



Church of the

SACRED HEART

A Faith Community in the Roman Catholic Tradition Since 1905

PARISH CENTER & MAILING ADDRESS

200 RANDOLPH AVENUE, SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080

PHONE: 908-756-0633 FAX: 908-757-5655

ONLINE: <http://www.churchofthesacredheart.net>

The Parish Center is open Monday through Thursday from 8AM - 4PM, Friday from 8AM - 2PM. Please schedule other times by appointment.

SACRED HEART CHURCH IS LOCATED AT 149 SOUTH PLAINFIELD AVENUE

PARISH STAFF

908-756-0633

PASTOR x125

REV. JOHN P. ALVARADO

IN RESIDENCE x126

REV. JAMES E. DE FILLIPPS

DEACONS

D. GREGORY CARUSO x145

D. WAYNE OTLOWSKI x141

DIRECTOR SACRED MUSIC x139

DANIEL MAHONEY

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION x143

LOUISE TIMKO

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR x140

PAUL A. LORANCE

PARISH FINANCES x114

JIM BUFIS

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR x110

LISA THOMPSON

PARISH LIFE COORDINATOR x142

RALPH A. QUAGLIA

STAFF ASSISTANT x118

SR. NADINE BOYLE, RSM

SACRISTAN

MARIE DOLINSKI

HOLY REDEEMER CEMETERY

LYNDA YELENOVSKY

908-822-5892

We welcome all to join us for worship and invite you to become an active member of our parish family.

Sacred Heart Church is open every day as a quiet refuge for prayer and reflection from 6:00AM until 4:30PM.

■ MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend: 5:00PM – Saturday Vigil; Sunday – 9:00AM, 11:30AM

Daily: 9:00AM – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
7:00PM – Monday

Holy Day: 6:30AM, 9:00AM, 7:00PM

■ EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday: 6:00-7:00 PM

■ MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA

Monday: 6:45PM with Benediction and **Saturday:** following 9:00AM Mass

■ BAPTISM

The sacrament is celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of every month at 1:00PM with the exception of the Season of Lent.

■ RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 10:00 - 11:30AM *and* at other times by appointment.

■ MARRIAGE

In conjunction with the policy of Marriage Preparation set forth by the bishops of New Jersey, couples should begin the process one year in advance of the planned date of marriage. Arrangements should be made with the Church before any other plans are set. All details and information will be gladly provided upon calling the Parish Office.

■ MISSION STATEMENT

The Roman Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart, South Plainfield, NJ was established in 1905. We are a diverse community striving to foster spiritual growth and Catholic identity through liturgy, sacraments, service, education and our shared faith in God. We are committed to being an instrument of love, healing and hope by ministering to the needs of our parishioners & the larger community, while celebrating the Christ present in each of us.



MASSES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

5:00 PM GEORGE & PAULINE WINKELHOLZ, Req. by Daughter & Family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

9:00 AM ROBERT HILL, Req. by The Sacred Heart Adult Choir
11:30 AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20 PRESIDENT'S DAY

9:00 AM MARY PFEIFER, Req. by Bill & Pat Butrico
PATRICK BARRY, Req. by Granddaughter Kathy,
WILLIAM MATELSKI, Req. by Acab-Alperez Family,
MARIA SHIN, Req. by Joseph Chung,
ANTHONY PASQUERELLO, Req. by Patricia Mikell
6:00 PM **NO** Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary
6:45 PM **NO** Miraculous Medal Novena, Benediction

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

ST. PETER DAMIAN, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

9:00 AM DOLORES WACHAUF, Req. by Lou & Sandra Muchi

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER THE APOSTLE

9:00 AM RAFAELA SIAZON, Req. by the DeCastro Family

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

ST. POLYCARP, Bishop & Martyr

9:00 AM ROSE POMPA, Req. by Maryann Iannitto

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

9:00 AM ROBERT ECKENSTEIN, Req. by Lou & Nilda Peralta

*The International Pilgrim Statue of
The Immaculate Heart of Our Lady of Fatima
will be at our church from 8:00AM-1:00PM today.*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

