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

FATHER WILLIAM J. SMITH, K.C.H.S. PASTOR
FATHER LAURO C. SEDLMAYER, PAROCHIAL VICAR
MICHAEL BRUCATO, DEACON JOEY PERLAS, DEACON PETER BARCELLONA, DEACON

St. Anthony of Padua Worship Site
436 Port Reading Ave., Port Reading, NJ

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
Liturgical 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
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
Liturgical of the Hours - Prayed 20 minutes before Daily Mass
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 4:45 PM

Parish Office Hours
Monday 8:30AM—3:30PM
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

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
January 21, 2018
Mass Intentions

at St. Anthony of Padua Worship Site

Tuesday, January 23rd St. Marianne Cope; St. Vincent
7:30AM Kenneth Dailey
req. by John & Carol Mitro

Wednesday, January 24th St. Francis de Sales
7:30AM Antoinette Manto
req. by Nicholas & Carmela Iannitto

Thursday, January 25th The Conversion of St. Paul
7:00PM For My Family (Living Intention)
req. by Betsy Dodd

Saturday, January 27th St. Angela Merici
4:00PM People of the Parish

Sunday, January 28th 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00AM Roberto Besido
req. by The Dumanar Family
9:30AM Louis Masters
req. by his loving wife, Ro Masters
11:30AM Margaret Van Pelt
req. by Bob & Diane Aversa

Mass Intentions

at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Worship Site

Monday, January 22nd
9:30AM Respect for Life at All Stages

Friday, January 26th St. Timothy, St. Titus
8:00AM Katrina Danganan (Living Intention: Birthday)
req. by Rowena Bernabe

Saturday, January 27th St. Angela Merici
8:00AM John Mansfield
req. by Mr. & Mrs. Laszlo Herczeg
5:30PM Nefty & Nena Evangelista (Living Intention)
req. by Joey & Beth Perlas

Sunday, January 28th 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:30AM Ibolya Csiceri
req. by The Mikos Family

Responsorial Psalm in Hungarian for
January 21, 2018 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Utaidat mutasd meg nékem, én Uram, Istenem!

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.

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.

Prayer Time with Father Smith for the people of the parish and the needs of the parish
Wednesday, January 24, 2018 7:30AM at St. Anthony of Padua Worship Site
On January 9th, we celebrated the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In the Catholic Church to be baptized you need a person to sponsor you. The individual who sponsors someone for Baptism is call a godparent.

To be a godparent one must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation in the Catholic Church.

Are you 18 years of age or older? Have you been baptized and received your First Communion? You haven’t received the Sacrament of Confirmation. There will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation as an adult. Please call the parish office to make an appointment with me to make arrangements.

Have you ever thought about becoming a Catholic? Now is the opportunity. If you are interested please call the parish office to set up an appointment with me to begin the process.

FAITH FORMATION

Sacramental Formation Program

Class Schedule:
Communion Level 1 & 2  Wednesday, January 24th
Wednesday, January 31st
Confirmation Level 1 & 2  Monday, January 29th (rescheduled from Jan. 22nd)

GIFT MASS
Saturday, January 27th
4:00PM

Families with the last name beginning with the letters K-N are invited to participate. Please contact Holly at the parish office if you like to help out.

G.I.F.T. 2017—2018
January’s Monday Session rescheduled for Monday January 22nd
Monday, February 5th & Wednesday, February 7th

EACHURISTIC 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!

PRAYER FOR LIFE AND DIGNITY

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of life, help us to value each person created in love by you.

Guide and assist our efforts to promote the dignity and value of all human life, from conception to natural death.

