

The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

www.ccsjn.org

February 21, 2016

Volume 34, Number 8

LENT



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 Mass5:30 p.m.
Sunday.....8:00 a.m.
Sunday.....10:30 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.
Friday.....7:00 a.m.

Reconciliation:

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

This Week at Saint John's

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, February 23

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Friday, February 26

7:00 a.m. Joseph LaRusso, req.
Suzanne LaRusso

Saturday, February 27

5:30 p.m. Anne Marie O'Connor, req.
Roger and Marie Malone

Sunday, February 28

8:00 a.m. Maria Sepe, req.
Cathy and Tom Bennett
10:30 a.m. Frank Schettino, req.
D'Avella Family



Parish Calendar

Sunday, Feb. 21 - Second Sunday of Lent/Snow & Heat Coll.

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
9:00 a.m. K-6 Catechesis (Office and Church Centers)
9:00 a.m. 1st Eucharist Parent Meeting (Church & Narthex)
10:30 a.m. 3rd Grade Class Mass (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Blessing of Proano Wedding Anniversary (Church)
5:30 p.m. K of C 8th Grade Spelling Bee (Church Center)
6:00 p.m. Jr. High Catechesis (Church Center)

Monday, Feb. 22 - The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

7:00 p.m. Fund Raising Meeting (Office Center Kitchen)
7:15 p.m. Pastoral Council Meeting (Upper Room)

Tuesday, Feb. 23 - Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
11:00 a.m. Faith Group (Church Loft)
7:00 p.m. Connxions Meeting (Office Center Kitchen)
7:00 p.m. Faith Group (Houses)
7:30 p.m. Faith Group (Houses)
7:30 p.m. R.C.I.A. (Upper Room)

Wednesday, Feb. 24 - Weekday

10:30 a.m. Faith Group (Church Loft)
7:00 p.m. Faith Group (Office Center Kitchen)
7:00 p.m. Faith Group (Upper Room)

Thursday, Feb. 25 - Weekday

7:30 p.m. Music/Bells (Church Center)

Mass Schedule—February 27/28

Saturday

5:30 p.m.

Celebrant Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader Linda Caprio
Altar Server Olesiak Family
Ministers of the Eucharist Joann Gardner
..... Violetta Olesiak, Mary Connolly

Sunday

8:00 a.m.

Celebrant Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader Jim Murray
Altar Server Mastro Family
Ministers of the Eucharist Joe Sima
..... Donna Lance, Dorothy Sima

Sunday

10:30 a.m.

Celebrant Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader Steve Carroll
Altar Server Cucchiara Family
Music Eucharistic Minister Mary D'Avella
Ministers of the Eucharist Dick Wickel, Cindy Carroll
..... Gloria Cucchiara, Mark Brisson, Bob Sobey

Friday, Feb. 26 - Weekday

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)
6:00 p.m. Soup Supper (provided by Religious Education)
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross (Church Center)

Saturday, Feb. 27 - Weekday

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

Sunday, Feb. 28 - Third Sunday of Lent /Catholic Relief Svc

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. 3rd Grade Class Mass (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word (Narthex)



Remembered at Mass

We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered in the Eucharistic Prayer: **Frank Kostecki, Brian Travis, William Sepe, Jeff Akramoff and Dana Tyrrell.**

Deceased: Frank Kostecki, Unlce of Sharon Janks, Brian Travis, nephew of Eileen McCabe, William Sepe, Uncle of Rich and Bob Sepe, Jeff Akramoff, Brother-in-law of Joann Fabiano and Dana Tyrrell, cousin of Phyllis Baker. 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,

Some parishioners have asked me about their confusion when they drive by churches that have the word 'orthodox' on their sign board, like, St. Mathew Orthodox Church, St. Cosmas Orthodox Church, etc. I always answered that whenever you see the word 'orthodox' in the name of a church, it means it is not a Catholic church. Why? The One Holy and Apostolic Catholic Church experienced its first major schism (split) in 1054. Also called the East-West Schism or Roman and Orthodox division, the split was over theology and the primacy of the pope, whom the Orthodox do not consider the supreme leader of Christianity. All efforts in the past for unification bore no fruit and the divide continues to the present. After the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI called these Eastern churches "our sister churches" highlighting our commonality.

