

# The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

www.ccsjn.org

April 24, 2016

Volume 34, Number 17



## 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:**

390 County Road 513  
(Neumann Residence)

\*Check the bulletin for any changes\*

### **Weekday Masses:**

Tuesday .....7:00 a.m.  
Friday .....7:00 a.m.

### **Reconciliation:**

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

# This Week at Saint John's

## Mass Intentions

### Tuesday, April 26

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

### Friday, April 29

7:00 a.m. Walter A. Ader, req.  
Sharon and Alan Janks

### Saturday, April 30

5:30 p.m. Peter Ostapczuk, req.  
Kathy Cohen

### Sunday, May 1

8:00 a.m. Marianne Bennett, req.  
Sharon and Alan Janks  
10:30 a.m. Gabriel Fabrega, req  
Anna Giametta



## Parish Calendar

### Sun., April 24 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

#### Mother's Day Intentions

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
9:00 a.m. K-6 Catechesis (Office and Church Centers)  
10:30 a.m. Mass - Welcome (Church Center)  
11:30 a.m. Catechist Brunch (Drexel Room)  
6:00 p.m. Jr. High Catechesis (Church Center)

### Monday, April 25 - Saint Mark, Evangelist

7:00 p.m. Fund Raising Meeting (Office Center Kitchen)  
7:30 p.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word Mtg. (Seton Room)

### Tuesday, April 26 - Easter Weekday

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)  
7:00 p.m. Connxions Meeting (Office Center Kitchen)  
NO R.C.I.A.

### Wednesday, April 27 - Easter Weekday

### Thursday, April 28 - Saint Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr; Saint Louis Grignon de Montfort, Priest

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

### Friday, April 29 - Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

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

### Saturday, April 30 - Saint Pius V, Pope

7:00 a.m. Men's Spirituality Breakfast (Office Center)  
9:00 a.m. Spring Cleanup (Church, Office & Grounds)  
5:30 p.m. Mass (Church Center)

## Mass Schedule—April 30/May 1

### Saturday

5:30 p.m.

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

### Sunday

8:00 a.m.

Celebrant ..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal  
Reader ..... Owen Stanski  
Altar Server ..... Mastro Family  
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Jane Klawunn  
..... Tom Klawunn, Joe Sima

### Sunday

10:30 a.m.

Celebrant ..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal  
Reader ..... David Geerinck  
Altar Server ..... Erz Family  
Music Eucharistic Minister ..... Anita Sawczuk  
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Donna Torczon, Mike Pagliuca  
..... Kathy Kelly Pagliuca, Mary D'Avella, Anita Sawczuk

### Sun., May 1 – Sixth Sunday of Easter / YBR Collection

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
9:00 a.m. K-6 Catechesis (Office & Church Centers)  
9:00 a.m. Living Rosary (Labyrinth)  
10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
11:30 a.m. Blessing of Project Earth Garden (Garden)  
11:45 a.m. Community Garden Sign Up (Garden)  
6:00 p.m. Jr. High Catechesis (Church Center)

Parish Community Meeting has been  
changed from Monday, May 2nd  
to Monday, May 23rd.

### Remembered at Mass



We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharistic: **Cynthia Briggs**, and **Barbara Coyne**.

**Deceased: Cynthia Briggs**, sister of Marion Dabrowski, and **Barbara Coyne**, aunt of Cindy Carroll. 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.

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK....**

Dear Friends,

One unique and endearing quality of our parish is that we are a very giving community. This giving is seen in various ways our parishioners place their time, talent and treasure at the service of the community. Last weekend we listened to the witness talks from three of our parishioners about their personal experience of automated giving. I wish to thank them - Mary Connolly, Ray Klacik and Gary Porto – who shared why they transitioned from the weekly envelopes to automated giving. They have inspired quite a few to sign up soon after each Mass! You can read one of their talks elsewhere in this bulletin. However, there is a human challenge that we all should be aware of! When the basket is passed around and those in the automated program don't put envelope in the basket, it could raise some eyebrows as to why not! Some suggestions are under consideration to rectify such a possible (embarrassing?) scenario and to use it as a moment of inspiration for all concerned.

