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| Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Roman Catholic Church  105 Summer Road + Three Bridges, NJ 08887  Phone: 908-782-1475 + Fax: 908-782-6230  Parish Website: [www.easeton.net](http://www.easeton.net)  Diocese of Metuchen website: [www.diometuchen.org](http://www.diometuchen.org) | | |
| Parish Office  Monday - Thursday: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  Friday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  Email: parishoffice@easeton.net | | Religious Formation - 908-284-2929  Monday - Thursday: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM  Friday: Closed  Email: seasrf@easeton.net |
| Remembering Palm Sunday 2019 and looking forward to the day when we can again be together for Mass. This year’s palm will be given out when we can safely do so. | | |
| Rev. Thomas J. Serafin, KCHS, Pastor  Rev. Edward A. Kearns, Pastor Emeritus  Paul J. Santella, Deacon  Michael S. Tomcho, Deacon  Kevin M. Kilcommons, Deacon  William P. Weber, Jr., Deacon  Mariam Nawab, Parish Catechetical Leader  Diane Luceri, Director of RCIA & AFF  Brett Walzer, Director of Sacred Music  Jackie Ferrari, Parish Administrative Assistant  Ruth Pryor, Baptisms / Parish Office  Judy Koch, Confirmation Preparation  Gina Perez, Religious Formation Admin. Assistant  Becky Marchinda, Suzanne Wooby, Teen Ministry  James Letchford, Claire Long, Lay Trustees  Parish Registration  All adult members must be registered to obtain sacramental eligibility notes, letters of recommendation, etc. Contact the Parish Office or visit our website for registration materials. | Current Weekend & Daily Schedule  The church is open for private prayer:  Saturday: 4:00 - 6:00 PM  Sunday: 8:00 AM - 12:30 AM  Monday-Thursday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM  Friday: 8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon  Reconciliation [Penance/Confession]  Contact the Parish Office  Marriage Preparation  Common Policy for New Jersey Catholic churches requires couples to contact the parish one year before the potential wedding date or making any wedding plans.  Infant Baptism  Expectant parents should register for the required formation session before birth or adoption and to receive our parish policy, ritual explanation and sponsor [godparent] requirement booklet. | |
| Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord - April 5, 2020 | | |



From the Pastor

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord - A

April 5, 2020

“LET US ALSO GO TO DIE WITH HIM.” This quote, said by Saint Thomas in last week’s Gospel, is a powerful example of words said by those who speak the God’s-honest-truth - without knowing how true their words are! We’re not sure if Saint Thomas was being fatalistic or realistic; for by raising Lazarus back to life, Jesus set the plans to crucify Him into high gear. However, it was by going with Jesus and sharing in His Passion and Death, that Saint Thomas - and every disciple who does the same - can hope to fully share in Christ’s victory over the grave!

As I wrote in last week’s bulletin article, since it is customary during Holy Week to visit the graves of loved ones, adorn their resting places with blessed palm branches, Easter flowers and other signs of our faith, and to pray that God will forgive the sins of all the dead, I am offering reflections on three sets of orations: last week, on the Mass for All the Dead-2; today, on the Mass for All the Dead-3; and next week, on the Mass for All the Dead-4. What an honor to join our beloved dead to Christ’s Passion and Death by offering Masses and other prayers, like the ones below - on their behalf - in the hope of their resurrection.

Collect - For All the Dead - 3

O God, by whose mercy the souls of the faithful find rest, graciously grant pardon for their sins

to your servants (N. and N.) and to all who sleep in Christ, so that, freed from all guilt, they may have a share in the Resurrection of your Christ.

Who lives and reigns … for ever and ever. Amen.

FREED FROM GUILT. The First Reading on Good Friday proclaims these profound, prophetic words: “The LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all.” [Isaiah 53:6b] No one likes to be in debt; it took me years to pay off my student loans, some of which were for major Seminary training. [These days, major Seminary tuition bills are paid for by those who support the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.] However, one debt no one could ever BEGIN to pay off is the debt we owe to God for our sins, and for which we must admit: we are GUILTY! But God wills to save us!

On Good Friday, at 3 pm - the time of our Lord’s Death on the Cross - ‘midafternoon’ - kiss or bow before, genuflect to or touch of the Wood of the Cross [any Crucifix or Cross you have at home will do] to thank Jesus for paying the debt for your sins and for the sins of our deceased loved ones.