Therefore it was a historic event to see Pope Francis meeting with Patriarch Kirill of the Russian Orthodox Church last Friday in Cuba. (Did you see his picture? He looks very much like our own Father Bill!) The meeting marks the first encounter in history between a Roman Catholic pope and a Russian Orthodox patriarch in the nearly 1,000 years. "Finally!" the pope exclaimed as he embraced Patriarch Kirill "We are brothers."

Patriarch Kirill is not the leader of all the branches of Orthodox Christianity, a title that technically belongs to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who is based in Constantinople and has met with Pope Francis and his predecessors several times. But with a flock of 150 million followers, Kirill leads the biggest, and in some ways the most defiant, branch of Orthodoxy. Friday's joint declaration delicately alludes to the tensions between the churches, noting that Orthodox Christians and Catholics "have been divided by wounds caused by old and recent conflicts." But the Pope and Patriarch said they were "pained by the loss of unity" among Christians, who have splintered into thousands of denominations since the schism in 1054.

Such common language already gives us hope of a possible collaboration and eventual unity in the future in God's plan. That is why it is so very important that different churches/denominations be open to common projects and collaboration in one another's events. I am glad that our Community was "nourished by the hospitality of the Califon Christian Communities..." as our Mission Statement reminds us. And we ourselves have been a very welcoming community in this regard. It is a matter of joy to note that the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church and the Fairmount Presbyterian Church have been participating in our Live Stations of the Cross every Good Friday noon. May we continue to be open to the working of the Holy Spirit in us and in those who worship in a different church.

Happy Lent!
Your brother in Christ,

"24 HOURS FOR THE LORD"

Pope Francis states in *Misericordiae Vultus* (the Official Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy), that he would like March 4-5, 2016 (from 5 p.m. Friday through 5 p.m. Saturday), to be set aside as "24 Hours for the Lord." "By calling for an attentive listening to the word of God and encouraging the initiative '24 Hours for the Lord,' I sought to stress the primacy of prayerful listening to God's word, especially his prophetic word," Pope Francis said in his 2016 Lenten Message. "The mercy of God is a proclamation made to the world, a proclamation which each Christian is called to experience at first-hand." Our Parish is planning to participate in this call of Pope Francis. Be on the lookout for more info.



REDISCOVER JESUS FOR LENT

Have you picked up the Rediscover Jesus book yet? Many parishioners have shared how excited they are about the book. Want more? Sign up for a 40-day spiritual journey using Rediscover Jesus. Each day you'll receive an email with a short video sharing simple ways to bring Jesus into your everyday life. Sign up at: DynamicCatholic.com/Lent

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

February 21, 2016

"I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession."

(GENESIS 15:7)

Just as the Lord gave Abraham, Moses and the Israelites a land to possess, He has also given each of us a home. Whether our home is grand or humble, it is a gift from God. Abraham prepared a great sacrifice to the Lord in gratitude for the home God gave him. How do we show our gratitude to God for the home He has given us? Do we make a sacrifice of any kind? Do we return any of our finances to God, investing equally in our eternal home just as we invest in our earthly home?

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Grace, Mercy Peace

This weekend our parishioners will have the opportunity to contribute to the 2015 Bishop's Annual Appeal during our In-Pew campaign. The appeal supports more than 25 ministries serving over 500,000 Catholics in the four counties of the Diocese of Metuchen. If you have yet to make a gift, please prayerfully consider making a pledge by completing the information on the envelopes provided. If you have already contributed, thank you.

