



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.

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, November 23

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Thursday, November 26

7:00 a.m. Halina Fisch, req. Violetta, Jarek, Matthew & Caroline Olesiak

Friday, November 27

7:00 a.m. **No Mass**

Saturday, November 28

5:30 p.m. Margaret Sevi, req. Mary and Mike Connolly

Sunday, November 29

8:00 a.m. Anna Turley, req. Sharon and Alan Janks

10:30 a.m. Leroy Lance, req. Cyndy and Bill Behrens

Parish Calendar

Sunday, Nov. 22 - Campaign for Human Development Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word (Narthex)
12:00 p.m. Nativity Play Rehearsal (Church Center)

Monday, Nov. 23 - Saint Clement I, Pope and Martyr, Saint Columban, Abbott; Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro, Priest and Martyr

7:00 p.m. Fund Raising Meeting (Office Center Kitchen)

Tuesday, Nov. 24 - Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest and Companions, Martyrs

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
7:00 p.m. Connxions Meeting (Office Center Kitchen)
7:30 p.m. RCIA (Upper Room)

Wednesday, Nov. 25 - Saint Catherine of Alexandria Virgin and Martyr / No Yoga

12:00 p.m. **OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON**

Thursday, Nov. 26 - Thanksgiving Day - OFFICE CLOSED

9:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)

Friday, Nov. 27 - Weekday - OFFICE CLOSED

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

Saturday, Nov. 28 - Weekday

7:00 a.m. Men' Spirituality (Office Center)
5:30 p.m. Mass (Church Center)

Sunday, Nov. 29 - First Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
12:00 p.m. Nativity Play Rehearsal (Church Center)

Mass Schedule—November 28/29

Saturday	5:30 p.m.
Celebrant	Rev. Abraham Orapankal
Reader	Jim Murray
Altar Server	Kucharski Family
Ministers of the Eucharist	Mary Connolly
.....	Joann Gardner, 1 Needed
Sunday	8:00 a.m.
Celebrant	Rev. Abraham Orapankal
Reader	Chris Bitters
Altar Server	Stanski Family
Ministers of the Eucharist	Jane Klawunn
.....	Tom Klawunn, Anita Sawczuk
Sunday	10:30 a.m.
Celebrant	Rev. Abraham Orapankal
Reader	Joann McNamara
Altar Server	Bush Family
Music Eucharistic Minister	Bob Sobey
Ministers of the Eucharist	Marlene Milko, Ana Giametta
.....	Mark Brisson, Shirley Pojedinec, Ron Pojedinec

CARMELITES THANK ST. JOHN NEUMANN

Fr. Joseph O'Brien who did the Mission Appeal in our parish was very pleased with the generous response of \$3468. I'm sure you will be happy to read his letter of appreciation to all of us:

Dear Rev. Orapankal,

The appeal for Carmelite Missions that I facilitated on June 27-28 at St. John Parish was a wonderful experience for me. Thank you for allowing us to have the appeal, and for all your goodness. I am appreciative for the generosity of your people. It really does go a long way in letting our men in Peru and Carmelites of other Provinces throughout the Third World touch the needs of their desperately poor people. Please extend our thanks to them.

Fraternally,
Fr. Joseph O'Brien,
O.Carm.,
Director of Carmelite Missions.



Remembered at Mass

We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered in the Eucharistic Prayer: **Michael McMahon, Anna Larusso, BJ Eckart, Gus DeLucas, and Nicholas DiProspero.**

Deceased: Michael McMahan, brother of Noreen Ranallo, **Anna Larusso**, mother of Suzanne Larusso, **BJ Eckart**, cousin of Sharon Janks, and **Gus DeLucas**, Uncle of Jim Simila. 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,

Happy Thanksgiving! But, giving thanks to whom? To God? Let us do our part in disproving the writer who quipped: "Sometimes all God gets from us is a short prayer before we dig into the turkey!!" Our Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9:30 a.m. is a great opportunity for us to thank God as a community (Eucharist means Thanksgiving!) even as we join the rest of our nation in celebrating this quintessential American tradition. On Veterans' Day last week, it was wonderful to see a number of our parishioners at the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church attending the Ecumenical Service for Veterans organized by our Barbara Martalus and the MVFO team. Pastors from Califon United Methodist Church, Fairmount Presbyterian Church, Lower Valley Presbyterian Church, and St. John Neumann Church led the Prayer Service. It was followed by a fellowship with some veterans in whose honor this service of remembrance and gratitude was celebrated.

