

CELEBRATING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR

The Lunar New Year or "Tet" falls on the day of the new moon between January 21 and February 30 and is celebrated on the same day as the Chinese New Year. The Chinese Zodiac is divided into twelve (12) houses, each signified by a different animal; unlike its western counterpart, each house has a time-length of one year instead of one month. The YEAR OF THE ROOSTER 2017 began January 28.

The **Korean Community** celebration – January 29, 2017
Transfiguration of Our Lord, Edison



**Thank you
for your
support to
our
Ministries!**

**Office for
Multi-Cultural Ministry
Sr. Ruth Bolarte, IHM
Director**

146 Metlars Lane
Piscataway, NJ 08854
V: 732-562-2454
F: 732-562-1018
rbolarte@diometuchen.org

For current events and
resources visit

[http://diometuchen.org/
offices-and-ministries/pastoral-
life/multi-cultural-ministries/](http://diometuchen.org/offices-and-ministries/pastoral-life/multi-cultural-ministries/)

The Office for Multi-Cultural Ministry facilitates and provides pastoral care to immigrants and people of different cultures so that they may be able to fully participate in the life of the Church by means of worship, catechesis and social outreach. It also seeks to promote understanding and appreciation for the rich cultural diversity and ethnic religious traditions in the Diocese of Metuchen.

The **Vietnamese Community** celebration – February 4, 2017
Our Lady of Czestochowa, South Plainfield



Chinese Community celebration – February 12, 2017
Our Lady of Mount Virgin, Middlesex



2017 Black History Month Celebration

Catholic Community of St Matthias, Somerset NJ

Black History Month or National African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. The event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

The parish community of St. Matthias commemorated Black History Month on February 11 with a panel discussion on racism followed by the celebration of the Eucharist. The St. Martin de Porres Society sponsored a reception in the cafeteria.



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St. Matthias, Somerset
2017 Black History Month



Korean Catholic Community 25th Anniversary

Congratulations on the 25th Anniversary

The Korean Catholic Community was officially established in 1992 as a mission of then Sacred Heart Parish, New Brunswick. Today, the Korean community is part of Transfiguration of the Lord Parish in Edison, NJ.

These are some of the events planned to celebrate:

- April 23: Sunday Bazaar Festival at Guardian Angels worship site
- June: Choir Benefit Concert
- Sept. 4: Golf Event
- Oct. 1st: Mass of Thanksgiving at Guardian Angels worship site.



St. John Paul II, Perth Amboy Solidarity with Peru

In solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Peru, SAINT JOHN PAUL II PARISH communities hosted an afternoon of camaraderie in benefit of those suffering the devastation of the mudslides. Many gathered to share prayer, music, and food to help the numerous who have lost their homes, belongings and loved ones.



Chinese Catholic Community

Day of Prayers for China

In 2007, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote: "Dear Pastor and all the faithful, the date May 24 could in the future become an occasion for the Catholic of the whole world to be united in prayer with the church that is in China ..." A year later, Pope Benedict authored a Prayer to OUR LADY OF SHESHAN (below). Kindly pray Pope Benedict's Prayer to Our Lady of Sheshan on your own or with your family.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH WHICH IS IN CHINA

May 24

Prayer to Our Lady of Sheshan

By His Holiness Benedict XVI

Virgin Most Holy, Mother of the Incarnate Word and our Mother, venerated in the Shrine of Sheshan under the title "Help of Christians", the entire Church in China looks to you with devout affection. We come before you today to implore your protection. Look upon the People of God and, with a mother's care, guide them along the paths of truth and love, so that they may always be a leaven of harmonious coexistence among all citizens.

When you obediently said "yes" in the house of Nazareth, you allowed God's eternal Son to take flesh in your virginal womb and thus to begin in history the work of our redemption. You willingly and generously cooperated in that work, allowing the sword of pain to pierce your soul, until the supreme hour of the Cross, when you kept watch on Calvary, standing beside your Son, who died that we might live.

