

Welcome to
**Good
Shepherd
Parish**

Hopelawn,
New Jersey 08861

MISSION STATEMENT

We are called by Jesus as a community of faith to love God and love one another by our acts of worship, fellowship and stewardship.



September 13, 2020 • The Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rev. Krystian Burdzy
Deacon Sam Costantino
Deacon Albert Coppola
Maria C. Arcelay
Wayne Behr

Administrator

R.C.I.A.
Parish Secretary/PCL/Cemetery Coordinator
Director of Liturgical Music

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass	4:30PM
Sunday Masses:	8:30AM & 11:00AM
Daily Mass	Monday at 7:00PM (<i>Holidays at 9am, or otherwise stated</i>) Tuesday-Friday at 8:00AM
Holy Days	as announced
Confessions:	Saturday afternoon 3:30 - 4:00PM
Novenas:	Miraculous Medal and St. Jude Novena following Monday 7:00PM Mass St. Anthony Novena Wednesday morning following 8:00AM Mass

THE PARISH CENTER

Parish and Cemetery Offices
625 Florida Grove Rd., Hopelawn, New Jersey
Phone: 732-826-4859 • Fax: 732-826-6078
Website: www.goodshepherdpanj.org
E-mail: Goodshepherd20@verizon.net
Office Open Monday-Friday 9:00AM - 4:00PM
Evenings by Appointment Only
Closed Weekends and Federal Holidays

PERTH AMBOY CATHOLIC

PRIMARY-UPPER LEVELS

Sr. Beverly Policastro S.C., Principal
St. Stephen School Building (732) 826-1598

BLESSED SACRAMENT (CHAPEL)

Located in the Parish Center
Open for Private Prayer during office hours



Parish Information

We welcome you to the Good Shepherd Parish Community!

Please register at the Parish Office as soon as you are able to do so, and the staff will be happy to inform you about our parish and the opportunities we offer. Parish registration is required for religious education, celebration of all Sacraments and certification as a sponsor for Baptism and Confirmation. Regular Sunday worship with us indicates a practicing Catholic, not just parish registration. Attendance is necessary at weekend worship for the all sacraments and certification of sponsorship. Please notify the parish office of any changes in phone numbers, addresses, e-mail addresses or when leaving the parish.

We have hospitality Sunday, the first Sunday of the month. Please come and meet our Priest and fellow parishioners.

Baptism: All Baptisms are celebrated on the first Sunday of the month at **12noon**. The preparation process should begin at least three months before the planned date of the Baptism. A Baptism Preparation Class is required for parents (godparents may attend if they wish). This class is offered on the fourth Sunday of each month at **9:45 AM**. Please call the parish office to register. The date of the baptism is scheduled after attending the class. Parish membership and active worship is required for two months prior to preparation.

Religious Education: Provides faith filled instructions for Levels 1st through 8th. We have classes on two Saturdays a month from 8:45am to 11am. Special instructions are given for sacramental preparations.

Initiation of Adults and Older Children: This is an extended formation process for unbaptized or uncatechized adults or baptized Christians of other faith traditions who wish to become members of the Catholic Church, as well as for unbaptized or uncatechized school-aged children. Please contact the parish office for more information. Initiation is celebrated at the Easter Vigil after a formation period of one or two years.

Adult Confirmation: This is a program for persons over the age of 18 who have received the Sacraments of Baptism and First Eucharist, but who never completed their initiation with the Sacrament of Confirmation. The program is a 10-12 week program, with Confirmation being celebrated on the Solemnity of Pentecost. Please call the parish office for more details.

Matrimony: Couples wishing to marry in Good Shepherd Parish must be registered members of our parish. They are required to make initial arrangements at least one year in advance. Four sessions with the priest or deacon, as well as Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter take place during this year. Active worship for at least two months are required before a date may be scheduled.

Anointing of the Sick: Anyone who is seriously ill or unable to come to church for a length of time should contact the parish office to arrange for the Anointing of the Sick. Eucharistic Ministers bring Holy Communion to homebound parishioners every Sunday, and our priest will visit on the First Friday of each month. Please call the parish office to make arrangements. The Diocese of Metuchen provides Catholic priests to serve at all local hospitals.

