

*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 Mass5:30 p.m.
Sunday8:00 a.m.
Sunday10:30 a.m.
First Friday Holy Hour7:00 p.m.

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

Weekday Masses:
Tuesday7:00 a.m.
Friday7:00 a.m.

Reconciliation:
Saturday 5:00-5:25 p.m.

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 27

7:00 a.m. NO MASS

Friday, October 30

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Saturday, October 31

5:30 p.m. Mary Lunn Biggs, req.
Kevin & Marion Kucharski

Sunday, November 1

8:00 a.m. Bob Cerrato, req.
Tom & Cathy Bennett

10:30 a.m. Leroy Lance, req.

Sharon & Alan Janks



Parish Calendar



Daylight Savings Time Begins November 1st at 2:00 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 25 - Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time and All Souls Intentions

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
9:00 a.m. Health Screening (Narthex)
9:00 a.m. Small Faith Group (Neumann Residence Chapel)
10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
4:00 p.m. High School Youth Group Pumpkin Carving (Church)
4:00 p.m. Golden Anniversary Mass (Cathedral)

Monday, Oct. 26 - Weekday

7:00 p.m. Fund Raising Meeting (Office Center Kitchen)
7:15 p.m. Children's Liturgy Meeting (Seton Room)
7:30 p.m. RCIA (Drexel Room)

Tuesday, Oct. 27 - Weekday

7:00 a.m. NO MASS
10:00 a.m. Small Faith Group (Church Center Loft)
10:30 a.m. Small Faith Group (Narthex)
7:00 p.m. Connxions Meeting (Office Center Kitchen)
7:15 p.m. Small Faith Group (Off Site)

Wednesday, Oct. 28 - Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles

6:00 p.m. Yoga (Church Center Loft)
7:30 p.m. Small Faith Group (Upper Room)

Thursday, Oct. 29 - Weekday

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

Friday, Oct. 30 - Weekday

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)

Mass Schedule—October 31/November 1

Saturday	Confirmation	5:30 p.m.
Celebrant	Rev. Abraham Orapankal	
Reader	Jim Murray	
Altar Server	Brezina Family	
Ministers of the Eucharist	Gloria Cucchiara	
.....	Mary Connolly, Joann Gardner	
Sunday		8:00 a.m.
Celebrant	Rev. Abraham Orapankal	
Reader	Allan Piechowski	
Altar Server	Mastro Family	
Ministers of the Eucharist	Anita Sawczuk	
.....	Tom Klawunn, Jane Klawunn	
Sunday	Baptism	10:30 a.m.
Celebrant	Rev. Abraham Orapankal	
Reader	Anthony DeStefano	
Altar Server	DeStefano Family	
Music Eucharistic Minister	Mark Brisson	
Ministers of the Eucharist	Kathy Kelly Pagliuca, Mike Pagliuca	
.....	Shirley Pojedinec, Ron Pojedinec, Mary D'Avella	

Saturday, Oct. 31 - Weekday

7:00 a.m. Men's Spirituality Breakfast (Office Center)
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass and Celebration (Church Center)

Sunday, Nov. 1 - All Saints Day/Yellow Brick Rd Collection

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
9:00 a.m. K-6 Catechesis (Office and Church Centers)
9:00 a.m. Family Faith Connection-Grade 4 (Church Center)
9:00 a.m. Small Faith Group (Neumann Residence Chapel)
10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
11:30 p.m. Moms, Dads, & Tots (Narthex and Patio)
12:00 p.m. Nativity Play Rehearsal (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: **Anna Larusso, BJ Eckart, Mildred McCormick, Helen Wolf, Evan Murray, and Bob Patterson.**

Deceased: Anna Larusso, mother of Suzanne Larusso, **BJ Eckart**, cousin of Sharon Janks, **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,

A great event of historical significance took place last Sunday: The parents of French saint Therese of Lisieux were canonized by Pope Francis, marking the first time a couple have ever been made saints on the same day. Pope Francis praised this couple: *“The holy spouses Louis Martin and Marie-Azélie Guérin practiced Christian service in the family, creating day by day an environment of faith and love which nurtured the vocations of their daughters, among whom was Saint Therese of the Child Jesus.”* It is good for us to know a brief sketch of their lives:

They met in 1858 – Zelig was 27 and Louis was 35. There was an immediate mutual attraction which grew into deep love. They were married only three months later. They had nine children – four whom died very young. That left Zelig and Louis with five girls – Marie, Pauline, Leonie, Celine, and Therese was the baby. It was a busy family life. Zelig and Louis combined hard work, various acts of charity, and love for God with a lot of fun and laughter. After Therese’s birth, Zelig began to get very sick with breast cancer. She died in 1877 at the age of 45. Louis Martin was left alone to bring up his five girls whom he adored. But all of them responded to God’s call and joined the convent! Yes – all five Martin girls became nuns! After Therese entered the monastery, Louis began to show signs of dementia. He spent the last years of his life in a wheelchair. He died in 1894 at the age of 70.

