

ST. JOSEPH ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

OVER A CENTURY OF CATHOLIC PRESENCE



16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her." - Lk 10:41-42

16° DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

El Señor le respondió:
"Marta, Marta, muchas cosas te preocupan y te inquietan, siendo así que una sola es necesaria. María escogió la mejor parte y nadie se la quitará". - Lc 10, 41-42

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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MISSION STATEMENT

"IN SINCERE GRATITUDE AND WITH GRACE IN OUR HEARTS, ST. JOSEPH PARISH CALLS GOD OUR ONE FATHER. HIS LIFE IS SHOWN TO US THROUGH JESUS AS HIS SON AND OUR SAVIOR. IN THE SPIRIT OF THAT SAME DIVINE LIFE WE REMEMBER, PROFESS AND PRACTICE AS A FAMILY OF BELIEVERS SO THAT THE GOSPEL MAY BE LIGHT AND LEAVEN TO OUR WORLD."

Rev. Msgr. John B. Gordon - Pastor
Rev. Msgr. Pafnouti Wassef - Parochial Vicar
Rev. Sean G. Winters - In Residence
Deacon George Kimball - Permanent Deacon

Deacon Ramon Torres - Permanent Deacon
Deacon Vidal Gonzalez - Permanent Deacon
Ms. Liane Matti, Ms. Ed - Principal
Mrs. Marcelle Doherty - Director of Religious Education/Pastoral Assistant

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JULY 20, 2025

Carta del Pastor

Dear Parish Family,

Greetings as our schedule enjoys any trips and visits. Please continue to remember our weekly support with envelope giving as you return from any absences. Your generosity to the parish does not go unrewarded.

The vocation camping event of Quo Vadis open to young men 14yrs-17yrs old is approaching on July 29-31. At present, we have two young men registered. If anyone would like to join, please see the announcement below and the flyers in the church entrance. It is held at Shiloh Camp, Hewitt, NJ.

As part of our Pastoral Plan, we invite our parish seniors to participate as 'school buddies' with our little ones at St. Joseph School. They will do this by attending the monthly school Mass and sharing the blessing of the Lord and our gratitude for seeing the whole parish helping to lead our children through their journey of learning. Please see the sign up to participate as 'School Buddies' in the church foyer.

We have an offer of a donated baby grand piano. It was given in memory of one of our recently deceased parishioners. If any household has an interest in accepting this gift, please call the rectory at 732-541-8946.

Thank you for your faith and God's faithfulness...

In the Lord,

Msgr. John

Querida familia parroquial:

Un saludo ya que en nuestro horario disfrutamos de cualquier viaje y visitas. Por favor, continúe recordando nuestro apoyo semanal con la entrega de sobres a medida que regrese de cualquier ausencia. Su generosidad hacia la parroquia no queda sin recompensa.

El evento de campamento vocacional de Quo Vadis, abierto a jóvenes de 14 a 17 años, se acerca del 29 al 31 de julio. En la actualidad, tenemos dos jóvenes registrados. Si alguien desea unirse, por favor vea el anuncio a continuación y los folletos en la entrada de la iglesia. Se lleva a cabo en Shiloh Camp, Hewitt, NJ.

Como parte de nuestro Plan Pastoral, invitamos a los estudiantes de último año de nuestra parroquia a participar como "compañeros de escuela" con nuestros pequeños en la Escuela San José. Lo harán asistiendo a la Misa mensual de la escuela y compartiendo la bendición del Señor y nuestra gratitud por ver a toda la parroquia ayudando a guiar a nuestros hijos a través de su viaje de aprendizaje. Por favor, consulte el registro para participar como 'Compañeros de escuela' en el vestíbulo de la iglesia.

Tenemos una oferta de un piano de cola donado. Fue dado en memoria de uno de nuestros feligreses recientemente fallecidos. Si algún hogar tiene interés en aceptar este regalo, llame a la rectoría al 732-541-8946.

Gracias por su fe y la fidelidad de Dios...

