

We are **Church of the Presentation**,
a welcoming Catholic community leading people
into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ
through **Word, Worship, and Outreach**.

April 27, 2025 / 2nd Sunday of Easter / Divine Mercy Sunday



PLEASE TAKE THE DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX SURVEY!

Church of the Presentation is on a journey to know, love, and serve Christ in our parish community. Together we must embrace Christ's vision for

missionary discipleship so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith.

The very first step in this process involves assessing our greatest strengths and opportunities, and that is where the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) comes in! **The DMI is an important survey tool** that invites you to reflect on your discipleship journey here at Presentation. The Disciple Maker Index is designed to:

- ◆ Invite parishioners to reflect on their journey of discipleship.
- ◆ Enable parish leadership to make data-driven decisions.
- ◆ Help parishioners grow in their faith.

The 10–15 minute survey with multiple choice questions can be accessed through an [online link on the parish website](#) from April 26- May 25. We ask that everyone in your household who is high school age or older each complete the survey. It will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide your perspective on our parish's efforts to help you grow in relationship with Christ. All responses will be confidential, and the parish will only receive information about the community as a whole. . Paper surveys will also be available for those who are unable to complete the survey online.

Together we must embrace Christ's vision for missionary discipleship so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith.

Thank you for helping with this important project and please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our parish.





"Keeping in Balance"
A Walking With Purpose
Women's 9-Week
Scripture Study

Join us on:

Tues. mornings, April 29 through June 24
9:30am-11:30am in the Gathering Rms.

Visit the [parish website](#)
for more information & to register.

Questions? Email
womensspiritualitypresentation@gmail.com

Foundations in Faith

The final session is this **Thursday, May 1**
9:30-11:30am or 7:30-9pm in the Community Rm.

Synodality & the Synod

by Fr. Rich Francesco

"Play-'n-Worship"

Our Sunday School for ages 3 through Kindergarten during 10am Mass in the Gathering Room.



Parents, you can now have a more meaningful worship experience with fewer interruptions, while your children learn about our faith in a fun environment with games, crafts & songs.

Parent(s) must to sign their children in and out of the program, sign-in time starts at 9:45am.

Questions? Email Catzel catzel@churchofpresentation.org

Celebrate Life

Baby Shower

The Presentation Rosary Ministry is having a Baby Shower collection in support of the mothers and babies at the Birthright of Bergen County crisis center. Please help these moms who have chosen life for their babies.

Needed Items (Only New Items please)

- Diapers (sizes newborn-6)
- Girls & boys clothing (newborn-2T)
- Onesies (newborn-12 mos)
- Blankets, Bibs, Baby Wipes, Baby Shampoo & Wash, Towel Sets, Bottles, Bottle Brush, A&D/Desitin Diaper Ointment, Diaper Bag, Sun Hats
- Socks (newborn - 2T)
- Gift cards also appreciated!

There will be bins set up in the hallway outside of the kitchen and just outside the back doors of the parish center from May 4-18 for donations.

If you have any questions or would like pick up of your donations, please email epagliari@verizon.net.

IT'S A PARISH CELEBRATION!!!

We're celebrating Fr. Bob's retirement & 50th Anniversary of his Ordination on Sunday, June 1 at the 11:30 mass, with a picnic reception (free of charge) on the back lawn to follow. We'll have food, a beer/wine tent, and live music by our favorite band, Group Therapy!

Volunteers needed to help with the picnic. Visit the [parish website](#) to RSVP for the Mass &/or picnic (by May 9 please), & to sign up to volunteer!

CARDS FOR FR. BOB

We have boxes for any cards you'd like to write to Fr. Bob in the Narthex & outside of Maureen Murphy's office.

Youth Ministry Happenings

churchofpresentation.org/youthministry

YM Gathering - April 27 after 6:30pm Mass.

IGNITE! Are you looking to grow in your relationship with the Lord with a deeper "youth group" connection? Join us on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30pm in the Antioch Rm. Come once, often, or weekly!

GRAND CAMP IS COMING!

For Grandparents & their Grandchildren (who are entering Grades K-5 in Sept.)

