

CATHEDRAL OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

February 19, 2023 • SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Mass

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm

Sunday..... 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm

Monday-Friday 7:00, 8:00 am, 12:10pm

Rosary at 8:30 and 11:45 am

Saturday.....8:00am

..... *Rosary at 8:45 am*

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday1:00-2:00 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 .



Watch us Live!

CATHEDRAL OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

548 Main St. Metuchen, NJ 08840

DIRECTORY

Parish Office

Address.....45 Library Place
Metuchen, NJ 08840
Office Hours.....Monday-Friday
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Phone.....(732) 548-0100
Emergency Phone (732) 710-1416
Websitestfranciscathedral.org
Emailinfo@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@stfranciscathedralschool.org

PARISH CENTER

Address 45 Library Place
Metuchen, NJ 08840
Phone **(732)548-0100**

Religious Education

Debbie Schurko, PCL..... x226
Meghan Moran, Assistant..... x222

Social Concerns

Bidgie Williamson x225
Hours..... Monday-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)

EUCARIST 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
Rector

Rev. Edgar A. Madarang
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Jay Alquiros
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Roy Quesea
In Residence

J.P. Saggese
Deacon

Rick Fortune
Deacon

Kenneth T. Hamilton
Deacon

Guido J. Brossoni
Deacon Retired

Ed Olegario, M.D.
Deacon Retired

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

STAFF

Kara Kwiatkowski, x210
Managing Director

David Liantonio, x233
Business Manager

Christopher Deibert, x235
Director of Sacred Music

Linda Dalton, x227
Sacristan

Cheryl Saggese, x307
Lazarus Ministry

Sarah Hollcraft, x306
Youth Ministry

CONTACTS

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
KofC3272.weebly.com

Elaine Yunker
Respect for Life

Pamela Gendlek
Body of Christ Prayer Group

Cathedral Family,

This coming week we will observe Ash Wednesday and with it enter into the life changing season of Holy Lent. The longer I live the more important I have discovered, this Spring time season of the Church year truly is. It marks the hope of the Christian life. Namely, at the heart of the message of Lent is that we can change. We don't have to remain stuck in bad habits, compromises and sin. In fact, Christ came precisely to liberate us from the "bonds of death," which is more than the moment of our earthly death, but includes the daily turning away from sin and living for the gospel. We are heading toward life, or heading toward death---depending on how we live each day.

As I write this letter to you, I am pondering my own call to conversion. "What should I do for Lent?" In my prayer this morning it occurred to me that God was asking me to first of all review my life with Him—a kind of examination of conscience---where am I today with you Lord? Where do you want me to risk more? To trust more? To abandon myself more? These questions are the beginning of what I need to ask myself in helping decide what I will "give up for Lent," "what will I do for Lent." I invite you to do the same. Spend some time these next days asking the Holy Spirit to guide you to first believe and know that God is speaking to you. He wants to connect with your heart. He wants to call you "into the desert," where He will make you new. And then determine if it is really true that God wants more for my life and I want more for my life---what am I willing to do in order to say yes to that invitation?

Please join us for Ash Wednesday Mass and the distribution of Ashes. This is a day of fast and abstinence---all those over the age of 14 until the age of 59, if in good health are required to abstain from meat and all meat products as well as to fast---to limit the intake of food to one regular meal and two small meals---so as to experience hunger. In this way we learn that we do not live by bread alone---but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

The Ashes we will have marked on our forehead is a reminder that we must die to ourselves in order to live for Him. We die to our sinful habits and pride. The ashes proclaim that we are sinners in need of God's mercy. In the early Church those who wore "Ashes" were telling the community they need the prayers and help of others in order to be faithful to their commitment to Christ. May we see our Ash Wednesday, and all of Lent, as our journey in solidarity with each other to God's Kingdom. We need one another for challenge, comfort and comradery on the journey of life. Christianity is a team sport.

Please know of my prayers for all of you every day. And please pray for me and the parish for deep renewal this Lent.

Father Christy



DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

St. John Neumann Pastoral Center • P.O. Box 191, Metuchen, NJ 08840-0191
P: (732) 562-2458 • F: (732) 562-1427 • E: office.of.the.bishop@diometuchen.org

Lenten Obligation

So that the Church of Metuchen may be spiritually one in a common observance of Lent, the following days of fast and abstinence are to be observed by all Catholics of the Diocese who enjoy blessings of good health.

1. The days of fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
2. All other Fridays of Lent are day of abstinence. (See note below with regards to March 17th)
3. The obligation of fast applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59.
Fasting in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal and two smaller meals which together are not equal to a full meal, so as to experience hunger.
4. The obligation of abstinence applies to all Catholics who have reached the age of 14.
Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat.