Holy Orders: If you are interested in learning more about the priesthood or religious life, contact the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Metuchen at 732-562-1990, ext. 1700 or by email at vocations@diometuchen.org or visit www.diometuchen.org/vocations.

GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

FINANCIAL CORNER

8/16/20	\$5,174.00
Assumption	\$757.00

MONTHLY OPERATING INCOME & EXPENSE JUNE 2020

Collection Income	\$ 28,531.00
Other Income	\$ 9,836.00
Total Income*	\$ 38,367.00
Expenses	\$ 44,153.00
Month's Income/(Deficit)	\$ (5,786.00)
Year-to-Date (July '19 – June '20)	
Income/(Deficit)	\$ (57,132.00)
Outstanding Diocesan Assessment	
Debt as of August 31st	\$ 49,600.00
Outstanding Diocesan Roof Loan Debt	
as of August 31st	\$ 535,000.00

Church Donations

We sincerely thank our parishioners who mail or deliver their weekly envelopes to the Parish Office when they're unable to come to Mass. Even in these times of so many changes, suspensions and disruptions, our bills to run our Parish still need to be paid. If you are financially able, please continue to support our Church. You may mail your donations or put them in the locked mailbox, or door slot in the front of the Parish Office. Thank you for your continued support and understanding. Stay well and God bless!

**This is access for live streaming from
St. Francis Cathedral, Metuchen.
Daily Masses are celebrated at
7 am every day including weekends!!!**

https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/_luaKrS6msElxmRnPflw2fxD0li3pMrxN/stream/55?fullscreen=false&showtabssearch=true&autostart=false

also available on: <https://www.ewtn.com>

ORGANIZATIONS

NAME	DAY	TIME
Holy Name Society	2nd Thursday	7:00PM
Ladies Guild	2nd Tuesday	7:00 PM
Rosary Altar Society	2nd Sunday	9:30 AM
Tuesday Seniors	2nd & 4th Tues.	12:30 PM
Wednesday Seniors	1st & 3rd Wed.	12:30 PM

If you are interested in any of our above organizations/ministries, please contact the Parish Office for more information.

MINISTRIES

NAME	CONTACT	PHONE
Chairperson-Finance Council	Marty Joyce	732-826-4859
Music Ministry	Parish Office	732-826-4859
Religious Education	Maria C. Arcelay	732-826-4859

Sundays Readings

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading

SIR 27:30-28-7

Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail. Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the LORD? Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins? If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins? Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin! Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

PS 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12

R. (8) The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills. He redeems your life from destruction, crowns you with kindness and compassion.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

He will not always chide, nor does he keep his wrath forever. Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Second Reading

ROM 14:7-9

Brothers and sisters: None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

JN 13:34

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord: love one another as I have loved you.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

MT 18:21-35

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Hymns used for this Liturgy

Entrance: **There's A Wideness In God's Mercy - #712**

Offertory: **Christians, Let Us Love One Another - #717**

Communion: **You Alone - #581**



My Dear Friends,

It's been nearly 6 months since the Coronavirus hit our community with so many changes on how we handle our every-day tasks. We've needed to adjust in many ways. We've succumbed to a virtual world where live streaming is the new norm. On July 5th, we ended our livestream, when the new guidelines of 100 persons or fewer were allowed to attend our weekend church Masses. And with the strict protocol for participation in our Mass, I had hoped you would feel comfortable to return and attend Mass with us. However, due to many underlying health issues, some of you are still reluctant to attend.

Respectfully, I've heard your concerns, and beginning **Sunday, September 27 at the 11am Mass**, we will begin to livestream once again. We will continue to livestream all future 11am, Sunday Masses only, until our State and Diocese mandates improve. I am asking for your help to manage the camera. If you are available and can help, please see me before Mass begins or contact the Parish Office.

On **September 27th** during the **11am Mass**, our **Elect**, Edgar Puesan, Amanda Taveras, and Gianna Taveras, our **Catechumen**, Jariel Baez, Ricardo Bravo, Krystal Suarez, Darielene Suriel, Deeani Suriel, and Juan Valencia, and our **Confirmanti**, Angela Resti, Antoinette Resti, Jennifer Resti, Maria Rojas, Tanya Broughton, Yudelka Valerio, and Madeleine Villalba will finally receive their long awaited Sacraments. Please keep them in your prayers. Since this Mass is expected to be heavily attended, it will be livestreamed.

