

**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***

***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.

# This Week at Saint John's

## Mass Intentions

### Tuesday, December 8

7:00 a.m. Jeffrey H. Wenzel, req.  
Marie and Roger Malone  
7:00 p.m. Intention of the Celebrant

### Friday, December 11

7:00 a.m. Rick & Joanna Young &  
Family, req. Sally  
Intentions of the Living

### Saturday, December 12

5:30 p.m. Geraldine Dexter, req.  
Harrison Family

### Sunday, December 13

8:00 a.m. Bob Pocius, req.  
France Kennedy  
10:30 a.m. Michael Altavilla, req.  
Porto Family



*Santa Claus is coming to  
St. John's  
Sunday, December 20th  
Following the 10:30 Mass*

## Parish Calendar

### Sunday, Dec. 6 - Second Sunday of Advent / Yellow Brick Road Collection / End Christmas Giving Tree

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
9:00 a.m. K-6 Catechesis (Church and Office Centers)  
10:30 a.m. Mass - Welcome (Church Center)  
12:00 p.m. Nativity Play Rehearsal (Church Center)  
6:00 p.m. Jr. High Catechesis (Church Center)

### Monday, Dec. 7 - Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

### Tuesday, Dec. 8 - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Holy Day of Obligation

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)  
7:00 p.m. Budget Meeting (Drexel Room)  
7:00 p.m. Mass (Church Center)  
RCIA after Mass

### Wednesday, Dec. 9 - Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

### Thursday, Dec. 10 - Advent Weekday

7:15 p.m. Prayer Ministry (Upper Room)  
7:30 p.m. Bells/Music (Church Center)

### Friday, Dec. 11 - Saint Damasus I, Pope

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)  
5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)  
6:00 p.m. Christmas Tree Setup (Church Center)

### Saturday, Dec. 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

5:30 p.m. Mass - Rite of Acceptance (Church Center)  
6:30 p.m. Nativity Dress Rehearsal (Church Center)

## Mass Schedule—December 12/13

### Saturday

5:30 p.m.

Celebrant ..... Rev. Abraham Orapankal  
Reader ..... David Geerinck  
Altar Server ..... Brezina Family  
Ministers of the Eucharist ..... Bob Martalus  
..... Barbara Martalus, Joan Eacovalle

### Sunday

8:00 a.m.

Celebrant ..... Rev. Abraham Orapankal  
Reader ..... Chris Bitters  
Altar Server ..... France Kennedy  
Ministers of the Eucharist ..... Sharon Janks  
..... Tom Klawunn, Jane Klawunn

### Sunday

### Baptism

10:30 a.m.

Celebrant ..... Rev. Abraham Orapankal  
Reader ..... Paul Gagen  
Altar Server ..... Brisson Family  
Music Eucharistic Minister ..... Kathy Kelly Pagliuca  
Ministers of the Eucharist ..... Mike Pagliuca, Sheena Carew  
..... Anita Sawczuk, Donna Lance, Bob Sobey

## NARTHEX CHRISTMAS TREE

We would like to thank the anonymous donors for their contributions.  
Thanks to your generosity, the cost to St. John's has been covered.

### Sunday, Dec. 13 - Third Sunday of Advent / Retirement Fund for Religious

8:00 a.m. Mass - Rite of Acceptance (Church Center)  
10:30 a.m. Mass - Simila Baptism (Church Center)  
10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word (Narthex)  
2:00 p.m. Nativity Play Setup (Church Center)  
5:00 p.m. Nativity Play (Church Center)

## THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION  
DECEMBER 8th  
Mass at 7:00 a.m. in the Residence Chapel  
and at 7:00 p.m. in the Church.



## Remembered at Mass

We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered in the Eucharistic Prayer: **Walter Menzie** and **Michael McMahon**.