From that moment, you became, in a new way, the Mother of all those who receive your Son Jesus in faith and choose to follow in his footsteps by taking up his Cross. Mother of hope, in the darkness of Holy Saturday you journeyed with unfailing trust towards the dawn of Easter. Grant that your children may discern at all times, even those that are darkest, the signs of God's loving presence.

Our Lady of Sheshan, sustain all those in China, who, amid their daily trials, continue to believe, to hope, to love. May they never be afraid to speak of Jesus to the world, and of the world to Jesus. In the statue overlooking the Shrine you lift your Son on high, offering him to the world with open arms in a gesture of love. Help Catholics always to be credible witnesses to this love, ever clinging to the rock of Peter on which the Church is built. Mother of China and all Asia, pray for us, now and for ever. Amen!

"Dear Pastors and all the faithful, the date 24 May could in the future become an occasion for the Catholics of the whole world to be united in prayer with the Church which is in China. This day is dedicated to the liturgical memorial of Our Lady, Help of Christians, who is venerated with great devotion at the Marian Shrine of Sheshan in Shanghai. I would like that date to be kept by you as a day of prayer for the Church in China. I encourage you to celebrate it by renewing your communion of faith in Jesus our Lord and of faithfulness to the Pope, and by praying that the unity among you may become ever deeper and more visible."

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI on May 2007

Please say one "Hail Mary" daily for the opening of the cause of canonization for Cardinal Kung Pin-Mei.



Indonesian Catholic Community Jamboree (KKI USA–Canada)

The Jamboree of Indonesian Catholics Communities (KKI USA-Canada) is a biennial social event that gathers Indonesian Catholics from different places around the U.S and Canada. The first Jamboree took place in 2001 in Atlanta, GA. It was the time when thousands of Indonesians, mainly the ethnics and religious minority fled Indonesia after the political, economic chaos and religious clash following the 1998-2000 crises after 32 years of President Soeharto era. The objective was to invite the Indonesian Catholics around the U.S. to come together and share their struggles for survival as community and individual.

The most remarkable outcome of this first Jamboree in 2001 was the creation of the Indonesian Catholic Community (KKI) in the different places around the U.S. and the initiative to approach the local Dioceses to find a parish that could accommodate their needs for spiritual services. Since then, these communities have been gathering every two years from place to place, namely Orange County, Philadelphia, Dallas, Washington DC, Columbus, San Francisco and the most recent one was in Atlanta, 2015. The hosting community will then select special theme for the gathering. KKI-NY will host the next JAMBOREE which takes place on June 30 to July 2, 2017.

Representatives of the Indonesian Catholic Community of Metuchen hope to attend this event. The Indonesian Mass is celebrated the 3rd Sunday of month at ST. FRANCIS CABRINI, Piscataway at 5:00pm.





V ENCUESTRO is a process of evangelization, communion, and consultation that:

- Generates information for pastoral planning that responds more creatively to the Hispanic presence in the Church and promotes the ecclesial integration;
- Connects the local Hispanic community with a national initiative;
- Generates and forms new pastoral leaders as missionary disciples;
- Fosters the participation in liturgical and ministerial life
- Revitalizes the faith of parishioners and invites them to missionary activity;
- Increases stewardship.

The themes of the process are inspired by Pope Francis in *The Joy of the Gospel* n. 24.

The DIOCESAN ENCUESTRO will take place on **Saturday, October 14, 2017**, at ST. JOSEPH, 99 Westervelt Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ 07060. Details at <http://diometuchen.org/offices-and-ministries/pastoral-life/hispanic-ministry/encuentro-nacional-2019/>.

Theophany Center Co-Founder nominated for Bernardin Award

New Brunswick Health Sciences and Technology High School senior **Isaura G. Lopez** has been nominated by the Metuchen office of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development for the national Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award.