Bless us with the strength to respect all peoples so that we may truly follow the call of Jesus to be neighbor.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.
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:

- Matthew Ackerman
- Celia Arroyo
- Edward Barcellona
- Noemi Arroyo
- Lydia Bellino
- Jessica Bunavage
- William Bunavage
- Marie Cacace
- James Calimano
- Anthony Carreira
- Alexis Cavaciuti
- Alice Cavaciuti
- Elizabeth Clark
- Rosa Claudino
- Sebastian Colletti
- Mario Coppola
- Michael DeFilippo
- Robert Del Campo
- Josephine Dellaguzzo
- Ed Doherty
- Linda Drakoulis
- Richard Emory
- Veronica Evans
- Mikaela Febres
- The Fenyar Family
- Donna Furago
- Frank Grossman
- Joseph M. Hale
- Anna Hanley
- Kim Hickman
- Jake Honig
- Brody Kasnowski
- Chris Killmurray
- Anna Kowalewski
- Robert Kowalewski
- Andrew Kurucz, Sr.
- Evelyn Lamberti
- Rose Lagan
- Cynthia Larsen
- Josie LaSpina
- Kitty Lessuk
- Paul Marin
- Jean Martin
- Richard Martino
- Beverly Mayte
- Dorothy McDermott
- Thomas McNamara
- Joseph Mikos
- Tom Miller
- Evaristo Morales
- Mindy Nagy
- Natalie “Dolly” Nardiello
- Paul Naumy
- Jordy Pavey
- Robert Pavey
- Taylor Pavey
- Joan Petro
- Richard Petrowski
- Laura Poland
- Patsy Renaldi
- Peter Reuben
- Virginia Reuben
- John Sabin
- Michele Santamaria
- Edward Savage
- George Seibert
- Jackson Silva
- Natalia Sosnin
- Joseph Strunak
- Stanley Szymanik Sr.
- Francis Tierney
- Mary Toth
- Chung-Tung Wang

**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 Roberta (Nobes) Finch
As she celebrates her 20th Anniversary in Heaven (Jan. 25)
req. by her parents, Bob & Gerry Nobes and
Godparents, Richie & Adrienne Simeone

In Loving Memory of our beloved friend & member,
Patricia Joan Guzofski
req. by The Port Reading / Sewaren Seniors

In Loving Memory of Micheline Contala
req. by her loving daughter, Michele

**GOOD SHEPHERD**
In Loving Memory of Gordon & Ann Ur, John Patrick & Owen
req. by their family

Special Blessings for Erin & Kasey D’Amato
req. by Uncle Richie & Aunt Adrienne

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**Altar Flowers**
The flowers this weekend at St. Anthony of Padua Worship Site are...

**In Loving Memory on your 1st Anniversary in Heaven Mom, Genevieve Antonelli**
at the request of her daughter,
Lorie Nyers


**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.

**PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Msgr. John Gordon</th>
<th>Rev. Glenn Comandini</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 22</td>
<td>Rev. Alfonso Condorsor</td>
<td>Rev. Sebastian Kaithackal, CMI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 24</td>
<td>Rev. Stanley Jarosz</td>
<td>Msgr. Terrance Lawler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 25</td>
<td>Rev. Alberto Ruiz CMF</td>
<td>Rev. Peter Akkanath Chakkunny, CMI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 26</td>
<td>Msgr. William Haughney</td>
<td>Rev. Michael Fragoso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 27</td>
<td>Rev. Dawid Wejnerowski</td>
<td>Rev. Joseph Krajewski</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES, Diocese of Metuchen**

Dear Friends at St. Anthony of Padua,

I am sending you this letter to thank you ever so much for the many gifts you and your parishioners provided for many of our families this past holiday season. [please see the Thank You cards from our children] Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated by the needy children and families we serve through the Skills Program here at Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen. Together with your donations we were able to assist 90 families with a total of 222 children with toys, clothing, coats and gift cards.

We are wishing you all a wonderful and safe New Year with much love.

Sincerely,
Joyce Applegate, LCSW
Clinical Supervisor

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Dear Members of St. Anthony’s Church

We would like to say Thank You so much for the donations you all provided for our children at Acelero Learning Carteret Center [Head Start]. We truly appreciate it. [Please see the picture of the children saying Thank You to you all!] They really enjoyed the lovely gifts.

