Happy Mother’s Day

7th Sunday of Easter - Mother’s Day

May 13, 2018
Parish Office Hours
Monday 8:30 AM—3:30 PM
Tuesday 10:00 AM—3:30 PM
Wednesday 8:30 AM—3:30 PM
Thursday 8:30 AM—5:30 PM; 6:30 PM—9:00 PM
Office is CLOSED on Fridays
Closed for lunch each day at 12:45 PM—1:30 PM

OFFICE: info.StAnthony1@gmail.com
Religious Education: religioused.StAnthony1@gmail.com
Bulletin: bulletin.StAnthony@gmail.com
Study Hall: studyhallooffice@gmail.com or studyhalldirector@gmail.com
Youth Ministry: jaamyouthministry4@gmail.com

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 4:45 PM

Queen of heaven, rejoice,
Alleluia!

The Son whom you merited to bear,
Alleluia!

Has risen as he said,
Alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad
O Virgin Mary,
Alleluia!

For the Lord has truly risen,
Alleluia!

To all mothers, grandmothers, godmothers
and those who serve in the role of a mother….
GOD BLESS and
HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!!
Mass Intentions at St. Anthony of Padua Worship Site

Tuesday, May 15th
7:30AM Carmen V. Pagliuca
req. by Alfred & Patricia Russo

Wednesday, May 16th
7:30AM Brenda Porga
req. by Donna Laxson

Thursday, May 17th
7:00PM Barbara Ann Krissak
req. by her loving family

Saturday, May 19th
4:00PM Theresa C. Smith
req. by Father William J. Smith

Sunday, May 20th PENTECOST SUNDAY
8:00AM Henry & Theresa Pawlikowski
req. by daughter, Debra Pawlikowski
9:30AM Olena Rusyn
req. by son, Chuck & Kathie Rusyn
11:30AM Lillian & John MacNeil
req. by their children

Mass Intentions at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Worship Site

Monday, May 14th St. Matthias
8:00AM Frank & Margaret Alexai
req. by Maria Herczeg & family

Friday, May 18th St. John I
8:00AM Holy Souls in Purgatory
req. by a friend

Saturday, May 19th
8:00AM Francis J. Tagmire
req. by Melanie Dumndan
5:30PM John Wukoret
req. by George Miller Jr.

Sunday, May 20th PENTECOST SUNDAY
9:30AM People of the Parish Family

Responsorial Psalm in Hungarian for 7th Sunday of Easter—May 13, 2018
Urunk, Istenünk,
a mennyben állította fel trónusát.

Prayer Time with Father Smith for the people of the parish and the needs of the parish

Monday, May 14th, 2018 8:30AM at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Worship Site
Monday, May 21st 6:00PM at St. Anthony of Padua Worship Site
Tuesday, May 29th 6:00PM at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Worship Site

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.

This Week’s Scripture Readings

Sunday:
Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26
Psalms 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20
1 John 4:11-16
John 17:11b-19

Monday:
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
Psalms 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
John 15:9-17

Tuesday:
Acts 20:17-27
Psalms 68:10-11, 20-21
John 17:1-11a

Wednesday:
Acts 20:28-38
Psalms 68: 29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab
John 17:11b-19

Thursday:
Acts 22:30; 23:6-1
Psalms 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11
John 17:20-26

Friday:
Acts 25:13b-21
Psalms 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab
John 21:15-19

Saturday:
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31
Psalms 11:4, 5 and 7
John 21:20-25

Sunday:
Acts 2:1-11
Psalms 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 or
Galatians 5:16-25
John 20:19-23 or John 15:26-27; 16:12-15
To date, the Development Office has received pledges totaling $27,077.00 and payments totaling $21,566.00 from 212 parishioners. This represents 112.8% of our $24,000.00 goal. Thank you for your efforts!!

The Office of Vocations of the Diocese of Metuchen invites you to join them for

Eucharistic Holy Hour for Vocations

Friday, June 8, 2018 6:00PM
St. John Neumann Pastoral Center
146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854

Ordination to the Priesthood
Deacon Tholitho
Deacon Robert Pinnisi
Saturday, June 9, 2018 11:00AM
Cathedral of St. Francis, Metuchen

For directions or questions, please contact: Vocations@diometuchen.org / 732-562-2456
www.diometuchen.org/vocations

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!

Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima
is being honored from
Thursday, May 10th—Tuesday, May 15th
at the home of
John & Holly Pagluioca

Pilgrim Statue

In Honor of our Patron Saint’s Feast Day, June 13th why not consider hosting the pilgrim statue of St. Anthony of Padua in your home this summer?
The Pilgrim Statue can be honored to promote devotion to our Patron Saint. When hosting the Statue you may wish to invite relatives, neighbors or just have it for yourself for private devotion. The Pilgrim Statue can be picked up on Monday and dropped off on Thursday at the Parish Office during office hours.

If you would like to honor this pilgrim statue in your home, please fill out the form available at then entrance of both worship sites and return to the parish office.

St. Anthony of Padua
Feast Day Raffle
Wednesday, June 13, 2018 - 8:00PM

$25 per ticket 17 chances to win

Only 2,000 tickets will be sold!
215 tickets already sold!

Grand Prize $10,000 (40%)*
Second Prize $5,000 (20%)*
Fifth Place $1,000 (4% each=20%)*
Fifth Place $500 (2% each=20%)*

*If not completely subscribed, the exact prize offered shall be the percentage noted, per state regulations or the offering may be cancelled by the committee and all contributions returned. Flyers with complete details & Ticket Applications are available on the desk in the outer narthex and the parish office.

If there is anyone in your family graduating from Catholic or Public Middle School (8th grade), High School or College level, please call the parish office or email bulletin.StAnthony1@gmail.com with the name of the student and the school they’re graduating from, your name and relation to the “graduate” and for college graduates, their degree. [example: BA in Education].

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.
St. Anthony of Padua

First Holy Communion 2018

Brianna Rose Basilone
Ethan Brian Brucato
Savannah Lilly Katsock
Logan James Kelly
Karley Ann Kondrk
Gabriella Albina LaMorte
McKenzie Kaelyn Minkler
Giovanni Matthew Monteiro
Gabriella Angela Nespole
Nolan Ryan Nixon
Sophia Valentina Oloriz

Krystal Chinenye Onochie
Laura Nnena Onochie
Stephania Alexandra Pena
Julian Michael Radice
Damian Raducha
Sophie Mari Claro Simoes
Kayla Skyler Smith
Matthew James Sullivan
Michael John Sullivan, Jr.
Kyle Anthony Tobar
Juliana Isabelle Trujillo
Zachary John Van Woeart

May God’s Blessings be bestowed upon
the children, their families
& teachers!
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**
God’s Love & Blessings for our First Holy Communicants!
reg. by Fr. Smith & Religious Education Staff

In Loving Memory of my wonderful grandfather, John Osag
req. by Laura (Brenner) & Jonathan Sternesky

God’s Blessings on your Wedding Day and Always
Laura & Jonathan Sternesky
req. by your loving family

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

In Loving Memory of Carmen V. Pagliuca
req. by Alfred & Pat Russo

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

God Bless our moms on Mothers Day and always!
Love Holly & John


Let us join with Pope Francis I’s prayer intention for May 2018.
Evangelization - The Mission of the Laity.

That the lay faithful may fulfill their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.

**Pray for our Priests**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Rev. Kent McCord</th>
<th>Rev. James De Fillipps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Rev. J. Maciej Melaniuk</td>
<td>Rev. Marcin Zubik, CSSR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>Rev. John Alvarado</td>
<td>Rev. Jason Pavich</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>Rev. Robert Meyers</td>
<td>Rev. Thomas Aenekatt, VC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Rev. Chester Carina</td>
<td>Msgr. Edward O’Neill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>Rev. Imre Juhasz</td>
<td>Rev. Lancelot McGrath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>Rev. John Werner</td>
<td>Rev. John Morley</td>
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**Altar Flowers**
this weekend at
St. Anthony of Padua Worship Site are...

Congratulations to our First Holy Communicants!
May God’s Love & Blessings be with you today & remain with you always!

*requested by*
St. Anthony’s Religious Education Program

**May God Bless You, Laura & Jonathan on your wedding day & always**

*Love*
Mom (Karen Brenner) & Grandma (Ethel Osag)

In Thanksgiving for prayers answered

*requested by*
a grateful servant

**Flowers for the Blessed Mother**
at the Saint Anthony of Padua Worship Site

**Special Intention**
at the request of

A loved one wishing to remain anonymous
## Liturgical Minister Schedule

### ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA WORSHIP SITE

#### ALTAR SERVERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>05/19/18</td>
<td>4:00PM</td>
<td>Volunteer Needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>05/20/18</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Volunteer Needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:30AM</td>
<td>S. LaMorte, V. LaMorte, K. Martino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11:30AM</td>
<td>V. Bernatowicz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

#### EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Homebound Ministers</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R. McNamara</td>
<td>05/19/18</td>
<td>4:00PM</td>
<td>J. Barcellona, K. Brenner, J. Kondrk, C. Marney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>05/20/18</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>M. Balint, S. Gadomski, K. Masarik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:30AM</td>
<td>D. &amp; M. Martino, O. &amp; R. Sandoval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11:30AM</td>
<td>E. Bishop, L. Emory, L. Palasits, F. Scognamiglio</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### READERS

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<td>05/19/18</td>
<td>4:00PM</td>
<td>R. McNamara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>05/20/18</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>T. Casey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:30AM</td>
<td>S. Martino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11:30AM</td>
<td>P. Emory</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL WORSHIP SITE

#### ALTAR SERVERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>05/19/18</td>
<td>5:30PM</td>
<td>A. Dohanyos, M. Dohanyos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>05/20/18</td>
<td>9:30AM</td>
<td>Volunteer Needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

**Homebound Ministers**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05/19/18</td>
<td></td>
<td>R. McNamara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/20/18</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>M. Amaya, B. Perlas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/20/18</td>
<td>9:30AM</td>
<td>V. Clarke, C. Gumapac</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### READERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>05/19/18</td>
<td>5:30PM</td>
<td>G. Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>05/20/18</td>
<td>9:30AM</td>
<td>A. Rabago</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Bulletin Update

In an effort to keep the cost of our bulletin within reason, we’re trying to only include inserts when its absolutely necessary. Therefore, weekends when it exceeds our page limit, copies of the “In the Neighborhood & Diocese” page and any flyers will be available on the desk at the entry of both worship sites.

To view the bulletin in its entirety, see our website: [www.saintanthonypadua.org](http://www.saintanthonypadua.org) click on the Parish Life tab; select Bulletin from the drop down; then View the bulletin of your choice.

### ST. ANTHONY’S STUDY HALL

**Field Trips, Sports, Arts & Crafts, Dance Parties, & other Special Events**

**Pick up our flyer for more information.**

*Sponsored by St. Anthony’s Holy Name Society*

**SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018**

Departure Time: 10:30AM from the Sycamore Senior Center parking lot on Old Road (just off Port Reading Avenue) Tickets: $26.00 per person You’ll receive $20.00 in casino money and a $5.00 food voucher upon arrival.

For information contact: Garry Sutphen at 732-841-4618

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All children entering Pre-K (age4) – 6th grade are welcome to join us at St. Anthony of Padua Church 26th Vacation Bible School. The program will run from **Monday, July 9th – Friday, July 13th from 9:00am until 12:00noon.** Registration is $30.00 per child which includes a T-Shirt. An information letter will be mailed the week before. Forms are available at the entrance of both worship sites.
**The Week Ahead at St. Anthony of Padua Worship Site**

**Monday, May 14th**
- **Study Hall** 6:30AM Fr. Milos Hall
- **BINGO** 12:00Noon Fr. Milos Hall
  (doors open at 10:30AM)
- **Confirmation Prep. Level 1 & 2** 6:30PM Fr. Milos Hall

**Tuesday, May 15th**
- **Study Hall** 6:30AM Fr. Milos Hall
- **Adult Choir Rehearsal** 6:30PM Church
- **AA** 7:30PM Fr. Milos Hall

**Wednesday, May 16th**
- **Study Hall** 6:30AM Fr. Milos Hall
- **Port Reading/Sewaren Srs.** 11:00AM Sycamore Center
- **Adult Confirmation** 7:00PM Parish Office

**Thursday, May 17th**
- **Study Hall** 6:30AM Fr. Milos Hall
- **Eucharistic Adoration** 2:00PM Chapel
- **Confessions** 6:30PM Church
- **AA** 8:00PM Fr. Milos Hall

**Friday, May 18th**
- **Study Hall** 6:30AM Fr. Milos Hall
- **Bingo** 7:30PM Fr. Milos Hall
  (doors open at 6:00PM)

**Saturday, May 19th**
- **Confessions** 3:15PM Church

**Sunday, May 20th**
- **Mass / Adult Confirmation** 9:30AM Church

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

**Monday, May 14th**
- **Prayer Time with Fr. Smith** 8:30AM Church

**Friday, May 18th**
- **Holy Family Prayer Group** 8:00PM Church Basement

**Saturday, May 19th**
- **Confessions** 4:45PM Church

---

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

Contributions for Sunday, May 6, 2018  $ 5,838.00

“Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.” – 1 John 4:15

How strong is your faith? When you have an opportunity to either defend or clarify a question about our Catholic faith, do you do it? Or, do you remain silent so that others don’t think you are weird? Pray for the courage to be strong in all circumstances and to share your witness with others.

