The Parish Family of St. Anthony of Padua

Parish Office: 436 Port Reading Ave., Port Reading, NJ 07064
Phone: 732-634-1403 • Fax: 732-602-0119 • www.saintanthonypadua.org

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
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
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

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

www.saintanthonypadua.org
CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!
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
Youth Ministry: jaamyouthministry4@gmail.com

July 29, 2018
This Week's Scripture Readings

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.

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. Thank you for helping the Ministers of Hospitality in this matter.
I would like to share this letter I received from Bishop James Checchio.

Dear Father Smith,

Please extend my sincere thanks to the parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua Church for their generous response to the 2018 Bishop’s Annual Appeal. With pledges totaling $27,677.00, your parish achieved 115.32% of its $24,000 goal. I am pleased to enclose a $448.88 rebate check to be used for local needs at your discretion. This check represents 50% of the amount collected over goal as of June 30, 2018. A second round of rebate checks will be issued in November 2018.

The wonderful response to the 2018 Bishop’s appeal is a reflection of our commitment as a diocesan family to bring Christ’s message of hope and love to everyone we meet. Together we are Lighting a Fire in the Heart of Our World. God bless you and be assured you have my heartfelt gratitude and prayers.

On the weekend of August 11 & 12, 2018, we will be hosting Fr. Victor Ramesh of the Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore (India) as part of the Mission Cooperation Appeal. A special collection will be taken up for this Mission Diocese.

Madras Archdiocese, established in 1952 has a population of 12 million, out of which 420 thousand are Catholics (under 5%). 163 Diocesan Priests, 268 religious Priests, 1530 Women religious and 124 lay Catechists are actively involved in indirect evangelization through various Missionary works in this predominantly Hindu/Muslim dominated society.

With the Mission Cooperation Appeal monies, the Archdiocese will repair and build Mission chapels, in the Tiruvalluvar district/County, the most backward region of the Archdiocese for families and converts to meet and worship God and keep the Sabbath holy every weekend.

May God bless your generosity, Most Rev. George Antonysamy, Archbishop of Madras & Mylapore (India). Archbishop’s House, 41, Santhome High Road, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004, INDIA

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

Registration is on “First Submitted / First Honored basis” so get them in as soon as possible. Additional forms for new families are on the desk at the entrance of both worship sites and the parish office. You may bring your registration directly to the parish office, drop it in the collection basket at Mass, or mail it to the parish office: Attention: J. Bamber.

If you need to contact us with any Faith Formation (Religious Education / Sacramental Preparation) questions or concerns please call Jackie at 732-634-1403 or email: religioused.StAnthony1@gmail.com or call Jackie at 732-634-1403 or email at religioused.StAnthony1@gmail.com.

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, woodworking?? 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 and/or large bags to wrap-up 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.
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 Janice Ciardiello celebrating her 1st Anniversary in Heaven
req. by Richie & Adrienne

In Loving Memory of Roberta (Nobes) Finch as she celebrates her Birthday in Heaven
req. by parents, Bob & Gerry Nobes & godparents, Richie & Adrienne Simeone

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

In Loving Memory of my sister, Angie Durante & cousin, Michael in Heaven req. by Janet & Kim Hickman

**REST IN PEACE**

Please remember in your prayers the Souls of—Entered Eternal Life

Michael T. Volovich—June 10, 2018
James Russell Martino—June 26, 2018
Joseph Mikos—June 27, 2018
Rose Scuotto—July 1, 2018
Barbara Louise Manno—July 13, 2018
Albert Evaskitis—July 14, 2018
Victoria Kish—July 15, 2018
Joyce Ann Bertolami—July 16, 2018

**ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARIES:**

During the month of August, please remember those parishioners who died a year ago:

**Anniversary of Death**
Robert c. Murphy—August 9th
Elizabeth Sziller—August 9th
Barbara Dammann—August 18th
Jacquelyn J. “Jackie” Dillen—August 24th

**MISSION MASSES**

The souls of: Requested by:....
Dino Amato Nicholas Zecchin & Christina
A Mass will be offered in private.

**PURGATORIAL MASS SOCIETY**

The souls of: Requested by:....
Margaret “Midge” Pannone Deacon Mickey & Colleen Coppola
Kevin Peter Drake St. Anthony of Padua Parish Family
Joseph Mikos Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Family
Rose Scuotto St. Anthony of Padua Parish Family
Karen Tarnecki Carmen & Peggie Margiottto
Jennifer Bryceland Ed & Carol Hamlin
Michael T. Volovich St. Anthony of Padua Parish Family
Barbara Louise Manno Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Family
James Russell Martino St. Anthony of Padua Parish Family

**Let us join with Pope Francis I in his Universal Intention for August, 2018:** The Treasure of Families.

That any far-reaching decisions of economists and politicians may protect the family as one of the treasures of humanity.

**PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS**

July 30 Rev. Michael Saharic
Rev. John Szczepanik

July 31 Our Holy Father, Pope Francis I

Aug. 1 Rev. Dario Endiade
Msgr. Raymond Cole

Aug. 2 Very Rev. Brian Nolan
Rev. John Gloss

Aug. 3 Very Rev. Thomas Walsh
Msgr. Randall Vashon

Aug. 4 All Priests

Aug. 5 Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, DD
Bishop Emeritus of Metuchen Diocese

**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;

**Silver & Gold Wedding Anniversary Celebration**

You are cordially invited to celebrate your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary with the Church of Metuchen. Renew your marriage vows with Bishop James F. Checchio at a special Evening Prayer Service in the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen.

**Sunday, October 21, 2018 at 4:00pm**

Please register online by logging on to the diocesan website https://diometuchen.org/offices-and-ministries/family-and-pastoral-life/family-life/silver-and-gold/. The system will automatically generate a confirmation message with some facts about the event. More specifics will be sent closer to the occasion. If you are unable to access, please contact your parish secretary or the Family Life Office at 732-243-4582, amatos@diometuchen.org.

Even though no fee is required, in the past many Jubilarian couples have given a donation of gratitude to the Church in memory of this special occasion. Donations of Gratitude can be made online or calling 732.243.4582, Monday thru Friday, during business hours.

Registration will on close WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3rd.
**Stewardship: God’s Plan for Giving**

Due to the vacation schedule of our staff members, the contributions will be published at a later date.

Thank you for understanding.

Second collections coming up…

- **August 15th** Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, Mary
- **August 26th** Building & Maintenance

“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?”  
John 6:9

The miracle of the Loaves and Fishes is the only miracle which is recorded six times in the Gospel. It carries two important messages. First, no matter how little we have, we always have enough to share. Second, Christ can take our humble gifts and do great things with them if we are just willing to let Him. No gift is too small or insignificant!

**COUNTING TEAMS**

**SUNDAY, July 29th**
Team #3  N. Ackerman, C. Ellis, R. Kierstead

**MONDAY, August 6th**
Team #4  L. Casey, A. Cunningham, A. Fowler

**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.

**MONDAY, July 30th**
Team #3  Captain: R. Sorbanelli  
Caller – M. Oddo  
Kitchen - J. Ballance, D. Bortner, B. Walliser

**FRIDAY, August 3rd**
Captain – C. Volk  
Caller – M. Moricz  
Kitchen Team M. Herczeg, A. Czum

**MONDAY, August 6th**
Team #1  Captain: R. Sorbanelli  
Caller – J. Nelen  
Kitchen - J. Ballance, D. Bortner, B. Walliser

**FRIDAY, August 10th**
Captain – C. Volk  
Caller – M. Moricz  
Kitchen Team M. Gesso

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**ATTENTION PARISHIONERS!!**

**FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS! at WOODBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARIES**
provided by Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield

- **Wednesday, August 1st**—Main Library
- **Monday, August 6th**—Main Library
- **Wednesday, August 15th**—Henry Inman

All screening will run from 2:00pm—4:00pm!
Liturgical Minister Schedule

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA WORSHIP SITE

ALTAR SERVERS  
Saturday 08/04/18  
4:00PM A. Dohanyos, M. Dohanyos

Sunday 08/05/18  
8:00AM Volunteer Needed  
9:30AM K. Martino  
11:30AM Volunteer Needed

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  
Homebound Ministers 08/04/18—08/05/18  
C. Adams

Saturday 08/04/18  
4:00PM J. Barcellona, A. Fowler, R. Masters

Sunday 08/05/18  
8:00AM B. Lasek, C. Milosica, J. Pannullo  
9:30AM D. & M. Martino, V. Reuben  
11:30AM E. Bishop, J. Sciaundra, F. Scognamiglio

READERS  
Saturday 08/04/18  
4:00PM R. McNamara

Sunday 08/05/18  
8:00AM L. Milosica  
9:30AM S. Martino  
11:30AM D. Stuart

ST. ANTHONY’S STUDY HALL

It’s BBQ and PICNIC SEASON  
THINK SHOP-RITE GIFT CARDS

At St. Anthony’s we have an ongoing fundraiser, 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.