***Note:** This year the Memorial of St. Patrick falls on a Friday. For members of the faithful celebrating this Memorial and who desire it, Bishop Checchio has commuted the penitential obligation on March 17th to the obligation to abstain from meat on another day that same week.

The obligation of fast and abstinence, as a whole, is a serious obligation. While failure to observe any penitential day in itself may not be considered serious, the failure to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of them without good cause, would be considered serious. Those unable to abstain for a valid reason on any given Friday of Lent are asked to perform some other penitential act, or to abstain on another day.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

Take advantage of the many opportunities offered at the Cathedral for spiritual renewal during Lent.

Daily Mass: Monday– Friday, 7:00, 8:00 a.m.; 12:10 p.m., Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

BEHOLD Diocesan three day Lenten Mission - March 6th, 7th & 8th at 6:30 p.m.
Closing Mass with Bishop Checchio on March 8th at 7:30 p.m.

Friday Stations of the Cross - 12:50 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - Saturdays 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration - Lady Chapel, Monday - Friday, 8:30 am. - 5:00 p.m.

Lenten Tuesday's— Preaching, Confession & Compline - February 28th, March 14th & 28th

ASH WEDNESDAY

A day of fast and abstinence.

Masses at 7:00 & 8:00 a.m., 12:10,
5:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Blessed Ashes will
be distributed at all

Masses. SFCS Mass
at 9:00 a.m.



2023 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL RENEWED AND SENT ON MISSION BY THE EUCHARIST

By now you have received a letter from Bishop Checchio inviting your participation in the 2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal.

The diocesan ministries supported by the Appeal directly impact many of the parishioners here at St. Francis Cathedral.

Your gift provides formation opportunities for our catechists, youth and young adults. In the coming days, you will be receiving a letter from our pastor, Fr. Christy encouraging your participation. If you have yet to make your gift, please prayerfully consider doing so today by either returning your pledge card in the mail or going to the secure website <https://diometuchen.org/BAA>

MASS INTENTIONS



Watch us Live!

SUNDAY • February 19

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 am.....Jim DeMary r/o Wife & Children
9:00 am.....Marlene & Margaret Yaros & Mary Noll r/o Jerry
.....Yaros
10:30 am.....Annabelle August r/o Carol August
12:00 pm.....Living & Deceased St. Francis Parishioners

MONDAY - February 20

President's Day

9:00 am.....Patricia Liantonio r/o John & Joanne Franklin

TUESDAY • February 21

7:00 am.....Raul Cordero r/o Rene Cordero
8:00 am.....Fr. Bill Halbing r/o Miriam DePasquale
12:10 pm.....(Liv.) Kevin Mathiasen r/o John & Pam Szurko

WEDNESDAY • February 22

Ash Wednesday

7:00 am.....Felipa Dizer r/o Children & Grandchildren
8:00 am.....Peter Barnes, III r/o Dick Family
12:10 pm.....John Sipos, Jr. r/o Maryann Cackowski
5:00 pm.....Raymond McKigney r/o Lisa McKigney & Joe Canti
7:30 pm.....Anna Santo Levenderis r/o Pete Santo & Josephine
.....Pedalino

THURSDAY • February 23

7:00 am.....Margaret Patricia Regan r/o Rick Dyas
8:00 am.....Deceased Members of the Cuppari Family r/o
.....Augustino & Maria Pugliese
12:10 pm.....Vincent Gaudio r/o Debbie Leach

FRIDAY • February 24

7:00 am.....Bob Kelly r/o Barbara Cortellino
8:00 am.....Robert M. Kelly r/o Ted & Jean Grabowski
12:10 pm.....Frank Zilinski r/o Family

SATURDAY • February 25

8:00 am.....Elizabeth D'Alessio r/o Susan Killian
5:00 pm.....Agnes Van Huy r/o Peter & Phoung

SUNDAY • February 26

First Sunday of Lent

7:30 am...Francesco Pontoriero r/o Mr. & Mrs. Pasquale Calello
9:00 am.....Diosdado Ulep r/o Madarang Family
10:30 am.....Joseph Hoang r/o Peter & Phuong
12:00 pm.....Living & Deceased St. Francis Parishioners