Lopez, 18, is one of the co-founders of the Theophany Center, a retreat and urban-immersion peer-to-peer ministry led by Catholic teenagers in the City of New Brunswick, NJ.

The Theophany Center was founded in 2015, and offers fellow teens the opportunity to engage with issues of Catholic social teaching, such as care for God's creation and immigration, as experienced by the Theophany teens in their young lives. Approximately 10 parishes in the Metuchen Diocese have already engaged the Theophany Center for retreats.

This annual award is given by the USCCB/Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and considers Catholic young adults between the ages of 18-40 leading efforts to address problems in their local communities, working with social justice organizations, or leading social concerns efforts on college campuses. The award recipient will be given a cash award at a reception held in conjunction with the June meeting of the U.S. Catholic Bishops in Indianapolis, IN.



The Theophany Center offers evening or weekend retreats or in the summer, a week of all-day programs for your youth. More info at 732-545-1681 or jkerrigan@ccsolidarity.org.

Lenten/Easter Celebrations

Community	Date	Event
GUJARATI	April 13-15	Retreat, Holy Savior Academy, So. Plainfield
FILIPINO	April 13-14	Pabasa, 9:00pm, OLOF, Piscataway
	April 16	Salubong, 5:30am, OLOF, Auditorium

Calendar of Events

Community	Date	Event
AFRICAN, AFRICAN-AMERICAN	June 11	Mass, 3:30pm, St. Matthew, Edison
CHINESE	Aug. 12	Seminar, 9:00am, SJNPC, Piscataway
GUJARATI	April 13-15	Retreat, Holy Savior Academy, So. Plainfield
HISPANIC	June 10	Blue Army Shrine Pilgrimage, Asbury, 10:00am
	Sept. 29	Hispanic Heritage Mass, St. Francis Cathedral, 7:30pm
	Oct. 14	V Encuentro, St. Joseph, North Plainfield, 9:00am
KOREAN	April 23	Sunday Bazaar Festival (fundraising)
	June	Benefit Concert
	Sept. 4	25 th Anniversary Golf Tournament
	Oct. 1 st	25 th Anniversary Commemoration day
PORTUGUESE	June 10	Pilgrimage, Newark



Lenten Recollection

March 5 (Sunday) Start 2:00 PM
Mass 4:00 PM
St Frances Cabrini Church
208 Bound Brook Avenue, Piscataway, NJ

A spiritual preparation this Lenten Season, will start with Stations of the Cross. Rev. Roy Quesa (*Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph Parish in North Plainfield*) will talk on "Parishes as the wellspring of mercy & renewal". A time of quiet reflection and confession will follow and then conclude with a Eucharistic Celebration.

Sponsor: Filipino-American Association of St Magdalen (FASTMAG)

"Pabasa"

April 13(Holy Thursday) Start 9:00 PM
to April 14 (Good Friday) End 12:00 Nn
Our Lady of Fatima (Cafeteria)
501 New Market Road, Piscataway, NJ

Chanting the narrative of the Life, Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ ... verses in Tagalog.

Different groups in the Diocese will take turns in leading more or less 15 hours of continuous chanting. Feel free to come and join in anytime between the hours indicated on the left.

"Salubong"

April 16 (Easter Sunday) Start 5:30 AM
Our Lady of Fatima (Auditorium)
501 New Market Road, Piscataway, NJ

A re-enactment of the meeting of the Sorrowful Mother and the Risen Christ. Procession will start promptly at 5:30 AM. To be followed immediately by Mass in the Auditorium, then Easter Breakfast in the cafeteria.

Sponsor: Our Lady of Fatima Filipino-American Association (OLFFAA)

FAAIC (Filipino American Association of Immaculate Conception) invites you to the **Feast of San Pedro Calungsod** on Sunday, April 2nd. Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Somerville will start at 4 PM.



ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

COORDINATED BY THE FILIPINO APOSTOLATE - DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

(For additional information, please contact: Rev. Roberto Coruña 908.479.4905)