Parish Contact Information

Church Center (weekend use) 908-832-6343

Office Center 908-832-2513

Fax 908-832-7618

Email sjn@ccsjn.org

Rev. Abraham Orapankal Pastor

Email abraham@ccsjn.org

Earl Roberts Deacon

Email earlr1@verizon.net

Sharon Janks Pastoral Administrator

Email sjanks@ccsjn.org

France Kennedy Pastoral Associate

Email fkennedy@ccsjn.org

Kerri Caldaro Financial Administrator

Email kcaldaro@ccsjn.org

Wayne Infusino Maintenance

Religious Education 908-832-2162

Renee Ciszewski, Director of Religious Education

Email renee@ccsjn.org

Jo Ann Jarvis Office of Catechesis

Email jjarvis@ccsjn.org

Social Ministry socialministry@ccsjn.org

Anne Germino and Greg Wilson

Bulletin bulletin@ccsjn.org

Youth Ministry sjnygroup@gmail.com

Christian Formation - Catechesis

3RD GRADE CLASS MASS



Please join us for our next Class Mass on Sunday, February 21, 2016, at 10:30 a.m. celebrated with the 3rd Grade students.

CPIII DAY OF REFLECTION PARENT PLANNING MEETING

Wednesday, March 2, 7:00 p.m.

At least one parent of each Confirmation Candidate should attend this parent planning meeting in the Church Center. The purpose of this meeting is to organize and brainstorm activities for the CPIII Day of Reflection. Please refer to the mailing you received to prepare for this meeting.



SOUP & STATIONS FRIDAYS DURING LENT

**Meatless Soup Supper,
6 p.m.
Stations of the Cross,
7 p.m.
Church Center**

Please join us for a simple meal of soup followed by the Stations of the Cross, as we embark on our Lenten journey together in prayer and fellowship. Soup, bread, salad and drinks will be provided by our ministries; however, you are welcome to bring a meatless soup to share. R.S.V.P. sjn@ccsjn.org if you plan to attend.

A different Ministry will be providing the food for each week in Lent. We would like to thank Social Ministry for hosting this Friday, Feb 26th.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Thanks to all who have responded both to our Easter Food Drive and our request to find employment for two of our needy.

We will not be distributing up-dated hand-outs until the Masses on the 27th and 28th of February. Please place all foods and groceries in the basket located at the Social Ministry station in the Narthex. Thanks again!



HUNGERING FOR THE JOURNEY

"A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just."
Pope Francis

Join our parish community—and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Throughout Lent we will pray, fast, learn and give as a way to reach out in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world. Rice Bowl packets are available in the Narthex and have been distributed at all catechetical gatherings. Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DIOCESAN SPELLING BEE

The students in the eighth grade religious education program will participate in the annual Metuchen Diocesan Spelling Bee, sponsored by the St. Joseph Council, Knights of Columbus. **The event will begin at 5:30PM on Sunday February 21 in the Church Center.** Pizza and refreshments will be served after the spelling bee.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Thanks to everyone who participated in our youth's Souper Bowl of Caring Weekend! Our teens collected \$375, 75 cans of soup and \$30 in gift cards. The 8th grade students made 60 Bags of Love for SHIP (Samaritan Homeless Interim Program), plus 20 extra sandwiches. The 7th grade packed 100 utensil kits for SHIP's mobile soup kitchen. In addition, St. John's holiday food baskets and the Open Cupboard food pantry will also benefit from this collection. Thank you!

Social Ministry

"LET US BE MERCIFUL AS MINISTERS IN THIS YEAR OF MERCY"

Two of our needy clients have employment needs and we have posted details in the Narthex. We will make copies of these notices and place them in the Narthex so that you can take one as a reminder. Keep in mind that many of those that seek help need help more than once and since we maintain contact between food drives we do get input from them as to how they may or may not be progressing. We have been assisting Rich now for a few years by providing food, emergency financial help and guidance in the direction of agencies that can help him. Reading the notices you will find that his work is such that he will end up at a low pay scale, but he is willing to provide help cleaning out basements attics, gardening etc. If you could use this kind of help, you may be blessed with getting help for less and will definitely be blessed by God for performing this Corporal Work of Mercy. Please consider David also, particularly if you are aware of a position that requires mechanical skills. Contact Greg at socialministry@ccsjn.org for further information. Continue to use your shopping lists for our Easter Food Drive and we will have more available to hand out after Masses this weekend and the next. Thanks for showing Mercy through your good works.

DO YOU KNOW THESE FACTS ABOUT LENT?

