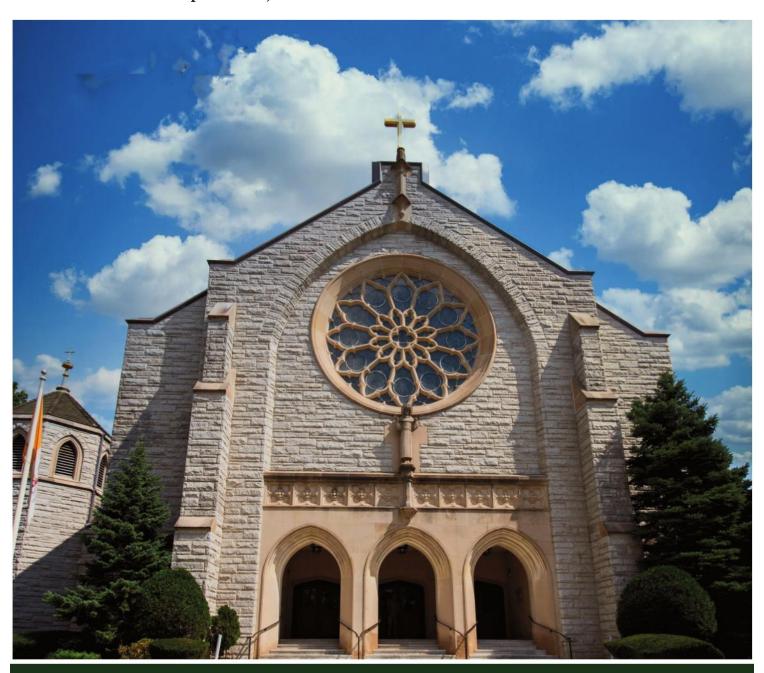
## CATHEDRAL OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

September 12, 2021 · TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



#### Mass

Saturday <i>Vigil</i> 5:00 pm	L
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm	l
Monday-Friday7:00, 8:00 am, 12:10pm	
Rosary at 8:30 and 11:45 am	
Saturday8:00 an	ı
Rosary at 8:45 an	ı

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday ......1:00-2:00 pm or by appointment (732-548-0100)

All Masses are available to view live stream.

To access the link, visit the home page
of our parish website.

(732) 548-0100 · WWW.STFRANCISCATHEDRAL.ORG

## DIRECTORY

#### **RECTORY**

Address
Metuchen, NJ 08840
Office HoursMonday-Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Phone(732) 548-0100
Fax(732) 549-1033
Emergency Phone (732) 710-1416
Websitestfranciscathedral.org
Email info@stfranciscathedral.org

## ST. FRANCIS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL Blue Ribbon School

Address	528 Main Street
	Metuchen, NJ 08840
Principal	Ann Major, x238
Phone	(732) 548–3107
Website stfranciscathedralschool.org	

#### **Home School Association**

HSA @ st francisc at hedral school.org

#### PARISH CENTER

Address45 Library Place		
Metuchen, NJ 08840		
Phone (732)548-0100		
Religious Education		
Debbie Schurko, PCL x226		
Meghan Moran, Assistant x222		
Social Concerns		
Bidgie Williamsonx225		
HoursMonday-Thursday		
9:00 am - 1:00 pm		

## WELCOME

#### WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE

Thank you for joining us for Mass today. We are so thankful for the Catholic community we have here at St. Francis and we're glad you are a part of it, whether it be in the Cathedral or via livestream (www.stfranciscathedral.org)

## EUCHARIST FOR SICK OR HOMEBOUND

For those unable to physically come to Mass, we bring the Eucharist to you. Please call the rectory at (732) 548-0100 and arrangements will be made.

#### NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

For those interested in registering with our parish, please complete the form in our parish office or on our website at stfranciscathedral.org/register.

#### **MARIAN NOVENA & ROSARY**

Join us Saturdays after the 8:00 am Mass as we pray the Marian Novena and Rosary. We encourage all to come, even if it is only for one Saturday.