It is very important that the financial health and the pastoral health of the parish are always in zinc. From the pastoral perspective, our emphasis on the mission of evangelization has been producing good results. We are blessed with many new families joining our parish and still more families are planning to attend the "Discover St. John's" program. Our music ministry has been getting raving reviews of appreciation because, as always, they have been doing an exceptionally good job of ministering. How edifying to see our children and teens not only attending but also participating in the Sunday Mass! Our outreach programs and activities of various ministries especially those of Religious Education, Connexion and Social Ministry, together with the individual initiatives for living out our parish mission are truly exemplary.

In the matter of fiscal responsibility, I wish to commend our Parish Finance Committee Members who have been meeting regularly to ensure the financial health of our parish. Pastoral life expansion has been putting a strain on our financial health. Few months ago, the Parish was informed of this and various suggestions were presented for our consideration for increased giving. One of the suggestions of the Finance Council was to have a periodic "Financial Update" to our parishioners through our bulletin. Please see in this bulletin the first step in fulfilling this important promise. We wish to continue this periodically as our commitment to financial transparency will be a standard practice to help us all aware of how our sacrificial giving is utilized to advance the common mission of our community as disciples of Jesus Christ. May this be an incentive for all to prayerfully consider an increased giving based on our own situation.

Your brother in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



**ARE YOU A TECHIE?**

We are setting up a media center in the church loft and need help! This will be used for youth group, religious education and adult faith programs. We are looking for someone knowledgeable on what components we need to purchase and the actual set up of a system that will allow us to project videos and movies on a projection screen from a laptop or iPad etc. Please contact France or Wayne.

**2016-FAB FIVE RAFFLE ITEMS**



LG 50" LED Smart HDTV \$630 Value



Thermoelectric Wine Cooler & Cabinet \$600 Value



Dyson Cinetic Big Ball Animal Bagless Upright Vacuum \$600 Value



Apple iPad Mini 4 Wi-Fi \$500 Value



Sonos Play: Wireless Speaker \$200 Value

**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

**WORLDWIDE YEAR OF MERCY CELEBRATION FOR THE SICK AND DISABLED**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 12, 2016 at 12 noon for a special Year of Mercy Mass to honor the sick and disabled in our diocese. Following this Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Francis in Metuchen, all are invited to gather for fellowship and light refreshments.



**SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY**



**Irish Whiskey:** An American tourist in Dublin asks a local citizen: "Is Irish whiskey REALLY strong?" The Irishman answered him: "Aye, it's very strong; last Saturday night after only 2 Irish whiskeys, I went to 7am Mass." "What's so unique about that," the American inquired. The Irishman replied: "I'm Jewish!"

**Abraham's Test:** Q: Why did God test Abraham with sacrificing his only son, Isaac, when Isaac was just a child? A: Because if Isaac had been a teenager, Abraham would probably have gone through with it.

# Christian Formation - Catechesis

## Religious Education Program



### CATECHIST APPRECIATION BRUNCH

Sunday, April 24th, 11:30 a.m.

All catechists and assistants in the Religious Education program are invited to attend a brunch on Sunday, April 24th, at 11:30 a.m. in the Office Center. Contact the Office of Catechesis to RSVP at 832-2162 or [jjarvis@ccsjn.org](mailto:jjarvis@ccsjn.org).

### FIRST COMMUNION CLASS RETREAT



Wednesday, May 4, 2016, 4:00 p.m., Church Center

The First Communion Class Retreat is on Wednesday, May 4, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. in the Church Center. All children should bring their completed banners and their own choice of a snack (food/drink) with them. Parents (or at least one parent or caregiver who will be attending the First Communion Mass) need to arrive by 6:15 p.m. for the First Eucharist ceremony instruction led by Father Abraham. All families are welcome to witness the First Communicants' renewal of their baptismal vows at 6:00 p.m.



