



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

D. FRANK YUHAS x194

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.



MASSSES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

5:00 PM ROSE & DESIDERIO CASTELLANO, Req. by Lillian & Vito Cosenza & Family

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

9:00 AM ANNIV. MARY & SAL DELLAPERUTE, Req. by Bill, Pat & Family

11:30 AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

1:00PM Blessing of the Animals

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3

6:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary

6:45 PM Miraculous Medal Novena, Benediction

7:00 PM KATHY TRACY, Req. by Lou, Maryann & Jenn Ronzo,
JOHN BERTUCCI, Req. by Marie Thompson,
RENE HEISS GAYDOS, Req. by Mom & Family,
MARIE HUSJOKE, Req. by SH Rosary Altar Society,
DEACON JOE STANCZAK, Req. by Marie Dolinski

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

9:00 AM CHARLES MAHONEY, Req. by Lou & Maryann Ronzo

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

9:00 AM CONNIE PISANIELLO, Req. by Donna & Anthony

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

ST. BRUNO, Priest

BLESSED MARIE ROSE DUROCHER, Virgin

9:00 AM RONALD HIGGINS, Req. by Audrey & Bob Ginda

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

9:00 AM ROBERT BESSER, Req. by Maria McDermott & Family

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

9:00 AM ANNA LUKACS, Req. by Daughter,
DEACON JOE STANCZAK, Req. by Eleanore Disch
and Marie Piesche,

JOHN PETER DE ROSA, Req. by Cota Kania,
MARIE McKEE, Req. by Aileen Flannagan,
FLORENCE DEETS, Req. by Richard DiBattista

12 NOON GOD'S SPECIAL PEOPLE

5:00 PM DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE BIELAWSKI
FAMILY, Req. by Family

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Vocation Awareness Sunday

9:00 AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

11:30 AM PELLEGRINO FAMILY, Req. by Daughter



WEEKLY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

October 2 - 9

10/2 - Hb 1: 2-3; 2: 2-4/2 Tm 1: 6-8, 13-14/Lk 17: 5-10

10/3 - Gal 1: 6-12/Lk 10: 25-37

10/4 - Gal 1: 13-24/Lk 10: 38-42

10/5 - Gal 2: 1-2, 7-14/Lk 11: 1-4

10/6 - Gal 3: 1-5/Lk 11: 5-13

10/7 - Gal 3: 7-14/Lk 11: 15-26

10/8 - Gal 3: 22-29/Lk 11: 27-28

10/9 - 2 Kgs 5: 14-17/2 Tm 2: 8-13/Lk 17: 11-19



► 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, Mary Pfeiffer, Kevin Jones, Raul Rodriguez, Dot Cooney, Alyssa Ricciardi, Margaret Nichuck, Tina Bernauer, Kathleen Poliquin, Thomas Buttery, Cathy Gary, Cheryl O'Brien, Hank Loeffler, Thomas Heim, Peter Romano, Patricia Lacasale, Margaret Smith, Clara McGill, Dot Mercier, Daniel Hogan, William Blair, Albertina Aguilar, Ed Curtin, Maryann Santoro, Arthur Pinana, Ann Marie Lauten.

FOR THOSE IN HOSPITALS & NURSING HOMES, especially: Bert Gartland, Lorraine Kick, Anna Marie Gladysz, Chuck Pender, Wilma Zielinski, George Ripley.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED, especially: Geraldine Lima and the Faithful Departed of Sacred Heart Parish & their families who mourn their loss.

