

## October 2026: News, Resources & Upcoming Diocesan Events

This pastoral newsletter includes news, events and resources. For recurring events, please see the individual office newsletter.

### Office of Human Life & Dignity

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Life Chain - Oct. 4, 2026

**LIFE CHAIN** is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life individuals standing for 90 minutes praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by participants of all faiths, especially the Christian community, that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death.

Official locations can be found at: <https://diometuchen.org/events/lifechain2026>



October is [Respect Life Month](#). The 2026 Respect Life Month resources have been developed to assist you in helping parishioners understand and value the gift of human life and become engaged with building a culture that cherishes every human life.

FREE resources are available to help your parish, school, or ministry inspire Catholics in your local community.

Materials include:

- Poster
- Reflection
- Prayer Card
- Graphics

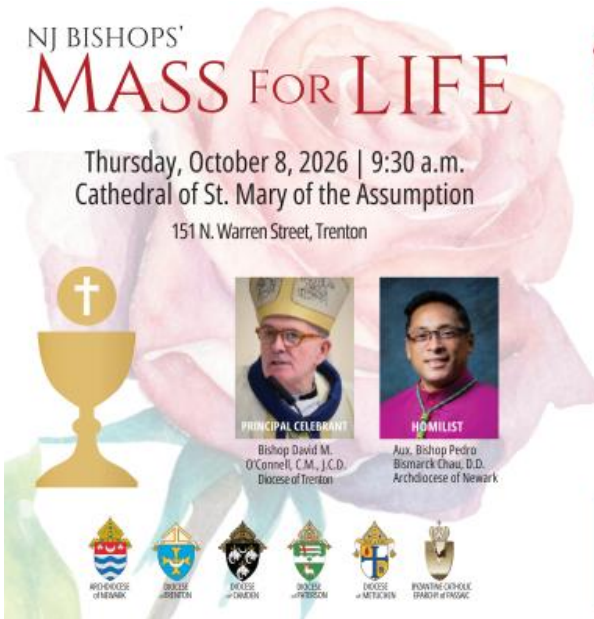
and more!

You can use the provided materials to help build a culture of life in your parish.

[View Materials](#)

NJ BISHOPS'  
**MASS FOR LIFE**

Thursday, October 8, 2026 | 9:30 a.m.  
Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption  
151 N. Warren Street, Trenton



**PRINCIPAL CELEBRANT**  
Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., J.C.D.  
Diocese of Trenton

**HOMILIST**  
Aux. Bishop Pedro Bisharek Chaud, D.D.  
Archdiocese of Newark



**NEW JERSEY MARCH FOR LIFE**

\*The NJ Rally & March for Life will begin at 11 am at the Statehouse Annex, a short walk from the Cathedral

**DIOCESAN BUS TRIP**  
TO TRENTON, DEPARTING FROM PISCATAWAY

Travel as a group to the Mass & March!  
Bus registration is \$20 per passenger.  
**Reserve your spot now! Seating is limited.**  
Full itinerary available on registration page.

Scan the QR to register for the Bus Trip, or visit:  
Escanea el código para registrarte en el viaje en autobús, o visita:  
[www.diometuchen.org/events/nj-bishops-mass-for-life](http://www.diometuchen.org/events/nj-bishops-mass-for-life)



[Sign up for the Mass HERE](#)

Will your parish be sending a bus down to the NJ Rally and March in Trenton?

If so, please let us know by emailing [magnese@diometuchen.org](mailto:magnese@diometuchen.org), and don't forget to register your bus with [NJ March for Life](#)!

A bus will be departing from the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center at 7:15am. Space is limited! Register by visiting: <https://diometuchen.org/humanlifeanddignity>  
Text Link





**Feminine Genius Brunch**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026**

**9:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

St. John Neumann Pastoral Center  
146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854

**Event Highlights:**

- Fellowship & Music
- Hot Brunch
- Prayer & Reflection

Visit [www.diometuchen.org/humanlifeanddignity](http://www.diometuchen.org/humanlifeanddignity) for more information.

*"Discovering God's Purpose in the Different Seasons of a Woman's Life"*

**GUEST SPEAKER: Danielle Bean**  
Author, speaker, and host of the Girlfriends podcast

**COST: \$35 PER PERSON**  
Scan QR to register.



[Sign up here!](#)

