



## 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.*

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## Annual Parish Goal

*We, as ministers, will foster  
an inviting and spiritual Catholic community for all,  
especially to those away from the Church,  
by growing in and witnessing to our faith in the mercy of God.*

## *A Christian Community of the Catholic Tradition*

Diocese of Metuchen

Most Rev. James F. Checchio,  
JCD, MBA  
Bishop of Metuchen

Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, D.D.  
Bishop Emeritus

www.diometuchen.org

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## *Our Parish*

Rev. Abraham Orapankal, Ph.D. ....  
..... Pastor  
Rev. J William Mickiewicz.....  
..... Founding Pastor Emeritus  
Earl Roberts.....Deacon  
Mary Cangelosi.....Trustee  
Fred Heimall.....Trustee

### *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 ..... 8:00 a.m.  
Friday ..... 7:00 a.m.

### *Reconciliation:*

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

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# This Week at Saint John's

## Mass Intentions

### Tuesday, November 1 (All Saints)

8:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant  
 7:00 p.m.. Dorothy D. & Mary E. Byrne,  
 & Gordon & Sollesy Families  
 req. Gerry Brisson & Family

### Wednesday, November 2 (All Souls)

7:00 p.m. Intention of the Celebrant

### Friday, November 4

7:00 a.m. Mark Livoti, req.  
 Liz and Lou Livoti

### Saturday, November 5

5:30 p.m. Virginia Ciszewski, req.  
 Jarvis Family

### Sunday, November 6

8:00 a.m. Mary and Gordon Furlong,  
 req. Rachel Johnson  
 10:30 a.m. Phil Stout, req.  
 Martha and Dick McCall

## Mass Schedule - November 5/6

### Saturday

5:30 p.m.

Celebrant ..... Rev. Abraham Orapankal  
 Reader ..... Linda Caprio  
 Altar Server ..... Olesiak Family  
 Ministers of the Eucharist..... Donna Lance  
 ..... Violetta Olesiak, Eileen McCabe

### Sunday

8:00 a.m.

Celebrant ..... Rev. Abraham Orapankal  
 Reader ..... Brent Herrig  
 Altar Server ..... Mastro Family  
 Ministers of the Eucharist..... Joe Sima  
 ..... Sharon Janks, Dorothy Sima

### Sunday

10:30 a.m.

Celebrant ..... Rev. Abraham Orapankal  
 Reader ..... Paul Gagen  
 Altar Server ..... D'Avella Family  
 Music Eucharistic Minister ..... Anita Sawczuk  
 Ministers of the Eucharist..... Mary D'Avella, Donna Torczon  
 ..... Mark Brisson, Marlene Milko, Ana Giametta

## Parish Calendar

### Sunday, October 30 - 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time / All Souls Intentions

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
 10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
 11:30 a.m. Coffee - Sponsored by Children's Liturgy (Narthex)  
 4:00 p.m. Gold & Silver Wedding Anniv. Mass (Cathedral)  
 6:00 p.m. Jr. High Catechesis (Office and Church Centers)

### Monday, October 31 - Weekday

7:30 p.m. Children's Liturgy Meeting (Seton Room)

### Tuesday, November 1 - All Saints (Holy Day of Obligation)

8:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)  
 11:00 a.m. Faith Group (Church Center Loft)  
 7:00 p.m. Mass (Church Center)  
 7:30 p.m. Faith Group (Neumann Residence)

### Wednesday, November 2 - All Souls Day

10:30 a.m. Faith Group (Narthex)  
 12:30 p.m. Staff Meeting (Drexel Room)  
 5:30 p.m. Yoga (Church Center-Loft)  
 7:00 p.m. Mass - All Souls (Neumann Residence Chapel)  
 7:00 p.m. Faith Group (Office Center Kitchen)  
 7:00 p.m. Faith Group (Drexel Room)

### Thursday, November 3 - Saint Martin de Porres, Religious

7:30 p.m. Music/Bells (Church Center)  
 7:30 p.m. Faith Group (Upper Room)

### Friday, November 4 - Saint Charles Borromeo, Bishop

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

### Saturday, November 5 - Weekday

3:30 p.m. 1st Reconciliation - Session #4 (Church Center)  
 5:30 p.m. Mass (Church Center)

### Sunday, November 6 - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time / Yellow Brick Road Collection

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
 10:30 a.m. Mass - Kelemen Baptism (Church Center)  
 10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word (Narthex)  
 6:30 p.m. Catholic Heart Work Camp Meeting (Church Center)

Don't forget to set your clocks back next weekend.  
 Daylight Savings Time Ends November 6th



### Remembered at Mass



We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharistic: **Gary Bergmann, Chris Mahoney, Bernadette Jenkinson, and Rodney Brynildsen.**

**Deceased:** **Gary Bergmann**, husband of Kathleen and father of William and Annalee, **Bernadette Jenkinson**, former Parishioner, and **Rodney Brynildsen**, cousin of Chris Brynildsen. 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,