VIRGIN MARY CANDLE

burns in memory of

CONNIE PISANIELLO

Requested by Niece Rosemarie

SACRED HEART CANDLE

burns in memory of

ANN SIDECK

Requested by Susan & Ken Bogden



SANCTUARY CANDLE

burns in loving memory of

SR. JANICE Mc GRANE

Requested by Sr. Nadine



Wedding Banns

2ND TIME: Alexander Pindyck & Lauren Stoeckel

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 September 25, 2016

	2016	2015
Envelopes:	\$ 10,468.00	\$ 10,684.93
Loose:	\$ 1,391.00	\$ 1,348.00
On-line Giving:	\$ 2,390.00	\$ 2,598.00
Totals:	\$ 14,249.00	\$ 14,630.93

Major Repairs & Renovations to Date — \$ 98,806.00

PASTOR'S COMMENT: "The words we sing today from Psalm 95 should be our guide everyday ... *If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.*" — Fr. John

SCRIPTURE: "Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work. — 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

PARISHIONER COMMENT: "We are very blessed to have such a caring pastor. Thank you for initiating tithing. We approve, and it has made us aware of how much our church means to us. As we take care of our own family and home, so it is our responsibility to care for the needs of God's home and family - Our Church!" — A parishioner, Immaculate Conception, New Oxford, PA

What will you give back to God from the blessings you have received?

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE: OCT. 8-9

5:00 PM - J. Makoski, A. Ortega, J. Gaffney

9:00 AM - O. Markus, J. Chavez, C. Butrico

11:30 AM - S. Sequeira, D. Faustini, Z. Policarpio



VISITING HERE THIS WEEKEND - OCTOBER 1-2

GIFTS FROM BETHLEHEM

Olivewood Handcrafted from the Holy Land

A TRADITIONAL ART AND LIVELIHOOD FOR HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS



AED IN CHURCH - An **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia in a patient, and is able to treat them through defibrillation allowing the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm. We have purchased & installed an AED in church to assist in emergency medical situations. Thank you to Lori York, RN who demonstrated this device. Twenty-five of our parishioners attended a demo last Wednesday to see just how it works. The AED is door-mounted next to the St. Joseph statue.

VISIT 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



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.



PARISH UPDATES: If you are now solely using a cell phone, have changed your phone number or address, please call Lisa at 908-756-0633 x110, so we can update your records. We would also like to update our parish data base with e-mail addresses. You can easily email us at

admin@churchofthesacredheart.net to have your email address included or to update an email address. Thank you!

► If you are moving, please notify Lisa at the parish office so we can keep our parishioner records current. *Thank you!*

THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART WELCOMES ALL NEWCOMERS

to the parish. Please contact our parish secretary, Lisa at the Parish Office at 908-756-0633 x110 for registration information.

► If you are moving, please notify Lisa at the Parish Office so we can keep our parishioner records current. *Thank you*

Where there's a WILL, there's a way to help your parish with a bequest in your estate planning. Thank you for remembering Sacred Heart Parish.

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



St. Francis of Assisi

The Blessing of the Animals

TODAY, OCTOBER 2 — 1:00PM
 At the Front Steps of the Church


Please have your animal companions
 on a leash or in a carrier for their safety
 and the peace of others as well.

149 SOUTH PLAINFIELD AVENUE, SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080

SACRED HEART OF JESUS PRAYER GROUP - meets on **Thursdays at 7:00 PM**, in the Parish Center Chapel. All are welcome to grow in an intimacy with God through the Holy Spirit. Come and bring a friend.




MARK YOUR CALENDAR - The 18th Annual Life in the Spirit Seminar (a two-day weekend retreat) will be held on **October 15 & 16**, in the Holy Savior Academy. If you have never attended, or did many years ago, now is a good time to rekindle the fire of God's love through the Holy Spirit. Come and see for yourself and come away refreshed! God is so good!



The Sacred Heart Rosary Altar Society
 invites you to pray the Living Rosary with them
 On Monday, October 3, after the 7:00PM Mass

LIFE CHOICES RESOURCE CENTER - Join us for our Annual Walk for Life, Saturday, **October 8, 2016 from 9:00AM-12:00PM** at Merrill Park, Iselin (Rain or Shine). Walk to help and unborn child. CONFIRMATION SERVICE HOURS PROVIDED. DJ & Refreshments, Games, Family Fun! Set a goal for yourself. Free T-shirt for everyone who raises \$100 or more.




To register or to give online visit the website: www.LifeChoicesRC.com or mail your check to Life Choices Resource Center, 503 Main St., Metuchen, NJ 08840.

