



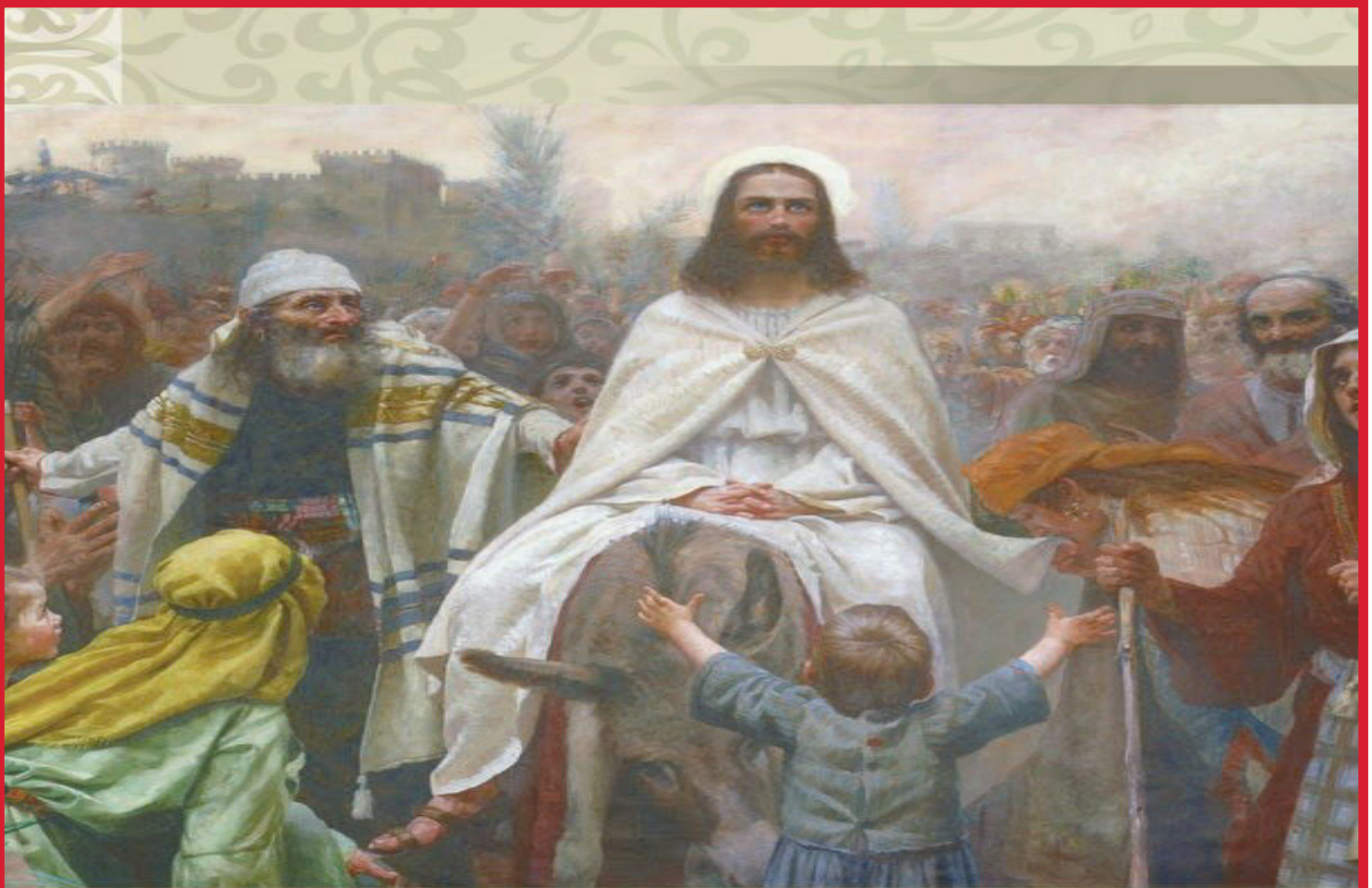
# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