The Diocese of Metuchen had invited all Pastors to submit two names of teens from each parish for consideration for the **Annual Diocesan Youth Awards**. Here at St. John's, we made a short list of possible nominees who are good teen leaders of our parish: Alexa Johnson, Sam Brynildsen, Jack Ranallo, Jeremy Hoffman, Morgan D'Avella and Jonathan Uss. Rev. Edmund Luciano, III, the very energetic and youth-friendly priest of the Diocese, who is the Director of the Diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, wrote to me: *"On behalf of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, CONGRATULATIONS! Morgan D'Avella and Alexa Johnson have been nominated as recipients of the 2016 Diocesan Youth Award. This award honors our high school teens for their outstanding faith and service to their community, school and parish."* Morgan and Alexa received the Award from Bishop James Checchio last Saturday during the Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis in Metuchen. In the name of our Parish community, I congratulate them as well as other young men and women of our parish who were in the short list for consideration.

Our **Stewardship Committee** has been busy with an initiative to have a "Ministry Fair" for the parish in a very creative way. Sharon Lohrmann, a passionate committee member, met with as many ministries as possible and interviewed them. Though it took a few months for her to attend the monthly scheduled meetings of different ministries, she did an admirable job and presented some concrete plans based on the valuable information she gathered. Here are just three of them:

- **Monthly Calendar:** Each Ministry has chosen a month of the year dedicated to that ministry. The ministries will select which activities they want to lead during their month (e.g., host a coffee, set up a display, bulletin announcement, etc.).
- **Call for participation:** develop a couple of bulletin features that highlight why ministry work is meaningful to people on the committees as a way of inviting / enticing parishioners to consider joining a ministry or chairing an event. Some of the content will be based on the responses given by ministry members to the question "What motivates you to be a part of ministry work."
- **Annual Photo Book:** develop an annual photo book that features images of the many wonderful activities that occur during the year. Ministries will be asked to contribute photos so remember to take pictures!

As I am truly grateful to Sharon Lohrmann and the Stewardship Committee for this important way of familiarizing our parishioners with our different ministries, I invite all of us to learn about our wonderful ministries that make our parish so unique and so participatory. May this become an incentive for all of you to consider joining a ministry of your choice and thus place your time and talent at the service of the people of God.

*Happy Halloween! A Happy and Hallowed All Saints Day! And a prayerful All Souls Day!*

Your brother in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



**31ST SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**

**OCTOBER 30, 2016**

***"But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over.'"***

**LUKE 19:8**

We are all called to graciously give back to the Lord in proportion to the blessings we have been given. This means everyone isn't called to give the same amount, but is called to give equal sacrifice. No amount is too small or insignificant! Open your heart, how is God calling you?

**First Friday Holy Hour  
November 4th - 7 p.m.  
Church Center**



**Join us for an hour of Prayer and  
Meditation before the Blessed  
Sacrament.**

*"We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart, and to bring home those who have lost their way."*

**St. Francis of Assisi**

***Parish Contact Information***

**Church Center (weekend use)..908-832-6343**

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

Renee Ciszewski, Director of Religious Education

Email..... [renee@ccsjn.org](mailto:renee@ccsjn.org)

Jo Ann Jarvis..... Office of Catechesis

Email..... [jjarvis@ccsjn.org](mailto:jjarvis@ccsjn.org)

Social Ministry..... [socialministry@ccsjn.org](mailto:socialministry@ccsjn.org)

Anne Germino and Greg Wilson

Bulletin..... [bulletin@ccsjn.org](mailto:bulletin@ccsjn.org)

Youth Ministry..... [sjnygroup@gmail.com](mailto:sjnygroup@gmail.com)

**BISHOP CHECCHIO INVITES US JOIN HIM  
ON A DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE**

Bishop Checchio is leading a diocesan pilgrimage to mark the closing of the Year of Mercy as well as the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Diocese of Metuchen. He cordially invites us to join him on this holy journey to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. on Saturday, November 19. Many parishes have arranged buses to take their parishioners. If you wish to join this Pilgrimage, we will arrange for you to join some of them. For information and reservations, please contact our parish coordinator, Mary D'Avella via email at [mgang8@hotmail.com](mailto:mgang8@hotmail.com) For additional information visit [www.diometuchen.org](http://www.diometuchen.org)



# Christian Formation - Catechesis

## Religious Education Program

### TRAVELING MARY STATUE



We have a beautiful statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary available for home visits throughout the year. Parish families may host this 21" statue of Mary in their homes for a two-week period. During this time, we encourage family prayer as you spend time with Our Lady. In addition to holy days, consider hosting during times of special occasions, remembrances, saint feast days, as well as reception of sacraments.

To schedule a visit, contact Jo Ann Jarvis at [jjarvis@ccsjn.org](mailto:jjarvis@ccsjn.org) or 832-2162.

### FIRST RECONCILIATION



The next First Reconciliation session for students will be on Saturday, November 5th, at 3:30 pm. in the Church Center.

### CONFIRMATION 2016



Bishop James F. Checchio celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation here at St. John's on October 13th.

