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### HAPPENING THIS WEEK

*Acontecimientos de la Semana*

**Tuesday, April 28, 2026**

**No Bible Study**

**5:00 pm Simon's Kitchen**  
*Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
Hall*

**Wednesday, April 29, 2026**

**10:00 am - 12:00 pm**  
**St. Francis Food Pantry**  
*at 139 Sherman Avenue*

**5:00 pm - 6:15 pm**  
**Faith Formation Grades 1, 2,  
3, 4 on the Saint Catharine**  
*Campus of the Parish*

**6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Alcoholics**  
**Anonymous**  
*in OLPH Hall*

**Thursday, April 30, 2026**

**7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Narcotics**  
**Anonymous**  
*in OLPH Hall*



### PARISH LITURGY

*Litúrgia de la Parroquia*

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help**  
100 Grant Avenue  
Seaside Heights, NJ 08751

**Sunday Masses**

Saturday: 4:00 PM (Vigil Mass)  
Sunday: 9:30 AM  
7:00 PM (*Misa en Español*)

**Daily Masses**

Tuesday, Thursday &  
First Saturday: 8:00 AM

**Sacrament of Reconciliation  
with Individual Confession**

Saturday: 3:00 - 3:45 PM

**St. Catharine of Siena Church**  
50 E Street  
Seaside Park, NJ 08752

**Sunday Masses**

Saturday: 4:30 PM (Vigil Mass)  
Sunday: 8:00 & 11:00 AM

**Daily Masses**

Monday, Wednesday  
& Friday: 8:00 AM

**Sacrament of Reconciliation  
with Individual Confession**

Saturday: 1:00 - 2:00 PM

**Parish Mass Intentions**  
**April 27, 2026 - May 1, 2026**

|      |                             |                                                        |
|------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| MON  | 8:00 am<br>At St. Catharine | + Dolly McCabe<br>by Hauenstein Family                 |
| TUES | 8:00 am<br>At OLPH          | + Special Intention<br>by Friends                      |
| WED  | 8:00 am<br>At St. Catharine | + Emil Stefanacci<br>by The Sand Dollar<br>Garden Club |
| THUR | 8:00 am<br>At OLPH          | + Paolo Mezzari<br>by Casadonte Family                 |
| FRI  | 8:00 am<br>At St. Catharine | + Daniel Goetz<br>by Barnes Family                     |

**May 2, 2026 - May 3, 2026**

|     |                              |                                                  |
|-----|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| SAT | 8:00 am<br>At OLPH           | + Special Intention<br>by Friends                |
|     | 4:00 pm<br>At OLPH           | + John Kusky<br>by Barbara Casinelli             |
|     | 4:30 pm<br>At St. Catharine  | + People of The Parish                           |
| SUN | 8:00 am<br>At St. Catharine  | + Florence Dickson<br>by Children &<br>Grandsons |
|     | 9:30am<br>At OLPH            | + Rosary Altar Society                           |
|     | 11:00 am<br>At St. Catharine | + Patrick Gorman<br>by Lospinoso Family          |
|     | 7:00 pm<br>At OLPH           | + Spanish Mass                                   |



**SAINT FRANCIS FOOD PANTRY**



Saint Francis Food Pantry is **OPEN** on  
**Wednesdays**  
**10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.**

St. Francis Food Pantry has seen a dramatic increase in the number of families who are in need of food assistance. **PLEASE CONTINUE TO HELP US!**

We need juice, canned fruit, beef stew, pasta sauce, syrup, mayo, mustard & ketchup, coffee, regular and instant and tea.

**All are welcome at Saint Francis Food Pantry.**

**WEEKLY OFFERING**

**April 18 - 19, 2026**

**Parish \$6,425 - Building Repairs \$2,462**

**Online Offering**

**Parish \$2,177 - Building Repairs \$197**

**Thank you for your generosity**

**St. Catharine of Siena Church  
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**Saint Junipero Serra Parish Office**  
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(732) 793-0041  
mmara@stjuniperoserra.org

|                                     |                                                            |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fr. Michael G. Lorentsen, OFM Conv. | Pastor                                                     |
| Fr. Mitchell Sawicki OFM Conv.      | Parochial Vicar                                            |
| Ms. Renée Casadonte                 | Parish Catechetical Leader<br>Safe Environment Coordinator |
| Ms. Melissa Mara                    | Parish Office Manager<br>Executive Assistant to the Pastor |
| Mr. Martin Wilk, Jr.                | Property Manager and<br>Facilities Maintenance             |
| Ms. Laura Dalton                    | Pastoral Musician                                          |
| Mr. Kevin Dzugan                    | Custodian<br>At OLPH Church                                |

