



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, May 17

7:00 a.m. Robert Genova, req.
Linda and Gary Caprio

Friday, May 20

7:00 a.m. Douglas Widrick, req.
Mike and Mary Matlosz

Saturday, May 21

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

Sunday, May 22

8:00 a.m. Maria Sepe, req.
Sharon and Alan Janks
10:30 a.m. Kylie Andrejco, req.
Marlene and Tanya



Parish Calendar

Sun., May 15 – Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
9:00 a.m. K-6 Catechesis (Church and Office Centers)
10:00 a.m. May Crowning (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Mass - Installation of Pastoral Council
followed by Reception (Church Center)
6:00 p.m. Jr. High Catechesis (Church Center)

Monday, May 16 - Weekday

3:00 p.m. Planting (Project Earth Garden)
6:00 p.m. K-5 Monthly Catechesis (Church & Office Centers)

Tuesday, May 17– Weekday

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
6:00 p.m. Property Management Mtg (Neumann Residence)

Wednesday, May 18 - Saint John I, Pope and Martyr

7:30 p.m. Book Club (Seton Room)

Thursday, May 19 - Weekday

7:00 p.m. Social Ministry Board Meeting (Drexel Room)
7:30 p.m. Music/Bells (Church Center)

Friday, May 20 - Saint Bernadine of Siena, Priest

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

Saturday, May 21 - Saint Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

8:30 a.m. Pastoral Council Meeting (Upper Room)
2:30 p.m. CPII Day of Discernment (Church Center)
5:30 p.m. Mass - Rite of Covenant (Church Center)

Mass Schedule—May 21/22

Saturday

5:30 p.m.

Celebrant Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader Religious Education Reader
Altar Server Religious Education
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Lyle Garcia
..... Mary D'Avella, Joann Gardner

Sunday

8:00 a.m.

Celebrant Fr. Abraham Orapankal
ReaderAllan Oiechowski
Altar Server Mastro Family
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Bob Martalus
..... Anita Sawczuk, Mary Connolly

Sunday

10:30 a.m.

Celebrant Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader Steve Gemma
Altar ServerMalone Family
Music Eucharistic Minister Donna Torczon
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Kristin Gemma, Ron Pojedinec
..... Shirley Pojedinec, Anthony DeStefano, Marlene Milko

Sun., May 22 – The Most Holy Trinity / Catholic Communications Collection / 4th of July Food Cards Start

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Mass - Leyden & Hungarten Baptisms (Church)
10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word (Narthex)
12:00 p.m. Nonestied Baptism (Church Center)
4:00 p.m. CHWC Meeting (Church Center)

GLUTEN FREE HOSTS

We have gluten free hosts available - talk to the Eucharistic ministers in the sacristy before or after Mass.

Remembered at Mass



We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharistic: **Frances Mattiello, Daniel McLane, Evie Collins, Kyle Hargadon, Dan Crease, Walter Price, Phil Stout, Cynthia Briggs, and Barbara Coyne.**

Deceased: **Frances Mattiello**, sister of Maureen Sepe, **Daniel McLane**, cousin of Kathy Altavilla, **Evie Collins**, aunt of Chris Brynildsen, **Walter Price**, husband of Rita Price, **Phil Stout**, brother of Debbie Hunt, **Cynthia Briggs**, sister of Mari-on 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,

Today is the birthday of the Church –that's how Pentecost is characterized by many. Etymologically it comes from the Greek word for "fiftieth" (pentecoste), because it is the fiftieth day after Easter Sunday. In the Old Testament it is known by different names: the Feast of weeks, the Feast of harvest, or the day of first fruits. Even today in Jewish circles it is known as "Shavu'ot" (Hebrew word for weeks).