Prayer over the Offerings - For All the Dead - 3

Look with favor, Lord, we pray, on the offerings we make for the repose of the souls of your servants, that through these helps to human salvation they may be granted an unfailing portion among the multitude of your redeemed.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOD GIVES ‘HELPS’ TO HUMAN SALVATION. We cannot save ourselves, but we can - and must - use all God offers us to save us in what is, by God’s design, a team effort. The Second Reading on Good Friday proclaims these awesome words about Jesus: “he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.” [Hebrews 5:9b] A great way to obey Him is to fulfill His command: “Do this in memory of me.” [Luke 22:19] In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, which we solemnly offer in one of the most glorious Masses of the year: Holy Thursday’s Mass of the Lord’s Supper, we remember the dead in a special way. While we will be unable to celebrate this Mass and the special Rites of Holy Week this year, we can all spend some extra prayer time on Holy Thursday and Good Friday praying for our world - and our beloved dead.

Prayer after Communion - For All the Dead - 3

We have received, O Lord, the Sacrament

of redemption and entreat your mercy,

that in your compassion you may give

protection to us, the living, and, to our departed brothers and sisters, everlasting pardon.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

EVERLASTING PARDON. We cannot even begin to imagine all that Jesus gives back to those who give to Him! As we hear in the First Reading on Good Friday: “He shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses.” [Isaiah 53:12] What will we do this Holy Week to seek His everlasting pardon for ourselves and for all our departed loved ones?

In His holy Name,

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Rev. Thomas J. Serafin, KCHS

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| Mass Intentions |
| All public Masses are cancelled until further notice. Father Tom will offer these intentions when he privately celebrates Mass each day.  Saturday Vigil: Palm Sunday of the  Passion of the Lord  Irene Ciccarino  r/o: Kennedy family  Sunday Palm Sunday of the  Passion of the Lord  Rosemarie Tramontano  r/o: Anita & Larry Wuest  Jerry Hug  r/o: Susan Apisa  Bob Mykulak  r/o: family |
| Monday  Michael Bastkowski  r/o: Judy Herdman  Tuesday  Michele Schrade  r/o: Ann & Jim Letchford  Wednesday  Ann & Don Schuler  r/o: Schuler family  Thursday Holy Thursday  Jack Castellon  r/o: his wife, Christine  Friday Good Friday |
| Saturday Vigil: Easter Sunday of the  Resurrection of the Lord  Robert Robbins  r/o: Diane Luceri  Sunday Easter Sunday of the  Resurrection of the Lord  Jeff Hoffman  r/o: Denise & Phil Klapp  Rose Paz Gago & Benito Gago  r/o: Dolores Gomez  James & Brendan Smith  r/o: Mary Ann Smith & family  Helen New  r/o: her daughter, Christine |

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| C:\Users\Helen\Pictures\2016-04-06\Eucharist1 R1-7 2016 frm.jpgThe Bread and Wine will be offered this week in celebration of  the 50th Wedding Anniversary of  Michael & Theresa Eganey  as requested by  Maureen & John Lybarger. |

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| The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week in memory of  Alba & Joseph Morelli  as requested by Janis Morelli. |

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| Parish Prayers | |
| “For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven …” | |
| a time to heal … We pray for all the sick of our parish and especially for: | |
| John Althamer  Mary Bartolomeo  Christine Brower  Karen DiLella  Jeanette Dilley  Rosalinda Giles  Rev. Edward Kearns  Linda Klug  Mary Alice Laird  Julianne Mazur  Rev. Msgr. James Moran | Mariam Nawab  Cecil Rajendra  Rena J. Rotella  Tom Stock  Anna Sutphin  Greta Thwaites  Kevin Timko  Paul Urban  Beth Vidal  Daniel Walker  Riley Sue Walker |

The Parish Office and Religious Formation Office are currently closed. Phone messages and email are being checked and will be responded to; we are happy to assist you in any way!

We will not be livestreaming events

for the Sacred Triduum.

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| Church is Open for Private Prayer  SEAS Church is open Monday - Thursday, 8 AM - 5 PM, and Friday, 8 AM - Noon, Saturday, 4-6 PM, Sunday 8 AM - 12:30 PM for private prayer. |

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| C:\Users\JFerrari\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\H50XZ5G4\grateful_7286c1[1].jpg | Last Weekend’s Collection  March 29 $8,675.00  Thank you! |

Many thanks to all who have continued to offer their weekly donations via the mail or when they make a visit; your generosity is most appreciated!

