# CATHEDRAL OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

August 27, 2023 · Twenty-First 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**

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.



# CATHEDRAL OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

548 Main St. Metuchen, NJ 08840

# **JIRECTORY**

# **Parish Office**

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

# ST. FRANCIS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

# **Blue Ribbon School**

Address	528 Main Street
	Metuchen, NJ 08840
Principal	Jay Locquiao, x238
Phone	(732) 548–3107
Website stfranc	iscathedralschool.org

#### **Home School Association**

HSA@stfranciscathedralschool.org

#### **PARISH CENTER**

Address45 Library Place			
Metuchen, NJ 08840			
Phone(732)548-0100			
<b>Religious Education</b>			
Debbie Schurko, PCL x226			
Meghan Moran, Assistant x222			
Social Concerns			
Bidgie Williamson x225			
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

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

**Richard Fuchs** 

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

Patricia Bixel

Msgr. Richard A. Behl Endowment

# Cathedral Family,

I recently read an article in the online Atlantic Journal that described the modern dilemma of having more practical ways for people to connect today, either virtually or in person, yet, are suffering from isolation, loneliness and social anxiety. It described the growing trend of young people increasingly fearful of relationships and commitment. Not revolutionary observations. Written from a secular perspective it did not offer any diagnosis other than recommending greater acceptance of self and of others' differences. That may be true on one level. But seemed to miss the very human problem that Jesus came to heal; namely to introduce us to the reality that we have a broken heart due to original sin—we are left fragmented—more distracted by what "appears" to be real---than reality itself. We get lost in what "appears" to be, rather than "what is."

Adam and Eve were enticed by the apparent good of the fruit they sought to make them "like God." Our Catholic tradition has understood that because of Adam's sin, the whole human race suffers from a weakened will and darkened intellect--our emotions are "skewed" and frequently mislead our judgement even after the grace of baptism. This is called "concupiscence." This is why the question of Jesus to the disciples in the Gospel we hear this weekend is startling real, "Who do you say that I am?" it seems like a simple question. Yet, considering the difficulty to really grasp reality---and the reality of Jesus' identity, it is not an easy question. Getting this question right would determine everything for Peter and the whole Church. Peter needed the aid of grace to see properly who Jesus truly was, namely the Son of the living God. At some point in our life we must answer the question too---who is Jesus? We may be able to avoid it for a while, but at some point, we must make our profession of faith too—in a real way. We have the aid of grace in the sacraments, we have the Word of God to guide us and the Holy Spirit indwelling to inspire us---yet these are all gifts we must yield and accept in humility that Jesus is Lord—His Word and teachings are the guidance for our life. Here then is the connection to the dilemma of our times---the more truthful and honest we are with ourselves, the more truthful we are with God and others ---we begin to see more clearly reality on its own terms. When Jesus founded His Church---He intended for us to be a community of disciples who see clearly who He is and who our brothers and sisters are. If we live our Christianity with renewed zeal, we will become more the antidote to the isolation of the world. One day, a lonely world will look at the small community of Christ's disciples and say. "I want that." Let us live authentically so that the world may be attracted to Christ the light in us.

This weekend we say "God speed and Fare thee well" to Fr. Edgar. He will be returning to Immaculate Conception in Annandale. Grateful for all of his service these past four years. May God bless and keep him in his sacred ministry of the priesthood!

Next weekend we will welcome Fr. Justin Akkara CMI, as our new parochial vicar. We will introduce him at all Masses. We are very grateful that he has come among us to serve in our community.

Gratefully the paving has pretty much come to a conclusion. It looks so fantastic and should hold up for many years (Please God) and the roof on the school has made a lot of progress. Soon, we will schedule for the solar panels to be installed once the roof is complete. Thank you for your consideration and possible support of our new "Our Lady of the Angels" plaza. We already have many upcoming events planned for the plaza. Stay tuned for particular ways you can memorialize a plaza stone or the other needs to complete it. May it be a pleasing addition to Our Lady who will watch over that plaza.

Finally, I hope that everyone has had a great and enjoyable summer. But with the end of summer just around the corner, that means it's also the beginning of another school year. What an exciting time it will be here at St. Francis Cathedral School. Wherever you go to school—please let's stay together in prayer as we need God's help to truly learn more than what is in a syllabus, we need to know what the world is about and the meaning of why we are here and where we are ultimately going!