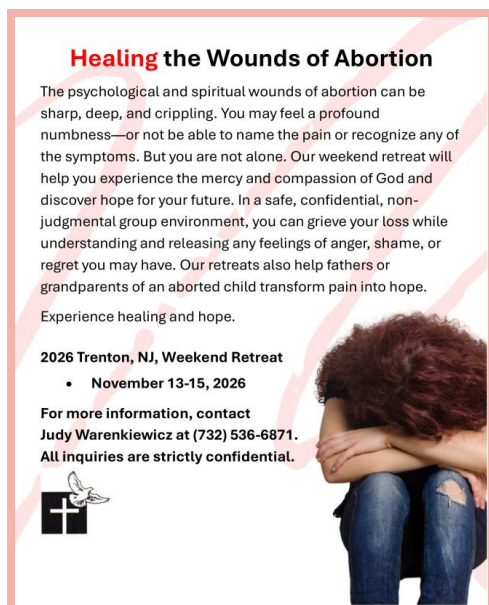
## Feminine Genius Brunch

Saturday, October 24, 2026

9:30 AM–12:30 PM

St. John Neumann Pastoral Center

Mark your calendars for the 2026 Feminine Genius Brunch! Join women from across the diocese for a morning of fellowship, reflection, and encouragement—an opportunity to gather as women and to reflect on and celebrate our unique qualities as women. Inspired by St. John Paul II's vision of the "feminine genius," this gathering invites women of all ages to more deeply discover the unique ways they are called to enrich the world.



**Healing the Wounds of Abortion**

The psychological and spiritual wounds of abortion can be sharp, deep, and crippling. You may feel a profound numbness—or not be able to name the pain or recognize any of the symptoms. But you are not alone. Our weekend retreat will help you experience the mercy and compassion of God and discover hope for your future. In a safe, confidential, non-judgmental group environment, you can grieve your loss while understanding and releasing any feelings of anger, shame, or regret you may have. Our retreats also help fathers or grandparents of an aborted child transform pain into hope.

Experience healing and hope.

**2026 Trenton, NJ, Weekend Retreat**

- November 13-15, 2026

For more information, contact  
Judy Warenkiewicz at (732) 536-6871.  
All inquiries are strictly confidential.




## Post-Abortion Healing Weekend Retreat

Are you struggling from an abortion? This retreat will help you move beyond any guilt, shame, or anger you have. Experience God's mercy and compassion in a safe, confidential, non-judgmental group environment.

**November 13-15, 2026**

**Contact Judy Warenkiewicz at (732) 536-6871**

Text

[Download Flyer](#)

**WORD OF LIFE**  
**Special Edition-**  
**Stop the Spread of the Abortion Pill**



This Stop the Spread of the Abortion Pill parish leader kit is a special edition of the Word of Life. This edition is not month-specific and is dedicated to providing resources surrounding the abortion pill.

The edition contains a special feature section highlighting resources, intercessions for the Prayer of the Faithful, links to prayers and educational resources, and quotes and graphics for bulletins, newsletters, websites, and social media.

**Free Parish Kit**

## Join Us in Prayer!

The USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities is inviting Catholics to join a focused effort of prayer and action to stop the spread of abortion pills by invoking the intercession of St. Joseph, Defender of Life. Join us in prayer from now until the end of October!

**Learn More!**

## Know Your Rights. Continue to Pray.

On August 20, 2026, New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill signed S2260/A2218 into law, legislation which is intended to strengthen New Jersey's protections for individuals seeking, providing or assisting with reproductive health care services, including abortion and gender-affirming health care services. For more information regarding how this affects pro-life activities such as peaceful protests and prayer vigils near clinics, click here or visit: <https://njcatholic.org/s2260-and-pro-life-activities>.



[Visit our Website](#)

Jennifer A. Ruggiero, M.A.  
Secretary, Secretariat for Family and Pastoral Life  
Director, Office of Human Life & Dignity  
(732) 562-1990  
[jruggiero@diometuchen.org](mailto:jruggiero@diometuchen.org)



Maria Agnese  
Program Coordinator  
(732) 562-1990  
[magnese@diometuchen.org](mailto:magnese@diometuchen.org)

## Office of OCIA

### Rebuild My Church

**A series of OCIA Formation events focused on the stages of the catechumenate**

In Honor of the Jubilee of St. Francis, the Diocese of Metuchen is hosting a series of events for all OCIA Directors and their team members. All three sessions will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., beginning with Holy Mass. Breakfast and lunch will also be served.

Registration is required: \$35 per person. Discounts are available for groups, or for those registering for all three events. Please click on the link below for more details.  
Text Link

Diocese of Metuchen | Office of OCIA

# REBUILD MY CHURCH

A SERIES OF OCIA FORMATION EVENTS FOCUSED ON THE STAGES OF THE CATECHUMENATE

In Honor of the Jubilee of St. Francis, the Diocese of Metuchen is hosting a series of events for all OCIA Directors and their team members. These events will be organized around the Stages of the Catechumenate and will be focused on organic catechesis—teaching the Catholic faith as a living story rather than just a set of rules. Interest in the Catholic Church has been increasing in recent years, and this series is meant to take advantage of this “Catholic moment,” one characterized by a surge in adult conversions, particularly among young adults, by providing our catechists with the training necessary to successfully accompany those preparing for full initiation into the Catholic Church.

