

The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

www.ccsjn.org

March 13, 2016

Volume 34, Number 11



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 RobertsDeacon

Mailing Address:

PO Box 455
Califon, NJ 07830

Office Center:

398 County Route 513
Califon, NJ
908-832-2513
908-832-7618 fax
www.ccsjn.org

Worshipping at:

398 County Road 513
(Church Center)

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

Worshipping at:

390 County Road 513
(Neumann Residence)

Check the bulletin for any changes

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday7:00 a.m.
Friday7:00 a.m.

Reconciliation:

Saturday..... 5:00-5:25 p.m.
Or anytime by appointment.

This Week at Saint John's

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, March 15

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Friday, March 18

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Saturday, March 19

5:30 p.m. Michael McMahon, req.
St. John Neumann

Sunday, March 20

8:00 a.m. Marianne Bennett, req.
Dennis & Debbie Kelemen
10:30 a.m. Mildred McCormick, req.
St. John Neumann



KEEPING WATCH

We will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday at 8:00 p.m. Please join us for this special Mass. Afterwards you are invited to stay for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Seton Room. Adoration will be ongoing until midnight.

Mass Schedule—March 19/20

Saturday	Youth Mass	5:30 p.m.
Celebrant	Fr. Abraham Orapankal	
Reader (1)	Youth Mass Reader	
Reader (2)	Needed	
Altar Server	Youth Mass Altar Server	
Ministers of the Eucharist	Mary D'Avella	
	Lyle Garcia, 1 Needed	
Sunday		8:00 a.m.
Celebrant	Fr. Abraham Orapankal	
Reader (1)	Chris Bitters	
Reader (2)	Jim Murray	
Altar Server	Mastro Family	
Ministers of the Eucharist	Barbara Gates	
	Dorothy Sima, Joe Sima	
Sunday		10:30 a.m.
Celebrant	Fr. Abraham Orapankal	
Reader (1)	Joan McNamara	
Reader (2)	Paul Gagen	
Altar Server	Souza Family	
Music Eucharistic Minister	Anthony DeStefano	
Ministers of the Eucharist	Shirley Pojedinec, Gloria Cucchiara	
	Mark Brisson, Sheena Carew, Debbie Kelemen	
Gift Bearers	The Kuhn Family	

Liturgical Ministers - If you have not volunteered to serve for Holy Week - please check the schedule and sign up for the service you are attending. Thank you.

Parish Calendar

Sunday, March 13 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Easter Flower Offering

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Mass - Welcome (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy (Narthex)

Monday, March 14 - Weekday

10:00 a.m. S.H.I.P. (Office and Church Center Kitchens)
6:00 p.m. K-5 Monthly Catechesis (Church Center/Seton Rm)
7:30 p.m. Pastoral Council (Upper Room)

Tuesday, March 15 - Weekday

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
11:00 a.m. Faith Group (Church Loft)
7:00 p.m. Property Management Meeting (Drexel Room)
7:00 p.m. Catholic Heart Work Camp Mtg. (Church Center)
7:00 p.m. Faith Group (Neumann Residence)
7:30 p.m. Faith Group (Houses)
7:30 p.m. R.C.I.A. (Upper Room)

Wednesday, March 16 - Weekday

10:30 a.m. Faith Group (Church Loft)
6:00 p.m. Faith Group (Office Center Kitchen)
7:00 p.m. Community Reconciliation (Church Center)
followed by Individual Reconciliation (RR)
7:00 p.m. Bereavement Session (Upper Room)
7:30 p.m. Book Club (Seton Room)
7:30 p.m. Faith Group (Drexel Room)

Thursday, March 17 - Saint Patrick, Bishop

2:00 p.m. Set up boxes for Food Pack up (Church Center)
7:30 p.m. Music/Bells (Church Center)

Friday, March 18 - Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)
6:00 p.m. Soup Supper (provided by Pastoral Council)
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross (Church Center)
7:45 p.m. Food Pack up (Church Center and Kitchen)

