

# The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

www.ccsjn.org

October 11, 2015

Volume 33, Number 41



## *A Christian Community of the Catholic Tradition*

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

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

#### *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 13

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

### Friday, October 16

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

### Saturday, October 17

5:30 p.m. Robert Nodes, req.  
Cathy & Tom Bennett

### Sunday, October 18

8:00 a.m. Kay Bennett, req.  
Dennis & Debbie Kelemen  
10:30 a.m. Dorothy Redmond, req.  
The Kucharski Family



## Parish Calendar

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

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

### Monday, Oct. 12 - Columbus Day - OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 a.m. S.H.I.P. (Church and Office Kitchens)  
6:00 p.m. Financial Subcommittee  
7:30 p.m. RCIA (Drexel Room)

### Tuesday, Oct. 13 - Weekday

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)  
10:00 a.m. Small Faith Group (Church Center Loft)  
10:30 a.m. Small Faith Group (Narthex)  
12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting (Drexel Room)  
6:30 p.m. REAB Meeting (Seton Room)  
7:00 p.m. Budget Meeting (Drexel Room)  
7:15 p.m. Prayer Ministry (Church Center)

### Wednesday, Oct. 14 - Saint Callistus I, Pope and Martyr

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

### Thursday, Oct. 15 - Saint Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

7:30 p.m. Top of Barn hosted by Social Min. (Neumann Res)  
7:30 p.m. Music/Bells (Church Center)  
7:30 p.m. Small Faith Group (Upper Room)

### Friday, Oct. 16 - Saint Hedwig, Religious; Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)  
6:00 p.m. Tricky Tray (Church Center)

## Mass Schedule—October 17/18

Saturday		5:30 p.m.
Celebrant .....	Rev. Abraham Orapankal	
Reader .....	Class Mass Reader	
Altar Server .....	Class Mass Altar Server	
Ministers of the Eucharist .....	Joann Gardner	
.....	Mary Connolly, Need 1	
Sunday		8:00 a.m.
Celebrant .....	Rev. Abraham Orapankal	
Reader .....	Anita Sawczuk	
Altar Server .....	Kucharski Family	
Ministers of the Eucharist .....	Joe Sima	
.....	Dorothy Sima, Debbie Kelemen	
Sunday		Baptism
		10:30 a.m.
Celebrant .....	Rev. Abraham Orapankal	
Reader .....	Youth Mass Reader	
Altar Server .....	Youth Mass Altar Server	
Music Eucharistic Minister .....	Gloria Cucchiara	
Ministers of the Eucharist .....	Ana Giametta, Mark Brisson	
.....	Sheena Carew, Marlene Milko, Donna Lance	

### Saturday, Oct. 17 - Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr

9:00 a.m. Project Earth Fence Installation (Grounds)  
10:00 a.m. Cleaning (Church Center)  
3:30 p.m. 1st Reconciliation - Session #2 (Church Center)  
5:30 p.m. Mass - 7th Grade Class Mass (Church Center)

### Sunday, Oct. 18 - Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Propagation of the Faith

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
9:00 a.m. K-6 Catechesis-Grade 3-Family Faith Connection  
9:00 a.m. First Reconciliation Parent Meeting (Narthex)  
9:00 a.m. Small Faith Group (Church Center Loft)  
10:30 a.m. Youth Mass - Erz Baptism (Church Center)  
12:00 p.m. Private Party (Church Center)  
2:45 p.m. High School Youth Group Corn Maze Trip  
3:00 p.m. Youth Nativity Play Tryouts (Church Center)  
6:00 p.m. Jr. High Catechesis (Church Center)

### Remembered at Mass



We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered in the Eucharistic Prayer: **Mildred McCormick, Evan Murray, and Bob Patterson.**

**Deceased:** Mildred McCormick, mother of Jude McCormick, Evan Murray, and Bob Patterson, dear friend of the Pojedinecs and and Statens. 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,

For the media, the visit of Pope Francis is over. But for us, his visit is not just one event that is over, but an event whose effect continues to challenge us and transform us. Our last bulletin had testimonies of two journalists – one Catholic, the other Jewish – narrating how this Pope awed them. There are so many stories of individuals being touched by this one man! Look at these sample tweets I copied from a CNN news story: “Man, the Pope, man! And I'm agnostic! But the Pope is speaking some truth!” “I do love Pope Francis. I won't lose my Methodist card for that, will I?” “I'm Mormon but the pope is such a cool guy. I would hang with him any day.” “So I'm a militant atheist, but I think Pope Francis is awesome! Truly someone who embodies Christ's teachings.”