**Deceased:** **Walter Menzie**, father and grandfather to the Menzie Family and **Michael McMahon**, brother of Noreen Ranallo. 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,

This week the whole Church is entering into a great event of historical significance. On Tuesday, on the Feast of Immaculate Conception, the "Extra Ordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy" will begin when Pope Francis will do the ritual opening of the Holy Door of Mercy in the Basilica of St. Peter. By proclaiming this "Holy Year of Mercy" Pope Francis wants us all to be reminded that the essence of the Gospel message is that of the infinite mercy of God made visible in Jesus Christ. (*John 3:16, Luke 15*) He is convinced "that the whole Church will find in this Jubilee the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God, with which all of us are called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time." During his recent visit to Africa, Pope opened the door of Mercy at the Cathedral of Bangui in the war-torn country of Central African Republic and exhorted all the Christians, especially anyone who has a role of evangelizer, teacher or preacher in the Christian community, to be "first and foremost practitioners of forgiveness, specialists in reconciliation, experts in mercy."

Pope Francis asked that every diocese in the world designate a "Door of Mercy" at their cathedral or another special church or shrine. Our Diocese of Metuchen will begin its observance of the Holy Year of Mercy on December 20 with the opening of the Holy Door at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen followed by the Noon Mass celebrated by our Bishop Paul Bootkoski who has, in addition, designated nine other churches in the diocese as "Holy Door" locations for the convenience of all. See our diocesan website <http://diometuchen.org> for more info. I invite us all to read the Pope's Apostolic Letter "The Face of Mercy" (simply google it) which is a short 25-paragraph document, written in a very simple style.

It is wonderful to see that our new Advent practice inviting us all to be an "Advent Prayer Family Friend" has been well received. Most of the name tags have been taken. Please keep them in a visible place and remind your family to pray for them. May we all have a fruitful season of Advent.

Your brother in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## **MERCY QUOTE FROM POPE FRANCIS!**

"I think we too are the people who, on the one hand, want to listen to Jesus, but on the other hand, at times, like to find a stick to beat others with, to condemn others. And Jesus has this message for us: mercy. I think — and I say it with humility — that this is the Lord's most powerful message: mercy."

## **SANTA CLAUS FROM ST. NICHOLAS?**

Tell your kids how the true story of Santa Claus begins with St. Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara in the present day Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. After his release, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church, where a unique relic, called manna, formed in his grave. This liquid substance, said to have healing powers, fostered the growth of devotion to Nicholas. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, St. Nicholas Day, December 6th.

The gift-giving nature of St. Nicholas was appealing to all. But the saint's name shifted from St. Nicholas to Santa Claus—a natural phonetic alteration from the German *Sankt Niklaus* as well as from the Dutch figure of Sinterklaas. Pre-modern representations of the gift-giver from Church history and folklore merged with the English character Father Christmas to create the character known to Americans and the rest of the English-speaking world as Santa Claus.

## **PRAYER MINISTRY**

Don't imagine that, if you had a great deal of time, you would spend more of it in prayer. Get rid of that idea; it is no hindrance to prayer to spend your time well.

*St. Teresa of Avila*

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

## **BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL GRACE, MERCY & PEACE**

The *Catholic Center at Rutgers University* provides for the spiritual, sacramental and pastoral needs of the Catholic community on campus.

Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal helps to support this ministry which plays a vital role in forming the next generation for Church leadership.

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

## **CHRISTMAS IS COMING**

Don't you want to be a member of the parish when you attend Christmas Mass! Call the office for information.

## **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..... [kaldaro@ccsjn.org](mailto:kaldaro@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)

# Christian Formation - Catechesis



## **BAPTISM**

For anyone who is expecting or wants to have a child baptized please contact France at the office. We will be having the Baptism Preparation Class in January which you attend prior to scheduling a baptism.



## **BINGO AND BROWNIES AT LITTLE BROOK**

On Sunday afternoon, several of the Confirmation students enjoyed a few games of bingo with the residents. It was a wonderful opportunity to spend time and get to know the Little Brook residents. After the games the students helped serve refreshments and they also enjoyed a treat! We will visit Little Brook again in a few months.