**"Celebrating God's Greatness!"
Tuesday-Thursday, August 12-14
9:30am-noon (but we encourage you to begin each day with 9am daily Mass)**

Join us for this special summer Bible Camp. Enjoy great quality time together and make special memories!

Fees: \$50 per pair / \$10 per extra child
Register on the [parish website](#).
Registration deadline is June 30 but don't delay! Limited space available.

Questions? Email Patty at pdodwell@churchofpresentation.org

FROM THE PASTOR

We had an **extraordinary Holy Week** – from our Pardon & Peace Service through the Triduum. So much work and effort expended to put our large parish through the best of Holy Weeks and many thanks to so many of you who made this happen. Let's continue to be a community that attracts people to the Lord – that so impressed our Catechumens and Candidates that they wanted to join us.

Speaking of joining us, we warmly welcome our new group of **Catechumens and Candidates** who are celebrating the Rite of Acceptance at the 10am Mass today. Let's pray for them as they prepare to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation at next year's Easter Vigil.

We have a very busy **Easter Season** here at Presentation - First Eucharist Season begins next Sunday it's always a joy to welcome so many of our young people to the table of the Lord. We will also be celebrating the new life of the season with Baptisms, Confirmations and Weddings dotting our landscape over the next couple of months.

Our Women's Spirituality Ministry is offering a new Scripture Study beginning this Tuesday morning, entitled "**Keeping in Balance – Creating Order Within.**" The study will use resources from "Walking With Purpose."

Fr. Rich will speak on "**Synodality & the Synod**" this Thursday in the final session of our Foundations in Faith series.

The **Disciple Maker Index** survey opened on April 26 and will close on May 25. The purpose of the survey is to invite you to reflect on your journey of discipleship, enable parish leadership to make data-driven decisions, and to help you grow in your faith. Please take the time to complete the survey. You can access the survey link on the parish website.

We keep **Pope Francis** in our prayers, who died on Easter Monday after being head of the Church for 12 years. Known for his dedication to peace and freedom, his papacy will stand forever as a testament to his concern for the poor, the immigrant, and those on the fringes of society. His final message, released on Easter Sunday, pleaded for peace and freedom, now a profound farewell to the world. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the College of Cardinals who will be voting soon on his successor.

I am currently in Italy with 45 pilgrims. We were scheduled to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land last year, but given the situation in Israel, we thought it best to change the itinerary. We'll be visiting holy sites in Assisi, Florence, & Rome. We'll keep all of you in our prayers.

Fr. Bob

Alzheimer's & Dementia Support

Our **Support Group** is virtual on the last Wednesday of each month from 6:30pm-8pm. The group will meet next on **April 30**. Facilitated by Debby Montone, RN, Certified Dementia Practitioner, & Certified Dementia Support Group Facilitator from the Greater NJ Alzheimer's Assn. To receive the Zoom link, email Michele at mbaron@churchofpresentation.org



Centering Prayer

Next Saturday, May 3 at 9:45am

All are welcome to join us for Centering Prayer in the Jerusalem Room. Come and release stress & deepen your prayer life. Newcomers welcome!



May Mass

A Celebration of Women

Jesus Calling

Speaker: Ruth Harrison
Monday, May 12 at 7:00pm



An Invitation to All Men of the Parish!
Join the Men's Ministry & our Knights of Columbus in a Farewell Celebration for Fr. Bob
Thursday, May 8 - Mass at 6pm followed by Beefsteak Dinner in the Community Room

\$40 per person

Payable as follows

- Venmo: @Leonard-Ditomaso
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- Pay at the door

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Please RSVP ASAP for Caterer Headcount to:
LenDitomaso@gmail.com or 201-803-6510

Presentation Seniors

Tuesday, May 13 - Back to the second Tuesday of the month. Our program is Ellis Island: "**Island of Hope, Island of Tears.**" Historian Mario Medici will discuss the island's earliest days up to the present day, reliving some of our immigrants' experiences and stories along with their fears and disappointments.

Wednesday, May 14 trip: "**Swing**", the Tony-nominated musical at the Hunterdon Playhouse. Enjoy the music & dancing of the big bands era & a full menu of luncheon choices including a roomful of desserts. Cost \$99. For tickets, call Barbara Salmieri 978-335-2233.

Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

Our Wedding Anniversary Celebration held **here at the parish** for those celebrating one of the "fives" in 2025 is **Saturday, June 7**. Registration forms are available in the Narthex & may be downloaded & printed from the [parish website](#). **Deadline to sign up is May 18.**



5, 25 & 50-Year Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral Basilica in Newark

All couples who will be celebrating **5, 25 & 50 years** of Christian marriage in **2025** are invited to participate in an anniversary mass celebrated by Cardinal Tobin on **Sunday, June 1 at 3:00pm.**

RSVP FOR THE NEWARK MASS by May 8
to Nancy at ext. 839 or nmierswa@churchofpresentation.org

Second Sunday of Easter / Divine Mercy Sunday



Courage to Believe

Merciful God,
you call us to you,
beckoning us
to turn from our fear
and disappointment.
You are with us
despite our doubt,
We give thanks:
your mercy endures forever.
Grant us the courage to
see through eyes of faith
and to share the joyful news
of the resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 27, 2025

Believe!

Today's readings: Acts 5:12-16; Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19; John 20:19-31. Jesus appears to the disciples, who were in hiding because they were being persecuted for being his followers. Despite the locked doors, Jesus "came and stood in their midst," bidding them peace. Thomas, who was not with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared, says that he will not believe unless he sees the mark of the nails in Jesus' hands and puts his finger into his side.

Since we know that Jesus was raised from the dead, it is easy to place blame on Thomas. How could he not believe? But when we reflect on our faith journey, how many times do we find ourselves in Thomas' shoes? How often do we doubt and question God's presence? On this Sunday of

Divine Mercy, place yourself in the Gospel. Where do you find yourself? What do you think when Thomas expresses his disappointment and fear? What do you feel when Jesus comes, despite the locked doors, stands in your midst, and says: "Peace be with you?" What do you see when Jesus invites Thomas to touch the mark of the nails in his hands and put his hand into his side? What do you hear exclaimed in the room?

After placing yourself in the locked room with the disciples and Thomas, full of fear and sadness, consider how Jesus' resurrection can inspire you. How can you step through fear and doubt and move toward action? Ask the Lord to meet you where you are and to bring you peace.

On **Thursday, May 1 at 7pm**, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 600 Byrd Ave., Bloomfield NJ will have a **Family Mass for child loss**. To add your child's name, contact John.Kalinowski@rcan.org or 973-497-4327.
Sponsored by the Office for Family Life Ministry of Healing & Loss of the Archdiocese of Newark.

Free Blood Pressure screening after the 10am & 11:30am Masses on the first Sunday of the month (next on May 4) in Maureen Murphy's office.



Monday & Wednesday Yoga
at 9:30am. Wear loose clothing, and bring a mat, towel & water. Donations welcome.

The **CAREER MANAGEMENT GROUP's** next session is on **Monday, May 12 at 7:30pm VIA ZOOM.**



“Effective Use of LinkedIn for Job Seekers”

The Career Management Group is here for those who are unemployed, under-employed, looking to enhance their career or considering a career change. We meet in a welcoming, low-pressure setting. For a free ticket to this virtual session, visit <https://COTP-CM-LinkedIn-for-Job-Seekers.eventbrite.com>.

LinkedIn is an important medium for professionals. Whether you are looking for a job now or plan to in the future, there will be something here for you!

Our presenter, Sandy Lukavsky, is a parishioner and an experienced HR executive. She is the founder of SLR Talent Consulting, which provides career services including coaching, job search strategies, resumes and LinkedIn advice.

If you wish to join our Career Management network, or have questions at any time, just email presentation.cmm@gmail.com with your name and a brief introduction and we will be happy to assist. If you are an experienced and would like to contribute some time to work with us as a volunteer, please contact us at that same email and let us know. *Volunteers are always appreciated!*

Green Thumb Ministry-Tuesdays at 8am
Help us maintain the outside grounds of the church, i.e. by gardening, weeding etc. Bring whatever basic garden tools you may have. Come when you can. No commitment necessary. We meet in the parking lot opposite Mary's Grotto. Questions? Email Michele Baron at mbaron@churchofpresentation.org

Women's Morning Group:
Thursdays at 7:30am via Zoom
All women are invited to join us every Thursday morning at 7:30am for an hour. Weekly attendance not required, but you are most welcome! Email Kathleen at kmartorano@churchofpresentation.org for the Zoom link. Let's share the gift of faith together!



