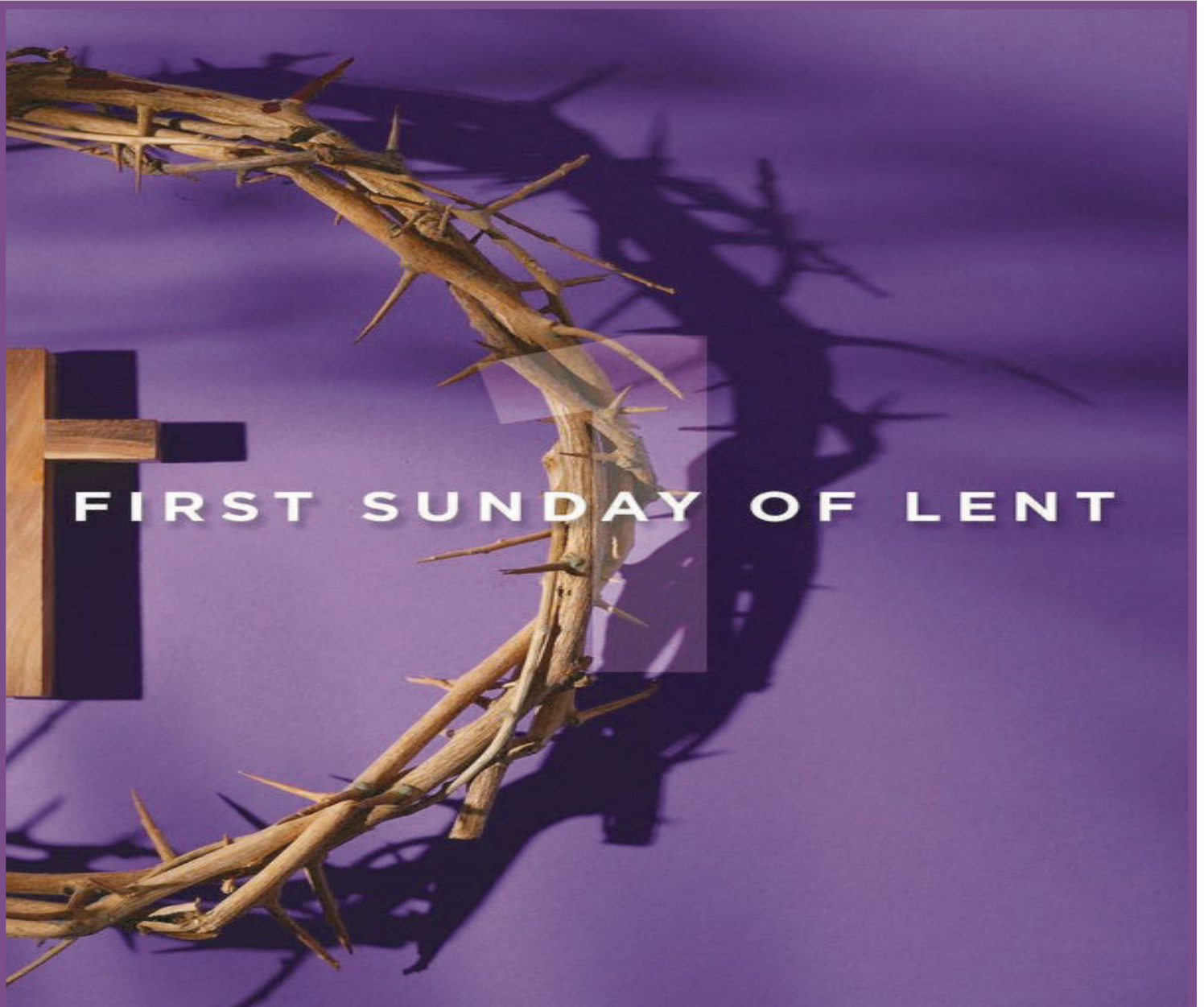




IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

March 9, 2025
1st Sunday of Lent
316 Old Allerton Road
Annandale, NJ 08801

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH, A CARING AND SHARING CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