Today our parishioner Paul Gagan is giving a testimony during Mass about stewardship from the biblical perspective. Pope Francis, in his final remarks before he boarded the plane from Philadelphia, said: "This land has been blessed with tremendous gifts and opportunities. I pray that you may all be good and generous stewards of the human and material resources entrusted to you." Thank you to those parishioners always willing to share their abilities in the various activities and events of our parish. We should step out, with confidence, believing that every God-given gift we have is going to be exceedingly useful and fruitful right here in our own parish: feeding the hungry (Social Ministry), visiting the sick or the elderly (Communion to the homebound), welcoming strangers in our midst (Greeting Ministry), attending to the physical plants of the parish (Property Management), bringing ideas and implementing them for the parish maintenance (Stewardship, Fund-raising), etc. Many more of these opportunities are found in our simplified "Time, Talent & Treasure Forms." Pick one and return if you have not done so already. I wish to thank those of you who have returned them.

Let us not forget that November is also the "National Family Caregivers Month" – a time to appreciate those who take care of family members who are frail, chronically ill or disabled. Such caregivers provide a vast array of emotional, financial, nursing, social, homemaking and other services on a daily or on an intermittent basis. As we thank God for their willingness to sacrifice their time and energy and re-sources in this noble cause, we need to offer them our appreciation not only in words but also in action. That is why the theme for this year "Respite: Care for Care-givers" is something that we can practice by offering them a respite: a chance to take a breather, the opportunity to re-charge.

In this spirit of thanksgiving, I invite all of us to pray Psalm 107 which encourages us to be grateful right from verse 1: "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever." The rest of the psalm elaborates on God's goodness with specific examples. For example, verses 4-7 depict the Lord as rescuing those who were lost, bringing them to a place of safety. Verse 8 sums up: "Let them praise the LORD for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them." This verse serves as a refrain throughout Psalm 107, as it is repeated three more times (107:15, 21, 31). Happy Thanksgiving!

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

NATIVITY PLAY - ADULT HELP NEEDED

Any adult parishioner, even if you don't have children, who would like to lend assistance to St John's Youth Nativity Play, please contact Mary Sorgi at 832-5362 or mtsorgi@yahoo.com. We could use help with assistance in supervision of young cast members, minor craft projects, folding of programs, assistance with managing costumes for dress rehearsal and the day of the Play, and other tasks. – Any assistance, big or small, is appreciated.

NATIVITY PLAY REHEARSALS

Nativity Play rehearsal for ALL CAST MEMBERS this Sunday, Nov. 22

Kindergarten through 2nd grades rehearse from 12:15-1:15

3rd grade and older with speaking parts, including stage crew, and tech crew, etc. rehearse from 12:15-2:15.

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

November 22, 2015

"Jesus answered, 'My kingdom does not belong to this world.'" (JOHN 18:36)

How often do we put all our time and energy into building a kingdom here on earth, forgetting that life here is short? The real kingdom is in the next life. Yet, how much time and energy do we invest in working for that eternal kingdom?

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL GRACE, MERCY & PEACE

We can show our gratitude to the Lord this Thanksgiving by sharing our blessings with those less fortunate. One way to do this is by making a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

To date the Diocese has received pledges or payments totaling \$13,520 from 59 families which represents 35% of our \$38,600 goal.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY BEGINS ON 8TH DECEMBER

Pope Francis: 'I have decided to announce an Extraordinary Jubilee which has at its center the mercy of God. It will be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live in the light of the word of the Lord: "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (cf. Lk 6:36). And this especially applies to confessors! So much mercy!

Parish Contact Information

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

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Fax 908-832-7618

Email sjn@ccsjn.org

Rev. Abraham Orapankal Pastor

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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 kaldaro@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

Christian Formation - Catechesis

Religious Education Program

FIRST RECONCILIATION



Saturday, December 5

The Holy Communion class will be celebrating the sacrament of First Reconciliation on Saturday, December 5, at 11:00 a.m., in the Church Center. A reception for the children and their families will follow.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child pamphlets were sent home with all students in Religious Education. If your family would like to put together a shoebox gift for a needy boy or girl, please follow the directions in the pamphlet and return your shoebox to the narthex or office center **no later than Monday, November 16th**. The Jr. High will be holding its own OCC Packing Party during their gathering on November 15th. All parishioners are invited to participate. Please contact Jo Ann Jarvis or visit samaritanspurse.org for further information.