En el Señor,

Mons. John

SACRAMENTS

Baptism (English): The second Saturday of the month at 1:00 PM.

Baptism (Spanish): The first Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m.

Please arrange for the obligatory preparation session by calling the Parish Office.

Pastoral Care of the Sick: The Holy Eucharist and the Anointing of the Sick are available to the sick and shut-ins upon request.

First Penance, First Eucharist, Confirmation: Children are expected to receive a Catholic upbringing in their family life, to worship regularly at Sunday Mass, and to receive ongoing Religious Education in the years preceding the reception of these sacraments.

Matrimony: To allow ample time for preparation, please contact the Parish Office at least one year before the intended wedding date.

Holy Orders or Religious Life: If you are considering serving God as a Priest, Deacon or Religious, you may contact your Parish Priest or Deacon; or phone the Office of Vocations at 732-562-2457 for additional information.

MASS SCHEDULE

5:00 PM (*Saturday evening Vigil Mass*)

Sunday: 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM

12:30 PM - Spanish Mass

Monday to Friday: 8:00 AM; *Saturday:* 8:30 AM

Thursday: 7:00 PM - Spanish Mass

St. Peregrine Mass for the Sick

Second Thursday of the month - 7:00 PM

Recitation of Rosary before 8am Daily Mass

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 11:00 AM

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Weekdays: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

MAILING ADDRESS
TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

<u>Parish</u>	<u>School</u>
7 Locust Street	865 Roosevelt Avenue
Carteret, NJ 07008	Carteret, NJ 07008
Parish Office	732-541-8946
Parish Office Fax	732-541-0500
Religious Education	732-969-8767
School	732-541-7111
St. Vincent de Paul Society	732-541-8946 x108

PARISH SERVICES

Parish Registration: New parishioners are welcome. Please call the parish office to register. Please inform us if you move.

R.C.I.A.: Adults inquiring about the Catholic Church with a desire to become Catholic are invited to call the parish office for information about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Parish Organizations: Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Ministry to the Sick & Elderly, RCIA Team, Food Pantry, Hispanic Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Home School Association, Athletic Association, and Catechetical Instruction.

Sponsorship: To act as a Godparent for Baptism or sponsor for Confirmation, the sponsor must be a baptized Catholic, Confirmed, received Communion, and live a morally good life; if married, done so within church law. Ordinarily the sponsor must be at least 14 years old.

WEBSITE:
sjps.net

EMAIL:
stjosephparishcarteret@sjps.net



St Joseph School Office

is open during the summer
Monday - Thursday from 8 am to 1pm.
(School office is not open on Friday's)



St Joseph Religious Education (PREP) Office

is open during the summer
Monday and Wednesday only,
from 9:30am to 1:30pm
Summer hours are until August 30th



Welcome to Bingo at St. Joseph Church!

We all love a good game of Bingo, so stop by with some friends and join in the fun!!

Please Join us, Bingo games will take place every Friday in the **Church Hall**.

We will have a \$5.00 Entrance fee. Doors open at 6pm and play begins at 7:00pm. Seating will be on a first come, first serve basis.

The kitchen will be open with a limited menu in place. Personal bingo items must be taken home at the end of the night. If you don't want to take the items with you, please dispose of them in the trash bins located in the hall. Anything left will be thrown away.

Volunteers and concessions help is currently needed. No prior knowledge or experience is required. Contact the parish office at 732 541 8946 for more information.



¡Bienvenidos al Bingo en la Iglesia de San José!

A todos nos encanta un buen juego de bingo, ¡así que pásate con algunos amigos y únete a la diversión!

Unase a nosotros, los juegos de bingo se llevarán a cabo todos los viernes **en el salón de la iglesia**.

Tendremos una tarifa de entrada de \$ 5.00. Las puertas se abren a las 6 p.m. y el juego comienza a las 7:00 p.m. Los asientos se asignarán por orden de llegada.

La cocina estará abierta con un menú limitado.

