INDEPENDENCE DAY

Let Freedom Ring!

13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME July 1, 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
Thursday: 7:00 PM
Tuesday—Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal following 7:30 AM Mass
Thursday—Novena to St. Anthony following the 7:00PM Mass

Liturgy of the Hours - Prayed 20 minutes before Daily Mass

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

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

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

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

First Saturday of the Month
 Devotions to Mary following Mass

Liturgy of the Hours - Prayed 20 minutes before Daily Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 4:45 PM

A FOURTH OF JULY PRAYER

O God, on this day of celebration we lift up our hearts in gratitude for the gift of being Americans.

We rejoice with all those who share in the great dream of freedom and dignity for all. With flags and feasting with family and friends, we salute those who have sacrificed that we might have the opportunity to bring to our fulfillment our many God-given gifts.

As we deny all prejudice a place in our hearts, May we also clearly declare our Intention to work for the time when all people, Regardless of race, religion or sex, Will be granted equal dignity and worth.

O Gracious God, come who led your children Israel from slavery, keep us free from bondage. Bless our Country and join our simple celebration That we may praise you, our Source of freedom, The One in whom we place our trust.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Parish Office Hours
Monday 8:30AM—3:30PM
Tuesday 10:00AM—3:30PM
Wednesday July 4th—CLOSED
Thursday 8:30AM—3:30PM NO EVENING HOURS THIS WEEK
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!

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
Youth Ministry: jaamyouthministry4@gmail.com
This Week’s Scripture Readings

Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13
2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15
Mark 5:21-43

Monday: Amos 2:6-10, 13-16
Psalms 50:16bc-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23
Matthew 8:18-22

Tuesday: Ephesians 2:19-22
Psalms 117:1bc, 2 [Mark 16:15]
John 20:24-29

Wednesday: Amos 5:14-15, 21-24
Psalms 50:7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 16bc-17
Matthew 8:28-34

Thursday: Amos 7:10-17
Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11 \ Matthew 9:1-8

Friday: Amos 8:4-6, 9-12
Psalms 119:2, 10, 20, 30, 40, 131 [Mt 4:4]
Matthew 9:9-13

Saturday: Amos 9:11-15
Psalms 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14
Matthew 9:14-17

Next Sunday: Ezekiel 2:2-5
Psalms 123:1-2, 2, 3-4
2 Corinthians 12:7-10
Mark 6:1-6a

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.

Mass Intentions

at St. Anthony of Padua Worship Site

Tuesday, July 3rd
7:30AM Teofilo Sison
req. by Lourdes Sarroca

Wednesday, July 4th
7:30AM Msgr. Francis J. Sergel
(1995)

Thursday, July 5th
St. Anthony Zaccaria,
St. Elizabeth of Portugal
7:00PM Members of the Pauswinski / Cuozzo Family
req. by Beverly Cuozzo

Saturday, July 7th
4:00PM People of the Parish Family

Sunday, July 8th
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00AM Donald Hahn
(88th Birthday)
req. by children, grandchildren, &
great-grandchildren
9:30AM Mary Larkin
req. by Jackie Bamber
11:30AM Dolores Masters
req. by her loving children Lisa Rennie & Louis

at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Worship Site

Monday, July 2nd
8:00AM Frank Santino
req. by Frank & Amy Paultz

Friday, July 6th
St. Maria Goretti
8:00AM Deceased Members of the Former Altar Rosary

Saturday, July 7th
8:00AM Purgatorial Mass Society
5:30PM George & Betty Silvaney (his 20th Anniversary)
req. by their family

Sunday, July 8th
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:30AM Helen Dudash (90th Birthday)
req. by Jean Dudash-Osview & family

Respensorial Psalm in Hungarian for
July 1, 2018 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dicsőitelek, Uram, mivel megmentettél engem.
Due to an error on my part, several names were omitted from our list of graduates in last week’s bulletin. Jackie

FAITH FORMATION
Sacramental Formation Program
G.I.F.T. 2018—2019 REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN!