9:00 AM RENEE HEISS GAYDOS, Req. by Mom & Family
5:00 PM IN CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF BILL & MARY BETH NAGY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 AM ANNIV. JOHN LANZA, Req. by Wife & Family
11:30 AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
3:00 PM DIVINE MERCY HEALING MASS

ALTAR FLOWERS

for this week are in memory of

GEORGE & PAULINE WINKELHOLZ

Requested by Daughter & Family



WEEKLY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

February 19 - 26, 2017

2/19 - Lv 19: 1-2, 17-18/1 Cor 3: 16-23/Mt 5: 38-48
2/20 - Sir 1: 1-10/Mk 9: 14-29
2/21 - Sir 2: 1-11/Mk 9: 30-37
2/22 - 1 Pt 5: 1-4/Mt 16: 13-19
2/23 - Sir 5: 1-8/Mk 9: 41-50
2/24 - Sir 6: 5-17/Mk 10: 1-12
2/25 - Sir 17: 1-15/Mk 10: 13-16
2/26 - Is 49: 14-15/1 Cor 4: 1-5/Mt 6: 24-34



► The daily Scripture references are printed here. If you find it helpful and have internet access, you can find the complete **DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS** at <http://www.usccb.org/nab/>.

WE OFFER OUR PRAYER

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK, especially: Pauline Gillick, Dot Rotola, Michael Durning, Danielle Pepin, Prudence Capparelli, Anne Nagy, Eileen Walker, Daniel Hedden, Robert Larsen Jr., Brody Kasnowski, Georgie Martinkovic, Joan Sacko, Kevin Jones, Raul Rodriguez, Alyssa Ricciardi, Margaret Nichuck, Tina Bernauer, Thomas Buttery, Cathy Gary, Cheryl O'Brien, Hank Loeffler, Thomas Heim, Peter Romano, Patricia Lacasale, Margaret Smith, William Blair, Albertina Aguilar, Ed Curtin, Arthur Tinana, Ann Marie Lauten, Elizabeth Vargo, Edward Owsik, Barbara Calderoney, Roland Parker, Viola Pratt, Celeste Ginder, Neil Towey, George Castagno, Rev. Charles Mingle.

FOR THOSE IN HOSPITALS & NURSING HOMES, especially: Bert Gartland, Lorraine Kick, Chuck Pender, Wilma Zielinski, Bill Keenan, Mary Partika.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED, especially: Jonathan A. Saravia and the Faithful Departed of Sacred Heart Parish and their families who mourn their loss.

VIRGIN MARY CANDLE

burns in memory of

ANTOINETTE PERRETTI

Requested by Daughter

SACRED HEART CANDLE

burns in memory of

FRANK CORNELL

Requested by Wife & Family

SANCTUARY CANDLE

burns in memory of

ANTHONY JEAVENTOREA

Requested by Daughter Rosemarie



ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE: FEB 25-26

5:00 PM - J. Makoski, H. Brignol, A. Ortega

9:00 AM - O. Markus, C. Butrico, T. Figueiredo

11:30 AM - A. Walker, S. Sequeira, G. Ruzicka



We welcome everyone, especially those who are visiting and may be new to Sacred Heart Parish.

GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

We are a tithing parish & give thanks for God's gifts.

TITHING OR DONATION: CHURCH SUPPORT

Whether you are tithing or donating, however you choose to monetarily support the Church, we need your contributions. Thank you for your financial assistance.