Zelig and Louis Martin found holiness in the ordinary and everyday things of life. They found their vocation to holiness in the midst of family life. They were faithful to God during good times and also during tragedy. This double canonization is good news for today’s couples because theirs is an extraordinary witness of conjugal and family spirituality. How wonderful that our Diocese is honoring over 100 couples who are completing 50 and 25 years of wedded life with a special service in the Cathedral Church today! Our own parish has some wonderful couples celebrating their silver and golden anniversaries. Kindly look for their names in the bulletin and congratulate them when you see them next. We thank God for the gift of their witness to us. Our two new saints remind couples and families that every one of us is called to holiness of life – every one of us is called to be saints. *Saint Zelig Martin and Saint Louis Martin, pray for us!*

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 25, 2015

“And Jesus said to him, ‘Go your way; your faith has made you well.’ And immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.” (Mark 10:52)

Faith is believing in something even though you may not be able to see it. Many people think that miracles don’t happen anymore. But, if you focus on the positive, not the negative, focus on your blessings instead of your hardships, miracles will seem common.



WELCOME

HANNA ELISSE ERZ

We welcome Hanna to our faith and parish family. Congratulations to Kurt and Susanne and Kyle and Jordan in celebration of Hanna’s baptism Oct 18.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

For October 18, 2015

82 Donors Weekly \$7,708.68
47 Donors Mission Sunday. \$1,407.09

For October 19, 2014

77 Donors Weekly \$4,149.30
36 Donors Mission Sunday \$751.00



TODAY IS YOUTH GROUP PUMPKIN TIME!

Youth group gathering this Sunday Oct 25 at 4pm. Buy your pumpkin. Bring carving tools if you have – if not we have ones to share. Pick your category – stencil or freehand. Think of your design. This is our 2nd annual Pumpkin Carving Contest. Pumpkins will be displayed next weekend for parishioner voting. Come ready to carve your pumpkin – we will also have pizza and faith sharing.

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE PUMPKIN

Youth Group will carve pumpkins for parishioners to vote for the best design next weekend after all Masses. We will have two categories – Best Freehand and Best Stencil. You can vote in one or both categories. The winners will get a prize. You will not. For you to win you must guess the closest number of pumpkin seeds in our jar – and you will win a homemade pumpkin pie.



SPECIAL MASS ON ALL SOULS DAY

On the night of All Soul’s Day, Monday, November 2nd, there will be a special Mass, celebrated at 7:00 pm. If you have a deceased loved one whose memory you wish to honor in gratitude during the Mass, you are most welcome to attend. It will be nice to bring in a photograph of your loved one to be placed around the altar. You will have the opportunity to light a candle in thanksgiving for the gift of life God gave to your dear one/s.

Parish Contact Information

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

Office Center 908-832-2513

Fax908-832-7618

Email sjn@ccsjn.org

Rev. Abraham OrapankalPastor

Email abraham@ccsjn.org

Earl RobertsDeacon

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 JarvisOffice of Catechesis

Email jjarvis@ccsjn.org

Social Ministry socialministry@ccsjn.org

Anne Germino and Greg Wilson

Bulletinbulletin@ccsjn.org

Youth Ministry sjnygroup@gmail.com

Christian Formation - Catechesis

CONFIRMATION 2015



On Saturday, October 24, 2015, during the 5:30 p.m. Mass, Fr. Abraham celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please keep these young people and their families in your prayers, as they have begun their faith journey sealed by the Holy Spirit. **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, November 14th, at 3:30 p.m. in the Church Center.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Parishioners are invited to participate in Operation Christmas Child and prepare a "shoe box" full of presents for a needy child. These will be delivered to poor children around the world along with a booklet in the child's own language telling them about the birth of Jesus, His life and how He saved us. This is an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus and bring joy to a child. All K-6 Religious Education students will be given a brochure with detailed instructions on how to make their "shoe box" present. These will be collected at catechetical gatherings or can be dropped off in the narthex no later than November 15th. Jr. High will be holding its own OCC Packing Party during their gathering on November 15th. Extra brochures are available in the narthex for any parishioner wishing to participate in this program. Please contact Jo Ann Jarvis or visit samaritanspurse.org for further information.