You can make a difference in the life of a mother & child.

For the response of the New Jersey Bishops to the *Catholics for Choice* national pro-abortion ad visit the diocesan website: <http://diometuchen.org/CFC-ad>
 Copies are also available at the entrances of the church.

THE ADULT CHOIR sings on Sundays and at other liturgies and paraliturgies from September - June. The Adult Choir has resumed rehearsals on Thursdays, at 8:00PM in the Church. The choir ordinarily sings at the 9:00AM or 11:30AM Mass on assigned Sundays. Come join the fun and fellowship that is involved in our music ministry! The choir has a special need for tenors and basses but all **are welcome!**



Stop by during a rehearsal or if you have any questions about our Music Ministry, please feel free to contact Dan Mahoney, 908-756-0633 x139, or via email Dan410@aol.com.



Respect for Life

As we mark another Respect Life Sunday, we are perhaps tempted to ask with the prophet Habakkuk "How long, O Lord, I cry for help but you do not listen? I cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not intervene." The Lord's response, "Write down the vision clearly upon the tablets...for the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint." Respect for all human life is that vision which "will surely come."

YOUTH RALLY & MASS FOR LIFE WASHINGTON DC
 Bishop James Checchio will concelebrate the Youth Rally & Mass for Life in Washington DC on **Friday, January 27, 2017**. Anyone wishing to attend must request tickets through the Respect Life Office 732-562-1990 x1543 or amarshall@diometuchen.org. The deadline for requests is Friday, September 30. For more information on the Youth Rally & Mass please visit us at www.youthrallyandmassforlife.org

SACRED HEART SOCIAL CONCERNS

We are in need of the following items for our food pantry: tomato sauce, past sauce, canned soup, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper.

Thank you, and God bless you, for your continued support to those in need from our parish family. If you know of families in need, please encourage them to call 908-756-0633 x112, Monday, Wednesday, Friday between 9:00AM & 11:00AM.

The primary source of funding is from the Poor Boxes located at all the doors of the Church. At all doors, bins are provided for your donations of non-perishable food items.

Email: socialconcerns@churchofthesacredheart.net



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:

religioueducation@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** – October 2
Do you sometimes assume that your faith is stronger and more real than the faith of other people?

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help with hot food preparation and serving for *Growing in Faith Together*, our whole community catechesis program. We are currently preparing a light meal for approximately 100 people one Sunday afternoon a month and one Wednesday evening a month. Help out for about two hours either once a month on Sunday afternoon or Wednesday evening or both. Contact Louise in the Religious Education Office either 908-756-0633 ext.143 or email religioueducation@churchofthesacredheart.net

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

At any point during the year, our RCIA program is open to newcomers. Catholics needing to complete their Sacraments of Initiation or non-Catholics seeking to become Catholic. All are welcome! Please contact Louise Timko at 908-756-0633 x143 or ltimko@churchofthesacredheart.net



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

WINE TASTING - Sponsored by Wine Country Stores & benefitting Holy Savior Academy's technology development, tuition assistance & academic enhancement. **Friday, October 7, from 7:00-9:00PM**, in Holy Savior Academy. \$50/person, \$75/ couple. Music, Hot & Cold Hors d'oeuvres. Call 908-803-1573.

25% OFF SHOPPING PASS - Holy Savior Academy is selling passes for the *Friends Helping Friends* event at Boscov's that takes place on Tuesday, October 18, from 9:00AM to 11:00PM. Passes are \$5/each and are available at Holy Savior Academy or at the Parish Center. The entire donation benefits Holy Savior Academy. (Valid October 18 only).



HOLY REDEEMER CEMETERY



Serving the funeral and burial needs of our Catholic Community with respect & dignity since 1919.

OWNED & OPERATED BY THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

1734 CLINTON AVENUE, SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080

908-822-5892

Website: www.holyredeemercemetery.net
Email: shcemetery@comcast.net

Graves, Mausoleum Crypts & Cremation Niches

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)

You can now access the cemetery website *via* the Church website: churchofthesacredheart.net, click on **Cemetery** and it will take you directly to the site. Please view and submit photos, comments, obituaries, military information, etc. **Thank you!**

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 certificates.**

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.