**ALL THREE SESSIONS WILL RUN FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M., BEGINNING WITH HOLY MASS  
BREAKFAST AND LUNCH WILL BE SERVED**

**SESSION ONE: September 26, 2026**  
**The Period of Inquiry (Precatechumenate)**  
St. James (Hacking Ridge)  
184 South Finley Avenue

**SESSION TWO: November 14, 2026**  
**The Period of the Catechumenate**  
St. Matthias (Somerset)  
168 John F. Kennedy Boulevard

**SESSION THREE: January 23, 2027**  
**The Period of Purification and Enlightenment / The Period of Mystagogy**  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (Three Bridges)  
105 Sumner Road

**PRESENTER: Dr. Bill Keimig**  
Director of the Catechetical Institute  
at Franciscan University of Steubenville

**CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE**  
FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY

**ACM**  
CATHOLIC MINISTERS

“Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.”  
— Pope Paul VI

Questions? Please contact Adam Carlisle, Secretary for Evangelization and Communication at [acarlisle@diometuchen.org](mailto:acarlisle@diometuchen.org) or 732-529-7936.

**SCAN TO REGISTER**

**\$35.00 Per Person**  
Discount For Groups

**[Registration and More info HERE](#)**

Questions? Concerns? Please contact Adam Carlisle, Secretary for Evangelization and Communication, at [acarlisle@diometuchen.org](mailto:acarlisle@diometuchen.org) or 732-529-7936.

**Contact:** For questions pertaining to OCIA, please contact [rcia@diometuchen.org](mailto:rcia@diometuchen.org)

## Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

### Diocesan Youth Day 2027!

April 17th, 2027  
*Save the date!*



The poster features a green background with a yellow banner at the bottom. It includes three photos of young men: one in a plaid shirt, one in a black shirt, and one in a black shirt with a white triangle. The text 'SAVE the DATE' is in large white letters, with 'the' in a cursive font. Below it, 'DIOCESAN YOUTH DAY' is in blue and white, and 'APRIL 17, 2027' is in white on the yellow banner. The time '10:30AM-5:00PM' is in small white letters. The price '\$25 PER YOUTH' and 'GRADES: 8-12' are in yellow. The activities 'HOLY MASS!', 'EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION!', 'LIVE MUSIC AND GAMES!', and 'FOOD SPONSORSHIP!' are in white. The location 'ST. JOHN NEUMANN CENTER IN PISCATAWAY' is in yellow with a red pin icon.

**SAVE the DATE**

**DIOCESAN YOUTH DAY**

**APRIL 17, 2027**

10:30AM-5:00PM

**\$25 PER YOUTH**  
**GRADES: 8-12**

**HOLY MASS!**  
**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION!**  
**LIVE MUSIC AND GAMES!**  
**FOOD SPONSORSHIP!**

**ST. JOHN NEUMANN CENTER IN PISCATAWAY**



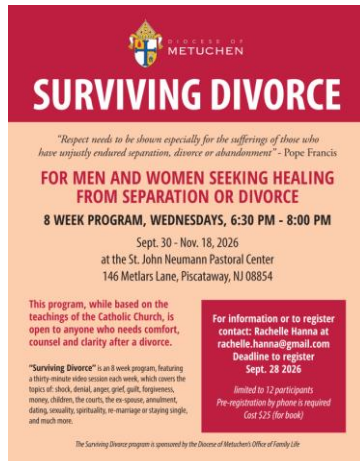
Jay Donofrio  
Director, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry  
(732)-243-4576  
[jdonofrio@diometuchen.org](mailto:jdonofrio@diometuchen.org)

## Ongoing Faith Formation



Maria Agnese  
Program Coordinator  
(732) 562-1990  
[magnese@diometuchen.org](mailto:magnese@diometuchen.org)

## Office of Family Life



**SURVIVING DIVORCE**

*"Respect needs to be shown especially for the sufferings of those who have unjustly endured separation, divorce or abandonment" - Pope Francis*

**FOR MEN AND WOMEN SEEKING HEALING FROM SEPARATION OR DIVORCE**

**8 WEEK PROGRAM, WEDNESDAYS, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**  
Sept. 30 - Nov. 18, 2026  
at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center  
146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854

This program, while based on the teachings of the Catholic Church, is open to anyone who needs comfort, counsel and clarity after a divorce.

"Surviving Divorce" is an 8 week program, featuring a thirty minute video session each week, which covers the topics of shock, denial, anger, grief, guilt, forgiveness, money, children, the courts, the ex-spouse, adjustment, dating, sexuality, spirituality, re-marriage or staying single, and much more.