Week Ending February 12, 2017

	2017	2016
Envelopes:	\$ 7,858.00	\$ 11,191.48
Loose:	\$ 1,109.00	\$ 1,173.00
On-line Giving:	\$ 2,612.00	\$ 2,265.00
Totals:	\$ 11,579.00	\$ 14,629.48

► **End-of-Year Giving to Date – \$18,389**

► **Major Repairs & Renovations to Date – \$111,687**

PASTOR'S COMMENT: "The mandate to love our neighbor as our self rings clear through the scriptures this weekend. As we would want the best for ourselves, so too for our brothers and sisters. This is more than a nice thought however. For this to be real, we each need to put our faith on the line, step forward, and act." — *Fr. John*

SCRIPTURE: "Through him [then] let us continually offer God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have; God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind. — *Hebrews 13:15-16*

PARISHIONER COMMENT: "For your good judgement and courage in your attempt to get and keep our parish in good financial shape, I heartily commend you. A commonsense tithing program is working very, very well and consistently elsewhere. It will do as much and more for us." — *A parishioner, St. Brigid's, Westbury, NY*

**THE PARISH CENTER WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20
IN OBSERVANCE OF PRESIDENT'S DAY**

MONTHLY ANALYSIS FOR JAN. 2017

Weekly Collections	\$ 60,683.00
On-Line Giving	12,175.00
Holy Day	45.00
Gifts	5,350.00
Christmas	3,161.00
Offerings (Funerals/Weddings)	5,676.00
Religious Education Fees 2015-16	50.00
National/Missionary Diocesan Appeals	2,792.00
Major Renovations & Repairs	4,188.00
Year End Gift	6,440.00
Other	15,161.00
Total Income	\$115,721.00

Salaries	\$ 31,867.00
Benefits	5,777.00
Social Security (FICA)-Employer	1,966.00
Utilities	10,544.00
Repairs & Maintenance	5,981.00
Administrative Costs	4,610.00
Religious Education Expenses	501.00
Diocesan Assessment	24,000.00
Shared Facility Costs (Holy Savior Acad.)	1,033.00
Holy Savior Academy Assessment	4,500.00
Scholarships & Grants	2,000.00
Reserve for Property/Casualty/Auto Ins.	20,000.00
Total Expenses	\$ 112,779.00

► **Income Higher Than Expenses \$ 2,942.00**



2017 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Ambassadors for Christ

By now you have received your letter from Bishop Checchio announcing the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal. You will be interested to know that Bishop Checchio, after a number of meetings and in consultation with many of the pastors and staff, has made some changes to the Appeal. The first, as you probably already noticed, the Appeal has been moved from the Fall to a Lenten campaign. The active phase has been condensed and the number of solicitation mailings has been reduced. Another significant change is the reintroduction of Parish Rebates. To allow parishes to share in the success of the Appeal, Bishop Checchio is offering parishes a rebate of 50% of the amount collected over goal.

Through your support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal you help those in our diocese whose needs are the greatest — the poor, the homeless, and those struggling with illness or grief. Among other needed pastoral ministries, your gift also supports our priority ministries of evangelization, promotion and support of religious vocations and enhances the work of forming our youth. The many pastoral, educational and charitable ministries of the Diocese of Metuchen would not be possible without a generous contribution from every household. Please be as generous as your means allow.

How much of your personal finances do you already do online? SACRED HEART CHURCH OFFERS ONLINE GIVING

for parishioners who prefer to donate through automatic draft. Online Giving is a secure and personalized way to give to the parish.

In the convenience of your home you choose how much to give, how often to give, and what form of payment you wish to use.



Online Giving can stand on its own as a means of donation or can be used in conjunction with your offering envelopes. Sign up for Online Giving at our parish website: <http://www.churchofthesacredheart.net>

Have your weekly offering automatically debited from your checking account or credit card.

If you have reward credit you can be earning points or cash back.



WE PRAY FOR ALL SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Especially for our parishioners



Army Captain Cheryl Hoh, Pharm D

Spc. Erik Sienkiewicz - US Army / Iraq

Psc. Amanda Marie Morales - US Navy

Marine Corp. Troy A. Benson/ Japan

Pvt. Alterreek Booker - US Army/KY

Sgt. Zackeriah Romasz - US Marine Corp.

Spc. Bryan Gutschall - US Army/Afghanistan

Spc. Nick Okoszko/US Army/ No. Carolina

LCdr. Edward Quaranta/ US Reserves

Lt. Col. Dirk H. Smith/US Army, Washington, DC

LCpl. Quinn Cochrane/US Marines, No. Carolina

Pvt. Edward C. Forsthoffer/US Army



May we work for Justice as we pray for Peace.

