



DIOCESE OF
METUCHEN

We want to keep you informed and in contact with our Ministry Offices. Here you can find what is new and how to reach us:

**Office of Communications and Public Relations-Tara Smith,
Associate Director**

Communication Champions

The Office of Communications and Public Relations was slated to hold its first ever meeting for designated parish Communication Champions shortly before the state, and our world, was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are continually evaluating how we can best meet the communication needs of and support our parishes and schools. As we develop resources for your use, we invite you or members of your staff to reach out to us at any time, should you have any questions, need guidance or support. Please know that you have been in the prayers of our staff, especially as you continue to navigate the challenges of communicating during these times, and know that we are here as a resource to you and are happy to support you in any way we can.

communications@diometuchen.org

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**CARE OF
GOD'S
CREATION**

Beauty Contest
— Season of Creation Challenge —

Celebrating the 5th Anniversary of Laudato Si,
parishioners and students are asked to submit
a photo and description of the most beautiful
outdoor area of their parish or school campus.
The photos will be displayed on the diocesan
website and on social media.

*Photos should be submitted to:
communications@diometuchen.org*

#GENERATIONLAUDATOSI

communications@diometuchen.org



Produced by the staff of the Office of Communications, "Am I Not Here?" – a weekly podcast – highlights the good news within our local Church and those working to minister to the people of the Diocese of Metuchen.

In the latest episode, the staff discusses the USCCB's "Civilize It" campaign, "a non-partisan call to focus on the dignity of all people, even when we disagree, and to put faith in action by bearing witness to a better way forward." To listen to this episode and more, or to learn more about the "Civilize It" campaign, please click the links below.

[Podcast Link](#)

[Civilize It link](#)

Office of Human Life & Dignity – Jennifer Ruggiero, Director

Live the
Gospel of *Life*

September 9, 2020: A Day of Prayer and Fasting for an End to Racism:

The bishops of the United States are urging Catholics to pray and fast for an end to racism on Wednesday, September 9, the feast of St. Peter Claver—a Spanish priest and abolitionist who ministered to African slaves in 17th - century South America. Catholics are urged to pray and fast, either by assisting at Mass in reparation for sins of racism, by praying the rosary, or by asking for the intercession of saints who fought racism in their lifetimes, such as St. Katharine Drexel or St. Peter Claver. Additional resources on overcoming racism can be found here:

[Additional Resources](#)



October 4, 2020: Respect Life Sunday – Life Chain

2:00 to 3:30 pm (Rain or Shine)

LIFE CHAIN is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life individuals standing for 90 minutes praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by participants of all faiths, especially the Christian community, that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death.

Locations:

Flemington: Route 31 to Main St.,

Contact: Jim Vargas, 908-391-1566

Great Meadows: St. Peter & Paul, 60 Route 46,

Contact: Gail McMahon 908-637-4269

Somerville: Somerville Street & Mountain Ave,

Contact: Kevin Dugan, 908-788-7736

For additional locations contact, Angela at:

amarshall@diometuchen.org

**Choices Matter Virtual
Conference Series Coming in
October!**

**Dates and Speakers to be
announced soon!!! For more
information, visit:**



Diocese of Metuchen-Human Life and Dignity

**Office of Hispanic Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry –
Allan Caballero, Director**

The Office of Hispanic Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry has prepared an online evangelization plan in Spanish to continue serving your parish community by supporting your evangelization efforts.

Every week we send out information regarding the Hispanic Diocesan events and other resources for our community. If you do not receive our emails, but would like to do so, please click below and complete the form:

[Click Here to sign-up!](#)

September Events:

Consecration Classes to Jesus through Mary

Online classes in Spanish.

Allan Caballero

Date: Every Monday

Time: 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

For more Information e-mail:

Hispanic.ministry@diometuchen.org



Course "Liturgy and Sacraments"

Online classes in Spanish.