But the New Testament meaning of Pentecost was mentioned in the Lukan reading on Ascension Thursday: "You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you, but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:48-9). Thus Pentecost meant being clothed with power to witness to Jesus. Look at those first apostles. They were just common people. And the men and women who joined their band were also very common people. How could they have the power to lead the world to Jesus Christ? In just a few decades, people in Greece, Macedonia, Asia Minor, Italy, Egypt, Ethiopia and other sections of Africa and India began calling themselves Christians! They just allowed the Holy Spirit to speak through them. They surrendered to the power of the Holy Spirit. The Same Spirit is available to us – only if we see it; only if we surrender. We just need to be touched by the power of the Spirit, and then we will naturally talk and share our experience to others. And we will not be afraid to talk how God or Bible or our church attendance is impacting our lives. Are we willing?

On Pentecost, it is our tradition here to have the Commissioning Rite of the Parish Pastoral Council during the 10:30 Mass. Every potential member of the Council attends the "Discernment Retreat" to pray and discern the will of God in the matter of serving the People of God of St. John Neumann through the ministry of the Parish Pastoral Council. I am very happy and proud that Fr. Bill, together with an excellent team of parishioners, had set up our Pastoral Council on a firm footing years ago. True to its goal, our PPC assists the pastor in his leadership role of planning, organizing, initiating, promoting coordinating and reviewing all matters concerning the pastoral life of our parish. I am grateful to each member of this apex consultative body for his/her self-less investment and commitment for the good of this community. As we pray for this new team, let us continue to offer them our support.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

CALLING ALL BAKERS: DESERTS FOR AUCTION

Auction is June 4. Theme is All Things Jersey

Well Jersey is blueberries, strawberries, cranberries, peaches, fudge and salt water taffy! If you can make any dessert that includes any of those "Jersey Fruits...." contact Mary Connolly mandmconnolly@gmail.com and sign up!

BEREAVEMENT GROUP UPDATE

The first six session Spring bereavement group, which met at St. John Neumann, concluded on April 6th. The participants were remarkable in their candor and support of one another as they mutually advanced through coping with their losses. Everyone who participated evaluated the program as "very helpful". Because of the positive feedback and the support it gave to individuals who experienced the death of a loved one or loss through divorce, another six session program will be offered this coming fall at St. John Neumann.

If you or anyone you know would benefit from the non-threatening support offered, please be on the watch for exact dates and times in coming issues of the church bulletin. If you wish to let the leader of the group, parishioner John Cole, know of interest or questions beforehand, you can send him an email at coleifp22@gmail.com. John is a helping professional with extensive expertise in supporting people through life transitions.

The Fall bereavement group will be open to individuals who may not be parishioners from St. John Neumann. Individuals of all faiths, experiencing loss are encouraged to inquire.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 15, 2016

"The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you." JOHN 14:26

The materialism of our society lures us to concentrate more on what we want than on what God wants for us. The relativism of our world tells us that we should be tolerant of all things, that there is no absolute truth. Pray to the Holy Spirit to put the right words in our mouth when challenged about our faith.



BOTTLE OF RED BOTTLE OF WHITE

Have a favorite wine or how about some craft beer you enjoy? Share your find and donate a bottle for the auction – our liquor baskets bring in big bids!

AUCTION DONATIONS

Our business donations are pouring in - now we ask for your donation. The auction is less than a month away. If you want to donate talk to us now and advise us of what you want to donate. Our team is preparing the lots and need the items as soon as possible. So please contact France with what you want to donate. 908-307-7879 francekennedy99@gmail.com

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.....kaldaro@ccsjn.org

Wayne Infusino..... Maintenance

Religious Education.....908-832-2162

Renee Ciszewski. Director of Religious Education

Email.....renee@ccsjn.org

Jo Ann Jarvis..... Office of Catechesis

Email.....jjarvis@ccsjn.org

Social Ministry..... socialministry@ccsjn.org

Anne Germino and Greg Wilson

Bulletin bulletin@ccsjn.org

Youth Ministry sjnygroup@gmail.com

Christian Formation - Catechesis

Religious Education Program

2016-2017 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION



Registration for the 2016-2017 Religious Ed. program will be opening soon!

Information and forms will be mailed home and posted on the parish website as soon as available: ccsjn.org.