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday, Wednesday, Thursday**  
10:00 am –12:00 pm Office is OPEN  
12:00 pm—1:00 pm CLOSED for LUNCH  
1:00 pm—4:00 pm Office is OPEN

**Tuesday** *Parish office is CLOSED in the morning for a parish staff meeting and will open at 1:00 pm - 4:00pm*

**Friday** No office hours

**Fr. Michael is away from the parish this week on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday for time with his family.**



**Faith Formation for Children**

**April 29, 2026 - 5:00 pm –6:15pm**

**Grades 1-4**

**May 6, 2026 - 6:15 pm - 7:30pm**

**Grades 5, 6, 7**

**May 13, 2026 - Family Mass 5:30 pm**

**Closing Mass - All Grades 1-8**

**Today's Second Collection is for  
Catholic Home Mission**

The appeal supports nearly 75 Latin Rite dioceses and Eastern Catholic eparchies in the United States and its current and former territories that cannot sustain ministry without outside help due to limited financial resources, small or widely dispersed Catholic populations, or both. They are typically in rural regions or small cities with seasonal employment.

Many dioceses will take the collection in their parishes on April 25-26, though some dioceses choose a different date. Those who wish to support the appeal with an online gift can donate at [www.igivecatholic.org/story/USCCB-CHM](http://www.igivecatholic.org/story/USCCB-CHM).

**OUR PARISH USHERS NEED YOUR HELP**

Our parish ushers and ministers of hospitality at St. Catharine of Siena Church can always use a little extra help with taking up the collections at the 11:00 am Mass. If you can help even on one time basis, please see one of the Ushers on the Central Ave side.

**REMINDER: Annual Catholic Appeal pledge cards are available by the entrances to each of the parish's churches.**



### *A Message from our Pastor*

**Michael G. Lorentsen, OFM Conv.**

May the Lord give you peace!

Pope Francis died last year on April 21st, the day after his last *Urbi et Orbi* (“to the city and the world”) Message. Seventeen days later, on May 8, 2025, the College of Cardinals elected our first American-born pope, Leo XIV. When Pope Leo stepped onto the central loggia of the Vatican Basilica early that evening, our Supreme Pontiff began with the same words that the Risen Christ spoke to His disciples early in the evening on the day God raised Him from the dead: “Peace be with you!” This is how he began his first *Urbi et Orbi* Blessing as the newly-elected pope. In his address to the city and the world, Pope Leo used a blessing that Pope Francis used in his last *Urbi et Orbi* Message on April 20th. Both popes said these words of blessing.

“God loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail! All of us are in God’s hands. So, let us move forward, without fear, together, hand in hand with God and with one another! We are followers of Christ. Christ goes before us. The world needs his light. Humanity needs him as the bridge that can lead us to God and his love. Help us, one and all, to build bridges through dialogue and encounter, joining together as one people, always at peace.”

As the Parish of St. Junipero Serra, we want to keep reminding one another of the truth that God loves us all, and evil will not prevail! All of us are in God’s hands. So, let us move forward, without fear, together, hand in hand with God and with one another! We are followers of Christ. Christ goes before us. We must look forward to be a missionary parish, a parish that builds bridges and encourages dialogue, a Church ever open to welcoming. We must open our arms to all who are in need of our charity, our presence, our readiness to dialogue and encounter, joining together as one parish with faith, hope and love and always at peace.

As the Parish of St. Junipero Serra, we move forward as a parish in communion with Bishop O’Connell, Bishop of Trenton, and in communion with Leo XIV, our pope and Bishop of Rome. United we reaffirm that Pope Leo serves a higher authority and desires to proclaim the Gospel faithfully and advance the Church’s peaceful mission in a world deeply in need of healing. Our pope will continue to speak clearly against war and other offenses

against human dignity and to call for authentic dialogue, because the Church’s witness is grounded in the peace of Christ. While many Christians in our country find the graphic exploitation of sacred imagery to be deeply offensive, we continue to reverence the holy name of God as we reverence the dignity of each and every human person as we work with other for the common good. The risen and glorified Christ continues to come to us in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness and as God’s Holy Spirit moves us to serve as missionary disciples of the Lord in this time and place. We stand in solidarity with one another in the face of any attack on what we believe and on our Catholic moral tradition. We will not allow ourselves to be deterred or intimidated in our common responsibility to serve the Lord by serving all of God’s precious children and reverencing all of creation. God has called us by name to be Church and to speak the truth in love in every moment and in every situation.