Pope Francis has literally captured hearts across religious as well as non-religious lines. A conservative Baptist wrote a blog post entitled, “10 Reasons Why I'm Falling in Love With Pope Francis.” A Rabbi credits him for mobilizing Jews to action; a Hindu leader likened his stance of respecting all religions to that of Mahatma Gandhi; an Imam thanked him for the universal call to love and care. Reverend Mary Lewis Wilson of Union Temple Baptist Church in Southeast, D.C. summed it up beautifully: “I believe that everyone should care that he's here because he does not just represent the Catholic Church. I think he represents the goodness in all of humanity, and that is what we're really striving for; I call this pope a rock star because he really does appeal to the masses – not in a financial sense or not in a popularity sense – but I think in terms of the passion and the compassion that he brings to the whole situation.”

What do all these mean for us Catholics? Having a Pope who is the embodiment of the love and mission of Jesus Christ must propel us to grow closer to Jesus Christ and imitate him in our lives. That's why you see more of the actual words of the Pope in these pages of the bulletin, as an opportunity for us to grow closer to the God of love, compassion and joy that Pope Francis endeavors to convey. This issue has the transcript of his beautiful talk at the prison in Philadelphia. He took time to shake hands with each of those 100 inmates and encouraged them to use their time in jail to get their lives on track, urging renewal and rehabilitation. But his talk has a lot more that we too can appreciate and practice in our own lives. The more we read his message and speak about it with others, the more Christ-like we become. He truly echoes the words of St. Paul: “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Your brother in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## TRICKY TRAY - 1/2 PRICE TICKETS THIS WEEKEND ONLY

**Tricky Tray is this coming 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 are on sale this weekend only. Buy early and save!**

## BAPTISMS OF THEODORE ABELES AND JULIA CERNIGLIA



Baptized into the Faith  
Congratulations to Theodore Ellis Abeles and Julia Michele Cerniglia, who were baptized Sunday, Oct 4. We join their parents Kristen and Dave Abeles and Lauren and Ryan Cerniglia and their siblings Susie Abeles and Ryan Cerniglia in celebration, welcoming Julia and Teddy to our faith and our parish family.

## INTRODUCING THE PRAYER MINISTRY

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

You are invited to enrich your prayer life and join us in supporting our community in prayer. Refreshments will be served. RSVP to [sjn@ccsjn.org](mailto:sjn@ccsjn.org) or just drop in.

## TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**October 11, 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.

## MOMS, DADS, AND TOTS

Moms, Dads and Tots are invited to gather for some food, fun and fellowship Nov 1 11:30am – after the 10:30 Mass. Text France at 908-307-7879 if you can make it.

## BELL CHOIR

If you want to join the Bell Choir Contact Ron Pojedinec at 908-537-6241. Practices for Christmas Bells Thursday nights at 7:30pm.

## Parish Contact Information

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

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

Fax ..... 908-832-7618

Email ..... [sjn@ccsjn.org](mailto:sjn@ccsjn.org)

Rev. Abraham Orapankal..... Pastor

Email ..... [abraham@ccsjn.org](mailto:abraham@ccsjn.org)

Earl Roberts ..... Deacon

Email ..... [earlr1@verizon.net](mailto:earlr1@verizon.net)

Sharon Janks ..... Pastoral Administrator

Email ..... [sjanks@ccsjn.org](mailto:sjanks@ccsjn.org)

France Kennedy ..... Pastoral Associate

Email ..... [fkennedy@ccsjn.org](mailto:fkennedy@ccsjn.org)