CPIII PARENT-CONFIRMANDI MEETING

Monday, November 9, 7:00 p.m., Church Center

There will be a meeting of all CPIII students (8th graders) and their parents on Monday, November 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Center. At least one parent should accompany their child.

Social Ministry

FOOD DRIVES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

There are a few items regarding our food drives that deserve some thought: Do you know of anyone that would need a food basket during the holidays? Anonymity will be honored if requested, and special needs for foods are also adhered to. Please contact Greg @908 832 7322/908 338 7322 if you want to discuss. Think out of the box and along the edges of society.

Food lists are available in the Narthex and remember food must be **returned by November 15**, so that it can be delivered the following weekend. Thanks for caring and responding to the call at the end of every Mass;

"GO AND SERVE ONE ANOTHER".

TODAY IS FREE HEALTH SCREENING

On this Sunday, October 25, St. Peter's Community Mobile health Services will provide blood pressure screening, blood sugar screening and nutritional counseling from 9am-11am in the narthex. Come after the 8 am Mass or prior to the 10:30 am Mass to take advantage of this free health screening and health information fair. See the poster in the Narthex for more information or contact Anne Germino at socialministry@ccsjn.org.



FINAL NOTES FROM THE GARDEN FOR 2015

It was a bit chilly on Saturday but hard work and enthusiasm kept us all warm as we raised the new fence around the expansion of the Project Earth Garden. While many worked outside on the fence, a wonderful crew in the kitchen put together the most amazing, delicious lunch that we all shared at noon. Many, many thanks to the 28 volunteers who came out to help. The raised beds for the community garden will be installed in the spring. There will be a sign up for all who are interested in having a bed to grow vegetables once the installation is complete. This week the last of the beets were dug and donated. The beds were mulched and the dahlia tubers were lifted and stored for the winter. Almost 2000 pounds of fresh food was donated this season to soup kitchens, food banks and local families in need. Pumpkins have been roasted and pureed and will be used to make pies for the Thanksgiving meal at SHIP in Somerville. Pickles made from the cucumbers, peppers and onions we grew are stored for our monthly service there as well. The overflow of carrots and beans were frozen and will also be used for the soup kitchen during the winter months. Looking forward to seeing everyone in the garden next spring!



Stewardship

A Way of Life

SOME INTERVENTIONS AT THE SYNOD

The Bishops listened to a number of interventions of invited couples and experts on family life matters such as adoptions, childless couples, orphans, marital annulment, and the situation of the divorced that have remarried civilly. Highlighted was the importance of the marital bond, stressing the need for pastoral care that is more adapted to the present times.

In the discussion, they "returned several times to the idea of having it understood that the support and preparation to marriage for Christian couples and for those living in difficult situations requires essentially the participation of experienced Christian couples, who can communicate their experience in a missionary way to others and be the best places for their reception." In this connection, one intervention was "on sexuality and the importance of sexual relations in the life of spouses and of the family, both in relation to the daily reconciliation that the spouses live, as well as the more profound and Eucharistic dimension of the gift of self: it is acknowledged that it is the experience of couples that must guide the Church in this field to find answers, because they are the persons that have the most true experience."

Some interventions mentioned the importance of the experience of older couples, as they can offer a testimony of life. Attention was also called to the fact that priests must have a more direct relationship with couples. Addressed as well were the subjects of violence, of incest and of sexual abuse within the family, pointing out that the Church must be a voice for persons who have suffered these evils. In connection with sexuality, it was pointed out that, taking into account that priests are unmarried men, it would be useful that married couples themselves give formation on these matters. Mentioned also is the importance of a good sexual education in families, and how the Church must be a Mother and teach Love. A request was made that the Church enter this realm in a clear way, given that the present sexual formation is very negative and disastrous. Often many parents of families do not speak to their children about the beauty of sexuality, leaving this role to public education. The Church herself needs to take up this role, presenting the good news of human sexuality as a way of love and not of sin. (*from Zenit News, October 16, 2015*)

STEWARDSHIP PROJECT - 10,000 VILLAGES' SALE

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's 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.*

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 31st to unpack boxes and set up displays. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you could help

WORDS OF APPRECIATION FOR TRICKY TRAY

Thank you and all of the **CCD Children and Families** who supported our Tricky Tray event. Some brought in gifts for us to raffle; some brought their talent and energy while others just came to have fun. It all mattered and was gratefully appreciated. It was also wonderful for the community to see some of our CCD boys and girls volunteering and assisting us during the event as Runners. Every child and family member is vital to the success of such an event as Tricky Tray. I know everyone present at the event experienced the vibrancy of St. John's while sharing in the spirit and mission of our church community. Thank you.