Saturday, March 19 - Saint Joseph/Easter Flower Pickup

8:00 a.m. Easter Food Deliveries (Church Center)
11:00 a.m. Communal Prayer (Upper Room)
3:30 p.m. 1st Eucharist Session (Church Center)
5:30 p.m. Palm Procession and Youth Mass (Church Center)
6:30 p.m. Youth Night (Church Center)

Sunday, March 20 - Palm Sunday/Diocesan Retired Clergy / Easter Flower Order Pickup

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
9:00 a.m. K-6 Catechesis (Church and Office Center)
10:30 a.m. Mass - Bell Choir (Church Center)
11:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt (Church Center Grounds)
1:00 p.m. Memorial Service - Walter Ader (Church Center)
6:00 p.m. Jr. High Catechesis (Church Center)

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK....

Dear Friends,

We have a new Bishop!

The official announcement was made last Tuesday at St. John Neumann Pastoral Centre in Piscataway. Bishop-Elect James F. Checchio was appointed as the fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen by Pope Francis. I was privileged to be present at this historic announcement. The Bishop-elect is a priest of the Diocese of Camden who has served as a parochial vicar, diocesan administrator and for the past ten years as Rector of the Pontifical North American College, is a man of many talents. His love of God, the priesthood, and of the people he serves will sustain him as chief shepherd for the people of the Diocese of Metuchen.

This is a very happy news for all of us as we welcome our new chief shepherd. As we thank Bishop Paul Bootkoski for his 14 years of leading the People of God of Metuchen, we offer our loyalty and cooperation to Bishop Elect Checchio as he takes over the rein on May 3 when he will be consecrated as a bishop. Bishop Paul, who will continue as bishop till May, introduced the new bishop and said: *"Bishop-elect Checchio, on behalf of the Diocese of Metuchen, welcome home. We look forward to getting to know you better in the coming days, and we look forward to your installation on May 3rd. As you assume your new role and take on new responsibilities, please be assured of our continued prayers for you."*

Hearty congratulations and prayerful wishes to you dear Bishop-elect James Checchio from all of us here at the Catholic Community of St. John Neumann.

Visit the diocesan website for more info: www.diometuchen.org

Happy Feast of St. Patrick,
Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



VETERAN DONATIONS

We are now accepting donations for the Veterans at VHN for the April 9th drop off date. We accept furniture (smaller scale to fit in apartments) and some kitchen items. These items must be approved and not be "projects." We also need drivers, trucks and movers. We have a small list of volunteers we will be calling, but can always use more for this or future dates. Call or text - Sandra (908.507.2378) or Suzanne (908.581.1869) to donate or can volunteer to help-thanks!

**Community Reconciliation
followed by
Individual Confessions
is this Wednesday,
March 16th at 7:00 p.m.**

ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT



Join the fun at our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, March 20th, after the 10:30 Mass! There will be 'hidden' eggs for ages 1-10. Bring your baskets if you have them—but we will have bags available if you forget. Be prepared for weather—dress for outside temperature and wet grass! We will have separate hunting grounds to accommodate the ages.

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



JOIN THE PILGRIMAGE TO ST. JOHN NEUMANN SHRINE PHILADELPHIA

Saturday, April 9th, 2016

In announcing the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis called Catholics to embark on "a journey that starts with a spiritual conversion." Bishop Bootkoski adds, "there are many simple but impactful ways to foster this inner conversion," including "a pilgrimage to a shrine or significant place." In that spirit, we would like to invite all parishioners to join the Confirmandi on their annual pilgrimage to the recently renovated St. John Neumann Shrine in Philadelphia on April 9th. The tour includes an inspirational talk and a film, a visit to the shrine, upper church (St. Peter the Apostle) and museum. There is no charge for this tour, only free will donations to the shrine if you are so inclined. If are traveling on your own, you can meet our group at the shrine (1019 North Fifth Street, Philadelphia, PA) no later than 1:30 p.m. that day. If you are interested in carpooling from the church parking lot, please contact Jo Ann Jarvis at 832-2162 or jjarvis@ccsjn.org. We are so fortunate to have the shrine of our parish's patron saint nearby; we hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to join us on this pilgrimage!