BINGO AND BROWNIES

Jr High students join us to play bingo with the residents of Little Brook Nursing Home, on Sunday November 22, 2015 at 2PM. We will enjoy light refreshments and social time after bingo. Please contact Renee Ciszewski renee@ccsjn.org if you are interested in joining the students.

Social Ministry

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVES

By the time this is published and read all of the Thanksgiving Food items will have been delivered and as I write this, we anticipate that we will owe a heartfelt thanks to you, our community for supporting this endeavor. Please remember that as we complete our Thanksgiving drive we launch preparations for Christmas, which we want to make a memorable event for all of the persons receiving our Charity.

We want to mention also that as we commiserate with those in need, we reach out to them spiritually as well and thus we are practicing the works of Evangelization. In light of this, we would ask of our community to reach out to those faces that may appear new and welcome them warmly to join us in the liturgy.

Thanks again for everything, and may Jesus hold you in His arms when you stumble.

WINTER IS COMING

With the upcoming feast day of Saint Martin of Tours in mind (Nov. 11) St. John's Social Ministry is having a coat drive for the month of November.

We're looking for donations of clean and gently used Men, Women & Children coats, all sizes. Other items we will take are hats, gloves, mittens, scarves & blankets. The coats collected will be donated to various programs for dispersal. Drop Off in Narthex or Seton Room. Thank you, God bless!

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

St. John's Christmas Giving Tree still has 80 tags left on it the Narthex. We need your help to make a difference in the lives of so many challenged by their circumstances. We are supporting six different organizations this year: Anderson House, Freedom House, Little Brook Nursing Home, Newton's Guest House, SHIP and St. John's individuals and families in need. Some tags have more than one gift listed, feel free to purchase one or more of the gifts on the tag.

1. **Take a tag from the Tree.**
2. **Sign it out on the appropriate Log Sheet.**
3. **Purchase and wrap your gift, attaching the tag you took as the label.**
4. **Leave your gift in the Narthex or Seton Room by Sunday, December 6th.**

If you have any questions, contact Karen Porto 908-832-9820 or kporto@aol.com. Thanks for your generous giving!

GREETING CARDS FOR GROCERIES

A parishioner, whose hobby is to create various greeting cards, has embraced the spirit of stewardship by putting her cards on sale in the Narthex to raise funds for the St. John's food pantry.

You can choose from Birthday, Thank You, Baby or General for \$3 per card or you can pick four cards for \$10. If you pay by check make check out to St. John Neumann, Memo: food pantry. If you pay by cash just put the money in the box marked "Cards for Groceries". This is where checks can go too.

Hopefully you will find cards to meet your Greeting needs so you can be supporting our Food Pantry as well. Go shopping in the Narthex after church today! (90% of proceeds go directly to Food Pantry purchases.)

NEW EYES FOR THE NEEDY

Glasses for those in need

Is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1932 which provides new prescription eyeglasses for U.S. residents and distributes used glasses to the disadvantaged in developing countries. The Social Ministry is very happy to announce the donation of 140 pairs of glasses to the New Eyes organization last week. Your continuous support and generosity makes it possible for poor children and adults in the U.S. and around the world to see clearly. You can find more information about this great organization at the Social Ministry Board located in Narthex. Thank you!

YOUTH CORNER!

(Our Junior High students attended the Papal Mass simulcast in our Church on September 27. Here is the next installment of excerpts from the reflections they wrote. More will follow.)

Daniel Uss: Two insights that Pope Francis spoke about were love and peace in the family and society. Pope Francis mentioned the “little things,” little gestures in the family that are signs of tenderness and love, “like a blessing before we go to bed, or a hug after we return from a hard day’s work.”(Pope Francis/ Homily) These little things give love the right home for “faith to become life, and life to grow in faith.” (Pope Francis/ Homily) Pope Francis, by this, is stating that love is an amazing thing that should bring struggling nations together and lead a broken family home. Second, he spoke of how the world is beautiful in the eyes of God even if you are not “part of our group.” Pope Francis speaks that love can flow anywhere. Even if you are not Christian you are loved by God “to give the impression that it cannot take place in those who are not “part of our group,” is a dangerous temptation.” (Pope Francis/ Homily) For God loves all of his people not just the ones that follow him.