For information or to register contact: **Rachelle Hanna** at [rachelle.hanna@gmail.com](mailto:rachelle.hanna@gmail.com)  
Deadline to register: **Sept. 28, 2026**  
limited to 12 participants  
Pre-registration by phone is required  
(cost \$25 for book)

The Surviving Divorce program is sponsored by the Office of Family Life

### Surviving Divorce

Sept. 30 – Nov. 18

"Surviving Divorce" is an 8-week program for men and women seeking healing from separation or divorce. This series of group meetings follows a program based on the teachings of the Catholic Church, and is open to anyone who needs comfort, counsel and clarity after a divorce. For more information, contact [rachelle.hanna@gmail.com](mailto:rachelle.hanna@gmail.com)

### Life-Giving Wounds Support Group For Adult Children of Divorce

Oct. 10 – Feb. 6

This small group will provide support for adult children of separation or divorce, exploring themes of grieving, identity, faith, love, forgiveness, and more. Two in-person sessions and the rest are virtual. For more information, please visit:  
<https://diometuchen.org/adult-children-of-divorce>



**LIFE-GIVING WOUNDS**

**METUCHEN SUPPORT GROUP FOR ADULT CHILDREN OF DIVORCE OR SEPARATION**

*Register!* 

**SESSIONS INCLUDE**

- Weekly small group discussion facilitated by Molly Moltane
- Explore themes of grieving, identity, faith, love, forgiveness, and more
- You will use the Life-Giving Wounds book & support group workbook
- There will be optional goal setting and tracking
- This group will involve prayer and the sacraments

**WHEN**

- Strategically timed from October through February, to help you through the stressful holiday season.

**LOCATION: HYBRID**

- In Person Orientation and Holy Hour: Saturday, October 10, 2026 at St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway
- Online: Thursdays, Oct 22, Nov 5 and 19, Dec 3 and 17, Jan 7 and 21
- In Person Wrap Up with Communion and Blessing: Saturday, February 6, 2027 at Pastoral Center

**STAY CONNECTED LOCALLY**  
[Molly.Moltane@gmail.com](mailto:Molly.Moltane@gmail.com)  
[CDaverso@diometuchen.org](mailto:CDaverso@diometuchen.org)

**OR CONTACT LGW**

[www.lifegivingwounds.org](http://www.lifegivingwounds.org) @lifegiving.wounds



Oct. 9-11, 2026

### marriage encounter

*Get away to the shore together this fall!*

- **Location:** St. Joseph By the Sea, Mantoloking, NJ
- **Hybrid format:** one virtual session (Fri) evening, two full days in person (Sat/Sun)
- **Non-residential:** commute from home or stay nearby in a hotel

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to enrich your marriage, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage.



love is a  
decision

Call Tom & Ruth DeFalco:  
732-904-9636 to apply  
and learn more.  
[wwwme.org](http://wwwme.org)



## Marriage Encounter Oct. 9-11, 2026

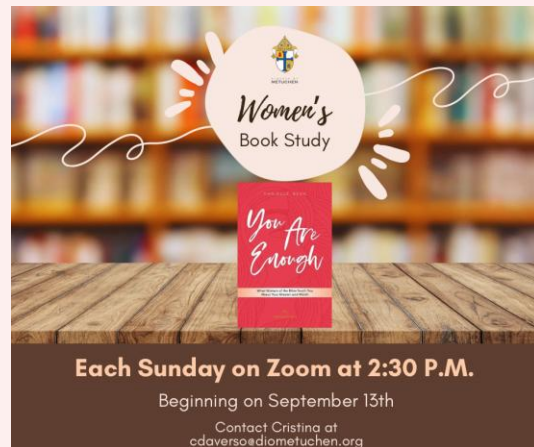
A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to enrich your marriage, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. The next local retreat will take place Oct 9-11, 2026 at St. Joseph By the Sea in Mantoloking, NJ.

Call Tom & Ruth DeFalco (732-904-9636) to apply and learn more.

X

## Virtual Book Study for Women

In anticipation of author, Danielle Bean's, visit to the Diocese in October, the Virtual Women's Group will discuss her book, "You Are Enough: What Women of the Bible Teach You About Your Mission and Worth" each Sunday at 2:30 p.m. On Zoom beginning on September 13th. Purchase of the book is required for attendance. To join, please contact Cristina at [cdaverso@diometuchen.org](mailto:cdaverso@diometuchen.org)



**Each Sunday on Zoom at 2:30 P.M.**

Beginning on September 13th

Contact Cristina at  
[cdaverso@diometuchen.org](mailto:cdaverso@diometuchen.org)