Rev Juan Carlos Gaviria

Date: Wednesday, September 23, 30; October 7, 14 & 21

Time: 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Cost: \$12 (Including Book)

For more information e-mail:

Hispanic.ministry@diometuchen.org

[Register Here](#)

ROSARY PRO - LIFE

Wednesday , September 16, 2020

2:00 PM

In Spanish

Join us

Facebook Live

Immaculate Conception Parish

<https://www.facebook.com/ICSomerville/>



Office of Hispanic Evangelization
Diocesan Hispanic Leadership Team

Rosary for Life

Date: Wednesday, September 16.

Diocesan Hispanic Leadership Team

Time: 2:00 PM

Facebook Live and Youtube – Immaculate Conception Parish,
Somerville

For more Information e-mail:

Hispanic.ministry@diometuchen.org



Online Hispanic Heritage Mass

Date: Friday, September 25.
Office of Hispanic Evangelization
Time: 7:30 PM
Facebook Live and Youtube
For more Information:

[Click Here for more information](#)

[Diocese of Metuchen Facebook Page](#)

Office for Discipleship Formation for Children – Carol Mascola, Director

The Office of Discipleship Formation for Children strives to make lifelong faith formation the central axis of catechesis in all parishes of the Diocese of Metuchen by providing all people, at every age and stage of life, opportunities to experience God's love and conversion of heart through a growing knowledge of Jesus and the Gospel message. The mandate to evangelize comes from Christ himself.

Since the shutdown in March, the Office of Discipleship Formation has been committed to supporting parishes with their needs. During these challenging times, Catechetical Leaders can participate in weekly and bi-weekly virtual meetings and workshops. They serve a two-fold purpose by providing the opportunity to share thoughts and fears and hear new and upcoming ideas as well as respond to requests for help with planning for the coming year due to restrictions COVID-19 presents. In light of a pandemic, this has become a time for collaboration. Through the darkness, a time of bonding and support through new friendships among those who may not have had the opportunity to meet evolved. Catechesis is an evolving ministry that responds to the faith needs and spiritual growth of our communities in good times and bad. Our Catechetical Leaders have responded well to the challenging work in these uncertain times.

As restrictions lift Carol Mascola has begun in-person meetings with Pastors and PCLs. To schedule a parish, visit or if you are in need of assistance please contact (732) 529-7930 or e-mail:

cmascola@diometuchen.org

If you wish to be on our list of recipients for our weekly newsletter email Administrative Assistant, Katie Battle at:

kbattle@diometuchen.org

September Calendar

Virtual Foundations I, part I of New PCL Certification
Carol Mascola Facilitator

Dates & Topic

September 9, 10:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. Legal Issues
September 10, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00p.m. Liturgy & Sacraments



The Date for our PCL Welcome Back is coming soon!

Office of RCIA- Sara Sharlow, Director

RCIA OVERVIEW

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

Our experience has indicated that when RCIA Teams have not gone to RCIA trainings, they tend to implement the process as a program of religious education. Though religious education is a component of the process, there are other important aspects that are included in the Rite. In order for the process to be most effective, those on the team (most especially the directors of the team) should have a knowledge and understanding of all of those aspects.

If you are a new RCIA director for your parish, or an RCIA director who has never attended our trainings, PLEASE join us!

If you have invited new members to be part of your team, or if your team members have not attended one of our training workshops – please invite them to attend. Experienced teams who would like a review are also welcomed.

Please register your team in Advance for this training by clicking below:

[Register Here](#)

**Let's celebrate the
Neophytes!**



Due to Covid-19 restrictions, our parishes have been left no choice but to celebrate the Initiation outside of the Easter Vigil. For the same reason, the Diocese is unable to have its annual Neophyte Mass celebration. The deeply felt absence of this special celebration has led to the decision to create a

virtual recognition of all the Neophytes to be shared on our diocesan website.