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.

**TO ADVERTISE IN OUR BULLETIN, PLEASE CONTACT
BON VENTURE SERVICES, 1-800-883-4343.**

THIS IS OUR FAITH

Am I a Good Steward?

"Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already." — C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Stewardship is the most basic of all biblical concepts about material things. So what is a steward? Very simply, a steward is one who manages the property of others.

"In their 1992 pastoral letter *"Stewardship a Disciples Response"* the US Catholic bishops defined stewardship as a universal human task for all people of goodwill. "All temporal and spiritual goods are created by and come from God" they wrote. "That is true of everything human beings have: spiritual gifts like faith hope and love; talents of body and brain; cherished relationships with family and friends; material goods; the achievements of human genius and skill; the world itself. One day God will require an accounting of the use each person has made of the particular portion of these goods entrusted to him or her."

For Catholics, stewardship flows from loving and being a disciple of Jesus Christ. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, Christian stewards come to the awareness that everything they have received from God - be it their time, their talent, or their treasure must be cultivated, developed in solidarity, shared with others and given back as a gift to Him. This life of grace is illuminated in the Scriptures as the way of a disciple, the way of stewardship.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that stewardship gives life dignity and purpose. Since every disciple is given certain talents and born into different circumstances, there is great diversity in the situations in which people find themselves. "These differences belong to God's plan", states the Catechism, "who wills that each receive what he needs from others, and that those endowed with particular 'talents' share the benefits with those who need them. These differences encourage and often oblige persons to practice generosity, kindness, and sharing of goods; they foster the mutual enrichment of cultures" CCC#1937.



Sometimes we may feel that all we have is due solely do to our own effort, but the Bible cautions us against this. Echoing Deuteronomy 8:17, we might say: "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But Deuteronomy 8:18 counsels us to think otherwise: *Remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.*

Father Matthew Paratore, a priest of the Diocese of Metuchen, once said, "Through the eyes of faith, the starving child, the prisoner in jail, and the women without clean water or health care are not issues, but Jesus in disguise." And so we meet Jesus every day in disguise. It may be very close to home in a child who needs some help with their homework, or a spouse who needs a word of support. It may be a lonely neighbor or the obnoxious co-worker. We are called to use our time, talents and treasures to serve God, Church, and each other. The Corporal and Spiritual Acts of Mercy offer us a good place to start a review of our opportunities to serve God, Church and each other.



Journeys for the Heart & Soul

SACRED HEART TRAVELERS



PARISH PILGRIMAGES

Travel with Rev. John P. Alvarado

THE HOLY LAND

In The Footsteps of Jesus

► March 19-28, 2017 ◀

For full details and itinerary visit us at churchofthesacredheart.net (click on the icons)

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE NATIONAL SHRINE

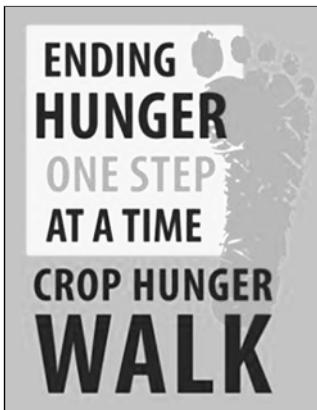
Parishioners are invited by Bishop James Checchio to join him on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. on **Saturday, November 19**. We will conclude the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy & celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the creation of the Diocese of Metuchen by St. John Paul II. The parishes of Our Lady of Mount Virgin, **Sacred Heart** and Saint Joseph (BB) are sponsoring a bus which will leave from the Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish Center parking lot (on Drake Avenue). The bus will leave at 7:00AM. Pilgrims must be in the parking lot, ready to board the bus by 6:40AM. The bus will be returning to the parking lot at approximately 8:30PM. **The cost is \$30 per person.** Pilgrims should bring a bagged lunch and dinner. Limited food is available at the Shrine, and the bus will be making only a "rest stop". We will not be stopping at a restaurant. Reservations are first come, first served. REGISTER TODAY! Payment must be received at the parish office ASAP. Checks should be made out to *Church of the Sacred Heart*. To reserve a seat on the bus, please contact the parish office and speak with Ralph Quaglia at 980-756-0633 X142.