Marion Mathew: A few insights and inspirations that Pope Francis talked about were: “love is shown by little things, things which make our life feel like home.”, “Our father will not be outdone in generosity.”, “We are sought by God talking about the miracle of love.”, “May God grant all of us to be prophets, as the joy of the gospel.”, “Everyone can make miracles in Lord’s name.”, “ Love is celebration, joy and love is moving forward.”, “ As a family, we should not be scared to love, and to apologize to each other.”. All these statements were really inspiring and much thought provoking to me. At my home we as a family also discussed about at least practicing some of these every day.

Casey Roskowski: Pope Francis spoke of many insights and inspirations. To begin, one thing that I observed was when he said, “God scatters the seeds of himself in our world”. This is very thoughtful, inspiring and true. This is true because everyday God continues to “scatter his seeds” (people, plants, animals, things) everywhere constantly. Also, the Pope said, “Don’t hold back anything that is good, let it grow”. This is very inspirational because it has a deeper meaning. No matter how big or small something may be, if it is of good nature, it has the right to grow, thrive and flourish into something even more beautiful and pure than it already is. Both of these quotes directly from the Pope have to do with growing and seeds. This theme is continued beyond these quotes, but it is an important theme. This is because it relates everything that is good natured and everything that comes from God to nature which was God’s original creation. God created wildlife and nature in the beginning and now quotes are being made that tie in that theme of nature. To conclude, the Pope is a very inspirational speaker and used his voice to sooth our ears with the sound of thought provoking and insightful comments.



ACQUIRE THE FIRE Young Adult Group

Acquire the Fire, the young adult group’s next meeting is Sun., Nov. 22, 7pm at Our Lady of Lourdes, old church hall, 390 County Rd 523, Whitehouse Sta. A parishioner of will be speaking about the impact of her faith on her life. On Dec 6th we will attend the young adult Seekers Retreat from 2-7pm at Loyola House in Morristown. For more information, visit <http://diometuchen.org/offices-and-ministries/formation-and-leadership/youth-and-young-adult-ministry/seekers/>.

To join the list serve please email Susan at acquirethefire@ollwhs.org.

JOIN THE CHILDREN’S LITURGY PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Children’s Liturgy Planning Committee is looking for some new members. If you have young children, join them one Sunday during the Children’s Liturgy session and see if this is something you might be interested in. Join this committee and be involved in planning the Homilies that are shared with the children at their Children’s Liturgy Gatherings during 10:30 Mass. The committee meets in the Seton Room on the last Monday of every month from 7:30pm-9:00pm. If interested in contributing to this worthwhile ministry contact Regina DeStefano at 908-713-6839.

SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY

☺ The checkout clerk at the ☺ supermarket was unusually cheerful even though it was near closing time. “You must have picked up a ton of groceries today,” a customer said to the checker. “How can you stay so pleasant?” “We can all count our blessings,” the clerk replied. “The hardest part of this job is the turkeys & the watermelons. I just thank God that Thanksgiving doesn’t come in July.”

A gentleman called Butterball’s Thanksgiving Turkey Talk-Line to tell the operator he cut his turkey in half with a chain saw and wanted to know if the oil from the chain would adversely affect the turkey.

Vegetables are a must on a diet. I suggest carrot cake, zucchini bread, and pumpkin pie.

MILITARY VETERANS

Thanks to the parishioners who donated furniture to our Veterans Furniture Project. Tom Klawunn along with two men from St. Joseph’s of High Bridge, successfully delivered 3 beds, a dresser and a mirror last weekend to Veterans Haven North.

Six parishioners volunteered their driving skills with their truck for future deliveries!

We were also offered help from a parishioner’s college son with his friends as a moving team. This project is off to a great start!!!

Please keep the veterans in mind when you have furniture in good condition you no longer need. Will keep you posted on next delivery date.