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| SEAS Mortgage Information |
| Mortgage (5/1/2015) $1,865,560.60  As of January 1, 2020:  Current Balance $ 885,267.28  Monthly Payment $ 12,406.89 |

2020 Bishop’s Annual Appeal

Stepping Forward in Faith: Grace in Action

To date, the Development Office has received pledges totaling $90,649.33 and payments totaling $74,753.42 from 254 parishioners. This represents 69.7% of our $130,000.00 goal. Thank you!

2nd collection Today - Retired Diocesan Priests

This weekend’s 2nd collection gives you the opportunity to show your personal appreciation to our retired Priests for their many years of service in our diocese. All funds collected will be used exclusively to support our retired Priests who reside at the Maria Regina Residence in Somerset. Thank you for your generosity!

2nd Collection Next Week - Easter Gift to SEAS

Next week’s 2nd collection is for your Easter Gift to your Parish. Thank you for remembering SEAS at this difficult time.

Comfort & Conversation Ministry

If anyone is in need of a call to relieve their isolation or if senior citizens or parishioners who are shut in need essential errands run for them to pharmacy or grocery, please call Helen Schuler at 908-369-6618; she will try to arrange help for you.

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| **SEAS Pre-Employment Group**  In the current economic crisis we are in, the SEAS Pre-Employment Group is available to assist anyone requiring guidance with resumes, interviewing, marketing, networking, time management as well as the use of social media when seeking employment. More importantly, our group supports one another as we pray and learn God’s plan for our lives and career.  If you are unemployed, underemployed, or are employed and seeking an alternate career path, we are here to support you in finding the right position. Anyone is welcome to join the group!  If you need help/support, please contact Deacon Mike Tomcho at [mtomcho@easeton.net](mailto:mtomcho@easeton.net) or 782-1475 x1112 with any questions. |

Apply for a $10,000 College Scholarship!

If you are a SEAS parishioner and a graduating high school senior entering a full time Bachelor’s Degree program this fall or are already enrolled at an accredited 4-year college or university for the 2020/2021 academic year and continuing your undergraduate studies, you are eligible to apply for the James R. McFarland Memorial Scholarship in the amount of $10,000.00.

Your application must include a personally written essay addressing the question: Sent forth at the end of Mass to “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life”, what actions will you take over the next year and beyond to witness the love of Christ and encourage others to do the same?

It must be 500-600 words, typed on white paper, at least a 10-pt font and should be well written, grammatically correct and easy to read. The DEADLINE is April 23 and the scholarship will be awarded on June 7. For further info, go to <http://easeton.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/CollegeScholarship.doc>, or scan the QR Code to get the Scholarship Application Form and eligibility requirements.

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| G:\Parish Pictures\2018\No Greater Love\IMG_2062.JPG**NOT cancelled!**  **Chemo Caps for Lent**  Keep yourself busy while indoors by knitting or crocheting chemo caps to donate to local cancer centers. For more info contact Pat Rivero 782-1475 x1116. |

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| **Knights of Columbus 6th Annual Comedy Night**  **Postponed to Saturday, October 10**  Please email [KoC15540@gmail.com](mailto:KoC15540@gmail.com) or call 908-797-6500 [Ed] or 732-354-7580 [Pete] with any questions. |

Parish Ministry

For ministry info, email [ministryinfo@easeton.net](mailto:ministryinfo@easeton.net) or leave a message on the Ministry Information voicemail 908-782-1475 x1116. For a complete list of SEAS ministries, go to [www.easeton.net](http://www.easeton.net).

Be Aware!

There have been many reports throughout the diocese of a new wave of emails appearing to be from Parish staff asking for gift cards. Remember, no one from SEAS would ever ask for help in this way, especially Fr. Tom!

Mother’s Day Remembrance

Collection for Mother’s Day remembrances has begun. In order to be included in our special Mother’s Day bulletin insert, your request must be received by Monday, April 29.

