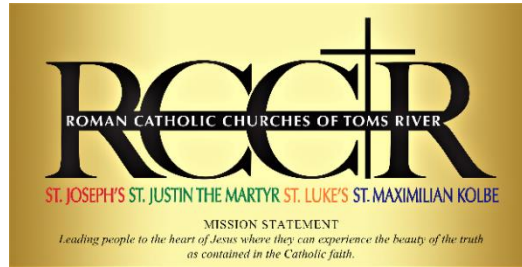


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 20, 2021

CONTACT:
Nicole Pace-Addeo, M.A.
np1021@gmail.com
(732) 232-3835



NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH EVENTS TO BE HELD AT ST. LUKE RC CHURCH SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

All Are Welcome to Learn About Addiction Recovery at Five Free Educational Events

TOMS RIVER, NJ. – St. Luke Roman Catholic Church of Toms River, and the RCCTR (Roman Catholic Churches of Toms River) will host five weekly educational workshops to continue their efforts to spread awareness and share resources within the community. These workshops are being conducted in observance of National Recovery Month, held every September, to educate Americans about substance use treatment and mental health services. Each session will be held at St. Luke Roman Catholic Church at 5pm and doors will open at 4pm for resource gathering from the organization tables. The Thursday Mass will be at 6:30pm.

The following is a summary of each 90-minute session:

- Sunday, September 12: “An Introduction to Addictive Science.” This session will kick off the series with a detailed overview of scientific explanations in easy-to-understand language.
- Sunday, September 19: “Dynamics of the Chemically Dependent Family.” This session will describe the dynamics and roles within families where substance abuse and addiction are part of the daily lives of those involved.
- Thursday, September 23: “The Matt and Max Memorial Mass” will honor those who have died from addiction during the past two years. The Venerable Matt Talbot (Patron of Alcoholics) and Saint Maximilian Kolbe (Patron of the Drug Addicted) will be memorialized during the liturgy. All are invited to attend and bring photos of their deceased loved ones, which will be displayed during the Mass at 6:30pm.
- Sunday, September 26: “Stages and Patterns of Adolescent Substance Abuse.” This session will be primarily for parents and young adults.
- Sunday, October 3: “Substance Abuse among Military Veterans” will begin with a DVD presentation followed by a discussion. Members of the American Legion and disabled American Veterans are invited to attend as well.
- Sunday, October 10: “How to Become an Addiction Professional.” This session will discuss how to become a specialized provider, including information about courses available at Ocean County College to become a Certified and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor. Additional topics covered will include Medicine, Nursing, and other mental health professions.

Fr. Edward Reading, Ph.D., LCADC, CCS, from the Matt Talbot Institute in Toms River and part of the Addiction Studies Faculty at OCC, will be the primary presenter of these sessions, along with other professionals from the area. Local treatment agencies will make printed materials available about services and resources throughout the greater Toms River area.

All sessions are free of charge, but freewill offerings are greatly appreciated.

These events will take place at St. Luke RC Church, 1674 Old Freehold Road, Toms River, NJ 08755 and will also be live streamed via the St. Luke Facebook page. There will be various Ocean County organizations present and information tables in the Narthex to answer questions and provide resources to attendees. St. Luke's is also host to more than 20 AA meetings, 3 Al-anon and 2 Nar-anon meetings, and 3 GA meetings each week, as well as many other support groups. The meeting list is in the weekly bulletins and on the parish website.

If you are interested in finding out more information about this event, or learning more about the RCCTR, please visit our webpage at <https://stlukestomsriver.org/rcctr/>.

###

About St. Luke Roman Catholic Church of Toms River, NJ:

St. Luke Roman Catholic Church has proudly served the Toms River community since 1982 and is the home parish to more than 5,200 families. The parish offers multiple ministries and groups to get involved with and hosts more than 20 support groups throughout the week. In addition to its active outreach and service, St. Luke provides CCD and religious education programs, weddings, funerals, an annual mass for healthcare professionals, blessing of the animals, and monthly Social Sunday gatherings for camaraderie. For a full listing of groups and activities, please visit <https://stlukestomsriver.org/about/why-st-luke/>.

About the RCCTR:

Founded in 2015 as part of the "Faith in Our Future" initiative of the Diocese of Trenton, the Roman Catholic Churches of Toms River (RCCTR) is comprised of leaders and clergy from the four Roman Catholic parishes in Toms River: St. Joseph's, St. Justin the Martyr, St. Luke, and St. Maximilian Kolbe. These four parishes serve more than 20,000 registered Catholic families in Toms River, and collaborate to find ways to strengthen our parishes, explore new models of leadership, evangelize, improve Hispanic ministry, and expand opportunities for greater efficiency and better stewardship. This collaboration is key to bring greater depth and breadth of services to the community. The mission statement of the RCCTR is, "Leading people to the heart of Jesus where they can experience the beauty of the truth as contained in the Catholic faith." For more information, please visit each of the four parish websites: www.stlukestomsriver.org, www.stjosephstomsriver.org, www.stjustin.org, and www.stmaximiliankolbechurch.com.

About Reverend Edward Reading, Ph.D., LCADC, CCS:

Dr. Reading is the Founder and President of the Matt Talbot Institute (MTI) for Addiction Studies in Toms River – an outpatient addiction counseling center which uses evidence-based treatment as well as "time tested recovery programs" to assist patients with finding and maintaining their approach to recovery. He is a Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor and a Certified Clinical Supervisor who has been working in the field since 1969. He has designed several treatment programs including detoxification, residential, halfway-house, and outpatient. Additionally, Dr. Reading has designed curricula and taught addiction studies on the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels, as well as lectured for several medical societies. Dr. Reading has lectured in more than 27 states and provinces and has published more than 25 professional articles and contributed to several Journals and books. He is currently a member of the Addiction Studies faculty at Ocean County College. For more information about Father Reading, The Matt Talbot Institute, or to make an appointment, please call 732-793-6704.