April 6, 2025

Palm Sunday

316 Old Allerton Road  
Annandale, NJ 08801

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH, A CARING AND SHARING CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



## PALM SUNDAY

As he rode along, the people were spreading their cloaks on the road; the whole multitude of his disciples began to praise God aloud with joy for all the mighty deeds they had seen. - Lk 19:36, 37b

### 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](mailto:parishoffice@iccannandale.org)



### SCHOOL OFFICE

**Constance Fortunato, Principal**

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

Website: [www.icsclinton.org](http://www.icsclinton.org);

Email: [info@icsclinton.org](mailto: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*



### WORKING TOGETHER FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Immaculate Conception Altar Rosarians, Walking with Purpose and Pro-Life Ministry collected enough chocolate bunnies, jelly beans, Jesus figures, mini toys, etc to fill over 142 Easter baskets for children served by Hope House last Thursday. Enough candy and other items had been collected for many of the remaining families. Thank you all for working together for the kids and to everyone who gave their most generous contributions!

### 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



### PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR OCIA CANDIDATES

We ask you to keep in your prayers the following Candidates who are journeying towards their full reception into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil:

Tyler Ayuk Ako-Arrey, Shawn Achale Ako-Arrey, Sara Lynn Alicea, Brendon Beautell, Sienna Beautell, Rich Lospinoso (not pictured), Carol Miller, Brittani Marie Santangelo, Brianna Lynn Suydam, Nicole J. Urbina-Cleverly, Luis Alberto Urbina, Luis Antonio Urbina, Lulius Esteban Urbina-Cleverly, Lucas Gabriel Urbina-Cleverly, Ryan Almeida Wilson (not pictured)

### 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.



# WELCOME HOME!

## **THIS WEEK'S MASSES AND INTENTIONS**

### **Sunday, April 13 (Palm Sunday)**

8 am Barbara Moore (Pepperman Family)  
10 am Anna Romano (Gildo Romano)  
12 pm John Hughes, Jr. (Hughes Family)  
5 pm For Our Parishioners

### **Monday, April 14**

7 am Bruce Arnold (Mary & Bill Bauer)  
9 am Peter Izzo (Ira & Tricia Daly)

### **Tuesday, April 15**

7 am Joann Ulanowski (Bob & Cindy Wassmuth)  
9 am Magdalena Ficarra (Mallon Family)

### **Wednesday, April 16**

7 am Eileen Petrasek (Robert Zappulla)  
9 am Emil Pohorely (Nell & Paul Granger)

### **Thursday, April 17 (Holy Thursday)**

*Note: There is No 7 AM or 9 AM daily Mass*  
7 pm Priests Living & Deceased who have served in ICC

### **Friday, April 18 (Good Friday)**

*Note: There is No 7 AM or 9 AM daily Mass*  
3 pm Liturgy of Our Lords Passion

### **Saturday, April 19 (Holy Saturday)**

*Note: There is No 9 AM or 4:30 PM Mass*  
8 pm The Great Easter Vigil

### **Sunday, April 20 (Easter Sunday)**

6 am Joan S. Schulhafer (Ocello Family)  
8 am Dcn. Eugene A. Tomblor (Ocello Family)  
10 am (Church) Francis & Rachael Vitelli (Vitelli Family)  
10 am (PH) Daniel D'Avanzo (Debbie Miers)  
12 pm For Our Parishioners

*Note: There is No 5 PM Mass*



The Sanctuary candle for Apr 13-19 is lit in memory of the Semansky/Carney Families

## **PARISH LIBRARY**

Our Parish Library has a wealth of spiritual books available including a complete section on the Saints. The library is located in the Parish Hall next to the "Youth Room." Checkout is easy and self-serve. Please use this great resource.