Suzanne & Sandra

PRAYER MINISTRY

“Private prayer is like straw scattered here and there: If you set it on fire it makes a lot of little flames. But gather these straws into a bundle and light them, and you get a mighty fire, rising like a column into the sky; public prayer is like that.”

-Saint John Vianney

Please join us for the next Communal Prayer Session:

Thursday, December 10th, 2015

7:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

Office Center, Upper Room

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
Christine Meyer
Evelyn Murray
Fran Miceli
Beau (Bernice) Mills
Michael James Nonestied
Mary Lou O'Brien
Floyd Opdyke
Peter Ostapzuk
Linda Owens
Nilsa Perez Parsons
John Pfeufer
Earl Roberts
Anne & Joe Sacco
Bob Simms
Noah Skinner
Michael Slivka
Julie Suplee
Brian Travis
William Weimer
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

SUNDAY REFLECTION: "Oh Mija!"

"My kingdom does not belong to this world . . ." John 18: 33b-37

When Coral Collum was 12, she and his parents and two younger brothers made their first trip from their home in Apple Valley, California to New York City. Early on the third day of their trip, they took a taxi from their midtown Manhattan hotel to Battery Park to catch the first Liberty Island ferry. It was her mother's 34th birthday, and the family planned to cram every touristy thing she could think of to celebrate the day.

The day was September 11, 2001.

With thousands of other stunned onlookers, the Collums watched as the two United Airlines planes rammed into the towers of the World Trade Center. And suddenly, the family found itself in unimaginable chaos and horror. They were almost immediately caked with stinging white powder that quickly worked its way into their clothing and skin, and it burned so badly that both of Coral's little brothers were crying in pain.

In an essay in **Commonweal** Magazine [September 9, 2011], Coral remembers that horrible day:

"The sun vanished. We kept running, past vague shapes of kiosks and park benches. I pulled up the neck of my T-shirt and tried to breathe through its fabric, but every breath stung. As we ran, a building loomed out of the fog, Battery Gardens Restaurant. Its plate-glass windows were shattered and a mob of people was trying to push inside.

"There, amid the panic and confusion I noticed small acts of selflessness. Men pulled off their dress shirts, tore them into strips, and gave them to strangers to breathe through. Kiosk vendors passed out water bottles so that we could wet our cloths. An Asian man appeared out of the haze, pulled the breathing mask from his face, pressed it into my crying brother's hands, and disappeared into the darkness. When I went to look for toilet paper, I found a middle-aged woman at a bathroom sink, surrounded by crying children. 'Oh, *mija*,' she said to me, 'take this.' And she pulled the rag from her baby's mouth, tore it half, and gave it to me.

"What did I learn from that day near Ground Zero? That suffering is never far from human experience, but that neither is compassion. What I remember most [about that day] are the small acts of human kindness."

The Kingdom of Christ is found, not in destruction and pain, but in every act of selfless kindness and humble generosity, no matter how small or hidden or simple. This is why Christ has come into our world: to reveal the love of God in our midst, enabling us to transform this often broken world into the wholeness of God's. A 12-year-old girl discovers that truth in the midst of one of the most horrific moments in human history and remembers it into adulthood. Christ calls us to embrace not the things of the body but of the soul, not the things of the world but the things of God: the lasting, eternal treasures of love and mercy, the joy that comes only from selfless giving, the satisfaction that comes from lifting up the hopes and dreams of others. Such mercy and compassion are the foundation of the Kingdom of Christ.

STEWARDSHIP 'EVERY MEMBER A MINISTER'

We want to thank all our parishioners who come and share in their faith with the parish community at the liturgy. Coming to Mass is participating in stewardship. Sharing your time with others in prayer is the beginning of living 'Every Member a Minister'. We encourage parishioners to look at the stewardship forms that they received or pick one up at Mass. Please check off some manner of participation in one of the many activities or ministries. If you have questions contact the office.

NARTHEX CHRISTMAS TREE

In order to comply with the fire code we have purchased an artificial Christmas Tree for the Narthex. The cost of this tree is \$599.00. As you know we purchased 2 artificial trees for the Worship space last year for the same reason. We would like to thank one of our parishioners who would like to remain anonymous, who very generously donated 1/2 of the cost of the Narthex tree. If you would like to contribute to this unexpected expense we would welcome the donation.

