

# The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

www.ccsjn.org

October 4, 2015

Volume 33, Number 40



## *A Christian Community of the Catholic Tradition*

Diocese of Metuchen  
Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, Bishop  
[www.diometuchen.org](http://www.diometuchen.org)

Trustees:  
Mary Connolly  
Lyle Garcia

### *Our Parish*

Rev. Abraham Orapankal, Ph.D. ....  
..... Pastor  
Rev. J William Mickiewicz.....  
..... Founding Pastor Emeritus  
Earl Roberts ..... Deacon

**Mailing Address:**  
PO Box 455  
Califon, NJ 07830

**Office Center:**  
398 County Route 513  
Califon, NJ  
908-832-2513  
908-832-7618 fax  
[www.ccsjn.org](http://www.ccsjn.org)

**Worshipping at:**  
398 County Road 513  
(Church Center)

Saturday Vigil Mass ..... 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday ..... 8:00 a.m.  
Sunday ..... 10:30 a.m.  
First Friday Holy Hour ..... 7:00 p.m.

**Worshipping at:**  
\*Check the bulletin for any changes\*  
390 County Road 513  
(Neumann Residence)

**Weekday Masses:**  
Tuesday ..... 7:00 a.m.  
Friday ..... 7:00 a.m.

**Reconciliation:**  
Saturday ..... 5:00-5:25 p.m.  
Or anytime by appointment.

### **Mission Statement**

**Catholic Community of St. John Neumann**  
**FOUNDED** on the teachings of Jesus Christ,  
**NOURISHED** by the hospitality of the Califon Christian  
Communities,

**FORMED** with a commitment to Social Ministry, and  
**STRENGTHENED** by the Holy Spirit

*The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann is  
a jubilant people on a continuing spiritual  
journey of hope:*

**TO CELEBRATE** and **DEEPEN** our faith  
**TO SHARE** our unique gifts, talents and treasures  
**TO CHERISH** all life  
**TO LIVE** in openness, acceptance and love.

### **Annual Parish Goal**

**Growing in the Love of the Lord**  
**Through the Faith Formation of Each Member,**  
**We Will Give Witness To and**  
**Welcome All Segments of Our Larger Community**

# This Week at Saint John's

## Mass Intentions

### Tuesday, October 6

7:00 a.m. **NO MASS**

### Friday, October 9

7:00 a.m. **NO MASS**

### Saturday, October 10

5:30 p.m. Mary Roupenian, req.  
Marybeth & Bill Harrison

### Sunday, October 11

8:00 a.m. Marianne Bennett, req.  
Bennett Family

10:30 a.m. Richard Carnrike, Sr., req.  
The Altavilla Family



## Mass Schedule—October 10/11

Saturday		5:30 p.m.
Celebrant .....	Rev. Abraham Orapankal	
Reader .....	Anita Sawczuk	
Altar Server .....	Kucharski Family	
Ministers of the Eucharist .....	Barbara Martalus	
.....	Bob Martalus, Donna Torczon	
Sunday		8:00 a.m.
Celebrant .....	Rev. Abraham Orapankal	
Reader .....	Owen Stanski	
Altar Server .....	France Kennedy	
Ministers of the Eucharist .....	Donna Lance	
.....	Joe Sima, Dorothy Sima	
Sunday		Welcome Mass
		10:30 a.m.
Celebrant .....	Rev. Abraham Orapankal	
Reader .....	Steve Gemma	
Altar Server .....	Souza Family	
Music Eucharistic Minister .....	Gloria Cucchiara	
Ministers of the Eucharist .....	Kristin Gemma, Anothony DeStefano	
.....	Mark Brisson, Bob Sobey, Cindy Carroll	

## Parish Calendar

### Sunday, Oct. 4 - Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Yellow Brick Road Collection

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
9:00 a.m. K-6 Catechesis (Office and Church Center)  
10:30 a.m. Mass-Abeles & Cerniglia Baptisms (Church Center)  
11:30 a.m. Discover St. John's Luncheon (Office Center)  
5:30 p.m. CPII Parent Candidate Meeting (Church Center)  
6:00 p.m. Jr. High Catechesis (Church Center)

