforcement, through the diocesan website (www.diometuchen.org), or by calling Lawrence Nagle, Diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection, (732) 562-2413.
**ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN (IAATO)**

**50 / 50 RAFFLE**

To benefit scholarship and youth programs

| Drawing February 24, 2018 at 10:00pm at IAATO Annual Dinner Dance. |
| Only $50.00 PER TICKET |
| Only 1000 TICKETS TO BE SOLD /12 CHANCES TO WIN |
| Grand prize—$10,000 *(40%) |
| 2nd prize—$5,000 *(20%) |
| 10—$1,000 Prizes *(4% each) |

For Tickets pick up a flyer from the desk at the entrance of St. Anthony of Padua or Our Lady of Mt. Camel worship sites.

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**DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Commencing in the new year, Eucharistic Adoration will be held in the chapel at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway. Volunteer adorers and intercessors are needed Monday through Friday during business hours to pray for the intentions of the diocese. For information or to volunteer, call Laura at 732-529-7932 or email her at the following: evangelization@diometuchen.org.

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**CATHOLIC CHARITIES ~ DIOCESE OF METUCHEN**

Please consider supporting our local poverty relief services by donating gently used clothing, shoes, household items and small appliances to Catholic Charities-Diocese of Metuchen.

Clearly marked donation boxes are available in more than 30 locations throughout our four-county diocese. The nearest location to St. Anthony’s is James, Grenville St., Woodbridge.

For a complete list of drop-off locations, visit http://www.ccdom.org/how-you-can-help/clothing-donation-drop-boxes.

If you have an item that is too big to fit in a donation box, call

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**COUNSELING AND WELLNESS SERVICES**

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Metuchen is offering Counseling and Wellness Services. If you or someone you know needs counseling or is impacted by addiction, we can help. Individual and family therapy for children and adults is available.

For an appointment, call (800) 655-9491.

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**HISTORY OF OUR DIOCESE’S BEGINNINGS**

On November 19th, 2016, the Diocese of Metuchen celebrated the 35th Anniversary of its founding by Pope St. John Paul II. Msgr. John Szymanski, who served then-Bishop McCarrick as chancellor and, later, as vicar general in the early years of the Diocese, has written a history of how the Diocese came to be established and a chronicle of its first five years. Entitled, The Lighting of the Watch Fires, it is available for purchase for $25. Send your check to: Rev. Msgr. John B. Szymanski, The Maria Regina Residence, 5 Dellwood Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873.
Are you suffering after an Abortion?  Help is available!

If you or someone you know is suffering after an abortion, confidential, non-judgmental help is available! Experience God’s merciful love and begin the journey of healing:

Call Project Rachel
local toll-free helpline number: 877-877-4300 or visit HopeAfterAbortion.org.
Spanish-speakers may visit EsperanzaPosaborto.org; call Sisters of Life at 866-575-0075; or email: hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org

Action Alert to Support DREAM Act of 2017

The Dream Act of 2017 (S. 1615 / H.R. 3440) was recently introduced in Congress as a bipartisan effort. The bills are intended to protect immigrant youth who entered the United States as children and know America as their only home. The bills offer qualifying immigrant youth “conditional permanent resident status” and a path to full lawful permanent residency and eventual citizenship. These bills would protect numerous youth, including the over 780,000 individual who received temporary relief from deportation and employment eligibility through the Department of Homeland Security’s Deferred action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

The young people S. 1615 / H.R. 3400 seeks to protect are contributors to our economy, veterans of our military, academic standouts in our universities, and leaders in our parishes and communities. As Catholics, we have long supported DREAMers as we believe in protecting the dignity of every human being, especially that of our children.

To make your voice heard visit: https://justiceforimmigrants.org/action-alerts/action-alert-support-dream-act-2017/

Open Your Heart and Home to a Foster Child

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen is seeking loving families to foster children of all ages, who have been abused, neglected or have had multiple out of home placements, through its Treatment Family Homes Program, contracted by New Jersey’s Department of Children and Families.

The goal for the children in this program is to leave foster care and achieve permanency through reunification with their families, adoption, or independent living.

Catholic Charities provides these resilient children with individual and family therapy, assistance with educational and medical needs, and independent living skills to help them reach their full potential.

Applicants must have adequate space for a child and complete a home study which includes background checks, references, interviews, and a home inspection. All Catholic Charities licensed families receive initial and ongoing specialized training, 24 hour emergency access to staff, respite services, monthly reimbursement for the child’s expenses and support from experienced families.

For more information about the program, please visit www.ccdom.org or contact Miguelina Nunez at 866-247-HOME (4663) or at mnunez@ccdom.org.

24 HOUR HOT 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 or email our office: catholicswithdisabilities@gmail.com

Our Diocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities has a Facebook page that provides daily updates with short inspirational reflections for people with disabilities, family members and care givers. The site also provides endless resources for those with physical, emotional, cognitive, visual, auditory and other special challenges. To access our Facebook page (even if you are not a member of Facebook), type the following into your search engine: Diocese of Metuchen Office for Persons with Disabilities.

THE COMMUNITY HOUSE AT ST. THOMAS

"Community House at St. Thomas, in Old Bridge NJ, is a program managed by Catholic Charities and provides affordable, accessible housing for adults of very low income who have physical disabilities.

Up to 8 physically challenged adults live together as a group, functioning to their individual level of independence, and with professional case management services provided.