PARISH OFFICE

Rev. Keith M. Cervine, Pastor

Hours: Weekdays 9:00AM to 4:00PM
Phone: (908) 735-7319;

Website: <http://iccannandale.org>

Email: parishoffice@iccannandale.org



SCHOOL OFFICE

Constance Fortunato, Principal

Hours: Weekdays 7:30AM-3:30PM
Phone: (908) 735-6334;

Website: www.icsclinton.org;

Email: info@icsclinton.org

Parish Mission Statement

We, the parish community of Immaculate Conception Church, have as our mission to unite all of our members in God's Name to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We share our gifts through worship, education, fellowship, and community outreach, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Mary Immaculate.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

OUR CHURCH IS OPEN FOR VISITS TO LIGHT A CANDLE OR PRAY DAILY FROM 6:30AM - 7:00PM

CLERGY

Rev. Keith M. Cervine *Pastor*
Rev. Jose Lim *Parochial Vicar*
Deacon Joseph Campbell
Deacon Michael Martini
Deacon Mark van Duynhoven
Deacon William Bauer *(Retired)*

BUSINESS OFFICE STAFF

Michael Szalecki *Business Administrator*
Laura Vitelli *Pastoral Associate*
Parish Advancement
Cemetery Director
Coleen Donaher *Parish Secretary*
Melissa Lagun *Financial Manager*
Mary Hegarty *Administrative Assistant*

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Coleen D'Amato *Parish Catechetical Leader*
Jennifer Senkowski *Assistant Director*
Maryann Procopio *Administrative Assistant*

SCHOOL STAFF

Constance Fortunato *Principal*
Maria Casserly *Office Administration*
Bill Bukowski *Maintenance*



MINISTRIES WORK TOGETHER IN OUTREACH TO THE NURSING HOME

The traveling rosary team put some bows on the knitting ministries beautiful creations. In the basket are LITTLE BLACK BOOKS for Lent, holy cards and sweet crocheted Bible sayings for the Rolling Hills Care Center. These were handed out during the Altar Rosary Society's monthly praying of the Rosary with the residents. We meet at Rolling Hills the first Tuesday of the month, if you are interested; knitters meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 1:00 PM in PH or Sofa Room.

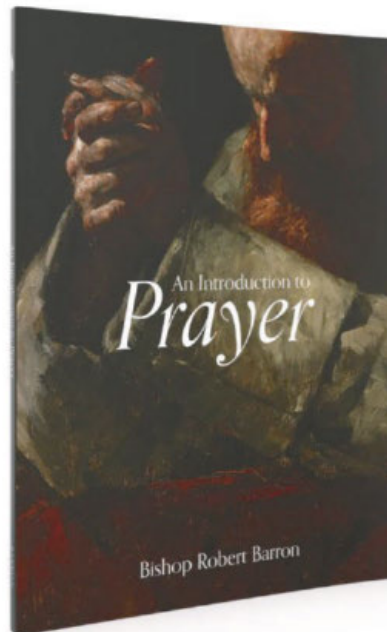
LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Sat. Vigil: 4:30PM
Sunday: 8:00AM, 10:00AM, Noon & 5:00PM
Weekdays: Mon - Fri 7:00AM, 9:00AM
Sat. 9:00AM
Confession: Sat. 11:30 AM - 12; 3:30 - 4:00 PM
or by appointment
Adoration: Fri. after 9 AM Mass to 6:00 PM
Rosary: Wed. at 8:30 AM
Miraculous Medal Novena: Sat. after 9AM Mass
Stations of the Cross (Lent): Fri 7:00 PM

PARISH REGISTRATION

New to the area or a current parishioner who has moved? Contact the parish office or register online: <https://www.iccannandale.org/become-a-parishioner>. To better serve you, all parishioners must be registered. Children of families who are now adults living at home should register as an individual to establish your own practice. You *must* be a registered parishioner and *regularly attending* Mass to be a Confirmation or Baptism Sponsor or to be married at ICC.

