



Remember in your prayers the members of our Armed Services, especially Patrick Blankenship of the USMC & Ryan O'Connor of the US Army, close friends of Jean Fall; Timothy Callahan of the US Marine Corps, son of Marie Callahan; Brendan Patrick Duffy of the U.S. Army, son of Deacon Larry & Denise Duffy, grandson of A.J. Errico; Michael Ferreira of the US Army, grandson of Anne & Bob Butler; Amanda Loomis of the US Army, cousin of Grace Ann McKeon; Maj. Seth Lucente of the US Army, brother-in-law of Philip & Kimberly Hahn; Michael Mattessich of the US Army, nephew of Tom O'Callaghan; & Jordan Weaver of the Air Force, husband of Christy (LaPointe) Weaver.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Registration for 2008-2009

Registrations for the 2008-2009 school year are now being taken for our Religious Education Program. If you have attended another program or Catholic School please call Sr. Joan to schedule an appointment. A letter from the previous program and sacramental certificates must be submitted. Any questions please contact Sr. Joan in the Religious Education Office at 908-234-1524. Returning students who did not register by May 4th should include a late fee of \$35.00 with the registration.

Calling All Kindergarten and Grade 1 Students: All children going into First Grade in September 2008 should be registered in our Religious Education Program in order to receive First Communion in Grade 2. Please call Sr. Joan to set up an appointment. We are also taking students for our Kindergarten class.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

AT THE SHRINE OF ST. JOSEPH

Why wait until December to frantically shop for Christmas when you can visit the serene grounds of the Shrine of St. Joseph and discover a large selection of reasonably priced Christmas gifts. Saturday, August 2 from 9 AM to 5 PM and on Sunday August 3 from 9 AM to 3 PM. All proceeds will benefit the Shrine of St. Joseph and the work of the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity throughout the world. For further information, please phone 908-647-0208 or visit our website, www.stshrine.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Bishop Bootkoski extends a cordial invitation to the people of our Diocese to join with him on a Diocesan Pilgrimage for Vocations to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, October 18, 2008. The Cathedral Parish of St. Francis is planning an overnight bus in conjunction with the Pilgrimage. The cost for the overnight bus is \$350 per person which includes R/T bus transportation, hotel, dinner, breakfast and a visit to the Shrine of Padre Pio in Barto, PA. For information on the overnight trip, contact Rosemarie Gazaleh at 732-548-0100, x 210.



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

This passage from the Book of Wisdom addresses itself to God, giving praise and thanksgiving for his mercy.

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-27

Paul indicates that since people are, in general, unaccustomed to the manner of praying, of speaking directly to God, the Holy Spirit will intercede for them.

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

According to Matthew, Jesus speaks of the "reign of God" in three parables: the man who soweth good seed, the mustard seed, and the yeast. In each parable, Jesus demonstrates that once the "reign of God" had been established, it grew and spread.

"Those who are just must be kind," says today's first reading. If our words and deeds are kind and selfless, we will be like the good seed in the Gospel parable and gathered as wheat in the Lord's harvest.

Wisdom 12:19

The Diocesan Office of Liturgical Music is currently forming ***Diocesan Adult and Youth Choirs for the October 18 Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.*** under the direction of Thomas DeLessio, Diocesan Director of Music. There will be approximately eight rehearsals held at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway. The exact dates will be announced. Requirements include a blending tone, ability to learn music quickly, and a joyful spirit! For additional information call 732-562-1990 x1634.

CATERED PICNIC AT DORNEY PARK

The Diocese of Metuchen Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is sponsoring a catered picnic outing for anyone at Dorney Park and Wildwater Kingdom on Monday, August 11, 2008 from 10 am to 10 pm. Tickets paid for by Friday, July 26 are \$38 and \$45 thereafter. For kids under 4' tall the cost is only \$25. Children under 3 are free. Price includes a five hour all you can eat meal pass from noon until 5 pm. For tickets please contact the Diocesan Youth Ministry Office at 732-562-1990 ext. 1627 or email asmith@diometuchen.org.



Join Us for Family Movie Night

When: Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Where: St. Brigid Parish Center Library

Time: 7 PM-8:30 PM

Feature: St. Therese

The story of an ordinary girl with an extraordinary soul. Bring your popcorn or snacks. All are welcome. Call Sr. Joan at 908-234-1265 for more information.