Today, the Fourth Sunday of Easter is commonly called Good Shepherd Sunday. We are God’s people, the flock of the Lord. We recognize his voice as He calls each one of us by name to live the Gospel with joy as we are all called to holiness. Holiness is when we embrace God’s love for us and we share that love with all of God’s children as members of the Church. Most members of the Church live their vocation to holiness as married men and women and as parents in families. Some members of the Church live the vocation to holiness as single people and widowed people. Women and men in consecrated life as religious sisters, brothers, friars are living their vocation to holiness in communities of service to the Church. Our diocese is served by men who live their vocation to holiness as ordained deacons, priests, and bishops. We live our common vocation to holiness in different ways.

For more information about living the vocation to holiness in consecrated life, you can use this website: [For Vocation Discerners: Essential VISION vocation tools for you | NRVC](#)

For more information on a vocation as a Franciscan Friar, you can use this website: [Franciscan Order | Conventual Franciscans | United States](#)

For more information on priesthood in the Diocese of Trenton, you can use this website: [Vocation – Diocese of Trenton](#)

For more information on living the vocation to holiness as a married person in the Church, you can use this website: [Living Your Catholic Marriage - Diocese of Trenton - Lawrenceville, NJ](#)

POPE LEO XIV

“We experience the Lord’s companionship above all in our relationship with him, in prayer, in listening to his word that sets our hearts ablaze like it did to the hearts of the two disciples. This takes place especially in the celebration of the Eucharist. It is here that we encounter God. For this reason, we must always be vigilant regarding those forms of traditional religiosity that certainly belong to the roots of your culture, but at the same time risk confusing and mixing magical and superstitious elements that do not aid your spiritual journey. Remain faithful to what the Church teaches, trust your pastors, and keep your gaze fixed on Jesus, who reveals himself in the word and in the Eucharist. In both we experience that the risen Lord walks beside us and, united to him, we too overcome the “deaths” that besiege us and live as those who have “risen.”

“This certainty that we are not alone on the journey includes a generous commitment on our part to sooth wounds and rekindle hope. Indeed, if the two disciples on the road to Emmaus recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread, this means that we too must recognize him in this way: not only in the Eucharist, but wherever there is a life that becomes like broken bread, wherever someone offers himself or herself as a gift of compassion like him.”

*Homily in Kimbala, Angola on April 19, 2026*

“Christians are truly born from above, regenerated by God as brothers and sisters of Jesus, and the Church that nourishes them with the sacraments is the welcoming bosom for all peoples. As we have just heard, the Acts of the Apostles bears witness to this by describing the lifestyle that characterizes humanity when it has been renewed by the Holy Spirit (cf. Acts 4:32-37). Even today, we must embrace this apostolic rule and put it into practice, meditating on it as an authentic criterion for ecclesial reform: a reform that must begin in the heart, if it is to be genuine, and must encompass everyone if it is to be effective.”

*Homily in the Basilica of St. Augustine, Annaba, Algeria on April 14, 2026*

**REMINDER: Annual Catholic Appeal pledge cards are available by the entrances to each of the parish’s churches.**



Diocese of Trenton



2026 Annual Catholic Appeal

**Goal:** \$53,000.00  
**Pledged:** \$31,941.50 (60%)  
**Paid:** \$28,938.50 (55%)  
**Total Donors:** 102  
 (37% towards participation incentive)  
**Average Gift:** \$313.15  
**Total donors needed to qualify for the participation increase incentive:** 271

**These are some tangible recent and upcoming examples of how gifts to the Appeal are making an impact:**

- **OCIA / Catechesis Growth** – More than 1,000 individuals received the Sacraments of Initiation this year. Through parish-based formation and diocesan support, adults are being welcomed into the faith and local parish communities continue to grow.
- **Catholic Schools Support** – Appeal funding strengthens Catholic schools through leadership development, professional training, job fairs (May 7), and academic support—benefiting students, families, and the future of our parishes.
- **Diaconate Formation** – Two seminarians of the Diocese will be ordained transitional deacons on May 16 as they continue their path toward priesthood. Support of vocations today helps ensure sacramental and pastoral leadership for our parishes tomorrow.
- **New Jersey Catholic Youth Rally** – On May 17, the Diocese of Trenton will host the New Jersey Catholic Youth Rally at Six Flags. Events like this bring young people and families together in faith-filled community and are a visible example of how Appeal support helps create opportunities for the next generation.

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