If you or someone you know is in need of this type of housing, please call Susan at 732-251-0022 or go to www.communityhouse-saintthomas.org for information. We look forward to hearing from you.
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

One of my great joys as your bishop is to travel about the any parishes of our diocese. Although I have told you before, I want to say again how gratifying and encouraging it is to me to meet so many of you who seek to deepen your friendship with Jesus and support one another on this path. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, the gift of Emmanuel, God with us, we are invited anew to rediscover God’s great untiring love for us and that it is really He who seeks us out. The mystery of the Incarnation, is that God became one of us. The second person of the Holy Trinity assumes our humanity in all ways but sin in the person of Jesus Christ. The Father chose to send us his only Son so that we might become more like God and know the real meaning of love. The celebration of Christmas brings this great hope and promise to each of us again.

As we ponder in prayer, meditating on the Christmas mystery, let us remember how those who learn about the presence of the newborn Christ respond. The night of His birth, the heavens opened and the choirs of angels descended to sing praise to God and to adore the newborn Christ. Shepherds in their night watch came to adore the newborn King resting in the arms of the Blessed Virgin Mother. And of course, in due time the wise men from the east came in search of the new King and fell down in adoration before Him. The bible makes clear for us that the proper response to this great mystery of God’s love becoming flesh is indeed an outpouring of our love in return to Him! This is called adoration, which is an act of love from the heart that belongs only to God. Christmas beckons our hearts to profound adoration of God made flesh for us in Jesus.

With that thought in mind, let me now tell you about a new opportunity for adoration beginning next month in our Pastoral Center. We will begin a dedicated time of Eucharistic Adoration each morning beginning at 9 a.m. and concluding with 11:45 a.m. Mass each day that our Center is open.

Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a wonderful way that the mystery of the Incarnation remains a gift for our Church. Jesus promised to remain with His Church until the end of time. One way He does this is in the gift of His presence in the Holy Eucharist. When we come to adore the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, we are transported back to the nativity in Bethlehem in a sense as we are mystically joining those first choirs of angels who sang His praises, we are among the shepherds who come in humility, we are the wise who still seek Him.

This new initiative of Eucharistic Adoration at our Pastoral Center is a needed opportunity to anchor all that we do in our diocese in prayer. You might remember this as a focus of my pastoral letter, rooting all our pastoral and evangelization efforts in prayer. Hence, we started daily Mass at the Pastoral Center last year, and now we extend the prayer of our Mass with Eucharistic Adoration. As you well know, if we do not start with sincere prayer of the heart, asking our Lord to bless and inspire our efforts, then our pastoral work, our outreach and efforts at evangelization will be hollow, and could end up being directed by ourselves, rather than by Him.
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 NJ Legislature. We thank the sponsors of this bill for wanting to protect babies in the womb and the lives of women. This 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 NJ to protect babies in the womb who are capable of feeling pain at 20 weeks gestation.

Take Action Now!

◊ 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, the “Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.”

To find your NJ State Senator and two Stat Representatives by district/town, visit: http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts/municipalities.asp. For information on this initiative or to obtain a car magnet or sticker, please visit www.babiesinthewombfeelpain.com.

NJ CATHOLIC ADVANCE DIRECTIVES FOR HEALTH CARE FORM

The New Jersey Catholic Conference (NJCC) Advance Directives for Health Care forms are available by contacting the Respect Life Office at 732-562-1990 ext. 1629 or 1543. An English of Spanish copy can also be downloaded from the NJCC website: http://www.njccathcomf.com/content/respect_life_living_will.php

In addition, 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 ordered and downloaded online at www.ncbcenter.org by clicking on “publications.”

LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT!

URGENT!

Take action to Oppose Assisted Suicide Bill—Update

New Jersey Senate bill S2474, the Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act, may be voted on in the next few weeks. An identical bill, A2451, passed the General Assembly on October 20th. If passed, this bill would allow physicians to prescribe drugs to end the lives of terminally ill patients who have been diagnosed with six months or less to live.

Doctor–assisted suicide is a direct threat to anyone viewed as a cost liability to an insurance company. In an era of cost containment and managed care, patients with lingering illnesses may be branded as an economic liability, and decisions to encourage death could be driven by cost.

The facts are clear - in California, Vermont and Oregon - states that have passed assisted suicide bills - insurance companies have denied individuals healthcare coverage but offered them low cost drugs to end their life. One such example is Stephanie Packer, a young mother of four from California. Stephanie was recently denied insurance coverage for her new chemotherapy treatment but suicide drugs were approved by her insurance with a nominal co-pay of $1.20.

Other reasons to oppose assisted suicide legislation include:

◊ A six-month prognosis for a terminal illness is not always accurate. Often, with treatment, patients survive well beyond their prognosis.

◊ S2474 would allow the death certificate to list the cause of death as the underlying terminal disease - not assisted suicide. The cause of death should be listed as self-administered drugs that ended life. Why not tell the truth?

◊ Legalized assisted suicide would send the wrong message to vulnerable groups such as our troubled youth and to our veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Studies have shown that in states where assisted suicide has been legalized, overall suicide rates increase.

◊ There is no requirement for a physician to be present when the patient takes the lethal prescription. In fact there is no supervision of the drugs once they leave the pharmacy. Our society should embrace what Pope John Paul II called “the way of love and true mercy” —a readiness to surround patients with love, support, and companionship, providing the assistance needed to ease their physical, emotional, and spiritual suffering. Our duty is to assist those who are dying—not kill them. Please contact your state Senators today and urge them to oppose S2474 by visiting: http://njcatholic.org/faith-in-action. Also, contact Governor Christie (609-292-6000) and ask him to veto the bill if it reaches his desk.