God Bless you all and have a Wonderful Holiday Season!!!

Sincerely,
Carteret Staff of Acelero Learning Head Start
### The Week Ahead at St. Anthony of Padua Worship Site

**Monday, January 22nd**
- Study Hall: 6:30 AM Fr. Milos Hall
- BINGO: 12:30 PM Fr. Milos Hall

**Tuesday, January 23rd**
- Study Hall: 6:30 AM Fr. Milos Hall
- Children’s Choir Rehearsal: 4:30 PM Church
- Adult Choir Rehearsal: 6:30 PM Church
- AA: 7:30 PM Fr. Milos Hall

**Wednesday, January 24th**
- Study Hall: 6:30 AM Fr. Milos Hall
  - 1st Penance—Level 1
  - 1st Communion—Level 2

**Thursday, January 25th**
- Study Hall: 6:30 AM Fr. Milos Hall
- Eucharistic Adoration: 2:00 PM Chapel
- Chaplet / Rosary: 3:00 PM Chapel
- Confessions: 6:30 PM Church
- AA: 8:00 PM Fr. Milos Hall

**Friday, January 26th**
- Study Hall: 6:30 AM Fr. Milos Hall
- Bingo: 7:30 PM Fr. Milos Hall
  (door open at 6:00 PM)

**Saturday, January 27th**
- Baptism Prep. Session: 9:00 AM Fr. Milos Hall
- Confessions: 3:15 PM Church
- Family G.I.F.T. Mass: 4:00 PM Church

**Sunday, January 28th**
- God’s Little Helpers: 9:30 AM Fr. Milos Hall

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

**Friday, January 26th**
- Holy Family Prayer Group: 8:00 PM Church
- Confessions: 4:45 PM Church

### Stewardship: God’s Plan for Giving

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions for Christmas 2017</td>
<td>$15,548.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Christmas Flowers”</td>
<td>$3,601.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Solemnity of Mary”</td>
<td>$1,463.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”

- Mark 1:17

Jesus’ call to “Follow me” is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are “ready” or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren’t always going to go according to our schedule and that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.

### Counting Teams

**MONDAY, January 22nd**
- Team #1  P. & R. Sierminski

**SUNDAY, January 28th**
- Team #2  C. Botwin, Wm. Neveil

**MONDAY, January 22nd**
- Captain: R. Simeone
- Caller: M. Oddo
- Kitchen: J. Ballance, D. Bortner, B. Walliser

**FRIDAY, January 26th**
- Captain: C. Volk
- Caller: M. Moricz
- Kitchen Team: M. Gesso

**MONDAY, January 29th**
- Captain: R. Sorbanelli
- Caller: J. Nelen (Sub)
- Kitchen: J. Ballance, D. Bortner, B. Walliser

**FRIDAY, February 2nd**
- Captain: C. Volk
- Caller: M. Moricz
- Kitchen Team: M. Herczeg, A. Czum

### Need a Gift Idea?

**THINK SHOP-RITE GIFT CARDS.**

At St. Anthony’s we have an ongoing fund raiser, Shop-Rite Gift Cards. When purchasing Shop-Rite our Parish receives 5% of the proceeds. Gift Cards come in a variety of denominations and can be purchased in the Parish Office. Please consider helping St. Anthony’s next time you shop.