Registrations forms were distributed to the families currently enrolled in our G.I.F.T. Program at the last sessions. As always class size is limited, and registration is on “First Submitted / First Honored basis so get them in early. Additional forms for new families are on the desk at the entrance of both worship sites and the parish office.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
As we have done in the past years, we will not have Adoration during July and August. Adoration will resume on Thursday, September 7th.

Many thanks to all for your devotion to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. May you and your families be blessed with a Happy, Safe & Restful Summer!

2,000 Hail Marys
Please join us in praying 2,000 Hail Marys at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church EVERY FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH. Our next prayer session will be on Saturday, July 7th. Prayers will begin at 9:00AM after the 8:00AM Mass. Come, stay for a half-hour, a hour or more and you will be blessed. You may also send us your personal intentions or petitions or drop them in a box at the front of the altar and we will pray for them.

FOOD DRIVE MINISTRY
Our monthly food drive will be held the weekend of July 7th & 8th. Please be as generous as your means will allow. Your donation of food items is greatly appreciated and will enable us to provide 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: N. Ackerman
Delivery: H. Sullivan (Tuesday, July 10th)

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH OFFICE
CLOSED
WEDNESDAY, July 4th
in observance of Independence Day!
Thursday, July 5th the office will be open 8:30am-3:30pm
NO EVENING HOURS.
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 my husband, James DeFilippo on our 61st Wedding Anniversary with all my love, wife, Barbara
In Loving Memory of our dear parents, Maria & Carmen req. by Albina & Victor D’Alessio
In Thanksgiving to St. Anthony for many Blessings received req. by Al & Rose Leone

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

CROSS OF SAN DOMIANO
In Loving Memory of Margaret “Midge” Pannone req. by Joe & Debbie Caffarelli

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS
July 2  Rev. Wladyslaw Wiktorek
Rev. Bro. Louis Couvillon, SC
July 3  All Priests
July 4  Very Rev. Peter Cebulka, CO
Rev. James Hagerman
July 5  Rev. Javier Flores, SDV
Rev. Kenneth Murphy
July 6  Very Rev. Leonard Rusay
Rev. John Grimes
July 7  Rev. Manuel Lorente
Rev. John Kavas
July 8  Most Rev. James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Bishop of Metuchen Diocese

Let us join with Pope Francis I’s prayer intention for Evangelization: Priests and their Pastoral Ministry.

That priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests.

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

Entered Eternal Life
Elizabeth “Betty” Silvaney—May 19, 2018
Neil Zillo—June 2, 2018
Mary Larkin—June 11, 2018
Margaret “Midge” Pannone—June 14, 2018
Kevin Peter Drake—June 24, 2018

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

Anniversary of Death
Theresa Iskra—July 1st
Alfred Madsen, Jr.—July 3rd
Patricia Williams—July 13th
Lucille Barsi—July 14th
Salvatore Covino—July 14th

MISSION MASS
The souls of:  Requested by....
Adeline Nardone  Anthony & Cheryl D’O
Christopher Marinelli  Teresa Romita

PURGATORIAL MASS SOCIETY
The souls of:  Requested by....
Elizabeth “Betty” Silvaney  Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Family
Neil Zullo  St. Anthony of Padua Parish Family
Robert Bader  St. Anthony of Padua Parish Family
Antonio Nunez  Robert & Virginia Resetar
Margaret Pannone  Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Martino
Mary Larkin  St. Anthony of Padua Parish Family
Margaret “Midge” Pannone  St. Anthony of Padua Parish Family
Margaret “Midge” Pannone  Anthony & Cheryl D’Orsi
Margaret “Midge” Pannone  Carmen & Peggie Margiottto
Margaret “Midge” Pannone  Frank & Grace Disposto
Rafal Nowak  Friends from Kinder Morgan
Margaret “Midge” Pannone  Joseph & Lorraine MdMarino
Margaret “Midge” Pannone  St. Anthony of Padua Parish Family
Scott Calabrese  James Pagliuca
Kazimira Czarnecki  St. Anthony of Padua Parish Family
Margaret “Midge” Pannone  Frank & Nora Romboardo
Enrique “Henry” Garcia  Deacon Zeke & Lisa Kelly

As a Parish Family we rejoice and celebrate the gifts of life and love that God has given to us all. We offer to all those celebrating their birthdays this month our best wishes and prayers that God may continue to bless them abundantly in the years ahead.

