

2025 Jubilee

Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

with Most Rev. James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA Bishop of Metuchen

DIOCESE OF METUCHEN | SEPTEMBER 20

2025 is the Jubilee Holy Year, the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of Our Lord, an “event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church.”

Please join Bishop Checchio and hundreds of your fellow parishioners this September in celebrating Jubilee 2025 – in anticipation of the forty-fifth anniversary of the Diocese in 2026 – so that, in the Holy Father’s words, we may “fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision.”



For those who are unable to travel to Washington, DC, for the Diocesan Pilgrimage, please know that Bishop Checchio, in accordance with the directives of the Holy See, has designated the following sites as sacred places in the Diocese of Metuchen where the faithful may obtain a Jubilee indulgence:

- ▶ Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen
- ▶ Shrine Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, Raritan
- ▶ National Blue Army Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Washington
- ▶ National Shrine of St. Lucy Filippini (inside St. Mary of Mt. Virgin Church), New Brunswick

Learn more at: diometuchen.org/jubilee-2025

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Washington, DC - Jubilee 2025!

The Diocese of Metuchen will be hosting a pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on September 20 in celebration of Jubilee 2025. Please join Bishop Checchio and hundreds of other parishioners this fall as we travel to Washington, DC, to celebrate the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of Our Lord.

Also, for those who are unable to travel to Washington, DC, for the Diocesan Pilgrimage, please know that Bishop Checchio, in accordance with the directives of the Holy See, has designated the following sites as sacred places in the Diocese of Metuchen where the faithful may obtain a Jubilee indulgence:

- Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen
- Shrine Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, Raritan
- National Blue Army Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Washington
- National Shrine of St. Lucy Filippini (inside St. Mary of Mt. Virgin Church), New Brunswick

Beloved - A One-Day Family Life Conference
Array of Hope is hosting a one-day Catholic family life conference

Join us for **BELOVED**
a one-day Catholic family life conference
Presented by **ARRAY OF HOPE**

How can we find authentic love and relationships?
How can we know joy and peace in our marriage?
How can we live as a genuinely Catholic family amid the messiness of life?
What is our role as Catholic grandparents?
How can we lead a family member who has fallen away from the Catholic Faith back home?

These issues, questions, and more will be addressed at this life conference. You will connect with others who share the same hopes and struggles!

Inspiring keynote talks:

- Mike and Alicia Hernon from the Messy Family Project
- Dr. Jonathan Sanford, President of the University of Dallas
- Dr. David Hajduk, Author and Speaker
- Dr. Ray Guarendi from EWTN
- Father Glenn Sudano, CFR

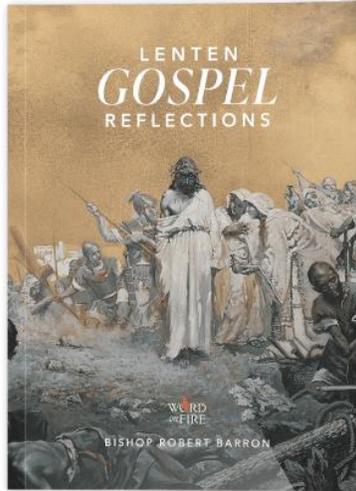
Date: March 1st, 2025
Registration at 8:00am
Location: The Valley Regency, Clifton, NJ
Includes: Breakfast, lunch, many Catholic exhibitors, and helpful resources
Powerful Live performances by AOH MUSIC

"I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine"
(Song of Songs 6:3)

www.arrayofhope.org

Register Today

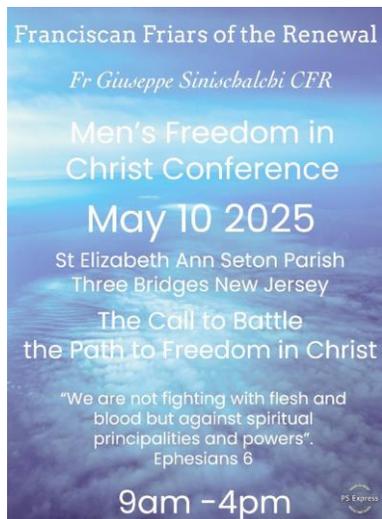
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2uvJkLuzpM>) at The Valley Regency in Clifton, New Jersey on March 1, 2025. This conference will be addressing questions and issues that affect every member of the family. Speakers include Michael and Alicia Hernon, (The Messy Family Project), Dr. Ray Guarendi (EWTN), Dr. Jonathan Sanford (President of the University of Dallas), Fr. Glenn Sudano, CFR, and Dr. David Hajduk (Director of Theology at Array of Hope). The day will also include live performances by AOH Music. Please feel free to share this event with your parishioners. To register, please scan the QR Code on the attached flyer. Of course, if anyone has any questions, please contact Adam Carlisle, Secretary for Evangelization and Communication, at acarlisle@diometuchen.org.