- **Is Lent actually forty days long?** Technically, no. According to the *General Norms*, "Lent runs from Ash Wednesday until the Mass of the Lord's Supper, exclusive" (*General Norms* 28). This means Lent ends at the beginning of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. Count it as you will, that's more than forty days. Therefore, the number forty in traditional hymns such as "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" is only an approximation.
- **Are Sundays excluded from Lent?** No. The definition of what days are included in Lent is given above, in *General Norms* 28. No exception is made for Sundays. Indeed, the *General Norms* go on to specifically name the Sundays of the period as belonging to the season: "The Sundays of this season are called the First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent. The Sixth Sunday, which marks the beginning of Holy Week, is called Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)" (*General Norms* 30).
- Some people customarily allow themselves on Sunday to have things they have voluntarily given up for Lent, but since these forms of self-denial were voluntarily assumed anyway, a person is not under an obligation to practice them on Sunday (or any other specific day of the week).
- **Why is the season called Lent?** *Lent* is the Old English word for *spring*. In almost all other languages, Lent's name is a derivative of the Latin term *quadragesima* or "the forty days."
- **Why is Lent approximately forty days long?** In the Bible, forty days is a traditional number of discipline, devotion, and preparation. Moses stayed on the mountain of God forty days (Ex. 24:18, 34:28). The spies were in the land forty days (Num. 13:25). Elijah traveled forty days before he reached the cave where he had his vision (1 Kgs. 19:8). Nineveh was given forty days to repent (Jonah 3:4). And, most significantly for our Lenten observance, Jesus spent forty days in wilderness praying and fasting prior to undertaking his ministry (Matt. 4:2). Thus it is fitting for Christians to imitate him with a forty-day period of prayer and fasting to prepare to celebrate the climax of Christ's ministry, Good Friday (the day of the crucifixion) and Easter Sunday (the day of the Resurrection).

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, "For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sinning" [Heb. 4:15]. By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert" (CCC 540).

MERCY QUOTE FROM POPE FRANCIS

God's patience has to call forth in us the courage to return to Him, however many mistakes and sins there may be in our life. ... It is there, in the wounds of Jesus, that we are truly secure; there we encounter the boundless love of His heart. Thomas understood this. Saint Bernard goes on to ask: But what can I count on? My own merits? No, "My merit is God's mercy. I am by no means lacking merits as long as He is rich in mercy. If the mercies of the Lord are manifold, I too will abound in merits." This is important: the courage to trust in Jesus' mercy, to trust in His patience, to seek refuge always in the wounds of His love.

RITE OF ELECTION

I attended the Rite of Election at the Cathedral on Sunday with Mark Schenk and Nancy Bauernfeind and their sponsors, Beth and Steve. It is a special event marking the decision of those from our parish who are joining the Catholic faith. We were joined by people from every parish in the diocese – over 300 children, young adults and adults of all ages along with their sponsors and families to acknowledge this point in their faith journey. It was impressive to realize that all these people are joining the faith and this is happening not just in our parish and our diocese but all over the world. It was wonderful to pray for them as they seek a deeper relationship with God. Please keep Nancy and Mark and all the catechumen in your prayers this lent.



THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: EXPERIENCING GOD'S MERCY

Presenter: Rev. Thomas Walsh

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.

Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness. (Misericordiae Vultus, 2)

Reconciliation is a sacrament of healing, not judgment, for an increasingly wounded world. How does our human understanding of divine forgiveness need to be re-imagined in order for us to truly celebrate the fidelity and mercy of a loving God? All are invited to this free event at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, sponsored by the Dept. of Formation & Leadership.

DISCOVER ST. JOHN'S

Are you new to St. John's? Please join us for a Discover luncheon for new parishioners to find out more about the parish. Please contact France at 908-832-2513 or fkennedy@ccsjn.org to respond and for dates.