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: an anonymous request; Edward Barcellona, William Bunavage, Anthony D’Ambrosio, Eugenia Damiani, Richard Emory, Frank Grossman, Anna Hanley, Kim Hickman, Josie LaSpina, Paul Marini, Natalie “Dolly” Nardiello, Ethel Osag, Robert Pavey, Taylor Pavey, Richard Petrowski, Peter Reuben, George Seibert, Isaura Taccogna, Chung-Tung Wang.
**Stewardship: God’s Plan for Giving**

Contributions for Sunday, June 24, 2018
- Building & Maintenance Fund: $2,000.00
- Property & Liability Insurance: $4,537.00

**Second collections coming up…**
- July
- July 22nd: Debt Reduction-Diocesan Assessment
- July 29th: Building & Maintenance

“…as a matter of equality your abundance at the present time should supply their want, so that their abundance may supply your want, that there may be equality.”

2 Corinthians 8:14

We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of those around us. It is important that we not only grow, nurture and share our gifts; but that we also teach our children and encourage others to do the same. This is the communal aspect of our Catholic faith. We are the “Body of Christ”. We are called to be dependent on each other and not live in isolation.

**SUMMER ENVELOPES**

As many of you understand our parish expenses and obligations do not take a vacation when you do, so it is very helpful to be able to rely on your continued support even when you cannot personally attend Mass here at St. Anthony. We sincerely thank our parishioners who mail or deliver your weekly envelopes to the parish office for the time you are out-of-town on vacations this summer.

**COUNTING TEAMS**

**SUNDAY, July 1st**
- Team #7: J. Cinelli, C. Huber, R. McNamara

**MONDAY, July 9th**
- Team #8: N. Cinelli, F. Rombardo

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

One man’s garbage is another man’s treasure!

St. Anthony’s Study Hall’s Summer Break Program needs your garbage!

We have special art projects in mind but need your help with the supplies. If you could please save your paper towel rolls, small boxes from cereal, & cracker boxes & donate them to the “Summer Break Program.”

There will be a receptacle in the narthex for you to place your donation.

Thank you for your continued support.

**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!**
**Liturgical Minister Schedule**

### ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA WORSHIP SITE

**ALTAR SERVERS**
- **Saturday** 07/07/18
  - 4:00PM A. Dohanyos, M. Dohanyos
- **Sunday** 07/08/18
  - 8:00AM Volunteer Needed
  - 9:30AM K. Martino
  - 11:30AM Volunteer Needed

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS**
- **Saturday** 07/07/18
  - 5:30PM R. Bernabe, E. Bonus
- **Sunday** 07/08/18
  - 9:30AM C. Alcobendas, C. Gumapac

**READERS**
- **Saturday** 07/07/18
  - 5:30PM G. Miller
- **Sunday** 07/08/18
  - 9:30AM V. Clarke

**ST. ANTHONY’S STUDY HALL**

### OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL WORSHIP SITE

**ALTAR SERVERS**
- **Saturday** 07/07/18
  - 5:30PM Volunteer Needed
- **Sunday** 07/08/18
  - 9:30AM Volunteer Needed

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS**
- **Saturday** 07/07/18
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**READERS**
- **Saturday** 07/07/18
  - 5:30PM G. Miller
- **Sunday** 07/08/18
  - 9:30AM V. Clarke

**ST. ANTHONY’S STUDY HALL**

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA QUEEN FOR A DAY AUCTION!!!**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2018**

**DONATIONS...**
If you have any **new items** that you would like to donate, or do you sew, crochet, craft, woodwork?? If you would like to donate a Gift Card for a store, restaurant, etc. for our raffle table that would be most welcome.