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 or have any questions, please contact Frank Cacace at 732-754-8401.

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL WORSHIP SITE

ALTAR SERVERS  
Saturday 08/04/18  
5:30PM Volunteer Needed

Sunday 08/05/18  
9:30AM Volunteer Needed

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS  
Saturday 08/04/18  
5:30PM R. Bernabe, E. Bonus

Sunday 08/05/18  
9:30AM A. & V. Rabago

READERS  
Saturday 08/04/18  
5:30PM C. Dizon

Sunday 08/05/18  
9:30AM V. Clarke

WONDER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING

Pick up a copy of the flyer on the desk located at the entrance of both worship sites or see our website: www.saintanthonypadua.org (click on the Parish Life tab; select Bulletin from the drop down; then View the bulletin of your choice. Thank you.
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

**DIOCESAN EUCHARISTICADORATION**
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 by email at the following: evangelization@diometuchen.org.

**DON’T MISS OUT!**

$60.00 Admission & Transportation

**Thursday, August 23rd**

Axelrod Performing Arts Center
Deal, NJ

8 TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

For Tickets or Information Call CAROL 732-969-1565 or 732-841-2930

![DOOWOP PROJECT](image)

Dominic Nolfi
Charl Brown
Russel Fischer
Dominic Scaglione
Dwayne Cooper

St. Joseph’s Catholic School—
Now Enrolling Students for the 2018-2019 School Year.

St. Joseph School Students are members of a larger faith community.

Interested in enrolling your child in St. Joseph School? We would be happy to schedule a School Tour or provide you with more information about our School. Please call 732-541-7111 or visit our website at www.sbps.net

**An investment in your child’s future: Priceless.**
St. Joseph School, 865 Roosevelt Ave, Carteret

**ARE YOU A RETIRED TEACHER?**
St. Joseph School is looking for retired teachers, who enjoyed being in the classroom, to be on their substitute list. This is a paid position (per diem). If interested, please email rjohnson@sjps.net or contact the School Office at 732-541-7111.

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In Our Neighborhood & Our Diocese

**Our Lady of Peace**
1740 US-130, North Brunswick

to honor

**Our Lady of Good Health**

&

**Independence Day of India & Pakistan**

Communities also Participating:

Bangladesh  Nepal  Sri Lanka

Mass to honor Our Lady of Good Health and Independence Day of India & Pakistan on **Saturday, August 18th, 2018 at 5:30PM** at Our Lady of Peace, North Brunswick. The main celebrant and homilist will be Bishop James F. Checchio. Dinner will be held at 6:30PM. Tickets at 609-331-3636.

**Vatican II and the Church of the Third Millennium**
St. John Neumann Pastoral Center
146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ

**Wednesday, August 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th 10:00 to 1:00am**

Vatican II and the Church of the Third Millennium is a video series with discussion with Dr. Richard Gaillardetz, Ph.D. The course is described as an exploration of the enduring power of Vatican II’s teachings in our day. It is an opportunity to reflect on the challenges facing the Catholic Church today. Each week with a different topic. The program is free. No registration is required.

For information, call (732) 529-7933.

St. James Parish
Bereavement Support Group
Emmaus House, 174 Grove St.,
Woodbridge

The next session of the Bereavement Support Group will be held each Monday, September 10th through October 29th at 7:30pm at the Emmaus House on Grove Street, Woodbridge.

Anyone who is recently bereaved and who is in need of support please call St. James’ Parish office at 732-634-0500 ext. 100.

“Blessed are the who mourn….for they shall be comforted”

Matthew 5:4

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

St. Joseph School Students are members of a larger faith community.

Interested in enrolling your child in St. Joseph School? We would be happy to schedule a School Tour or provide you with more information about our School. Please call 732-541-7111 or visit our website at www.sbps.net

An investment in your child’s future: Priceless. St. Joseph School, 865 Roosevelt Ave, Carteret

ARE YOU A RETIRED TEACHER? St. Joseph School is looking for retired teachers, who enjoyed being in the classroom, to be on their substitute list. This is a paid position (per diem). If interested, please email rjohnson@sjps.net or contact the School Office at 732-541-7111.
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

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…

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 Couragerc.org. All contacts are confidential.

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 individuals 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/
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.

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.njccatholic.org/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.”