### Monday, Oct. 5 - Weekday

3:30 p.m. Project Earth-Bed Prep-Immaculata Svc (Grounds)

### Tuesday, Oct. 6 - Saint Bruno, Priest; Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher, Virgin

7:00 a.m. **NO MASS**  
10:00 a.m. Small Faith Group (Church Center Loft)  
10:30 a.m. Small Faith Group (Narthex)  
7:30 p.m. Small Faith Group (Offsite)

### Wednesday, Oct. 7 - Our Lady of the Rosary

6:00 p.m. Yoga (Church Center Loft)  
7:15 p.m. Small Faith Group (Upper Room)

### Thursday, Oct. 8 - Weekday

7:00 p.m. Music/Bells (Church Center)  
7:30 p.m. Small Faith Group (Seton Room)

### Friday, Oct. 9 - Saint Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs; Saint John Leonardi, Priest

7:00 a.m. **NO MASS**  
5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)

### Saturday, Oct. 10 - Weekday

5:30 p.m. Mass (Church Center)

### Sunday, Oct. 11 - Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
9:00 a.m. Small Faith Group (Church Center Loft)  
10:30 a.m. Mass - Welcome Mass (Church Center)  
10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy Of the Word (Narthex)

### DISCOVER ST JOHN'S

Anyone who is not a member please join us for a Welcome Luncheon this Sunday, October 4 after the 10#:0 a.m. Mass. Please contact France 908-307-7879 for any information.



### Remembered at Mass

We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered in the Eucharistic Prayer: **Colleen Jijack, Bob Patterson, Stephen Santangelo, and Edwin Bianco.**

**Deceased:** **Bob Patterson**, dear friend of the Pojedinecs and and Statens, **Stephen Santangelo**, grandfather of Fran Ratsimor, and **Edwin Bianco**, father of Jennifer Evanko. May they find peace and comfort in the embrace of the Lord and may their families find strength in the Lord & comfort & support from family & friends.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

Dear Friends,

What an exciting and grace-filled week it was! *"The Big Apple Falls for Pope Francis"* was one way a premier publication announced this historic visit of our Pope. A Jewish writer summed up the effect of Francis in this dramatic way: *"he conquered Washington, neutered New York and flattened Philadelphia."* Read in this bulletin just two testimonies of journalists about the "Francis effect" in their own lives! We too need to reflect how his visit has impacted our own lives! For us Catholics, it was certainly a week of ecstasy, to have a leader who made us proud of being Catholics, to have a shepherd who reminded us of Jesus the Good Shepherd, to have a humble servant of God bringing us closer to God himself. In his final remarks before returning to Rome, Pope Francis said: *"I pray that our days of prayer and reflection on the importance of the family for a healthy society will inspire families to continue to strive for holiness and to see the Church as their constant companion, whatever the challenges they may face."*

A Catholic journalist, whose impressions of Pope Francis is in this bulletin, said: *"Every sermon, every speech moved me further, moved me deeper. Some I've read and reread 10 times."* Why not google and find more papal stories, more transcripts of his speeches and homilies, and thus enrich ourselves? Why not allow the papal trip to linger on and be more fruitful by joining a "Fall Into Faith" small groups? A number of our parishioners have found it very powerful as their participation in these small groups helped them grow in the Word of God and experience fellowship and mutual support for their own daily living. Pray about this idea and make a decision based on what the Holy Spirit asks you to do.

Your brother in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## WELCOME TO "FALL INTO FAITH!"

These small groups are being formed. Only 6 weeks of sessions with no other commitment. Taste for yourself the different ways you will be enriched. It will amaze you as you meet other like-minded parishioners and hear their stories of coping with challenges in their lives with the help from God's Word. Or you will see how the Lord will surprise you as you put the brakes on your often hectic lives and build in some quiet and fruitful time. No matter what, this is the right time to join a small group for few weeks. Why not sign up today? Call France 908-307-7879.