**BASKETS...**
Do you have any baskets just sitting around your house taking up much need space? Baskets of various sizes, esp. medium and large, are needed for our auction. Please consider donating them. We also need **cellophane wrap** for our beautiful baskets.

All donations are greatly appreciated and may be dropped off at our Parish Office ONLY or call to arrange a pickup 732-634-1403 or 732-429-4850.

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**OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISHIONERS**

If you know of any parishioners of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Worship Site that are sick, homebound, in a Nursing Home or hospitalized, please contact Kathy “Tootsie” Simeone at 732-634-9285.

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**It's BBQ and PICNIC SEASON**

**THINK SHOP-RITE GIFT CARDS**

At St. Anthony’s we have an ongoing fund raiser, Shop-Rite Gift Cards. When purchasing Shop-Rite Gift cards 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.

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**While planning your vacation, remember it’s easy to locate a Catholic Church for Mass while you’re away.**

Just log on to www.catholicmasstime.org; www.thecatholicdirectory.com; catholic-mass-times.com

You’ll be able to locate the Church closest to where you’ll be throughout the United States.
In Our Neighborhood & Our Diocese

Stress in Your Marriage!

Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage?
Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse?
Are you constantly fighting?
Or, do you simply shut down?
Have you thought about separation or divorce?
Does talking about it only make it worse?

Retrovaille is a Lifeline to Help Couples Heal and Renew their Marriage. The program consists of a weekend experience for married couples (no group discussions) with six follow-up sessions. **UPCOMING WEEKEND: August 24th—26th, 2018**

More information call the Family Life Office—732-243-4573
REGISTER: Call Rich & Annette Colasuonno 732-236-0671 or email 3024@retrouvaille.org

**PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN**
The Diocese of Metuchen has begun a major effort to make people in Middlesex, Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties aware of the outstanding Pre-K & Kindergarten programs offered by our schools. They feature certified teachers, a foundation in faith, and pricing competitive with independent preschools. We invite you to learn about a Catholic school near you!

For more information call 732.562.2446 or visit: metuchencatholicschools.org/schools or to learn how Catholic schools in the Diocese of Metuchen offer students a SMARTER START in school and in life!

Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer
1651 US Highway 22, Watchung, NJ 07069

**Offering the following programs.**
Registration required; call 908-753-2091 or e-mail: msmhope@msmhope.org

**WHAT’S SO SPECIAL ABOUT SAINT IGNATIUS?**
St. Ignatius, soldier, saint, founder of the Jesuits, author of the Spiritual Exercises has deeply impacted Christians for centuries. Be inspired by this man and his spirituality and why they touch so many today.

Wednesday, July 18th
Either 9:30-11:30AM OR 7:00-9:00PM
$20-30 As You Are Able

Don’t Miss Out!
$60.00 Admission & Transportation
**TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE**
For Tickets or Information Call CAROL 732-969-1565 or 732-841-2930

Thurday, August 23rd
Axelrod Performing Arts Center
Deal, NJ

California "Doo Wop"

Dominic Nolfi
Charl Brown
Russel Fischer
Dominic Scaglione
Dwayne Cooper

Bus Trip to Golden Nugget Casino, Atlantic
Sponsored by the Holy Rosary Seniors
Tuesday August 7, 2018.

Cost $30; $25 back in play and $5 food voucher.
Bus leaves 9:00AM
from the parking lot of Good Shepard Parish / Holy Rosary Worship Site, Florida Grove Rd., Hopelawn.
Any question call Ronnie at 732/442-5252.
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/.

Is there a Catholic Charities Connections Program 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.

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/

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.

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 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.
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.

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.

Please Support A3452/S2026, the NJ Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

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. 

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.”