PRAY AND FAST FOR VOCATIONS

LORD, my God and my loving Father,
You have made me to know You, to love You, to serve You,
and thereby to find and to fulfill myself.
I know that You are in all things,
and that every path can lead me to You.
But of them all, there is one especially
by which You want me to come to You.
Since I will do what You want of me,
I pray You, send Your Holy Spirit to me: into my mind,
to show me what You want of me; into my heart,
to give me the determination to do it,
and to do it with all my love, with all my mind,
and with all my strength right to the end. Amen.



HOLY HOURS FOR VOCATIONS

This year 2008 marks a year dedicated to prayer for vocations to the Priesthood and consecrated Religious Life in our Diocese. *Holy Hours for Vocations* will be held at the following parishes:

July 24 - St. James, Basking Ridge, 4:30 PM.

July 28 - Our Lady of the Mount, Warren, 7:30-8:30 PM

Visit www.diometuchen.org/vocations, for the complete schedule.



"Abortion not only takes a life; it makes a statement about life, and not only about the life it takes, but about the lives of all of us. Abortion says we are disposable. Abortion says our value is determined by others. Abortion says there is not intrinsic dignity in human life that requires its absolute protection, and no destiny that reaches beyond this world or even beyond this Supreme Court."

—Fr. Frank Pavone

PRAYER FOR THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE

Lord and giver of all life, help us to value each person, created in love by You. In Your mercy, guide and assist our efforts to promote the dignity and value of all human life, born and unborn. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SAVE THE DATE! – The Diocese of Metuchen will be hosting a **Critical Life Issues Conference - Trust and Hope in Life** on Saturday October 25, from 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM at the St. John Neumann Conference Center, Piscataway. The Conference will address a wide spectrum of issues. Please call the Respect Life Office at 732-562-1900 ext 1629 or 1543 for more information or to reserve a seat. Tickets, including lunch: \$40; students - \$20.

Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you have tried and failed in, but with what is still possible to do.

Pope John XXIII



Natural Family Planning Awareness Week -

July 20-26

FREE, TOTALLY FAITHFUL

Married Couples:

You can enhance your marital romance and build a better marriage! It is never too late to experience the joy natural family planning methods can bring to your relationship. Both spouses are taught to understand the nature of fertility and work with it, either to plan a pregnancy or to avoid a pregnancy...NFP becomes a shared commitment!

Engaged Couples:

If you are interested in beginning your life together as husband and wife by loving one another naturally it is never too early to learn about natural family planning.

What are the benefits of using NFP? Low cost; no harmful side effects; effective for achieving, spacing or limiting pregnancy; can be used throughout a woman's reproductive life; marriage enrichment and mutual understanding; appreciation for the value of children; fosters respect for and acceptance of the total person; morally acceptable.

Where can I learn how to use NFP? Call the Family Life Office/Diocese of Metuchen 732-562-1990 ext 1624 or email familylife@diometuchen.org for more information or to register for classes at a location nearest your home.

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

An Introduction to God's Plan for a Joy-filled Marriage

Wednesday, August 6, 7 PM – 9 PM

St. John Neumann Diocesan Center, Piscataway

This mini-workshop on the "theology of the body" is a basic introduction to Pope John Paul II's teachings as they relate to marital love, sexual union, and the human body that offers a clearer understanding of the Church's teaching on marriage and sexuality. Registration fee: \$5. To register: Send check payable to "Diocese of Metuchen" (with TOB written on the memo line of the check) to the Family Office, PO Box 191, Metuchen, NJ 08840. For additional information call 732-562-1990 ext. 1624.

Does Your Loved One Have Alzheimer's or Dementia?

A seminar for families uncertain whether a member of your family is in the early stages of dementia or suffering from Alzheimer's disease will be held on **Wednesday, August 20; 1 PM. to 3 PM or 7 PM to 9 PM** at the St. John Neumann Diocesan Center, 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway. This seminar will help you recognize early signs of dementia; provide strategies to deal with various behaviors related to this disease; teach you what to expect and how to communicate with a family member who has Alzheimer's and resides in a healthcare facility. Presenter: Sr. Rosemary Goulet, IHM, NHA, CDP has experience in the field of elder care as a licensed Nursing Home Administrator. Admission: \$10 per person; families of 3 or more - \$5 each. For more information or to register call 732-562-1990 ext 1624.