#### **CLERGY**

Most Rev. James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA

Bishop of Metuchen

**Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, DD**Bishop Emeritus

Very Rev. Timothy A. Christy, VG Rector

Rev. Edgar A. Madarang

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Jay Alquiros

Parochial Vicar

J.P. Saggese

Deacon

**Rick Fortune** 

Deacon

Kenneth T. Hamilton

Deacon

Guido J. Brossoni

Deacon Retired

Ed Olegario, M.D.

Deacon Retired

### **STAFF**

Kara Kwiatkowski, x210

**Managing Director** 

David Liantonio, x233

**Business Manager** 

Thomas DeLessio, x235

Music Ministry

Linda Dalton, x227

Sacristan

Cheryl Saggese, x307

**Eucharistic Ministers** 

### **CONTACTS**

Ed Williamson

Pastoral Council, Chairman

George Trapp

Finance Council, Chairman

Jane Conlon /

Janet Onufer Michael

Advocates for Disabled

Boris Moczula

Lectors

Tom Hansen

Ushers

Marie D'Amico

Legion of Mary

**Kathy Divorkin** 

**Rosary Altar Society** 

**Knights of Columbus** 

KofC/joinus.org

THE ABOVE INDIVIDUALS CAN BE REACHED BY CONTACTING THE RECTORY OFFICE AT (732) 548-0100

## Installation of our New Rector Fr. Timothy A. Christy, VG

Save the date for the Installation of the Very Rev. Timothy A. Christy, VG, as the fifth Rector of the Cathedral of Saint Francis of Assisi. Join us for a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist on

Thursday, September 30, at 6:00 pm in the Cathedral. An outdoor reception will follow, all are welcome!

Please join us in celebrating this joyous occasion for our Cathedral Parish.



### 19TH ANNUAL BLUE MASS

Wednesday, September 29, 2021, 10:30 AM

At 10:30 a.m. on September 29th – the Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels – Bishop James F. Checchio will celebrate the 19th Annual Blue Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen. All are welcome to attend!

Gathered together with local, county, state and federal law enforcement officials, we will honor and pray for those law enforcement officials of all faiths, who live and work in the Diocese of Metuchen. All are welcome to attend. More information is available on the diocesan website www.diometuchen.org/bluemass

### PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

This collection was originally scheduled for this week and has been moved to next week. The Peter's Pence Collection, a world-wide collection that supports the charitable works of Pope Francis. Funds from this collection help victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. Take this opportunity to join with Pope Francis and be a witness of charity to our suffering brothers and sisters. Please be generous today. For more information, visit www.uscch.org/peters-pence.

## NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Loving and almighty God, we remember September 11, 2001 and pray for all those who were affected by the terrible events of that day. We remember, with love and respect, all of those who went tragically to their deaths.

We remember those who still suffer from the injuries of that day, twenty years ago, and pray for their recovery.

We remember the still grieving families and friends and all who lost loved ones.

Gracious Lord continue to console them in the hope that all who trust in you will find peace and rest in Your Eternal Kingdom. Bless them with your presence and surround us all with your love.

God of Peace, bless all those defending and protecting our country and its ideals of freedom and liberty. May Your Kingdom of justice and of peace reign and may the earth be filled with Your glory.

Amen.

## DIOCESES OF METUCHEN EMERGENCY DISASTER FUND



In light of the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, there are so many who need our help, both nationally and locally within our own Diocese. Bishop Checchio has created the Emergency Disaster Fund - proceeds will be used to support the efforts of Catholic agencies as they work to aid emergency relief efforts locally and nationally, unless otherwise specified. Contributions will be used for immediate emergency needs, such as water, food, shelter, and medical care and in long-term rebuilding and recovery efforts.

Ways you can donate; the collection at Mass or you text the dollar amount you would like to donate to (732) 568-2628 (follow the link that is texted back to you to complete)

You may also donate online at <u>diometuchen.org</u> or mail a check made payable to "Diocese of Metuchen" with "Emergency Disaster Fund" in the memo line.

More information is available on the diocesan website. Please give as generously as your means allow to help our brothers and sisters who are most in need at this time.

#### REFLECTING ON

#### THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## ACCEPTING THE WILL OF GOD

## SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 • THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### Is 50:5-9a; Psalm 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

Jesus addresses His disciples saying, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." We are Jesus' disciples, and He is speaking those same words to us here and now.