A GIFT TO THE PARISH FOR YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY & LIFE



Thanks to an anonymous and very generous donor, this week, we are giving the book, *An Introduction to Prayer* by Bishop Robert Barron, to our parishioners. Frs. Jose & Keith are preaching about prayer this week as one of the pillars of Lent and are often

asked how to pray. Barron has a way of explaining the faith in today's terms and we highly recommend his work on YouTube and in print. As Barron posits in Chapter 2, "prayer is a conversation between friends." There are many ways to pray, and the book briefly introduces us to some that we may not be familiar. Grow this Lent and in your life, by trying a new way to pray and let yourself get closer to God.

THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sunday, March 9

Regular Mass Schedule: 8 & 10AM, Noon & 5PM

8:30 AM RCIA (MH)

7:00 PM Men's Cornerstone (PH)

Monday, March 10

Regular Mass Schedule - 7 & 9 AM

4:30 PM - 8:00 PM PREP (Church)

7:00 PM Women's Cornerstone (UR)

Tuesday, March 11

Regular Mass Schedule - 7 & 9 AM

1:00 PM Rosarian Meeting (PH)

6:30 PM Rosarian Meeting (PH)

7:00 PM Choir Practice (Church)

Wednesday, March 12

Regular Mass Schedule - 7 & 9 AM

1:00 PM Bereavement Group (PH)

6:00 PM Women's Cornerstone (PH)

Thursday, March 13

Regular Mass Schedule - 7 & 9 AM

9:30 AM Walking with Purpose (PH)

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry (PH)

7:00 PM Pro Life Ministry (YR)

Friday, March 14

Regular Mass Schedule - 7:00 am & 9:00 am

9:30 AM - 6PM - Eucharistic Adoration

5:00 PM - 6:45PM K of C Soup & Stations (PH)

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross (Church)

Saturday, March 15

Regular Mass Schedule - 9:00 am & 4:30 pm

2:00 PM Cherub Choir (Church)

Sunday, March 16

Regular Mass Schedule: 8 & 10AM, Noon & 5PM

8:30 AM RCIA (MH)

5:30 PM Youth Group (PH)

SOUP & STATIONS



The Knights of Columbus #6245 will be sponsoring soup and grilled cheese in the Parish Hall on the following Fridays in Lent: March 14th, March 28th & April 4th. Eat in and carry out meals are served from 5:00 PM - 6:45 PM. Free will donations are accepted.

Stations of the Cross begins at 7:00pm in the Church on all Fridays in Lent.



REGISTRATION IS OPEN

for the **WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE EXPERIENCE** on Saturday, March 22nd at ICC's Parish Hall.

If you are a woman 25 years or older, a parishioner or parent at ICS, we invite you to register for a day of reflection, faith, and community building during Lent. Our day begins at 8 AM and ends with a celebration following an 8 PM Mass. Come see what the day may renew in you!



TO REGISTER, SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO:
www.iccannandale.org/womens-cornerstone



The Sanctuary candle for March 9th - 15th is lit in Memory of Diana Mensche



Fr. Keith gives ashes to the 8th Graders as Immaculate Conception School kicks off the start of the Lenten Season; please pray these students as many are preparing for



The Daughters of the American Revolution donated American History books to ICS in anticipation of the celebration of our country's 250th Birthday next year!

WELCOME HOME!

THIS WEEK'S MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 9 (1st Sunday of Lent)

8 am Mary Ann Phillips (Peter & Kathy Sandrian)
10 am La Mae K. Perez (Husband)
12 pm Joseph McGonnell (De Saro Family)
5 pm For Our Parishioners

Monday, March 10

7 am Olga Egierd (Mr. & Mrs. Walter Dickson)
9 am Thomas Stack (Provines Family)

Tuesday, March 11

7 am George Walter Paulding (Mary Ann & Tom Oven)
9 am James Codd (K of C #6245)

Wednesday, March 12

7am Deceased members of Rzepka-Barron Families (Family)
9 am Jonathan Sekula (Sekula Family)

Thursday, March 13

7 am Wilson-Gerba Families (Family)
9 am James Codd

Friday, March 14

7 am Carol Kerlin Vella (van Duynhoven Family)
9 am Patricia McCarroll (Liz Meyer)