Los artículos de bingo personales deben llevarse a casa al final de la noche. Si no desea llevar los artículos con usted, deséchelos en los contenedores de basura ubicados en el pasillo. Todo lo que quede se tirará a la basura.

Actualmente se necesitan voluntarios y concesiones. No se requieren conocimientos ni experiencia previa. Comuníquese con la oficina parroquial al 732 541 8946



St Joseph Labor Day 50/50

Raffle Tickets are on Sale NOW!

Purchase and/or help us sell RAFFLE BOOKS!

\$10 per ticket on sale after all Masses

Available for sale in the Parish Office:

Monday thru Friday 9am – 2pm

Winning Ticket will be drawn:

September 6th at 6pm

at the Parish Fellowship

7 Locust St Carteret NJ 07008

RL # 2262



As a priest and pastor of souls, evangelization and faith formation were at the heart of Blessed Michael McGivney's vision for the Knights of Columbus. He recognized the need to form men in their faith and provide the opportunity and means to keep them faithful and active within the Church. Catholic gentlemen 18 years and older can strengthen their faith by joining us online at www.kofc.org/join. Use Promo Code **Blessed McGivney** for one year of free membership. Our local Council is 1280.



Como sacerdote y pastor de almas, la evangelización y la formación en la fe fueron fundamentales en la visión del Beato Michael McGivney para los Caballeros de Colón. Reconoció la necesidad de formar a los hombres en la fe y brindarles la oportunidad y los medios para mantenerlos fieles y activos en la Iglesia. Los caballeros católicos mayores de 18 años pueden fortalecer su fe uniéndose a nosotros en línea en <http://www.kofc.org/unete>. Usen el código promocional **Blessed McGivney** para obtener una membresía gratuita de un año. Nuestro Consejo local es 1280.



We announce our trip to the Immaculate Conception Shrine, Washington, DC on Saturday, September 20 as a parish pilgrimage day. We will visit, share in the blessings and feel renewed during this Jubilee Year beginning in Advent and continuing through 2025. Tickets are \$65 per person. Reservations can be made through Ivis Rosa, our coordinator for RCIA, now known as OCIA, at 732-423-8132. **Space is Limited. All tickets Must be paid in advance.**

Anunciamos un viaje al Santuario de la Inmaculada Concepción en Washington, DC, el sábado 20 de Septiembre como un día de peregrinación parroquial. Visitaremos, compartiremos las bendiciones y nos sentiremos renovados durante este Año Jubilar que comienza en Adviento y continúa hasta 2025. Las entradas cuestan \$65 por persona. Las reservas se pueden hacer a través de Ivis Rosa, nuestra coordinadora de RCIA, ahora conocida como OCIA, al 732-423-8132. **El cupo es limitado, Reserva el tuyo hoy. Todas las entradas deben pagarse por adelantado.**

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL



The school community of Saint Joseph gathers together around the Gospel "Good News" to explore, study, and understand knowledge of the world. We educate our students to become responsible, spiritual young adults who respect themselves and others and use their gifts and talents to make positive contributions to the needs of society and the future of our world.

Now Enrolling! PK3-8

STREAM



SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL
865 Roosevelt Avenue
Carteret, NJ 07008
Tel: 732-541-7111



www.saintjosephschoolcarteret.net



Become A Part of OUR SCHOOL FAMILY

Call today and schedule your tour at 732-541-7111

Registration is now open for the 2024-2025 school year. In our Eagles Preschool Program, children ages three (3) and four (4) experience the same learning environment as the older students. Not only do the children believe, achieve, serve, and succeed, but they are provided with a rich STREAM program that encourages them to reach their full potential.

Become A Part Of Our School Family
Please Visit the following link to register:

<https://saintjosephschoolcarteret.net/2025-2026registration>

Forme en parte de nuestra familia Escolar

Por favor visite el siguiente enlace para registrarse:

<https://saintjosephschoolcarteret.net/2025-2026registration>

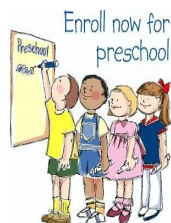
Registrarse ahora 2025-2026 Llama al (732) 541-7111 y Programa una Visita

Saint Joseph Pre-School

3 & 4 Year Old Program

Full and Half -Day sessions are available
Where Faith, Learning, and Fun go hand in hand!

