

OUR LADY OF FATIMA CHURCH

The Home of the Shrine of the Three Little Shepherds of Fatima

Physical Address/Church: 501 New Market Road, Piscataway, New Jersey 08854

Mailing Address/Parish Center: 50 Van Winkle Place, Piscataway, New Jersey 08854

Phone: 732-968-5555 **Fax:** 732-968-5959 **E-mail:** olfpiscataway@optonline.net **Web:** www.olfparish.org

Facebook: *Our Lady of Fatima Church-Piscataway*

HOLY MASS

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

Weekend

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 am, 1:00 & 5:00 pm

Weekdays

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 7:00 & 9:00 am

Tuesday & Thursday: 7:00 am & 7:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am

Holy Days of Obligation

7:00 pm (Vigil); 7:00, 9:00 am; 12:00 & 7:00 pm

PENANCE & RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00 - 4:50 pm

Tuesday & Thursday: 6:00 - 6:50 pm

DEVOTIONS

Holy Rosary

Sunday after all Masses

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Novena

Tuesday: 6:50 pm

Saint Joseph Novena

Thursday: 6:50 pm

Immaculate Heart of Mary (First Saturday) Rosary

Every 1st Saturday of the month after the 9:00 am Mass

BAPTISM – Infants

1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 3:00 pm.

Parents should schedule their child's Baptism and attend the Prep Class as early in the pregnancy as possible.

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Non-Catholics interested in becoming Roman Catholic and Catholics seeking to complete their initiation into the Church are invited to enroll in the OCIA – a religious formation program which introduces and explains the Catholic Faith to adults while preparing them to receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist).

CONFIRMATION – Adults

Catholics, ages 14 and older, who need to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation should enroll in the *Adult Confirmation Program*.

HOLY MATRIMONY

Couples should contact the Parish Office at least one year prior to the proposed wedding date. Either the bride or groom should be a registered parishioner.



GODPARENT/SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY

Those individuals seeking to become a godparent or sponsor in the Catholic Church must obtain from their parish a letter of eligibility. To receive such a letter one must fulfill the following conditions in the Diocese of Metuchen: Be at least 14 years of age, be a fully initiated member of the Church (having received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist), if married, be in a valid Catholic marriage, be registered with a parish (for at least 6 months) and be actively practicing the faith (regularly attending Sunday Mass while living a life of Christian virtue and charity).

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK / HOMEBOUND

The sick, homebound and those scheduled for surgery are invited to call the parish office in order to make arrangements to receive Holy Communion and/or the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Although the Sacrament of Anointing may be administered at any time during a serious illness, family members should not wait until the patient is in critical condition or unconscious before contacting a priest.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES – Children

Sunday: 10:15 – 11:30 am (Grades 1 – 6)

Wednesday: 4:15 – 5:30 pm (Grades 1-6)

Wednesday: 6:15 – 7:30 pm (Grades 7 & 8)

CCD Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs. 9:00am-2:00pm, Wed., 9:00 am-8:00 pm, Sun. 9:00 am-12:00 pm, & Fri. the office is closed.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Parish Office is open Monday—Friday, 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

EXPOSITION AND ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Perpetual (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel located in the Parish Center.

Parish Directory

PARISH CLERGY

Pastor	Very Rev. Arlindo Paul Da Silva	Ext. 101
Parochial Vicar	Rev. Robert V. Meyers	Ext. 116
Parochial Vicar	Rev. Robert Pinnisi	Ext. 118
In Residence	Rev. David Chalackal, C.M.I.	
Deacon	Dcn. Jacinto Fernandes	
Deacon	Dcn. Bill Rider	Ext. 113
Deacon Emeritus	Dcn. Larry Reilly	

PARISH STAFF

* Volunteer Staff Member

Secretarial:	Connie Cannata, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Ext. 104
	Natalie Mueller, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Ext. 107
	*Muriel Bronovicki, <i>Evening Receptionist</i>	Ext. 104
	*Amy Gutierrez, <i>Evening Receptionist</i>	Ext. 104
	*Evelyn Nuguid, <i>Evening Receptionist</i>	Ext. 104
	*Katie Ippoliti, <i>Office Volunteer</i>	
Business:	Jim Whelan, <i>Business/Property Manager</i>	Ext. 112 or jwhelan@olfparish.org
	*Ed Lyons, <i>Event/Facilities Manager</i>	732-642-6748
	Ralph DeLillo, <i>Bookkeeper</i>	Ext. 103
Communications:	*Cathy Horn, <i>Bulletin/Website Manager</i>	Ext. 117 czhorn.nj@gmail.com 908-812-1892
	*Melissa Seader, <i>Facebook Manager</i>	mseader@olfparish.org
Maintenance:	Luis Lopez, <i>Maintenance Director</i>	Ext. 114 or llopez@olfparish.org
	Ricardo Lopez, <i>Custodian</i>	Ext. 114
	Marga Bower, <i>Church Sacristan</i>	732-310-3191
	Aurora Sardo, <i>Rectory Manager</i>	732-968-5556
	Maria Cabrera, <i>Rectory Assistant</i>	732-968-5556
Religious Education (CCD):	Deacon Lou Pizzigoni III, <i>PCL</i>	Ext. 105 deaconlou@olfparish.org
	Clara Sardo, <i>Assistant PCL</i>	Ext. 106 csardo@olfparish.org
Renovation Capital Campaign:	*George Maurer, <i>Coordinator</i>	Ext 110 grmaurer@olfparish.org
Sacred Music:	Jean Lyons, <i>Director</i>	Ext. 111 jlyons@olfparish.org 732-642-6747
Special Parish Activities:	*Veronica Klein, <i>Coordinator</i>	732-763-6357 vklein13@optonline.net
Stewardship Council:	*Roberta Maurer, <i>Coordinator</i>	732-245-9124 rebaspec@comcast.net