Saturday, March 15

9 am Ints. of Michael Clare (Kathy Clare)
4:30 pm James Janowski (Anna Strelec)

Sunday, March 16 (2nd Sunday of Lent)

8 am Vossilios Theodorides (Ira & Tricia Daly)
10 am Maria G. Ferrara (Patrick Morris)
12 pm Maria G. Ferrara (Kane Family)
5 pm For Our Parishioners



SAVE THE DATE

Our Parish Festival will be held from June 18th -22nd, please mark your calendars to make sure you can help out, or attend &

either way, get ready for the fun! There are plenty of interesting volunteer opportunities for everyone! We are already starting to plan, so please consider being a part of this event! Interested? Email Laura: lvitelli@icsclinton.org

THE PARISH BOOK CLUB & THE MERMAID



The Parish Book Club has chosen "The Mermaid Chair" by Sue Monk Kidd to be discussed at their next meeting on Thursday, March 20th at 7 PM in the sofa room. In this novel, the author tells a beautiful and haunting story centered around forty-two year-old Jessie Sullivan, a woman in quiet crisis, who returns home to the island of a mermaid. For Jessie, this becomes a pilgrimage to self-awakening and the healing mercy of love and forgiveness. Please join us for an evening of literary fun, friendship and relaxing conversation. All are welcome! For more information, call Carole at 908.310.3886.

PRO-LIFE HAPPENINGS

3/13 - Pro-Life Meeting 7 pm Youth Room

3/5- 4/12 - 40 Days For Life with Rosary after 9:00 am mass

TBA - Praying outside Planned Parenthood in Washington

3/22 - Choices Matter Conference, \$25 St. John Neuman Center - sponsoring HS students discussed

3/24 - Cooking for SHIP 10:30 am at Tricia's house

5/9 - NJRTL Banquet Dinner in New Brunswick. Riley Gaines speaker. Looking for high schoolers who would like to attend. Early Registration deadline is April 9th.

2nd & 4th Thursdays at 1 pm in the Parish Hall or Sofa Room looking for volunteers to crochet bibs for newly Baptized.

BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

It is a great honor to be selected as a Godparent or Sponsor, but it is not just a title for the Catholic Church. According to Canon Law: "a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor *who assists an adult in Christian initiation* or together with the parents presents an infant for baptism. A Sponsor also helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it."



Certificates of Eligibility for sponsorship for Baptism or Confirmation will be given **only to active** (weekly Mass attendance) **registered** parishioners of ICC. Qualified members should use the QR code.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

CHANGES FOR LENT

The Liturgical Seasons should have a different feel to them. There is a fifth century saying *Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi*: the Law of Prayer is the Law of Belief or how we pray has an effect on our beliefs. Lent is a time in which we focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Focusing on the Tabernacle, the Crown of Thorns, the Desert or the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy, will remind us of the journey we are undertaking this Lent. It should remind us as we are fed by the Eucharist, we are called to go beyond the walls of the Church to practice those works of mercy as Christ did. We also pray the Confiteor as a community - listing the different kinds of sin we seek forgiveness for, we use the Apostle's Creed and the Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation to both simplify our thoughts and get to the core of our beliefs as Christians. We hope this makes your Lent more powerful.



CRS RICE BOWL



As a deacon, I traveled to Rwanda with Catholic Relief Services as part of their Global Fellows Program. A great deal of our time was spent discussing the Rwandan Genocide and the attempted recovery of civility after it. At a number of memorials there was a banner that read: "If you knew me, and you really

knew yourself, you wouldn't have killed me." Almsgiving during Lent is an invitation to meet the other, to listen to their story, share yours and grow in our humanity. Rice Bowl helps the mission of CRS & fosters this kind of dialogue; please consider participating.