**Knights of Columbus**

The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith,

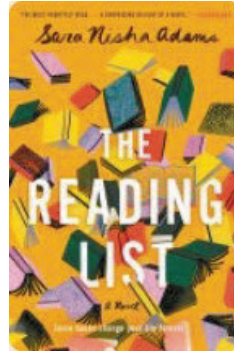
protect our families, serve others and defend values in a busy changing world. Our local council #6245 held a membership drive last week and we might have missed you. We brings Catholic men together in a powerful way. If you would like to join today simply go to [KofC.org/joinus](http://KofC.org/joinus) and enter our council #6245 for local info.

[kofc.org/joinus](http://kofc.org/joinus)



## **PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP) REGISTRATION**

PREP registration has begun for children of registered parishioners who are entering grades 1-8 in the fall of 2025. An online registration link was previously emailed home to all currently enrolled students. If you are a new PREP family, please email us at [PREP@lccAnnandale.org](mailto:PREP@lccAnnandale.org) for more info. We look forward to growing in faith with you!



## **THE PARISH BOOK CLUB HAS A LIST**

The Parish Book Club has selected "The Reading List" by Sara Nisha Adams for their next read. It is an unforgettable and heartwarming novel which reveals how a chance encounter with a list of library books helps to forge an unlikely friendship between two very different people in a London suburb. And you might even find that you've read some of the books on the list. All are welcome to join this friendly group of readers on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Sofa Room. For more information, contact Carole @ 908.310.3886.

## **TENEBRAE TALKS**

Hey, it's my week! The paraliturgical event that inspired Fr. Keith to name me happens this Wednesday night! Even though I won't be there to celebrate the liturgy, I hope you will come to support me. *Tenebrae* literally means "darkness"... and since I am a Black Lab, it kind of fits. I don't like it when my family leaves me for five minutes, so I can only imagine what it must feel like to not have our Lord for three whole days!!! It's ok to sit in darkness once in a while, even though I prefer light so I can see things clearly. And just like when someone comes to visit the Parish Office or the house, I want to bring them my toys because I want to play with them and love them and smell them, you are supposed to bring everything in your life to the Lord to show how joyful you are in your life... even when you are sad. Fr. Jose told me that when people go to venerate the Cross on Good Friday, many do kiss it as a sign of their love. Good job! Fr. Keith said it wasn't part of the Rite, but I'll ask you to bring pet treats to be blessed with your Easter Food (& maybe leave some for me?) Be a Good Boy!



## THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

### Sunday, April 13

#### Palm Sunday

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

8:30 AM RCIA (MH)

### Monday, April 14

Regular Mass Schedule: 7 & 9 AM

4:00 PM Choir Practice (Church)

### Tuesday, April 15

Regular Mass Schedule: 7 & 9 AM

4:00 PM Chrism Mass at Cathedral

7:00 PM Choir Practice (Church) & (PH)

### Wednesday, April 16

Regular Mass Schedule: 7 & 9 AM

8:00 PM Tenebrae Service (Church)

### Thursday, April 17 - No Daily Masses

8:00 AM Morning Prayer (Church)

7:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper (Church)

10:00 PM Night Prayer (Church)

### Friday, April 18 - No Daily Masses

8:00 AM Morning Prayer (Church)

12:00 PM Seven Last Words

3:00 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

7:00 PM ICS Living Stations (Church)

### Saturday, April 19 - No Daily Masses

8:00 AM Morning Prayer (Church)

12:00 PM Blessing of Easter Food

8:00 PM Vigil Mass (Church)

### Sunday, April 20

#### Easter Sunday

6:00 AM Sunrise Service (Mass in Cemetery)

8:00 AM Mass (Church)

10:00 AM Mass (Church)

10:00 AM Mass (Parish Hall)

12:00 PM Mass (Church)

**Please Note:** *There are no Confessions on Holy Saturday and NO 5 PM Mass on Easter*



### PRO-LIFE HAPPENINGS

40 Days For Life daily Rosary after the 9 am Mass

5/9 - NJRTL Banquet Dinner in New Brunswick. **Speaker: Riley Gaines**



### PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

Thursday, April 17 (Holy Thursday) through Monday, April 21 in celebration of the Triduum and Easter. We will reopen on Tuesday, April 22.