MEN'S SPIRITUALITY BREAKFAST

This Saturday, February 27th at 7:00 am in the Office Center.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Tues., Feb. 23 J. Santoro
Wed., Feb. 24 D. Zigmantanis

Store Cards

Feb. 20 & Feb. 21

5:30 p.m. C. Crescenti
8:00 a.m. K. Dabrowski
10:30 a.m. R. DeStefano

Feb. 27 & Feb. 28

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

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of 2/21 J. Sieber
Week of 2/18 C. Fortenbacher

Church Center Cleaning

February 19 Team A
February 26 Team B

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Virgilio Alves
Eugene Cifranic
Jean Crickenberger
John D'Almeida
Vicky Davids
Tino DeSantis
Sophia DeVita
Neil Ercolano
Paul Ferri
Gordon Furlong
Sophie Geist
Fred Holub
Lou Livoti
Aurora Mastro
Dick McCall
Jan McLeavey
Christine Meyer
Fred Moser
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
Doris Semper
Theodore Semper
Noah Skinner
Michael Slivka
Julie Suplee
Madeline S. Vigilanti
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

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT: TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS

MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCE: Fred Craddock tells a wonderful story about a young minister, newly graduated from seminary, serving his very first church. He gets a call telling him that a church member, elderly woman who has just given her life to the church, is in the hospital. She's so weak she can't even get up out of bed, and the doctors don't hold much hope for her recovery. Would he go up and visit? Well, of course he will and he does. All the way to the hospital he's thinking about what he will say to this Christian lady, what words of comfort he can give her to prepare her for her eminent death. He arrives at the hospital, goes up to her room for the visit. He sits and talks with her a few minutes, just small talk really, nothing earth shattering. When he makes ready to leave, he asks if she would like him to have prayer with her. She answers, "Yes, of course. That's why I wanted you to come." He then asks politely, "And what exactly would you like me to pray for?" "Why, I want you to pray that God will heal me," she answers in a surprised tone of voice. Haltingly, fumbling over the words, he prays just as she wanted, that God will heal her, even though he's not really sure that can happen. When he says the "Amen" at the end of the prayer, the woman says, "You know, I think it worked! I think I'm healed!" And she gets out of the bed and begins to run up and down the hallway of the hospital, shouting, "Praise God! I'm healed! Praise God! I'm healed!" Meanwhile, the young minister, in a stupor, stumbles to the stairwell, walks down five flights of stairs, makes his way to the parking lot and somehow manages to find his car. As he fumbles to get his keys out of his pocket, he looks Heavenward and says, "Don't You ever do that to me again!" He had a mountain-top moment, but he didn't know what to do with it! Life is like that. Profound moments just fall in our lap and we're not prepared; we are caught off guard and unsure what to do with them. (Johnny Dean, Sermon on Matthew 17:1-9: *Reality Check*)



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



MODERN DAY TEMPTATION: Struggling to make ends meet on a first-call salary, the Minister of a church angrily confronted his wife who bought a \$250 dress: "How could you do this?!" "I was outside the store looking at the dress in the window, and then I found myself trying it on," she explained. "It was like Satan was whispering in my ear, 'You look fabulous in that dress. Buy it!'" "Well," the Minister replied, "You know how I deal with that kind of temptation. I say, 'Get behind me, Satan!'" "I did," replied his wife, "but then Satan said, 'It looks fabulous from back here, too!'" So I bought it!

SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER

A Message from Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski : *Catholics are not obliged to follow the precept to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation when weather conditions could make roads, sidewalks, and parking lots unsafe. When judging whether travelling could be dangerous, one should use common sense and always err on the side of caution. When unable to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist, the faithful still are encouraged to observe the Day of the Lord (Sunday). A practical approach may be to read and reflect on the Gospel of the day and, if living with others, you may discuss ways the Gospel message can be lived out in your own household, the Domestic Church. You may also consider praying together the Responsorial Psalm of the Day.*



Like us on Facebook! Find us as "St. John Neumann RC Church, Califon NJ" or follow the link from the home page of our website at www.ccsjn.org

Diocesan News

LAST WEEK'S FIRST LENTEN SOUP & STATIONS

Thank you to all who donated food and came out for the first Lenten Soup n' Stations of the Cross for 2016!! It was wonderful and hopefully it will grow from here.

