

2017 MASS INTENTION BOOK - will open for one week beginning on Monday, October 3. Mass intentions are limited to (2) per household and must be requested in person. We will do our best to schedule a Mass on a requested date and ask for your patience and understanding if a specific date is unavailable. As our Eucharistic Prayers make clear, every offering of this sacrifice includes not only the whole Church but also the whole human family, living and dead. We must be careful then to avoid the misunderstanding that one has "bought a Mass" and thereby enjoys major or exclusive ownership, as it were, in a particular offering of the Eucharist.

Altar candles, flower vases and baskets are also available to memorialize your loved ones. Please see Lisa in the Parish Center for these and other memorial options.



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.

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.

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



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

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.



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.

SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL YEAR OF MERCY THEMES AND PRESENTERS

Tuesday, September 27: Guest speaker, Sr. Laura Bezila, MPF, Teacher of Theology at Villa Walsh Academy will present 'Mary: The Mother of Mercy."

Thursday, October 20: Guest speaker, Mr. Fleetwood, Principal, St. Joseph High School, will present "To 'Religionize' Our Politics: Mercy in the Election Season."

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 idefillipps@stjoes.org.

WITNESS TO FREEDOM **ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE**

"No one in the world can change Truth. What we can do and should do is to seek truth and to serve it when we have found it."

The 20th century has been called the Century of Martyrs. Some historians estimate that more people died for their faith in the 20th century than the previous nineteen centuries combined. The 20th century saw a massive amount of bloodshed from people who died because of their faith. One of the most dramatic examples of these martyrs is Saint Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Franciscan priest who offered his life in the Auschwitz death camp in exchange for the life of another man, a husband and father.

Maximilian Kolbe saw the evil of both the Nazi fascism invading Poland from the west and communism invading Poland from the east. The squeezing of the Polish people was partly a military effort, but perhaps more profoundly, it was an attempt to drain Poland of its culture, which was decidedly Catholic. Totalitarian regimes cannot tolerate an authoritative voice other than the state.



In response to the attack on the very life of the Polish faithful, Maximilian Kolbe invested his time and energy into creating a counter voice through print media and the formation of priests. The saint knew that what faced Poland and the western world was first and foremost a spiritual battle and thus needed a spiritual response. In establishing various newspapers and houses of formation, Maximilian Kolbe heroically and courageously stood up to the secular powers of his time. His work showed that the political powers may gain control of civil institutions, but they would never and could never gain control of the human spirit.

This great priest must have known he risked his life, but it was a risk he was willing to take in order to witness to the true dignity of the human person. In the end, he did give up his life when he offered to take the place of a father and husband who was to be executed at Auschwitz. In his life and death, Fr. Kolbe achieved victory over the lies of the totalitarian movements that tried to redefine God's created order. Totalitarian ideologies may appear strong temporarily, but the martyr reveals that the human spirit, strengthened by God's grace, is stronger.

St. Maximilian Kolbe, pray for us!



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