

St. Elizabeth – St. Brigid
 March 15 – March 21, 2010
 Fourth Sunday of Lent

Liturgical Schedule

Monday, March 15

8:15 AM (St. Elizabeth) Rosary
 8:30 AM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Joseph Tozzi

Tuesday, March 16

8:45 AM (St. Brigid) Morning Prayer
 9:00 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Harriet Fridl

Wednesday, March 17

St. Patrick

9:00 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Special Intention
 7:00 PM (St. Elizabeth) Confessions
 7:15 PM (St. Elizabeth) Evening Prayer
 7:30 PM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Lois Torsilieri

Novena

Thursday, March 18

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

8:45 AM (St. Brigid) Morning Prayer
 9:00 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: George Kutscher

Friday March 19

St. Joseph

9:00 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Cameron Calabrese
 7:00 PM (St. Brigid) Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 20

8:30 AM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Special Intention
 4:30 PM (St. Brigid) Confessions
 5:00 PM (St. Brigid) Mass: Ann Stazzone
 6:30 PM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Margaret Goger
 7:30 PM (St. Elizabeth) Confessions

Sunday, March 21

Fifth Sunday of Lent

MASSES:

7:30 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Richard Rafferty Sr.
 8:30 AM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Ellis Schweitzer
 9:30 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: For the Parishioners
 10:30 AM (St. Elizabeth) Mass: Donald S. Knowlton
 11:30 AM (St. Brigid) Mass: Anthony & Elizabeth Buttacavoli

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, March 20

5 PM St. Brigid

(E) J. Guido (L) R. Schwab (A) J. Salcedo

6:30 PM St. Elizabeth

(E) L. Treppiccione (L) K. Howes (A) C. Villagra/A. Myers

Sunday, March 21

7:30 AM St. Brigid

(E) B. Henderson (L) R. Crane (A) G. Henderson

8:30 AM St. Elizabeth

(E) G. Schweitzer (L) J. Howe (A) B. Moreau/S. Marki

9:30 AM St. Brigid

(E) L. Henderson (L) C. Hickey (A) E. & C. O' Callaghan

10:30 AM St. Elizabeth

(E) D. Duffy (L) T. Lynch (A) R. & J. Lynch

11:30 AM St. Brigid

(E) P. Jibilian (L) L. Meyers (A) J. Mahala

CONTRIBUTIONS

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
 TO YOUR CHURCH AND PARISH**

St. Elizabeth March 6-7: \$ 4,260.00

St. Brigid March 6-7: \$ 4,669.00

The stewardship message in the parable of the prodigal son is that it is never too late to become a good steward. Blessed is the elder brother who had been a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal, who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he'd been given.

St. Elizabeth-St. Brigid Youth Choir

Children's choir will meet on Saturday March 20th at 3:45 – 4:45 PM and sing at the 5 PM Mass.



For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven ...”

A time to heal ... please pray for the sick of our parishes including: Joe Orlando, Cathy Sabatino, Bruno Rodizoski, David A. Pickel, Jr., Christopher D'Ambrosio, Lina Calabrese, Elizabeth Kurylo, Ophelia Robbie, Sheryl Ann Wille, Fr. Joachim Schweitzer OSB, and Raymond Pinkos.

A time to die ... please pray for those who have recently passed away.

2009 financial contribution statements for St. Elizabeth and St. Brigid Parishes are now available. Please call the parish Office at 908-234-1265 to request your statement.

Calling all youth!

How Is Your Lent Going?

Join us...

Lenten Lock-in! March 26th 5:30-10:30 PM For all High school & Middle school students. Prayer, reflection, food, & fun! Sign up by March 21st by calling Katie at 908-234-1265 or emailing: youthministryst.elizabeth-st.brigid@hotmail.com Don't miss it!

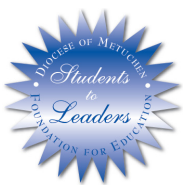
~ Come support other groups in the Parish and enjoy some good soup at Soup and Stations! Last two dates: March 19th & 26th 5:30PM -7:30PM.