Dear Parishioners,

The Buildings and Grounds Committee and I wanted to update the Parish Family on the status of the Committee:

Repairs to Date:

- The sidewalks of St. Brigid's Church were replaced in the Fall of 2007.
- The stain glass windows and steel frame above the entrance to the Parish Center have been repaired and repainted.
- Landscaping around St. Brigid's has been addressed.
- The stone window sills of St. Brigid's have been replaced.
- Landscaping around St. Elizabeth's will be addressed after the St. Elizabeth church sign arrives.

Immediate Repair Items:

The Plaza of St. Brigid's Church: The current condition of the plaza needs to be addressed immediately. Although the plaza was repaired within the past 10 years, the contractor who performed the work is no longer in business. Since the stone plaza is a major maintenance issue and the likely hood that the longevity of the stone plaza is 15 years or less, it is in our best interests to install a system which will give us the longest and best return on our dollar. The thoughts are to keep the stone plaza at the entrance of St. Brigid's up to the start of the handicap ramp. The handicap ramp needs to be lengthened to meet code. The entrance to the Parish Center currently does not allow for handicap access. An architect is needed to review the possibility of including a handicap ramp. The remainder of the plaza would be concrete. It will be reviewed to see if architecturally stamped concrete patterns or if the concrete can be dyed to resemble a stone color. If there is a licensed architect that may be willing to volunteer his/her time and talents to assist with the redesign to the Parish Center entrance please contact the parish Office.

The brick masonry wall at the parking lot of St. Brigid's Church: The current condition of the wall needs to be addressed immediately.

The slate roof of St. Brigid's Church: The current roof was replaced in recent years. However, to keep the roof in a state of good repair, broken slates need to be repaired, gutters cleaned and gutters repaired. .

Handicap parking for St. Brigid's Church will be addressed. It will be reviewed with the town officials to see if additional parking spots along Main Street in front of the Parish Center can be dedicated to handicap parking.

Additional Items to be reviewed and addressed:

- Handicap access to St. Patrick's Hall
- The feasibility of adding a handicap accessible restroom at St. Elizabeth's Church
- The condition of the front steps of St. Elizabeth's Church
- The handicap ramp and accessibility to St. Elizabeth's Church

As a whole our Parish Facilities are not new but require upkeep and maintenance to keep them in "a state of good repair". It is the challenge of the Building and Grounds Committee to help with the "vision" for the Parish for the next 5, 10, 15 years and beyond that. Our Parish Facilities help us as a Parish to come together as a Parish family. I use our neighbor, St. Luke's Church as an example. If anyone has visited St. Luke's recently, their "vision" is a reality with the facilities they have developed. I realize that this has not taken place over night, but this is part of my "vision" for our Parish. Again all "visions" require financial means. I ask anyone to willing to contribute, to please see our pastor, Father Puleo.

Thank you for your time, patience, and prayers.

Michael Bielawa, Chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee

CONGRATULATIONS

On Saturday, July 12, 2008 the following parishioners were commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to assist with serving the parish needs at Mass and bringing Communion to the sick and homebound:

<i>Joseph Giunta</i>	<i>Louise Giunta</i>
<i>Raymond Goger</i>	<i>Fred Grigni</i>
<i>Suzanne Grutta</i>	<i>James Guido</i>
<i>Mary Jane Guido</i>	<i>Bart Henderson</i>
<i>Lily Henderson</i>	<i>Harold Jones</i>
<i>Joann Jones</i>	<i>Vincent Robinson</i>
<i>Roseann Schwab</i>	

Please pray for all those that serve in this ministry that they may be faithful to living a Gospel way of life.

"Charity is the form, mover, mother, and root of all virtues."
St. Thomas Aquinas

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

Our parish offers the process by which adults come into the Church has come to be known as "the RCIA", which is short for "The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults."

This process is for:

1. **The unbaptized:** The primary focus of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is on those who are not already Christian and have not been catechized.
2. **Baptized but uncatechized:** Those who have been baptized either as Roman Catholics or as members of another Christian community but did not receive further catechetical formation or instruction. These typically have also not celebrated Confirmation nor Eucharist.
3. **Those seeking full Catholic Communion.** These are baptized, practicing Christians from other denominations who seek entry into the Catholic Church.

For more information about becoming a Catholic please contact the Parish Office at 908-234-1265.