This weekend, we begin our online in home, Zoom Religious Ed program. I'd like to thank our PCL Maria Arcelay and Catechists, Rose Lund, Susan Gulyas, Abigail Gulyas, Michael Farley, Nancy Brown, Nikki Honisz & Mildred Morales for returning and taking on this task this school year. May God's blessing be with you all.

Next weekend, Sunday, September 20th, during the 11am Mass, we will offer a special blessing for those who have graduated from 8th Grade, High School or College this past year. Everyone is invited to attend.

With prayers,

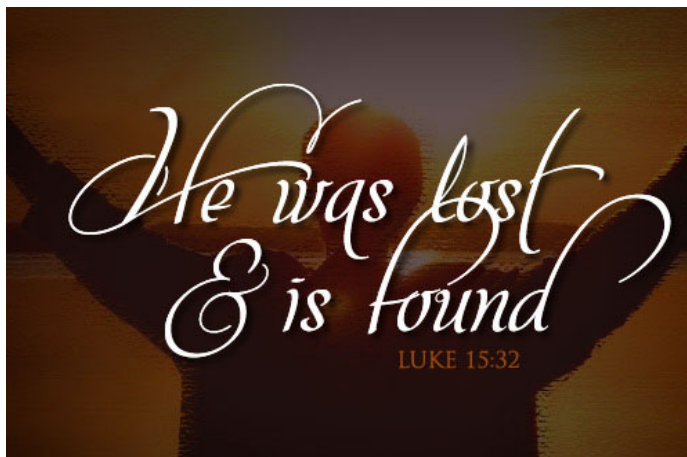
Fr. Krystian

For the month of September pray for those affected by Covid -19, and all hospital and nursing home personnel who are working so bravely and tirelessly , their families, our sick and homebound of our Parish family, especially:

Carlos Bendrell, Andrea Costantino, Noah Dahlberg, Carolyn Duane, Pat Dunn, Chuck F., Victor & Melissa Ferrer, Tommy Fitzpatrick, Joseph Frisbe, Mike Gaffney, Carol George, Johnny Gondek, Richard Hajzer, Nancy Hunt, Tommy Jones, Bill Karvalis, Arleen Kopin, Judy Liik, Rose Langan, Brianna Ortega, Megan Ortega, Carol Magyar, JoAnn Magyar, Fr. John Morley, Raymond Magyar, Ellen Malopolski, Maryanne Mateuszczyk, Connie & Vince Montuoro, Lynn Munoz, Mary Murray, Teresa P., Catherine Paone, Christopher Paone, Danny Parker, Dianne Petro-Duncan, Julia Possert, Caroline Pry, Stephen Pry, Ann Rapetti, Greg Rohrbacher, Fred Rose, Paul Sheena, Jack Stacey, Tamya Stacy, Maryann Suhay, Telofski Family, Dave & Louise Utter, Elsie Vega, Maryann Whalen & Bernard Yaros.

With respect to personal privacy only requests made by immediate family members will be taken. If you would like to add or continue to keep a name on our list: call the parish office at 732-826-4859 or email goodshepherd20@verizon.net.

Please keep in mind that we pray for all the sick every day in the general intercessions of the Mass.



Many of you requested to have Deacon Mickey Coppola's Homily published:

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

As we see in the 1st reading, and in our Gospel story, the keeper of the keys to the House of David was an image the early church applied to Jesus, who then subsequently passed his authority to the apostles.

And so when Jesus asks the question: "Who do you say that I am?" We are encouraged by Peter's answer. He got that one right. But like us, he did not always get things right.

He doubted Jesus' prediction of his passion...he denied him 3 times after his arrest.

But the question Jesus asks is not just a question about him. It is also a question about us! Who are we? What do we believe? On what rock have we chosen to stand?

The answer to Jesus' question: "Who do you say that I am?" will define who we are...how we live...what we do...who we have become in our lives.

And so, today it begs the question: "What kind of trustworthy stewards, have we "the church" lived up to throughout the centuries since Jesus' mandate to Peter?"

Today, in our Western world, an ever-growing number of people are questioning the validity of the church, and are seeking to find God and moral guidance, outside the walls of the Christian churches.