A SPECIAL LENTEN OPPORTUNITY AT ICC: LAST SEVEN WORDS

After Jesus was nailed to the cross, He spoke 7 short expressions, commonly referred to as the "Last Seven Words". Each Good Friday, our church holds a special devotion that commemorates the three hours Christ suffered and died on the cross for the redemption of the world. This devotion begins at 12:00 noon on Good Friday. **We are looking for volunteers** who would want to share with others a personal reflection or life teaching on one of the 'Last Seven Words', to help provide meaning to what our Lord said and did. We are also looking for a pianist and vocalist to volunteer during those 3 hours to help with the music / song parts of the devotion.

Please prayerfully consider being a part of this beautiful devotion. If you would like more information or you're interested in participating, contact:

Monique F Patti Cell: 908-894-0995

Email: moniquepatti72@gmail.com

John T Patti Cell: 908-963-2926

Email: jpatti74@comcast.net

WILL YOU FOLLOW JESUS TO CALVARY? 3 Wednesday Evenings in Lent

Please join our Altar Rosarians and clergy on a virtual Lenten pilgrimage of prayer & reflection.

No Greater Love, A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion was filmed on location in the Holy Land with best-selling author Edward Sri as the guide. Over three sessions, we will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary.

Our hope is that your personal Lenten journey will be enhanced by experiencing a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable & unconditional love for you.

Please join us for one or all
March 19th, March 26th, and April 2nd
7:00 pm in the Parish Hall
NO REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday at 7:00 PM in the Church. Friday, March 14th will be led by Fr. Jose and he will be utilizing *The Way of the Cross with text from Scripture by St. Alphonsus Ligouri*.





FEBRUARY CONTRIBUTIONS UPDATE

Total Offertory for month: \$69,533.19

Average per week (Feb): \$17,383.30

Average per week (all 2025): \$18,319.65

Approximately 37.7% came via Faith Direct

Thank you for your continued support!

DONATIONS TO THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL AS OF FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2025

BAA Goal = \$170,000



2025 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL PILGRIMS OF HOPE:

Journeying Together in Faith, Hope & Charity

Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal supports a number of diocesan ministries dedicated to faith formation. Through Discipleship Formation for Children and our Catholic schools, Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Campus Ministry at Rutgers and the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, we are reaching out to children, teens, young adults and older adults new to our Catholic Church. These ministries help people of all ages grow in their knowledge and practice of the faith, experience a meaningful sense of service to the community, and come to a deeper understanding of their call to discipleship. Please prayerfully consider a gift today.

TENEBRAE TALKS



The other day someone asked me what I am giving up for Lent... I don't want to give up anything... well, maybe that leash thingy. I need my ball, and that ball, and that ball, but then I

saw a commercial for dogs who don't even have owners! I brought my ball to Fr. Keith & dropped it in his lap... I want to give that ball to those dogs who have less than me; you all gave me these great things, and I am thankful for that, but please don't get mad; I gave them away. Be a good boy!

From the Pastor's Desk

I have seen a variety of deserts in my life, Egypt, New Mexico, Nevada, some beautiful, others frightening. It's hard to imagine spending 40 days in the desert like Jesus let alone the 40 years that the Israelites traveled through the Wilderness to get to the Promised Land, yet here we are, limiting the amount we carry so we may survive this journey and get to the true Promised Land of Heaven.

In Luke's Gospel, after Jesus is Baptized but before he begins his public ministry, he goes out into the desert to be tempted by Satan. Satan continuously offers Him things of the world - food; power and fame as well as the riches that go with it; and then safety. If it is not a direct temptation by Satan, then he encourages Jesus to use His power to get the things a human being would desire. How is Satan trying to tempt you in using your time for things that would probably ultimately bring you farther from God? Those things sound good, right? Why should we suffer in this world? Doesn't God want us to be happy? There is a difference between being happy and being joyful. We are called to unite our suffering to Christ, who also suffered in loving each one of us. The second temptation is all about that - Christ would be the ruler of the Earth, but without the suffering - yet without it He loses His purpose, which isn't to be a great man who is followed but to open the doors of paradise for us through His sacrifice.