PARISH MINISTRIES & APOSTOLATES

Adult Confirmation Program	Rose Fay	732-325-8903
Adult Education	Irene Russo	732-752-0547
Altar Servers (Youth)	Cathy Culpepper	732-895-2388
Altar Servers (Adult Men)	Al Tuttle	732-648-5188
Baby Showers	Madge Heeney	732-748-8845
Baptism Preparation Classes ("Pre-Jordan")	Connie Cannata	732-968-5555
Bible Study	VACANT	732-968-5555
Blessed Mother Birthday Celebration	Cathy Culpepper	732-895-2388
Blood Drives – Knights of Columbus	Harry Buttito	732-207-8193
Blue Army (World Apostolate of Fatima)	VACANT	732-968-5555
Candlelight Procession Committee	Irene Russo	732-752-0547
Cantors	Jean Lyons	Ext. 111 jlyons@olfparish.org 732-642-6747
Choir (Adult)	Jean Lyons	Ext. 111 jlyons@olfparish.org 732-642-6747
Choir (Children's)	Joanne Mild	732-844-6001 joanne@mild.net
Choir (Filipino)	Noel Gendrano	908-421-6644

Choir (Youth)	Binky Idioma	732-688-0355
Christian Seder Supper	Keith & Jill Venturella	732-261-9251
Church Decorating Committee	Luis Lopez	Ext. 114 or llopez@olfparish.org
Church Renovation Committee	Fr. Paul Da Silva	732-968-5555
Clothing Collection (for Catholic Charities)	Luis Lopez	Ext. 114 or llopez@olfparish.org
Collection Counters (<i>St. Matthew Counters</i>)	Ralph DeLillo	Ext. 103
Concords (Separated or Divorced)	Lucy McDonald	732-968-4093
Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary	Sue Ellen Bibby	732-649-9304
Corpus Christi Procession Committee	Irene Russo	732-752-0547
Courage	Ed Lyons	732-642-6748
Divine Mercy Conference	Max Gutierrez	732-925-7788
Divine Will Study Group	Laura Vaz	732-744-6737
Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage	Sue Ellen Bibby	732-649-9304
EnCourage	Jean Lyons	732-642-6747
Eucharistic Guardians	Gerry Aboyme	732-266-4145
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Arlene Sroczyński	732-563-0449
Filipino American Association	Veronica Klein	732-763-6357
Fishes & Loaves Café	Arlene Sroczyński	732-563-0449
Food Collection (for FISH – local Food Pantry)	Al Tuttle	732-648-5188
FORMED	Sharon Strack	732-752-4979
Heritage Day Committee	Roberta Maurer	732-245-9124 or Ext. 110
Hispanic Rosary Society	Luz Lopez	732-598-7528
Holy Hour for the Dying – Thursday Afternoon	Rosemarie O'Brien	908-753-7486
Holy Hour for the Dying – Wednesday Evening	Michael Dolan	732-718-3553
Holy Trinity Charismatic Prayer Group	Cesar Jose	732-968-7882
Instrumentalists	Jean Lyons	Ext. 111 jlyons@olfparish.org 732-642-6747
Jr. Legion of Mary	Ming Estrada	732-261-1316
Knights of Columbus – Council 2544	Jim Whelan	koc2544_dunellen@yahoo.com
Lazarus Ministry	Sharon Strack	732-752-4979
Lectors	Pat Jacob	trinbago1961@gmail.com
Legion of Mary	Kathy Skiba	732-885-9375
Lenten Soup Suppers	Keith & Jill Venturella	732-261-9251
Marriage Celebration Day	Sue Ellen Bibby	732-649-9304
May Crowning	Deacon Lou Pizzigoni III	Ext. 105 deaconlou@olfparish.org
Ministry to Mothers Ministry (St. Jane de Chantal)	Anne Houston	973-479-6467 aeHouston511@gmail.com
New Parishioner Welcome	Roberta Maurer	732-245-9124 or Ext. 110
Newsletter	Bob Niemeyer	olf.piscataway.newsletter@gmail.com
OCIA (<i>Order of Christian Initiation of Adults</i>)	Rose Fay	732-325-8903
OCIC (<i>Order of Christian Initiation of Children</i>)	Deacon Lou Pizzigoni III, PCL	Ext. 105 deaconlou@olfparish.org
Operation Rice Bowl	Arlene Sroczyński	732-563-0449
Our Lady of Fatima Traveling Statue	Kathy Skiba	732-885-9375
Our Lady of Guadalupe Traveling Image	Ming Estrada	732-261-1316
Parish Finance Council	Jim Whelan	jwhelan@olfparish.org
Parish History/Heritage Committee	Cynthia Harris	732-968-5555
Picnic	Luis Lopez	Ext. 114 or llopez@olfparish.org
Respect Life Ministry (St. Margaret of Castello)	Nicole Miller	315-816-8289 nmiller@olfparish.org
Rosary Apostolate	Cathy Culpepper	732-895-2388
Rosary Makers Guild	Sharon Strack	732-752-4979
Rosary Society	Jean DeLillo	732-968-6429
Sextons	Deacon Bill Rider	Ext. 113
Stewardship Fair	Roberta Maurer	732-245-9124
Toy Drive	Keith & Jill Venturella	732-261-9251
Ushers	Al Tuttle	732-648-5188
Vocations Committee	VACANT	
Youth Group (High School)	Deacon Lou Pizzigoni III	Ext. 105 deaconlou@olfparish.org 7