They see the church as a compromised institution. One with too much blood on their hands... and too many skeletons in its closet.

They no longer believe that it is an institution that mediates God's grace. Coupled with this criticism of the church's faults, is the simple view that the church has tried for more than 2000yrs and not really changed anything.

It is kind of like a long-standing sports franchise that has never won a championship.

And so, these people are asking "... is God really to be found in an organization that slaughtered so many people in the Crusades...that used the Inquisition as a divine tool...

...That sanctioned racism and sexism for centuries...And that has in its history religious wars, sinful silences, pedophiles, and bishops who protected them among its ministers?

How can the church be forgiven for some of its history and parts of its present practices?

But what these critics fail to see is that the church whom they criticize so much and so often has also accomplished many good things and brought us many good people throughout its history.

Carlo Carretto, a great Italian spiritual writer, in his book "I Sought and I Found" wrote a little tribute to the church which captures well both its scandals and its grace. He writes:

"How much I criticize you my church, and yet, how much I love you! You have made me suffer more than anyone, and yet I owe more to you than to anyone..."

...Never in this world have I seen anything more compromised, more false... yet never have I touched anything more pure, more generous and more beautiful....

Countless times I have felt like slamming the door of my soul in your face... and yet every night I pray that I might die in your arms..."Our 2nd reading today from Paul's letter to the Romans says this about God: "...How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways...for who has known the mind of the Lord...?"

What this means is that in this life, and what church critics should come to understand is, if we want to meet the presence of God within his church community, we will never meet it in its purest form.

All communities of faith mediate the grace of God in a very mixed way. Sin, pettiness, and betrayal are always found alongside of grace, holiness, and fidelity.

The crucifixion scene is a good image of the church. Jesus dies between 2 criminals. God on a cross between 2 thieves. The Church is always God hung between 2 thieves!

No one should be surprised or shocked at how the church has betrayed the gospel. We are all guilty of hypocrisy and betrayal!

Conversely, no one should deny the good the church has done either. We have educated many through Catholic education... healed many through Catholic hospitals... and ministered to the poor through Catholic Charities and your generosity.

Next to this country our church is the most generous institution in the history of creation. It has carried grace, produced many saints, morally challenged this planet...and its leaders...

It demands that there be some real sharing of life together. That we pray together...celebrate our rites of passage together...celebrate some of our joys...our fears and sorrows...our finances...

That we be responsible for each other and open to mutual correction and challenge... Sinners and saints together.

To be a member of the church is to carry the mantle of both the worst sins and the finest heroism of the soul...

...Because like the very flawed Peter, we are the objects of God's calling... and God desires to build his kingdom on the likes of us...All of us spiritual slackers...all of us in the desert of our lives...

...all of us who fall on our knees exclaiming how unworthy and sinful we are...

... It is not for us to ask why... not for us to protest our unworthiness...

...No, we have only one choice...

...To humbly receive the keys of the kingdom, and open the doors of grace to as many people as we can...

...Because the church will always look exactly as it looked at the original crucifixion...God hung among thieves...

...And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it!

Deacon Mickey Coppola

Coronavirus Rules

- **STAY HOME IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL.**
- **PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING.**
- **WASH YOUR HANDS.**
- **BRING YOUR OWN HAND SANITIZER.**
- **FOLLOW ALL GREEN POSTED SIGNS FOR YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY.**
- **Masks must ALWAYS BE WORN when entering our church.**
- **Masks must remain on during all Mass services.**
- You may sit with your family.
- **ABSOLUTELY NO GATHERING!**
- The distribution of the Eucharist will follow the final Blessing.
- Instructions for the receiving line will be given before, during, and towards the end of Mass. Please follow your Usher.
- **FOR HEALTH REASONS THE EUCHARIST CAN ONLY BE RECEIVED BY HAND.**
- To avoid congestion during the receiving line or exiting, the congregation will be dismissed by row.
- If you are not planning on receiving the Eucharist, you may exit when it is your row's turn for dismissal.
- When receiving the Eucharist, you may bring your mask down, consume, then replace it to its original place. Then you may exit the church.
- Your offertory donation can be placed in the baskets provided when exiting.

Thank you!!!