CPII DAY OF DISCERNMENT



Sat., May 21, 2:30 p.m., Church Center

CPII Day of Discernment will be held on Saturday, May 21, at 2:30 p.m. in the Church Center. All CPII candidates and their parents are expected to attend. CPII candidates for Confirmation will celebrate the Rite of Covenant at the 5:30 p.m. Mass following their Day of Discernment.



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:

- May Crowning – May 15th, at 10 a.m. There will be a procession, led by our 1st 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

On Saturday, May 7, twelve of our young church family members received the treasure of Jesus in First Holy Communion. 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. Celebrate and share in their joy! Also, please check out their beautiful photos on the banner hung in the Narthex!

Social Ministry

SOWING SEEDS OF MERCY A GARDEN PROJECT FOR THE YEAR OF MERCY

This weekend each child in the religious education program will be given a packet of seeds to take home and plant. They can be grown in the garden or in pots on the patio or deck. The seeds are dry shelling beans and once they are harvested by each family, we will meet at the Parish Picnic in the fall to shell them and make them into dry soup mixes for the holiday food baskets. They will also be used for soups at the SHIP's Galley and Elijah's Promise. If you don't have a child in the program and would like to participate, stop in the narthex and pick up a packet of seeds and instructions. A few seeds, grown by many, will become warm soup, spreading mercy, love and compassion in the world.

A NEW OPPORTUNITY AT SHIP

The SHIP's Galley Soup Kitchen in Somerville currently serves lunch three days a week. Beginning this summer they would like to begin serving five days a week. While much is better in the economy, many of the working poor are still struggling. People in need of food assistance who get some of their meals each week at soup kitchens have an increased need. The number of visits to soup kitchens in Somerset and Middlesex County have gone up by about 35% just since January of this year. If you have been unable to serve at SHIP in the past because you are not available on Monday, we would like to set up a second team to serve once a month on a Tuesday or Thursday from 11:30a-2pm. Please contact Anne Germino at socialministry@ccsjn.org if you would be interested in joining this ministry and indicate which day you would be available. If we have enough people, we will begin the second team in July or August. We will continue to serve on the second Monday of each month.

ONE GARDEN-TWO PARTS

With the fencing last fall of an additional 9000 square feet, our garden at St. John's now has two parts. The original garden, Project Earth Garden, is where we will continue to grow fresh food for local soup kitchens and food banks. This 5000 square foot area will be planted this weekend--Saturday 1p-6p and Sunday 12noon-3:30p. All ages are welcome to join in. The new area contains Gift of Good Land Community Garden with 27 raised beds. If you would like a raised bed to grow your own vegetables, we still have 5 available. Contact Anne Germino at socialministry@ccsjn.org for questions or to sign up for a bed.

Social Ministry (continued) and Parish News

"GIFT OF GOOD LAND COMMUNITY GARDEN"

(Anne Germino on our SJN Garden)

"And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land he has given you." Deuteronomy 9:10

We grow a lot of food in the garden. One year almost 700 pounds of potatoes. Another time, 250 pounds of carrots, 163 pounds of green beans and 282 pounds of yellow squash. For the last couple of years we have easily surpassed a total of 2000 pounds—we grow a ton of food! The land is good here. It is productive and provides an abundance of good food for us to share with others.

But more than the numbers; what moves me the most, what touches me and humbles me and draws me back to the garden over and over are the individual encounters. A man hears that an expansion is planned and eagerly comes on board. I ask him, "Do you know how to build a fence?" He answers "No." He asks me the same question. I say, "No." We take a leap of faith--somehow we are going to build a fence. A few weeks later I meet another man in the narthex. He says, "Hi, I'm Terry. I know how to build a fence and I'll help you." Somewhere in that conversation I say, "God sent you."

Then there is a young man, a gentle giant. He says, "I'll help you build 27 raised beds Mrs. Germino but how are we ever going to get 60 yards of soil?!" Half the soil is donated by someone and their neighbor who hear of our need. Another man hears and tells us he can get the rest and also composted manure. When he finds we need cardboard for weed suppression he takes us to the furniture store where he knows the owner and they give us all the cardboard we want.