### PREPARING FOR EASTER

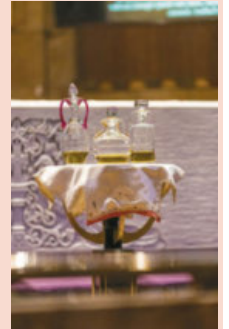
We invite all of you to join us in taking some downtime to prepare for the Triduum. During Holy Week all regular meetings at IC are canceled. The only events that are going on are those that are either part of the services and para-liturgical events or practice/setup for those events. We invite you as well to maintain a reverent silence during this week in your life to truly enter into this holiest time of year.

### JOIN US FOR MORNING PRAYER DURING THE TRIDUUM.

There are no daily Masses on Thursday, Friday or Saturday and the time for the Saturday Vigil is moved until after the sun goes down—this is a universal Church practice. In lieu of Daily Mass, the clergy will be leading the Liturgy of the Hours. This is the prayer of the Church that priests and deacons promise to pray daily. Throughout the four-week Psalter, all 150 Psalms will be prayed and the day is broken up so that you know that someone in the world is always praying. Join us for these beautiful times of prayer.

### CHRISM MASS - TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 4PM Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen

Bishop James F. Checchio will celebrate the Chrism Mass with the priests of the Diocese. At the Mass, all priests make a Renewal of Commitment to Priestly Service, the Bishop will bless & consecrate the Holy Oils, which each parish receives for the rites of anointing. The Oil of Catechumens is used to anoint infants and adults before their Baptism; the Oil of the Sick is used of the infirm in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick; and Sacred Chrism is used to anoint the newly baptized, confirmandi, and the hands of a priest at his ordination, as well as the head of a bishop, and the altar and walls of new churches. All are encouraged to join in-person at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen or via live-stream at:



<https://diometuchen.org/cathedral-livestream>.

## HOLY WEEK ON ST. MARY'S HILL

### CONFESSIONS & PENANCE SERVICES

**MOST PARISHES, INCLUDING US, DO NOT HAVE CONFESSIONS ON HOLY SATURDAY; YOU STILL HAVE TWO MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION THIS WEEK.**

**St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Bridgewater -  
Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm**  
**Immaculate Conception, Somerville -  
Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm**

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday at 7:00 PM in the Church. Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> will be our Living Stations of the Cross performed by our ICS Students.



### BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD BASKETS

Come to the Church at Noon on Holy Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> for our traditional Easter Food basket blessing. Just remember what your mother taught you: your kielbasa and pierogi, ham, lamb, or pansit, etc. always tastes better when it's blessed!

### TENEBRAE - WEDNESDAY APRIL 16, 8PM

Have you ever imagined Our Lord's state of mind as He contemplated His final days on Earth? Knowing the end was near, yet unable to change the outcome? We are pleased to bring back the Tenebrae Service, which draws upon Scripture readings, hymns and ever-increasing darkness, to explore these feelings of despair and draws us closer to Jesus as we enter the Triduum. Tenebrae will be held this Wednesday evening at 8pm; we hope that you will mark your calendars and join us in this unique prayer service during Holy Week. Sorry, Tenebrae, our dog, will not be in attendance.



## Holy Week Schedule



- Tuesday** 4PM Chrism Mass @ Cathedral
- Wednesday** 8 PM Tenebrae Service
- Holy Thursday** 8 AM Morning Prayer,  
7 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Followed by Adoration at the Altar of Repose  
10 PM Night Prayer
- Good Friday** 8 AM Morning Prayer,  
Noon Seven Last Words  
3 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Passion  
7 PM ICS Living Stations
- Holy Saturday** 8 AM Morning Prayer  
12 PM Blessing of Easter Food  
8:00 PM Vigil Mass
- Easter Sunday** 6 AM Sunrise Service Cemetery  
8 AM Mass  
10 AM Mass (Church)  
10 AM Mass (Parish Hall)  
12 PM Mass
- Please Note:** *There are no Confessions on Holy Saturday and NO 5 PM Mass on Easter and only a 9 AM daily Mass on Easter Monday.*



### SUNRISE SERVICE CELEBRATES THE RESURRECTION IN OUR CEMETERY.

Join us at 6 AM in the cemetery for the Easter Mass at Sunrise. It is a bring your own chair event. Please wear warm clothes & bring a blanket along as well as it is often chilly and windy on St. Mary's Hill. If it rains, we will be in the Mausoleum.