Living a life of discipleship is not always easy. It requires us to be imitators of Christ — who suffered, died, and rose from the dead out of total love for each one of us. This means we are called to share in Christ's sufferings by taking up our cross and following Him daily.



But what does this look like in our day-to-day lives?

We can start by making a firm resolution to follow Christ today, here and now, and renewing that resolution each day when we rise. This requires time with Him each day — speaking and listening.

We should also strive to pick up our crosses each day with Christ by our side. Our cross might be suffering from an illness, fighting an addiction, a day of screaming kids, or a period where things just don't seem to go our way. Instead of avoiding these sufferings or complaining about them, we are called to carry them with Christ, allowing Him to transform us through them.

If we live life constantly focused on us, we will ultimately lose ourselves, but if we surrender our lives for Christ and His mission, we will gain eternal life and become more alive than we could have ever imagined, "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it." This takes daily commitment and requires endurance in our faith, which can only be done through active discipleship

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

- Wis 2:12, 17-20
- Psalm 54: 3-4, 5-6, 8
- Jas 3:16-3
- Mk 9:30-37



## BANNS OF MARRIAGE

- III Maxwell Budoff/ Naika Daudin Adam Wells/Chelsea Devaney
- I Jacob Nenichka/Nicole BalistreriTimothy Ryan/ Emily Zaniewski



## RECTORY Hours



Starting September 7th, the Rectory Office will resume its regular office hours, Monday-Friday from 9:00am-5:00pm



### GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

In this time of stress and uncertainty, we ask parishioners to continue to tithe as their means allow. Just as your personal bills have not gone away during this pandemic, so too the Cathedral's expenses still have to be paid. Even if you are not enrolled in eGiving, you can make a **one-time gift** by going to:

http://www.stfranciscathedral.org/ FaithDirect/

Those who prefer to send in their gifts, please mail to or drop off at Rectory Office:

Tithing Week of August 29, 2021:

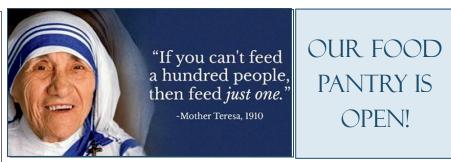
- \$ 11,443 Faith Direct (eGiving)
- \$ 14,878 In pew/mail/drop off

Total Tithing = \$26,321

## BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

As of August 23, 2021, the Diocesan Development Office has received pledges totaling \$330,923.10 and payments totaling \$326,515.60 from 636 parishioners of the Cathedral of St.

Francis of Assisi. This represents 97.9% of our \$338,000.00 goal. Thank you!



### SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY

45 Library Place, Metuchen,  $08840 / (732) 548-0100 \times 225$ Non-perishable items/donations may be dropped off in Social Concerns Bin in the Cathedral vestibule.

If you are in need of food, call Social Concerns on Monday to schedule an appointment to pick up food Tuesday-Thursday. The use of face masks is strictly enforced when visiting the Parish Center.

## HEARTFELT, THANK YOU

The Social Concerns Ministry Office would like to thank all parishioners/non-parishioners, friends and families who participated in our Backpack/School Supplies Drive!

We received over 215 backpacks and an abundance of school supplies. The backpacks were distributed to St. Vincent DePaul in Perth Amboy, to people in need in our community, and to our Religious Education Ministry.

My sincere appreciation, to you all, for your kindness and generosity.

## BEREAVEMENT GROUP ANNOUNCEMENT:

We are pleased to announce that the Bereavement Group will be back in session. We will be meeting every Wednesday night, effective September 15, 2021, for eight (8) weeks, through November 3, 2021. This session is for anyone who has recently experienced the death of a parent, spouse, child, friend or any loved one and is in the healing process.



All weekly sessions will be held in the St. Francis Cathedral Parish Center (Joseph Room and the Solarium) from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

## JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF:

The Bereavement Monthly Group Meeting Step II—Journey through Grief—will start every first Tuesday of every month starting October 4, 2021 through June 7, 2021. This session is for anyone who has suffered a loss and is in the healing process and/or who has gone through our weekly bereavement process.