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| Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord |
| **First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7**  In a tone of quiet sadness, Isaiah describes the buffets and insults given to the Suffering Servant. The passage ends on a note of hope.  **Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11**  In exultant tones, Paul tells the Philippians to rejoice because Christ became man, died on the cross, rose from the dead, and sits triumphantly at the right hand of the Father.  **Gospel: Matthew 26:14 - 27:66**  This is the solemn narrative of the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew recounts the treachery and betrayal of Judas and then describes the events of the Last Supper, culminating in the institution of the Eucharist. Jesus endures the Agony in the Garden; he is then brought before Caiaphas and Pilate and condemned to death. After His resurrection, the centurions shouted, “Clearly this was the Son of God!”  ©1998 Bon Venture Services, Inc. |

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| Prayer Shawl Ministry: Next meeting - Thursday, May 14; for info, call Judy Herdman, 782-1475 x1116 |
| Teen Ministry: Next meeting - Sunday, May 3, Go out! Joy in Evangelization; for info, email Becky Marchinda, [teenministry@easeton.net](mailto:teenministry@easeton.net) |
| Seton Seniors: for info, call Jennie Giancola, 908-371-0606 |
| Women’s Spirituality Group: Next meeting - Thursday, May 7; for info, email [seaswsg@gmail.com](mailto:seaswsg@gmail.com) |
| Seton Men’s Club: Next meeting - Thursday, May 14 |

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| Religious Formation |

All RF Sessions Cancelled Until Further Notice

Complete the rest of the lessons on your own. Any questions, email gperez@easeton.net or mnawab@easeton.net.

Confirmation

At this time we anticipate Confirmation will be held on June 1, 2020

SRF 2020 Dates: July 6-9 & July 13-16, 2020

SRF requires parent involvement of 2 days for each child in the program.

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| 2020-2021 Fall Religious Formation  C:\Users\gperez\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\R52VUXYJ\Megaphone.svg[1].pngRegister by April 21 - Take a $50.00 discount.  Forms are online at [www.easeton.net](http://www.easeton.net)  Mail back completed forms or drop them off to the mailbox in the parking lot.  Please contact Mariam Nawab, Parish Catechetical Leader at 908-284-2929 x1123 or mnawab@easeton.net for any RF concerns. |

Sign-up for 2020-2021

Have you thought about being a Catechist, but have never given it a try?

We have Catechist opportunities for grades 1-8 just waiting for you! We have childcare on Wednesdays for your younger children. We give you the curriculum and books and help you choose the grade best for you. Thank you for your time and talents.

Catechists Needed for 2020-2021:

Monday - 4:45-6:00: 4th, 5th, 6th Grades

Monday - 7:00-8:30: 8th Grade

Tuesday - 4:45-6:00: 2nd, 3rd, 5th Grades

Tuesday - 6:30-7:45: 2nd, 4th Grades

Weds. - 4:45-6:00: 1st, 3rd Grades

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| Vacation Bible School - June 29 - July 3  Hey Party Animals!  We're getting ready to throw a huge BIRTHDAY BLAST!!  and are hoping you'll join the week long party! Stay tuned for info! |

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| Adult Faith Formation |

All adults are encouraged to take some time to grow in faith and deepen your relationship with Christ by participating in an Adult Faith Formation program at SEAS! For more info contact Diane Luceri, 908-782-1475 X 1114 or [dluceri@easeton.net](mailto:dluceri@easeton.net).

GET FORMED!

Now is the perfect time to take advantage of the dynamic online platform called FORMED. Every parishioner has 24/7 access to the best Catholic bible studies, movies, talks and books for FREE. Register at easeton.formed.org, set up your profile and access materials at any time!

Lenten Book Club: Blessed are You ~ Finding Inspiration from our Sisters in Faith

Use the stories of the saints, our sisters in faith, to help you grow in your spiritual life. Book Discussion Date: TBD - 9:30-11 am OR 7:30-9:00 pm