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 USMC, son of Marie Callahan; Brendan Patrick Duffy of the US Army, son of Deacon Larry & Denise Duffy, grandson of A.J. Errico; Jordan Weaver of the Air Force, husband of Christy (LaPointe) Weaver, Timothy Donovan of the US Navy, close friend of Tom Gioino; John F. Stahl of the US Army, son, Joseph Stahl of the Navy, grandson, and Eric Hummel of the US Army nephew of Ruth Stahl.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Children in Grades Kindergarten, 1 and 2 are invited to participate in the Living Stations of the Cross. We will have practice on the following Wednesdays during Lent from 4:30-5:30 PM at St. Brigid Church; March 17th and 24th. The Living Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Friday, March 26th at 7 PM.

Students in Grades 6 through High school are invited to participate in the Teenage Stations of the Cross. Practice will take place on Thursday, March 18th from 7-8 PM at St. Brigid Church. Stations will be prayed on Friday, March 19th at 7 PM at St. Brigid Church. Call Sr. Joan at 908-234-1524 for more information.



BE A WINNER! Buy a Raffle Ticket for Education

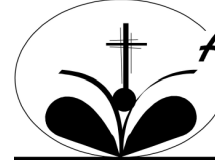
When Catholic education is available, accessible and affordable for our children, everyone wins! Help support the Foundation for Education by purchasing a \$100 raffle ticket and/or join us for the *Students to Leaders* Education Dinner on Wednesday, May 19th at The Palace in Somerset Park. Our guest speaker is author Mary Higgins Clark. For information: phone 732-562-2429, email educationdinner10@diometuchen.org or visit the website at www.diometuchen.org/development.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL TUITION ASSISTANCE

Applications for financial aid through the Diocese of Metuchen Tuition Assistance Program for the 2010-2011 school year are now available at all diocesan elementary and secondary schools. Completed applications must be received by Private School Aid Service no later than Wednesday, March 31, 2010. To obtain an application form, please contact the Principal or main office of the school where the student is registering. For a printable version of the form visit the diocesan website: www.diometuchen.org/schools/tuition-assistance/.



"Never tire of firmly speaking out in defense of life from its conception and do not be deterred from the commitment to defend the dignity of every human person with courageous determination. Christ is with you: be not afraid!" – Pope John Paul II



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

Joshua and the Israelites celebrated Passover in Jericho. This was the first time they had eaten the produce of the promised land. After this, there was no more bread sent from heaven because they were able to eat the yield of the land.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Paul tells us that anyone living in Jesus is a new creation because God has reconciled with us through Christ. As an ambassador for Jesus, Paul implores that the Corinthians be reconciled to God through Jesus.

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The Pharisees grew disgusted with Jesus because of his compassion toward sinners. So Jesus told them a story of a son who squandered his inheritance. When a famine broke out, he returned home and asked his father to become a hired hand. His father instead welcomed him with a joyful celebration, just as God is overjoyed when a sinner returns to him.

NEEDED: CRIBS AND TODDLER BEDS



Life Choices is happy to announce the birth of so many beautiful babies. But, this has led to a great shortage of cribs and toddler beds. Right now we have more than 40 moms on the waiting list. Please call if you have any gently used baby furniture or equipment. Call: 908-454-2066

FR. JOHN CORAPI IS COMING TO NEW JERSEY!

On Saturday, October 30, 2010, Fr. Corapi will be coming to the Prudential Center in Newark, NJ for an all day Conference and Mass. This event is sponsored by Domestic Church Media, which broadcasts EWTN Catholic Radio in NJ. Tickets for the Fr. Corapi Conference are available through Ticketmaster (www.ticketmaster.com)

2009 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL TELEPHONE CAMPAIGN

In an effort to secure the funding which is critical to sustaining our pastoral, educational and charitable ministries, the Diocese of Metuchen is embarking on a telephone campaign for the 2009 Bishop's Annual Appeal. Calls will be made from March 1st through March 25th (excluding Sundays) to those who have not yet made a gift to the 2009 appeal. Please note that callers will not ask for your credit card information. Callers have been instructed to honor the National Do

Not Call list even though as a religious institution we are exempt. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Very Reverend Sylvester J. Cronin, Executive Director, Stewardship & Development by phone at 732-562-2431 or by e-mail scronin@diometuchen.org.