We would like witness statements from as many of our Neophytes as possible (to have all of them is ideal!) The statements can be either written, or in video form. If they are written we ask that they be accompanied by a photo. Please invite all your Neophytes to participate.

For more information, please contact us:

ssharlow@diometuchen.org

Initiation Document from Bishop Checchio

In his document regarding Initiation, the Bishop advises:

- 1.) Baptized Candidates can receive Confirmation and Eucharist at any time, whenever they are ready.
- 2.) Those who are preparing for Baptism, before their Initiation, should:
 - Participate in a parish Rite of Election if they did not participate in the Diocesan Rite of Election. Contact our office for the Document "Request for Presiding At A Parish Rite of Election"
 - Participate in a Scrutiny if they have not already participated in one
 - Participate in one or both of the dispensed scrutinies, if possible
 - Participate in the Presentation of the Creed
 - Participate in the Presentation of the Lord's Prayer
 - Participate in the Preparation Rites if possible

The above are rituals – they are not classes. If you have any questions about the Rituals, or would like help in preparing them, please contact our office. We will be happy to assist you.

[Bishop's Document](#)

ssharlow@diometuchen.org



EVERY MONDAY at 11:00 AM

Join us by your computer

Meeting ID: 547 948 035

Password: 790432

OR By Phone at (929) 436-2866

Meeting ID: 547 948 035

Password: 790432

Join us in a prayerful gathering of Lectio Divina. Start your week with prayer, community, and hope. We look forward to sharing this time with you! Remember to have your bible with you!

[Join Us Here](#)

If you are interested in receiving our weekly RCIA newsletter please click the link below to sign-up:

[Click Here to sign-up!](#)

To view our latest newsletter, please click below:

[Latest Newsletter](#)



Office of Worship-Tony Varas, Director

Talk with Tony *An online conversation*

Tuesdays, 12:10 PM - 12:50 PM
Our next conversations will be on:
Sept. 8th and Sept. 22nd



Join Tony Varas, director of the Office of Worship for a 40 minute live online conversation. Liturgical topics will be chosen based upon requests from participants. Grab lunch and join in the discussion!

There's no charge - but to foster a good discussion the number of participants will be limited so you'll need to register in advance.
Reserve a place:

[September 8th Conversation](#)

[September 22nd Conversation](#)

Office of Family Life- Cristina D'Averso-Collins, Director



Celebrating Silver & Gold Wedding Anniversaries

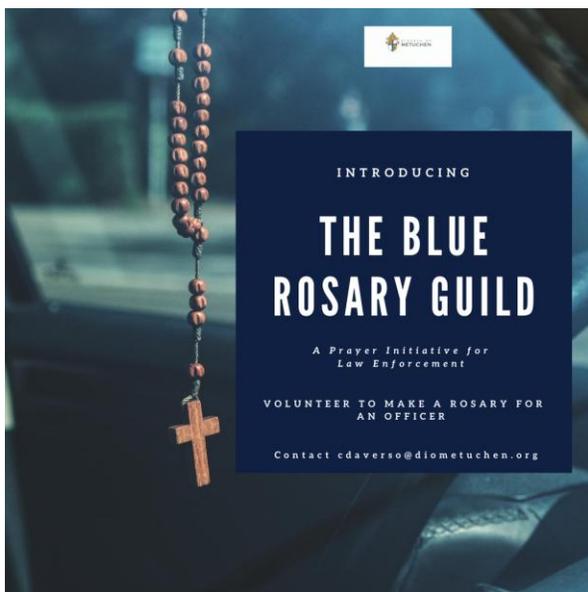
You are cordially invited to celebrate your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary by receiving a congratulatory message from Bishop James F. Checchio. Registration is required to receive your message by mail. Please register online at:

[Register Here](#)

If you are unable to access, please contact your parish secretary or e-mail:

amarshall@diometuchen.org

***Registration will close on October 15, 2020. Although no fee is required, in the past many Jubilarian couples have given a donation of gratitude to the Church in memory of this special occasion. Donations of Gratitude may be made online or emailing to amarshall@diometuchen.org.



