

## MARK YOUR CALENDERS

LIVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS, Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm in the Parish Hall.

### 2024 Lenten Obligations

1. The days of both fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday (February 14) and Good Friday (March 29).
2. The other Fridays of Lent (Feb. 16 and 23, Mar. 1, 8, 15, and 22) are days of abstinence.
3. Fasting in the Roman Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal with two smaller meals which together do not equal the size of your full meal. The obligation of fasting applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59.
4. Abstinence in the Roman Catholic tradition means to abstain from eating meat (beef, chicken, pork, turkey, etc.). The obligation of abstinence applies to all Catholics who have reached the age of 14.

### PRO-LIFE BRACELETS

**Thank you to the confirmation students for making pro-life bracelets. Please take one and pray during this Lenten season for God to save a baby from abortion. The bracelets can be worn to remind you to pray every day the pray inserted in the package. They can be found on the back table.**

### 2024 Bishop's Annual Appeal

Central to our understanding of Christian stewardship is the concept of accountability. To safeguard the gifts, you have entrusted to our care, we recently set up a special foundation, a separate trust, where all the money from this Appeal goes so that it can be used only for those ministries advertised in the Appeal materials and website. You can be assured that your gift is well protected and well used; making a difference in meeting the spiritual, educational and social needs of the people we serve. A gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal is a worthy investment. Our Parish goal is \$15,000. To date we donated \$6,029. We are almost half way there.

### TAX LETTERS

Call or email a request for your 2023 donation letter for your tax purposes. ([stpeterandpaul@comcast.net](mailto:stpeterandpaul@comcast.net) or 908-637-4269).

## SALVATORIAN MISSIONS

Next weekend we are asked to take up a collection to help fund the Salvatorian Missions. Fr. Greg is part of the Salvatorian Fathers community. Monies collected help this community spread the Word of God. Please be generous in the 2<sup>nd</sup> collection next weekend.

### CHRISM MASS

**Tuesday, March 26, 2024**

On Tuesday, March 26, 2024, Bishop James F. Checchio will celebrate the Chrism Mass with the priests of the Diocese. At this Mass, all priests will make a Renewal of Commitment to Priestly Service to the Bishop and the people of God. The Bishop will also bless and consecrate the Holy Oils, which each parish receives for the rites of anointing. The Oil of Catechumens is used to anoint infants and adults before their Baptism; the Oil of the Sick is used on the forehead and hands of the infirm in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick; and Sacred Chrism is used to anoint the head of the newly baptized, the foreheads of confirmandi, the hands of a priest at his ordination, the head of a bishop at his ordination, and the altar and walls of new churches. All are strongly encouraged to join in-person or via Livestream in the ancient, grace-filled Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen at 4:00 PM.

### *Pilgrimage to Africa!*

Visit Cape Town, Table Mountain, Robben Island, Winelands, Cape of Good Hope, Boulder's Beach, [private wine tasting tour at Stellenbosch, Kalahari, Sossusvlei (Deadvlei/Dune 45, Big Daddy Dune), Namib Desert, Swakopmund, and the Savannah Bush and see all the Etosha wildlife. Guided Safari with in open air jeep. 12 Breakfasts, 7 meals, 2 lunches included), Daily Mass. Contact: Fr. David Kosmoski, St. Andrew Church 244 Avenel Street, Avenel NJ 07001 Limited space available, Call now! 732 634-4355 October 27- November 11, 2024, Tour price, \$6,000 includes also found-trip air from Newark Liberty and superior hotels and lodges in the desert.