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 Ader, Catherine Curtis, Emily Engallena, Patty D'Agastino, Betty Murnane, and John Papp.**

Deceased: **Walter Ader**, husband of Sally (Graham) Ader, **Catherine Curtis**, mother of Willie Curtis, **Emily Engallena**, aunt of Mary Cangelosi, **Patty D'Agastino**, friend of the Brynildsens, **Betty Murnane**, parishioner, **John Papp**, friend of the Klawunn family, . May they find peace and comfort in the embrace of the Lord and may their families find strength in the Lord and comfort and support from family and friends.

Christian Formation - Catechesis

MONTHLY FAMILY

CATECHESIS



**Monday March 14
6PM Church Center**

Adult formation will be Session Two of Jeff Cavins Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible. If you have not picked up your workbooks, please pick them up in the Seton Room.

CLASS MASS GRADE 3 AND GRADE 5



Thank you to all the third grade students and fifth grade students who enthusiastically participated in the celebration of Mass on Sunday. It is wonderful to watch the students grow in faith as they become active member of the parish community.

SPRING GIVING TREE



Watch for the Spring Giving Tree to bloom in the narthex soon! We will once again be supporting: **Safe in Hunterdon**, which provides shelter for women and their children who suffer from abuse; the **Center for Great Expectations**, which assists homeless pregnant women throughout their pregnancies; and the **Samaritan Homeless Interim Program**, which offers a free meal three times a week to anyone who is hungry without having to justify their need. Please help spread Easter joy to those who benefit from these three organizations by being generous in your support.

SHIP'S GALLEY SOUP KITCHEN



Our next service to the SHIP's Galley Soup Kitchen in Somerville is Monday, March 14 from 11am-2pm. If you can provide a casserole or would like to come and help serve, contact Anne Germino at socialministry@ccsjn.org.



FIRST EUCHARIST CLASSES

Sat., March 19, 3:30 p.m., Church Center

The next session for the First Eucharist students will be on Saturday, March 19, at 3:30 p.m. in the Church Center.



HUNGERING FOR THE JOURNEY

"God shows himself ever rich in mercy, ever ready to treat his people with deep tenderness and compassion."

Pope Francis, Lenten Message 2016

As we journey through Lent, we continue to pray, fast, learn and give as a way to reach out in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world by participating in CRS Rice Bowl. Rice Bowls can be returned at any catechetical gathering in March or in the box that will be in the narthex the weekend of Palm Sunday. Thank you for your continued participation! Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PARENT MEETING



Please join Fr. Abraham and Renee Ciszewski as they discuss with you the direction of our Religious Education Program at St. John's and how we need to Grow In Faith Together in the future. Fr. Abraham requests that all K-5th Grade Religious Education Parents and all our Catechists to attend one of the following parent meetings in the church center:

Sunday, April 10th - 11:30 a.m. OR Monday, April 11th - 7 p.m.

This is a very important meeting that will affect us all positively. Refreshments and babysitting will be provided. **Please let us know if you will require childcare (832-2162) or by email renee@ccsjn.org**



LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please join our CPIII class as they enact the Living Stations of the Cross, Good Friday, March 25, at 1:00 p.m., on the Church grounds.

Social Ministry



GARDEN RAISED BED INSTALLATION

Installation of the raised beds in the new Community Garden at St. John's will begin on Saturday, April 2. Boy Scout James Weber presented the project last weekend at all the Masses. Thank you to all who so generously supported James as he completes this work to earn the Eagle Scout Rank. Even if you missed the presentation, you can still help. Join us on April 2 to install the beds (details to follow) or you can make a contribution and drop it off at the Church Center Office. Make checks payable to "Project Earth Garden". Thanks for your support.



EASTER FOOD DRIVE

This weekend wraps up our food drive for Easter and unfortunately, we are short on quite a few items. Most importantly, we need either **16 small Hams, Cornish Hens or Jenny O Turkey Breasts and 9 large Hams or Turkeys.**

We also need the following items:

fruit juice	cooking oil	salad dressing	ketchup	vinegar
jelly	flour	salt & pepper	dish soap	syrup
toilet paper	shampoo	pancake mix	instant potato mix	

Please help us by bringing in all of these products by Wednesday of this week, and leaving them at either the Church or the Office Center. Thank you for your almsgiving during this Lenten Season. Sign-Up sheets for Pack Up and Delivery are at the Social Ministry Station in the Narthex.

