The Parish Family
of
St. Anthony of Padua

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 11, 2018
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
Thursdays: 7:00 PM

Tuesday — Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal following 7:30 AM Mass
Thursday — Novena to St. Anthony following the 7:00 PM Mass

Liturgy of the Hours - Prayed 20 minutes before Daily Mass

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

Holy Week, Wednesday, March 28th
9:00 AM—10:00 AM & 7:00 PM—8:00 PM

During our G.I.F.T. Session this month we reflected upon the “Dignity and Rights of Workers.” Today’s prayer reflects this theme.

We pray for workers around the world.
May the work of their hands sustain them, honor you and bring forth comfort and peace to families and communities.

We pray that all workers may be paid fairly, and treated with respect and dignity.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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.

Liturgies:
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

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

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

EMAIL:
Office: info.StAnthony1@gmail.com
Religious Education: religioused.StAnthony1@gmail.com
Bulletin: bulletin.stanthony@gmail.com
Study Hall: studyhalloffice@gmail.com or studyhalldirector@gmail.com
Mass Intentions

at St. Anthony of Padua Worship Site

Tuesday, March 13th
7:30AM Margaret Rosenkranz
req. by Fr. William J. Smith

Wednesday, March 14th
7:30AM Carmen V. Pagliuca
req. by The Reuben Family

Thursday, March 15th
7:00PM Ann Patten
req. by Mary & Tom Balint

Saturday, March 17th  St. Patrick
4:00PM Frances Gross
req. by Father William J. Smith

Sunday, March 18th  5th Sunday of Lent
8:00AM Graciano & Amelia Campos
req. by son, John Campos & family
9:30AM Susan Sandin
req. by her sister, Cathy Adams
11:30AM Louis Masters
req. by Carol & Lewis Huber & family

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.

at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Worship Site

Monday, March 12th
8:00AM Eduardo Palacio
req. by Mercy Garcia

Friday, March 16th
8:00AM James Patten
req. by Mr. & Mrs. Anthony D’Orsi

Saturday, March 17th  St. Patrick
8:00AM Eileen & George Miller Sr.
req. by George Miller Jr.
5:30PM People of the Parish Family

Sunday, March 18th  5th Sunday of Lent
9:30AM Manuel Spann
req. Maria Amaya

Responsorial Psalm in Hungarian for March 11, 2018        4th Sunday of Lent
Ragadjon ínyemhez a nyelvem, ha nem emlékezem meg rólad.

This Week’s Scripture Readings

Monday: Isaiah 65:17-21
Psalms 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b
John 4:43-54 or Micah 7:7-9
Psalms 27:1, 7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14
John 9:1-41

Tuesday: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12
Psalms 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9
John 5:1-16 or Micah 7:7-9
Psalms 27:1, 7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14
John 9:1-41

Wednesday: Isaiah 49:8-15
Psalms 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18
John 5:17-30 or Micah 7:7-9
Psalms 27:1, 7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14
John 9:1-41

Thursday: Exodus 32:7-14
Psalms 106:19-20, 21-22, 23
John 5:31-47 or Micah 7:7-9
Psalms 27:1, 7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14
John 9:1-41

Friday: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22
Psalms 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23
John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 or Micah 7:7-9
Psalms 27:1, 7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14
John 9:1-41

Saturday: Jeremiah 11:18-20
Psalms 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12
John 7:40-53 or Micah 7:7-9
Psalms 27:1, 7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14
John 9:1-41

Next Sunday: Jeremiah 31:13-34
Psalms 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15
Hebrews 5:7-9
John 12:20-33

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.
All students in Sacramental Formation are required to obtain a bulletin, have it signed by the celebrant or deacon after Mass each weekend and submit it to their next Sacramental Formation class. Be sure their name is on it.

**Class Schedule:**

- **Communion Level 1 & 2**
  - Wednesday, March 14th
  - Wednesday, March 21st

- **Confirmation Level 1 & 2**
  - Living Stations Rehearsal: Monday, March 12th, 6:30 PM
  - "Living Stations" Friday, March 16th, 5:00 PM & Presentation 7:00 PM

Due to our Easter schedule, we will not be having a G.I.F.T. Family Mass in March.