## TRICKY TRAY NEWS - 1/2 PRICE TICKETS NEXT WEEKEND

**Friday Night October 16th at 6 PM**

Tricky Tray Signs are Out and About Town. The Excitement is Building! Over 200 Gifts will be raffled this year. **Please Tell Your Family and Friends to Come.** Fun to be had by All. We are Still accepting donations. Please bring them to the Seton Room this Week. Thanks to so many of our families who have already made donations to Tricky Tray. We have so many great prizes this year for you and every one in your family. **Half Price Tickets will be on sale next weekend. Buy early and save!**

## STEWARDSHIP PROJECT - 10,000 VILLAGES' SALE

The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann will host a Ten Thousand Villages Festival Sale of quality, handcrafted, fair trade goods for the month of November after all masses.

St. John Neumann hopes to support Ten Thousand Villages' dream of providing vital, fair income to Third World people. The money earned is used to improve their homes, educate themselves and their children and put food on their table. Your purchase will make a difference.

*Each item purchased helps provide vital, fair income to artisans and their families throughout the world.*

## TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 4, 2015

***"So out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name."*** (Genesis 2:19)

The creation story reminds us of two important points. First, since the start, God has put the entire world into our care. Second, stewardship has been around since the beginning of mankind, it isn't something recently invented by the Church. Just as past generations built our Church, it is now our responsibility to continue to nurture and develop these gifts for future generations.

## Parish Contact Information

**Church Center (weekend use) . 908-832-6343**

**Office Center .....908-832-2513**

Fax ..... 908-832-7618

Email ..... sijn@ccsjn.org

Rev. Abraham Orapankal ..... Pastor

Email ..... abraham@ccsjn.org

Earl Roberts ..... Deacon

Email ..... earlr1@verizon.net

Sharon Janks ..... Pastoral Administrator

Email ..... sjanks@ccsjn.org

France Kennedy ..... Pastoral Associate

Email ..... fkennedy@ccsjn.org

Kerri Caldaro ..... Financial Administrator

Email ..... kcaldaro@ccsjn.org

Wayne Infusino ..... Maintenance

**Religious Education .....908-832-2162**

Renee Ciszewski . Director of Religious Education

Email ..... renee@ccsjn.org

Jo Ann Jarvis ..... Office of Catechesis

Email ..... jjarvis@ccsjn.org

Social Ministry ..... socialministry@ccsjn.org

Anne Germino and Greg Wilson

Bulletin ..... bulletin@ccsjn.org

Youth Ministry ..... sjnygroup@gmail.com

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Stewardship Committee will be running a 10,000 Villages sales the month of November. We can use a few volunteers to sell product after Masses and to help set up, the morning of Oct. 31. We will be meeting in the Narthex at 8:30 on the 31<sup>st</sup> to unpack boxes and set up displays. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you could help.

# Social Ministry

## **FREE HEALTH SCREENING**

A free health screening will take place at St. John's in the narthex on Sunday, October 25 through a program offered by St. Peter's Hospital. Health information and screening will be provided before and after the morning Masses. Check the Bulletin for more details next week.

## **SHIP'S GALLEY SOUP KITCHEN**

Our next monthly service to the SHIP's Galley Soup Kitchen will take place on Monday, October 12 from 11am until 2 pm. If you would like to volunteer to serve or provide food for the meal please contact Anne Germino at [socialministry@ccsjn.org](mailto:socialministry@ccsjn.org).

## **NOTES FROM THE GARDEN**

Tilling of the garden expansion area was completed last week. A group of teens from Immaculata High School in Somerville came out Tuesday after school for a Campus Ministry service project. They harvested the last of the carrots and first planting of beets and then cleaned out several of the empty beds to begin preparing them for winter. Just a few more preparations are necessary to prepare for "raising the fence" on Saturday, October 17. There will be jobs for all ages and skill levels and a potluck luncheon to celebrate the Harvest. Bring your favorite dish and join the fun! Contact Anne Germino at [socialministry@ccsjn.org](mailto:socialministry@ccsjn.org) for more information.

## **OUR THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVES**

Today we begin our Food Drive for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. There are two important dates to remember: **November 15 and December 13** are the dates that we need food donations turned in. Next week's bulletin will contain a list of specific needs, and we will post copies of our needs at the door to the food pantry and the Social Ministry station, and if you wish to get started sooner, here is a list of items that we know we will need: PEANUT BUTTER, JELLY, CEREAL, EASY MEALS, SOUPS, CRANBERRY SAUCE, SALAD DRESSING, SALT AND PEPPER, COOKING OIL, STUFFING AND INSTANT POTATOES. Thanks for helping to take care of the needy and our elders.