Have blessed week---

In Jesus,

Father Christy

# MASS INTENTIONS



#### SUNDAY · August 27

# Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 am......St. Francis 7:30 AM Mass Ushers r/o Parishioner 9:00 am.....Ernesto Almeda & Pablo Labao r/o Ida Flores 10:30 am.....Gloria Ouano & Ninfa Flores r/o May Castaneda 12:00 pm....Living & Deceased St. Francis Parishioners

#### **MONDAY - August 28**

#### St. Augustine

7:00 am.........Kathryn Huber r/o Gallardo and Gomez Families 8:00 am.......Gregorio Martinez r/o Family 12:10 pm.....Frank Belmont r/o Howard & Eileen

# TUESDAY · August 29

# The Passion of St. John

## WEDNESDAY · August 30

7:00 am......Cordero/Giminez Family r/o Rene Cordero 8:00 am....Louise Weber r/o Jackie Murphy and Family 12:10 pm....Bernard McGuirk r/o Doug & Maryann Ulbrich

#### THURSDAY · August 31

# FRIDAY · September 01

7:00 am.......Giovanna Cremonini r/o Silvana Cremonini 8:00 am......Glenn Trimor Corpuz r/o The Szap Family 12:10 pm......Richard Savner r/o Elizabeth M. Savner

#### SATURDAY · September 02

8:00 am.....(Liv.) Joyce Gutierrez Birthday r/o Family 5:00 pm.....Thanksgiving to St. Jude r/o Evita & Loydon Desa

## SUNDAY · September 03

# Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

# Richard & Elizabeth Savner

By Elizabeth M. Savner the Cathedral

In the Lady Chapel In memory of **Teresa Bolido**By Joe & Family

# PLEASE PRAY

## **SICK**

Rod Altz Carlos Barrera Angela Bianchini

Angela Bianchini **Bishop Emeritus** Paul G. Bootkoski Walter Boychick Phyllis Cirelli Tony Cirelli William Rocky Colavito Teresita Dalisay Baby Mason Dent Dr. Edward J. Donahue James Dudley Luis Gambotto Shelly Greene Eric Griffin Joey Hale Allison Henry Louise M. Herber Rita Johnson Lauren Kaczynski Joseph Kaczynski Lia Leano Mother of Marianita Licameli Raymond LoLargo Marty Lonczak Santina Mara John McGuire Bill North Yolanda Payne Alex Pichalski Stephen Reilly Senie Reselosa Nuvia Reyes **Eleanor Sammond** Lucille Sayers Alice Shannon Vanessa Sisk John Skarbek

Elizabeth Smith

Maryann Sullivan

Elizabeth Lyons Sweatman

**Kevin Speckin** 

Veronica Tan

Elaine Uher

Danielle Velona Patricia Wakeman **Msgr. Bob Zamorski** 

# FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Maria Luisa Acosta Christopher Ciocon Thomas F. Licameli Joseph McKeon Hady Oghia Janet Vallese

## 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.

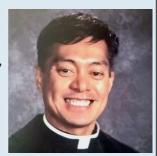
AND ALL THOSE RECOMMENDED IN THE BOOK OF INTENTIONS

# 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 My Dear Brethren in Christ,

As I read Bishop Checchio's letter appointing me as Parochial Vicar of Immaculate Conception Parish, in Annandale NJ, I could not help but feel saddened and grateful at the same time.

Farewells are never easy, and as Catholics, we understand full well that this type of farewell for a priest is a common practice in our Church. Changes come with challenges but they can be a way for us to grow. Challenges offer one an opportunity to carry one's cross in the footsteps of Jesus.



As I look back and count my blessings, I thank you for the four amazing and fruitful years serving this community. The way you embraced me has been wonderful and makes it difficult for me to say good-bye. But I say good-bye with gratefulness to you all for those past years, particularly for the ways you opened your lives to me, allowing me to minister to you. The kindness and love you offered me during these four years will keep you close to my heart. I leave gratified for the lessons learned and the many relationships formed. You have drawn me closer to our Lord and I pray that I have done the same for you.

I want to take this opportunity to humbly apologize to anyone whom I may have treated with impatience, or have offended in some way.

As you have encouraged me, may I encourage you to keep the faith and be there for each other especially during difficult times. Keep your eyes on Jesus, remain rooted in His words.

I will miss this parish community. You will always hold a special place in my heart as I remember how we braved through the COVID-19 pandemic together.

Please know that you will always be in my prayers, and I humbly ask that you also keep me in yours! Sincerely,

Fr. Edgar Madarang

# Maui - Relief

As of Monday, August 21, at least 114 people have died and more than 800 people remain missing



from fires that ravaged the Hawaiian island of Maui. Catholic Charities USA is actively providing lifesaving resources and relief on the ground.

For individuals who wish to contribute to the relief effort, donations can be made online directly to CCUSA at this link: <a href="http://provd.io/maui">http://provd.io/maui</a>.

You may also use the QR code. Monetary

donations are the best resource and 100% of donations will go directly to disaster relief.