Lenten Gospel Reflections

For Christians, Lent is an important time of reflecting on the suffering and death of Jesus so as to enter into the joy of his Resurrection. In this devotional booklet, Bishop Robert Barron invites readers to enter more deeply into the prayerful nature of the season. *Lenten Gospel Reflections* features the full Gospel reading for each day of Lent, a daily reflection from Bishop Barron, space for journaling and answering reflection questions, and more! Beautiful, practical, and affordable, this booklet is ideal for both individual meditation and group study on a family or parish level. If you are interested in obtaining a FREE copy for

yourself, visit <https://books.wordonfire.org/lent2025>. You can also get bulk discounts on additional copies for your family, parish, or small group.



Men's Freedom in Christ Conference

"We are not fighting with flesh and blood but against spiritual principalities and powers" (Ephesians 6:12)

The Men of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (Three Bridges) are hosting a Men's Freedom in Christ Conference this May 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This conference is open to all men in the Diocese and will be held at the parish (105 Summer Road). Fr. Giuseppe Siniscalchi of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal will be the principal speaker. Come discover the path to freedom in Christ this May. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please contact Tom Dwyer at 908-884-9947 or thomasdwyer@sprintmail.com.

Adam Carlisle
Secretary for Evangelization and Communication
732-529-7937
acarlisle@diometuchen.org



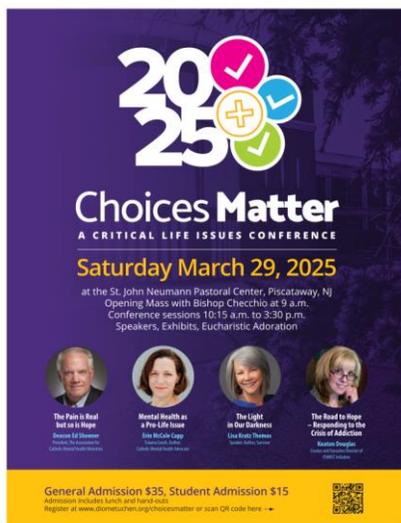
Office of OCIA (RCIA)

Rite of Election / Miscellaneous Items!

As you already know, the Rite of Election will be held at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi on Sunday, March 9. You should have received an email back in early January asking you to please fill out a form indicating whether you have any catechumens this year and, if so, how many. We sent the same email to your OCIA Directors. A few weeks ago, we sent an email to your directors asking for volunteers. We have been fielding a number of questions related to the Rite in recent weeks. As a reminder, the Rite of Election is for catechumens only. If you would like to perform the Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election and/or the Rite of Candidates for the Calling to Continuing Conversion, you may do so at the parish level. Both rites can be found in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The combined rite can be found in the new (2024) translation, as well as online at <https://diometuchen.org/rcia>. Last but not least, if you would like to purchase the new translation, we would suggest purchasing copies from Catholic Book Publishing (www.catholicbookpublishing.com) or Liturgy Training Publications (www.ltp.org). Of course, if you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Adam Carlisle, Secretary for Evangelization and Communication, at acarlisle@diometuchen.org, and/or Fr. Timothy Eck III, Director of the Office of Divine Worship, at teck@diometuchen.org.

Contact: For questions pertaining to OCIA, please contact rcia@diometuchen.org

Office of Human Life & Dignity



2025 Choices Matter Conference

The Diocese of Metuchen's Office of Human Life and Dignity presents "The 2025 Choices Matter Conference—A Critical Life Issues Conference" which will be held at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center in Piscataway on Saturday, March 29, 2025. An Opening Mass will be celebrated by Bishop James Checchio at 9:00 AM and the conference will begin at 10:15 AM and end at 3:30 pm. This year's theme is "Choose Hope – A Path to Mental Wellness." The topics/expert speakers are:

- The Pain is Real but so is Hope: Deacon Ed Shoener
- Mental Health as a Pro-Life Issue: Erin McCole Cupp
- The Light in Our Darkness: Lisa Kratz Thomas
- The Road to Hope – Responding to the Crisis of Addiction: Keaton Douglas

Addiction: Keaton Douglas

General registration is \$35 and student registration is \$15. The conference features Eucharistic Adoration, exhibits and more. The fee includes lunch and handouts. To register

visit: <https://www.diometuchen.org/choicesmatter>. Everyone is welcome! For questions or for more information please email amarshall@diometuchen.org or call 732-562-1543. Seating is limited.