OUR LADY OF FATIMA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

February 22, 2026 † First Sunday of Lent



Mass Intentions

	SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026 – First Sunday of Lent
7:00 AM	† Mary Smentkowski <i>r/o John & Connie Smentkowski</i>
9:00 AM	† Michael Mastroianni <i>r/o Dominick & Carmen Mastroianni</i>
11:00 AM	† Crisanta Samson <i>r/o Veronica Klein</i>
1:00 PM	† Virginia Farinhas <i>r/o Lawrence & Edith Farinhas</i>
	† Florencia Cojulun Castro <i>r/o Patricia Mills</i>
	† Richard Siesputowski <i>r/o DeLillo Family</i>
	† Christina Dailey <i>r/o Ed & Jean Lyons</i>
	† Samuel & Edith DiMatteo <i>r/o Jean & Ralph DeLillo</i>
5:00 PM	People of the Parish
	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026 St. Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr
7:00 AM	For the Needs of Emily & Joe Moore <i>r/o Garry Kosteck</i>
9:00 AM	† Barbara Duggan <i>r/o Louise Mruz</i>
	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026
7:00 AM	† For the Souls in Purgatory
7:00 PM	† For the Souls in Purgatory
	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026
7:00 AM	† Joan & John Zarembo <i>r/o Cathy & Marty Horn</i>
9:00 AM	† Michel Tomas <i>r/o Shirley Cordova</i>
	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026
7:00 AM	† Brian Legault <i>r/o Helder & Maria Ruivo</i>
7:00 PM	† Joseph Fernandes <i>r/o Deacon Jacinto & Monica Fernandes</i>
	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026 St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot, Doctor of the Church
7:00 AM	† Arturo Demegillo <i>r/o Remigio & Maribel Diaz</i>
9:00 AM	For the Needs of Margaret Adams <i>r/o Ed & Jean Lyons</i>
12:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
7:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026
9:00 AM	† Dolores Sartin <i>r/o Michael & Melissa Devine</i>
5:00 PM	† Nelly Pantojan <i>r/o Rolando Pantojan</i>
	SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026 – Second Sunday of Lent
7:00 AM	People of the Parish
9:00 AM	† Jonathan Mendeza <i>r/o Max & Tepin Mendoza</i>
11:00 AM	† Mike & Michael Cortese <i>r/o Family</i>
1:00 PM	† Patricio Silva Baluyot <i>r/o Fabella Family</i>
	† Petra Rosado <i>r/o Maria Fuller</i>
	† Teofilo Uligan <i>r/o Donna Estores</i>
	† Christina Abuan Zarejko <i>r/o OLF Choir</i>
	† Joann Craig <i>r/o Deacon Lawrence & Maria Reilly</i>
5:00 PM	† Ronald Christopher Kavchok <i>r/o Rosemarie Naval</i>

PRAY FOR OUR SICK RELATIVES & FRIENDS

Catherine Herrle, Freddy Monzeglio, Beverly Copeland, Edward Waga, Anthony Polis, Nolan Richardson, Patrick Croat, Christina Viso, William Richardson, Patricia Villanueva, Antonia Sibel, Rosemary Melick, Lorenzo Di Andrea, Bridie O'Donnell, Rosario Zavala, Bertha Aguilar, Gladys Gonzalez, Jean Cesare, Rosalie Maimone, Amanda Alemezohu, Tony Palio, Zenaida Mabanag, Stephen & Elaine Shepherd, Barbara Aszuka, Michelle Moorhead, Jacqueline Scherer, James Leung, Donald Alaburda, Vinny Catania, Erin McCaskill, Balbina Palacios, Gerald Scarloss, Rose McMahon, Eddie Henry, Mary Totten, Richard Weidmann Sr., Tina Pima, Eric Waga, James Colucci, Grace Piepoli, Mary Meyers, Ronald Arreza, Father Paul Da Silva, Michael Champion, Hilda Annani, John Barry, Cathy Sloomaker, Betty Schick, Richard Casey, Dorothy Ihe, Robin Blum, Sam Vail, Jessica Hurley, James Rupeikis, Tina Pena, Chris Waryn, Eileen Kaplan, JoJo Galante, Chipping Shih, Teresa Navarro, Raquel Iglesias, Carol Haskin, Claire Brennan, Sebastiana McCaffrey, Eileen Stambo, Margaret Lyman, Tonia M. Reisner, Gerry Darrow, Joseph Lubrano, Lynda Pasko, Tony Abano, AnnaMarie Stolz, Marge Arnone, Linda Koeffler, Christina Daub, Darlene Ferrara, Roberta Maurer, Judy DiLeo, Joyce Hanselmann, Sue Ellen Michi, Abigail Marzan, Mary Dieli, Weichung Shih, Israel Cortes, Theresa Martinez, Manuel Lopes, Jack Houston, Joseph Houston, George Raupers, Joseph Bono, Acadia Lambino, Austin Hsu, Giovanni Di Costanzo, Langan Family, Ashley Johnson, Carole Lettieri, Julito Garcia, Patty Mills, Nicole Offer, Thomas Barry, Bill Pittman, Ilya Spry, Brian Reynolds, Mary Hacia, Susan & Michael Perrella, Mimi Casino, Suzanne Toomey, Marilyn Prall, Marzena DiCostanzo, Sharon Molnar, Ruth Brown, Ernest Arndt, Eddie Mahoney, Robert Bressler, Shannon Walsh, James Lettieri, Marie Monzeglio, Francelina Silva, Margaret Adams, Rick Miranda, Maria Romeo

Please Note: Names may be placed on the sick list by calling the Parish Office. A name is only added to the sick list if called in by a family member.

