



St. Stanislaus Kostka School

"We can do hard things."

Mrs. Lori Hodder
Principal

www.sskschool.org
732-254-5819

May 6, 2021

Dear St. Stanislaus Kostka Families,

The school year is winding down, and students are preparing to take their final round of MAP testing and final exams in grades 5-8.

Important upcoming dates:

- May 7-8 – Mother's Day Flower Sale
- May 10-21 – MAP Testing
- May 11 – Last day for Read-A-Thon contributions
- May 12 – HSA Zoom meeting 6:00 PM
- May 13 – Ascension Thursday Mass 9:00 (students only)
- May 14 – Litany
- May 14 – Field Day/students wear gym uniforms
- May 17 – 11:50 AM Dismissal
- May 21 – Adoration for Bishop Checchio/Litany
- May 22 – St. Stan's Family Planting Day 12:00-2:00 PM
- May 22 – Pork Loin Dinner

Read-A-Thon donations, which are a work bond requirement, will still be accepted until **May 11**. As of today we have raised \$8,185! Thank you for all of your contributions!

The Sign-Up link for our Food Fest is posted on our school website. This is a mandatory two-shift work bond requirement. 50/50 tickets for the Food Fest went home last week.

We will honor Mary this month by doing school Litany on Fridays. Our May 21 Litany will be in honor of Bishop Checchio for his 5th Anniversary as Shepherd of the Diocese of Metuchen. You will find a letter from him in this week's white envelope.

Stay safe everyone, and as always you are in my prayers.

Warmest regards,

Lori Hodder,
Principal



St. Stan's HSA

Mother's day flower sale

10" Hanging Baskets
\$15 Each

FRIDAY, 5/7 1:30-4PM

SATURDAY, 5/8 4-6PM

School Parking Lot



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR HSA MEETING!



WEDNESDAY, 5/12/21 - 6PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6275395737?pwd=Y09CczFaOEhwME5VZmNoVWF4LORnQT09>

Meeting ID: 627 539 5737

Passcode: 2C9aTd

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

WORK BOND - MANDATORY SHIFTS FOOD FEST

UPCOMING EVENTS/COMMITTEES

HSA SPONSORED EVENTS - UPDATES

We are looking forward to seeing you!!



May 6, 2021

Dear Parents,

We are proud to announce that we have raised \$8,185.00 so far and have read 17,969 minutes. The top three readers received an out of uniform pass, ring pop, and Barnes & Noble gift card.

1. Grade 5: Xavier Valetutto - 625 minutes - \$20 gift card
2. Grade 2: Ophelia Valetutto - 568 minutes - \$15 gift card
3. Grade 5: Grayson Rispoli - 540 minutes - \$10 gift card

Even though our Read-A-Thon ended on April 30, we are still accepting donations until May 11th. The \$100 workbond requirement can be offset by the support of the reader's family and friends. The donations will be used to benefit the students through technology upgrades, special programs and activities, and needed school supplies.

If you would like to send in cash or a check, please send to the attention of: *Lisa Grover, Read-A-Thon* (along with your family name and child's/children's name(s) and grade(s) Check made payable to: St. Stan's School.

Out of Uniform Pass per \$100.00 donation will be awarded and the class raising the most money will receive a pizza party. We will announce the winning class on May 12th. On May 13th the out of uniform passses will be sent home in an envelope with the child who receives the white envelope.

If you have any questions, please email lgrover@sskschool.org.

Thank you for your support!