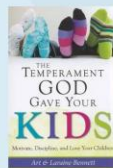
## Catholic Parent BOOK STUDY

2 Fridays per month on Zoom!

- Beginning on  
September 25
- 6:30-7:30 P.M.
- Zoom

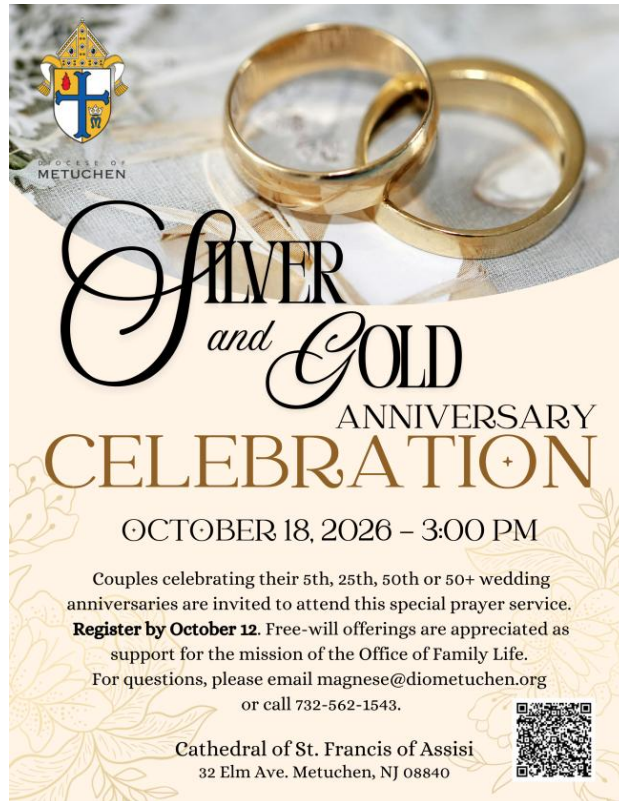
**JOIN US!**

To register, contact  
[cdaverso@diometuchen.org](mailto:cdaverso@diometuchen.org)



## Virtual Book Study for Catholic Parents

Parents are invited to a virtual bi-monthly discussion of the book, "The Temperament God Gave Your Kids" beginning on September 25th. Meetings take place 2 Fridays per month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. To register, please contact Cristina at [cdaverso@diometuchen.org](mailto:cdaverso@diometuchen.org)



## Register by October 12th!

[Additional Info HERE](#)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:cdaverso@diometuchen.org)



Office of Hispanic Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry

## 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 of Multi-Cultural Ministries

### No Throwaway People - Faith, Race, and the Call to Justice

**Oct. 11- Nov. 15, 2026**

Join six Zoom sessions to discuss Sacred Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching around the issues of immigration, policing and racial equity. The series will conclude with an in-person gathering of prayer, fellowship, and lunch at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway, NJ. More information:

<https://diometuchen.org/black-catholic-history-month-event>

The poster is for the 'No Throwaway People' event series, organized by the Office of Multicultural Ministry for National Black Catholic History Month. It features a graphic of five hands in different colors (yellow, orange, red, brown, black) reaching upwards. The title 'NO THROWAWAY PEOPLE' is in large, bold, black letters, with the subtitle 'FAITH, RACE AND THE CALL TO JUSTICE' below it. The text describes six Zoom sessions and a final in-person gathering. A QR code is provided for registration.

**Office of Multicultural Ministry**  
National Black Catholic History Month

**"NO THROWAWAY PEOPLE"**  
FAITH, RACE AND THE CALL TO JUSTICE

Join six Zoom sessions to discuss Sacred Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching around the issues of immigration, policing and racial equity.

**Sundays (Virtual)**  
Oct. 11- Nov. 15  
7-8pm

| Session   | Date    | Topic                                |
|-----------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Session 1 | Oct. 11 | Neither Jew nor Greek                |
| Session 2 | Oct. 18 | What is race anyhow?                 |
| Session 3 | Oct. 25 | The Legacy of America's Original Sin |
| Session 4 | Nov. 1  | Is Immigration a Race Issue?         |
| Session 5 | Nov. 8  | Truth and Reconciliation             |
| Session 6 | Nov. 15 | Forward Together                     |

**FRIENDSHIPPING GATHERING** In-Person  
Saturday, Nov. 21, 2026 10am-2pm  
St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway, NJ  
Questions? Email [magnased@diometuchen.org](mailto:magnased@diometuchen.org)  
or call 732-362-1643

Scan QR to Register

[More Info Here!](#)



## Diocesan Multicultural Mass & Fair

**Nov. 7, 2026**

Join us for Holy Mass at 11:00am, followed by a festive celebration of the different ethnic groups in our diocesan family, sharing their food and dance. For RSVP and more information: <https://diometuchen.org/multicultural-mass-fair>

[Click for More Information](#)



Sr. Miriam Perez, SSC  
Coordinator for Multicultural Ministries  
732-529-7933  
[mperez@diometuchen.org](mailto:mperez@diometuchen.org)

## Office of Divine Worship



### St. Francis Indulgence

On January 10, 2026, His Holiness Pope Leo XIV declared a special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis on the occasion of the 800th Anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi. This jubilee calls every faithful Christian, following the example of the Saint of Assisi, to “become a model of holiness of life and a constant witness of peace”. The Apostolic Penitentiary, in accordance with the will of the Holy Father, granted a plenary indulgence on this occasion during the period of January 10, 2026 to January 10, 2027.

