



FCDC TODAY

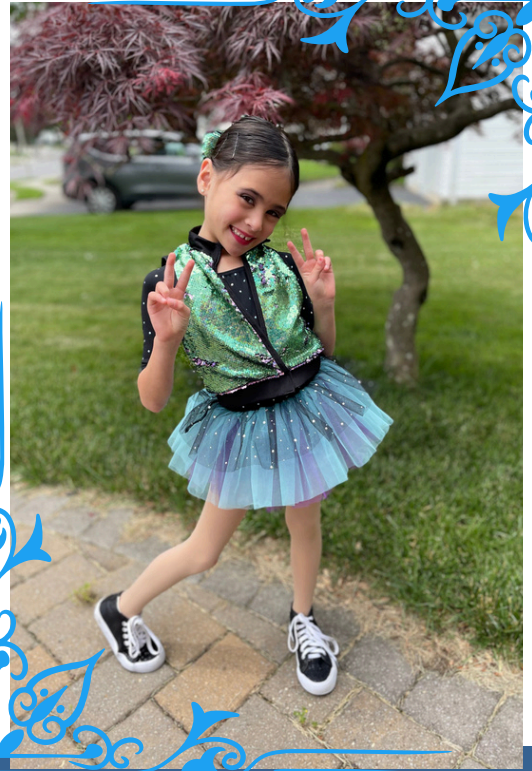
Filipino-American Community &
Development Center of Ocean County Inc.
2014 Bayaning Pilipino Awardee
November 2024

Member Spotlight - Evangeline Claire Kane

“And though she be but little, she is fierce.” This quote from William Shakespeare best describes our Evangeline since the day she was born.

Evangeline “Eevee” Claire Kane was born 3 months early and weighed 1 pound 12 ounces. She was “feisty” (as per the nurses) right after she was born and was pulling out her feeding tubes. After almost four months in the NICU, she suffered from no complications and her parents, Michael and Cathy Kane, took her home. She is now in the third grade and is doing very well in school. She loves gymnastics, dance and jiu jitsu. She is also learning to play the clarinet this year.

Through FCDC, Eevee participated in her first Santa Cruzan as Mama Mary. She also enjoys learning Tagalog and about the Filipino culture during the summer camps.



CONTENTS

Member Spotlight	Page 1-2
President's Corner	Page 3-7
Editor's Note	Page 8-9
Attitude Adjustment	Page 10-11
Community Events	Page 12-13
Ads	Page 14

When asked, Eevee describes herself as creative. She likes to draw, construct forts, and whips up her own yummy desserts. She also considers herself adventurous and fearless. She likes to take walks with her younger sister, Maxine, in Cattus Island. Eevee also now goes on rides that are, or were, “too fast and scary.” However, the first words she uses to describe herself are “lovable” and “kind.” This is expressed in her words and actions with others. Honesty is another trait. When asked what her aspirations are, Eevee answers, “a Youtuber, singer, and dancer.”



family





PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY JASMINE ALCID



BEING GRATEFUL



Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on all the things we are grateful for in our lives. Practicing gratitude can have a powerful impact on our mental and emotional well-being. It helps us focus on the positives in our lives, no matter how small, and encourages us to appreciate what we have rather than dwelling on what we don't.

Showing gratitude can be as simple as saying "thank you" to those we care about, expressing appreciation for the little things, and acknowledging the efforts of others. It can also involve giving back to our communities or helping those in need.

Cultivating a grateful mindset not only benefits our own happiness and fulfillment but also strengthens our relationships and creates a more positive and supportive environment for ourselves and those around us.

NEXT MONTH

- **Giving Tuesday - December 3**
- **Christmas Party - December 7**
 - Please sign up using the signuption link sent via email (limited seats)
- **Simbang Gabi - Dec 14-22**
 - see flyer for more details



NEW YORK FIELD TRIP



FCDC families had a delightful day in the bustling city, exploring plants, animals, and history. The community engaged in an enriching team-building experience at the American Museum of Natural History. The impressive exhibits of both living and extinct animals paint a vibrant picture of the past and present.

As a cultural community, FCDC values the significance of a home away from home, striving to create opportunities for everyone to come together and feel a sense of belonging.

The day didn't end without Jollibee! We all missed the chicken, spaghetti and pie! Everyone extended the gastronomic fun by bringing some home.