THANK YOU DONOR

ANGEL - A devoted and most generous parishioner has taken on a project that is a most visible change to the outdoor area right of the church parking-lot-side doors.

Two very large trees, a Maple and Cherry had beautifully filled the space adding color and shade to a "shrine" that has been growing over the years with St. Francis, an angel and many animals. The trees have unfortunately blocked several church windows, caused debris and drainage issues on the roof above and broken through an 8" clay drainage pipe below ground in several places jamming sump pumps and causing flooding and reverse drainage flow. Major cutting, clearing, digging, pipe repair, grading and replanting have taken place at no cost to the parish. We have a fresh start and hope to see St. Francis and friends again. Thank you and God bless you, our genuine and anonymous angel.



CROP WALK

Sunday, October 23

Help stop hunger here and around the world.

You are invited to participate as a walker and/or sponsor. We begin the walk at Wesley Methodist Church at 2:00PM, stopping at the SP churches and concluding at St. Stephen Lutheran Church. See Sr. Nadine to sign-up and for details.

Are you praying your Morning Offering?

VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM – SACREDHEARTSPNJ

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I offer You my prayers, works, joys and sufferings
of this day for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart,
in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
offered throughout the world, in
reparation for my sins, for the
intentions of all my relatives and
friends, and also for the intentions of our
Bishop James and the Holy Father. Amen.



"Anything we do, without offering it to God, is wasted."
St. John Vianney

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 meeting will be on October 12.** For more information call 908-822-5895, OR contact Fr. John at 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.



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

HISPANIC HERITAGE MASS - The Diocese of Metuchen invites all to the 2016 HISPANIC HERITAGE MASS on **Friday, October 28**, at 7:30PM, Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, 32 Elm Avenue, Metuchen. We celebrate our Faith! Sisters and Brothers Together! Sent forth to Evangelize! For information call the Office of Hispanic Ministry at (732) 243-4573.



BISHOP JAMES CHECCHIO is enjoying celebrating Masses and greeting people around the diocese. To access the bishop's schedule, visit <http://diometuchen.org/bishop/schedule>



COME PRAY FOR THOSE WHO SERVE AND PROTECT - 15th Annual Blue Mass for Law Enforcement, **Wednesday, October 12**, at 10:30 AM, Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen. Bishop James F. Checchio

cordially invites ALL the faithful in the Diocese to join him at the annual Blue Mass to pray for and with police officers and law enforcement personnel from the communities and towns from across Middlesex, Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren counties. Come to represent your parish and town, to support and pray for all our dedicated local, county, state and federal law enforcement officials and to honor those officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice through their service to others. For more information, call (732) 562-2463 or visit <http://diometuchen.org/blue-mass>.

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Wednesday, November 16: Guest speaker, Rev. James De Fillipps, Director of Catholic Identity, St. Joseph High School, will present **"The Eucharist: Tangible Mercy."**

All programs take place at 7:00PM, in the Campus Ministry Commons, in *Cor Jesu* (the building to the right of the Brother's house - look for the Campus Ministry flags). Please RSVP to Fr. James at jdfillipps@stjoes.org.

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The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship



Part I of II: Our Call as Catholic Citizens

This brief document is Part I of a summary of the US bishops' reflection, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, which complements the teaching of bishops in dioceses and states.



"If indeed 'the just ordering of society and of the state is a central responsibility of politics,' the Church 'cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice.'"¹ So writes Pope Francis, quoting Pope Benedict XVI.