The indulgence can be obtained under the ordinary conditions and by making a pilgrimage to any Franciscan conventual church or a Place of Worship dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi (e.g., our Cathedral) or connected to him and then participate in a liturgical celebrations or spend at least a reasonable period of time in pious meditation and raise prayers to God.

### Liturgy of the Hour Publishing and Use Timeline

Starting July 1, 2026, publishers began taking pre-order for the four volume sets, though each volume will ship incrementally. By Advent 2027 all four volumes should have been shipped and the start of Advent 2028 the new translation becomes mandatory.

Timeline of events:

- January 2027: Volume II (Lent and Easter) ships
- Feb 10, 2027: Volume II may be used (Ash Wednesday)
- April 2027: Volume III (Ordinary Time Weeks 1-17) may be shipped
- May 17, 2027: Volume III may be used (Monday after Pentecost)
- July 2027: Volume IV (Ordinary Time Weeks 18-34) may be shipped
- August 1, 2027: Volume IV may be used
- October 2027: Volume I (Advent-Christmas) may be shipped
- November 28, 2027: First Sunday of Advent -- Volume I may be used
- December 3, 2028: Mandatory Use on the First Sunday of Advent

Text Link

Rev. Timothy M. Eck, II  
Director, Office of Divine Worship  
732-562-2435  
[teck@diometuchen.org](mailto:teck@diometuchen.org)



## Office of Liturgical Music



Christopher Deibert  
 Director, Liturgical Music  
 732-243-4579  
[cdeibert@diometuchen.org](mailto:cdeibert@diometuchen.org)

## Homeschool Ministry

Join homeschooling families from across the diocese for the special Mass and Blessing of Roses held each year at the Carmelite Monastery in Flemington in honor of the Feast of St. Therese, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm.

*Carmelite Monastery  
 26 Harmony School Road  
 Flemington, NJ 08822  
 Add text and link it*

Rev. Gilbert Starcher  
 Coordinator, Homeschool Ministry  
[gstarcher@diometuchen.org](mailto:gstarcher@diometuchen.org)



## Office for Discipleship Formation for Children



**PCL Formation Day**  
 Evangelizing Parents  
 as the  
 Foundation  
 for  
 Family Faith Formation  
**Dr. Marylynn Wesson**  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8**  
 10:00 AM - 2:30PM  
 ♦ doors open @ 9:30  
 ♦ Mass at 11:45  
 ♦ coffee/ light breakfast & lunch will be served  
 St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Mettlers Lane Piscataway, NJ 08854  
 ????'s Contact Jill Kerekes, jkerekas@diometuchen.org or 732-529-7000

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)



**In-person small groups**  
**October 17 and 21**  
 9:30am-12:30pm, doors open at 9:15am  
**The Four Last Things**  
 Part I - October 17  
 Part II - October 31  
 Can't make both sessions? No problem!  
 You can complete the workshop on-line.  
 Attendance at this in-person event is equivalent to completing the on-line workshop of the same name.  
 ???'s contact Jill Kerekes  
 jkerekas@diometuchen.org  
 St. John Neumann Pastoral Center  
 146 Mettlers Lane  
 Piscataway, NJ 08854

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Jill Kerekes  
Director, Office of Discipleship Formation for Children  
732-529-7930  
[jkerekes@diometuchen.org](mailto:jkerekes@diometuchen.org)



## Office of Vocations

### New Applicants

The Office of Vocations is ready to assist young men in discerning their call to the priesthood or other vocation. Please remind young men who are interested, that the window for 2027 seminary applications generally begins closing around the new year, so it is important to get in touch sooner than later, so we have time to help them discern with clarity.

### Discerners

Currently we have several discernment groups in different stages of progress, locations, and age groups. If a young man in your parish, High school aged – 40, is interested in the priesthood, please contact Rev. Gilbert Starcher and we will find a suitable group for him to join.

There is an elementary school aged group that meets at the Blue Army Shrine Holy House at 6PM, 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays. All walk-ins are welcome with their parents, who must attend with them.

### Vocations Awareness Week

November 1<sup>st</sup> -7<sup>th</sup>, This year coincides with All Saints Day, providing a great opportunity to preach about vocations at Mass, and teach about vocations in the classroom. A bulletin insert can be purchased here:

A nice classroom activity for middle schoolers can be purchased here:

### Vocations Ministry Teams

We are in the process of meeting with pastors and helping restart parish Vocations Ministry Teams, which are an important part of our vocations strategy. Please contact Rev. Gilbert Starcher, if your parish is ready to start/restart a team. There are several parishes with very active teams and it seems the key is choosing the right person to lead.