WORD *of* LIFE

March Edition — Word of Life

The [March edition of Word of Life](#) is available in English and Spanish. Word of Life is a monthly resource for dioceses and parishes that includes monthly features, intercessions, bulletin quotes, and graphics.

Lenten Abortion Healing Resources

Attendance at Ash Wednesday Mass doubles that of a typical Sunday. So, it can be a great opportunity to reach people who are typically away from the Church with the message of God's forgiveness and healing after abortion. [Sample intercessions](#) can be used in the Prayer of the Faithful. Homily considerations provide helpful guidance for homilists and are [available in English and Spanish](#). Pamphlets, prayer cards, and flyers on abortion healing are [available in the Respect Life Store](#).

St. Joseph Adoption Novena

An adoption-focused novena will be offered March 10-18, leading up to the Solemnity of St. Joseph, who welcomed Jesus into his home and loved him as a father. Participants can download the novena or sign up to receive it by email or text message ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)). Parish resources are [available online](#).

Catholic Primer on IVF

[A Catholic Primer on In Vitro Fertilization](#) addresses common questions about IVF from the Catholic perspective. Printable versions are available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), and a printed booklet will be available to order soon from the [Respect Life Store](#).



**THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC
BIOETHICS CENTER**
Free Personal Ethics Consultation

Faithful expertise, practical resources, and trusted guidance



We are here to help you understand and apply the moral teachings of the Church in difficult medical situations.

- Advance directives
- Hospice & palliative care
- Nutrition & hydration
- Refusal of treatment
- Organ donation
- Cooperation with evil
- Infertility
- Contraception
- Sterilization
- Pregnancy complications
- Biomedical research
- and much more ...

"I continue to be so grateful for The NCBC's personal ethics consultations. Yesterday a loved one was admitted to the ICU and I received a personal phone call by the evening to sort through questions related to end-of-life care and next steps. The ethicist was exceptionally kind, compassionate, thorough, and understanding. I could not be more grateful for the work of the NCBC in offering this service to families in need. Thank you for your faithful and committed work."

Chad
Eau Claire, WI

Always faithful to the Magisterium.
Always free of charge.

24/7 Free Ethics Support
www.ncbcenter.org/ask-a-question
215-877-2660

Submit a personal consultation request.

24/7 Free Personal Ethics Consultation

215-877-2660

www.ncbcenter.org/ask-a-question

- advance directives
- hospice & palliative care
- organ donation
- gender dysphoria
- infertility
- pregnancy complications
- and more

Jennifer A. Ruggiero, M.A.
Secretary, Secretariat for Family and Pastoral Life
Director, Office of Human Life & Dignity
(732) 562-1990

jruggiero@diometuchen.org



Angela Marshall
Program Coordinator
(732) 562-1990

amarshall@diometuchen.org

Office of Hispanic Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry

Hispanic Lenten Bible Seminar



Fr. Gustavo Rodríguez will guide us in our knowledge of the *Book of Lamentations*, and in a deeper reflection on trusting in God in a difficult time.

Saturday, March 22, 2025

From 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

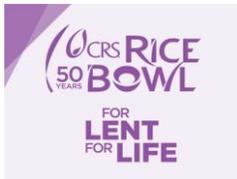
\$25 Lunch included.

St John Neumann Pastoral Center
(146 Metlars Ln, Piscataway NJ)

Registration at

www.diometuchen.org/taller-de-biblia-introduccion

CRS Rice Bowl



CRS Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, the official relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This program reminds us of our responsibility to the most vulnerable people around the world. We can bring hope to these people with our prayers and our support. For more information about this program, people's stories, and ways to donate, please visit: <https://www.crsricebowl.org>.

Also if you would like to be part of the CRS Chapter - Diocese of Metuchen (Spanish) please contact Lescobar@diometuchen.org

Hispanic Youth and Young Adults - Jubilee Mass Series



The 2025 "Pilgrims of Hope" Jubilee Year is a time turn our gaze toward all those who represent hope and all those who need hope in our parishes. Is a time to recognize the value of our Hispanic youth and young adults.

Please join us on the last Friday of the month, at Diocesan Bilingual Mass with our Hispanic youth and young adults at a parish in our Diocese.

If you would like to receive more information about dates, times and locations, please email Lescobar@diometuchen.org

Save the date!!



Pilgrimage to the National Blue Army Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. 'Hispanic Families, Pilgrims of Hope'.