# Social Ministry

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

Our next service to the SHIP's Galley Soup Kitchen in Somerville will take place on Monday, December 14 from 11am until 2pm. If you would like to help serve or provide food for the meal, please contact Anne Germino at [socialministry@ccsjn.org](mailto:socialministry@ccsjn.org).



## **CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET PACK-UP**

The Christmas food basket pack-up will take place on Friday, December 18 at 7pm with deliveries on Saturday morning. Please check the narthex for food lists to restock the pantry. In addition, we have had many generous donations of turkeys and only need two more large turkeys and 8 more small turkey breasts, small chickens or small hams to complete the baskets.

# Parish News

## **Every Member A Minister Number of Families 291**

### **Stewardship Responses**

Sample Serve.....	7
Time & Talent.....	52
Treasure.....	26
Automated Giving .....	6

Thank you for your replies. If you haven't filled out your Stewardship response, please pick up a form from the narthex and check off those areas where you would like to participate. Someone will be in touch with additional information.

## **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, contact Mary Sorgi at 832-5362 or [mtsorgi@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

## **COPING AND HOLIDAYS**

The holidays bring a full plate of things to do and get done, as well as the highs and lows brought on by the usual emotional rip currents of life. Feelings of loss can be intensified during the holidays, whether from the passing of a loved one, a loyal pet, separation, divorce, or job loss. Somehow, the world isn't what it was and road maps are hard to find, no less the energy to look for them. What to do?

First up, be kind to yourself and manage your expectations. This year will not be the same as years before, but, then again, what year is exactly the same as the one before it? Give yourself a break and reduce your list of "to do's", but by all means, PLAN something to do ahead of the actual "big days" coming. Call on others and delegate, as much as possible, the laundry list of "to do's"...or cut back on that "to do" list. Having some current focus is important. Grieving takes time to help us adjust. It doesn't happen overnight. The sense of deep loss can become manageable with faith, patience, and time.

You may want to schedule something, whether by yourself, another, or others. Guilt, an all too common driver of human behavior, while natural, shouldn't get in the way of you doing something for yourself or experiencing joy during the holidays. Your joy can become contagious to others, no less a reward to you. You may want to volunteer. There are many charities that can use your help.

Lastly, in this brief note, be aware of the possibility of a post-holiday letdown or "blues". This is an all too common phenomena, which can seem to come out of nowhere. For a wonderful life, opportunities are to be cherished – those we have taken, some lost, and those that await our conscious action. Blessings to all in this season which so highlights forgiveness, change, and hope.

***A Message from John Cole of the St. John Neumann Bereavement Ministry***

## **NATIVITY PLAY**

Please support the children of the parish. Join us Sunday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, 5PM for the story of the birth of Christ. The children have been working hard and are eager to share with you all. Join the cast afterward for refreshments. Enjoy the season of Christ's birth with these young beautiful children!

## 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.)

**Zach Hiwaitg:** The Quote "Service is the sign of true love, those who love know how to serve others. We learn this especially in the family, where we become servants out of love for one another. In the heart of the family, no one is rejected; all have the same value." Pope Francis has inspired me by this quote because I now know and understand what true love really is. One way people can show love for one another is helping each other. For example, when my parents are working at their jobs they are showing their love for me by raising money for food, clothes, giving me and education for school. Another way my parents show love for me is when I get sick. They show their love for me by taking care of me and buy medicines to help me get better. The quote also means that we as children learning from our parents we can bring what we learned to the future when we are raising our own families. The quote has also taught me to include everyone and we should not reject someone or leave anyone behind.

**Grace Medea:** Pope Francis also asked us to reflect on the kind of world we want to leave to future generations. He asked us what kind of world we want to leave our children. These are important questions because people and the environment are being treated badly around the world. This summer I learned about a group of very poor people who work in the world's largest landfill located in Rio de Janeiro. Their job is to find and separate recyclables from the heaps of garbage dumped there every day. I also know about girls in Liberia who cannot go to school because their culture does not think they are good enough and instead sends the boys to school. I think it is important that people spread the Pope's word about protecting the world's children and environment. We all need to work together, from world leaders to everyday people, so that changes will be made to help these people and others like them to have a better life.