So the young man, James, comes back and he builds 27 beds and he brings not just one or two friends, but 20 young men who work their hearts out alongside older men and women who teach them. They work and laugh and learn and share a wonderful meal together. In one day, 27 raised beds are built. There is a woman who comes to the garden and we work among the rows. She quietly shares the story of a family member who has suffered and we speak and work and find peace and comfort in the sharing. Another woman finds me out in the garden alone. She comes out and laughs and smiles and asks, "Have you been with the people today? Don't forget to be with the people." So I put down my tools, take off my gloves and come to be with the people.

Each day in the garden there are these individual encounters, these little glimpses of God in the continual outpouring of kindness, compassion and generosity. This is what draws me out there. This is what lifts my spirits, gives me hope, fills me with quiet joy. This is what calls me to the garden. God has gifted our community with good land. Come, may we all be blessed by the gift!

FAREWELL TO BISHOP PAUL BOOTKOSKI

The Most Reverend Paul G Bootkoski will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood and retirement as Bishop of Metuchen at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi on Sunday, May 22, 2016 at 12 noon. A public reception will follow in the CYO building. All are invited to attend.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



A CHILD'S WISDOM: Four-year-old Amanda was taken to the doctor's office with a fever. The doctor looked in her ears and asked, "Who's in there? Donald Duck?" She said, "No." He looked in her open mouth, "Who's in there? Mickey Mouse?" Again she said, "No." He put his stethoscope on her heart and asked, "Who's in there? Barney?" Amanda replied, "No, Jesus is in my heart. Barney is in the pocket of my underwear."

AN ADULT'S WISDOM: A man asked his pastor whether it was okay to smoke while he prayed. His pastor said, "Absolutely not! When you pray you should be completely devoted to prayer." So the man went to another priest, but he changed his question, "Would it be okay to pray while I smoke?" "Yes, of course" was the answer.

PARENTING TUNE-UP

As a father, what did you do on Mother's Day? A suggestion for next time: It's not your job to get a gift for your wife but rather to coach your son or daughter (if need be) in deciding how they can best honor their mother. Be there, but not the primary giver.

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

Trip down Memory Lane #14 - Remember your first long trip together - either for fun, to meet each other's family, or even a funeral. What did you like about making travel plans together? What was a stress because of your differences? What have you learned? (Susan Vogt)



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Wed., May 18 M. D'Avella

Wed., May 25 A. Sawczuk

Store Cards

May 14 & May 15

5:30 p.m.. J. Eacovalle

8:00 a.m. V. Hoffart

10:30 a.m. D. Hunt

May 21 & May 22

5:30 p.m.. C. Crescenti

8:00 a.m. K. Dabrowski

10:30 a.m. R. DeStefano

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of 5/15 M. Proano

Week of 5/22 J. Sieber

Church Center Cleaning

May 13 Team A

May 20 Team B

Altar Flowers

May 14 Anne Germino

May 21 Mary Connolly

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Virgilio Alves
 Eugene Cifranic
 Bill & Ginny Ciszewski
 Jean Crickenberger
 John D'Almeida
 Vicky Davids
 Barbara DelPiano
 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
 Don Velli
 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

PENTECOST REFLECTION: How do you hear?

"Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem: "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language?" Acts 2: 1-11

Max is an eighth-grader at St. Louis Priory School in St. Louis, Missouri. Shortly after the tensions in nearby Ferguson last year, Max asked his mom if he and his brother could drive down to Ferguson to help with the cleanup. She understandably declined to send them into an active riot zone.

Still, Max and his brother felt they needed to do something, so they went online and looked up a list of the businesses that had been damaged. They found the name of one of the owners and called her. She hung up on them. So they drove to her house. For three and a half hours, they sat in her living room and listened to her anger. The bottom line: Unless they had \$20,000, there wasn't much they could do. So Max went home and started an online petition, and eight days later, they had raised \$20,608. And Maria Flores rebuilt her business.