### SPRING GIVING TREE

All the tags for the Spring Giving Tree have been taken! Please purchase and return your gifts (with tag attached) to the narthex by April 24th or to the office center anytime during the week. Thank you so much for your generous support for **The Center for Great Expectations, Samaritan Homeless Interim Program (SHIP) and Safe in Hunterdon!** Many people benefit from these three organizations. If you have any questions, please contact Jo Ann Jarvis at 908-832-2162 or [jjarvis@ccsjn.org](mailto:jjarvis@ccsjn.org).



## MAY, THE MONTH OF MARY

The month of May is the "month which the piety of the faithful has long dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which will soon be paid to the Queen of Heaven in every corner of the earth. For this is the month during which Christians, in their churches and their homes, offer the Virgin Mother more fervent and loving acts of homage and veneration; and it is the month in which a greater abundance of God's merciful gifts comes down to us from our Mother's throne." (Paul VI: Encyclical on the Month of May, no. 1).

In observance of the Marian month, we invite you to celebrate along with us:

- Living Rosary – May 1<sup>st</sup>, during Sunday morning catechesis at 9:15 a.m., on the church grounds. Parishioners are welcome to join the children in praying the Rosary.
- May Crowning – May 15<sup>th</sup>, at 10 a.m. There will be a procession, led by our 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Class, to crown the statue of the Blessed Mother in the church center. All are welcome to bring in flowers from their garden for this special celebration at 10 a.m. (before the 10:30 Mass).
- Mary Statue -- available for Home Visits to all parishioners! Please contact Religious Ed. to schedule your two-week visit. It is the perfect opportunity to pray the Rosary as a family in your home.

For more information, contact the Religious Ed. at Office 832-2162.



## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Saturday, May 7, 11:00 a.m., Church Center

On Saturday, May 7, 2016, at 11:00 a.m., we will culminate our journey that began in the fall learning about reconciliation and forgiveness, continuing through God's amazing sacrifice and love for us, and will end in the treasure of receiving Jesus in First Holy Communion for 12 of our young church family members. Please congratulate and pray for our First Communicants: William Consigli, Jordan Erz, Kyle Erz, Sophie Guzzino, Klaudia Kowalewski, Emilia Kuhn, Philip Mathew, Samuel Meekings, Summer Ona, Daphne Roskowski, Anthony Vassiliades and Michael Vassiliades.

All of this was made possible through the heartfelt commitment of the children's families bringing their children regularly to our gatherings and our devoted catechists. We are so blessed to have this program enthusiastically led by our wonderful Catechist Cathy Gagen assisted by two of our dedicated Catechists Susan Erz and Danielle Meekings, and Fr. Abraham and Jo Ann Jarvis. Please celebrate and share in our joy!



## SMALL FAITH GROUPS

We had over 70 people in small groups meeting throughout Lent, and 13 of those were new to this faith-sharing experience! If you enjoyed being involved, invite someone along to try one of the next small faith groups this fall! If you have participated before, branch out and form a new group!

### Benefits of Belonging to a Small Faith Group:

- Bond with other Catholics in a more intimate way
- Embolden your faith
- Become more connected to your parish community
- Help you have a source of encouragement and accountability
- Participate in focused prayer for others
- Provide a comfortable and safe atmosphere for sharing
- Allow for mutual edification and growing in knowledge and faith

"Fall into Faith" groups start the first weekend in October and will run through mid-November. Take the next step and try one out!

# Social Ministry

## GARDEN ACTIVITIES AND BLESSING

### *Dates to Remember*

On Sunday, May 1, following the 10:30 Mass, there will be a Blessing of the new Community Garden. Join us at the garden gate for the blessing ( in the Narthex in case of rain) and light refreshments. Sign-ups for the raised beds will begin following the ceremony.

On Tuesday, May 10 from 3:30p-6p we will begin garden prep for the main planting on May 14-15. This will also be the first weekend of planting in the raised beds.