### Kick Off Your Super Bowl Sunday!!

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2018**
- Doors open tailgating begins 12:45 PM
- Game time: 2:00 PM
- Be a Super Fan & Wear a Team Shirt!
Liturgical Minister Schedule

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL WORSHIP SITE

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday 01/27/18
4:00PM S. LaMorte, V. LaMorte

Sunday 01/28/18
8:00AM Volunteer Needed
9:30AM K. Martino
11:30AM C. Greener, E. Roche

EUCARISTIC MINISTERS

Homebound Ministers 01/27/18—01/28/18
C. Miloscia

Saturday 01/27/18
4:00PM M. Balint, J. Bamber, D. Caffarelli, J. Kondrk

Sunday 01/28/18
8:00AM J. & M. Balanlayos, K. Masarik
9:30AM K. Mitterando, J. Mulinvaney, M. Russo
11:30AM C. Coppola, L. Palasits, M. Rucando

READERS

Saturday 01/27/18
4:00PM G.I.F.T. Family

Sunday 01/28/18
8:00AM T. Casey
9:30AM M. Mitterando
11:30AM C. Smith

CONFIRMATION FOR ADULTS

Are you 18 years or older?

You did not receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Catholic Church?

Read today’s “From the Desk of Father Smith.”

BUS TRIP TO Caesars

SPONSORED BY St. Anthony of Padua Holy Name Society

Sunday, February 11, 2018

Departure Time: 10:30AM
From the SYCAMORE SENIOR CENTER parking lot
On Old Road (just off Port Reading Avenue)
Approx. return: TBD

Tickets $26.00 per person
You’ll receive $30 in casino money on arrival!

For tickets or more information please contact:
Garry Sutphen at 732-841-4618

HOLY FAMILY PRAYER GROUP OF OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL

The Holy Family Prayer Group invites you to join them at their Prayer meeting each Friday at 8:00PM in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church basement. Each First Friday they welcome you to join them in the celebration of Mass at 8:00PM. Blessing for those celebrating the month of their birth after Mass. (Rosary recited 7:30PM.)

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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.

Do you shop on Amazon? Why not consider designating St. Anthony of Padua Church as your charity on Amazon Smile, and use it instead of the regular Amazon site. Just go to http://smile.amazon.com and log in using your personal Amazon account number or if you do not have one click on create one. Select a charity by typing St. Anthony of Padua Church and click the search tab and select the one that says, Port Reading, NJ.
St. Anthony of Padua and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Worship sites are ready to “Team Up Together” to “Tackle Hunger” and be a “Lighthouse for Others” in our Community. Together we can turn the nations’ largest weekend of football into the largest weekend of caring as we participate in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring on Super Bowl weekend.

WHAT IS THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING?
Since 1990, young people have been leading the charge and inspiring others to collect dollars and food around the time of the big game. These groups then give 100% of their donations to local charities. More than $110 million has been raised changing the nation’s largest weekend of football into the largest weekend of caring, giving and serving. St. Anthony of Padua has been participating for over 11 years. Last year we collected over 500 lbs. of food which also assisted the Township “Have a Heart Food Drive” and we collected over $250.00 for our social ministry.

HOW CAN I HELP?.....
SUPER BOWL WEEKEND... FEBRUARY 3RD/4TH

Return your non-perishable item to the Football Field in the Narthex next weekend. (you may drop in your favorite team crate)

The youth of our parish will ask you to be a SUPER FAN and drop $1.00 in their “SOUPER BOWL OF CARING.” Every dollar raised helps bring LIGHT to the LIVES of people in need.” All donations will benefit the Social Ministry Programs that assist St. Anthony of Padua & Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Worship Sites and we will once again show our Community spirit by being a “Lighthouse to Others” by kicking back to the Woodbridge Township Have a Heart (2/14) Food Drive.

Show your SUPERBOWL SPIRIT by wearing Your Favorite Team Shirt!