When Max and his brother saw injustice, they didn't lash out in anger. They didn't choose a side. They *listened* - they listened carefully. They reached out with their hearts, they created a partnership - and the answer spoke itself. [From "Listening in Ferguson: It's not all black and white" by J. Augustine Wetta, O.S.B., America, March 9, 2015.]

The real miracle of Pentecost is not what was said but what was heard: the Spirit of God overcomes the barriers of language and perception, opening not only people's minds but their hearts to hear the Gospel of the Risen Christ. That same Spirit of God enables us to listen to the voice of God in the context of God's peace, justice and compassion, enabling us to hear what God actually speaks and not what we want or hope or wish to hear. As on Pentecost, God's Spirit continues to speak in the love of the Beatitudes, in the forgiveness of the prodigal's father, in the generosity of the Good Samaritan, in the hope of the resurrection. The gift of Pentecost faith enables us, as it enabled Max and his brother, to hear the voice of God speaking in the midst of the clamor and busyness, the pain and despair of one another's lives, and now inviting us to embrace the life and love of God.

GRADUATION

Do you have a family member graduating from eighth grade, high school, college, vocational school or from a graduate or doctoral program? We want to celebrate with you and your graduate at Mass here at St. John Neumann on Sunday, June 12, at 10:30 a.m. Please send the following information to France Kennedy: name, school, major, degree, future school (if applicable). You may provide this information even if you cannot attend the Mass that day. Our community will be celebrating and praying for all our graduates. We hope you can join us! Contact France Kennedy (fkennedy@ccsjn.org) with this information and/or questions. Thank you and congratulations!

Are you an adult who graduated, finished your course of study, or passed the test? Join us to recognize and celebrate our parishioner's graduations at the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday June 12. Please contact the office and give us your name and graduation information.

AUCTION RAFFLES FOR PARISHIONERS AND GUESTS - OPEN TO EVERYONE!



If you are not on our mailing list pick up some books in the Narthex for our **two raffles!** **The Fab 5** – with great prizes, and **the 50/50 for a cash prize of up to \$25000!** The raffles are part of our major fundraiser that helps us meet the financial needs of the parish.

If you are on our mailing list you should have received 2 books for the Fab Five Raffle and 1 book for the 50/50 Raffle in your mail! Take your choice – go for the gift or go for the cash – or if possible get both! And we are thrilled if you pick up more books in the Narthex and ask your friends, family and neighbors to participate in the raffles! It is an easy way to support the parish in this very important fundraiser.

Parish & Community News

MASS OF ORDINATION

On Tuesday, May 3 the Mass of Ordination and Installation of the Most Reverend James Francis Checchio was held at the Church of the Sacred Heart in South Plainfield. I thought it would be an interesting experience so I responded to an email indicating each parish would be allowed one ticket to the event. It turns out I responded first to a "first come – first served" scenario and I was most honored to represent St. John Neumann. Overall, it was a day of pomp, and ceremony, and ritual, and security, and camaraderie all with an overwhelming sense of joy. Not wanting to miss anything, I arrived at the off-site parking early enough to be on the first bus to the church. The coordination of staff and security for the transportation of guests was impressive! Waiting in line as well as sitting in the church (I was in my seat by 11:30 for an event that did not begin until 1:30) people from all areas of our diocese, as well as friends of our new bishop, stuck up conversations. I sat next to a couple who were friends of his parents and they kept telling me what a "nice boy" Jimmy is and how much we will like him. I was excited to look up at one point and see Fr. Bill. As one of the retired diocesan priests he got a pretty good seat! The time went fast from arriving at the church until the opening procession not only because of interesting conversations but because of the chance to listen to an amazing orchestra and choral rehearsal. The ceremony began with a procession of Cardinals, Bishops and priests that took a half hour. It was quite an amazing sight! One slight snafu was that they had not reserved enough seats for the priests and so I got bumped from my great spot. The Mass and Ordination ceremony lasted until 4:30 but the time went quickly. The highlights for me included a beautiful homily by the Most Reverend Bernard Anthony Hebda the Archbishop-elect of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. He is a friend of our new Bishop so the homily had a very personal touch – with a few Jersey jokes thrown in! For his episcopal motto, Bishop Checchio has chosen "Reconciliamini Deo" from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians. It translates to "Reconcile to God". The other touching moment for me came at the point in the rite where there was the Laying on of Hands by all of the Cardinals and Bishops present, and there were many. Several were quite elderly and wheelchair bound. I felt I observed a special touch from many of them for this bishop who will carry on their call to shepherd. After the ceremony, the charter buses had a police escort, stopping at no red lights, back to a beautiful reception. The priest I sat next to on the bus and I conjectured what the local drivers were making of all this special treatment! I did not stay long but I did jump on a quick line to meet our Bishop just as he came into the venue. His greeting line hadn't officially started so I got very lucky. I invited him out to visit our community and enjoy our beautiful surroundings and welcoming hospitality. He said he looks forward to it! ~Mary Connolly