Join us on **June 14, 2025 from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm**, at the Blue Army National Shrine, where we will be able to receive the jubilee indulgence. All are invited to participate in the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, confessions, prayer of the Rosary and Angelus, and closing Mass. The event is free and prior registration is not required. Please bring your lunch. More information? please contact us 732 243 4573 or at Lescobar@diometuchen.org

Stay in Touch With Us!!

Click the button to sign-up to receive monthly, information regarding the Hispanic Diocesan events and other resources for our community.

[Hispanic Office Newsletter](#)

Office for Discipleship Formation for Children

Open to all PCLs, Catechists, Youth Ministers, parents, grandparents, OCIA teams, and Catholic school teachers and administrators



Thursday, March 20

Christian Anthropology: Responding to Modern Challenges

Sponsored by the Sophia Institute for Teachers

Are trans people sinful? Is sex a spectrum? Are sex and “gender” two different things? At this workshop, we’ll unpack both theology and science to answer these questions and more.

Topics include:

- Defining the Human Person
- The Contrast between the secular culture worldview and the Catholic worldview
- The super powers of men and women
- Scientific and Medical considerations
- A Pastoral Response

To register: <https://diometuchen.org/upcoming-events-2>
 Flyer: [Christian Anthropology Flyer](#)

Jill Kerekes
 Director, Office of Discipleship Formation for Children
 732-529-7930
jkerekes@diometuchen.org



Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

2025 Diocesan Youth Day registration is live!
Saturday, April 5th, 2025 at Immaculata High School, in Somerville.
 With keynote speaker **Braden Johnson**.

Sign up Link: igfn.us/form/e7LD7A

8th-12th grade teens will meet for a Holy Spirit filled day of Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions, Live Music, Talks from speaker **Braden Johnson**, Food, Games and more!

The flyer features a blue and white color scheme with a mountain background. At the top, it says '2025' with a cross over the '0'. Below that, 'DIOCESAN YOUTH DAY' is written in large, bold letters, followed by 'AWAKENING THE HEART'. The date and time are listed as 'SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH, 2025' and '10:30AM - 5:00PM'. The location is 'IMMACULATA HIGH SCHOOL, 240 MOUNTAIN AVE, SOMERVILLE, NJ'. A 'JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE!' banner is at the bottom right. A row of four small images shows Braden Johnson, Eucharistic Adoration, Holy Mass, and a young woman. At the bottom, it states 'COST: \$20 PER PERSON (LUNCH INCLUDED)' and 'REGISTER TODAY!' with a QR code and the URL 'igfn.us/form/e7LD7A'.

[Sign up here](#)



**[NJ Catholic Youth Rally](#)
Sunday, May 18th, 2025.**

More information to come.



Jay Donofrio
Director, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry
(732)-243-4576
jdonoferio@diometuchen.org

New Homeschool Ministry

Dear Pastors,

The Diocesan Homeschooling Ministry exists to assist you in your pastoral care for homeschooling families by providing opportunities for connection and trust building. During our kickoff event we learned that trust building will be an important part of pastoral ministry to homeschoolers going forward. This was highlighted by the fact that at least one family is not yet known to their pastor and the children have now passed the normal age for First Holy Communion. Please contact me if I can be of assistance in your vigilance.

We hope to build trust by providing various activities for homeschooling families throughout the year. Please encourage homeschoolers to attend our celebration of St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church. An Architectural tour of Churches, March 19, 2025 beginning @ 9AM at St. Joseph Church, North Plainfield. Families can register with the ministry on the homeschooling webpage. <https://diometuchen.org/homeschool-ministry-1>

- Fr. Gilbert Starcher

BY THE NUMBERS

In our Diocese there are...

- 112 Children
- 55 Families
- 19 Parishes
- 4 Co-Ops

SAVE THE DATE

- **March 19 - Architectural tour of Diocesan Churches**
9am-12pm starting from St. Joseph Church
44 Manning Ave.
North Plainfield, 07060
- **April 11 - Seven Sorrows BVM Devotion**
7:30pm St. Ann Church
6 Church St.
Hampton, NJ 08827



Diocese of Metuchen
Homeschool Ministry

Rev. Gilbert Starcher, Director

Phone:
+1(908)756-3383 x13
(St. Joseph, North Plainfield)

E-mail:
GStarcher@Diometuchen.com



HOMESCHOOL MINISTRY

*Fostering growth for
homeschooled
families in the areas
of connection to the
diocese, spirituality,
discipleship, and
vocational
discernment.*