### National Eucharistic Pilgrimage

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage (NEP) has publicly launched! The NEP (<https://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/>) will consist of four cross-country Eucharistic processions, collectively traversing the entire continental United States over a two-month period, beginning during the feast of Pentecost, May 17-19, 2024. The pilgrimage is being organized by the National Eucharistic Revival campaign

in conjunction with Modern Catholic Pilgrim, a Catholic nonprofit dedicated to deepening the faith across the country through pilgrimages. Along the way, the pilgrims will make stops in major U.S. cities, churches, Catholic colleges, and holy sites. Parishes along the routes will host Mass, adoration, devotions, praise and worship, lectures on the Eucharist, and more. The Seton Route, which will begin in New Haven, Connecticut, will be passing through the Diocese of Metuchen on **May 27-28, 2024**. The four pilgrimage processions will ultimately converge in Indianapolis on July 16, 2024, to participate in the National Eucharistic Congress. Adam Carlisle, Secretary for Evangelization and Communication, will be helping to organize our diocese's involvement. If anyone is interested in assisting with this important event, please feel free to contact him at [acarlisle@diometuchen.org](mailto:acarlisle@diometuchen.org).



The pilgrims will be arriving on the early evening of May 27 and departing on the early evening of May 28. More information will be forthcoming, but the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage is hoping that the perpetual pilgrims, young adult Catholics (19 to 29 years old), will be able to rely on the biblical hospitality of local hosts, including lay families, parishes, religious orders, schools, and shrines along the way. There will be twelve young adults (including two seminarians) and one or two ordained chaplain(s) on every route.

#### **ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO THE DIACONATE?**

The Diocese is looking for Spanish-speaking or bilingual men who are interested in becoming Deacons. A new diaconate formation class is about to begin. Applications for that class will be accepted this Spring; prior to applying, interested men must attend an Information Meeting. Information Meetings will be held at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center in Piscataway on Wednesday, January 31, at 7:00 PM and again on Saturday, February 3, at 10:00 AM. If you are between the ages of 35 and 60, and you believe you are being called to this ministry, you, your wife and your pastor are cordially invited to attend one of these meetings. If you have any questions, or wish to advise that you will attend, please contact the Diocesan Diaconate Office at (732) 562-2457 or [diaconate@diometuchen.org](mailto:diaconate@diometuchen.org).

**National Eucharistic Congress - Tickets/Travel Packages Now Available!**

The Diocese of Metuchen has partnered with Corporate Travel Services to secure travel packages for the National Eucharistic Congress (<https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/>), which is being held this July 17-21 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Those interested in attending the NEC will be given the option of purchasing a “Land Only” option, which will include passes, hotel accommodations (including free continental breakfast), and shuttle service to and from Indianapolis each day. We are also offering two flight options, both of which are direct flights. Participants may choose to fly out of Newark or Philadelphia. To make things easier, we will be providing a shuttle service to those flying out of Philadelphia. People will be able to park their cars at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, which will save them the hassle of driving to the airport themselves. If you missed the information session, which was held on Wednesday, December 6, you may watch the video, which has been posted to our website (<https://diometuchen.org/nec2024>). You will also find a copy of the brochure and a link to register for the National Eucharistic Congress. We will be updating this page regularly, so please feel free to check back in the next few weeks. Of course, if you would like to print out a poster-sized (18” x 24”) version of the brochure, please click on the following link: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-wbak44kP4edV-8t3c1GSIbWSecM2bdi/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-wbak44kP4edV-8t3c1GSIbWSecM2bdi/view?usp=drive_link)). As this is a pivotal moment in both American history and the legacy of the Catholic Church—it is the first National Eucharistic Congress in 83 years, after all!—we hope that you will consider joining Bishop Checchio in Indianapolis this summer. These travel packages will be sold on a first-come/first-serve basis. Of course, if anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [acarlisle@diometuchen.org](mailto:acarlisle@diometuchen.org).

#### **2024 Diocesan Youth Day REGISTRATION OPEN!**

**April 20th, 2024 - Check-In Begins at 10am. The day will run from 10:30am - 5pm.**

The Diocese of Metuchen's Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry will run our Diocesan Youth Day at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Edison.

Throughout the course of this day, 8th-12th grade teens will come together to enter into the sacrament of the Mass, have fun with one another, hear talks from Chika Anyanwu, have the opportunity for Adoration and Confession, enjoy live music, good food, and more!

Please register here:

<https://www.diometuchen.org/diocesan-youth-day>