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

John Haas

by Ted & Donna Haas
In the Cathedral

PLEASE PRAY

SICK

Rod Altz
Angela Bianchini
Robert Bisogno
Bishop Emeritus
Paul G. Bootkoski
Walter Boychick
Kathleen Boyles Turk
Jim Capriglione
William Rocky Colavito
Tracey Coleman
Jeanie Danner
Dr. Edward J. Donahue
James Dudley
Janette Fantasia
Patricia Farris
Shelly Greene
Eric Griffin
Joey Hale
Allison Henry
Louise M. Herber
Lauren Kaczynski
Richard Kenny
Lia Leano
Mother of Marianita
Licameli
Marian Licameli
Marty Lonczak
Santina Mara
David Mele
Colby Morse
Tom Murphy
Margaret O'Hare
Tom O'Neil
Yolanda Payne
Kathy Qasim
Pam Reed
Stephen Reilly
Mary Ruchalski
Eleanor Sammond
Jaime Santiago
Suzanne Sardone
Tom Sharlow
Vanessa Sisk
John Skarbek
Pam Sloan
Elizabeth Smith
Kevin Speckin
Kevin Sullivan
Mary Swarbrick
Elizabeth Lyons Sweatman
Veronica Tan
Wade Vannet Boychick
Valerie Waterman
Patricia Wakeman

Dorothy "Dot" Yuhasz
Msgr. Bob Zamorski

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Andronico Adaptante
Joseph Charles Bonk
Kevin Floersch
Lucille T. Nielsen
Catherine Olbeter
Joseph Padalino
Fr. Albert Roca
Aurelia Rivera
George Trapp
Stephen Walsh

SERVING OVERSEAS

All serving in Covert
Operations & Active Duty

PRAYER TREE:

Submit requests via email:
Prayers@stfranciscathedral.org
or go to stfranciscathedral.org/prayer-tree

We will pray for your
requests for two weeks.
Updates are always
appreciated.

AND ALL THOSE
RECOMMENDED IN THE
BOOK OF INTENTIONS

PRAY THE ROSARY

Every Wednesday
following 12:10p.m.
Mass; we gather to pray
the Rosary.
Please joins us inside the
Cathedral, in front
nearest the sanctuary.
The Rosary begins at
1:00p.m.
All are welcome

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

In today's readings we hear that the Lord calls us to grow in love and holiness. Is there someone you know someone who is not baptized, or who has been baptized into another Christian tradition, who would like to hear more about God, Jesus, the Catholic Church and this message of wholeness? Sessions exploring these and other faith issues in relation to our Catholic belief are held weekly, 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm. To come to a session does not require a commitment to belong to the Catholic Faith Family. These sessions are meant to help people to decide whether or not they wish to form a closer relationship with God/Jesus through the Catholic Church. Just suggest that they *Come and See*, For more information call RCIA (732) 742-1567.

RITE OF SENDING CATECHUMENS TO ELECTION AND RITE OF CALLING CANDIDATES TO CONTINUING CONVERSION:

Next Saturday, February 25th at the 5:00 p.m. Mass, we will celebrate the Combined Rite of Sending Catechumens to Election and Rite of Calling Candidates to Continuing Conversion. This is the second of the public rites celebrated in the process of initiation. During this ritual, testimony will be heard regarding the readiness of the catechumens to be sent for election where they will be officially received into the final period of preparation for full initiation into the Church. The candidates who have been in the Catechumenate phase of the initiation process for the past year will also be received into the final period of preparation for their reception into our Catholic community during this Rite. The catechumens and candidates are:

CATECHUMENS (unbaptized): JERLIN GARO and CHARLES MESSINA

CANDIDATES (already baptized): MARK ADOLPH, ANNA CHEN, JENNIFER GLAVASICH, KRISTAL LASHLEY and MATTHEW MONTVILLE

SPIRITUAL SPONSORS: We invite all parishioners to become a *Spiritual Sponsor* for one of the candidates or catechumens whose names appear above. These candidates and catechumens need our prayers, encouragement, support, etc., as they enter the final period of their preparation to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. To be a Spiritual Sponsor all you need to do is focus your prayers during Lent for the catechumen or candidate that you choose. A nice way to show your support is to drop them a note, telling them that you are praying for them. Please put their name on a envelope, c/o RCIA, and drop it off at the Rectory, or in the collection basket at any of the Masses during Lent. Or go to the RCIA page of the Cathedral website and you can send a note electronically to the catechumen or candidate of your choice.

INQUIRY SESSIONS: If you, or anyone you know are considering becoming part of the Catholic Family and would like to know more about God, Jesus, the Catholic Faith - we invite you to Come and See at an Inquiry Session. For more information, call Sara or RCIA: (732) 742-1567



Mark Adolph lives with his wife and three children in Metuchen. He enjoys soccer, the outdoors, and spending time with his family. Mark's wife and family are Catholic and he was drawn to the traditions and community that the Catholic Church offers. He is enjoying a new-found consistency in his prayer life which has drawn him closer to Jesus. He is looking forward to continuing his spiritual growth so that he can live his life as an example to others.