★★★ IN PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO SERVE ★★★

SPC Laura Bozzay – Corpus Christi Army Depot
 Captain Jay Caluna - Hawaii
 SSGT Kristoffer Engel – Papa Air Base, Hungary
 LT COL Chad Fitzgerald – Camp Pendleton, CA
 SSGT Cyril Maximus Gutierrez – McGuire AFB, NJ
 SSGT Eric Kerr – 193rd Special Operations Wing, Harrisburg, PA
 CW2 Kevin Michael Kho – Camp Carroll, Republic of Korea
 Chaplain, LT COL Louis A. Mattina - 514th Air Mobility Wing, JBMDL, NJ
 LT Vincent Moscatello – Norfolk, VA
 SSGT Kenneth W. Pine – 111th Attack Wing, Biddle ANG, PA
 SGT Jack Sutter – Schofield Barracks, HI

Please Pray For Our Priests

This week we especially remember:

Pope Leo XIV
 Bishop Emeritus Paul G. Bootkoski
 Very Rev. Arlindo Paul Da Silva
 Rev. Robert Meyers
 Rev. Robert Pinnisi
 Rev. David Chalackal, CMI
 Rev. Gerardo B. Paderon
 Rev. Jason Pavich
 Very Rev. Charles A. Sabella
 Rev. Leopoldo S. Salvania
 Rev. Kenneth Murphy
 Rev. Thomas Naduviledatha, SDV
 Rev. Deniskingsley Nwagwu, SDV

SANCTUARY LAMPS BURNING THIS WEEK



Sanctuary Lamp in the Chapel
 For the Needs of the Lopez OFamily
 r/o Lawrence & Edith Farinhas

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

Sunday, March 29, 2026
7:00 pm

Come and experience God's infinite Mercy in the
 Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation.

2026 LENTEN OBLIGATIONS

1. The days of fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday (February 18) and Good Friday (April 3).
2. All other Fridays of Lent (February 20, 27; March 6, 13, 20, 27) are days of abstinence.
3. Fasting in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal and two smaller meals which together are not equal to a full meal, so as to experience hunger. The obligation of fast applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59.
4. Abstinence in the Roman Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat (beef, chicken, pork, turkey, etc.). The obligation of abstinence applies to all Catholics who have reached the age of 14.

Array of Hope
**THE EMMAUS CONCERT
 EXPERIENCE**

Saturday, March 7, 2026 at 7:00 pm
Our Lady of Fatima Auditorium

***A Fun Faith-Filled Experience
 for Families!***

The Emmaus Experience is a powerful multimedia concert event that shares the Gospel in a relevant and contemporary way. It brings the Faith to life through dynamic live performances by Array of Hope Music, engaging talks, stunning visuals and heartfelt personal testimonies. This is a multi-generational event that will be enjoyed by the whole family! We encourage everyone to attend - bring your family! Watch the video via the QR code. Tickets are \$10 per youth, \$20 per adult. Hope to see you there!



STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Everyone is invited to join us **every Friday during Lent at 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm** in our church to pray the Stations of the Cross.

PARISH LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Lenten Soup Suppers will take place in our cafeteria on **Tuesdays during Lent at 6:30 pm (doors open 6:15 pm)** beginning February 24th through March 24th. A free will offering for Operation Rice Bowl will be accepted. All are welcome to join us for a Sacrificial Soup meal and fellowship.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LENTEN FISH & CHIPS DINNER

The Knights of Columbus will hold their **Lenten Fish & Chips Dinner** at the Knights Hall at 647 Grove St., Dunellen on **February 20th, February 27th, March 6th, March 13th, March 20th and March 27th**. Dine in with us or call ahead beginning 4:00 pm on the day of the dinner (732-968-2544) to order take out. **Dinner will be served from 5:30 – 7:00 pm.** Choose from Fish & Chips (\$17), Fried Shrimp & Chips (\$17), or Seafood Combo (\$19). Credit cards accepted.

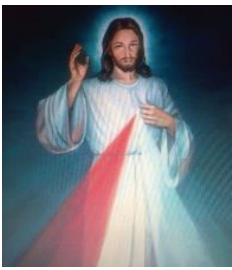
Welcome! **PLEASE REGISTER WITH US!**

We *welcome* and invite all Catholics who live in the area to register with our parish. Only those parishioners who have been registered for at least six months may qualify to receive a certificate of eligibility to become a Godparent and/or Sponsor. Everyone who turns 18 years of age should register as an adult, even if they live with their parents today. Call our Parish Office at 732-968-5555.

Prayer for a New Bishop

Lord Jesus Christ,
Eternal High Priest and Good Shepherd,
we thank you for the many blessings
that you have poured on our local Church of Metuchen.
We thank you for James, our fifth Bishop,
and for his many gifts in shepherding your people.
Hear our prayer for the selection of a new bishop
for the Church of Metuchen.
We pray for Leo, our Pope,
that he is given wisdom in discernment
and given wise counsel as he selects our next bishop
who would be ever more conformed to You, the Divine Master.
Lord we pray that our next bishop will have a heart on fire
for you and for your Church.
May he be filled with wisdom, faithfulness, holiness and zeal
for reigniting the faith and spreading the Gospel
throughout our Diocese.
Through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Your mother and ours,
draw our new bishop, and the flock entrusted to his care,
to the fullness of eternal life,
where you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

10TH ANNUAL DIVINE MERCY FAMILY HEALING RETREAT



Join us **8:00 am – 4:30 pm** on **Saturday, April 18, 2026**, for a day of praise and worship, special speakers, Eucharistic Adoration, ongoing Confession, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, and more. For more information and the registration form visit our parish website at <https://www.olfparish.org/forms>
Online registration is not available.