Let’s Team Up and Let our Light Shine
SPONSORED BY JUST FAITH MINISTRY
In SUPERBOWL 52

SPONSORED BY JUST FAITH MINISTRY
Deacon Peter Barcellona, Debbie Caffarelli, Deacon Mickey & Colleen Coppola, Pat Russo, Holly Pagliuca, Bob Sorbanelli
ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN (IAATO)

50/50 RAFFLE

to benefit our scholarship and youth programs

DRAWING FEBRUARY 24, 2018 AT 10:00 PM At the 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%) and (10) $1,000 Prizes *(4% each)

The drawing will be held at IAATO Annual Dinner Dance at 10:00 pm on Feb. 24, 2018. If the offer is oversubscribed, the first 1000 tickets will be honored. All other contributions will be returned. These tickets are offered on a best-effort basis. Winner need not be present at drawing. All winners will be notified. All taxes will be the responsibility of the winners.  — Lic. # RL-73-17 - ID. # 359-8-23215

*If not completely subscribed, the exact prize offered shall be the percentage noted, per state regulations or the offering may be canceled by the committee and all contributions returned.

For tickets, contact an IAATO member, or fill out the attached ticket application below and mail it with your check. For information, contact Marty at 732-750-9717 or visit our website at IAATO.com

APPLICATION FOR TICKET

Make checks payable to IAATO - (do not send cash) - Please PRINT CLEARLY

Mail form with payment to: M. Martino, IAATO, 1110 Route 35, Ocean, NJ 07755

Price per ticket - $50.00 per ticket. No. of tickets requested________________________Amount enclosed $________________________

Name:_________________________________ Phone:________________________

Address:________________________________ City/State/Zip:________________________

Contact Name & Phone No. (if different from above):___________________________________

(Your ticket will be mailed to you upon receipt of this application with your $50.00 check per ticket)
For an appointment, call (800) 655-available.

If you or someone you know needs counseling or is impacted by addiction, we can provide counseling and wellness services. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Metuchen is offering individual and family therapy for children and adults.

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.

**Annual Diocesan Respect Life Mass & Pro-Vita Awards**

All are welcome to attend the Annual Diocesan Respect Life Mass on Sunday, January 21, 2018 at 12 Noon at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen. Bishop Checchio will present the 2018 Pro-Vita awards at this time.

This year’s recipients are Kevin and Mary Dugan of Immaculate Conception in Somerville who are being recognized for their dedication to promoting the sanctity of human life in the parish and beyond and Arlene Lippincott of St. Philip & St. James in Phillipsburg for her service to women facing unplanned pregnancies at Life Choices, Inc. in Phillipsburg.

Please plan to attend as a show of support for these pro-life champions! Immediately following the Mass, there will be a small reception in the Community Room downstairs.

Please call 732-562-1990 ext. 1629 or visit www.diometuchen.org for more information.

**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.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Movies @ Main: Unlikely Companions**

*Free films shown 2:00pm on Fridays at the Main Library

January 26th — Beatriz at Dinner
February 2nd — The Big Sick
February 9th — Hitman’s Bodyguard
February 16th — Home Again
February 23rd — Victoria & Abdul
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/

Laudato Si': the first papal encyclical devoted to the environment has now been released. Start reading Pope Francis' document at www.vatican.va and take up the pope's urgent call for dialogue on the future of our common home.


Keep up with Bishop Checchio around the Diocese
Bishop's schedule, correspondence and more can be found on our diocesan website: http://diometuchen.org/bishop/

Like us on Facebook
Follow us @diocesemetuchen on twitter

ST. PETER’S GIANNA CENTER
We are very pleased to introduce you to the Saint Peter’s Gianna Center located in New Brunswick, NJ.
The Center is dedicated to offering truly prolife women’s health care, including infertility services, general gynecologic care, and more. All services are provided in accordance with the US Catholic Bishops Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services.

Please visit: http://www.saintpetershcs.com/GiannaCenter/ or contact us at 732-565-5490 for more information.

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, 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 go to www.communityhouse-saintthomas.org or call Susan at 732-251-0022 for information. We look forward to hearing from you."
Please Support A3452/S2026, the NJ Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

There is substantial medical evidence that babies in the womb feel pain at a very early stage of gestation. Thanks to advancements 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.njcathcomf.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.