DIocese OF
METUCHEN

Upcoming Events

Architectural Tour of Diocesan Churches

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 9am – 12pm

Starting from St. Joseph Church, 41 Manning Ave, North Plainfield, NJ 07060

Seven Sorrow Blessed Virgin Mary Devotion

Friday, April 11, 2025, 7:30pm – 8:30 pm

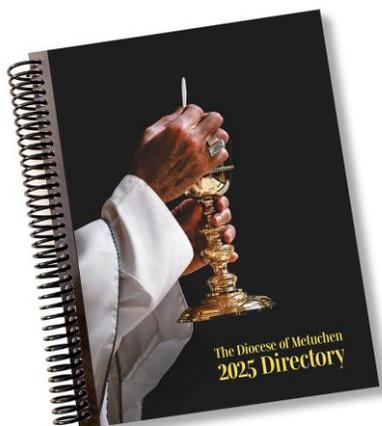
St. Ann Church, 6 Church Street, Hampton, NJ 08827

Sign up for more information here: <https://diometuchen.org/homeschool-ministry-1>

Rev. Gilbert Starcher
Coordinator, Office of Homeschool Ministry
gstarcher@diometuchen.org



Office of Communications and Public Relations



New 2025 Diocesan Directory!

The Office of Communications and Public Relations is pleased to announce that, at long last, a new Diocesan Directory is available for purchase! The 2025 version is your essential guide to diocesan personal and services, featuring diocesan offices and staff, clergy directory, parish and school information, healthcare and social services, consecrated life, and so much more! At just \$35.00 a copy, order yours today! Order four or more copies, pay just \$32.00 each. To place your order, please contact Mary Gregory at 732-529-7934 or mgregory@diometuchen.org.



Parish Social Media Audit Survey

As you know, the Office of Communications and Public Relations has partnering with Prenger Solutions Group (<https://prengersolutions.com/>) to conduct a social media audit of all ninety parishes. You should have received an email over the Christmas holiday, asking you to please complete a survey that will help the Diocese evaluate the ways in which our parishes are using social media at the local level. We were hoping to complete this survey by Friday, January 10, but, unfortunately, we are still waiting for a number of parishes to complete the survey. Again, I would ask that you please complete the following survey as soon as possible.

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8127221/2025-Parish-Social-Media-Audit-Diocese-of-Metuchen>

I understand that not every parish has an active social media account, but it is important that every parish complete this survey so that we have an accurate accounting. Of course, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Adam Carlisle, Secretary for Evangelization and Communication, at acarlisle@diometuchen.org.

Employment Opportunity - Director of Communications and Public Relations

Please consider posting this announcement in your parish bulletin:

The Diocese of Metuchen is seeking a Director of Communications and Public Relations to assist diocesan offices, ministries, parishes, schools, clergy, and its partners/affiliates to highlight key initiatives, events, and messages. The ideal candidate will have a degree in

Communications/Public Relations, be a person of living Catholic faith, and be conversant in both print and digital media. Interested candidates should contact Adam Carlisle, Secretary for Evangelization and Communication, at acarlisle@diometuchen.org.

Employment Opportunity - Freelance Writer / Book Reviewer

The Catholic Spirit, the official newspaper of the Diocese of Metuchen, is seeking one or more book reviewers to review one book a month for a new, original Book-of-the Month feature. The ideal candidate will be an experienced writer who has reviewed books, particularly Catholic books, for other publications. An interest in academic, as well as more popular, non-academic books, is a plus. Interested candidates should contact Adam Carlisle, Secretary for Evangelization and Communication, at acarlisle@diometuchen.org.

Employment Opportunity - Graphic Designer

Please consider posting this announcement in your parish bulletin:

The Catholic Spirit, the official newspaper of the Diocese of Metuchen, seeks a Graphic Designer to assist with the layout and design of its publication. The ideal candidate will have Adobe InDesign and Photoshop experience in a PC environment, be familiar with all aspects of electronic publishing, be a well-organized and reliable, and have a proven track record of meeting deadlines. Interested candidates should contact Adam Carlisle, Secretary for Evangelization and Communication, at acarlisle@diometuchen.org.



Employment Opportunity - Freelance Photographer

The Diocese of Metuchen is seeking a freelance photographer to cover important events throughout the diocese, including the Bishop Checchio's pastoral visits. The ideal candidate will assist the Office of Communications and Public Relations, as well as The Catholic Spirit, the official newspaper of the diocese, in telling the story of the diocese and its partners/affiliates. Interested candidates should contact Adam Carlisle, Secretary for Evangelization and Communication, at acarlisle@diometuchen.org.