# Christian Formation - Catechesis

## **CPII PARENT/CANDIDATE MEETING**

**Sunday, October 4, 5:30 p.m.**

There will be a meeting of all CPII students (7th graders) and their parents on Sunday, October 4, at 5:30 p.m. in the Church Center. This meeting will take place immediately prior to the Junior High catechesis session that evening. At least one parent should accompany their child.



## **CONFIRMATION 2015**

**Saturday, October 24, 5:30 p.m., Church Center**

We are pleased to announce that Fr. Abraham will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation here at St. John's on Saturday, October 24, 2015, at the 5:30 p.m. Mass.

A banner display of our 2015 Confirmandi is in the Narthex of the Church Center. Please keep these young people and their families in your prayers as they prepare to celebrate Confirmation this October. They are: Nicholas Brezina, Jessica Brynildsen, Michael Cucchiara, Madison D'Avella, Gwendolyn King, Colleen McCord, Caroline Petrie, Mia Ranallo, Maria Ratsimor, Kyler Rudin, Bryan Stanski, Lauren Tabor, and Richard Wellbrock.

## **FIRST RECONCILIATION**



The next First Reconciliation session will be on Saturday, October 17th, at 3:30 p.m. in the Church Center. There will be a Parent Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on October 18th in the Church Center Narthex.

## **7TH GRADE CLASS MASS**

Please join our 7th Grade Religious Education students on Saturday, October 17, at 5:30 p.m. as they celebrate their Class Mass. It is a wonderful chance to watch our youth deepen their faith and understanding of the Liturgy by playing an active role during the Mass.

## **STATUE OF MARY HOME VISITATION PROGRAM**



Our parish has a Statue of Mary available for home visitations beginning in October, the month of the Holy Rosary, and continuing throughout the year. Parish families may host the beautiful 21" statue of Mary in their homes for a two-week period. During this time, we encourage family prayer as you spend time with Our Lady. To schedule a visit, please fill out and return the form below to the Office of Catechesis or call 908-832-2162.

### **Statue of Mary Home Visitation Sign Up**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Visitation Date Preferences: \_\_\_\_\_

## AN EXCITING TIME TO BE CATHOLIC!



The World Meeting of Families was conceived by Saint Pope John Paul II in 1992 to look at strengthening the sacred bonds of the family unit across the globe. The first WMOF took place in Rome in 1994, the International year of the family.

Every three years since 1994, families from all over the world are invited by the Holy Father to attend this global gathering. At the conference, families share their thoughts, dialogue and prayers, working together to grow as individuals and family units. Families can participate in discussion groups on the Christian family's role in the church and society, led by many distinguished speakers.

On Sunday evening, approximately 30 students in our Confirmation Preparation Program watched a live stream of the Papal Mass in Philadelphia. It was an opportunity for the student to watch history. As part of their faith formation and preparation for Confirmation, they were given three questions to reflect upon during the Mass.

1. *What touched you about the event? Write your impressions.*
2. *Name and explain at least two insights/inspirations that Pope Francis spoke about.*
3. *What are the lessons that you may take away with you and practice in your daily life.*

The students will write a 500 word essay that includes the reflection questions. The students that best articulate the reflection questions will receive a gift card. We will share the essays with the parish community in the bulletin.



## SMILE WITH POPE FRANCIS



It was a Catholic variety show, improvised by the Pope himself, throwing in lots of jokes, during the Festival of Families in Philly. He set aside another written speech entirely and, with apparent spontaneity, gave exuberant and unscripted remarks about God, family and love! *"A child once asked me – and you know that kids ask difficult questions – he asked me, 'Father, what did God do before he created the world?'"*

The audience, which included Aretha Franklin, Andrea Bocelli, Sister Sledge, Mark Wahlberg, the comedian Jim Gaffigan and other warm-up acts, laughed, and the pope continued with a smile. *"I can assure you, I found it really hard to answer the question."* But Francis answered that question this way: *"Before creating the world, God loved, because God is love."* Then he continued to develop the theme of the family which he said was "the most beautiful thing that God made" and described the family as "a factory of hope", each one with "divine citizenship". He then cracked: *"Some of you might say, 'Of course, Father, you speak like that because you're not married!'"* Then he said: *"Families face many difficulties. Families fight. And sometimes plates fly, and sometimes kids get knocked on the head. And let's not even talk about mothers-in-law."* No wonder the audience, that happened to include a live global television audience, roared in laughter

## SILVER & GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

You are cordially invited to celebrate your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary with the Church of the Diocese of Metuchen. Renew your marriage vows with Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski at a special Evening Prayer Service in the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen, on Sunday, October 25, 2015 at 4:00 PM. Please contact the Parish office for Application form or for further info.