### Holy Hours for Vocations

A holy hour will take place monthly, in a different parish, during 2027. This can be a success if individual parishes promote the monthly holy hour to their parishioners and especially parish groups. It is the plan to have a holy hour occur at least once in every parish over the next few years, in order to promote vocations, and bring a sign of hope to parishioners in places that don't often host a summer seminarian.

Please contact the Office of Vocations by emailing Rev. Gilbert Starcher, Vocations Director:  
[GStarcher@diometuchen.org](mailto:GStarcher@diometuchen.org)

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## Diocesan Discernment Groups:

**Middle School** [Every 3rd Friday @ 6pm] - Blue Army Shrine, Asbury (Holy House) (Parents welcome)

**High School / Quo Vadis** [Every 2nd Saturday @ 2pm, **starts after Quo Vadis**] - Discernment House, Highland Park (Parents welcome)

**Young Adult / Melchizedek Project** [6 consecutive Saturdays per phase during the Rutgers semester @ 7:30am, starts Jan. 24] - St. Peter Church Hall, New Brunswick (4 Phases in total of 6 weeks each)

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## Adoration for Vocations

Please contact the Vocations office if your parish is available once during 2026 to host the Diocesan monthly "Adoration for Vocations" Holy Hour.

Office of Vocations weblink:

<https://diometuchen.org/vocations>

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Rev. Gilbert Starcher  
Director, Office of Vocations  
[gstarcher@diometuchen.org](mailto:gstarcher@diometuchen.org)



## Office of Evangelization



*After careful consideration and consultation with diocesan leadership, the decision has been made to cancel this year's Blue Mass.*

*While we will certainly miss coming together to honor and pray for our law enforcement and first responders this year, we look forward to resuming our annual Blue Mass next year—with His Excellency, Bishop Saporito, celebrating alongside us!*

*Please keep our first responders and our new Bishop-Designee in your prayers during this exciting chapter for our diocese.*

*May God bless you and keep you and your families safe. Saint Michael the Archangel, pray for us.*

## Traveling Eucharistic Rosary Congress

The Diocese of Metuchen, once again, will be hosting a Traveling Eucharistic Rosary Congress on October 3-9, 2026. This event is seven days and nights of continuous Eucharistic Adoration in which the Holy Rosary is prayed aloud at the top of every hour, day and night, without interruption. The ERC is a sustained act of communal prayer before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, offered for the conversion of sinners, the consecration of our nation, and the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. While the attached flyer includes eight parishes/venues from five of our eight deaneries, you should know that we are still looking for parishes who would like to participate in this year's Congress. We have included a QR code on this year's flyer, so that our parishioners can access the complete schedule online. If your parish is interested in participating, even if it is just for a few hours, please contact Adam Carlisle, Secretary for Evangelization and Communication at [acarlisle@diometuchen.org](mailto:acarlisle@diometuchen.org). Updates to the diocesan website (<https://diometuchen.org/traveling-eucharistic-rosary-congress>) will be made in real time, so please let us know if your parish would like to participate. Thank you.

**Diocese of METUCHEN**

### Traveling Eucharistic Rosary Congress

October 3-9, 2026  
*"My Spirit Rejoices in God My Savior"*

For more information, please contact  
Adam Carlisle, Secretary for Evangelization and Communication  
at [acarlisle@diometuchen.org](mailto:acarlisle@diometuchen.org) or 732-529-7936

Please scan the QR code to access the Eucharistic Rosary Congresses website, or to find a complete listing of participating parishes.

**Saturday, October 3, 2026**  
\* National Blue Army Shrine (Morris Canal)  
674 Mountain View Road E., Asbury  
(908) 689-1700  
9:00 a.m. Opening Mass  
Followed by Adoration

**Sunday, October 4, 2026**  
Our Lady of Fatima (Middlebrook)  
501 New Market Road, Piscataway  
(732) 968-5555  
1:00 p.m. Opening Mass  
Followed by Adoration

**Monday, October 5, 2026**  
Our Lady of Peace (Forsgate)  
1730 US Highway Rt. 130, North Brunswick  
(732) 297-9680  
8:00 a.m. Opening Mass  
Followed by Adoration

**Tuesday, October 6, 2026**  
St. Jude (Morris Canal)  
7 Eisenhower Road, Columbia  
(908) 362-5444  
9:00 a.m. Opening Mass  
Followed by Adoration

\* Immaculate Conception (Forsgate)  
18 South Street, Spotswood  
(732) 251-3110  
9:00 a.m. Opening Mass  
Followed by Adoration

**Wednesday, October 7, 2026**  
St. John Vianney (Cathedral)  
420 Inman Avenue, Colonia  
(732) 574-0150  
7:00 p.m. Opening Mass  
Followed by Adoration