Register early as seats are limited!

PRAYING THE ROSARY AFTER SUNDAY MASS

The Holy Rosary is recited immediately following every Sunday Mass at our parish. Pope Benedict XVI has said that the Rosary brings “...peace and reconciliation. It contains within itself the healing power of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, invoked with faith and love at the center of each “Hail Mary.”” All are encouraged to join us in prayer.

Individuals who lead the Rosary after Mass are known as members of the **Rosary Apostolate**. Individuals and families are invited to join this apostolate to pray and lead the Holy Rosary immediately following Holy Mass on Sundays. The goal of this apostolate is for individuals and families to grow closer to our Lord Jesus through devotion to our Blessed Mother. If you can be one of the two people to lead the Rosary after Sunday Mass and become a member of this apostolate, please contact Cathy Culpepper at 732-895-2388 or email cathrculpepper@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP CORNER



First Sunday of Lent February 22, 2026

[GN 2:7-9; 3:1-7; PS 51:3-6,12-13,17; ROM 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; MT 4:1-11](#)

As we begin the season of Lent, the Church invites us into 40 days of renewal and refocusing. Lent is not only about giving something up, but about making room for God. For Christian stewards, this season invites us to reflect on how we are using the time entrusted to us.

In the first reading, Adam and Eve turn their attention away from God and allow doubt to take root. Trust is replaced by self-reliance, and the harmony of the Garden is broken. These same temptations remain familiar when our days become crowded with distractions that pull us away from God.

In the Gospel, Jesus shows us a different path. In the desert, He gives time to prayer and fasting, remains grounded in Scripture, and places His complete trust in the Father. By intentionally giving time to God, Jesus resists temptation and remains faithful.

Lent invites us to do the same. By making space in our schedules for prayer, Scripture, and quiet reflection, we grow in trust and gratitude. When we place God at the center of our time, stewardship becomes a way of life, and our hearts are prepared to celebrate the joy of Easter.

©Catholic Stewardship Consultants

Parish Social Media

We invite everyone to follow us on social media for up-to-the-minute information and alerts. Visit our website at www.olfparish.org. Follow and like our current account on Facebook “Our Lady of Fatima Church – Piscataway.”

Events for the Week

MEETING ROOM KEY

BFM	Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney Rm.
EC	Education Center/School
PC	Parish Center
RCAG	Rec Center Auditorium/Gym
RCC	Rec Center Cafeteria
SJC	St. Joseph Cottolengo Rm.
SLR	St. Lorenzo Ruiz Rm.
SMC	St. Margaret of Castello Rm.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

OCIA: 9:15 am (PC)
 CCD (Gr. 1-6): 10:15 – 11:30 am (Ed Ctr)
 Adult Choir Sings: 11:00 am (Church)
 JABL Hoops: 1:00 – 3:00 pm (RCAG)
 Kalahi Basketball: 6:00 – 10:30 pm (RCAG)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026

JABL Hoops: 7:30 – 9:30 pm (RCAG)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026

Children's Choir Practice: 4:15 – 5:15 pm
 Nothing But Nets Basketball: 6:00 – 8:00 pm (RCAG)
 Legion of Mary: 7:45 – 8:45 pm (BFM)
 Kinilaw Basketball: 8:30 – 10:30 pm (RCAG)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

CCD (Gr. 1-6): 4:15 – 5:30 pm (Ed Center)
 CCD (Gr. 7-8): 6:15 – 7:30 pm (Ed Center)
 Men's Basketball: 6:30 – 8:30 pm (RCAG)
 Holy Hour for the Dying: 8:00 – 9:00 pm (PC)
 MNB Hoops: 9:00 – 11:00 pm (RCAG)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

Holy Hour for the Dying: 3:00 – 4:00 pm (Church)
 Adult Choir Practice: 7:30 (Church)
 JABL Hoops: 7:30 – 9:30 pm (RCAG)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

Stations of the Cross: 12:00 pm (Church)
 Stations of the Cross: 7:00 pm (Church)
 Consoling the Heart of Mary: 7:00 – 8:00 pm (PC)
 Hispanic Rosary Society: 7:30 pm (SJC)
 Kinilaw Basketball: 8:30 – 10:30 pm (RCAG)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

Men's Saturday Basketball: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm (RCAG)
 Kalahi Basketball JABL Hoops: 4:00 – 10:30 pm (RCAG)
 Respect Life Group Rosary: 4:00 pm (Church)

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026

Children's Choir Sings: 9:00 am (Church)
 OCIA: 9:15 am (PC)
 CCD (Gr. 1-6): 10:15-11:30 am (Ed Center)
 Adult Choir Sings: 11:00 am (Church)
 JABL Hoops: 1:00 – 3:00 pm (RCAG)
 Kalahi Basketball: 6:00 – 10:30 pm (RCAG)

* Reminder – Weather Emergencies *

If New Jersey is ever under a **snow state of emergency**, all parish activities, including Masses, are cancelled until the declaration is lifted.

WE ARE A TITHING PARISH

1st Sunday in Lent

Stewardship Service

"It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'" MATTHEW 4:10

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things and develop and nurture heavenly things. Lent is time to repent living **Stewardship** and letting go of the other "gods" we have put before God.