Christ doesn't promise a world without suffering for us; He promises to walk through it with us. I often think about the Stations of the Cross and how Christ is humiliated, needs help, and falls three times. He knows the difficulties that occur in our lives but He encourages us to keep going, to get up every time we fall down; to accept help when it is offered to us and to not seek the things of the world since those are not the things that endure. This Lent, go with Jesus into the desert, walk the road to Calvary with Him and don't give into temptation. You will be one step closer to Heaven when these 40 days are done, and what more can you hope for?

Pax et bonum,

Fr. Keith

1st SUNDAY OF LENT



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL



HELP WANTED

Immaculate Conception School is seeking a caring and enthusiastic After Care Lead Teacher to join our

team. This position provides a safe, engaging, and nurturing environment for students in grades K-8 after school hours. The hours are 2:45 PM to 5:30 PM, Tuesday & Thursday (with the option of more hours), and a competitive salary is offered.

The ideal candidate loves working with children and creating a supportive, structured atmosphere. An understanding of developmentally appropriate practices for elementary and middle school students is essential. This role involves supervising and engaging students in activities, providing homework support, and fostering a positive environment aligned with our Catholic values.

If you're interested in making a difference in the lives of our students, apply today! To learn more or submit your application, contact Connie Fortunato at principal@icsclinton.org

ANNUAL ICS TRICKY TRAY

Our Annual **Tricky Tray** will be on **Saturday, March 29th** from 2 - 6PM in the School. Tickets can be purchased at the door or pre-ordered online. (Cash and check only).



The Second Grade had their annual wax museum last Friday and taught us all about famous Americans. Can you figure out who joined us to tell us about their lives?

IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION SCHOOL
presents

A NIGHT IN NASHVILLE

16th Annual Gala Fundraiser
March 15, 2025 | 6:00 - 11:00 PM
Fiddler's Elbow Country Club
Bedminster, NJ

\$150.00 Per Ticket
Open Bar | Full Buffet | Music
Live & Silent Auctions | 50/50 Raffle

Dress to impress; please no denim.

Link for the auction site will be available next week, you don't have to be at the Gala to bid!

2025-2026 CATHOLIC SCHOOL TUITION ASSISTANCE APPLICATION

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary (like ICS) or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at <https://online.factsmgmt.com/aid>. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by no later than **March 31, 2025**.

Eligibility requirements, instructions and forms can be found at <https://diometuchen.org/tuition-assistance>.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Diocesan Youth Day

April 5th, 2025

Immaculata High School, Somerville NJ

Check-in Begins at 10:30am. The day will run from 11:00am-5pm.

The Diocese of Metuchen's Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry will run our **Diocesan Youth Day at Immaculata High School in Somerville, NJ on Saturday, April 5th, 2025.**

Throughout the course of this day, **8th-12th grade teens** will come together to enter into the sacrament of the **Mass**, have **fun** with one another, hear talks from **Braden Johnson**, have the opportunity for **Adoration and Confession**, enjoy **live music**, **good food**, and more!



SAVE THE DATE!
NEW JERSEY
CATHOLIC
YOUTH RALLY
 at **SIX FLAGS**
GREAT ADVENTURE
MAY 18, 2025

NJ Catholic Youth Rally is a day-long event that gathers teens from across the state of NJ for a day of fun, fellowship, Mass, and more held at Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson, NJ. The day starts with a dynamic opening ceremony. Teens then get the day to enjoy the park and all the rides. The day concludes in the Batman Stunt Arena with a Mass. Open to all Jr. High, High School & Young Adult Ministry, Scouts, teens and their families!

The Hope House of St. Magdalen's Church is asking for our help to replenish their Food Pantry. They are in need of non-perishable food (canned goods, rice, peanut butter, etc). Please drop off your donations in the designated bins in Fellowship Hall.