Our Compost Bins Are Open!

Our compost bins are located next to the parish garden. Composting is a way of returning to the land what has come from the land.

The following are compostable:

- ◆ all fresh fruits and vegetables
- ◆ coffee grinds (paper filters are also OK)
- ◆ egg shells and nutshells
- ◆ grass clippings from un-pesticide-treated grass (no bags please)
- ◆ paper towels
- ◆ leaves of any kind (fresh green, Fall brown, and even leaves from gutters)
- ◆ flowers (fresh, dried, or dead)
- ◆ saw dust and wood ash
- ◆ chopped twigs and chopped branches only

Please **NO** fats, oil, dairy or meat scraps; large branches, lumber, or invasive weeds.

Annual Appeal the 2025

In addition to supporting the Catholic Church's mission in our Archdiocese, reaching this year's goal of \$196,624 will also result in a benefit to Presentation. If we meet our goal by June 30, our assessments to the Archdiocese will be lowered and we'll receive a rebate which greatly helps our annual budget. Donate on our [parish website](#).

LGBTQ Ministry

LGBTQ Ministry is a welcoming fellowship embracing the dignity and diversity of all Catholics by fostering a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and his people, through Word, Worship and Outreach.

For more information or to get involved, please contact LGBTQ@churchofpresentation.org



Eucharistic Exposition

Come anytime on Wednesdays from noon-6pm to spend time with our Lord in the Nazareth Room.



Church of the Presentation 271 West Saddle River Rd., Upper Saddle River NJ 07458

Phone: 201-327-1313 Fax: 201-760-2570

Website: www.churchofpresentation.org

Information Desk: Sun. 9am-12:45pm in the Narthex

Mass Schedule: See "Mass Intentions" on this pg.

Summer Office Hrs: (Memorial Day-Labor Day): 9:30am-4pm Mon-Thu

"Non-Summer" Office Hrs: 9:30am-5pm Mon-Thu. | 9:30am-4pm Fri.

Confession: Mon-Sat after 9am Mass, Sat 3:30pm-4:45pm, or by appt.

Email Addresses: Except as otherwise noted, all of our email addresses end with: @churchofpresentation.org

Rev. Bob Stagg, Pastor ext. 820 bstagg@

Fr. Bob's asst.: Melanie Cheplic ext. 827 mcheplic@

Rev. Richard Francesco ext. 829 rfrancesco@

Pastoral Council pastoralcouncil@

Bob Rooney (Accounting, Finance, Plant Management)

ext. 818 brooney@

Catzel LaVecchia (Lifelong Learning, Junior High,

Play-n-Worship) ext. 828 catzel@

Craig Johnson (Youth Ministry, Confirmation) ext. 819

cjohnson@

Diane Carr (OCIA, Catholic Faith Inquiry) ext. 831 dcarr@

Kathleen Costello (Family Faith Formation) ext.840 kcostello@

Kathleen Martorano (Parish Registration, Facebook, Protecting

God's Children, LGBTQ Ministry) ext. 835 kmartorano@

Liz Cosentino (Bulletin, Parish Website) LizC@

Marilou Tenazas (Livestreaming & Tech Support, Family

Faith Formation, FFF Website) ext. 815 mtenazas@

Maureen Murphy (Outreach) ext. 844 mmurphy@

Michele Baron (Meeting Room Reservations, Scheduling,

Volunteering) ext. 847 mbaron@

Nancy Mierswa (Baptisms, Weddings, Worship) ext. 839

nmierswa@

Natasha Gonzalez (Music) ext. 813 NGonzalez@

Patty Dodwell (First Eucharist, Family Faith Formation)