These sessions are open to: all parishioners and non-parishioners, to all other religious denominations or to anyone who is interested. There is no fee– pre-registration is required. You may contact Jessie Flynn directly at (732) 895-2563, Marybeth Connolly at (732) 512-8901 or Danielle Velona (732)662-9406

## THE DIOCESE OF METUCHEN SURVIVING DIVORCE

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 for Men & Women seeking healing from separation or divorce. It is a 12-week program, meeting at St. Francis Cathedral Parish Center on 45 Library Place; every Thursday, starting October 7th, 7:00 pm—8:30 pm.

Deadline to register is September 20th, limited to 12 participants. Pre-registration is required, cost: \$25 (for book) For information or to register contact Ro Bersch at (908) 313-5947.

Learn to smile again!

## HISPANIC YOUTH BRUNCH

Join Bishop Checchio for an afternoon of community, prayer, and witness. Discussing "What is your story?" and "Who is your Community?"

Saturday, September 25, 11:00 am-2:00pm at the

Cathedral of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Please register at https://lightingheartsonfire.org/hispanicyouth

## THE YEAR OF AMORIS LAETITIA FAMILY - FAMILY PHOTOS NEEDED

As we celebrate the Year Amoris Laetitia Family, the diocesan Office of Communications and Public Relation is compiling a digital family photo album. We invite you to share a photo of your family, a photo of your domestic church by which our local Church of Metuchen is constantly enriched. Please consider sharing your family's photo with us by sending your photo to communications@diometuchen.org, so we can together bear witness to the love of God through our family of families.

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

In today's gospel, Jesus asks his disciples: "Who do people say that I am". If you, or someone you know would like to hear more about who Jesus is, we invite you to join us at an Inquiry Session. Inquiry sessions are opportunities to ask questions about God, Jesus, the Catholic Faith Family. All who are unbaptized, baptized into another faith denomination, or baptized Catholic but have not received Eucharist or Confirmation, are invited. Inquiry sessions are for those who wish to inquire, explore, and search for ways to grow in relationship with God. For more information, call Sara – RCIA at 732-742-1567.

### St. Francis Men's Group

Come together with parish men of all ages to share and discuss topics pertinent to our Catholic faith. Form or re-establish friendships with other men through Jesus Christ.

Old and new members are invited to our meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 21st at 7:30 PM, in the St. Joseph room of the Parish Center.

Information: contact Tom Thomas (732-692-4819) or on Facebook at SFC.MensGroup.

## Worldwide Marriage Encounter

 $\bigcirc$ 

With summer winding down, why not treat yourself to a Marriage Encounter Experience?

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

Join us from the comfort of your home via Zoom for eight sessions, 7-9:30 pm, presented on Monday & Thursday evenings from September 27-October 21.

Please call Tom & Ruth DeFalco (732) 904-9636 for application and information. For more information visit us www.wwme.org

## MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY • September 12
Twenty-Fourth Sunday

7:30am	Maria Harrison r/o Tom & Janine Sharlow
9:00am	Mary Wojciechowski r/o Family
10:30am(Liv)	Jane Doherty r/o Daughter-in-Law & Children
12:00pm	Deacon Paul Licameli r/o Marian Licameli

#### MONDAY · September 13

#### St. John Chrysostom

7:00 am	John McCauley r/o McCauley Family
8:00 am	Peter Schoepp r/o Daughter, Gerda Stetz & Family
12:10 pm	Margaret Vozar r/o Family

#### TUESDAY · September 14

#### The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

7:00 am	Dionisia Plaras r/o Marisa Plaras
8:00 am	Irene Burchock r/o Daughter, Mary Ann
12:10 pm	Armando Alvira r/o Lucy & John Sivertsen

#### **WEDNESDAY** · September 15

#### Our Lady of Sorrows

7:00 am	Michael Linkin r/o MacMillan Family
8:00 am	Joe Reilly r/o Reilly Family
12:10 pm	Keith Pahira r/o Wife, Joan

#### THURSDAY · September 16

#### St. Cornelius/St. Cyprian

7:00 am	Michael McCauley r/o The McCauley Family
8:00 am	Esperance Pereira r/o Family
12:10 pm	Silvino Ilagan Sr. r/o Vendiola Family