May
Mission Donation

\$1.00 per flower

All money collected will be donated to the

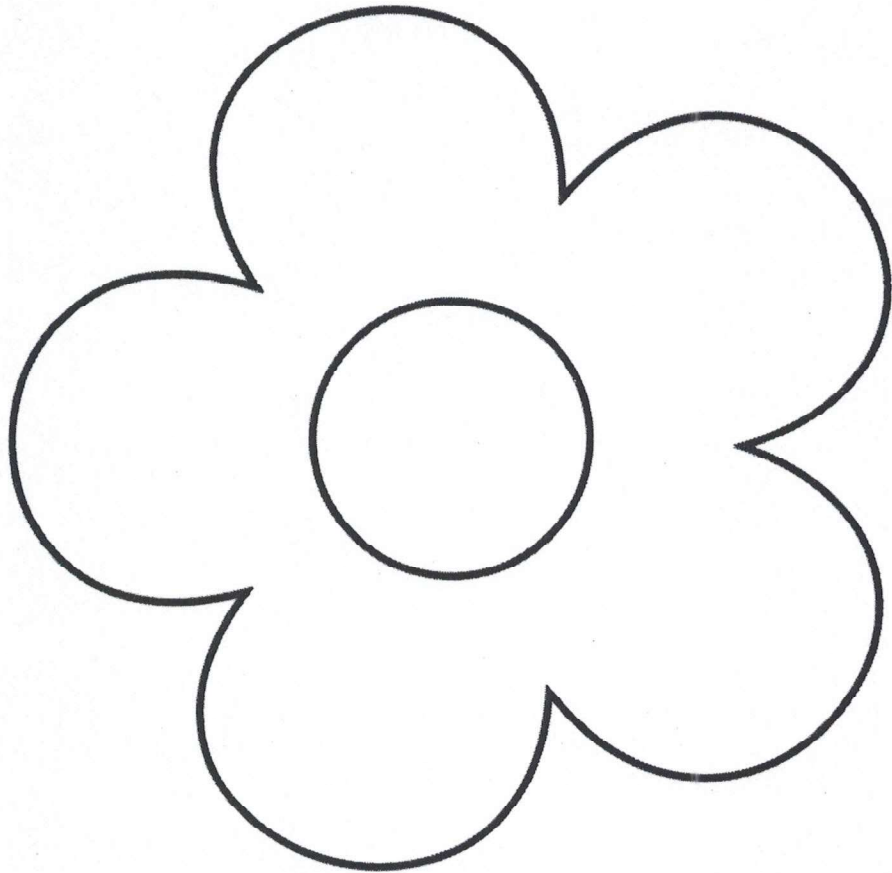
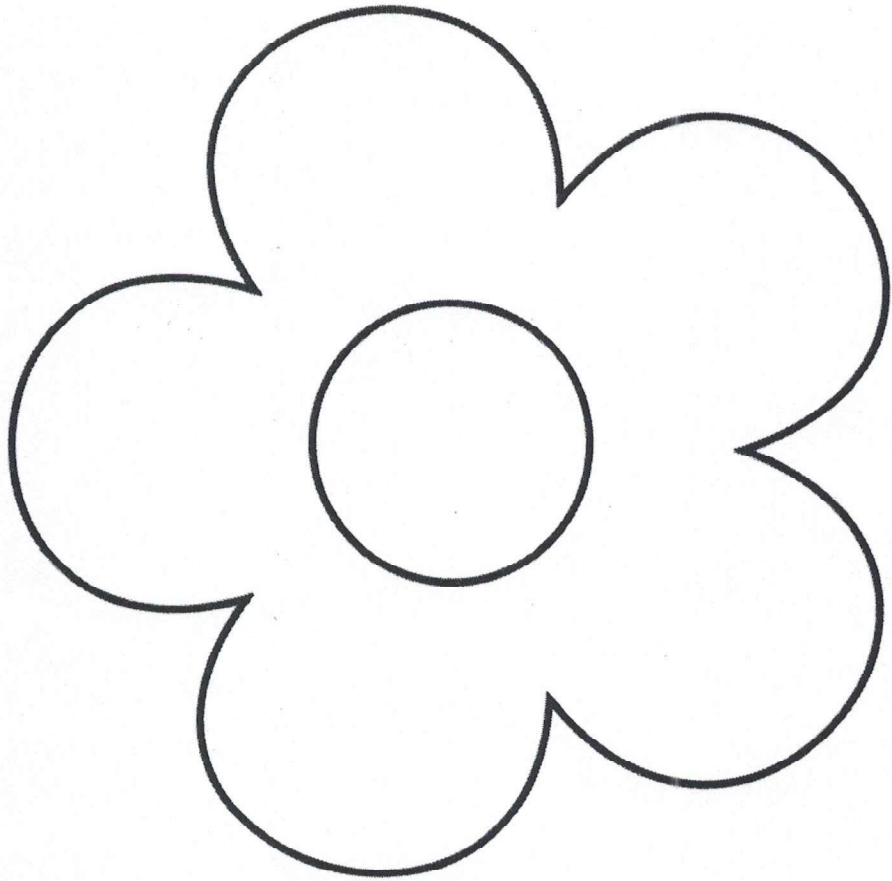
mca missionary
childhood
association

***Please write your name on the flower,
design/color (optional), and cut out (optional).
Send your flower (s) into school with your donation
to the attention of Mrs. Grover.
The flowers will be displayed in the hallway.***

We have raised this year \$1,754.00 for those in need!

Thank you!!!