Sunday, February 8, 2026 - \$ 13,454

Sunday, February 9, 2025 - \$ 12,149

INCOME & EXPENSES February 3 - 9, 2026

Church, Parish Center, Rectory & Education Rec Center

INCOME:

Mass Collection	\$ 9,661
Online Giving	<u>3,793</u>
Total Regular Mass Collections	\$ 13,454
Snow Removal Collection	1,211
Catholic Press Month	1,136
Donations	900
All Other Income	<u>1,714</u>
TOTAL INCOME.....	\$ 18,415

EXPENSE:

Contract Service Mtce (1 st Snow Storm)	4,800
Utilities	4,190
Catholic Press Month	1,136
All Other Expenses	<u>1,311</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 11,437
INCOME OVER EXPENSE	\$ 6,978

CHURCH RENOVATION FUND - As of February 9, 2026

Received 1/1/19 – 12/31/25	2,399,608
Less Expenses (1/1/19 – 12/31/25)	<u>(354,318)</u>
Total Funds Available as of 12/31/25	\$ 2,045,290
Received since 1/1/2026:	
Received through last week	\$ 7,180
Received this week	<u>1,205</u>
2026 Total Renovation Funds Rec'd	8,385
Less 2026 Renovation Expenses	-
Net Received in 2026	<u>\$ 8,385</u>
Reno Fund Balance available for Phase 2....	\$ 2,053,675



We thank all our parishioners and donors for so generously supporting the renovation of our church. Please continue to pray to St. Anne, on whose intercession we rely.

SNOW REMOVAL

We thank everyone that who has so generously made an offering to help offset the significant snow removal expense we incurred to clean the driveways, sidewalks and parking lots following the recent snow storms. These expenses are not part of our normal budget. We also thank those who made the offering you would have made if you attended Mass on those snowy days. If you have yet to make such an offering, the special red envelopes for this purpose are located near all the church entrances. Thank you for your generosity.

Respect Life Monthly Rosary

Saturday, March 21st 4:00 pm

Our parish Respect Life Ministry invites you to join us **every third Saturday at 4:00 pm to recite the Holy Rosary beginning Saturday, March 21st**. *Our Respect Life Ministry is dedicated to educating, praying, and service, and meets the first Friday of the month at the Parish Center in the St. Lorenzo Ruiz room. The next meeting is **Friday, March 6th at 7:00 pm**. For more info contact Nicole Miller at 315-816-8289 or at nmiller@olfparish.org.*

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Catholic men over the age of 18 are invited to join the Knights of Columbus Council 2544. Simply scan this QR



code and complete the short online form, and you will be contacted shortly by our Membership Director. For more info visit our updated website at www.kofc2544.com

SCAM ALERT

Be advised that no priest, parish employee, or member of any parish committee will ever email you or call you requesting you to purchase gift cards. Father Paul will never email or call any parishioner presenting an emergency situation asking for gift cards or cash to be sent immediately. If you receive such a message, report this to the parish office – this is a scam!

ONLINE GIVING



—SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC GIVING—



We are pleased to offer parishioners the convenience of making your weekly contributions to our church online. Simply go to our website www.olfparish.org, click the **ONLINE GIVING** button on the top right side of the screen, and be brought right to the **Parish Giving** website for our parish. Or just scan this QR code and reach the site instantly. Create your personal account and join the many others who enjoy the ease and convenience of online giving. This is a secure and confidential tool that adheres to banking security standards. You can start, stop or change your contributions at any time. You may contribute using direct withdrawal (ACH) or credit cards.

2025 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Any parishioner who would like a statement of their 2025 Church Contributions for income tax purposes should fill out the information below and either drop the request in the collection basket at Mass or mail/bring it to the Parish Office.

Parishioner Name: _____

Address: _____

Church Envelope # (Required): _____

Contribution Statements will not be automatically mailed. Requests must be made in writing with all the above information provided. Please do not call the Parish Office as requests cannot be taken over the phone. Thank you.

Consoling the Heart of Mary

All are invited to a weekly hour of prayer entitled **“Consoling the Heart of Mary”** held **every Friday evening 7:00 – 8:00 pm** at the Parish Center. During the hour you will meditate on the sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary and pray together the Chaplet of Our Lady of Sorrow, lifting up in prayer your personal intentions and those of others.

2027 Mass Book is Now Open

To request a Mass to be offered for a loved one living or deceased, complete a Mass Request form which can be found at the church entrances, at the parish office, or in the **Forms** section on our website www.olfparish.org. A \$10 offering per intention is requested. Please note that in order to allow more parishioners the opportunity to request Masses to be offered for their loved ones, Mass requests for 2027 will be limited to ten per family for the 3 months the book is open, until May 1.

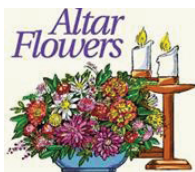
OCIA: The Order of Christian Initiation Of Adults

Are you a non-Catholic who would like to become a Catholic? Are you a Catholic who would like to complete your initiation into the Church? The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) is a religious formation program which introduces and explains the Catholic Faith to adults while preparing them to receive the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. This program is available to unbaptized persons, baptized Christians from other faiths, and Catholics who have not received Confirmation and First Eucharist. If you are a non-Catholic interested in becoming Roman Catholic, or a Catholic seeking to complete your initiation into the Church, we invite you to enroll in the OCIA. To join us for an OCIA inquiry session please contact the Parish Office. There is no commitment to join the program when you attend an inquiry session. Joining the program does not mean that you have to become a Catholic. At the end of the program, individuals are free to choose to accept the sacraments or not. The OCIA is also a great class for any Catholic who simply wants to learn more about their Catholic faith. For more information contact Rose Fay at 732-325-8903.