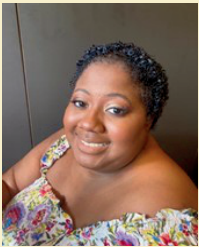
Anna Chen lives in Metuchen and is engaged to be married. She enjoys fitness and nutrition, horseback riding, traveling and sports. She was raised Christian in a non-denominational Christian Church. Her fiancée is Catholic and through many thoughtful discussions with him she heard God calling her to unify her and her fiancé's family with God. She has grown closer to Jesus through more regular prayer, seeking God's guidance, and through attending Mass. She looks forward to strengthening her faith in Jesus so that she can be a reflection of the Lord's light and love.



Jennifer Glavasich lives with her husband and two daughters in South Plainfield. In her free time she enjoys baking, sewing and spending time with her husband and daughters. Jennifer's husband is Catholic and after having her marriage con-validated she heard God's call while going through post marriage pre-cana. Jennifer has found reading the Gospel and applying it to her own life has drawn her closer to Jesus. She looks forward to continuing to grow in her faith and participating in charitable causes.



Jerlin Garo lives in Edison. She enjoys reading, drawing, painting and spending time with family and friends. Although Jerlin had no prior religious affiliation, her mother kept her close to God through prayer. It was the sense of community that Jerlin experienced in the Catholic Church through her attendance at Mass with her mother and with her Catholic High School classmates, and the desire to be closer to God, that caused her to seek full Communion with the Catholic Church. Jerlin has grown closer to God through reading and reflecting on the Gospels and sharing her journey with the RCIA Community. She looks forward to finding ways to give back to the Community what has been given to her and hopes to one day raise a family within the Catholic faith.



Krystal Lashley lives in Metuchen. She enjoys rugby, soccer, discovering new restaurants, and spending time with her nieces and nephews. Although she was baptized Catholic, she never received the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. She now has a strong desire to strengthen her relationship with God and to begin a new relationship with the Catholic Church by receiving the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. Through her RCIA journey she has developed a more consistent prayer life, and she is sharing God's message with others. She looks forward to following God's path for her and hopes to pass on this faith to her family in the future.



Charles Messina grew up in Metuchen. He was not raised in a religious environment, and as a young adult he began studying history and philosophy. It was through these studies that a curiosity for religion took root inspiring Charles to read the Bible. Years later, his friend Zach invited Charles to attend Mass. The experience of the Mass had a profound effect on Charles which led to his commitment to attend Mass regularly. Soon after, he realized that the Catholic Faith is the one true faith. He looks forward to being in full communion with Christ and His church by receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil.



Matt Montville lives in Highland Park and is engaged to be married. He enjoys hockey, auto racing, running, music, and theater. Matt was raised in the Lutheran faith. His fiancé is Catholic, and they want to grow in faith together in the Catholic Church. Matt has grown closer to God through reading and studying the Bible as an adult, and by sharing what he is learning with his fiancé. Matt looks forward to raising a family together with his fiancé in the Catholic faith and sharing an active spiritual life together with their future family.

INTRODUCTION TO LENT TNL

If you are in High School, you are invited to our Introduction to Lent TNL.
February 26th 6:00-7:30 p.m. In the Youth Room at the Parish Center.
For more information contact Sara & Brian at stfrancis@boldym.com



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

Even if you are not enrolled in eGiving, you can make a **one-time gift** by using the QR code or by going to: <https://www.stfranciscathedral.org/give>.

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

Tithing Week of January 29, 2023:

\$13,297 Faith Direct (eGiving)

\$13,728 In pew/mail/drop off

Total Tithing = \$27,025

SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY

If you are in need of food, call Social Concerns at (732) 548-0100 x225, on Monday to schedule an appointment to pick up food Tuesday-Thursday.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities for Social Concerns Ministry – for early sign-up please call (732) 548-0100, x-225. Service hours for confirmation candidates will be available.

- Easter Flower Distribution – Students/Parents and Parishioners
- Upcoming Spring Craft Fair – Students/Parents and Parishioners

RENTAL NEEDED

Couple looking for a one-bedroom with full bathroom to rent in a house and willing to pay \$1,500.00 per month. Please contact Social Concerns Ministry Office at (732) 548-0100 x225 or you may contact Eric Dandrow directly at (201) 370-0984.



**A Three-Night Encounter with
Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament**

at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi,
Monday, March 6 at 6:30 PM

Tuesday, March 7 at 6:30 PM

Wednesday, March 8 at 6:30 PM followed by
closing Mass with Bishop Checchio at 7:30 PM.