Visit our diocesan website at diometuchen.org,
click [Offices & Ministries](#),
then click [Military and Veteran Families](#) and see

THE APOSTOLATE FOR MILITARY & VETERAN FAMILIES

SACRED HEART SOCIAL CONCERNS

Thank You

EXTRAORDINARY!

St. Joseph's High School students, under the direction of Fr. James De Fillipps conducted a food drive at the high school, and literally, filled a bus with food. They delivered 33 bins (230 bags) of food earlier this month. Also, **Holy Savior Academy** students had a canned soup food drive collecting over 200 cans of soup.



To all those involved in providing these donations, we **Thank you and may God bless you** for your generosity.

PLEASE NOTE: We ask for help in further outreach from members of our parish family to let us know who may be in need of assistance; that we may be a resource to support them. Those in need of assistance should call the Sacred Heart Parish Center anytime at 908-756-0633 x112. The primary source of funding is from the Poor Boxes located at all the doors of the Church. Also, at all doors, bins are provided for your donations of non-perishable food items.

Thank you again and may God bless you for your continued support to those in need in our parish.

**Call: 908-756-0633 x112 or Email:
socialconcerns@churchofthesacredheart.net**



THE IMMACULATE HEART OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA STATUE

Visits our Church

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2017

9:00AM to 1:00PM

**FATIMA CENTENNIAL
100th Year U.S. Tour for Peace**

8:00AM Welcome of Statue – Procession
9:00AM Mass
10:00AM International Rosary — (English, Korean, Italian, **need 2 more languages**), Please call Helen @ 908-754-6632
11:00AM Presentation - Message of Our Lady of Fatima
12Noon Litany of Our Lady
1:00PM Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Burning of Petitions
Farewell Procession

For information visit: diometuchen.org. For an up-to-date version of the schedule, visit: parishofthevisitation.org.

The Sacred Heart Rosary Altar Society invites you to pray the Rosary with them on the first Sunday of each month one half hour before all Masses.



Respect for Life

"Since the right to health care is based on the right to live, it is also clear that what attacks life is not health care at all, and not a legitimate goal of healthcare reform." — *Richard Doerflinger, associate director of USCCB's Pro-Life Directorate*

Back by popular demand!

ANNUAL LENTEN FRIDAY

FISH DINNER

Holy Savior Academy Cafeteria



5:00-7:00 PM

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 is sponsoring our famous Sacred Heart Lenten Friday Fish Dinners on **March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, & April 7**, in the HSA cafeteria from 5:00 -7:00 PM followed by *The Stations of the Cross* at 7:00 PM in the Church.

THE MENU features: Fillet of fish (fried, broiled, parmigiana), a pasta dish or pizza, garden salad, rice pilaf, French fries, mac & cheese, cole slaw, coffee, tea, or a cold drink, plus dessert! **TAKE OUT ORDERS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE!** Admission \$10/adults, \$9/Seniors, \$5/children, pay at the door.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP: Any new family who has moved into the parish area and adult children 18 years of age and older, **are invited to register as a parishioner.** The definition of an active parishioner is: *One registered, attending Mass weekly and contributing to the support to the church.* **There is a (3) month minimum registration requirement before registering for a baptism or requesting letters of eligibility/sponsorship.**

Keep Jesus Christ in your hearts & you will recognize His face in every human being. — St. John Paul II

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Louise Timko, Director
908-756-0633 x143



For more information please visit our web page
www.churchofthesacredheart.net
or send us an email:

religiouseducation@churchofthesacredheart.net

Everyone hears the Sunday Scripture readings proclaimed, but do we take time to think about their meaning in our lives?

► QUESTION OF THE WEEK – February 19

How can you rise above disappointment in others to rely more on Christ?

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - SAVE THE DATES

Confirmation will be celebrated by Rt. Rev. Abbot Elias Lorenzo, OSB on Thursday, **March 9**, 7:00 PM. All candidates & sponsors arrive at the school no later than 6:30PM that day.