Choices Matter

A CRITICAL LIFE ISSUES CONFERENCE

Saturday March 29, 2025

at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway, NJ
 Opening Mass with Bishop Checchio at 9 a.m.
 Conference sessions 10:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 Speakers, Exhibits, Eucharistic Adoration



The Pain is Real but so is Hope
 Deacon Ed Shoener
 President, The Association for Catholic Mental Health Services



Mental Health as a Pro-Life Issue
 Erin McCole Cupp
 Young Lives, Better
 Catholic Mental Health Services



The Light in Our Darkness
 Lisa Kratz Thomas
 Speaker, Author, Servant

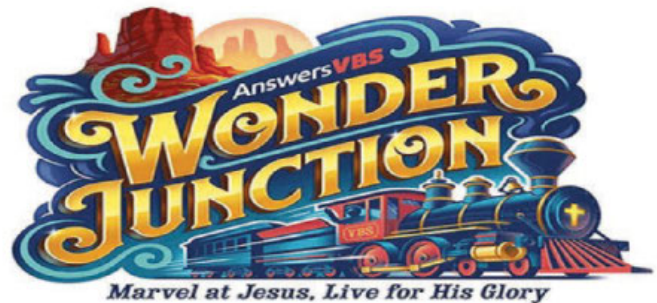


The Road to Hope - Responding to the Crisis of Addiction
 Kaitlan Douglas
 Coauthor and Executive Director of HOPE1 Initiative

General Admission \$35, Student Admission \$15

Admission includes lunch and hand-outs

Register at www.diometuchen.org/choicesmatter or scan QR code here →



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105 SUMMER RD, THREE BRIDGES

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 23RD - JUNE 27TH

9:30AM - 12:30PM

KIDS WILL BE CHALLENGED TO GROW THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND DISCOVER THE JOY THAT COMES WITH PRAISING JESUS! THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, KIDS WILL EXPLORE THE OLD WEST WHILE LEARNING STORIES, ENGAGING IN ACTIVITIES, AND ASKING BIG QUESTIONS THAT WILL HELP THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF WHO HE REALLY IS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

SEASVBS105@GMAIL.COM

FOR THE KIDS & TEENS



YOUTH GROUP

Next Meeting: Sunday,
March 16th 6:00 PM

Hey teens! Have you ever had questions about your Catholic faith but weren't sure who to

ask? Now's your chance! Join us for Youth Group for a special "Ask the Priest" night! No question is too big, too small, or too random! Bring your curiosity, bring your friends, and be yourself!

izamrok@gmail.com to get involved!

SHARING THE GOSPEL

One night your parents tell you to go to bed. You do not want to go to bed, so you cry and stomp. You shout, "I won't go to bed." Then you feel badly because you pitched a fit. This is good time to pray. Ask God to help you. He will give you the power to say, "Mom and Dad, I am sorry. I will jump in bed right now."

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Every morning I will pray that my family and I say, "No" to evil.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

God, help me to say, "Yes," to my parents.

Draw a line to the matching shadow.



PUZZLE



"Why did the athlete give up running for Lent?"



theFAITHFULFUNNIES

"She wanted to walk with Jesus."



Lent is a time when we strive to bring our hearts back to better union with Christ. To really walk with Him and be with Him in all that we do. Whether in our fasting or praying, it's important to spend the season of Lent journeying with Christ to the cross and our salvation!

BLP



COLOR

Read today's Gospel & color the image.





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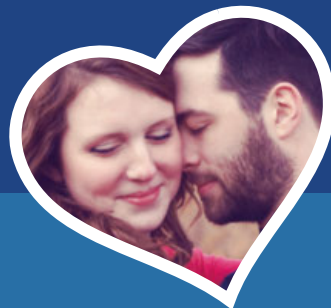
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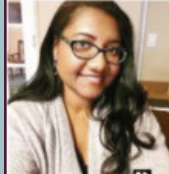
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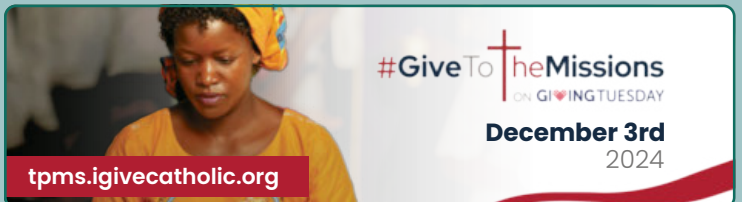
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