Sponsored by the Religion Club





**ST. STAN'S HSA
PORK LOIN DINNER FUNDRAISER**

**Saturday, May 22nd 3PM-6PM
Curbside pick-up behind the school**

Dinner includes:

Roasted Pork Loin with Gravy,
Herb-Roasted Potatoes, Buttered
Green Beans, Dinner Roll, and a
Slice of Blueberry Pie

Tickets will be sold after Masses,
in the Church office, or by calling/texting
Gina at 732-277-2552

Pre-Sale- \$17/dinner

****Drive-up- \$18/dinner****

****Limited quantities available****



DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

St. John Neumann Pastoral Center • P.O. Box 191, Metuchen, New Jersey 08840-0191
P: 732.562.2458 • F: 732.562.1427 • E: office.of.the.bishop@diometuchen.org

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

May 3, 2021

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Five years ago today, I was blessed to become your Shepherd. In sending me to your diocese, I remember Pope Francis said to me, “you must know a lot of people and clergy in your new diocese since it is so close to your home.” Obviously, he thought my transition from Rector of a college in Rome to Bishop in New Jersey would be eased by my friends and acquaintances. However, the opposite was true. I knew very few individuals here having met only a couple of Metuchen priests in my 24 years as a priest, and just a few lay people. Today, the Metuchen Diocese is my home filled with friends: clergy, religious and laity.

When I arrived in 2016, I was filled with gratitude for your warm welcome and since then have been overwhelmed by your love, encouragement and especially your prayers. Although I had never been a pastor despite having asked my bishop a few times for a pastorate and requesting that I finish up as Rector of the Pontifical North American College to become a pastor in my home diocese of Camden, I truly try to approach my role of bishop as being the pastor of the diocese.

Although I realize I cannot personally know 635,000 Catholics nor be present all the time at our 90 parishes, dozens of schools and other ministries and institutions throughout our four counties, I truly try to carry each of you in my heart and prayers, to be as present as humanly possible and be a witness to the resurrection of Jesus, a minister of hope for you. That is the bishop’s most basic responsibility, as a successor to the apostles, to witness to the resurrection of Jesus and hence offer hope in a world that sometimes does not seem so hopeful.

While there have been many blessings during my ministry in the Metuchen Diocese, we have had more than our share of challenges, too. The pandemic of this past year, the McCarrick scandal, financial and sex scandals in our Church, divisions and racism in our country have all been scourges that have affected our good people. While we wish these issues did not occur, we must try to view the most horrific situations in light of God’s providential love. With much help and encouragement, we have done our best to face these issues in a prayerful, forthright, and transparent way. I have shared what I know with you as we continue to do everything possible to ensure these issues never occur again while we build up the kingdom in our midst God has entrusted us. Our task as ministers of the Gospel is to proclaim the promise of new life where the world sees only ruin and desolation.

For those times when I disappoint you, or when I do not meet your expectations, especially when it is a result of my own limitations, I am deeply sorry. I know I am human and often this role of bishop seems to have heavenly expectations. I strive to become a saint, as we all do. I pledge anew to use all my strength and whatever talents I have in ministering to you. I am grateful for your patience when it is called for, as I continue to learn more and more about how to be the bishop you deserve.

What helps me tremendously are your prayers and your dedication and for that you have my heartfelt thanks. I love being with you, and I am always encouraged by our visits. I am inspired by your dedication to the Word of God and the Eucharist, even during the pandemic, and the challenges it presented to our faith. Likewise, I am so inspired by your great generosity to your parishes, our Bishop's Annual Appeal and the other good causes where we join together to light a fire in the heart of our Church. Your continued support of all these initiatives bring me great consolation!

I am also so grateful for our faithful priests, deacons and religious who minister in the parishes and institutions throughout our beautiful diocese. Our lay ministers in our parishes and ministries as well as our diocesan staff work tirelessly, often behind the scenes, to keep things moving along in our administration and pastoral outreach. In our schools we have an army of teachers and catechists and many who serve in various religious education programs, all who sacrifice so much and show such great dedication.

Of course, our seminarians are one of our hopes for the future as they prepare to become our shepherds. We are blessed with 24 good men in formation for the priesthood, the most we have had in over 25 years. It is a blessing. Please pray for even more vocations, shepherds for our Church so we have enough priests for all of our parishes and our many needs. Some have asked what they can do to mark my anniversary. Prayers first, of course, are appreciated and needed. Also, if you are able, I would be very grateful if you would make a contribution to fund our seminarians' formation as it is a large ticket item on our annual diocesan budget, partially funded through the Bishop's Annual Appeal, to pay for the formation, health insurance, and the other needs of our 24 seminarians preparing to be your shepherds.

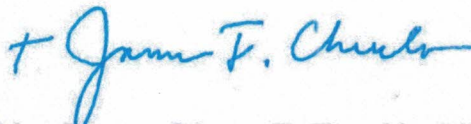
I loved being rector of the North American College and consider it a very unique privilege in my life, not because it was in the Vatican or because I had studied there as a seminarian and young priest, but rather because it was such a unique spot to witness the Lord doing such beautiful things in the lives of the young men sent there for priestly formation for the good of our beloved Church.