Kathy Kelly, 2015 Tricky Tray Chair

TRICKY TRAY

The Tricky Tray was a wonderful event. It's success was truly a result of the generosity of our parish community. May of the visitors on Friday could feel the energy and warmth that filled the room.. Thank you to Kathy Pagliuca, Kay Dabrowski, Suzanne Kosakowski, Liz Livoti for the endless hours of putting the items together and setting up the Church. To Ana Giametta for single handedly running the Kitchen, to Kurt Erz for being our announcer and Andy Kozlowski for keeping the screens up to date throughout the evening. Thank you to all the runners, the cashiers and ticket sellers. Also thanks to all who donated items and food. The evening made a profit of \$6,742.91 for St. John's.

SHOP RITE & KINGS CARDS



Thanks to **7 families** who purchased Shop Rite and Kings gift cards the last week, totaling **\$850.00**. The stores gave us **\$42.50** Cards are available after Mass or at the office weekdays.

BRING IN YOUR BABY BOTTLES

Thank you for supporting Life Choices in their efforts to help young families. Please bring in the baby bottles and they do not need to be full. We have a laundry hamper in the narthex for you to place the bottles. You can bring in bottles without change as well, it lowers their overhead.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL GRACE, MERCY & PEACE

Naomi's Way is a transitional housing program for single mothers operated by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen. All of the clients are involved in vocational or educational training and attend monthly life skills workshops focused on areas such as health and nutrition, parenting, and budgeting.

Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal has been life-changing for hundreds of young women who have found a path to self-sufficiency at Naomi's Way. Please prayerfully consider making a gift today.

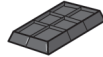
REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Eugene Cifranic
 Jean Crickenberger
 Vicky Davids
 Tino DeSantis
 Sophia DeVita
 Neil Ercolano
 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
 Richard 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



TASTING EVENT

Sale Tickets this and next weekend

"TASTING TICKETS for the 3rd annual event on Saturday, November 21, are on sale in the Narthex today and at the office during the week. The discounted \$30 Early Bird special ends November 4th."



ARE WE A STEWARDSHIP COMMUNITY?

YES! One of the great hallmarks of St. John's is that we are a stewardship community. Our growth and vitality is thanks to the stewardship way of life of our parishioners. We have the duty as well as the right to know if and how our stewardship is helping us move forward – not as a parish that just survives, but as a parish that thrives. That was the content of the Town Meeting last Wednesday as we listened and discussed the financial health of our parish. We will share that information to all as we begin to implement the suggestions and proposals. At this time, we need to remind ourselves that stewardship is not a program . . . but a way of life; not an activity . . . it is an attitude; not the latest fad . . . it is biblically based; not a way to raise money . . . but a way to attain holiness; not just a decision of the head . . . but a conversion of the heart; not an option . . . but integral to our Catholic faith; not another thing to do . . . but why and how we do what we do; not about our generosity . . . about our response to God's generosity. It is what you do after you say, "I believe".

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH:

Generous and loving God, We give thanks to you for the gifts you have given us, our lives, families, friends, time, talent, and material possessions. All that we have comes from you. Help us to remember this and walk in your goodness. Help us on our spiritual journey, so that we may constantly renew our relationship with you in our believing, belonging and becoming the People of God in this Community of St. John Neumann. Give us the strength and courage to become better followers and disciples of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen

VETERANS DAY SERVICE - NOV. 11TH

Lower Valley Presbyterian Church - Nov. 11th, 7:00 p.m.

Our parish of St. John's is proud to be at the forefront of the ministry to our Veterans and their families. Remember the first ecumenical gathering of fellowship and prayer hosted here in our Church two years ago to honor and thank those who have served in the military? A similar service of appreciation will be held on Wednesday November 11th at 7:00 PM hosted by Rev. Chad Rodgers and the Community of the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church. The service will be followed by light refreshments and coffee. Please join us as we together show our support for the loyal service of our veterans. Lower Valley Presbyterian Church is located at 445 County Road 513 in Califon. If you wish to attend and/or give a helping hand, please contact St. John's Veterans Outreach Coordinator Barbara Martalus at 908-439-3732.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



A mother was preparing pancakes for her young sons. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their Mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait." The oldest boy turned to his younger brother and said, "Ok, You be Jesus."