Making the Good News Known

The Office of Communications and Public Relations is committed to making the Good News known and telling the story of the Diocese of Metuchen, which includes telling the stories of our parishes, schools, ministries and the faithful. Do you have a positive, inspiring story to share about an individual within our local Church of Metuchen? Is your parish doing something that lights a fire in the heart of our part of the world? We want to hear from you!

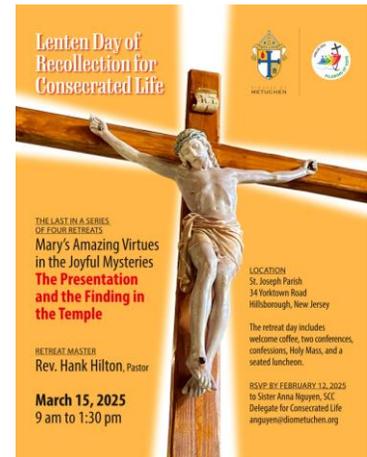
We invite you to share your news with us by emailing communications@diometuchen.org and, as always, news@catholicspirit.com.

Office of Religious and Consecrated Life

Lenten Day of Recollection for Consecrated Life

Although this gathering will be the last of a series of four retreats by Rev. Hank Hilton, we look forward to coming together. We would like to thank Father Hank, the staff and volunteers of St. Joseph parish, Hillsborough, for their wondrous hospitality!

Drawn from the life and virtues of our Blessed Mother, Fr. Hank guides us, one last time, into the mystery of our redemption. Therein we might find strength to face the challenges in our own life today. While spending the day in prayer together, we lift up the needs of our Diocese of Metuchen as well as of our universal Church. Please be assured of our prayers and we humbly ask that you keep us in yours. Thank you!



Sister Anna Nguyen, SCC
Coordinator, Office of Religious and Consecrated Life
(732) 562-2439
anguyen@diometuchen.org

Office of Multi-Cultural Ministries



Asian and Pacific Islander Multicultural Fair

Save the Date! Multicultural Fair – May 10, 2025, 1:00pm to 4:00pm at Our Lady of Czestochowa, South Plainfield

Celebrating Asian Pacific Islander Month and the diverse cultures in the Diocese of Metuchen.

All are welcome!



Sr. Miriam Perez, SSC
Coordinator for Multicultural Ministries
732-529-7933
mperez@diometuchen.org

Office of Family Life

Lectio Divina for Couples & Families

Two Thursdays per Month at 6:30pm on Zoom. Couples and families are welcome to join in praying Lectio Divina (a meditative reading of a short scripture passage).

Contact: cdaverso@diometuchen.org with any questions and for more details.

The Activated Disciple 40 Day Challenge

The Virtual Women's Group will be following Jeff Cavin's 40-day discipleship challenge for Lent. All women are invited to join each Sunday at 2:30 p.m. On Zoom. Please contact Cristina at cdaverso@diometuchen.org for details.

Silver & Gold & 5 Year Wedding Anniversary Celebration

You are cordially invited to celebrate your 25th, 50th, 50+ or 5th Wedding Anniversary with the Church of Metuchen and renew your marriage vows with Bishop James F. Checchio at a special Evening Prayer Service at the Cathedral of St. Francis of

Assisi in Metuchen on Sunday, October 19, 2025 at 3:00 PM. **The Silver and Gold Anniversary Prayer Service will again include couples celebrating 5 years of marriage.** Registration is required. Please register online at: <https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-anniversary-celebration>. If you are unable to access, please contact the Family Life Office at 732-562-1543 or amarshall@diometuchen.org. Registration will close on October 10, 2025.

Although 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 may be made online at <https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-anniversary-celebration> or calling 732-562-1543.

New Marriage Catechumenate

The Office of Family Life is seeking parishes willing to pilot the new Marriage Catechumenate, as called for by the Vatican Dicastery of Laity, Family and Life. This unique form of marriage preparation involves married couples meeting with and mentoring engaged couples one-on-one. Pastors interested are encouraged to identify married couples within their parishes who could serve as mentors and contact Cristina for details at cdaverso@diometuchen.org. A training for mentors will be planned for the Fall.

Cristina D'Averso-Collins, M.T.S., M.S.P.
Director, Office of Family Life
732-562-1990
cdaverso@diometuchen.org



Office of Divine Worship

Major Diocesan Liturgies

These Major Diocesan Liturgies recur every year with the Bishop of Metuchen as the main celebrant.

Visit our Major Diocesan Liturgies page to keep up to date with upcoming dates and details of our liturgies.

Looking for Liturgical Resources?

If you are looking to find resources on the Mass and/or the Sacraments or to understand the Norms & Guidelines within the Diocese of Metuchen, visit our Resources page.