LAZARUS MINISTRY

Our Parish Lazarus Ministry is seeking volunteers to serve on our Funeral Day Team. Responsibilities include serving as a greeter before the Funeral Mass and offering prayers during Holy Mass. If you are able to be of assistance or would like more information, please call Sharon at 732-752-4979.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Sponsoring altar flowers, sanctuary lamps or votive candles are always a welcome gift, a means of thanksgiving, or a special way to remember an important event of life or death. They may be sponsored in honor of a loved one, living or deceased.

Sponsorships are available on a weekly basis. Candle sponsorships are \$10; flowers for the main altar are \$175, and flowers for the side altars are \$125. Call our Parish Office at 732-968-5555 to arrange your sponsorship.

Parish Missalette Memorial Gift Program

Parishioners who would like to gift a church missalette have the opportunity to do so. Complete the form below with your name or the name(s) of a loved one, living or deceased. A gift of \$15 will memorialize one book with a bookplate that will be placed on the inside of a missalette cover.

GIVEN AS A GIFT BY (please print)

IN THE NAME (please print)

Envelopes entitled "Parish Memorial Gift Program" will be available in the pews for this purpose. Please fill in the appropriate information and place the envelope along with your \$15 donation in the collection basket or bring it to the parish office. **Thank you!**



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FISH NEWS

FISH Inc. Dunellen Area is the local Christian service organization providing food, clothing, and other seasonal assistance to those in need in our local communities. If you need assistance, or you'd like to volunteer, call our **FISH Hotline at 732-356-0081** and leave a message. If you are able to donate non-perishables, you can leave them at the church entrance Sunday mornings.

THE CONFRATERNITY OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

The Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary is an international association of Catholics who are committed to reciting the Holy Rosary on a weekly basis for the purpose of giving praise and honor to the Blessed Virgin Mary and obtaining, through her intercession, spiritual benefits for all its members. Every member strives to pray the traditional fifteen decades of the Rosary each week, adding to their own intentions the intentions of the living and deceased members of the Confraternity worldwide. **If you'd like to register through our parish, please contact Sue Ellen Bibby sbibby5@icloud.com.**

PERPETUAL ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



Our parish offers Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (except during inclement weather) in our Eucharistic Adoration Chapel located in the Parish Center. We are very blessed to be the only parish in the Diocese of Metuchen to offer Perpetual Adoration, offering individuals the opportunity to spend quiet prayerful time with Jesus. We

welcome and encourage you to regularly visit our chapel and invite others as well. Eucharistic Guardians commit themselves to an hour of silent prayer each week in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, making Perpetual Adoration possible by assuring Jesus is never left alone. *If you are called to become a Eucharistic Guardian and can commit to spending one hour a week in the presence of the Lord, call Gerry Aboyme at 732-266-4145 or fill out a sign-up card which is available at the entrances of the church.*

Office of Catechesis

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION GRADES 1-8

Religious education classes are held as follows:

Sunday Classes

10:15 – 11:30 am for Grades 1 – 6

Wednesday Classes

4:15 – 5:30 pm Grades 1-6; 6:15 – 7:30 pm Grades 7 & 8

If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Religious Education office at 732-968-5555, ext. 105 or 106.

Church & Chapel Renovation

We are called to reflect on the growth of our faith community and ensure that our parish remains a welcoming and vibrant place of worship for future generations. Our Lady of Fatima Parish has long been a cornerstone of faith, community, and spiritual nourishment, and we now embark on an important journey to revitalize our sacred spaces to better serve our parishioners and community. This renovation project, designed to enhance both functionality and beauty, will encompass key improvements to the upper and lower levels of our church as well as exterior updates that ensure accessibility and inclusivity.

Upper Level Enhancements: To create a more welcoming and inspiring worship experience, significant updates will be made to the upper level of the church: the pews and sanctuary furniture will be replaced, the lighting will be improved, the floor will be upgraded, and the entire church will be painted. Other updates will include the following:

- **A Newly Configured Sanctuary:** In order to call attention to the true Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, the tabernacle will be placed in the center of the sanctuary, directly behind the altar. The floor will be reconfigured so as to reduce the number of accidental falls.
- **A New Sacred Space for Baptisms:** A new sacred space which emphasizes the importance and dignity of the Sacrament of Baptism will be created providing a permanent and more visible place for the Baptismal Font and the Paschal Candle.
- **A New Handicapped Accessible Reconciliation Room:** A new Reconciliation Room (Confessional) will be constructed allowing those in wheelchairs to also receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in a private and sacred setting.
- **Choir Loft Extension:** The choir loft will be extended so as to provide access to the elevator and create additional space for members to sing, play instruments and store their belongings.

Lower Level Enhancements: Comprising of two chapels, the lower level of the church will become a center dedicated to prayer, reflection and devotion as it will become the home of **THE SHRINE OF THE THREE LITTLE SHEPHERDS OF FATIMA:**

- **The Chapel of the Sacred Heart (Eucharistic Adoration Chapel):** A new Perpetual Adoration Chapel, nearly double the size of our current chapel, will be constructed in the lower level. It will offer a tranquil space for reflection and devotion and accommodate large numbers of visitors at all times.
- **The Chapel of the Immaculate Heart (Votive Chapel):** A new chapel housing the relics and the statues of the three Little Shepherds of Fatima and that of Our Blessed Lady will be constructed next to the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. This chapel will provide a serene and prayerful place where the faithful will be able to light votive candles for their personal intentions.