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.

PTSD AND 'MORAL INJURY':

Spiritual and Pastoral Implications and call to Action

Presenter: Wanda L. Elizabeth Ann Good, Colonel (Ret.), U.S. Armed Services

Thursday, May 26, 2016 - Morning and Evening Sessions

"Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us." (MV, 2)

Colonel Good will share her study of forgiveness and its role in the healing of PTSD in veterans that results in the experience of marginalization from the deep compassion of God, who always takes the initiative to meet us on the road of reconciliation and mercy. The event will be held at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, and will be held at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. The event is free, but registration is required. For more information or to register, visit <http://diometuchen.org/mercy>.

COMING TO CALIFON A FARMER'S MARKET!

The United Methodist Church and CAMPA are co-sponsoring a Farmer's Market in Califon beginning this summer. The dates will be July 9, August 13, September 10 and October 8. If things go well this summer they hope to expand to two Saturday's a month next year from May thru October. The Market will be located in the parking lot of the Methodist Church (near Top of the Barn) and will include a wide variety of vendors with fresh fruits and vegetables as well as other home-grown and home-made products for sale. More information will follow as it becomes available.

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS

There will be a Charismatic Healing Mass on Wednesday May 25th at St Philip and James Church...430 South Main Street in Phillipsburg, NJ at 7pm. Fr. Bill Halbing and Fr. Tom Ganley will be the celebrants with ministry team, music and prayers of healing will be offered. More information at dmhealing@aol.com or 732-514-7160.



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For May 10, 2015

81 Donors Weekly	\$4,185.00
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Thanks to **14 families** who purchased Shop Rite and Kings gift cards the last week, totaling **\$2,225.00**. The stores gave us **\$110.75** Cards are available after Mass or at the office weekdays.



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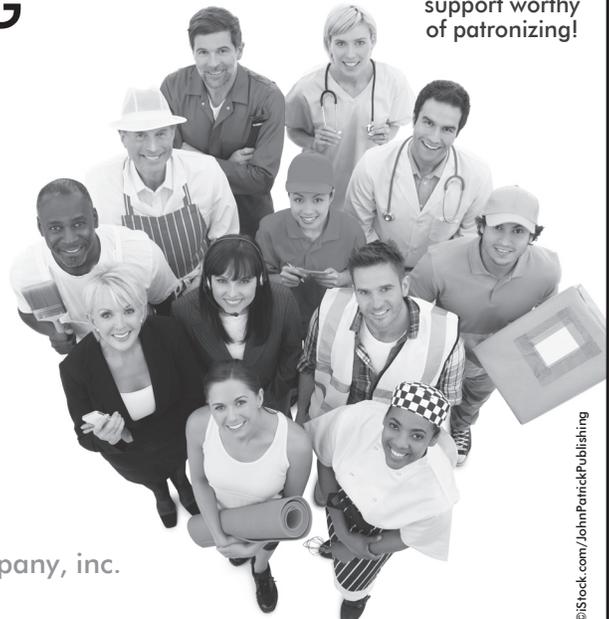
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