[Major Diocesan Liturgies](#)

[Liturgical Resources](#)

Interested in joining the Diocesan Choir?

The Office of Liturgical Music is seeking new members for the Diocesan Choir. If you are interested or know someone who would be interested, please share this link to our survey.



[Spring Survey 2025](#)

Chrism Mass 2025

*Tuesday, April 15, 2025
4:00pm*

All are encouraged to join in-person or via Livestream in the ancient, grace-filled Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen at 4:00 PM as Bishop Checchio bless and consecrate the Holy Oils. Furthermore, the priests make a Renewal of Commitment to Priestly Service to the Bishop at this Mass.



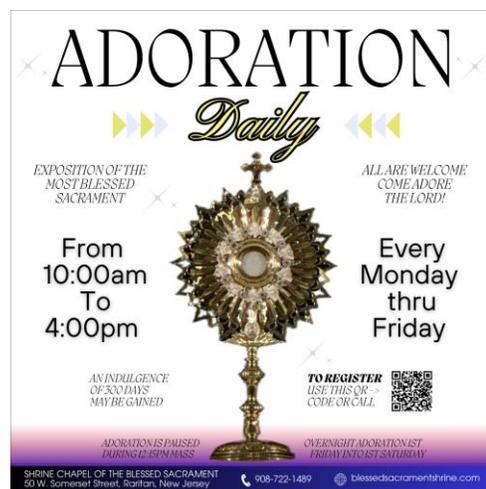
If any Priest has not submitted their Concelebration and Dinner RSVP or their Parish/Institution's Holy Oil Requests, then please do so soon. To make necessary preparations for the Mass & Dinner, please have all your forms **submitted by Thursday, March 27**. Your timely assistance is most appreciated.

Please note for submitting your Holy Oil Requests, if you select either **Option 1** (small set) or **2** (large set) and fill the Mixed Set section, the entries made in the Mixed Set section will be considered a typo.

[More Info](#)

Perpetual Adoration - Shrine Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament

The Shrine Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, in Raritan, is looking for adorers to sit with the Blessed Sacrament Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is also being offered the third Thursday of each Month (Night Vigil) from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Anyone interested in signing up should visit <https://blessedsacramentshrine.com>



ADORATION
Daily

EXPOSITION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

ALL ARE WELCOME
COME ADORE
THE LORD!

From
10:00am
To
4:00pm

Every
Monday
thru
Friday

AN INDULGENCE
OF 300 DAYS
MAY BE GAINED

TO REGISTER
USE THIS QR
CODE OR CALL

ADORATION IS PAUSED
DURING 12:15PM MASS

OVERNIGHT ADORATION IS
FRIDAY INTO 1ST SATURDAY

SHRINE CHAPEL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
50 W. SOMERSET STREET, RARITAN, NEW JERSEY 908-722-1489 blessedsacramentshrine.com

Eucharistic Adorers Wanted

Please consider promoting this important apostolate in your parishes. Now that the pandemic is over, Bishop Checchio would like to offer Eucharistic adoration at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Monday through Friday, from 9:00-11:45 a.m. As St. Pope John Paul II noted. "The Church and the world have a great need of Eucharistic adoration." Anyone who is interested in signing up should contact Angela Marshall at amarshall@diometuchen.org.



**2025 PUERI CANTORES NEW YORK
CHILDREN'S CHORAL FESTIVAL & MASS**
for Treble Choirs (grades 4-8)

Saturday, March 29, 2025
11:00am - 6:45pm

Church of the Blessed Sacrament
152 West 71st Street, New York, NY 10023

Fr. David Nolan, Celebrant
Melanie Malinka, Guest Conductor

To learn more about Pueri Cantores, visit <https://www.pcchoirs.org/>.

8 Professional Development Credits are available for school conductors & MP3 rehearsal tracks of the Festival repertoire will be available for participating choirs.

[Download Brochure](#)

New LP Form Submission Work Flow

The Office of Divine Worship is adjusting our workflow on how we coordinate with parishes and other groups when the Bishop is celebrating a liturgy.

The new workflow will be:

13. The Bishop's secretary arranges with the parish (or organization) when the Bishop will celebrate a particular liturgy at the parish.
14. The parish then goes to <https://diometuchen.org/episcopal-liturgies> and downloads the LP form. They then fill out the PDF and email it to worship@diometuchen.org.
15. The Office of Divine Worship will review the completed LP form and follow up if any clarifications are needed.
16. This LP form is then sent to the Bishop and parish so that everyone is clear as to the particulars of the liturgy.