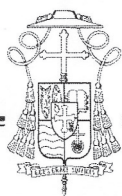
Parish News

2016 EASTER & HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- Wed. March 16 - 7:00pm Community Reconciliation followed by Individual Confessions (Church Center)
- Sat. March 19 - 5:30pm **Blessing of Palms** Procession (Portico) Mass (Church Center)
- Sun. March 20 - **Passion/Palm Sunday** (Distribution of Palms) (Church Center)
8:00am Mass
10:30am Mass
- Mon. March 21 - 7:30pm Chrism Mass (Cathedral-Metuchen)
- Tues. March 22 - 7:00am Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)

SACRED TRIDUUM

- Thurs. March 24 - **Holy Thursday**
8:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (Church Center)
9:30pm-12:00am **"Keeping Watch"** (Seton Room)
- Fri. March 25 - **Good Friday** Passion and Death of the Lord
1:00pm Living Stations of the Cross (Grounds)
8:00pm Service (Church Center)
- Sat. March 26 - **Holy Saturday**
NO 5:30pm MASS
8:00pm Easter Vigil - (Church Center)
- Sun. March 27 - **Easter Sunday**
8:00am Mass (Church Center)
10:30am Mass (Church Center)



DIocese of METUCHEN

Office of the Bishop

March 13, 2016

Re: Annual Collection for our Retired Diocesan Priests
Weekend - March 19/20, 2016

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

The Diocese of Metuchen currently has 28 retired diocesan priests. Just imagine how many people have heard them preach and teach over the years, and how many more have been the recipients of their sacramental and pastoral care. In their combined years of service, these men have ministered to literally hundreds of thousands of people.

Next weekend, March 19-20, the faithful of our diocese will have the opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the life-long dedication of these men by responding to the **Annual Collection for our Retired Diocesan Priests**. This collection assists our elderly priests by helping to provide them with a monthly pension. It also subsidizes the operation of the Maria Regina Residence where 14 of our retired priests are currently living.

Your generous response to next week's special collection is a practical way to convey your personal appreciation to our retired priests for their many years of service. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ Paul G. Bootkoski

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

The St. John Neumann Pastoral Center • P.O. Box 191 • Metuchen, New Jersey 08840-0191 • (732) 562-1990



IN ST. PATRICK'S OWN WORDS

Beyond the legends and parades and merrymaking, read what St. Patrick wrote about his own zeal and perseverance for preaching the Gospel!

"...so that I might come to the Irish people to preach the Gospel and endure insults from unbelievers; that I might hear scandal of my travels, and endure man persecutions to the extent of prison; and so that I might give up my free birthright for the advantage of others, and if I should be worthy, I am ready to give even my life without hesitation; and most willingly for His name. And I choose to devote it to him even unto death, if God grant it to me. ...Therefore, indeed, I cannot keep silent, nor would it be proper, so many favours and graces has the Lord deigned to bestow on me in the land of my captivity. For after chastisement from God, and recognizing him, our way to repay him is to exalt him, and confess his wonders before every nation under heaven."

(The Confession of St. Patrick, art 3, 37)



SOUP & STATIONS FRIDAYS DURING LENT

Soup Supper, 6 p.m. and Stations of the Cross, 7 p.m. (Church)

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.

Thanks to the Liturgical Ministries and Connxions Ministry who provided the food for the last 2 Fridays. We invite everyone to join us this Friday, March 18th and to thank the Pastoral Council in advance for hosting.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

For March 6, 2016

92 Donors Weekly.....\$4,797.73
57 Donors Yellow Brick\$1,996.00

For March 8, 2015

97 Donors Weekly.....\$5,049.00
10 Donors Yellow Brick Rd.....\$430.00

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Virgilio Alves
Eugene Cifranic
Bill & Ginny Ciszewski
Jean Crickenberger
John D'Almeida
Vicky Davids
Tino DeSantis
Sophia DeVita
Cookie DeVito
Neil Ercolano
Paul Ferri
Gordon Furlong
Sophie Geist
Fred Holub
Barbara Jiroushek
Lou Livoti
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
Larry Riley
Anne & Joe Sacco
Theodore Semper
Noah Skinner
Michael Slivka
Julie Suplee
Madeline S. Vigilanti
William Weimer
Josh Wilkes
Caden Zane
Jill Zane
Joey Zieba