Things are moving very quickly in the garden but we have to work as the plants come in and don't always know the dates ahead of time. Asparagus crowns will be in sometime in the coming week. If you would like to help get them in the ground please contact Anne Germino at [socialministry@ccsjn.org](mailto:socialministry@ccsjn.org) so she notify you when they are here and set a date for planting.

## Parish News

### AUTOMATED GIVING: A PARISHIONER'S EXPERIENCE!

My name is Mary Connolly. The reasons we chose the automated giving option when it was first offered come down to commitment, consistency, convenience, and conditioning. Actually conditioning has to do with air-conditioning. I was just trying to be clever with 4 "c" words. Fr. Bill pointed out during a homily one time that while we were all at the shore or in the Outer Banks for summer vacation, they were still running the air-conditioning for the folks back at St. John's. It sounds obvious now, but that really hit us and it certainly connects with consistency and commitment. When you see the weekly donations in the bulletin, they fluctuate and always go down over the summer. On a very practical level it makes sense to have our church, aka our community, be able to count on and plan with a consistent budget. That is more important than ever for our fiscal stability. We have been parishioners for over 20 years and with 4 children it wasn't always easy having one more financial obligation, especially during the college years, but we did our best to stay the course. With automated giving when I am not here physically, our financial commitment to all of you still is.

The process is very straight forward, that's where convenience comes in. You choose an amount to donate and it is taken out once per month, I believe on the 15<sup>th</sup>. You also have the option of donating to the Yellow Brick Road and any or all of the second collections throughout the year. You can change it at any time. It is not as much the amount you donate but the consistency and predictability that benefits our parish.

One comment we have heard is that others are going to think that we don't donate when the basket goes by. One recommended solution is to just throw in an empty envelope. I can't remember to bring them, hence again the convenience part of automated giving. Please prayerfully consider this option for your commitment to our Catholic community.

### AUCTION RAFFLES

St. John's Annual Auction is in the works! The Fabulous Fab 5 Prizes are on display in the Narthex and we have some great items! You can support the parish by asking your friends, family and neighbors if they might like to win one of these wonderful prizes and buy some chances! You will

receive 2 books of tickets in the mail, they are on the way. Why wait? Books are available in the Narthex to pick up for your friends!

For those who have not participated before, we have **two raffles!** **The Fab 5** – with great prizes, and **the 50/50 for a cash prize of up to \$25000!** Stop by the narthex or office and take a chance to win!

### INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY

Our next opportunity to help those in need right here in Hunterdon County will be from May 8-15, when we co-host for the Interfaith Hospitality Network with our neighboring parish, Spruce Run Lutheran. There are many ways to be of help including helping to set up, providing a meal, overnight assistance, or simply providing hospitality. There are always children who enjoy having other children to interact with, so it is a great family project as well. For more information on this, please go to [www.ccsjn.org](http://www.ccsjn.org). Check the link under Social Ministry or contact Debbie Hunt at [dhuntfam1@comcast.net](mailto:dhuntfam1@comcast.net). To see when & where help is needed, check the Sign Up Genius link at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e054eafad22a20-family>.

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*April 16, 2016*

*"The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit."* **ACTS 13:52**

Because the disciples heard Our Lord's call, they were able to spread the Gospel message with strength and vitality. We, too, can experience that same joy if we take time to open our hearts, listen to God, ask for His direction and allow the Holy Spirit to guide our lives and our decisions.

### VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

#### **Office Angels**

Wed., April 26 J. Santoro

Wed., April 27 D. Zigmantanis

#### **Store Cards**

#### **April 23 & 24**

5:30 p.m.. D. Hingos

8:00 a.m. M. Kearns

10:30 a.m. G. Ambrosky

#### **April 30 & May 1**

5:30 p.m.. B. Cestone

8:00 a.m. P. Nanna

10:30 a.m. S. Pojedinec

#### **Church Center Plant Watering**

Week of 4/24 L. Livoti

Week of 5/1 M. Cangelosi

#### **Church Center Cleaning**

April 22 Team D

April 29 Team E

#### **Altar Flowers**

April 23 France Kennedy

April 30 Anne Germino



## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Virgilio Alves  
Eugene Cifranic  
Bill & Ginny Ciszewski  
Jean Crickenberger  
John D'Almeida  
Vicky Davids  
Tino DeSantis  
Sophia DeVita  
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  
Nicholas Troiano  
Melody Shae Webster  
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

## BISHOP'S INSTALLATION TWO UPDATES FROM THE DIOCESE

"It is now clear that there will be enough room for every parish to be represented at Bishop Checchio's ordination on May 3. *Instead of a lottery system*, then, each pastor/administrator is invited to forward to the Installation Committee the name of one parishioner to represent your parish at the Ordination Mass at the Church of the Sacred Heart in South Plainfield."

I am pleased to share with you that the Diocese of Metuchen, in concert with the Diocese of Brooklyn, will provide a live satellite broadcast of the Episcopal Ordination of The Most Reverend James F. Checchio Tuesday, May 3. Live coverage will begin with a 1:30 p.m. procession leading up to the 2 p.m. liturgy.

On that day, you may access the live stream of the Mass via Diocese of Metuchen's website, <http://diometuchen.org/ordination>. Following the Mass, a link to the recording will be posted on the diocesan website for later viewing.

The May 3 Episcopal Ordination Mass will be broadcast live on air on NET TV, EWTN and CatholicTV (check with your television provider for channel listings in your area) and it simultaneously will be streamed online via the following websites:

**NET TV – Diocese of Brooklyn** <http://netny.tv>

**EWTN – Global Catholic Network** <http://www.ewtn.com>

**CatholicTV – New England Region** <http://www.catholictv.com> or <http://catholictv.com/watch-live>

We are pleased to provide you and your parishioners an opportunity to be part of this important moment in the rich history of the Diocese of Metuchen. We ask that you share this information widely in parish bulletins, via pulpit announcements, website postings and other ways you may think of."

## MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

After the last child leaves home, Mom and Dad may wake up and wonder who they are looking at. Somewhere over the years, they've gotten so involved in their children's lives that they forgot about each other. Prepare for an empty nest by paying attention to your honey today. Plan a date for this week.

## PARENTING TUNE-UP

This past Friday was Earth Day! As a family, did you participate in any event on this Earth Day? It is not too late to take stock of what your family already recycles (paper, plastic, cans...) Can you add one more thing to recycle? Better yet, can you refrain from buying something that needs recycling? We call it "pre-cycling."

## JOSEPH F. LABUTA SCHOLARSHIP

The Knights of Columbus St. Joseph Council offers high school seniors, who are parishioners of St. John Neumann Church, an opportunity to apply for the Joseph F. Labuta scholarship. Requirements: (1) A high school senior accepted to college in the fall (2) A St John Neumann Church parishioner (3) A Practicing Catholic (must attend Mass and the Sacraments regularly). **The St. John Neumann pastor will determine whether or not a student meets that requirement.** (Out of area church attendance, etc., to be determined by the student's local pastor at that church in the case of the student attending a boarding high school or other exceptional case. Out of area Knights of Columbus members who have children meeting requirements at that church are also to be considered for this scholarship).

All applications must be submitted using the Joseph F. Labuta Scholarship Application Form located on the council website [www.kofc10627.org](http://www.kofc10627.org) under the council activities/youth activities drop down menu. Applicants must submit their application, all listed requirements, and required essay to: **Knights of Columbus, 59 Main Street, High Bridge, N.J. 08829** no later than May 1, 2016. **NOTE:** The amounts and numbers of the individual scholarships to be awarded will not be publicized in advance and will depend on the number of successful applicants as determined by our committee. Best of luck to all applicants!