For more details on the shrine go to our Parish Home Page www.olfparish.org and click the link to *The Shrine of the Three Little Shepherds of Fatima*.

Other updates to the lower level will include the following:

- **Handicapped Accessible Restrooms:** To ensure that all parishioners and visitors feel welcome and comfortable, multiple modern and fully accessible restrooms will be added.
- **Storage Space:** A much-needed area for storage will be constructed providing a clean and secure place for liturgical and seasonal church items.
- **Exterior Enhancement:** The renovation also includes plans for a new grand stairway and entrance to the lower level of the church. This will allow access to the lower level by stairs or by elevator, making the lower level easy to reach from either the upstairs church or outdoor parking lot.

Join Us in Building Our Future: The renovation project of Our Lady of Fatima Parish is more than a physical update—it's an investment in the spiritual and communal life of our parish. Each new and revitalized space has been thoughtfully planned to support our mission, our ministries, and the faith journey of every member of our community. We invite you to join us in building a renewed place of worship, where the legacy of our faith will continue to grow and flourish for generations to come.

Proposed Campaign Goal: \$2.2 Million

Sincerely in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Rev. Arlindo Paul Da Silva, Pastor

Area News

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PASTORAL CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH SAME-SEX ATTRACTION

Ministry for those experiencing Same-Sex-Attractions (SSA): *Courage* is support for Catholic men and women who experience SSA and desire to live chaste lives following the teachings of the Catholic Church. *EnCourage* helps loved ones of those with SSA. *Courage* contacts: 732-562-2476 (couragecnj@gmail.com). *EnCourage* Hotline: 732-642-6747. All calls are strictly confidential. Also visit: www.everlastinghills.org to view the documentary *Desire of the Everlasting Hills*. Go to: couragec.org for more info.



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CHOICES MATTERS CONFERENCE 2026

"Safeguarding Human Dignity...Shining a Light on Human Trafficking" New Jersey, along with New York, will be hosting the 2026 FIFA World Cup. These large events create opportunities for exploitation and abuse. This conference will help raise awareness about human trafficking and how the Church can help combat it. For more information or to register, visit: <https://diometuchen.org/choicesmatter>.

MASS FOR FAMILY HEALING

For all feeling alone or grieving due to divorce, severe marital difficulties, as well as for children of any age who are affected by these facets of Family Brokenness, please join us for a special Mass and Resource Fair on Saturday, **March 14th, at 10:00 a.m. at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center.** Representatives from the "Surviving Divorce," "Retrouvaille" and "Life-Giving Wounds" ministries will be present. There will also be activities for younger children while adults are looking into the resources. To register, please visit: diometuchen.org/events/family-brokenness-mass. For details contact Rachelle Hanna at rachelle.hanna@gmail.com.

Healing Mass & Resource Fair

For those experiencing or affected by family brokenness



March 14, 2026
10:00 A.M.
(Resource Fair to follow
until 1:00 P.M.)



St. John Neumann Pastoral
Center
146 Metlars Lane
Piscataway, NJ

Representatives will be present from the following programs: Surviving Divorce, Retrouvaille & Life-Giving Wounds

Registration is Required:

<https://diometuchen.org/events/family-brokenness-mass>

Questions:

rachelle.hanna@gmail.com

or scan here:



Choices Matter

A CRITICAL LIFE ISSUES CONFERENCE

Saturday March 21, 2026

St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway, NJ
Opening Mass at 9 a.m., Conference 10:15 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Exhibits, Eucharistic Adoration and Confession

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Gina Cavallo
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The Role of the Church in
Combating Human Trafficking
Maria Celina Márquez
Policy Advisor U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Survivor Informed
Human Trafficking Prevention
David M. Ryan
(Retired Police Chief), Coordinator,
Westchester County Anti-Trafficking Task Force

General Admission \$35, Student Admission \$15

Admission includes lunch and hand-outs
Register at www.diometuchen.org/choicesmatter or scan QR code here →



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usccb.org/respectlife

Word of Life - The First Sunday in Lent

"The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life. Every person is **cherished.**"

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

Respect Life Reflection: Cherished, Chosen, Sent

usccb.org/cherished-chosen-sent-reflection

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The Emmaus Concert Experience

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DATE OF EVENT:

Sat., March 7th 2026
7:00PM

LOCATION:

**Our Lady of Fatima
Auditorium**

499 New Market Rd,
Piscataway, NJ 08854

COST:

\$10.00 Youth | \$20.00 Adults
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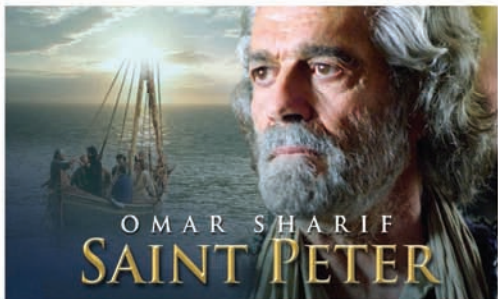
This Week on Formed

Week of February 22, 2026



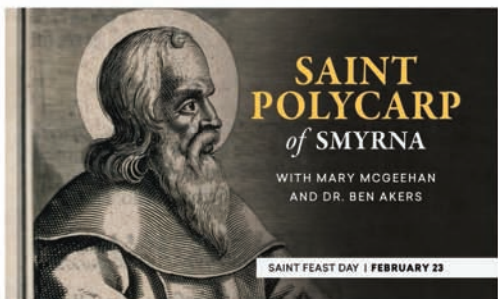
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St. Polycarp | Catholic Saints

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