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Worship Site**

- Wednesdays of Lent at 7:00 PM

**Saint Anthony of Padua Worship Site**

- Fridays of Lent (except Good Friday) at 12:15 PM & 7:00 PM

This Wednesday, March 14th at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel St. James students will be presenting the Stations of the Cross in Mime.

On Friday, March 16th St. Anthony’s Confirmation class will be presenting “The Living Stations of the Cross.”

All Religious Education Sacramental Prep Students must attend at least once. Please remember to sign-in at the table at the entrance of the church.

**FOOD DRIVE MINISTRY**

Our monthly food drive will be held the weekend of March 17th & 18th. Please be as generous as your means will allow. Your donation of food items is always greatly appreciated and will enable us to provide a beautiful Easter feast for those in need. Just a reminder... Please do not send in any perishable items.

The ministry members working are asked to be in the Father Milos Hall at 10:00 am on Sunday morning. The members working this month are:

- G. & G. Damiani
- Delivery: H. Sullivan (Tuesday, March 20th)

**ENCOUNTER ANDRISE**

We encounter Andrise, a teacher in Haiti who knows the importance of forming young people who will give back to the community—and their country. Reflect on the role teachers have played in bringing you closer to God and your community. How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.
DO YOU WISH TO PARTAKE OF OUR EASTER CELEBRATION MEAL

A MEAL OF HAM, KIELBASA, AND ALL THE TRIMMINGS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT ON SATURDAY, MARCH 31st, 2018 TO BE PICKED UP BY YOU OR DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME. (DELIVERIES TO WOODBRIDGE TWSP., CARTERET & PERTH AMBOY ONLY - ALL OTHER AREAS – YOU ARE WELCOME TO PICK THEM UP AT THE CHURCH)

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THE MEAL, ALL ARE WELCOME TO PARTAKE, HOWEVER A CALL IS NEEDED BY PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 25th, 2018 by 3:00PM IN ORDER TO PLAN PROPERLY.

WE WILL BEGIN TO TAKE CALLS FOR THE MEAL ON MONDAY, MARCH 12th

PLEASE CALL 732-634-1419, BEGINNING MONDAY, MARCH 12th, LEAVE YOUR NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER AND WE WILL CONTACT YOU.
All children of the Parish are invited to participate.....

Plans are underway for our annual Easter Celebration Meal to be prepared in Father Milos Hall on **Saturday morning, March 31st**. For anyone who is not familiar with this ministry - a meal of ham, kielbasa and all the trimmings is prepared and then either picked up or delivered to those who have previously called and expressed their interest in receiving this meal.

We would like to invite the children of the parish to help us by coloring hard-boiled eggs. Last year we colored over 500 eggs!! It **would be greatly appreciated if you can bring 1 dozen hard boiled eggs that evening.**

*What a wonderful opportunity to be a good neighbor.... So plan on joining us!!!!*

**Wednesday, March 28th**
6:30 pm
Fr. Milos Hall

If you would like to participate in the Easter Meal Celebration Activities or if any adults would like to help that evening please fill out the form below and return it to the Parish Office.

**-----------------------------**

**I/WE WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE:**

**CHILD /CHILDREN’S NAMES**

_____________________________ AGE:_____
_____________________________ AGE:_____  
_____________________________ AGE:_____  

PHONE NUMBER:____________________________

**I CAN HELP THAT EVENING:**

________________________________________

Cell Phone: ________________________________

Email: ________________________________

**EASTER CELEBRATION MEAL**

**YES, I WOULD LIKE TO HELP OUT IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:**

Cook beforehand________________________
Cook Sat. Morn.________________________
Prepare the servings____________________
Driver_______________________________
Donate a 5 lb. canned ham_______________
Donate kielbasa _______________________
Donate applesauce (6 pack): _____________
Monetary and/or supermarket gift cards welcome ______

Name: _________________________________

Phone #: ______________________________

EMAIL: _______________________________

Best Time to call: ______________________

*In order to prepare accordingly, please drop form off no later than Wednesday, March 21st at the parish office or place in the collection basket at Mass. Thank you.*
**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 Ann Patten
req. by Claire & Larry Milosci

In Loving Memory of my father, Gino Cane
req. by daughter, Claudia Trotto

In Loving Memory of our dear parents, Maria & Carmen
req. by Albina & Victor D’Alessio

**Good Shepherd**

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

With Love and Gratitude for Blessing our lives, Ann DaPrile
req. by The Casey Family

**Rectory Chapel**

Special Blessings for Sebastian & Vincent LaMorte
req. by Uncle Richie & Aunt Adrienne

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Heal me, O Lord, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise. Jeremiah 17:14

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That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.