## ENRICHING OUR PERSONAL PRAYER EXPERIENCE

**Tuesday, Oct 13 - 7:15-8:15pm**

Join us for information on the new Prayer Ministry. Refreshments will be served. RSVP if possible to [sjn@ccsjn.org](mailto:sjn@ccsjn.org) or just drop in.

## GRACE, MERCY & PEACE

That is the theme for the 2015 Bishop's Annual Appeal. Our Bishop is asking each and every one of the more than 145,000 Catholic households living in the four counties (Middlesex, Somerset, Hunterdon, Warren) of the Diocese to participate in the Appeal. He asks us to generously support the ongoing ministries of the Church that provide educational, pastoral, and charitable outreach to those living in the Diocese.

## RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

**2015 Bishop's Annual Appeal  
Grace, Mercy & Peace**

Each year in our diocese, over 2,500 eighth grade and high school students participate in the "Because I'm Worth It" event sponsored by the Office of Respect for Life. Busloads of energetic youth gather to hear renowned speaker Pam Stenzel's chastity presentation. In a rally-like atmosphere, Stenzel captivates her audience with the serious physical, medical and emotional repercussions of sex outside of marriage. It is very powerful and, in many cases, life-changing.

Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal helps to underwrite the cost of the chastity education outreach to our youth.

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

### **Office Angels**

Wednesday, Oct. 7 A. Sawczuk  
Wednesday, Oct. 14 C. Behrens

### **Store Cards**

**Oct. 3 & 4**

5:30 p.m. E. McCabe  
8:00 a.m. J. Klawunn  
10:30 a.m. J. Varcadipane

**Oct. 10 & 11**

5:30 p.m. B. Cestone  
8:00 a.m. V. Hoffart  
10:30 a.m. D. Hunt

### **Church Center Plant Watering**

Week of 10/4 J. Sieber  
Week of 10/11 C. Fortenbacker

### **Church Center Cleaning**

October 2 Team E  
October 9 Team F

### **Altar Flowers**

October 10 M. Connolly  
October 17 M. Sawczuk

## **REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Eugene Cifranic  
Jean Crickenberger  
Vicky Davids  
Tino DeSantis  
Sophia DeVita  
Paul Ferri  
Gordon Furlong  
Sophie Geist  
Fred Holub  
Diane Jackson  
Frank Kostecky  
Lou Livoti  
Mildred McCormick  
Jan McLeavey  
Michael McMahan  
Christine Meyer  
Evelyn Murray  
Fran Miceli  
Beau (Bernice) Mills  
Louis Nacamuli  
Michael James Nonestied  
Mary Lou O'Brien  
Floyd Opdyke  
Peter Ostapzuk  
Linda Owens  
Nilsa Perez Parsons  
John Pfeufer  
Earl Roberts  
Noah Skinner  
Bob Simms  
Julie Suplee  
Brian Travis  
Sherry Whitford  
Josh Wilkes  
Caden Zane  
Jill Zane  
Joey Zieba

## **MILITARY PERSONNEL**

If you have someone in the military that you would like us to remember in our prayers, call the office or drop the name into the collection basket. As military personnel leave the Service, please notify us so that we can remove them from the list. Please remember the following in your prayers:

Captain Baumann, Katherine, U.S. Army  
HM Bullis, Christopher, U.S. Navy  
Private, Linzer, Matthew, U.S. Army  
Seaman, Linzer, Stephanie, U.S. Navy  
SR O'Leary, Thomas, U.S. Navy  
Captain Royal, Benjamin P., USMC  
Ensign Simila, Nicole, U.S. Navy

## **THE FRANCIS EFFECT: Two stories!**

**A Catholic Journalist writes:** *I got into journalism long ago because I wanted to tell stories that inspired people. Stories that moved people. I've covered a lot of big events in my career, interviewed a lot of people, but covering Pope Francis' visit to America has got to be the highlight.*

No, I didn't get to interview him. I didn't even get to meet him, but it didn't actually matter because his words met my heart and ignited my spirit. I felt them deep in my soul. Every sermon, every speech moved me further, moved me deeper. Some I've read and reread 10 times. His presence and his words at the 9/11 memorial brought me to tears.