Parish & Community News

MINUTES OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

October 19, 2015

The meeting began with the Lectio Divina prayer with gospel sharing, followed by reflection on our Parish's annual goal. In the discussion that ensued, the following were some of the points considered or decided upon:

Youth Group/Youth Ministry presented their annual Status of Ministry to the Council. The Ministry said that membership is good and participation is strong. Members are involved in working with other Ministries and have also tried to encourage new members to assume leadership roles for the future. The Council greatly appreciated their efforts.

Social Ministry presented their annual Status of Ministry to the Council. The Ministry has worked tirelessly to provide for those in need. This need is even outside of our Parish and our religious community. The Ministry relies entirely upon donations to do their service, and they have been working hard to satisfy the demanding concerns of those who need them. The Council voiced their admiration of the Ministry and the remarkable work that they perform year after year.

The Council was very pleased with:

- the success of the Tricky Tray – thanks to the hard work of the team of Kathy Kelly;
- the progress of enlarging the Earth Garden, with plans to have plots for cultivation open to the larger community;
- the report on the Synod on Family in Rome, especially on its focus on pastoral care for those who feel ignored by the Church;
- the Stewardship Committee's plan to have Fr. Charles Ssebalamu from our sister parish in Virginia at our Stewardship weekend;
- the successful launching of the new Prayer Ministry of St. John Neumann.

The meeting concluded with a prayer.

BE AN ADVENT PRAYER FAMILY

This Advent, give a Christmas gift. Take a name from the basket in the Narthex this weekend and pray throughout Advent for the family whose name you choose. We hope everyone will participate so that each of the families in our parish will have someone praying for them. We want all families 'adopted' in prayer by the first weekend of Advent, Nov 28-29. You can pray in any manner for your adopted family. You can offer them up to God whenever it crosses your mind; ask God to bless them in their struggles and challenges (we all have them); pray for their peace and joy or whatever you would pray for yourself!!! To conclude your efforts please write a Christmas card to your family and put their family name on the envelope. We will place them in the narthex at Christmas so that everyone will know who was praying for them! If you are not a registered parishioner but are in the pew – please join us, write your name on one of the blank cards for someone else to take and don't forget to take someone's name for your praying. Any questions please email the Prayer Ministry prayerministry@ccsjn.org.

DID YOU ENJOY THE FALL FAITH GROUPS?

Thank you to all who participated in the Fall Faith Small Groups. The resource we used this season was "Empowering" We would love your feedback on the program. Please feel free to jot your ideas or opinions, positive and negative, as to how it helps you deepen your spiritual growth while empowering fellowship. Your feedback would help us in that endeavor. Any thoughts or feelings can be placed in the Narthex in the basket or in the offertory baskets. Please speak to other parishioners and share your experience – we hope this program grows to benefit more parishioners in the future.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

For November 15, 2015

85 Donors Weekly \$3,801.25

For November 16, 2014

88 Donors Weekly \$4,466.00

SHOP RITE & KINGS CARDS



Thanks to **14 families** who purchased Shop Rite and Kings gift cards the last week, totaling **\$2,100.00**. The stores gave us **\$103.75** Cards are available after Mass or at the office weekdays.



WELCOME

Welcome to our new family Ryan and Lauren Cerniglia joined the parish a couple of months ago and we just welcomed at Mass last week. Ryan and Lauren have two children, Ryan who is three and Julia is five months old was just baptized in October. Their photo is up in the narthex so please introduce yourself when you meet them at Mass.

CONGRATULATIONS

EMERSON MAE PRINGLE



Our newest parishioner Emerson is Dan and Kathy Pringle's new baby girl. We celebrated her baptism at the 10:30 Mass on Nov 8.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Wed., Dec. 1 S. Griffin

Store Cards

Nov. 21 & Nov. 22

5:30 p.m. D. Zigmantanis

8:00 a.m. M. Kearns

10:30 a.m. S. Pojedinec

Nov. 28 & Nov. 29

5:30 p.m. J. Gardner

8:00 a.m. P. Nanna

10:30 a.m. G. Ambrosky

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of 11/22 J. Sieber

Week of 11/29 C. Fortenbacker

Church Center Cleaning

November 20 Team F

November 27 Team A

Altar Flowers

November 21 K. Heimall

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