**Pray for our priests**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Rev. Alexander Carles</th>
<th>Rev. Jacek Stanislawski, CSsR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 15</td>
<td>Msgr. Robert Medley</td>
<td>Rev. Edward Kearns</td>
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<td>Mar. 18</td>
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**Chrim Mass**

March 26, 2018 7:30 P.M.


**Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi**

On Monday, March 26, 2018 Bishop James Checchio will celebrate the Chrism Mass with the priests of the Diocese. At this Mass, the Bishop will bless the Holy Oils which each parish receives for the rites of anointing. Saint Ambrose [340-397] began this custom – which we now call the Chrism Mass – in his Cathedral in Milan. These Holy Oils, which are used to sanctify the Faithful, have been channels of holiness for centuries! The Oil of Catechumens is used to anoint the chest of infants and hands of adults before their Baptism; the Oil of the Sick is used on the forehead and hands of the infirm in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick; and Sacred Chrism is used to anoint the head of the newly baptized, the foreheads of confirmandi, the hands of a priest at his ordination, the head of a bishop at his ordination, and the altar and walls of new churches. At the Mass, all priests make a Renewal of Commitment to Priestly Service, recommitting themselves to their Bishop and to their ministry to God and His People; the Bishop and all Priests then ask the people for a pledge of their prayerful support. All are strongly encouraged to join in the ancient, grace-filled Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen at 7:30PM.

**Lost & Found**

There is a box on the shelf in the hallway by the restrooms with items that have been forgotten here at St. Anthony’s. Jewelry, cell phones, etc. are held in the parish office. They will be held for 30 days, after which they will be donated to a local charity.

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Within the next few weeks we’ll be updating our Prayer List. Please contact Jackie at the parish office if you or a loved one needs to remain on or be placed on our list for prayers. Please call the parish office at 732-634-1403 or contact her via email at bulletin_StAnthony@verizon.net, subject: Prayer List.
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.

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

Contributions of March 4, 2018: $5,964.00

Next weekend, March 17th / 18th our second collection will be for the Easter Flowers that will adorn our churches this Easter Season. Please be as generous as your means allow.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son…”

John 3:16

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we are grateful and generous with our God-given gifts. That we nurture and develop them and return with increase.

**COUNTING TEAMS**

**MONDAY, March 12th**  
Team #8  N. Cinelli, F. Rombardo

**MONDAY, March 19th**  
Team #1  P. & R. Sierinski

**B**  
MONDAY, March 12th  12:00Noon
  Team #2  Captain R. Sorbanelli
  Caller –  R. Simeone
  Kitchen –  J. Ballance, D. Bortner, B. Walliser

**FRIDAY, March 16th**  7:30PM
  Captain –  C. Volk
  Caller –  M. Moricz
  Kitchen Team  A. Rabago

**MONDAY, March 19th**  12:00Noon
  Team #3  Captain: R. Simeone
  Caller –  M. Oddo
  Kitchen –  J. Ballance, D. Bortner, B. Walliser

**FRIDAY, March 23rd**  7:30PM
  Captain –  C. Volk
  Caller –  M. Moricz
  Kitchen Team  M. Gesso

**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 and Spanish.

Families that need assistance completing the online application, or need access to the technology to apply, may register for one of two Application Workshops, which will be held in two locations in January and February going to www.diometuchen.org/tuition-assistance and following the Workshops link.
**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.

**Liturgical Minister Schedule**

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<th><strong>ALTAR SERVERS</strong></th>
<th><strong>OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL WORSHIP SITE</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Saturday</strong> 03/17/18</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday</strong> 03/17/18</td>
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**San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch**

Friday, May 18**th** through Sunday, May 20**th**, 2018.