The NBC studio in which I sat was silent. Everyone was transfixed as he spoke about pain, the power of love and remembrance. I listened to the prayer of St. Francis and the Beatitudes. I watched as leaders of so many different faiths stood up beside him and spoke their truths. And I reflected about how I was living my own life and I thought about all the people in it and I thought about their lives. When the Pope spoke to the Congress about the Golden Rule I thought about that message and how I was living it. When he urged us to all go out and be of service like Mary had been, I took an internal inventory. In fact, this whole week made me take an internal inventory of everything in my life.

**A Jewish writer's wish to be Catholic for a day:** I realize it's no great shame to be Jewish, but for once, Catholic is better. I'm not talking forever here, just a few days, even 24 hours will do: We can call it Catholic for a Day.

...If I were a Catholic, even for a day, I could claim Pope Francis as my own. I could say he was my captain, my role model, my inspiration. I would look benevolently at my fellow man and woman, believers and atheists alike, and say: this is the kind of spiritual shepherd that we Catholics have produced. What have you got to offer? And they, burning with envy, would mutter "There goes a Catholic" as I went on my way.

I realize that Pope Francis has been conveying eternal and universal values, applicable to all races and creeds, but let's not kid ourselves: for Catholics it's been extra special. They're on a roll like they haven't been in years, perhaps even centuries. As the Pope led mass at New York's St. Patrick Cathedral last week, I passed by several Manhattan churches, usually abandoned on weekdays, and witnessed the crowds chattering excitedly outside before they went in to pray. I am a strictly unreligious person, but I was keenly jealous of their joy, of their elation, of their enthusiasm, of their renewed self-confidence, sense of purpose and obvious pride.

Even if you consider yourself a total rationalist and a complete agnostic, even if you view tales of divine interventions as nothing more than contrived poppycock, it's hard to deny the clear cut evidence: This particular Bishop of Rome is nothing less than a grandmaster of modern miracles. Within a few short days, the almost octogenarian Argentinian prelate – whose English, I hope he forgives me, is barely decipherable – conquered Washington, neutered New York and flattened Philadelphia. He turned pretentious politicians into gushing groupies, morphed jaundiced journalists into babbling cheerleaders, turned the rich and famous and the high and mighty into frantic fans aching for the wave of his hand or the glimpse of his eye.

## **HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING CATHOLIC?**

If you have ever considered becoming Catholic or know someone who may be interested, there is a process to help you discern whether it is what you want to do. RCIA stands for Rite of Christian Initiation. Every year teams in parishes meet with unbaptized persons and those baptized into other faiths to discuss and learn about the Catholic faith. The first stage is called Inquiry and simply put, is a time for you to ask any and all questions about God and the church. This is the period to help you find out if you are interested in becoming Catholic. So please don't think you have to know this is what you want to do. The Inquiry phase helps in that discernment. We will be starting an Inquiry period this summer. Please contact France Kennedy at [fkennedy@ccsjn.org](mailto:fkennedy@ccsjn.org) or 832-2513 if you would like to find out more.

# Parish & Community News



DIocese OF METUCHEN

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 20, 2015

To the Faithful of the Diocese of Metuchen, grace, mercy and peace.

This past July, I was blessed to have celebrated 75 years of life. Like most significant milestones, this one was an occasion for reflection, particularly on the last 12 years serving as your bishop.

The past decade has been a time of grace for the Diocese of Metuchen. During those years, we experienced God's favor with the ordination of 28 new priests and 100 permanent deacons. A steady stream of men and women, 300 per year on average, chose to join us through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults and our Campus Ministry saw a dramatic increase in participation. A record number of adults have rediscovered Bible study and our people have been exceedingly generous of their time, talent and financial resources.