Livestream of the mission talks will be available at
www.stfranciscathedral.org and
www.diometuchen.org/eucharisticrevival

Questions? Please contact the Secretariat for
Evangelization and Communication at
(732) 529-7936

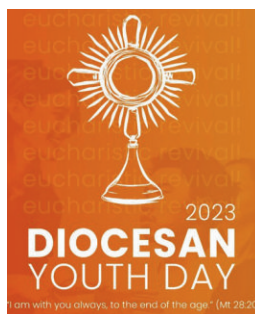


DIOCESAN YOUTH DAY 2023

St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Edison
March 12th 11:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Cost \$20.



Throughout the course of this day, teens will come together to enter into the sacrament of Mass celebrated by Bishop Checchio, have fun with one another, hear a keynote from CFR, Fr. Malachy, have the opportunity for Adoration and Confession, and enjoy some live music, good food and more!



GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

One of our parishioners is in need of a kidney transplant. If you or anyone you know has an O blood type and is interested in becoming a donor, please contact KidneydonorNL@gmail.com

Thank you!

THE MUSIC AT MASS

There's quite a bit of music involved at Mass, everything ranging from the Propers and Ordinary, to the Psalms and Litanies, to the Angelic Hymns (Gloria and Sanctus, both part of the Ordinary), etc. However, the most important music that is sung at Mass is the **dialogues**. The dialogues are the brief conversations that happen between the priest or deacon and the congregation throughout the Mass. The shortest of these is the greeting: (Priest) *The Lord be with you*, (Cong.) *And with your spirit*. When we are addressed with the words, "The Lord be with you," the priest (or deacon) "is expressing his desire that the dynamic activity of God's spirit be given to the people of God, enabling them to do the work of transforming the world that God has entrusted to them." (USCCB.org/) When we respond with, "And with your spirit," we are specifically addressing the gift of the spirit of ordination that the priest (or deacon) received and now exists within the man himself. This is why this response is only ever used for one who has been ordained. A slightly longer dialogue is the Preface Dialogue (*The Lord be with you* \ *and with your spirit* \ *Lift up your hearts* \ *We lift them up to the Lord*, \ *Let us give thanks* / *It is right and just.*) The primary reason for the dialogues being the most important music at Mass is that it is the easiest way for the congregation to actively and consciously participate *externally* in song. Along with internal participation, external participation unites us with each other at Mass, and outwardly demonstrates our shared faith in Christ and his Church.

- Christopher Deibert



MOMS GROUP

Tuesday, **February 21st** 7:30-9:00 p.m. in Joseph Room. Fr. Christy will talk to us about women saints who set their world on fire!

Wednesday, **March 1st** 9:30 - 11 a.m. in Joseph Room. Guest speaker; Mrs. May Hom will give a talk based on Fr. Jaques Phillipe's book, *The Way of Trust and Love*. Free child care is available for morning meetings.

New members, please contact Karen Hogan at themetuchenhogans@gmail.com.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed Monday, February 20th in observance of President's Day. There will be one Mass celebrated at 9:00 a.m. on Monday. The Cathedral will close immediately after Mass.



SFCS SUMMER CAMP 2023

We are so EXCITED and we just can't hide it! SFCS Summer Camp 2023 is ready to welcome you back for 8 weeks of summer fun! Our program begins on June 19 and runs through August 11, 2023. We are open to campers ages 4-14 and offer a wide variety of activities for your camper to enjoy! Our campers take part in a variety of activities from the Metuchen Pool, to STEAM crafts, computer classes, weekly trips and so much more! We are currently accepting applications for this upcoming summer and look forward to welcoming your camper to SFCS summer camp!

Please reach out to Mrs. Rizzo at 732-548-3107 or via email at rizzom@stfranciscathedralschool.org for more information.

All information for camp is available on our website stfranciscathedralschool.org



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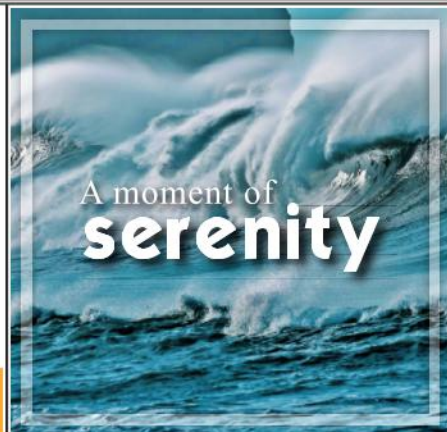
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