#### FRIDAY · September 17

#### St. Robert Bellarmine

7:00 am	Kenneth Kendziora r/o Al & Judy Kendziora
8:00 am	Patrick Gale Zensky r/o Van Buskirk Family
12:10 pm	John Willis r/o Margaret Willis & Family

#### SATURDAY · September 18

8:00 am	Joseph Cash r/o Peggy
5:00 pmEva & Stephen Dudeck r/c	Dudeck & Prokopis Family
*7:00 pmJohn & Marcella Dabal	r/o John & Marianne Dabal
*Priest will celebrate this Mass privately	

#### SUNDAY · September 19

#### Twenty-Fifth Sunday

7:30 am	Robert Davis r/o Carol Volkland
	Shuk Lan Koh r/o Barbara & Stephen Reilly
10:30am	Mariusz Malinowski r/o Family
12:00pm	Eric Malinowski r/o Family

The Sanctuary Candle for this week has been donated in Memory of

#### Jimmy Gower

By John & Marianne Dabal
In the Cathedral

## PLEASE PRAY

#### SERVING OVERSEAS

All serving in Covert
Operations & Active Duty

#### **SICK**

Peter Bibby
Deidre Bogue
Arturo Bustria
Jeffrey Bustria
Stephen C.
Martha Cartel
Brother of Peter Coakes
William "Rocky" Colavito
Louise DeCourcey
Diana Degnan
Betty Dick
James Dudley
Paul Guarino
The Femily of Fr. John Koy

The Family of Fr. John Kavas Richard Kenny

Thomas Kenny

Irene Kermondy

Dolores Krive

Brother of Sr. Maria Lan

Antonio Mendoza

Bill North

Rose T. Pichon

Marion Price

Diane Rojek

Adam S.

Paul Russon Samson

John Skarbek

Robin Sportiello

Tim Sullivan

Ann Cam Tran

## FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Marin Costa, Jr.
Tamara El Sayed
Esther Genovese
Christian Thomas Loftus
Julia Lorenzo
Shirley Mahoney
Ellen Malopolski
Katherine McCormack
Romeo Pagkatipunan
Audrey Poli
Frank Christopher Sipin

AND ALL THOSE RECOMMENDED IN THE BOOK OF INTENTIONS



#### PRAYER TREE:

Submit requests via email: sfprayertree @msn.com. We will pray for your requests for two weeks. Updates are always appreciated.

## PRAY THE ROSARY

Every Wednesday following 12:10PM Mass, parishioners gather on the plaza in front of the Cathedral to pray the Rosary. Their prayerful intention is for COVID-19 vaccines to be approved/ swiftly administered; for the health and healing of those afflicted with the virus: for those who have lost their lives and for their loved ones who are bereaved; for the safety and welfare of our country. All welcome!

### "BUT WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?"

#### Dear Cathedral Family;

The Gospel passage this weekend finds Jesus asking a provocative question of the disciples:

"Who do men say that I am?" It was Peter who responded with precision, "You are the Christ." Jesus goes on to predict His passion—"The Son of man must suffer many things and be rejected by the chief priests, elders and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise." Peter couldn't take the prediction---and the Lord said to Him "Get behind me Satan! For you are not on the side of God, but men."

The Lord's words were harsh, but very real. He clearly identifies the failure of the disciples, in this case Peter's response that Jesus should avoid suffering. Jesus was not condemning Peter---but rather alerting him and us that suffering for the sake of good is an essential aspect of living a healthy Christian life. Learning to face the difficulties of life and relying on strength and grace from God---and those He places in our life to help us---will be the pathway that He turns us into His Saints.

September is national recovery month---those who are seeking to live free of addictions. We must pray for those who are in recovery from any form of addiction—drugs, alcohol, gambling, pornography...any place where the human spirit is in bondage to the cycle of destructive repeating choices. At the basis of all addiction is a deep need for relationship with God and others---sadly the one addicted continues to lose contact with the strength that comes from being in communion with those they love and those who love them—making it especially painful for family and friends of those suffering from an addiction.