This has also been a time of mercy. In gratitude for the never-ending compassion shown to us by our Heavenly Father, and with a sense of responsibility to pass along the same to our brothers and sisters, our local Church continues to be a font of mercy. We've opened our hearts to those living on the fringes of society and attended to their physical, spiritual and emotional needs through the services of Catholic Charities and more than 25 diocesan pastoral programs. Thousands of children have been educated and formed in the Catholic faith while the increasing diversity within our diocesan family has been welcomed and celebrated. Furthermore, we have remained steadfast in advocating for the dignity of the human person at every stage of life.

All of these spiritual and corporal works of mercy would not have been possible without your generosity to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. I have seen firsthand the impact that your gifts have made on the lives of so many and pray that you will continue to support this important fundraising effort so the Diocese of Metuchen may always be a visible sign of Christ's love in the world.

As you know, Pope Francis has proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy that will open on December 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. One way you can observe the upcoming Holy Year is by making a sacrificial gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. By your support, you will be one of our *missionaries of mercy* helping to meet the ever-increasing needs of our people.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration. May our Merciful Father grant you and your loved ones joy, serenity and peace.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, DD  
Bishop of Metuchen

The St. John Neumann Pastoral Center • P.O. Box 191 • Metuchen, New Jersey 08840-0191 • (732) 562-1990

## DIVORCE AFFECTS EVERYONE... IT HAPPENS, AND IT HURTS

It happens... and it hurts.... Here's a program, based on the teachings of the Catholic Church, that is open to anyone who needs comfort, counsel and clarity after a divorce. The group will be meeting Wednesday evenings for eleven weeks.

**PLACE:** St. James Church, Pastoral Center, 184 S. Finley Ave.  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

**DATES:** October 21, 2015 to January 27, 2016; **TIME:** 7:00 – 8:45 P.M.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Ro Bersch 908-313-5947 or 908-470-0678

The fee is \$25.00 per person. Pre-Registration is required.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DINNER SOCIAL

Parishioners are invited to a Dinner Social hosted by the Knights of Columbus the evening of October 17th. It will be held at the St. Joseph Church Hall (lower level) starting at 6:30. Flyers are available in the Narthex. Requested contributions are \$35 per couple or \$20 per person. Contact Tom Klawunn at 908-537-6744 or at "[jklawunn@comcast.net](mailto:jklawunn@comcast.net)".



## SHOP RITE, A&P & KINGS CARDS

Thanks to **15 families** who purchased Shop Rite, Kings and A&P gift cards the last week, totaling **\$2,625.00**. The stores gave us **\$131.25** Cards are available after Mass or at the office weekdays.

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

**For September 27, 2015**

87 Donors Weekly ..... \$5,480.00

**For September 28, 2014**

93 Weekly Donors ..... \$4,110.00

## POPE FRANCIS' CALL TO HELP THE POOR

**Respond by Supporting  
Catholic Charities**

You can respond to our Holy Father's message and help the poor in our own neighborhood by becoming a **Champion for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen**. Here's 3 ways to help:

- Join us for the **Champions Community Partners Reception** at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club on Oct. 20, 2015.

- Purchase a 50/50 raffle ticket for \$100 for a chance to win big while helping Catholic Charities. (Drawing will be held on October 20.)

- Donate – Any amount is greatly appreciated and every gift helps.

**For details:** call 732-562-2438 or visit [www.diometuchen.org/champions](http://www.diometuchen.org/champions)

## VOORHEES DINE ITALIAN

The Voorhees High School Dine Italian Night will take place on Friday, October 9, 2015 from 4:30 - 7:30 PM, at our school. Dine Italian Night is a major fundraiser for the Voorhees Project Graduation, which provides graduating seniors with a drug and alcohol-free evening of fun the night of graduation. The cost is only \$9 for adults and \$6 for senior citizens and children over age 5. Children under 5 eat for free. For these low prices, diners will enjoy an all-you-can-eat three course meal - that's pasta, salad, bread, a drink, and a dessert. Afterwards, you are welcome to stay for our homecoming game, as the Voorhees Vikings play Cranford, NJ's team.

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