I, myself, was re-formed as a priest during my time in Rome, and I had a front row seat in witnessing great growth in holiness amongst the seminarians and priests. When I asked, after 12 ½ years at the college, to be reassigned to return to my home diocese to minister as a pastor and be closer to my family, I wondered if I would ever be as fulfilled in my priestly ministry. I can tell you, without a doubt, that even though it didn't happen as I had hoped, I am, and it is thanks to God's goodness and to you, the good people of this beautiful diocese, our priests, deacons, religious and seminarians.

Thank you for your warm welcome, your prayers and your collaboration in lighting a fire in the heart of our Church and for your patience with me too, as I have grown as a person, priest and now bishop in your midst. Know of my love and prayers for you, and my gratitude too. May Our Lord pour His abundant blessings upon you and your loved ones. Please continue to pray for me so that we can continue to do beautiful work in this loving vineyard of the Lord called the Diocese of Metuchen.

With renewed best wishes, I remain

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James F. Checchio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Bishop of Metuchen

CHECK OUT OUR SPORTS CAMPS, TOO!

Visit stathomas.net/summer for more details and to print Sports Camps registration forms.

BASEBALL CAMP

Monday, July 12 to Friday, July 16
Under the direction of STA Baseball coaches, athletes will experience indoor and outdoor hitting and pitching instruction, mental preparation, and contests and awards throughout the week.



SOFTBALL CAMP

Tuesday, July 20 to Thursday, July 22
Under the direction of STA Softball coaches, athletes will practice the fundamentals of base running, sliding, bunting, swinging, throwing, fielding, game rules, and game strategy.



GIRLS BASKETBALL CAMP

Monday, June 21 to Thursday, June 24
Under the direction of STA Girls Basketball coaches, athletes will experience individual evaluation, training in fundamentals, free throw contests, 1-on-1 tournaments, camp prizes, and awards.



WRESTLING CAMP

Monday, June 21 to Friday, June 25
Under the direction of STA Wrestling coaches and guest instructors, athletes will learn and practice the fundamentals of wrestling and will participate in open wrestling by age and weight.



BOYS BASKETBALL CAMP

Weeks of June 28, July 5, July 12, July 19, July 26
Under the supervision of STA Boys Basketball coaches, athletes will receive instruction covering all aspects of the game and will participate in contests by age and ability.



GIRLS VOLLEYBALL CAMP

Monday, July 5 to Friday, July 9
Under the direction of STA Girls Volleyball coaches, athletes will receive individual and group instruction on passing, setting, serving, spiking, and blocking and will compete in scrimmages throughout the week.



St. Thomas Aquinas SUMMER AQUINAS ACADEMY



SUMMER
CAMPS

2021

SUMMER CAMPS 2021



RELIGION CAMP

Tues, June 22 to Thurs, June 24

"You are the NOW of God!" You were made in God's image to help bring His love to the world. During the pandemic, it may have been easy to lose sight of God working in your life, so during this camp experience you'll discover how "Christ is alive and He wants you to be alive!" Opportunities for prayer, small group reflection, Mass, Reconciliation, and old fashioned fun will help us realize this reality of our faith!

STEM CAMP

Come for an exciting week of exploration, skill building, and testing limits. It's a hands-on learning experience where we introduce basic engineering concepts, 3D printing, and safe use of hand tools in our state-of-the-art STEM learning lab. Expect activities like a catapult building competition, 3D-printed cars, and creating basic circuits.



THEATER EXTRAVAGANZA

Experience all areas of the theater, including acting, singing and dancing. Emphasis is on the development of communication skills. Learn practical techniques in acting, basic movement and voice, as well as how to choose the right performance material and how to audition.



FORENSICS CAMP

The basics of every crime scene will be covered as they are used in everyday police and investigative work. From identifying fingerprints to forensic search patterns to handwriting analysis, all techniques will be examined in order to answer the classic question: Who did it?



INFORMATION

The Summer Aquinas Academy is open to students entering 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades who are looking for unique enrichment opportunities in their specific areas of interest.

The only cost is a \$300 non-refundable registration fee.

Please make checks payable to "St. Thomas Aquinas High School"

Camp dates: Monday, June 28 - Friday, July 2, except Religion

Camp hours: 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Camp Location: St. Thomas Aquinas High School

Please note: Parents are responsible for their child's transportation to and from St. Thomas Aquinas High School.

To reserve a seat, fill out and return this application with payment as soon as possible. Your registration will be confirmed by phone or mail; we reserve the right to cancel camps due to insufficient response. Class sizes are limited, so we encourage you to register as soon as possible and no later than June 1, 2021.



STA Summer Aquinas Academy
1 Tingley Lane, Edison, NJ 08820

Student Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Current School _____

Camp You Wish to Attend _____

All summer camps will follow state and CDC guidelines regarding COVID safety measures and procedures.