BREAD & ROSES BALL

The 20th Annual Bread & Roses Ball will take place on **Saturday, April 17, 2010** at the Bridgewater Marriott in Bridgewater, NJ. The **proceeds** benefit Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen in Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren Counties. **Carmel Gettings, parishioner of St. Magdalen de Pazzi Church in Flemington, will receive the Immanuel Award.** The event includes dinner, dancing, silent auction, live auction, 50/50 raffle and by popular demand, Monte Carlo style gaming. For any questions or details on underwriting and sponsorships or to order dinner tickets or raffle tickets, please call 732-562-2438 or email www.breadandroses10@diometuchen.org

PRAY AND FAST FOR VOCATIONS

Eternal God, open wide the doors of our hearts to Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us, and all who desire to serve You, to know how to respond to Your call. Through the gift of baptism You invite us to witness to the grace of Your love. Bless all women and men whom You call to serve the Church as priests, deacons, sisters, or brothers. May they be bold and joyful witnesses to the presence of Your Incarnate Son, and to the breath of the Spirit in our world. Amen.



THURSDAY EVENINGS IN LENT

Come break open the "Word of God" in a small group setting and learn how it affects our life and our Lenten Journey. We will study and reflect on the readings for the following Sunday's Mass. Meetings will be held in the Parish Center library on Thursday March 18th and 25th from 7:15 PM - 8:15 PM. Please RSVP by calling the Parish Office at 908-234-1265.

LEGATUS "AMBASSADORS FOR THE CHURCH"

"Now More than Ever"

Mass, Rosary, Dinner and Speaker *Thursday, March 18th* Speaker: Len Deo, President of N.J. Family Policy Council For More information contact: Kathleen Fitzpatrick at (973) 292-3217.

MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

*Remembering Who We Are and
How to Remind Our Neighbors*

In Commemoration of the Feast of the Annunciation, St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, 1900 Brooks Boulevard, Hillsborough, NJ, will host a Respect Life Celebration on Sunday, March 21 beginning at 3 PM. This event, sponsored by the Respect Life Office of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, will be an afternoon of prayer, reflection and fellowship. Everyone is invited to share in the beautiful celebration of two short

Byzantine Catholic prayer services and to hear a presentation by Theresa Notare, PhD and Loretta Fleming, MA. Reservations are not required, but will be helpful in our planning. To make your reservation, please call St. Mary's at 908-725-0615.

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

"A WOMAN OF OUR TIMES"

Our Lady of the Mount Church 167 Mt. Bethel Road Warren, New Jersey presents Sister Nancy Murray, O.P., and her one-woman performance as St. Catherine of Siena, on Saturday, April 17th, at 7:30 PM. Sister Nancy is the "sister" of comedian Bill Murray. Sister Nancy has been performing to capacity crowds both nationally and internationally, including Rome, in her role as St. Catherine. She brings to life the rebellious adolescent child, and shows the humor and feisty personality that was St. Catherine. Pope Pius XII named Catherine a Patron Saint of Italy, Pope Paul VI gave her the title of Doctor of the Church, and Pope John Paul II made her one of Europe's patron saints. Do not miss the opportunity to see this amazing performance! For more information and tickets, please call Our Lady of the Mount Parish Office at (908) 647-1075. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, \$35 for a family ticket (5 or more people).

"In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is an important private and public virtue and participation in the political process is a moral obligation." Faithful Citizenship, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1999.

You are invited to join Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski on Tuesday, April 20, 2010, 7-9 PM for an **Evening of Legislative Dialogue** at St. Helena's School, Edison. Please join us as we present the concerns of the Catholic community related to social issues, Catholic education and respect for life issues to our State Legislators. All 30 legislators representing districts within the Diocese of Metuchen have been invited to participate. For more information or to register, call 732-562-1990 ext. 1543.

IMMACULATA HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM

On Thursday, March 25 at 8 AM, Immaculata High School, located at 240 Mountain Avenue in Somerville, will administer the Diocese of Metuchen HSPT Entrance Exam to all current 8th graders interested in applying to Immaculata for September 2010 admission. Please contact Matt Pitucco, Admissions, at 908-722-0200 x218 for an application and exam registration information.

What to Give UP...

*Give up complaining—focus on gratitude.
Give up pessimism—become an optimist.
Give up sin—turn to virtue.
Give up worry—trust Divine Providence.
Give up discouragement—be full of hope.
Give up bitterness—turn to forgiveness.
Give up hatred—return good for evil.
Give up negativism—be positive.
Give up anger—be more patient.
Give up pettiness—become mature.*

Give up gloom—enjoy the beauty all around
 Give up jealousy—pray for trust.
 Give up gossiping—control your tongue.
 Give up harsh judgments—think kindly.
 Give up giving up—hang in there!