Kerri Caldaro ..... Financial Administrator

Email ..... [kcaldaro@ccsjn.org](mailto:kcaldaro@ccsjn.org)

Wayne Infusino..... Maintenance

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

Renee Ciszewski . Director of Religious Education

Email ..... [renee@ccsjn.org](mailto:renee@ccsjn.org)

Jo Ann Jarvis..... Office of Catechesis

Email ..... [jjarvis@ccsjn.org](mailto:jjarvis@ccsjn.org)

Social Ministry..... [socialministry@ccsjn.org](mailto:socialministry@ccsjn.org)

Anne Germino and Greg Wilson

Bulletin ..... [bulletin@ccsjn.org](mailto:bulletin@ccsjn.org)

Youth Ministry ..... [sjnygroup@gmail.com](mailto:sjnygroup@gmail.com)

# 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).

## **OUR "CHANGE FOR CHANGE" PROMOTION**

Just a reminder that our "CHANGE FOR CHANGE" program is going well. Please remember that there will always be containers available in the Narthex. Each container brings us close to or hits the mark for us to provide a \$25.00 food card for those in need.

## **Religious Education Program**

### **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.

## **GARDEN EXPANSION--HELP US RAISE THE FENCE!**

Next Saturday, October 17, beginning at 9 am we will complete a 9000 square foot expansion of the Project Earth Garden but we need your help to raise the fence. There will be possibilities for people of all ages and abilities to assist. In addition to completing the fence we will plant flower bulbs and mulch the garden beds for the winter. At noon we will all sit down to a hearty potluck luncheon to celebrate the day. Bring a pair of work gloves and your favorite dish to share and meet us in the garden. See the display in the Narthex for more information or contact Anne Germino at [socialministry@ccsjn.org](mailto:socialministry@ccsjn.org).

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

We promised last week that we would provide a list of all items required for our food drives, and rather than put it into the bulletin, you can find these lists in the Narthex at the Social Ministry station. Please take one home and kindly refer to it as you do your own food shopping

We hope this will assist you in making Thanksgiving and Christmas wonderful holidays for 8 families and 16 elderly persons who are out on the edge.

We are also in the process of establishing drop off centers, so that it will be more convenient for you to make your donations. We welcome any suggestions from the community regarding this, and will have more information next week. Thank you and God Bless!

# Christian Formation - Catechesis



## **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.



## **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: \_\_\_\_\_

## POPE FRANCIS TO DETAINEES

### AT CURRAN-FROMHOLD CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, PHILADELPHIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good morning. I am going to speak in Spanish because I don't speak English, but he [pointing to the interpreter] speaks good English and he is going to translate for me. Thank you for receiving me and giving me the opportunity to be here with you and to share this time in your lives. It is a difficult time, one full of struggles. I know it is a painful time not only for you, but also for your families and for all of society. Any society, any family, which cannot share or take seriously the pain of its children, and views that pain as something normal or to be expected, is a society "condemned" to remain a hostage to itself, prey to the very things which cause that pain.

I am here as a pastor, but above all as a brother, to share your situation and to make it my own. I have come so that we can pray together and offer our God everything that causes us pain, but also everything that gives us hope, so that we can receive from him the power of the resurrection. I think of the Gospel scene where Jesus washes the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper. This was something his disciples found hard to accept. Even Peter refused, and told him: "You will never wash my feet" (*John 13:8*). In those days, it was the custom to wash someone's feet when they came to your home. That was how they welcomed people. The roads were not paved, they were covered with dust, and little stones would get stuck in your sandals. Everyone walked those roads, which left their feet dusty, bruised or cut from those stones. That is why we see Jesus washing feet, our feet, the feet of his disciples, then and now.

We all know that life is a journey, along different roads, different paths, which leave their mark on us. We also know in faith that Jesus seeks us out. He wants to heal our wounds, to soothe our feet which hurt from travelling alone, to wash each of us clean of the dust from our journey. He doesn't ask us where we have been, he doesn't question us what about we have done. Rather, he tells us: "Unless I wash your feet, you have no share with me" (*John 13:8*). Unless I wash your feet, I will not be able to give you the life which the Father always dreamed of, the life for which he created you. Jesus comes to meet us, so that he can restore our dignity as children of God. He wants to help us to set out again, to resume our journey, to recover our hope, to restore our faith and trust. He wants us to keep walking along the paths of life, to realize that we have a mission, and that confinement is never the same thing as exclusion.