The cost is $220.00 for the whole weekend (meals are included) a $50.00 Non-refundable deposit is required by April 20**th**.

For information call Colleen Coppola at 732-331-4151.

**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 8**th** 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.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

* ARE YOU RETIRED?
* DO YOU HAVE A CDL LICENSE?
* WOULD YOU LIKE TO DRIVE A SCHOOL BUS (with a bus aide at all times.)

Hours are approximately an hour in the morning and maybe 2 hours in the afternoon. We will train and pay for license. We need someone as a substitute or “as needed” basis.

If you are interested please contact Frank Cacace at 732-754-8401.
WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP’S ANNUAL
ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADE

SUNDAY, MARCH 11th, 2018

Begins 1:30PM at Woodbridge High School, down Freeman St., Linden Ave., Green St, Rt. 35 & Main St.

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS!

Please join us for a free Pasta Dinner at The Deacons’ Table!

Located at the Most Holy Rosary Worship Site of the Good Shepherd Parish 625 Florida Grove Rd., Hopelawn

Meals are offered every Wednesday 4:00-5:30PM!!!
Please join us and bring your family and friends!

MOUNT SAINT MARY
House of Prayer
An Oasis of Peace, Contemplation & Hospitality

1651 U.S. Highway 22 Watchung, NJ 07069-6587
(908) 753-2091 * msmshope@msmhope.org

Registration required; call 908-753-2091 or e-mail: msmshope@msmhope.org

DESIGNER POCKETBOOK BINGO FUNDRAISER

Friday, April 13th, 2018
Designer Pocketbooks—50/50 Raffle—Gift Basket Raffles
Mercy Hall—1645 US Highway 22, Watchung
Admission: $40 includes 20 Bingo Sheets
No Admission Tickets Sold at the Door

to Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen!
Funds from the sale of donated vehicles support our programs for the poor in need across Middlesex, Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren counties.

*Donations are tax deductible.
*Free pick-up is available.
*Vehicles do not need to be running.
Visit www.ccdom.org/cars or call 1-877-999-8322.

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.

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.

CHARITY Fish Fry

hosted by
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
FATHER CAREY COUNCIL #1280
164 High Street, Carteret
6 Fridays during Lent (except Good Friday)
4:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

Menu includes: salad, Choice of: Broiled or Fried Fish Dinner, / Fried Shrimp Dinner / Combo Dinner of Fish (broiled or fried) /Shrimp (fried) All with French Fries or Rice, Cole Slaw, / or Ravioli Dinner with sauce Homemade Cake and Coffee or Tea

Fish or Shrimp Dinner: Adults $13; Seniors (65+) $12; Children (<12) $7.
Combo Meal: Adults $14, Seniors (65+) $13; Children (<12) $8.
Ravioli Dinner: Adults $7; Children (<12) $5.
$1 EXTRA for each Take-out Order Cash Bar Available!

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.

BUS TRIP

sponsored by
HOLY ROSARY SENIORS

Spend 2 hours at Renault Winery. - Italian Family style lunch and wine tasting., then on to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City/

Tuesday, April 3, 2018
Bus leaves 9:30AM from Holy Rosary parking lot
Leaving Resorts approximately 6:30 pm.

Cost $75. $25 back in play.
Any question call Ronnie at 732/442-5252.
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.

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.

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/

EnCOURAGE....Courage is a spiritual support group helping Catholic men and women live in accordance with the Catholic Church’s teaching about same-sex-attraction and discipleship. Courage members strive to develop lives of integrity, interior chastity in union with Christ, through participation in the Sacraments, prayer, fellowship and moral support. Courage meets within the Diocese with a priest chaplain. EnCourage is a separate spiritual support group for family members and friends of loved ones with same-sex-attraction. For information about locations and meeting times for each of these groups call: 732-562-2476 for Courage (email: couragecnj@gmail.com) and 732-248-9460 for EnCourage. Also visit the national website at Couragecnj.org. All contacts are confidential.

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 call Susan at 732-251-0022 or go to www.communityhouse-saintthomas.org for information. We look forward to hearing from you.

ST. PETER’S GIANNA CENTER

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