Summer Session 2017 will be held **July 10-21**, Monday thru Friday, 8:30AM to Noon. Registration for Summer Session begins on Monday, March 6, at 8:00AM. Details and the registration form are on the parish website.



Holy Savior Academy

THE MIDDLEBROOK DEANERY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Where academic excellence & Christ's presence come together

149 SOUTH PLAINFIELD AVENUE, P.O. BOX 1179
SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080

908-822-5890 — HOLYSAVIORACADEMY.COM

MRS. CAROL WOODBURN, PRINCIPAL

SAVE THE DATE - Holy Savior Academy's 3rd Annual **Spring Splendor Tricky Tray** on Saturday, April 1. Doors open at 6:00PM. Tickets \$20 per person (includes one sheet of level 1 (white) tickets, coffee/tea/water & dessert). BYOB & Food. Tickets available in the school office. For more information call 908-822-5890. No one under 18 allowed at the event.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2017-2018 TUITION ASSISTANCE

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen Catholic elementary or high school may do so beginning **January 30, 2017**. The application process is online through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment. Online applications must be completed (including supporting documentation) by no later than **Friday, March 31, 2017**. Applications are available in English and Spanish. Families that need assistance completing the online application, or need access to the technology to apply, may register for one of the five Application Workshops, which will be held in four locations within the Diocese in February and March by going to the Workshops Link at www.diometuchen.org/tuition-assistance

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Inquire about brass military insignia and photoceramic features.

LYNDA YELENOVSKY, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

◆ CEMETERY HOURS ◆

8:00AM - 4:30PM (SEPT 16 - APRIL 14)

8:00AM - 7:00PM (APRIL 15 - SEPT 15)

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Would you or someone you know like to complete your Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and/or Confirmation? We attend 9:00AM Sunday Mass and meet for a session afterward. Please contact Louise Timko 908-756-0633 x143 or via email: ltimko@churchofthesacredheart.net.

BAPTISM/SPONSORSHIP CLASS - Parents and godparents are required to attend one session before the child's baptism date can be confirmed. Sessions are held on the **1st Tuesday of every month at 7:00PM** in the Parish Center - 3rd floor. (Adults only - please, no infants or children.) Registration is required. Contact Sr. Nadine 908-756-0633 x118 to register for the class or with any questions.

SPONSOR LETTERS - Canon (Church) Law mandates that a Godparent for Baptism and a Sponsor for Confirmation be an active, Confirmed Catholic. An active Catholic is a parishioner who is registered, attends Mass weekly, contributes to the support of the Church, is in a valid Catholic marriage (an individual married civilly by a judge, mayor, or divorced and remarried without an annulment is not eligible to act as a sponsor) and publicly leads a life compatible with Church teaching. Please note that we can only write *Letters of Eligibility* for parishioners who meet these criteria.

IN GOD'S IMAGE: CATHOLIC FAITH SHARING FOR LGBT PERSONS & THEIR FAMILIES

In God's Image, the Gay and Lesbian Faith Sharing Group at Sacred Heart Church, meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00PM in the Parish Annex (behind the school). **Our next gathering will be on March 8**. For information call 908-822-5895, OR contact Fr. John at 908-756-0633 x125 OR email: sacredheartigi@gmail.com. And look for the IGI icon on the parish website. All are invited to view and share the video presentation at OwningOurFaith.com.

THIS IS OUR FAITH

The Mass

Last Week, we discussed that Jesus commanded us to celebrate the Eucharist in Remembrance of Him. As we look back in history we find that the Mass is not new. Yes, there have been changes over time, but the essential structure is as it was in the second century. When we attend Mass we are doing what the first Christians did 1900 years ago. Those Christians who were very close to Jesus and the original apostles, in time, place and personal relationship!