Steven Bauernfeind SJN Parishioner/Scholarship/Liaison for Council #10627  
Knights of Columbus

# Parish News

## **SUNDAY REFLECTION: "Tendrils along the sidewalk of loss..."**

*"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

*John 13: 31-33a, 34-35*

In her memoir **Some Assembly Required: A Journal of My Son's First Son**, Anne Lamott includes this entry: "The only son of some people [my son] Sam and I know from town has died.

"How on earth can the parents survive that? How can the grandparents? Same old inadequate answer: They will survive with enormous sadness and devastation. I don't see how this is possible. But looking back over the years, I see that people do go on against absolutely all odds, and truly savage loss.

"Some of us have a raggedy faith. You cry for a long time, and then after that are defeated and flattened for a long time. Then somehow life starts up again. Other people set up foundations so other kids don't die the way theirs did, and so their kids didn't die in vain, or they do political work for the common good. Your friends surround you like white blood cells . . .

"Life is a very powerful force, despite the constant discouragement. So if you are a person with connections to life, a few tendrils eventually break through the sidewalk of loss, and you notice them, maybe space out studying for them for a few moments, or maybe they tickle you into movement and response, if only because you have to scratch your nose."

**If we look carefully, with persevering trust, we will realize the love of God breaking through like flowers through the cracks in the sidewalk of our brokenness and pain. Such compassion and care is ours to give and receive in our "raggedy" attempts to follow Jesus' "new" commandment: to love one another as he has loved us. In times of loss, may we realize reasons to carry on in meaningful hope - and, when others suffer times of trauma and pain, may we possess the grace of God be a "tendrill" of God's love for them.**

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

### **CCSJN Financial Status - Nine Months Ended March 31, 2106**

	July 2015 - March 2016	Full Year Budget	% of Budget	July 2014 - March 2015
<b>Income</b>				
Weekly Collection	\$ 225.90	\$ 300.00	75.3%	\$ 229.90
Christmas	27.20	24.00	113.3%	24.30
Yellow Brick Road	39.90	50.00	79.8%	39.60
All Other (incl. Fundraising)	45.60	105.00	43.4%	29.70
	<u>338.60</u>	<u>479.00</u>	<u>70.7%</u>	<u>323.50</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Salaries/Benefits	200.00	300.40	66.6%	186.10
Administration	14.30	27.20	52.6%	18.80
Operations/Maintenance	41.40	107.80	38.4%	58.30
Parish Life/Ministries	6.60	17.70	37.3%	8.40
Extraordinary Expenses	67.70	117.20	57.8%	75.30
	<u>330.00</u>	<u>570.30</u>	<u>57.9%</u>	<u>346.90</u>
Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow)	<u>\$ 8.60</u>	<u>\$ (91.30)</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>\$ (23.40)</u>

Major fundraising event for Income budget is Auction in June.

Some major expenses (e.g., property & auto insurance) will be billed in June.



## **WELCOME DECLAN JOSEPH HEIMALL**

Congratulations to Shaun and Shannon Heimall and son Declan who was baptized on April 10 at the 10:30 Mass. It was a wonderful celebration of the Rite of Baptism.

## **HOUSE BLESSING!**

### **WHY NOT YOURS THIS EASTER SEASON?**

A wonderful custom, prevailing in many parts of the world, that some of us have found very meaningful in the past few years, Fr. Abraham is offering this again this year. The Easter House blessing, a short prayer with family members, is a happy reminder of the Easter blessings that we are called to live. If you feel drawn to this lovely practice, contact the office to arrange a mutually convenient day and time; this will enhance your appreciation of the Catholic way of life.



## **Stewardship**

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## **WEEKLY COLLECTION**

### **For April 17, 2016**

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## **BISHOPS MARKET CARDS**

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## **GROCERY CARDS**



Thanks to **13 families** who purchased Shop Rite and Kings gift cards the last week, totaling **\$1,825.00**. The stores gave us **\$113.75** Cards are available after Mass or at the office weekdays.



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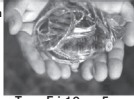
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