See photos on following page and on FCDC Facebook site.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY FIELD TRIP



games on the bus



carabao



items from Ifugao region



Jollibee





Giving Tuesday is December 3, 2024

What is Giving Tuesday?

Giving Tuesday is recognized as a global day dedicated to generosity and giving, taking place annually on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving.

How can I contribute?

FCDC will share a donation link on both the FCDC Facebook page and the FCDC website. Simply click the link to make your donation. Alternatively, you can send a check to FCDC via mail at P.O. Box 1418, Toms River, NJ 08754.

How will the donations be utilized?

Contributions will be directed towards FCDC initiatives, specifically aimed at programs for children.

Thank you for your generosity!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AT THE HALLOWEEN FUN RUN



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H & R Block/Tax Corner
 - Ricky and Daisy Enriquez



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

by Jamie Mariano



Thanksgiving Blessings

Many of us are fortunate to have what others are praying for. I actually wrote something like that a year or so ago for my column. I reflected on this, and even thought about copying and pasting the article for this month! Instead, I would like to list some of things people pray for that almost all of us have. I encourage you to pray for others -- whether you know them or not.

- 1. Food** - How many of us are fussing over making sure there is enough food to serve on Thanksgiving, and not because we do not have enough money to buy the correct amount? How many of us are going to be running to the grocery store because we forgot one important ingredient? There are others who cannot afford daily meals, let alone an extravagant feast that comes along once a year.
- 2. Decent clothing** - There are children who are growing, and their parents' income cannot keep up with the increase in shoe size and winter clothes.
- 3. Stable and safe housing** - Not everyone has a safe place to call home. They might live in a house with no heat or hot water, a house in need of desperate repairs, or they might live in the woods, their car, or somewhere else without four walls and a bed. They might live in unsafe housing in terms of who they live with -- an abusive family member, neglectful foster parents, or a home in which everyone simply fights and criticizes each other all the time.



Food. Clothing. Shelter.



They seem so basic to those who are privileged and blessed, but for others, it would be a miracle to have all three at the same time.

You never know what anyone else is going through, and you also never know if your own situation will change. This is why the Bible says in Philippians 2:3-4, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

Always keep others in prayer, and in the spirit of Thanksgiving, I want to remind you to never forget to thank God and express gratitude for your blessings, big and small, all year round. This goes for those who are struggling too because there is always, always something to be grateful for, even when it might not seem like it. Trust me, I know because I've experienced it.

If you are really feeling down and out, and if you are bold enough, you can reach out to me. I am no therapist, but I have connections and a knowledge of resources, and I mean it when I say I will pray for you. My email is JamieFCDCToday@gmail.com. Save it and reach out when you feel ready or pass it along to someone who could use an ear to listen. Your secrets are safe with me.

**The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.**





ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT

by Ferlie Almonte
Speaker. Author. Life Coach.
OPTIMIST IN YOUR MIDST

Knowing how I love to write, tell stories and share all the juicy lessons I've learned in life, my daughter gifted me with a Storyworth subscription for Christmas last year. This present involved me receiving and answering questions, sent at set frequency, that my daughter, or the publication suggests, that would allow me to share my insights or experiences on certain topics. At the end of the year, all my writings get turned into a book with my name and photo on the cover! Cool, right? I guess I know what gift I will be unwrapping this Christmas. LOL!

What is really neat about it is that it allows a non-threatening and parent-lecturing-free zone for me to give advice on life, career and relationships, and let my daughter, and other readers, to learn from my pearls of wisdom, or have amusing moments and laughter, on my account, reading up on hilarious incidents I got to spill.

One of the questions I was sent was, "Do you consider yourself an Optimist or a Pessimist?"

Most people would THINK that they are optimistic in their ways. However, with full disclosure, transparency and honesty, many are not! It takes serious introspection to answer this question with integrity.

I did not have trouble deciding what bucket I fall in because Optimism is something I HAVE CHOSEN, very mindfully, during many dark moments of my life.

So, here's what I wrote on Storyworth...

"There a is a compelling reason my friends call me The Queen of Positivity.