**Rafael Proano:** Everything in this event touched me. When he was getting to the event it was like a parade. The Pope was kind enough to kiss other babies and children. That touched my heart. The next amazing thing was the music. Lots of people were doing chorus and playing instruments. The music was so beautiful that I felt like I was rising up to see the gates of heaven. There were also head singers who wore a white robe. They also spoke different languages like Latin, Spanish, and Italian. The next thing that I liked was the readers they spoke many different languages. Last they gave the bread and wine to everyone and that was amazing.

## ADVENT – A TIME OF PREPARATION

### PRAYING FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY

Advent has started. Are you praying for your parish family? One idea is to have the card on your table and pray as a family before your meal for your adopted family. Or keep the card in your car and pray as you hurry from place to place preparing for Christmas. Say a prayer for your family as well – God loves to hear from us! We hope you will write a Christmas card to your family. Won't it be fun to see and meet the person(s) who were praying for you? We plan to distribute the Christmas cards so make sure you have their family name on the envelope.

## YOUR BEST ADVENT EVER

Try preparing for Christmas differently this year:

<http://dynamiccatholic.com/year-of-mercy/best-advent-ever/>



## SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother as a Christmas gift. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. The lady answered: "No, except the Ten Commandments!"

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

### **For November 22, 2015**

85 Donors Weekly ..... \$5,020.00  
43 Donors Human Develop \$1,011.00

### **For November 23, 2014**

65 Donors Weekly ..... \$4,277.00  
40 Donors Human Develop ... \$746.76

### **For November 29, 2015**

65 Donors Weekly ..... \$2,639.00  
22 Donors Thanksgiving ..... \$428.00

### **For November 30, 2014**

75 Donors Weekly ..... \$3,564.00  
6 Donors Thanksgiving ..... \$55.00

## SHOP RITE & KINGS CARDS



Thanks to **28 families** who purchased Shop Rite and Kings gift cards the last 2 weeks, totaling **\$5,130.00**. The stores gave us **\$254.90** Cards are available after Mass or at the office weekdays.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**December 6, 2015**

*"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..."* (PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10)

Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God and to those that are in need.

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

### **Office Angels**

Tues., Dec. 8 A. Sawczuk  
Wed., Dec. 9 C. Behrens  
Wed., Dec. 16 D. Zigmantanis

### **Store Cards**

#### **Dec. 5 & Dec. 6**

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

#### **Dec. 12 & Dec. 13**

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

### **Church Center Plant Watering**

Week of 12/5 B. Lee  
Week of 12/13 L. Livoti

### **Church Center Cleaning**

December 4 Team B  
December 11 Team C

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Eugene Cifranic  
 Jean Crickenberger  
 John D'Almeida  
 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  
 Linda Owens  
 Nilsa Perez Parsons  
 John Pfeufer  
 Anne & Joe Sacco  
 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

## TASTING – THANK YOU!

The Tasting event co-chairs (Maggie Baumann, Marlene Milko and Barbara Pannone) would like to thank their Taste 'Buds' who gave so much of their time to prepare for this successful fund raiser. Many compliments to executive sous chef Teresa Dainoski and her line chefs, Tanya and Breana Dainoski, who cooked a number of delicacies all day in the kitchen. Others well deserving of a role in the success of this event include Geri Ambrosky, Phyllis Baker, David Baumann, Kerri Caldaro, Billy Dainoski, Susie Donovan, Andrew & Dana Fabiano, Melissa Fortenbacker, Jeremy Hoffmann, France Kennedy, Joe Kosakowski, Andy Kozlowski, Carol Lamperti, Jude McCormick, Faye Mocarski, JoAnn Murray, Hannah Nacamulli, Jarek & Violetta Olesiak, Mary Phillips, Joelle Pilek, Annette Schettino, Dan & Jonathan Uss, Donna Wellbrock. **Special thanks to Renee Osgood for coming afterwards to get the kitchen to sparkle!**

**SETUP AND CLEANUP:** Applause goes out to Wayne Infusino for the planning and quick transformations of the worship space! It is always a pleasure to have others come forward at the last minute and ask "what can I do?" since there are always a lot of last minute needs. There was a short span between the 5:30 Mass and the Tasting – thanks to all those who chipped in to get things rolling and to those who cleaned up at the end.