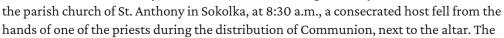


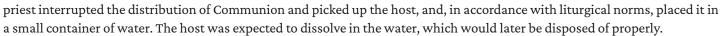
# HISPANIC HERITAGE MASS

Please join Bishop Checchio in celebrating the Hispanic
Heritage Mass in Spanish, on Friday, September 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
here at St. Francis. Come share with the Hispanic community and
together we will thank God for our diocese and for the opportunity to
live our faith through our traditions. Before Mass the Hispanic youth
will pray the Rosary beginning at 6:15 p.m. For more information
email lescobar@diometuchen.org or call (732) 243-4573

# EUCHARISTIC MIRACLE OF SOKOLKA, POLAND 2008

The Stunning Eucharistic Miracle of Sokolka, Poland took place on **Sunday, October 12, 2008.** During the Holy Mass celebrated at





Sr. Julia Dubowska, of the Congregation of the Eucharistic Sisters, was the parish sacristan. At the end of the Mass, at the request of the pastor, Fr. Stanislaw Gniedziejko, she poured the water and the host into another container. Knowing that the consecrated host would take some time to dissolve, she placed the new container in the safe located in the parish sacristy. A week later, on October 19, Mission Sunday, when the pastor asked her about the condition of the host, Sister Julia went to the safe. When she opened the door, she noticed a delicate aroma of unleavened bread. When she opened the container, she saw, in the middle of the host—which was still largely intact—a curved, bright red stain, like a blood stain. The water was untainted by the color. The sister immediately informed the priest, who brought in the other priests at the parish and the visiting missionary, Fr. Ryszard Gorowski. They were all amazed and left speechless by what they saw. From a human point of view, it was difficult at that point to define if the altered form of the remainder of the host was the result of an organic growth, a chemical reaction, or some other cause. They immediately notified the metropolitan archbishop of Bialystok, Edward Ozorowski, who went to Sokolka with the chancellor of the Curia and other diocesan officials. They were all deeply moved by what they saw. The archbishop ordered that the host be protected while they waited to see what would happen.

On October 29, the container with the host was transferred to the Divine Mercy Chapel in the rectory, and placed in the tabernacle. The next day, by decision of the archbishop, the stained host was taken out of the water and placed on a small corporal, which was then put back in the tabernacle. By mid-January of 2009, the altered fragment of the host had dried out naturally, and remained like a blood stain or clot; since then, its appearance has not changed. That same month, the archbishop requested histopathological studies be done on the host. On March 30, he created an ecclesial commission to study the phenomenon.

A piece of the altered host was taken and analyzed independently by two experts, Prof. Maria Sobaniec-Lotowska, MD, and Prof. Stanislaw Sulkowski, MD, in order to ensure the credibility of the results. Both are histopathologists at the Medical University of Bialystok. The results of both independent studies were in perfect agreement. They concluded that the structure of the transformed fragment of the host is identical to the myocardial (heart) tissue of a living person who is nearing death. The structure of the heart muscle fibers is deeply intertwined with that of the bread, in a way impossible to achieve with human means, according to the declaration of Prof. Maria Sobaniec-Lotowska. The results of the histopathological studies, dated January 21, 2009, were included in the dossier given to the Metropolitan Curia of Bialystok.

# **RCIA**

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples "Who do you say that I am?" Do you know someone who is trying to find an answer to that question – and other questions about God, Jesus or the Catholic Church? Bring them to an Inquiry Session, held every Wednesday evening. Participation in a session does not require a commitment to belong to the Catholic Faith Family. Anyone who is unbaptized, baptized into a non-catholic Christian denomination, or baptized Catholic but never received First Eucharist and Confirmation, is invited to come and inquire about the God to whom we can entrust our burdens and the Catholic faith community who can help us to develop a relationship with God. For more information call Sara @ RCIA – (732) 742-1567



# METUCHEN CARES COMMUNITY ACTION FOR RECOVERY, EDUCATION AND SUPPORT 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY THURSDAY, AUGUST 31st, 7:00 P.M., AT BOROUGH HALL

By realizing that addiction is a disease and understanding its symptoms and consequences without judgment, we can overcome the stigma, isolation, and destruction that afflict those with a substance use disorder as well as their families

Metuchen needs to work together to win the battle to END the STIGMA!

#### **EVERYONE IS INVITED!!**

Families with Children in middle school, high school, and college are strongly encouraged to attend. There were 109,680 overdose deaths in 2022 (per the CDC)

## **METUCHEN IS NOT IMMUNE!**

The Program will include:

- A featured speaker who is long-term recovery and offers a story of HOPE!
- Candlelight Vigil to remember those who have lost their lives to this disease.
- Information pamphlets and resources for families and individuals.
- Free NARCAN kits will be available starting at 6:30PM.
- Ice Cream treats will be provided by What's the Scoop.