For more information or to register,
Please call the School Office
at (732) 541-7111



Shop-Rite Certificates/Gift cards

Everyone needs to shop for groceries & prescriptions. The certificates program is a way for St. Joseph's to earn five cents on every dollar spent at Shop-Rite without any additional cost to shoppers. Certificates are available at the Parish Office and at the St Joseph Parish School Monday through Friday 9am to 2pm.

ST. JOACHIM & ST. ANNE

Prayer to Saints Joachim and Anne

Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

O glorious Saints Joachim and Anne, Grandparents of the Most High! Great indeed is our Lord's affection for you. We honor your faithfulness in marriage, and your openness to God's hidden plan. It was from your marital embrace that the Spirit fashioned your fair daughter Mary to be sinless; the dawning of a new creation awakening from her Immaculate Conception. It was in your family that she learned to love God and grow in every virtue. By a life of obedience to the Law of God lived in your home, Mary was prepared to receive the Eternal Word into her heart and into her womb. From your tender love Mary learned a motherhood that knew no bounds, and by the example of your married life, Mary knew what it was to be a faithful wife to Joseph, her most chaste spouse. O Saints Anne and Joachim, great indeed are you who gave life to the Mother of our Savior! It pleased God to create from your union a woman freed from the stain of sin, by the saving death of the son she had not yet conceived.

Dearest Saints Joachim and Anne, pray that our families may grow in holiness and that our homes may become grace filled sanctuaries of love. By your powerful intercession, protect and guide all grandparents that they may be great examples of faith. **Amen.**





St. Joseph Church
Parish Religious Education Program

PREP Office Hours
Monday 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday 3:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

PREP Classes
Tuesdays - 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Grades 5, 6, 7, 8

Wednesdays - 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Grades 1, 2, 3, 4

The St. Joseph Parish Religion Education Program (PREP) Office is located in the St. Joseph School.

Please give us a call or send an email to
mndoherty@sjps.net

For additional information.

Phone: 732-969-8767 or 732-969-6677

Fax: 732-541-0712

PREP REGISTRATION 2025- 2026

Registration is now open for the 2025-2026 Religious Education year. You can also complete an Online Registration Form on our website at:
www.sjps.net.

Registration Forms will also be available at the PREP office and Parish office.

Prayer inspired by St Mary Magdalene

O God, Jesus entrusted Mary Magdalene before all other with announcing the great joy of the Resurrection, grant, we pray, that through her intercession and example we may proclaim this joy wherever we are.
Amen.

July 22nd



be KIDS

Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

"Make time to listen to Jesus"



Jesus Visits Martha and Mary

A woman named Martha welcomed Jesus into her home. Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what He taught. But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me."

But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her."

Word Search:

A	F	P	J	G	2	K	H	2	K	A	D	Y	R	D	D	M
N	T	A	Y	V	E	R	H	S	F	E	A	U	R	E	M	S
O	J	L	L	C	A	N	E	U	X	M	D	U	M	X	A	R
I	E	E	R	O	L	S	E	D	D	D	R	O	V	T	R	E
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I	U	T	G	V	D	O	P	F	O	S	S	O	J	I	M	A
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I	C	N	N	R	A	S	E	A	T	R	I	M	N	C	G	E
C	H	E	D	T	M	C	S	L	F	K	N	T	U	I	D	V
U	R	R	N	S	T	T	T	K	T	2	X	U	Y	P	A	O
R	I	N	2	Y	E	M	K	E	A	S	T	E	R	L	L	L
C	S	S	2	D	D	D	P	G	N	F	O	F	T	E	E	G
I	T	I	Y	R	T	X	E	G	A	I	I	P	F	S	N	P
C	A	L	L	V	A	2	2	T	F	R	V	Y	A	S	E	2
X	R	Y	U	F	K	J	U	M	S	C	M	E	J	O	G	S
Y	J	C	J	Y	N	M	2	T	F	A	U	R	H	L	E	Y
E	A	P	E	N	I	T	E	N	T	S	I	N	N	E	R	S