PRAYER MINISTRY

"Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts."
Mother Teresa



Please join us for the next
Communal Prayer Session
Saturday, March 19, 2016
11:00 – 12:00 Noon
Office Center, Upper Room

WHY CHURCH PROMOTES "CONFESSION" PART 2

Last week we saw the first two of the 10 Benefits of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Here are the rest (compiled by Sr. Mary Ann Walsh, Director of Media Relations at the USCCB):

3. A balm for the desire for revenge. When you have been forgiven you can forgive others. If the perfect Jesus forgives me, who am I to want to avenge the slights in my life. Think: "Why did they promote him over me?" or "Mom played favorites!"
4. Low cost therapy. It's free, which makes it cheaper than a psychiatrist for dealing with guilt.
5. Forced time to think. Socrates said that the unexamined life is not worth living. To examine our lives and acknowledge failings marks the first step of making things right with God, others and ourselves. Life can be more worth living when you ponder the meaning of your own life.
6. Contribution toward world peace. Gaudium et Spes, the Second Vatican Council's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, said that the imbalances in the world that lead to war and tensions "are linked with that more basic imbalance which is rooted in the heart of man." Peace of soul leads to peace of heart leads to peace beyond oneself.
7. A better neighborhood. Confession leaves you feeling good about yourself, thereby cutting back the inclination to road rage and aggressive shopping cart driving. With the grace of the sacrament you're energized to, as Jesus said to the woman caught in adultery, "go and sin no more."
8. Realistic self-perception. Confession helps overcome arrogance when you have to admit you're as much of a sinner as anyone else. It helps build tolerance for others' perceived shortcomings.
9. One more benefit of being Catholic. There are lots of benefits, including a sense of community, liturgical rites to help us encounter God in prayer, and the wonderful sense of humanity exemplified in the saints, from Mary, the loving Mother of God, to Augustine, the exasperating son of Monica. The sacrament that leads us to inner peace is among the greatest boons.
10. Closeness to God. Confession helps you realize that you have a close connection to God and receive his grace through the sacraments. What can be better than knowing God's on your team, or, to be less arrogant about it, that you are on God's.

CHRISM MASS

Monday, March 21, 2015—Cathedral, Metuchen



On Monday, March 21, 2015 Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski will celebrate the Chrism Mass with the priests of the Diocese. At this Mass, the Bishop will bless the Holy Oils which each parish receives for the rites of anointing. Saint Ambrose [340-397] began this custom - which we now call the Chrism Mass - in his Cathedral in Milan. The Holy Oils, which are used to sanctify the Faithful, have been channels of holiness for centuries! The **Oil of Catechumens** is used to anoint the chest of infants and hands of adults before their Baptism; the **Oil of the Sick** is used on the forehead and hands of the infirm in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick; and **Sacred Chrism** is used to anoint the head of the newly baptized, the foreheads of confirmandi, the hands of a priest at his ordination, the head of the a bishop at his ordination, and the altar and walls of new churches. At the Mass, all priests make a **Renewal of Commitment to Priestly Service**, recommitting themselves to their Bishop and to their ministry to God and His People; the Bishop and all Priests then ask the people for a pledge of their prayerful support. All are strongly encouraged to join in the ancient, grace-filled Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen at 7:30 p.m.

Our parishioner Jo Ann Jarvis will attend this Mass to receive the Holy Oils for our Parish which will be presented here at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.