MINISTER SCHEDULE

LECTOR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

4:30PM Linda Cruz

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH

8:30AM Phyllis Gianfrancesco

11:00AM Loni Rodriguez

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

4:30PM Deacon Sam Costantino & J. Blockus

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH

8:30AM Rudy & Mildred Morales

11:00AM Deacon Mickey Coppola & M. Amaya

Currently Altar servers are excused from service. Please check back here for updates or add yourself to our email list for updates.

For the Week of September 12-18th



SANCTUARY CANDLE

In Memory of
Ray Soporowski
Req loving wife Toni & family



BREAD & WINE

In Memory of
Mary & Michael Rapach
Req Kathleen Rapach



BLESSED MOTHER FLOWER

In Memory of
Vera Lesko
Req daughter Carol Ann



ALTAR FLOWERS

In Memory of
Vera Lesko
Req daughter Carol Ann

PARISH OFFICE

Currently, the Parish Office and Food Pantry are still closed the public. Our Parish Center Chapel is now open by appointment only. If you would like to speak with someone, you may call 732-826-4859 between 9am and 4pm, Monday through Friday. After that, you may leave a message on voicemail and we will return your call the next day. As always, if it is an emergency or you are in need of spiritual guidance please call 732-826-2771.



Volunteers are needed after each Mass to clean the pews, doors and all high traffic areas before the next Mass. If you're interested in helping, please call the Parish Office 732-826-

4859 or check with an Usher for more information.

Ushers Needed

Fathers is looking for a few extra Ushers to assist during the 11am Mass. Please contact the Parish Office or Father for more information.

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, September 14 :

The Exaltation of the Cross

7:00PM Living & Deceased Good Shepherd Parishioners

TUESDAY, September 15 :

Our Lady of Sorrows

8:00AM Jeremiah & Margaret Scannell

Req Bev & Bob Hudak

WEDNESDAY, September 16 :

Saints Cornelius, Pope, & Cyprian, Bishop & Martyrs

8:00AM Kevin Savoia

Req children Kevin, Kyle, Kelsey & Nadine

THURSDAY, September 17 : Weekday

8:00AM Vera Lesko

Req daughter Carol Ann

FRIDAY, September 18 : Weekday

8:00AM In Memory of Fred Briegs' Birthday

SATURDAY, September 19 :

The Vigil of the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30PM Josephine, Frank & Carmen Rivello

Req Phyllis Edwards & family

SUNDAY, September 20 :

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30AM Lillian Duane & Anne Jane Morano

Req Carolyn & Lily Duane

11:00AM Happy Birthday blessings

to Maria C. Arcelay (Parish Secretary)

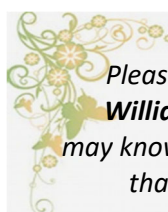


The Parish Family of the Good Shepherd Welcomes:

Mr. Jeremy Arroyo, Ms. Tori Zimmer, Ms. Rosemarie Distefano, Ms. Christine Collazo, Ms. Rachel Flynn , Mr. & Mrs. Luis Alvarado, Ms. Sandra Perez-Arreola, Mr. & Mrs. Yanny Baez, & their families

Prayer and Reflection

Tuesday- Friday, before and after 8am Daily Mass, our church doors will be open to you for your personal intentions.

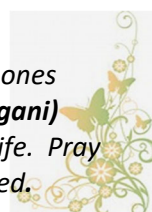


PRAY FOR THEM

Please pray that our deceased loved ones

William Karvalis & Ann Marchi (Galgani)

may know the joy and peace of eternal life. Pray that their families may be comforted.



Stay informed by registering online at:

<https://ebulletin.jspaluch.com>

and get a weekly digital copy of the Good Shepherd Parish Bulletin

Feed my Sheep



Feeding the Homeless Monday, September 21st

We could use **your** help: with a monetary donation, or even a simple meal. Please call Mildred at (732)910-1277.

In need of a hot meal, or know someone...please join St. John the Baptist Episcopal church, 404 Division St. from 5pm to 6pm, every Monday. Prepared take-out (dinners only) to anyone that comes.



Religious Education

For the first time ever!!! We will be offering Religious Education levels 1st - 8th

ONLINE beginning September 12, 2020.