The world could be crumbling down on me, yet, I find reasons...underlying messages...as to why things are happening NOT TO ME, but FOR ME, to rise to the challenge, and let it ignite the fire in my soul and discover the bright path and new intentional opportunity I am being led to. Optimism is a healthy choice. Pessimism is paralyzing. Pessimism is a thief of hope, peace and joy. I believe in miracles. I believe in the power of having big dreams. Though chasing after those almost impossible dreams are frightening, I keep reminding myself: Impossible stands for I'M POSSIBLE.

I am fine with failing, making mistakes, learning and growing from them. I can live with that. But I have a problem settling with mediocrity.

Optimism is a power we need to muster. It leads to joyful and hopeful living. I believe I fully embody that."

So, what's the lesson here?

YOUR MIND IS POWERFUL. You attract what you think. Your thoughts can help propel you to a path where hope and brighter possibilities abound. It keeps you driven. Your mindset can also help you cope when hope is not enough. Positivity gives a healthier frame of mind when things don't go your way. It will help you deal with failures and heartbreaks, save your sanity, preserve your serenity, help you heal and keep your spirit feeling grateful and joyful.

CHOOSE YOUR BLISS.

CHOOSE YOUR PEACE.

CHOOSE OPTIMISM.

For more inspiring messages, follow @FerlieAlmonte on social media.



A pessimist sees the
difficulty in every
opportunity; an optimist
sees the opportunity in
every difficulty."

-Winston Churchill

"STAY AWAY FROM
NEGATIVE PEOPLE.
THEY HAVE A
PROBLEM FOR
EVERY SOLUTION."

-Albert Einstein



Sow • Root • Grow • Branch

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Toy Drive

Please donate **NEW**,
unwrapped toys for the
children of Ocean County and
for the Philippines.

Accepting Donation Through
Tuesday, December 15

Drop-off Location:

Little Kusina

1594 US-9, Toms
River, NJ 08755

For more information:
fcdcteam@gmail.com



OCEAN COUNTY'S SIMBANG GABI 2024

AWIT AT PASASALAMAT NI MARIA
"SONG OF GRATITUDE OF MARY MAGNIFICAT"

-LUKE 1:46-55

DECEMBER 14, 2024 Saturday

St. Justin the Martyr Parish
975 Fischer Blvd
Toms River, NJ 08753
Presider: Fr. Mark Kreder
Rosary 6:30pm Mass 7pm

DECEMBER 18, 2024 Wednesday

St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church
1674 Old Freehold Rd
Toms River, NJ 08755
Presider: Fr. Mike Kennedy
Rosary 6:30pm Mass 7pm

DECEMBER 15, 2024 Sunday

St. John's Roman Catholic Church
619 Chestnut St
Lakehurst, NJ 08759
Presider: Fr. Tito Ignacio
Rosary 6:30pm Mass 7pm

DECEMBER 19, 2024 Thursday

St. Theresa Catholic Church
450 Radio Road
Little Egg Harbor, NJ 08087
Presider: Fr. Roy Ballacillo
Rosary 6:30pm Mass 7pm

DECEMBER 16, 2024 Monday

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
685 Hooper Ave
Toms River, NJ 08753
Presider: Fr. Scott Shaffer
Rosary 6:30pm Mass 7pm

DECEMBER 20, 2024 Friday

Visitation Roman Catholic Church
730 Lynnwood Ave
Brick, NJ 08723
Presider: Fr. Vic Magdaraog
Rosary 6:30pm Mass 7pm

DECEMBER 17, 2024 Tuesday

St. Mary of the Pines
100 Bishop Way
Manahawkin, NJ 08050
Presider: Msgr. Ken Tuzenue
Rosary 6pm Mass 6:30pm

St. Dominic Parish

250 Old Squan Road
Brick NJ 08724
Presider: Fr. Carlo Calisin
Rosary 6:30pm Mass 7pm

DECEMBER 21, 2024 Saturday

St. Monica Catholic Church
679 W Veterans Hwy
Jackson, NJ 08527
Presider: Fr. Alex Enriquez
Rosary 6:30pm Mass 7pm

December 22, 2024 Sunday

Last day of Simbang Gabi

St. Maximillian Kolbe Church

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

Most Reverend Efren V. Esmilla

Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia

December 22, 2024(Sunday) 5:30pm

St. Maximillian Kolbe

130 St. Maximillian Ln, Toms River, NJ 08757

Rosary starts at 5pm



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