Life means "getting our feet dirty" from the dust-filled roads of life and history. All of us need to be cleansed, to be washed. All of us. Myself, first and foremost. All of us are being sought out by the Teacher, who wants to help us resume our journey. The Lord goes in search of us; to all of us he stretches out a helping hand. It is painful when we see prison systems which are not concerned to care for wounds, to soothe pain, to offer new possibilities. It is painful when we see people who think that only others need to be cleansed, purified, and do not recognize that their weariness, pain and wounds are also the weariness, pain and wounds of society. The Lord tells us this clearly with a sign: he washes our feet so we can come back to the table. The table from which he wishes no one to be excluded. The table which is spread for all and to which all of us are invited.

This time in your life can only have one purpose: to give you a hand in getting back on the right road, to give you a hand to help you rejoin society. All of us are part of that effort, all of us are invited to encourage, help and enable your rehabilitation. A rehabilitation which everyone seeks and desires: inmates and their families, correctional authorities, social and educational programs. A rehabilitation which benefits and elevates the morale of the entire community and society.

I encourage you to have this attitude with one another and with all those who in any way are part of this institution. May you make possible new opportunities; may you blaze new trails, new paths. All of us have something we need to be cleansed of, or purified from. All of us. May the knowledge of this fact inspire us all to live in solidarity, to support one another and seek the best for others. Let us look to Jesus, who washes our feet. He is "the way, and the truth, and the life". He comes to save us from the lie that says no one can change, the lie of thinking that no one can change. Jesus helps us to journey along the paths of life and fulfillment. May the power of his love and his resurrection always be a path leading you to new life. Just as we are, seated, let us silently ask the Lord to bless us. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May he make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May he lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Thank you.

## 3RD ANNUAL TASTING - FOOD-CHOCOLATE-WINE/BEER

*Save the date November 21st - 7:00 p.m.*

Featuring local restaurants, live music, gifts for purchase/order. \$30 per person before November 4th (\$35 after and at the door). For tickets or more information contact 908-832-2207 or St. John's 908-832-2513. Watch for more information to follow.

## 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  
**DATES:** October 21, 2015 to January 27, 2016; **TIME:** 7-8:45pm, **Contact** Ro Bersch 908-313-5947 or 908-470-0678, Fee \$25, Pre-Registration is required.

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

**For October 4, 2015**

78 Donors Weekly.....\$4,776.00  
54 Donors Yellow Brick Rd . \$1,493.00

**For October 5, 2014**

75 Weekly Donors.....\$4,040.00  
49 Donors Yellow Brick Rd . \$1,639.00

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP CORN MAZE TRIP

**Sunday, October 18 -3pm**

Interested in the Corn Maze Trip—  
RSVP to email or call 908-307-7879.  
Parents—we need drivers.

## 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 KostECKi  
 Lou Livoti  
 Jan McLeavey  
 Michael McMahon  
 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

## PRAY FOR THE SYNOD ON THE FAMILY

The Ordinary Synod of Bishops began last Sunday, October 4 and will run through October 25. The theme of the Synod is "The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and the Contemporary World." This is an extremely important moment in the life of the Church and for the future of the Christian family. That's why we all need to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit upon the Synod participants. In fact, earlier this year, Pope Francis invited everyone, including himself, cardinals, bishops, priests, men and women religious, lay faithful to pray for the synod:

*"We are all called to pray for the Synod. This is what is needed, not gossip! I also call to prayer those who feel distant or who are no longer used to it. This prayer for the Synod on the Family is for the good of everyone. "The Church, as a mother, never abandons the family, even when it is downhearted, wounded and humiliated in so many ways. Neither when it falls into sin nor moves away from the Church; she will always do everything to try to care for and heal it, to call it to conversion and to reconcile it to the Lord. If this then is the task, it is clear how much prayer the Church needs in order to be able, in every age, to carry out this mission! Prayer full of love for the family and for life. Prayer that can rejoice with the rejoicing and suffer with the suffering."*