Our nation faces many political challenges that demand well-informed moral choices:

- The ongoing destruction of a million innocent human lives each year by abortion
- Physician-assisted suicide
- The redefinition of marriage
- The excessive consumption of material goods and the destruction of natural resources, harming the environment as well as the poor
- Deadly attacks on Christians and other religious minorities throughout the world
- Efforts to narrow the definition and exercise of religious freedom
- Economic policies that fail to prioritize the needs of poor people, at home and abroad
- A broken immigration system and a worldwide refugee crisis
- Wars, terror, and violence that threaten every aspect of human life and dignity.²

As Catholics, we are part of a community with profound teachings that help us consider challenges in public life, contribute to greater justice and peace for all people, and evaluate policy positions, party platforms, and candidates' promises and actions in light of the Gospel in order to help build a better world.

Why Does the Church Teach About Issues Affecting Public Policy?

The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith, a part of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ. As people of both faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life and to practice Christ's commandment to "love one another" (Jn 13:34).

The US Constitution protects the right of individual believers and religious bodies to proclaim and live out their faith without government interference, favoritism, or discrimination. Civil law should recognize and protect the Church's right and responsibility to participate in society without abandoning its moral convictions. Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions into public life. The Catholic community brings to political dialogue a consistent moral framework and broad experience serving those in need.

Who in the Church Should Participate in Political Life?

In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to any political party or interest group. In today's environment, Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and few candidates fully share our comprehensive commitment to

human life and dignity. This should not discourage us. On the contrary, it makes our obligation to act all the more urgent. Catholic lay women and men need to act on the Church's moral principles and become more involved: running for office, working within political parties, and communicating concerns to elected officials. Even those who cannot vote should raise their voices on matters that affect their lives and the common good. Faithful citizenship is an ongoing responsibility, not just an election year duty.

How Can Catholic Social Teaching Help Guide Our Participation?

In the words of Pope Francis, "progress in building a people in peace, justice and fraternity depends on four principles related to constant tensions present in every social reality. These derive from the pillars of the Church's social doctrine, which serve as 'primary and fundamental parameters of reference for interpreting and evaluating social phenomena.'"³ The four principles include the dignity of the human person, the common good, subsidiarity, and solidarity. Taken together, these principles provide a moral framework for Catholic engagement in advancing what we have called a "consistent ethic of life" (*Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 22).

Rightly understood, this ethic does not treat all issues as morally equivalent; nor does it reduce Catholic teaching to one or two issues. It anchors the Catholic commitment to defend human life and other human rights, from conception until natural death, in the fundamental obligation to respect the dignity of every human being as a child of God.

Catholic voters should use Catholic teaching to examine candidates' positions on issues and should consider candidates' integrity, philosophy, and performance. It is important for all citizens "to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest" (USCCB, *Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 33). The following summary of the four principles highlights several themes of Catholic social teaching for special consideration: these include **human rights and responsibilities, respect for work and the rights of workers, care for God's creation, and the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.**⁴

The Dignity of the Human Person

Human life is sacred because every person is created in the image and likeness of God. There is a rich and multifaceted Catholic teaching on human dignity summarized in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. Every human being "must always be understood in his unrepeatable and inviolable uniqueness . . . This entails above all the requirement not only of simple respect on the part of others, especially political and social institutions and their leaders with regard to every man and woman on the earth, but even more, this means that the primary commitment of each person towards others, and particularly of these same institutions, must be for the promotion and integral development of the person" (no. 131). The *Compendium* continues, "It is necessary to 'consider every neighbor without exception

as another self, taking into account first of all his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity' (*Gaudium et Spes*, no. 27). Every political, economic, social, scientific and cultural program must be inspired by the awareness of the primacy of each human being over society."⁵

Subsidiarity

It is impossible to promote the dignity of the person without showing concern for the family, groups, associations, and local realities—in short, for those economic, social, cultural, recreational, professional, and political communities to which people spontaneously give life and which make it possible for them to achieve effective social growth.⁶ The family, based on marriage between a man and a woman, is the fundamental unit of society. This sanctuary for the creation and nurturing of children must not be redefined, undermined, or neglected. Supporting families should be a priority for economic and social policies. How our society is organized—in economics and politics, in law and public policy—affects the well-being of individuals and of society. Every person and association has a right and a duty to participate in shaping society to promote the well-being of individuals and the common good.