For more information about Metuchen CARES, as well as addiction, recover, and prevention, please visit www.metuchennj.org, then go to "Boards and Commissions" and click on "CARES"



OVERDOS



St. Francis Cathedral School







Our new Prek 3 classroom will offer a 3 or 5 day FULL day option in addition to our 2 half day/week session! After Care will be available until 6pm.

#### CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE FOR MORE INFO!







There are spots still available for our Full Day Kindergarten and our 3 or 5 full day Prek 4-year-old programs!

> 45 Library Place, Metuchen, NJ 08840 732-548-3107 stfranciscathedralschool.org

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# 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 August 6, 2023 \$11,678. FAITH DIRECT (EGIVING) \$12,177. IN PEW/MAIL/DROP OFF

Total Tithing = \$23,855

# GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

One of our parishioners is in urgent need of a kidney transplant. If you (or anyone you know) have "O" blood type you may be able to save a life! The procedure would be performed at St. Barnabas in Livingston with no cost to the donor.

All general questions can be answered by the Living Donor Institute at rwjbh.org/ldi. If you think you can be an angel on earth, please email KidneydonorNL@gmail.com.

God bless you!

# 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.





# CATHEDRAL PLAZA OF OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS FUNDRAISER.

Please consider helping us complete the "Cathedral Plaza of Our Lady of the Angels" outside the breezeway.

With your help, we will eventually have lighting, outdoor tables and chairs for parish events and a place to socialize after Mass along with a beautiful statue of Our Lady of the Angels placed prominently in the plaza. It's purpose is to meet the needs of our people by creating a beautiful place to congregate, celebrate and enjoy the beauty of God's creation and the beauty of the parish community.

Any and all donations are welcome to fund this very worthy project and beautifying our parish grounds for the Glory of God. You can donate through Faith Direct by using the QR or go to the website at <a href="https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/NJ704/52986">https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/NJ704/52986</a> Or, you can mail your

donation to the Parish Office at 45 Library Place Metuchen NJ 08840

# OCTOBER 14, 2023 Come join us for a beautiful morning set aside to marvel at the mystery of God and His plan for each of us!

FEMININE GENIUS BRUNCH -

This event includes a presentation and book signing by Shannon Whitmore, author of the new book, "See Yourself as God Does: Understanding Holy Body Image through Catholic Scripture" (Ascension). The morning will include prayer and reflection, brunch and a review of some service ideas for women to get more involved in ministry. This event is for women of all ages and will be held at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane in Piscataway from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM. For more information and/or to register please visit <a href="www.diometuchen.org/familylife">www.diometuchen.org/familylife</a> or call (732) 562-1543.



# JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF- STEP I

BEREAVEMENT GROUP STEP I SESSION WILL START OCTOBER 4, 2023.

This session is for eight (8) weeks, through November 15, 2023, every Wednesday night at the Parish Center Solarium from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

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.

There is no fee; pre-registration is required. You may contact Danielle Velona at (732) 763-0972 or Jessie Flynn at (732) 895-2563



# MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Please join us for a special weekend experience to enrich your marriage.



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

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held October 20 - 22. Please apply ASAP as space is

Phone (732)904-9636 for application and information (Tom & Ruth DeFalco).

Visit us at: www.wwme.org for more information.

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

As of August 18, 2023, the Diocesan Development Office has received pledges

totaling \$355,168.41 and

payments totaling \$345,157.68

from parishioners of the Cathedral of St. Francis. This represents 105.08% of our \$338,000.00 goal. Thank you!



\$10.00

\$25.00

#### You're Amazing Experience

This ticketed event is an active and dynamic encounter for 7th-12th graders and families to experience a breakthrough that will (re)ignite their relationship with Christ and the Catholic Church.

Register today!

# **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 (732) 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.

#### PRAYER TREE MINISTRY

This is a simple, yet powerful way to help others during a difficult time or with a difficult situation . Please contact Belinda Coakes at: sfprayertree@msn.com

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMORIALS & **DONATIONS**

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.

#### ST.FRANCIS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL FUNDS:

Memorial gifts may be made to the MSGR. RICHARD A. BEHL ENDOWMENT FUND to enhance programs in areas of religion, science, technology, mathematics, language and fine arts in our parish school; offer tuition assistance through the ST. FRANCIS SCHOLARSHIP FUND and to the PHYLLIS WALKER MEMORIAL FUND to enhance the school library and educational tools used for our students. 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.

METUCHEN

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