### Let us pray this prayer daily as a family for the synod:

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love, to you we turn with trust.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division: may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth, may the approaching Synod of Bishops make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.*



## FAITH FORMATION CONVOCATION

**Saturday, November 7, 2015**  
**St. John Neumann Pastoral Center,**  
**Piscataway, NJ**

After the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, how are we to continue our mission of love and pastoral care to families we encounter through our ministries, in our daily lives and in our own homes? Pope Francis tells us, "The family which experiences the joy of faith communicates it naturally. The family is the salt of the earth and the light of the world; it is the leaven of society."

You are invited to participate in a day of faith formation, enrichment, education and networking at this year's Faith Formation Convocation. You can view the full brochure of workshops on the diocesan website at diometuchen.org. We will be registering as a group from St. John's and arranging car pools. For more information or to register with our group, please contact our office center at 832-2513.

# Parish & Community News

## OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH!

*"Every Life is Worth Living"*

Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap., reflecting on Respect Life Month, October 2015, says: One of the deepest desires of the human heart is to discover our identity. So often, as a society and as individuals, we identify ourselves by what we do. We base our worth on how productive we are at work or at home, and we determine our lives to be more or less good depending on the degree of independence or pleasure. We may even begin to believe that if our lives, or those of others, don't "measure up" to a certain standard, they are somehow less valuable or less worth living. Respect Life Month is a fitting time to reflect on the truth of who we are.

Our worth is based not on our skills or levels of productivity. Rather, we discover our worth when we discover our true identity found in the unchangeable, permanent fact that we are created in God's image and likeness and called to an eternal destiny with him. Because of this, absolutely nothing can diminish our God-given dignity, and therefore, nothing can diminish the immeasurable worth of our lives. Others may fail to respect that dignity—may even try to undermine it—but in doing so, they only distance themselves from God's loving embrace. Human dignity is forever.

## 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.*

## 2015 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL: GRACE, MERCY & PEACE

The **Office of Vocations** provides two basic services to the Diocese of Metuchen. First, it takes care of the education and formation of her seminarians, this includes pastoral visits to each of those young men studying for the Diocese of Metuchen every semester. Second, the Office assists young men and women who may be hearing the call to serve within the Diocese and empowers parishes to find candidates that will make good and holy priests, sisters and brothers.

*Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal helps to support this essential ministry. Please give generously.*

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DINNER SOCIAL

Parishioners are invited to a Dinner Social hosted by the Knights of Columbus the evening of October 17th to 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).

## 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)

## NATIVITY PLAY

**Tryouts Oct 18 - 3 p.m.**

This year St. John's invites all youth K—12 to participate in a scripted Nativity Play to be held Dec 13th. There are various opportunities to participate. For grades K-2, simple roles (drummer boys or angels) are available. For 3rd grade and older - main character memorized roles are available. Additional roles for 6th through 12th grade include narrators, stage crew, and tech crew. Adult help is also needed. Tryouts Oct 18, from 3-4 pm. Please see the information/sign up flyer that was distributed at Religious Ed last week or take the flyer and reading script from the narthex. Props and costumes will be provided. Questions; contact [msorgi@gmail.com](mailto:msorgi@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.

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

### Office Angels

Wednesday, Oct. 14 C. Behrens

### Store Cards

#### Oct. 10 & 11

5:30 p.m. B. Cestone

8:00 a.m. V. Hoffart

10:30 a.m. D. Hunt

#### Oct. 17 & 18

5:30 p.m. C. Crescenti

8:00 a.m. K. Dabrowski

10:30 a.m. D. Royal

### Church Center Plant Watering

Week of 10/11 C. Fortenbacker

Week of 10/18 B. Lee

### Church Center Cleaning

October 9 Team F

October 16 Team A

### Altar Flowers

October 17 A. Sawczuk

October 24 F. Kennedy

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