**MUSIC:** On piano Maggie Baumann, Our talented vocalists, Arminda Barbone, Jessica & Samantha Brynldsen, Jen Evanko and Becky Germino.

**FOOD:** Thanks for the special dishes from: Maggie Baumann's Applesauce, Mary Connolly's Appy Platters, Alan Janks' Kielbasi & Sauer Kraut, Roger Malone's Vegetarian Chili, Oscars, Shop-Rite and Tony's Bistro.

**SPIRITS:** Thanks to Rob Sansone for the generous donation of cases of wine for the 'cork pull' and to Bourbon Street Wine & Spirits for providing the wine and beer vendors.

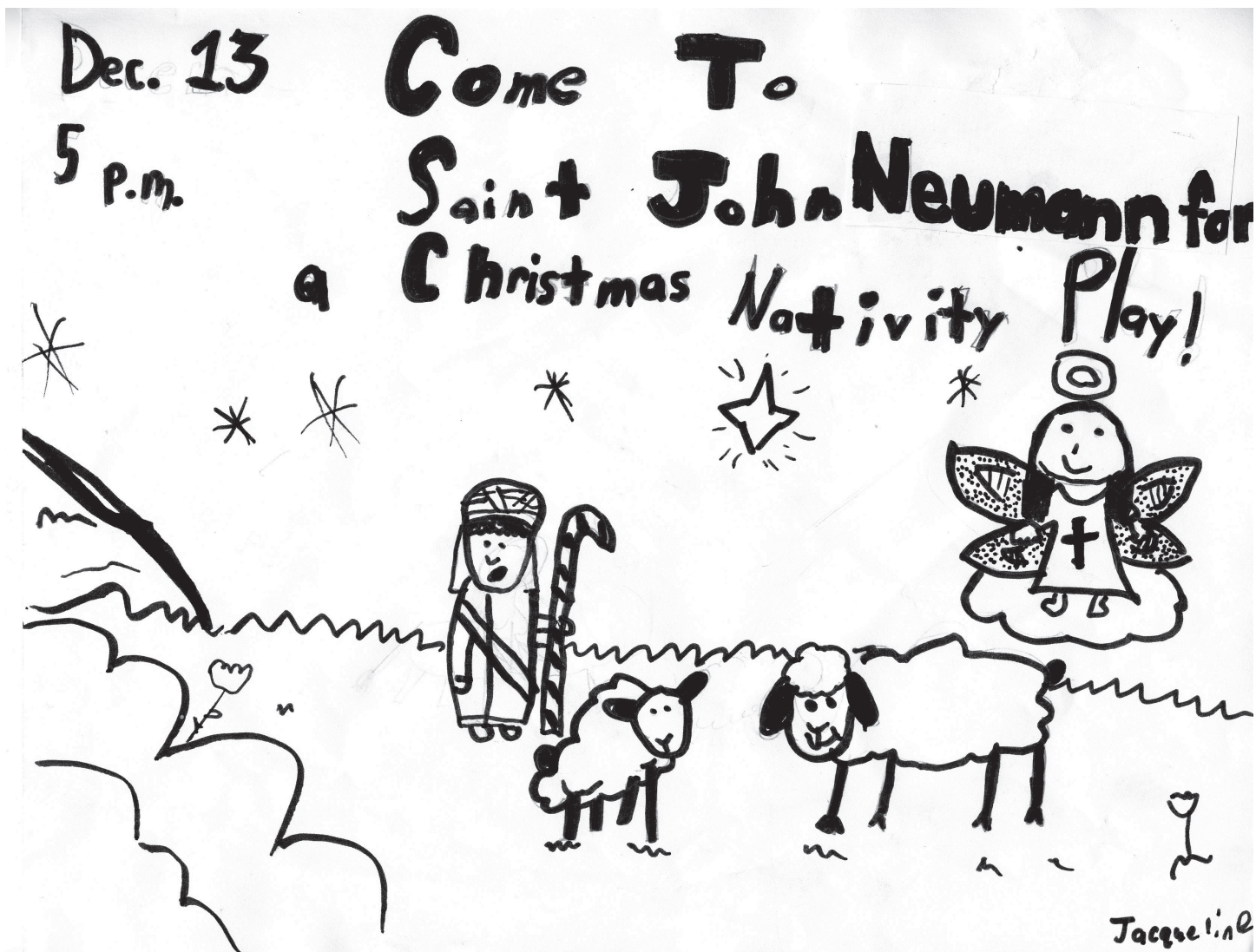
**VENDORS:** Thanks to those vendors for supporting our event, donating silent auction items and a portion of their commissions. Also to those businesses that contributed: Acropolis Spa/Lunacy Botanicals, Cara London, Clinton House Restaurant, Dana's Closet, Dove Chocolate Discoveries, Healthy Path Massage Therapy, Kramer Portraits. Krunch Kitchen, Lady J's Vintage Treasures, Laura Conrad's Greeting Cards, Life Celebrations, Lotus Spa, Nerium AD Skin Care, Oscars, Pampered Chef, Mary Phillips Silpada, Stone Hedge Farm, Tony's Bistro, Judy Wade, Wildtree, and Young Living Essential Oils. St. John's profit is near \$5,000!