**MARCH CONTRIBUTIONS UPDATE**

**Total Offertory for month: \$84,384.32**

Average per week (March): \$16,876.86

Average per week (all 2025): \$17,764.72

Approximately 34.9% came via Faith Direct

*Thank you for your continued support!*

**DONATIONS TO THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL**

**AS OF MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025**

**BAA Goal = \$170,000**



**2025 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL  
PILGRIMS OF HOPE:**

*Journeying Together in Faith, Hope & Charity*

Central to our understanding of Christian stewardship is the concept of accountability. To safeguard the gifts you have entrusted to our care, we recently set up a special foundation, a separate trust, where all the money from this Appeal goes so that it can be used only for those ministries advertised in the Appeal materials and website. You can be assured that your gift is well protected and well used; making a difference in meeting the spiritual, educational and social needs of the people we serve. A gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal is a worthy investment.



**RICE BOWL COLLECTION**

If you took a Rice Bowl for your Lenten Journey, it should be returned now, please have them back by next week at the latest since we want to be able to send those gifts to Catholic Relief Services as soon as possible. Thanks for raising money & awareness for such a great cause.

**ONLINE GIVING WITH FAITH DIRECT**

Help us reduce our envelope & postage expense and support Immaculate Conception in a secure & convenient way by enrolling with *Faith Direct!* Simply visit the Faith Direct website at [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net), using the parish code NJ123.

*From the Pastor's Desk*

We have now entered into Holy Week, after being tested in the desert for 40 days, how have we done? These five+ weeks always seem to go so quickly. In this Year C cycle we walk with Luke's Gospel on this Palm Sunday. What stood out when looking at the Passion from Luke this year was the unique line found in Luke: "Simon, Simon, behold Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail; and once you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers." Peter is addressed by Jesus with his old name to begin with, a sign that the rock will crumble in this time of struggle (in the next line Jesus says the familiar "I tell you **Peter**, before the cock crows this day, you will deny three times that you know me"), Peter does go back to his roots after Jesus' death - he even tells his brothers later "I am going fishing" - his old job. However, in that initial quote, Jesus also is telling him not to give up, that he needs to be the source of strength for the other Apostles once he turns back. This is a reminder to all of us, especially if we failed during our Lenten practices, to never give up on the faith, hope and especially love of Christ. Jesus experiences the triumphant entry into Jerusalem and the almost immediate fall into crucifixion and once again joyful resurrection. Our lives are filled with these ups and downs, and our faith life is often no different. There are times that we play each part in the Passion Narrative, we are all at one time: Our Blessed Mother, the Apostles, Pilate, the Pharisees, Simon of Cyrene, the women of Jerusalem, Joseph of Arimathea, the centurion, the thief and countless others. We have our moments of great faith and fail miserably and deny we even know Jesus. We are at both times sinners and saints. That is the beauty of the Passion, depending on when we are here, we identify with all of them. Yet, we too are called as Simon Peter did, to turn back, and to strengthen our brothers and sisters. May this truly be a Holy Week for each of us and may we be victorious with Christ who does this to defeat the effects of sin.

Pax et bonum,  
*Fr. Keith*

PALM SUNDAY



## BISHOP VISITS IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



Bishop Checchio visited Immaculate Conception last weekend for his annual pastoral visit. Pictures taken by Hal Brown and *The Catholic Spirit*.



A special word of thanks to those who came out to make our liturgy special. Thanks for the extra choir members and altar servers, you were awesome!



DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

# SURVIVING DIVORCE

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

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

**8 WEEK PROGRAM, WEDNESDAYS, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**

Beginning April 23, 2025  
at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center  
146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854

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

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

For information or to register contact: Rachele Hanna at [rachele.hanna@gmail.com](mailto:rachele.hanna@gmail.com)  
Deadline to register  
April 14, 2025

limited to 12 participants  
Pre-registration by phone is required  
Cost \$25 (for book)

The Surviving Divorce program is sponsored by the Diocese of Metuchen's Office of Family Life



Diocesan Jubilee Pilgrimage to the

# Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Washington, D.C.

with Most Rev. James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA,  
Bishop of Metuchen

**September 20, 2025**



Faithful Pilgrims of Hope can obtain a plenary indulgence.

Visit [diometuchen.org/jubilee-2025](http://diometuchen.org/jubilee-2025) for more information.

For parish bus trips, please email Angela Marshall at [amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org) or call 732-562-1543.

# 2025 BIKE BLESSING & GROUP RIDE SATURDAY, MAY 3RD



**REGISTRATION: 9:30AM-10:30AM**  
**BIKE BLESSING: 10:30AM-11:00AM**  
**RIDE: 11:15AM-12:45PM**  
**\$20/BIKE ~ \$10/PASSENGER**  
**LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED FOLLOWING THE RIDE**  
WEATHER PERMITTING. FULL GAS TANKS PLEASE. ALL BIKES WELCOME.



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Join us to Celebrate our  
**40th Anniversary Mass**  
**June 12th, 2025**  
5 pm Mass at Saint Francis Cathedral  
6 pm Reception to follow  
(Free will offering)

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

(call 732.516.0911 to RSVP!)

**June 26th, 2025**

**3rd Annual Somerset Patriots Game!**  
Gates open at 5:30  
Game starts at 6:35  
Fireworks to follow  
Our goal is **250 Life Choices Fans!**

Tickets are \$15 per person!  
Choose Life shirts will be sold at the gate prior to the game!  
\$12 for 1 / \$20 for 2





## FOR THE KIDS & TEENS

"Where did Judas shop for groceries?"



"At Traitor Joe's."



The Wednesday before Easter is known as "Spy Wednesday," because tradition holds that that's when Judas spied for an opportunity to betray Jesus and hand Him over to the Pharisees.

### SHARING THE GOSPEL

One day the people were happy, praising Jesus and waving palm leaves to keep Him cool. The next day they were spitting on Him. They said, "Crucify Him. Crucify Him." It hurts when your best friend says he or she like you one day, and hates you the next day. Jesus will never leave your side. He is a true friend. He will always talk and play with you because He loves you.

### LIVING THE GOSPEL

I will say good things about my family and friends each day.

### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

I want to be a good friend of Yours every day, Lord.

Complete the palm maze.



### HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Knights of Columbus #6245 will be offering three "Good Samaritan Scholarships" to graduating High School Seniors. To be eligible for the Scholarship you must be a registered parishioner at ICC and a senior in High School planning to attend College/Vocational School. You may download a copy of the Application and Instructions for completing it from the Knight's Website

<https://uknight.org/CouncilSite/?CNO=6245>

Forms must be complete and submitted by **Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>**. Email submission to Thomas Smith [duper48@comcast.net](mailto:duper48@comcast.net). US mail submission to Thomas Smith Scholarship Committee Chairman K of C 6245 11 Willow Brook Lane Annandale, NJ 08801. *Recipients will be notified by Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>*.



## COLOR

Read today's Gospel & color the image.





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a baptism, a marriage,  
a graduation, or whatever.

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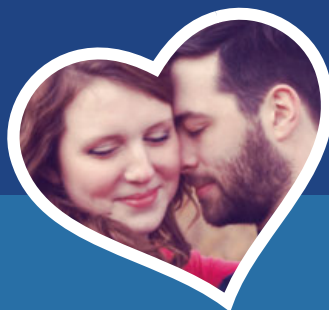
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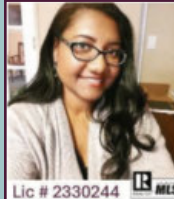
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