ext. 832 pdodwell@

Altar Server Training: Nancy Mierswa, ext. 839 nmierswa@

Bereavement Support: ext. 872

Bulletin Advertising: Bon Venture Services 800-364-0684

Celiac Communion: Nancy Mierswa ext.839 nmierswa@

Communion Calls: Kyle Lippman ext. 879 pastoralcare@

Emergencies (hospital/funeral) ext. 899

Envelopes (Parish) Kathleen Martorano ext. 835 kmartorano@

Funerals: ext. 899

Knights of Columbus: www.kofc6033.org kofc6033@

Meeting Room Setups: Cesar da Gama ext. 823

Prayer Tree Ministry: prayertree@

This Week's Mass Intentions

Bread & Wine: Robert Ivan Markland, by Carol & Ron Davi

MONDAY, APRIL 28

9:00am Mary Cardone, by Ruth & Kevin Birdsall

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

9:00am Joseph Binetti, by Judi Mottle

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

9:00am Kay Furlani, by Mary Ann Reynolds

THURSDAY, MAY 1

9:00am Josephine DeGregorio, by the Pochatko Family

FRIDAY, MAY 2

9:00am Barbara Ellison, by Patricia & George Erdman

SATURDAY, MAY 3

9:00am People of the Parish

5:00pm Emily Ginter, by Gerri & Matt Harold

Mario Perillo, by Pat Perillo

Bob Waring, by Gerri & Matt Harold

Tom Parkes, by his family

Bob Waring, by Mary Ann & Jack Koluch

Robert Darienzo, by Angela LaPolla

SUNDAY, MAY 4

8:00am Andy Pitas, by the Vrtis Family

10:00am Donald Whittam, Sr., by Beth & Don Whittam

11:30am Arturo Pandozzi, by Carol Latargia

Mary Forte, by the Coudriet Family

Marinus D. Macolino, by the Morelli Family

Anne Giudice, by Lee Giudice

Jack Larkin, by Ann Donfield

John Lam, by Carolyn Seibel

6:30pm Maureen Porod, by the Criscione Family

We also pray for the following ill: Jennifer Connelley, Claire Quinn, Peter Angelou, Jr., Fran Partlan, Evelyn Roberts, Michael Keane, Daniel Negron, Mary Urban, Pat Brunnock, Jared Bochicchio, Tom Napolitano, Justin Spillane, Carol Latargia Blake, Holly Holland, Patricia Lamoriello, Mary Lou Murphy, Patricia Carey, Danny Lauber, Michael Donovan, Jamie Brown, Althea Gardner, Thomasina Uzzi, Richard & Monica Castiglia, Ronald Volino, Keith Brew, Guy & Marion Gaudenzi, Ellen Bellias, Clara Willey, Kimberly Berardino, Christina Grenzer, Birgit "Ana" Borgman, Bernhard Freund, Veronica, Bill Partlan, Mike O'Donnell, Bob DePellegrini, Bobby Vandal, John & Wilma Mcmurran & family, Christopher Noel Hanna, Cornelius Hanna, Doreen D., Frances Gerbino, Baby River Budesca, Marianne & Bill Hurley, Francis J. Neeson Jr., Rosemary Fuhrman, Patti Murray, Louis D'Amico, Ethan Benjamin Berkowitz, Marie Hiles, Michael Roger, Jon Rapkin, Steven Chakonis, Cathy Mostyn, Kevin Flood, Dirk & Donna Kinney, Mary Anne Nardini, Cathy Mueller, Susanne Knoepfle, Virginia Kondrat, Anne Downs, Seth Gopin, Adrienne Stephens, Karin Elliott, Frank Cirillo, John Nazzaro, Marie Kaspar, Cheyanne Emmons, Gloria Zoda, Bill Brown, Scott M. Koenig, Mary Goldberg, Thomas Doorhy, Sab Caponi, Rosemary Tocci

and recently deceased: Dolly Rohrbach (sister of Vincie Coudriet & aunt of Edward Coudriet), Tom Sweeney (father of Diane Kerner)

To request prayers **in the bulletin** for the ill or recently deceased, email LizC@churchofpresentation.org. The name is not kept on the list indefinitely. If the ill person still needs prayers after their name is removed, feel free to email Liz to have their name printed again in the bulletin.

For **mass cards & mass intentions for the deceased**, call or visit the parish front office, or visit the Information Desk in the narthex on Sunday mornings.

We ask that you prayerfully consider using electronic donations through Faith Direct. Visit membership.faithdirect.net/NJ854 or the parish website to enroll or make a one-time donation. Thank you for your support!

Weekdays after 9am Mass, all are welcome to stay in the church to pray the Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet.

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