Perth Amboy Catholic School 500 State Street, Perth Amboy, NJ

is looking for a school Custodian to work inside and outside to maintain a clean and safe environment for all students. If hired, hours of employment are 19 1/2 weekly. Must follow all required Diocesan protocol for working with Children, Fingerprinting, Protecting God's Children session, etc. To schedule an interview, please contact Sr. Beverly at 732-826-1598.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Intercessory prayer is the act of praying on behalf of others. All Christians are called to be Intercessory. All Christians have the Holy Spirit in their hearts and, just as Christ intercedes for us in accordance with God's will (Romans 8:26-27), we are to intercede for one another. Nothing is too small to request from our Lord, Jesus. Nothing is insignificant to him.

At the Good Shepherd Parish our Children have embarked on a mission of Intercessory Prayer by praying nightly at 9:00 pm. We have been conducting classes on Intercessory prayers so that our youth are prepared to be Intercessors. Weekly they are presented with the prayer requests from parishioners. We pray and then they go forth with their mission work.

Some of the benefits of the Intercessory Prayers:

- It increases God's Protection.
 - It strengthens us to do what God is calling us to do.
 - It removes feelings of aloneness.
 - It builds our relationship with God and increases our faith.
- If you wish to join or be added to the prayer list, please contact Mrs. Mildred Padilla-Morales at 732-738-3909.

Celebrating Silver & Gold Wedding Anniversaries

You are cordially invited to celebrate your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary by receiving a congratulatory message from Bishop James F. Checchio. Registration is required to receive your message by mail. Please register online at: <https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-anniversary-celebration>. If you are unable to access, please contact your parish secretary or amarshall@diometuchen.org. Registration will close on October 15, 2020. Although no fee is required, in the past many Jubilarian couples have given a donation of gratitude to the Church in memory of this special occasion. Donations of Gratitude may be made online or emailing amarshall@diometuchen.org.



WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR YOUR MARRIAGE LATELY?

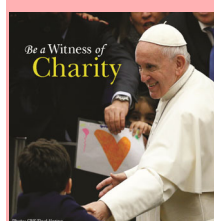
You are invited to a virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience...

Restore ✨ **Rekindle** ✨ **Renew**

Join us from the comfort of your home via zoom for eight evening sessions presented on Mondays and Thursday from August 31 to September 24 (Due to Labor Day, one session will be on Tuesday, September 8). Married couples, priests and religious can register for the program at:

aweekendforyourmarriage.org

Or by calling Tom or Ruth DeFalco at 732-904-9636. A \$50 application fee covers most of the cost. However, you will be invited to make a good faith offering at the end of the program.



Today's Peters Pence Collection,

a world wide collection that supports the charitable works of Pope Francis. Funds from this collection help victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. Take this opportunity to join with Pope Francis and be a witness of charity to our suffering brothers and sisters. Please be generous today. For more information, visit www.usccb.org/peters-pence.



Care of God's Creation Beauty Contest

At the beginning of the summer we celebrated the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home, in which our Holy Father calls us to join with others to address environmental challenges that face our planet and the people who live in it. The Encyclical also reminds us that nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. During the Season of Creation which spans 5 weeks starting September 1 (World Day of Prayer for Creation) and ending October 4 (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi) we are encouraging parishioners and students to take time to experience the awe and wonder all around us with the "Season of Creation Challenge". Parishioners and students are asked to survey their parish and/or school campus and photograph the most beautiful outdoor area and then submit photos with parish/school name and a brief description to: communications@diometuche.org. The photos will then be displayed on the diocesan website and on social media.



St. James Parish Bereavement Support Group Woodbridge, NJ 07095 Fall Session 2020

The Bereavement Support Group will begin its fall session on September 14, 2020 at 7:30pm in St. James Church. Registration is required as space is limited. To register, please call the Parish Office at 732-634-0500 ext.100. Please enter the church through the side door on Grove Street. Masks are mandatory. Social distancing is required. Doors will be locked at 7:30pm. The meeting will conclude at 9:00pm. The fall meeting dates are: September 14, September 21, September 28, October 5, October 12, October 20 (please note this is a Tuesday) October 26, and November 2.

"Blessed are they who mourn.....for they shall be comforted"
Matthew 5:4