Mary Magdalene	Glove Makers	Demons Casted
Penitent Sinners	Magdala	Converts
Generosity	Apostles	Disciples
Easter	Crucifixion	Palastine
	First	

Updates from the



DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

Free Webinar A Natural Approach to Fertility Care July 24, 2025

The Office of Family life invites you to a free webinar, "A Natural Approach to Fertility Care" on Thursday, July 24th, at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. Presenter, Dr. Monika Potocki, of the Gianna Center in New Brunswick will discuss NAPRO Technology, an effective and ethical approach to fertility care in line with the teachings of the Catholic Church. To register, please visit:

<https://diometuchen.org/familylife>.

For questions, please contact Cristina at:

cdaverso@diometuchen.org

Lectio Divina for Couples & Families

Two Thursdays per Month at 6:30pm on Zoom. Couples and families are welcome to join in praying Lectio Divina (a meditative reading of a short scripture passage).

Contact: cdaverso@diometuchen.org with any questions and for more details.

The Diocese of Metuchen's Office of Vocations invites young men ages 14-17 to attend

QUOVADIS

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

Prayer • Fellowship • Adventure
Teambuilding Activities
JULY 29th - 31st, 2025
Questions? Email: quovadis@diometuchen.org

Please RSVP by June 30th
Scan to learn more and register at
www.diometuchen.org/quovadis

LIFE-GIVING Wounds RETREAT

A Healing Retreat for Adult Children of Divorce, Separation, or Family Brokenness

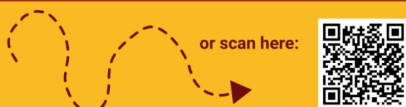


August 22-24th	San Alfonso Retreat House Long Branch, NJ	\$315

The retreat includes meditations by the national Life-Giving Wounds retreat team, small group discussion, Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, lunch, and more.

Register Now At:
diometuchen.org/adult-children-of-divorce

Questions:
cdaverso@diometuchen.org



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 for more information.

For parish bus trips, please email Angela Marshall at amarshall@diometuchen.org or call 732-562-1543.

NJ BISHOPS' Mass for Life

Thursday, September 25, 2025 • 9:30 a.m.

Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption
151 N. Warren Street, Trenton

CELEBRANT Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., D.D., Archdiocese of Newark	HOMILIST Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney, D.D., Diocese of Paterson

NEW JERSEY MARCH FOR LIFE

*The NJ Rally & March for Life will begin at 11 am at the Statehouse Annex, a short walk from the Cathedral

For bus trip information, scan:



For full information, visit: dioceseoftrenton.org/nj-march-for-life

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY July 19th
Weekday

5:00 PM+ Deceased Members of the Dehanes Family

SUNDAY July 20th

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 AM+ Julius Ciszak

10:30 AM+ Mary Ann Ballantyne

12:30 PM People of the Parish

MONDAY July 21st

St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:00 AM+ Albert Rego

TUESDAY July 22nd

St. Mary Magdalene

8:00 AM+ Michael Brezas

WEDNESDAY July 23rd

Saint Bridget, Religious

8:00 AM Prayer for the Health of Sophia Obidike

THURSDAY July 24th

Saint Sharbel Makhluf, Priest

8:00 AM Health and Blessing for Stella Muegge

11:30 AM Adoration

6:00 PM Exposicion y Adoracion

7:00 PM+ Julia Gonzalez

FRIDAY July 25th

St James, Apostle

8:00 AM Prayer for the Health of Sophia Obidike

SATURDAY July 26th

Saints Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Virgin Mary

8:30 AM Prayer for the Health of Sophia Obidike

5:00 PM+ Henry & Marie Ostrowski

SUNDAY July 20th

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 AM+ Maria & Giovanni DiMartino

10:30 AM+ Delores Canonizado

12:30 PM People of the Parish

****Recitation of Rosary before 8am Daily Mass****



Thanks
for Your
Support!