How do we know that the structure of the Mass has been the same for the last 1900 years? Read the description from St. Justin Martyr below and compare it to the structure of the Mass as you experience it today. "St. Justin wrote to the pagan emperor Antoninus Pius (138-161) around the year 155, explaining how Christians lived their faith. *The parts in bold are added to explain the references.*

"On the day we call the day of the sun (**Sunday**), all who dwell in the city or country gather in the same place. The memoirs of the apostles and the writings of the prophets are read (**The Liturgy of the Word at Mass - the readings from the Old and New Testaments**) as much as time permits. When the reader has finished, he (**the priest**) who presides over those gathered admonishes and challenges them to imitate these beautiful things (**Homily/Sermon**). Then we all rise together and offer prayers (**Intercessions**) for ourselves and for all others, wherever they may be, so that we may be found righteous by our life and actions, and faithful to the commandments, so as to obtain eternal salvation. When the prayers are concluded we exchange the kiss (**Kiss of Peace**). Then someone brings bread and a cup of water and wine mixed together to him who presides over the brethren (**Presentation of the Gifts**). He takes them and offers praise and glory to the

Father of the universe, through the name of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and for a considerable time he gives thanks (in Greek: *eucharistian*) that we have been judged worthy of these gifts

(**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Consecration**) When he has concluded the prayers and thanksgivings, all present give voice to an acclamation by saying: 'Amen.' (**Great Amen**) When he who presides has given thanks and the people have responded, those whom we call deacons give to those present the "eucharisted" bread, wine and water (**Reception of Holy Communion by those present**) and take them to those who are absent." (From the Catechism of the Catholic Church Sec. 1345)



TO OUR PARISH FAMILY

Most Rev. James Checchio will be visiting our parish Sunday, February 26.

Bishop James will be celebrating the 9:00AM Sunday Mass.

THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT - The annual drive to support our diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Spirit*, is taking place during the month of February, National Catholic Press Month. Please support their good work by using the envelope in your packet. Any amount you contribute will show your support for the ministry of *The Catholic Spirit* and will be greatly appreciated. Please remember to take home a copy of the paper. It has a special role to play in your life as a practicing Catholic.

WHOLE COMMUNITY CATECHESIS

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 3-6PM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 6-9PM

This Month's Theme — Lent & Penance

THE SACRED HEART TRAVELERS —

Venture into the Heart and Spirit of America's Great West -- Journey with Rev. John P. Alvarado to **CANYON COUNTRY featuring Arizona & Utah**, October 19-27, 2017. Experience the majestic beauty of God's Creation, the tribal lands, national parks, early Catholic missions, cities and towns of the old & new West ... history, culture, nature, church, and food that all make for a great trip that concludes with a 2-day stay in Las Vegas. There are no international flights necessary for this trip. Book now and save. For full details, itinerary, pricing and registration, visit our parish website: ChurchoftheSacredHeart.net and click on the Travel Link.



DO YOU USE THE PARISH WEBSITE?

See <http://www.ChurchoftheSacredHeart.net>

VISIT THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE AT

www.diometuchen.org

► And don't forget to "like" us on **FACEBOOK**

The Church of the Sacred Heart, and to "follow" us on **TWITTER** & **INSTAGRAM**



— *Ambassadors for Christ* —

THE 2017 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL is focused on **three Marquee Ministries.**

#1 THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONS (Seminarian Formation)

The **Office of Vocations** provides two basic services to the Diocese of Metuchen. First, it takes care of the education and formation of her seminarians, this includes pastoral visits to each of those young men studying for the Diocese of Metuchen every semester. Second, the Office assists young men and women who may be hearing the call to serve within the Diocese and empowers parishes to find candidates that will make good and holy priests, sisters and brothers. This is done mainly by: working both one-on-one with individuals and in groups to discern what God might be calling them to do, developing tools (prayer services, vocation awareness days, class plans, etc.) that can be used in the parish and school to promote vocations, and visiting the parishes to give talks to schools, youth groups and at Holy Mass.

Currently, there are 15 seminarians in priestly formation for the Diocese of Metuchen. A large portion of our seminarians' education is being funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal, for which they are extremely grateful.



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