**Second collections coming up....**
- May  **Property & Liability Insurance**
- May 27th **Parish Debt Reduction**
- June **Property & Liability Insurance**
- June 10th **Father’s Day Novena**
- June 24th **Building & Maintenance Fund**

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**COUNTING TEAMS**

**MONDAY, May 14th**
- Team #8  N. Cinelli, F. Rombardo

**MONDAY, May 20th**
- Team #1  R. & P. Sierminski

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**FLOWERS FOR THE BLESSED MOTHER**

In honor of Our Lady, during the month of May flowers may be placed by the Blessed Mother (Church) and Mary, Comfort of the Troubled (Narthex) each weekend in memory of a loved one or for your special intention. The donation for the flowers is $40.00. If you would like to order flowers, please call the parish office.

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**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA FLOWERS**

In honor of Patron Saint Anthony of Padua flowers may be placed by the statue in the Church each weekend in memory of a loved one or for your special intention. The donation for the flowers is $40.00. If you would like to order flowers, please call the parish office.

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**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!**

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**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. They will be held for 30 days, after which they will be donated to a local charity. **Jewelry, cell phones, etc. are kept in the parish office.**
SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, June 9th  12:00—7:00PM
Festa di San Antonio
Good Shepherd Parish at
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church
625 Florida Grove Rd., Hopelawn, NJ
Msgr. Gambino Hall [Elevator Service Available]
Italian Food & Desserts
Available for purchase
(Eat In / Take Out)
♦ Games & Activities for Kids
♦ *Raffles
Please bring a non-perishable food
Item for the parish food pantry
Info: (732) 826-4859 or
www.goodshepherdpanj.org

Our Lady of Peace 3rd Annual Flea Market
Saturday June 2nd - 8:00am to 2:00 pm
Parish Center Parking Lot
$15.00 per space-Must supply your own table.
Contact: Mike Chundak at mchundak@gmail.com

PILGRIMAGE TO PORTUGAL
Lisbon—Tomar—Fatima  JULY 20th—28th, 2018
Seven nights hotel accommodations based on rooms with
private bath and four dinners. Service of a professional
English speaking tour escort to accompany the group.
Price: $2,049.00 per person, based on twin. If interested
please pick up a flyer from the desk at the entrance of both
worship sites.

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.

SAVE THE DATE
Thursday, August 23rd
For Tickets or Information
Call CAROL
732-969-1565 or 732-841-2931

The Most Reverend James F. Checchio
Bishop of Metuchen,
will celebrate Mass for
Home School Students and their Families
Friday, June 1, 2018
10:30 a.m.
St. Magdalen de Pazzi roman Catholic Church
105 Mine Street, Flemington, NJ  08822
Light refreshments and fellowship to follow.
Register online at: diometuchen.org/homeschoolmass
If you have questions, call Erin at 732-562-2463 or email communications@diometuchen.org

Bus Trip
Sponsored by The Most Holy Rosary Seniors
Tuesday, June 5, 2018
Cost: $30 ($20 in Play and $5 food Voucher
Bus leaves at 9:00AM from the parking lot of the
Most Holy Rosary Church (Florida Grove Rd., Hopelawn.)
If interested please call: Ronnie at 732-442-5252

Quo Vadis Days
Young men ages 14-17!
June 25th—27th, 2018
You’re invited to spend three days living,
praying and interacting with priests,
seminarians and faith-filled teens your
own age. The days will include dynamic talks, a visit from
Bishop Checchio, sports and activities, prayer, small group
discussion and so much more. For more information,
please email quovadis@diometuchen.org
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.

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.

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.”
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. For related information visit the diocesan website at http://diometuchen.org/pope-francis-encyclical-laudato-si/

Catholic Charities
Diocese of Metuchen
Connections Program

Is looking for volunteers, both men and women to participate in on-to-one activities and become a mentor to the youth of Middlesex County and Franklin Township. Do you:
- Have a minimum of three hours a week to offer to a child?
- Like having fun?
- Want to make a difference in a child’s life?
- Enjoy being a positive role model?

Then call Jeanette Cullen at 732-738-1323 or email her at jcullen@ccdom.org, for more information.

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/

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 caregivers. 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.

EnCOURAGE….

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 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 CourageC.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.