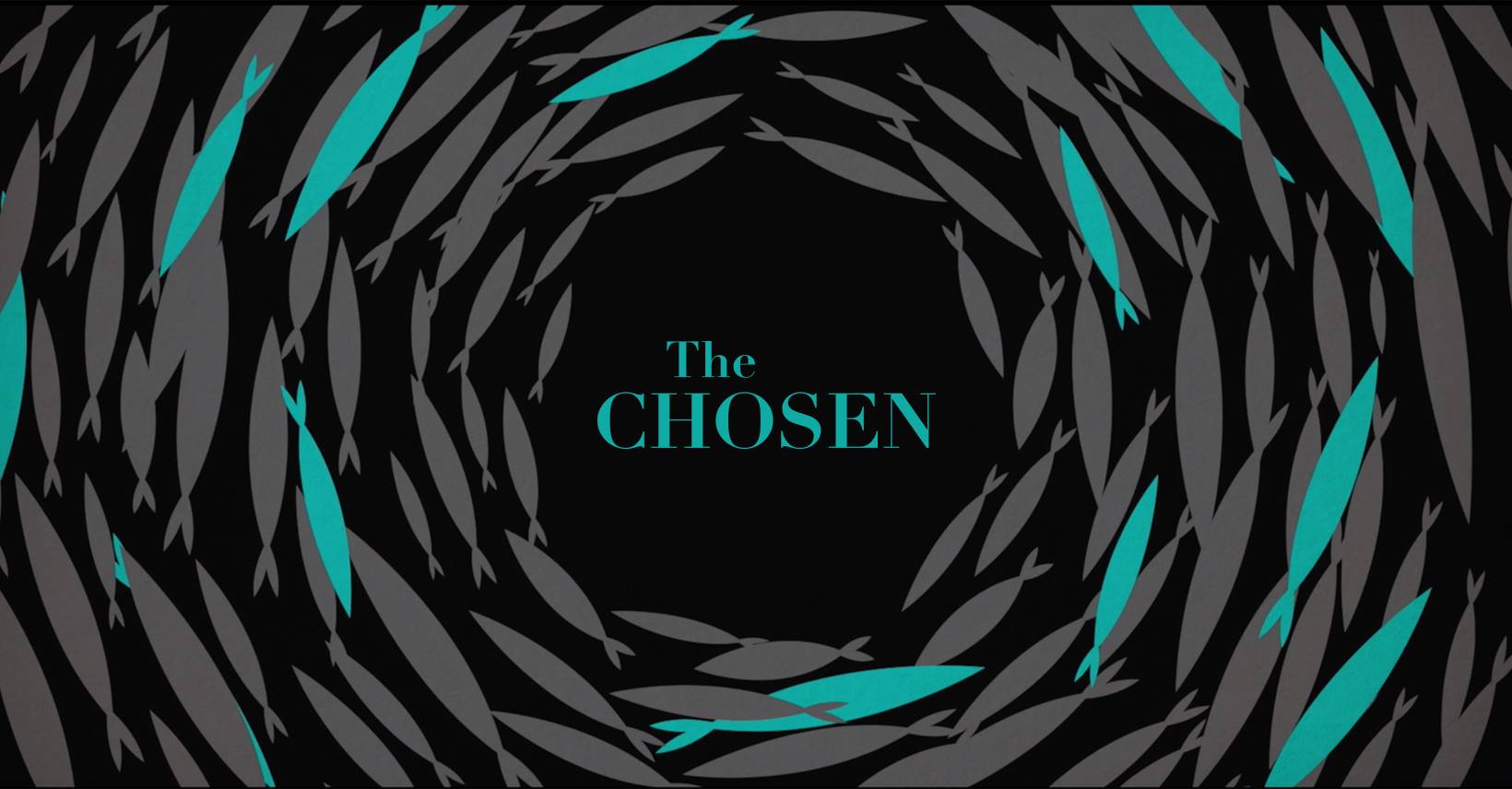
Lenten Bible Study: No Greater Love

A Biblical Walk through Christ’s Passion

For those enrolled in this study, complete the study on your own. Date TBD to discuss Session 4 & 5 and watch the Resurrection video.

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| Inspirational Catholic Books and CDs  What better way to spend this time at home than reading an inspirational Catholic book or to listening to an inspirational talk. If you come to church, check the kiosks in the hallway outside the narthex and in the foyer of the parish hall for a wide selection of topics. SPECIAL - Buy 3 books or 4 CDs for $10 |

COMING SOMETIME THIS SPRING AT SEAS …

The Chosen

Wednesdays, Dates TBD

9:30-11:15 am or 7:15-9:00 pm

See the gospels presented in a new and intriguing way! In this series you see Jesus through the eyes of those who knew him. You will be introduced to people such as Simon Peter, Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene, Matthew and, of course, Jesus in a way never before seen on film. No matter where you are in your journey with Jesus, this program is for you! There is no cost, materials or homework required. Each session stands on its own, so come whenever you can … and bring a friend who has been asking about Jesus! For planning purposes, please contact Diane to sign up!

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| RCIA: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults  Please continue to pray for our RCIA candidate, Eileen Crane, who is preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist this Easter. You are invited to become a ‘Spiritual Sponsor’ for Eileen by remembering her in prayer and sending a note of encouragement to the Parish Office marked “attention RCIA.” If you have any questions, please contact Diane Luceri. |