Volunteer to Make Pocket Rosaries for Law Enforcement

The Office of Family Life is pleased to announce the creation of the Blue Rosary Guild. The purpose of the Guild is for community members of all ages to make pocket Rosaries for law enforcement officers, providing them with support and spiritual strength and promoting devotion to the Rosary among all the faithful. All materials and instructions will be provided and a Zoom virtual tutorial will also be scheduled. Anyone interested should contact Cristina D'Averso-Collins, Director of the Office of Family Life at :

cdaverso@diometuchen.org



Retreat for Adult Children of Divorce:

Are your parents divorced, separated, or otherwise not together? Are you struggling with the effects of that and looking for guidance? Life-Giving Wounds, a Catholic apostolate dedicated to support adults from broken homes, is running an online retreat from Oct. 1 to Nov. 12. Retreatants will meet others who "get" the pain of having your parents split up, and will hear from fellow adult children of divorce or separation on dealing with anger, anxiety, family boundaries, forgiveness, and more. You are not alone! \$75 early-bird, \$100 after Sept. 20, \$50 college students. More information and registration here:

[Register Here](#)

Young Couples' Bible Study

Meeting dates:

September: 14th and 28th

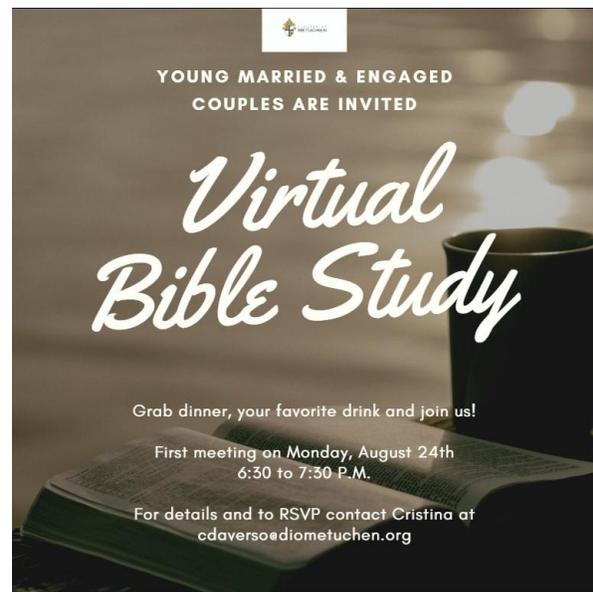
October: 12th and 26th

From:

6:30 p.m.

To:

7:30 p.m.



cdaverso@diometuchen.org



cdaverso@diometuchen.org

Office for Religious – Sr. Anna Nguyen, SCC, Delegate for

Religious

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

September approaches quickly. For many of us, September may mean a new ministry and to some, a new ministry at an unfamiliar location.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis also calls us to a new way of living, perhaps this time, to be involved in something beyond the familiar and more in concert with the gift of creation of which we are apart. In celebration of the fifth anniversary of the publication of *Laudato Si*, our Holy Father has proclaimed September 1 to October 4 the Season of Creation and the start of a Jubilee Year for the Earth.

Here is a message from Pope Francis:



[Message from Pope Francis](#)

[A meditation on Creation](#)

An action that makes a difference: Join a global network on a pledge to care:

[Live Laudato Si](#)

May you and yours be blessed with renewed energy and grace for a successful and fulfilling apostolic year.

Peace and Joy,

Sister Anna Nguyen, SCC Delegate

anguyen@diometuchen.org

**Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries – Katie Battle,
Administrative Assistant**

The Youth Ministry and Young Adult Office will continue to send out the monthly e-mails with upcoming virtual events and resources for both Youth Ministry and Young Adult Groups.

Please contact the Administrative Assistant - Katie Battle with any questions, concerns or to be added to the mailing list.

kbattle@diometuchen.org