Some tourists in the Chicago Museum of Natural History are marveling at the dinosaur bones. One of them asks the guard, "Can you tell me how old the dinosaur bones are?" The guard replies, "They are 3 million, four years, and six months old." "That's an awfully exact number," says the tourist. "How do you know their age so precisely?" The guard answers, "Well, the dinosaur bones were three million years old when I started working here, and that was four and a half years ago."

Parish & Community News



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.

IMPRESSIONS FROM "BUILDING A VIBRANT PARISH"

Recently, ten of us from our parish attended a half-day workshop on "Building a Vibrant Parish" held at Our Lady of Lourdes in White House Station. Everyone felt it was enriching and refreshing. Here are testimonies from two of our parishioners. As you know, our parish encourages anyone to attend any of the enrichment programs in the Diocese. The Parish will take care of the fee.

Jim DeVito: I found the experience very worthwhile. The presentation was very professional and the content was practical and actionable. More importantly being there you get a sense that we're all in this together, that other parishes are being challenged in the same ways that we are. No one has all the answers, and being open to new possibilities and ways of doing things is fundamental to building a vibrant parish. We're a relatively small parish, but I get the sense that we are able to do things that even larger parishes are unable to accomplish. We have a strong sense of volunteerism, maybe because we are smaller people realize that they should contribute their time and talent or else things won't get done. I also think that this session coming right after the Pope's visit gives us a more immediate sense that we are part of the universal Church, and certainly part of the Church of Metuchen.

Greg Wilson: In being more specific regarding my personal enrichment I would have to say that hearing what others are doing in terms of success is rewarding, because very often we get locked in to views about the wonders we are working that are really no more than self-serving that only result in making us feel better about what we're doing. I also enjoyed the lightness of the presentation that was brought about by a presenter who was humorous in his presentation.

I also came away with the thought that so many words struck me as very positive such as; energy, hospitality, belonging, Joy, Mercy, initial trust, spiritual curiosity and openness. I also liked the fact that the way he used the word "evangelization" did not sound negative as it often does. I would give the presenter high marks for this.

TRY OUR "MEN'S SPIRITUALITY BREAKFAST"

Why do we need a separate group for men's spirituality? Popular media portray men as weak, effeminate, dull, and indecisive. It is common for men to feel isolated and unable to do anything about the wider culture. "Men recognize that there is more to life than what they're experiencing and they need to grow in order to survive in today's society," says Maurice Blumberg, executive director of the National Catholic Men's Fellowship in Gaithersburg, Md. So the idea of male fraternity and fellowship is catching up nationwide. Male fraternity groups have a sacramental element that Catholic men missed in evangelical-Protestant movements such as Promise Keepers, which helped rejuvenate the men's movement. Catholic Men's Fellowship has an annual conference that attracts as many as 9,000 men from all over the country who come to experience the Catholic way of being a man. Why not try our next Men's Spirituality Breakfast this coming Saturday morning at 7 am in the Parish Center? Just show up!

PRAYER MINISTRY

The St. John's Prayer Ministry was launched on Tuesday evening, October 13th. The Prayer Ministry objectives are twofold: to enrich our personal prayer life, and to be mindful of the prayer intentions of our parish community in order to support one another. The assembled group of twenty-five experienced three forms of prayer, some ancient and very new. A preview of the Prayer Ministry website was shared with the group and will be made available to the entire parish in the next couple of weeks. Take note of the following events and come join us: *Communal Prayer*, November 19, December 10. A *Quarterly Enrichment Session* will take place on January 7th 2016 – this session will feature Jennifer Hinton, the Director of Lay Ministry and Leadership from the Diocese of Metuchen. All Prayer Ministry events begin at 7:15 PM. Watch the Bulletin for ongoing information about the Prayer Ministry and its upcoming events.

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 or just drop in!

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Wednesday, Oct. 28 D. Zigmantanis
Wednesday, Nov. 4 A. Sawczuk

Store Cards

Oct. 24 & 25

5:30 p.m. D. Hingos
8:00 a.m. M. Kearns
10:30 a.m. G. Ambrosky

Oct. 31 & Nov. 1

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

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of 10/25 L. Livoti
Week of 11/1 M. Cangelosi

Church Center Cleaning

October 23 Team B
October 30 Team C

Altar Flowers

October 31 L. Mullen
November 7 A. Sawczuk

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