The change in the workflow is simply that we now ask the parishes themselves to complete the LP Form once they know that the Bishop will be visiting them to celebrate a liturgy. Since these liturgies are normally Sunday Mass or Confirmation, the completion of this form is quite straightforward and will save a phone call. The new workflow goes into effect the day that this memo is promulgated. As we all adjust to this new workflow, the Office of Divine Worship will happily assist parishes as needed in completing this form.

Rev. Timothy M. Eck, II
Director, Office of Divine Worship
732-562-2435
teck@diometuchen.org



The Catholic Spirit



The most recent edition of *The Catholic Spirit* is now available. In addition to an article celebrating Catholic Schools Week, the February issue featured articles about musical training for Hispanic parish music ministry groups, the Missionary Families of Christ, who held an evangelization rally for some 300 members throughout New Jersey at Our Lady of Victories (Sayreville), and Black Catholic History Month, which, as the article suggests, can serve as a powerful opportunity for evangelization within the Catholic Church. The February issue also featured a special reflection on the Holy Father's papal bull of indiction, *Spes Non Confundit*, reminding us that the Church must have a lasting impact on marriages and families. We are also hard at work on next month's edition, which will feature articles about the

Rite of Election, the Hispanic Youth Mass (which was postponed from last month), and several new religious profiles. The March issue will also feature an article about the Catholic Daughters of America, who are celebrating their 100th anniversary. Of course, you can read the full version of both editions online by visiting <https://catholicspirit.com>, where you can browse through stories individually or view the full paper as it appears in print. As always, we thank you for your support and welcome your feedback.

The Catholic Spirit - New Social Media Accounts!

The Catholic Spirit is pleased to announce the launch of several new social media accounts! The Catholic Spirit is now on Facebook (The Catholic Spirit - NJ), Instagram and X (formerly Twitter). Please Like and Follow us @CathSpiritNJ for important updates from the official newspaper of the Diocese of Metuchen. Thank you!



Catholic Charities



Volunteer at Thrift Store and Food Pantry

Make a difference in your community! Catholic Charities needs volunteers for their thrift store and food pantry in Phillipsburg. Your time can directly help those in need.

Contact Maria Hunter at 732-387-1315 or mhunter@ccdom.org to learn more about how you can contribute.

Mental Health Navigator Services

Catholic Charities is offering a free service to assist residents of our Diocese in receiving support and education on how to understand and obtain mental health services and help remove the barriers that often exist when trying to figure out where to start.



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The Navigator will –

- ✓ assist with educating you on how to find out if your Health Insurance will cover these services;
- ✓ make recommendations for resources that are near to your home or work;
- ✓ inform you on what to expect when you call for services;
- ✓ advocate for your rights within a challenging mental health system.

The Mental Health Navigation Services will be easy to access by two methods:

1. The QR code listed on this flyer will bring you to a screen with a few questions to complete. Navigator will contact you within 24 hours.
2. If you are not able or comfortable using the QR code, you can contact a confidential voicemail line where leaving your name, number, and a brief description will prompt a call back from a Navigator within 24 hours.

If you or a loved one would benefit from this service, please call
• 732-857-3811 Middlesex County
• 908-333-2282 Somerset, Hunterdon, Warren Counties

Spanish speaking navigator available - Tenemos navegadores que hablan español.



Tiffany Workman
Communications Specialist
732-243-4581
tworkman@diometuchen.org

Office of Ongoing Faith Formation

Adult Enrichment Course "Eschatology Part II"

The Office of Ongoing Faith Formation will be offering an Adult Enrichment Course entitled "Eschatology Part II: The Book of Revelation" at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center located at 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ. Classes are presented by Fr. Glenn Comandini, S.T.D.

Part II will be held on Thursdays from March 27, 2025 through June 5, 2025 (no class April 17 for Holy Thursday). The course will be a continuation of Part I and will examine the Book of Revelation using Catholic exegesis to study apocalyptic imagery such as The Seven Seals, The Woman Clothed with the Sun, and The Heavenly Rider. The registration fee is \$20, covering the 10 classes of Eschatology Part II. Furthermore, the New American Bible will be used in class and can be included in registration for an additional \$10, if needed.

You may register online at www.diometuchen.org/faith-formation (Part I and Part II have two separate registration links). For more information, please email amarshall@diometuchen.org or call 732-562-1543.

This pastoral newsletter is sent on behalf of the Office of Communications and Public Relations, Diocese of Metuchen. You are receiving this email because of your relationship with the Diocese of Metuchen. If you wish to stop receiving email updates from the Diocese of Metuchen, please click the unsubscribe link below



Diocese of Metuchen | 146 Metlars Lane | Piscataway, NJ 08854 US