SACRIFICIAL GIVING
OFFERTORY COLLECTION
July 15th, 2025 —\$5,839.00

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Gn 18:1-10a; Col 1:24-28; Lk 10:38-42
Monday: Ex 14:5-18; Mt 12:38-42
Tuesday: Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Wednesday: Ex 16:1-5, 9-15; Mt 13:1-9
Thursday: Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b; Mt 13:10-17
Friday: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Mt 20:20-28
Saturday: Ex 24:3-8; Mt 13:24-30
Next Sunday: Gn 18:20-32; Col 2:12-14; Lk 11:1-13

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Domingo: Gn 18, 1-10; Col 1, 24-28; Lc 10, 38-42
Lunes: Ex 14, 5-18; Mt 12, 38-42
Martes: Cant 3, 1-4 o 2 Co 5, 14-17; Jn 20, 1-2, 11-18
Miércoles: Ex 16, 1-5, 9-15; Mt 13, 1-9
Jueves: Ex 19, 1-2, 9-11, 16-20; Mt 13, 10-17
Viernes: 2 Co 4, 7-15; Mt 20, 20-28
Sábado: Ex 24, 3-8; Mt 13, 24-30
Domingo siguiente: Gn 18, 20-32; Col 2, 12-14; Lc 11, 1-13

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Thursdays in the Church Chapel

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM



*Restoration, sanctification, transformation,
reparation, and salvation are the graces being
poured out graciously upon us with each Holy Hour
we make. -Excerpt from Letter To A Brother
Priest*

Join us for Eucharistic Adoration. Prayer and meditation before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament are great ways to spend some special time with Him. You can ask Him for graces for yourself or for loved ones, reflect on His Word, or just keep Him company!

“For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under Heaven...”

a time to heal... for those in our Parish who are ill and especially for Alice Benson, Angel Collazo, Anthony LaMotta, Anthony Reveillac, Angelina Virola, Ashley Thatcher, Damaris Munoz, Elsa Pacheco, Flor Gonzalez, Gabriella Rodriguez, Hernesto Cabrera, Ismael Fonseca, John Sewing, Josie Gibbs, Joyce Wizna, Juan Ramirez Ortiz, Kelley Nelson, Kirsten Kisselman, Maria Elcy Fonseca, Marie Gallo, Mary Jane Nemara, Mary Warren, Melissa Collaso, Ray Sewing, Raymond Sewing, William Fonseca.

Recently Departed but never will be forgotten...

Rev. Msgr. Edward Puleo, Vilma Scott, Marcelo Alvarado, William P. Gray Jr., Anna G. Slawinski, Maria Clara Vidal, Anne Karen McComb, Michael Notarmaso, Teresita Villanueva, Juan Muniz Mercado, Marie Zemanovich, Alice Perry.

Pope's July prayer intention:

‘For formation in discernment’

Pope Leo XIV releases his prayer intention for the month of July, and invites us to pray that we may know how to choose the right path for our life and reject anything that leads us away from Christ.

Pope Leo XIV's prayer for discernment

*Holy Spirit, you, light of our understanding,
gentle breath that guides our decisions,
grant me the grace to listen attentively to your voice
and to discern the hidden paths of my heart,
so that I may grasp what truly matters to you,
and free my heart from its troubles.
I ask you for the grace to learn how to pause,
to become aware of the way I act,
of the feelings that dwell within me,
and of the thoughts that overwhelm me
which, so often, I fail to notice.
I long for my choices
to lead me to the joy of the Gospel.
Even if I must go through moments of doubt and fatigue,
even if I must struggle, reflect, search, and begin again...
Because, at the end of the journey,
your consolation is the fruit of the right decision.
Grant me a deeper understanding of what moves me,
so that I may reject what draws me away from Christ,
and love him and serve him more fully.
Amen.*