The principle of subsidiarity reminds us that larger institutions in society should not overwhelm or interfere with smaller or local institutions; yet larger institutions have essential responsibilities when the more local institutions cannot adequately protect human dignity, meet human needs, and advance the common good.⁷

The Common Good

The common good is comprised of “the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily.”⁸

Human dignity is respected and the common good is fostered only if **human rights are protected and basic responsibilities are met**. Every human being has a right to life, a right to religious freedom, and a right to have access to those things required for human decency—food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to ourselves, to our families, and to the larger society.

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. An economic system must serve the dignity of the human person and the common good by **respecting the dignity of work and protecting the rights of workers**. Economic justice calls for decent work at fair, living wages, a broad and fair legalization program with a path to citizenship for immigrant workers, and the opportunity for all people to work together for the common good through their work, ownership, enterprise, investment, participation in unions, and other forms of economic activity. Workers also have responsibilities—to provide a fair day's work for a fair day's pay, to treat employers and coworkers with respect, and to carry out their work in ways that contribute to the common good. Workers, employers, and unions should not only advance their own interests but also work together to advance economic justice and the well-being of all.

We have a duty to **care for God's creation**, which Pope Francis refers to in *Laudato Si'* as “our common home.”⁹ We all are called to be careful stewards of God's creation and to ensure a safe and hospitable environment for vulnerable human beings now and in the future. Pope Francis, consistent with St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI (World Day of Peace Message, 1990 and 2010), has lifted up pollution, climate change, lack of access to clean water, and the loss of biodiversity as particular challenges. Pope Francis speaks of an “ecological debt” (no. 51) owed by wealthier nations to developing nations. And he calls all of us to an “ecological conversion” (no. 219), by which “the effects of [our] encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in [our] relationship with the world around [us].”¹⁰ Indeed, this concern with “natural ecology” is an indispensable part of

the broader “human ecology,” which encompasses not only material but moral and social dimensions as well.

Solidarity

Solidarity is “a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to . . . the good of all and of each individual, because we are *all* really responsible *for all*.” It is found in “a commitment to the good of one's neighbor with the readiness, in the Gospel sense, to ‘lose oneself’ for the sake of the other instead of exploiting him, and to ‘serve him’ instead of oppressing him for one's own advantage.”¹¹

We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Our Catholic commitment to solidarity requires that we pursue justice, eliminate racism, end human trafficking, protect human rights, seek peace, and avoid the use of force except as a necessary last resort.

In a special way, our solidarity must find expression in the **preferential option for the poor and vulnerable**. A moral test for society is how we treat the weakest among us—the unborn, those dealing with disabilities or terminal illness, the poor, and the marginalized.

Conclusion

In light of Catholic teaching, the bishops vigorously repeat their call for a renewed politics that focuses on moral principles, the promotion of human life and dignity, and the pursuit of the common good. Political participation in this spirit reflects not only the social teaching of our Church but the best traditions of our nation.

Notes

- 1 *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 183.
- 2 This specific list of issues is taken from the Introductory Note to *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 2015. For a fuller consideration, see the second document in this series, “The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship; Part II: Making Moral Choices and Applying Our Principles” (2016), and the full statement of the bishops’ *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 2015.
- 3 *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 221.
- 4 These principles are drawn from a rich tradition more fully described in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005), no. 160. For more information on these principles, see *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 2016, nos. 40ff.
- 5 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 132. This summary represents only a few highlights from the fuller treatment of the human person in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. For the fuller treatment, see especially nos. 124-159 where many other important aspects of human dignity are treated.
- 6 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 185.
- 7 *Centesimus Annus*, no. 48; *Dignitatis Humanae*, nos. 4-6.
- 8 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 164
- 9 *Laudato Si'*, no. 77.
- 10 *Laudato Si'*, nos. 219 and 217.
- 11 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 193. (See Mt 10:40-42, 20:25; Mk 10:42-45; Lk 22:25-27)

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