I have spoken with some people in our parish who are looking to begin a spiritual support group for those who have family and friends who are addicted. I hope to have more information on that as it develops.

Sometimes the most vulnerable people are right next to us in Church, but we do not know it. We must pray for all who need healing from any addiction and commend them to the power of Christ's healing.

This is another reason we need regular Sunday Mass---the place where we get the power to live as Christians.

The Sunday Mass is the highpoint of our week—precisely because we bring ourselves to the Lord of Life—to make of ourselves an offering to Him---this is our "sacrifice." By our free offering of ourselves to God the priest joins each of our individual lives to the one sacrifice of Christ---making our lives an infinite offering to the Father. Frequently what we bring is our weakness, failures and inabilities to suffer well the difficulties of life. Yet—He supplies what we lack. The sacrifice of Christ fulfills all that we lack.---and makes our lives a sacrifice of praise.

Growing in our awareness of Christ's sacrifice and learning to enter into the action of the Liturgy will be life changing. This Saturday we hosted a morning of reflection for all who are liturgical ministers in the Cathedral; the Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, the choir and musicians, and the ushers. All of these people may help us to celebrate well the sacred mysteries of the mass each week end. I am deeply grateful for all they contribute to our communal life of worship. I envision that we will have many more days and events like this one to help nourish the liturgical life of the parish, since the Eucharist is the heartbeat of the parish. We need the Lord in sacramental signs to keep us pointing in the direction of eternal life.

This week let us choose to think not like the world—but ask for the clear vision of Christ---who asks us to take up our cross and follow after Him---every day.

In Jesus, Father Christy Very Rev. Timothy A. Christy. VG

# PILGRIMAGE TO THE PASSION PLAY OBERAMMERGAU, GERMANY

Since 1634, the worlds most famous; Passion Play has taken place every ten years in the village of Oberammergau. In 2022, it will be performed for the 42nd time.

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#### **HOW TO REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE**

Contact the Diocesan Response Officer: (908) 930-4558 (24/7) or visit the diocesan website:

diometuchen.org/report-a-suspected-abuse

## ST. FRANCIS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

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Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to learn more about what is going on in our National Blue Ribbon School! Feel free to call our school office with any questions at (732)548-3107

### **MINISTRIES**

#### **BAPTISM**

1:30pm on Sundays by appointment only. Baptismal Seminar and Pre-registration are required. Attendance during pregnancy is preferable. Contact Madonna Razal at (732) 548-0100 x214.

#### MARRIAGE

Those preparing for marriage should contact the Rectory Office one year in advance. Couples are required to attend Pre Cana and "God's Plan for a Joy Filled Marriage". Contact Angela Vanco at (732) 548-0100, x212.

#### R.C.I.A.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - Those wishing to learn more about being received into the Catholic Faith - Contact Sara Sharlow at (732) 742-1567.

#### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES**

Contact the Director of Religious Education, Debra Schurko at (732) 548-0100 x226 or her assistant, Meghan Moran at (548)-0100 x222.

#### ST. FRANCIS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

St. Francis Cathedral School creates a Catholic atmosphere where children are challenged to develop respect, justice, and responsibility while growing intellectually and spiritually into leaders of the 21st Century. Contact Principal Ann Major at (732) 548-3107.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMORIALS

Did you know that in addition to Mass intentions for your loved ones you may remember them through the following memorial opportunities:

#### ALTAR FLOWERS

Available weekly in the Cathedral at the High Altar for memorials, weddings and other occasions. Please contact Rectory Office for details.

#### SANCTUARY CANDLES

Available weekly in the Cathedral and The Lady Chapel. Donation: \$20. Enclose in an envelope with information and put in collection basket or mail or bring to Rectory.

## MSGR.BEHL ST.FRANCIS SCHOOL ENDOWMENT & THE ST.FRANCIS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Memorial gifts may be made to either of these funds which are used to enhance the academic excellence of the parish school and offer tuition assistance. Please inquire at the parish office or school office for further information.

#### STATUARY CHAPEL

If anyone wants to honor a saint., contact Kara. This room in the front of the Cathedral was previously the baptistery.

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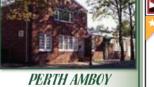


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