**Thursday, October 8, 2026**  
\* St. John the Evangelist (Middlebrook)  
317 First Street, Dunellen  
(732) 968-2621  
9:00 a.m. Opening Mass  
Followed by Adoration

**Friday, October 9, 2026**  
\* Shrine Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament (County Seat)  
52 West Somerset Street, Baritan  
(908) 722-1489  
9:00 a.m. Opening Mass  
Followed by Adoration

Adam Carlisle  
Secretary for Evangelization and Communication  
732-529-7937  
[acarlisle@diometuchen.org](mailto:acarlisle@diometuchen.org)



The Catholic Spirit



## Catholic Spirit - October Pastoral Newsletter

Our Sept issue is out, and includes a special section for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11, beautiful reflections on the Season of Creation, a center spread for Back to School and a variety of new articles, Church and Holy Father news, and some great high school sports stories. If you haven't received your issue, you can pick one up in The Catholic Spirit office.

Our October issue, now in progress, will feature a wide variety of articles and events, as well as a Welcome Bishop Saporito supplement. We have extended the publishing date to Oct. 26 so we can

include Bishop's installation Mass in the supplement.

And given the growing interest in finding Sherlock, we have extended our potential winners from three to five for each issue. September's issue will be a real challenge!



The e-edition of *The Catholic Spirit* may be viewed at <https://catholicspirit.com/e-edition>, while archived issues from 2019 until the present may be viewed at:

<https://issuu.com/dioceseofmetuchen>



## Office of Communications and Public Relations



### "No Half Saints"

#### *A New Youth and Young Adults Podcast!*

The Diocese of Metuchen is pleased to announce that it has launched a new podcast entitled "No Half Saints," hosted by Jay Donofrio, diocesan director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The name, "No Half Saints," comes

from a St. Thérèse of Lisieux quote: "You cannot be a half saint. You must be a whole saint or no saint at all."

The main goal of the podcast is to bring people into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ by highlighting the youth and young adult ministry leaders throughout the diocese. It is our hope that "No Half Saints" will inspire faith-filled young adults to get more involved in their parishes. Guests will include youth and young adult ministers, priests, religious, music ministers, speakers, and more.

New episodes will be released every other week on the "No Half Saints" YouTube channel, which can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/@NoHalfSaints>. Episodes will also be released on the Diocesan YouTube page, which can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/@DioceseofMetuchen>.

For more information about the "No Half Saints" podcast, which is consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, please check out the full-length article in the August issue of *The Catholic Spirit*.

Of course, if anyone has any questions about the podcast, or would like to suggest future guests, please contact Jay Donofrio at [jdonofrio@diometuchen.org](mailto:jdonofrio@diometuchen.org).

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## 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](mailto:communications@diometuchen.org) and, as always, [news@catholicspirit.com](mailto:news@catholicspirit.com).

## Catholic Charities



The poster for Catholic Charities volunteers features a woman in a purple apron smiling while organizing clothes. The text on the poster includes: 'CATHOLIC CHARITIES Diocese of Metuchen', 'VOLUNTEERS NEEDED', 'Make a difference Change lives.', 'FRIDAYS 11:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.', 'THRIFT STORE 383 SOUTH MAIN ST. PHILLIPSBURG, NJ', 'HELP WITH: Organizing donations, Assisting customers, Sale of items', 'No experience needed', and 'CALL OR EMAIL MARIA HUNTER (732)387-1315 mhunter@ccdom.org'.

Looking for a meaningful way to give back to your community? The Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen Thrift Store in Phillipsburg is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join our team!

Whether you love organizing, enjoy helping people, or want to gain some retail experience, we have a place for you.

- **When: Fridays from 11:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.**
- **Where: 383 South Main St, Phillipsburg, NJ**
- **Help With: Organizing donations, assisting customers, and the sale of items.**

**No experience needed!** Ready to make an impact? Reach out to Maria Hunter today to learn more or sign up: Call: (732) 387-1315 Email: [mhunter@ccdom.org](mailto:mhunter@ccdom.org)



Tiffany Workman  
Communications Specialist  
732-243-4581  
[tworkman@diometuchen.org](mailto:tworkman@diometuchen.org)

## Office for Persons with Disabilities

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Rev. John Hillier, Ph.D  
Director, Office for Persons with Disabilities  
(732) 243-4580  
[catholicswithdisabilities@gmail.com](mailto:catholicswithdisabilities@gmail.com)



## Office of Religious and Consecrated Life

For more information on Religious and Consecrated Life, please contact Judith Gonzalez-Matias below:

Judith Gonzalez-Matias  
Executive Assistant, Office of Clergy and Religious Personnel  
(732) 562-2457 [jgonzalezmatias@diometuchen.org](mailto:jgonzalezmatias@diometuchen.org)