FIFTH SUNDAY REFLECTION: "A Person with Cancer"

Let the one who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." John 8: 1-11

A doctor and his wife are having dinner when they run into some friends. In the course of the conversation, the friends ask, "So when are you going back to Italy?" There is an awkward pause. The doctor's wife replies, "We changed our plans for medical reasons." The other wife looks at the doctor; the other husband studies his hands. Goodbyes are hurriedly exchange. The medical reason: the doctor has cancer. They have every reason to be optimistic; the cancer was caught early. But the couple is reticent to say much to anyone, because he does not want to be labelled as a Person With Cancer. He writes:

"A Person With Cancer is old or pitiful. We [urge] him or her to fight . . . but a Person With Cancer is On the Way Out. Once your aunt or colleague becomes one, you have to negotiate the visits and flowers and greeting cards and (gulp!) chance encounters. Once she's squared away at a safe distance, breathe a sigh of relief. For now. . . "[But] I've learned to look deeper." "I am still getting my head straight about how to discuss my condition with people who know I'm a Person With Treated Cancer . . . I pay more attention to the certainty that all of us - from those who once had cancer to those who never will - will age, become ill, and die. We're all in this together. With that truth in mind, perhaps we can avoid those weird silences if we accept, and offer, acknowledgement of our common transience."

We often define people by labels and then let those labels dictate how we approach - or avoid - others. The woman in today's Gospel is defined by her sin; the doctor fears being defined by his illness. Jesus challenges us to look beyond the failure, look beyond the illness, look beyond whatever label we tag someone with and see, instead, a human being: a human being like we are in all of our own failures and brokenness and hurts - and not take up sharp stones to cast but an open hand to help, not because we're better or healthier but precisely because we're NOT.

AUCTION

We are starting our auction solicitation. We are happy to accept donations of items or gift certificates from parishioners and businesses. If you have some idea but are unsure please contact France to discuss. The planning and preparations are already underway and we would love to have you join us for the fun we have in creating our wonderful auction, call or email – 832-2513, auction@ccsjn.org to participate.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR . . .

Second annual Diocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities Stations of the Cross will be held on March 19, 3 pm, at St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ. Fellowship and light refreshments will follow Stations of the Cross. Please RSVP by calling the Office for Persons with Disabilities at (732) 765-6432 or by emailing catholicswithdisabilities@gmail.com.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY

Irish jokes for St. Patrick's Day!

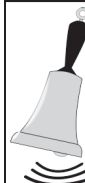


An Irishman was flustered not being able to find a parking space in a large mall's parking lot. He prayed: "Lord, I can't stand this. If you open a space up for me, I swear I'll give up drinking me whiskey, and I promise to go to church every Sunday." Suddenly, the clouds parted and the sun shone on an empty parking spot. Without hesitation, the man said, "Never mind, I found one."

Gallagher opened the morning newspaper and was dumbfounded to read in the obituary column that he had died. He quickly phoned his best friend Finney. "Did you see the paper?" asked Gallagher. "They say I died!!" "Yes, I saw it!" replied Finney in a trembling voice, and asked: "Where are you calling from?"

BURY THE DEAD

Last week Father Abraham wrote about the Corporal Works of Mercy. The last one was burying the dead. We don't speak much about dying and funerals. But it is a work of mercy to be with others while they are grieving. We have a small parish, and not that many funerals, but there is a small group of parishioners that are present at funerals. They act as Eucharistic Ministers, greeters, altar servers, and represent the parish for the family who has lost a loved one. We celebrate with families at the baptism of their children, it is also good to be there when someone leaves this life and is born to eternal life. A funeral manifests both the pain and grief of loss as well as the celebrating the person's life. There are other ways we can be present for families, especially as many of our parishioners experience the death of a family member who is not a parishioner of St. John's. If you would like to become part of the consolation ministry please contact France. Very little commitment is needed, and yet a simple act can be so meaningful. How are you extending God's mercy to the world?



BELL CHOIR

The Bell Choir will be joining the Music Ministry at the 10:30 Masses on both Palm Sunday, March 20th and Easter Sunday, March 27.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Wed., March 16	M. D'Avella
Tues., March 22	A. Sawczuk
Wed., March 23	D. Zigmantanis

Store Cards

March 12 & 13

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

March 19 & 20

5:30 p.m.	C. Crescenti
8:00 a.m.	K. Dabrowski
10:30 a.m.	S. Pojedinec

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of 3/13	L. Livoti
Week of 3/20	M. Cangelosi

Church Center Cleaning

March 11	Team D
March 18	Team E



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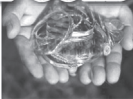
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