Mark your calendars to join us during Lent for Soup and Stations hosted by various groups of the parish. From 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM in St. Patrick Hall there will be a Lenten Supper of meatless soup and bread followed by the Stations of the

Cross at 7 PM in St. Brigid Church.

March 19th: Knights of Columbus

March 26th: Daughters of Mary

LENTEN CONFESSIONS

Each Friday Evening, during the Stations of the Cross from 7 PM-8 PM at St. Brigid Church confessions will be heard at St. Brigid Church.

Lenten Penance Service: Monday, March 22, 2010 at 7 PM in St. Brigid Church. The guest homilist will be Fr. Keith Cervine, Associate Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Metuchen. There will be a number of priests available for confession.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IN OUR AREA

BASKING RIDGE- St. James Church

184 South Finely Avenue, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Reconciliation: Saturday 4PM – 5PM

Lenten Penance Service: March 15 7PM

BERNARDSVILLE- Our Lady of Perpetual Help

111 Claremont Road, Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Reconciliation: Saturday 4:30PM – 5:15PM

Lenten Penance Service: March 30 7PM

BRIDGEWATER- St. Bernard of Clarivaux Church

500 Route 22, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Reconciliation: Saturday 4PM – 4:45PM

Lenten Penance Service: March 28 7PM

MARTINSVILLE- Blessed Sacrament Church

852 Newmans Lane, Martinsville, NJ 08836

Reconciliation: Saturday 11AM – 12noon

WARREN- Our Lady of the Mount Church

167 Mt. Bethel Road, Warren, NJ 07059

Reconciliation: Saturday 4:15PM – 4:45PM

Lenten Penance Service: March 24 7PM

THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE FILM SCREENING

On Sunday, March 28, 2010 at 7 PM, at Ridge Performing Arts Center, St. James Youth Ministry will be sponsoring for ages 13 and over **THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE** created by Grassroots Films of Brooklyn, NY. The film is about a band of brothers who travel the world in search of the answers to the questions: Who am I? Who is Man? Why do we search for meaning? Through one on one interviews real life encounters the brothers are awakened to the beauty of the human person and the resilience of the human spirit. Don't miss this amazing event. Doors open at 6:15 PM. Donation

\$10. For more information, please contact: thxatridge@gmail.com.

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, March 19, 2010.

SPRING COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND MARCH 20 & 21

This Collection helps to fund six Catholic organizations that improve the quality of life and protect human dignity. Your gift will support agricultural development to strengthen economies and create food sustainability, provide outreach services to survivors of human trafficking, and supply pastoral care and advocacy for immigrants and refugees. By helping the marginalized and impoverished, you give hope to Jesus in disguise. The envelope for this Collection is included in your envelope packet.

LENTEN INSTRUCTIONS—2010

So that the Church of Metuchen may be spiritually one in a common observance of Lent, the following days of fast and abstinence are to be observed by all Catholics of the Diocese who enjoy the blessings of **good health**:

~The days of **fast and abstinence** are **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**.

~**All other Fridays** of Lent are **days of abstinence**.

~From the **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday** until the celebration of the **Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday**, the **Easter fast** should be observed so that, with uplifted and welcoming hearts, we may be ready to celebrate the joys of the Resurrection.

The obligation to **fast** applies only to Catholics **between the ages of 18 and 59**. To fast in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal during the day so as to experience hunger.

The obligation of **abstinence** affects all Catholics who have **reached the age of 14**. Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat and all meat products.

The obligation of fast and abstinence, as a whole, is a serious obligation. While failure to observe **any** penitential day in itself may **not be considered serious**, the failure to observe **any** penitential days at all, or a **substantial number** of them **without good cause**, would be considered a **grave matter**. Those unable to abstain for a valid reason on any given Friday of Lent are asked to perform **some other penitential act**, or to **abstain on another day**.

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH (over 1900 years old)

O St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the Throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. O St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord; so that, having engaged here below your Heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most Loving of Fathers. O St. Joseph, I never weary



contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine Head for me, and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for us. Amen