The following vendors have agreed to extend their commission to St. John's until December 31, 2015 (some flyers are in the narthex):

- Cara London Silk Scarves (Cara London) [cara@caralondon.com](mailto:cara@caralondon.com)
- Laura Conrad Greeting Cards (Laura Conrad) [njlaura63@gmail.com](mailto:njlaura63@gmail.com)
- Dana's Closet Clothing Accessories (Dana Cole) [danascloset@yahoo.com](mailto:danascloset@yahoo.com)
- Healthy Path Massage Therapy (Tara Mowry) 908-619-7747 or [tmourry@hotmail.com](mailto:tmourry@hotmail.com)
- Krunch Kitchen Granola (Janet Schwamm) [jschwamm@gmail.com](mailto:jschwamm@gmail.com)
- Lady J's Vintage Jewelry (Kathy Jacobsen) 908-638-6246 or [ladyjgems@comcast.net](mailto:ladyjgems@comcast.net)
- Lunacy Botanicals Skin Care (Appolonia Cusmano) 908-832-6464
- Nerium Skin Care (Pam Terlizzi) [pamelaterlizzi@gmail.com](mailto:pamelaterlizzi@gmail.com)
- Pampered Chef (Lois Lindsay) [loistpc@yahoo.com](mailto:loistpc@yahoo.com)
- Silpada Jewelry (Maria Ferguson) 732-522-7870
- Tastefully Simple (Tracy Denkovic) 908-638-5145
- Wildtree (Bridgette Como) 908-832-5029 or [bmcomo@me.com](mailto:bmcomo@me.com)
- Young Living Essential Oils (Joann Ordille McNamara) 973-819-5950 or [joann\\_bicycles@yahoo.com](mailto:joann_bicycles@yahoo.com)

Please contact them and place an order, and be sure to mention St. John's so we benefit!!

We are sorry if we may have missed your name, please know that your help is we truly appreciated. We couldn't be successful without all of your help.



## THE SYMBOLISM OF THE ADVENT WREATH

You will be happy to know and share these meaningful explanations: The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead. The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world. Some modern day adaptations include a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. Another tradition is to replace the three purple and one rose candles with four white candles, which will be lit throughout Christmas season.

By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. In family practice, the Advent wreath is most appropriately lit at dinner time after the blessing of the food.



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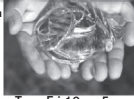
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