We had about 14 who attended and then about 4 that arrived later just for Stations. The food was delicious and, of course, the company even better! If you did not make it, you missed.....New England Clam Chowder, Pasta Fagioli, Corn Chowder, Minestrone, Black Bean Soup, a variety of breads, including home-made breads and a wonderful salad. Thanks to Wayne, who arranged our tables and space. Set up was simple and clean up was a breeze, thanks to everyone.

The Stations of the Cross were a prayerful and moving experience, thanks to the participants, Earl, who led the Stations, and Music Ministry, which provided both accompaniment (thanks to Jim King) and voices for "Were You There", as we travelled through the Stations. I have to admit that I had never experienced the Stations inside the church and am very pleased that this got me to attend! If you had to miss this one, be sure to go to another one of the scheduled Soup n' Stations!

Have a happy and transformative Lent!

DINNER AND AUCTION

AUCTION

Each year the first weekend in June we hold our Grand Auction, our major fundraiser and community event. The Auction helps to cover our parish expenses keeping us in stable financial position. Everyone in the parish is involved. We have people who donate items, solicitors who ask businesses they frequent for donations, the committee who organize and run the event, the adult and kids who work the event. Then there is everyone who buys a raffle ticket for the Feb 5 or the 50/50 raffle, parishioners and friends who come to the dinner dance and all the bidders and buyers who bring the money. We need parishioners participating in every piece to make it a success. Come join us. Contact France or Sharon at the office and tell us how you will be involved. Plans for another great event are already underway – call or email – 832-2513, auktion@ccsjn.org



ACQUIRE THE FIRE

Acquire the Fire, the combined young adult group of Our Lady of Lourdes and St John Neumann, will be attending the young adult Seekers Retreat on Sunday, Feb 21st from 2-7 PM at the Loyola Jesuit Center (161 James St Morristown, NJ). The retreat will consist of a talk, small groups, personal reflection, Mass and dinner. If you're looking to getting away and refocusing on God, this is a great opportunity. There is a \$10 free will offering suggested. For more information visit <http://www.diometuchen.org/seekers>. Save the date for our next meeting on Mar 6th at 7 PM in Old Church Hall of Our Lady of Lourdes (390 County Rd 523 Whitehouse Station, NJ). To join the list serve or to find out more information about our events, email Susan at acquirethefire@ollwhs.org.

LIFE CHOICES BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN THANK YOU

Thank you for being part of our "baby bottle" celebration! The program was very successful, the baby bottles in your Parish collected \$1,666.77. I want to thank you so very much for your generous gift to Life Choices, Inc. Because people like you care about the families that we serve; we have the awesome joy of holding on our own arms precious little children who otherwise would not have been born! Again, thank you so much for making it possible for us to help so many in need! May the good Lord bless you abundantly!

Joan Fasanello, Director

PRAYER MINISTRY

"...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Phillippians: 4: 6-7



Please join us for the next Communal Prayer Session
Saturday, March 7, 2016,
7:15 – 8:15 PM
Office Center, Upper Room

NEED HELP?

Check out information and links to help with your personal prayer life on our website ccsjn.org. You will find Prayer Ministry under Ministries drop down.



WEEKLY COLLECTION

For February 14, 2016

78 Donors Weekly \$2,454.61

For February 15, 2015

78 Donors Weekly \$2,145.00

SHOP RITE & KINGS CARDS



Thanks to 11 families who purchased Shop Rite and Kings gift cards the last week, totaling **\$1,375.00**. The stores gave us **\$68.75** Cards are available after Mass or at the office weekdays.

MEALS ON WHEELS NEEDS YOUR HELP

Meals on Wheels needs volunteer drivers in your neighborhood. Many of our retired drivers are retired and during the winter head south. Please consider helping homebound seniors enjoy a hot noontime meal. The commitment to drive is only once per month during a weekday and will only take an hour or two. All new drivers are given an orientation and will be provided printed directions and maps. Call 908-284-0735 or visit our website mowih.org. Help us, help others. Many Thanks.



CatholicMatch
New Jersey

CatholicMatch.com/dateNJ

Coughlin Funeral Home

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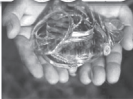
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