Thank you to all the parishioners and our talented music ministry for enriching this joyous celebration! Please keep these young people and their families in your prayers as they grow in their faith and share their talents in our parish community. They are: Lisa Cucchiara, Catherine Evanko, Emma Evanko, Jack Evanko, Dana Fabiano, Taylor Jamieson, Madison Kelly, Nina Lewis, Marion Mathew, Hannah Nacumuli, Catherine O'Brien, Amelia Puggia, James Quartuccio, Casey Roskowski, Kenneth Rudin, Jason Solomon, Sarah Upwood, Daniel Uss, LeviYoder, and James Zeolla.



## PILGRIMAGE TO ST. JOHN NEUMANN SHRINE, PHILADELPHIA

**Saturday, November 19, 2016**

In announcing the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis called Catholics to embark on "a journey that starts with a spiritual conversion." Bishop Emeritus 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 are announcing our pilgrimage on November 19<sup>th</sup> to the recently renovated St. John Neumann Shrine in Philadelphia. The Confirmation Class of 2017 will be attending this trip, and the Class of 2016 is also invited. All parishioners are welcome to join the Confirmandi on this annual pilgrimage. 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. If 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. the day of the trip. Feel free to arrange car pools on your own. We are very 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!



### MONTHLY ADULT FAITH FORMATION

*"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8*

Pope Francis says that mercy is "the bridge that connects God and [human beings]." His call for a Year of Mercy is the call to authentic Christian living modeled after the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Loving Mercy is our response to this universal call. Loving Mercy is this year's theme for adult formation within the family faith formation program. Consider joining us at Valley View Elementary School on Sundays or Mondays in the Church Center. These sessions follow the family faith formation calendar on the parish website. All are invited to attend! You do not need to have a child in the program to participate. The next session dates are Nov. 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the Church and Nov. 20th at 8:00 a.m. at (VV). For more information, contact Renee or JoAnn 832-2162.



### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Parishioners are invited to participate in Operation Christmas Child and prepare a "shoe box" full of presents for a needy child. These will be delivered to poor children around the world along with a booklet in the child's own language telling them about the birth of Jesus, His life and how He saved us. This is an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus and bring joy to a child! All K-6 Religious Education students will be given a brochure with detailed instructions on how to make their "shoe box" present. Extra brochures are available in the narthex for any parishioner wishing to participate in this program. All shoe box gifts should be dropped off in the narthex or office center **no later than November 20<sup>th</sup>**. Jr. High will be holding its own OCC Packing Party during their gathering on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Jo Ann Jarvis or visit [samaritanaspurse.org](http://samaritanaspurse.org) for further information.

### YOUTH NATIVITY PAGEANT:

Sign-ups for this year's children's Nativity Pageant have begun. All youth from Kdg through 12th grade are invited to participate. The Pageant will be held during the 10:30 Mass on Dec. 11th. Please complete forms as soon as possible so that you can receive music and parts prior to the first practice on Nov 13th. Information and sign up forms can be found in the Narthex, and completed forms may be returned in the Narthex or via email.

# Social Ministry

## OUR THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVES



We have posted some of our food needs in the Narthex and feel free to take a copy home as a reminder while you shop.

For Thanksgiving, we've decided to concentrate on providing foods so that a Thanksgiving meal can be prepared, and a few other items that are staples will be added to the packages. We have also encountered many new individuals and families who need help. Our hope is to provide 25-28 individuals (mostly elderly) and 10-12 families with packages. The individuals require small chickens, Cornish hens or Jenny-O turkey meats, while the families would like large roasting chickens or frozen turkeys. Two important dates to remember: November 13---end of our Thanksgiving drive and December 13---end of our Christmas drive.

We have confidence that our Community will, as always, rise to the occasion and that the Jesus of Here and Now will light up many lives.

## GREETING CARD TO BENEFIT OUR FOOD PANTRY



Everyone needs to purchase a greeting card for one reason or another. In the Narthex, by the Social Concerns table, there are 16 different handmade cards for you to choose from, for your greeting card needs. The cost is \$3 per card or \$10 for 4 cards. ALL the proceeds go to supporting St. John's food pantry ministry. All you have to do is select the card(s) you want and put the money in the cash box by the cards. With the holidays right around the corner why not select 4 cards to give as a gift to your child's classroom teacher or your helpful neighbor. All the money you spend helps a most worthwhile cause.

# Parish News

## SMALL FAITH GROUP SESSION & CELEBRATION



**November 16<sup>th</sup> – 7 p.m. Church Center**

**All Small Faith Groups** are invited to come together for a final session for the fall program on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. We will begin with individual group sessions and then have a joint conclusion. Afterwards, we will all share refreshments and enjoy some social time! This evening is open to all current participants and to anyone who would like to give small groups a try.



**CHILDREN'S**  
Liturgy of the Word

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY (CLOW)

This Weekend members of the CLOW committee will be hosting a coffee greeting meeting for the 10:30 Mass. Please stop by and ask the current members of this committee about how you can get involved with this wonderful ministry specifically targeted for the children of our parish.

If you appreciate this ministry, why not join the CLOW Committee. The commitment requires one meeting a month which is most often held on the last Monday of the month at 7:30-9:00pm, in the Seton Room. At the meeting we plan the upcoming homilies after reflecting on the message in the readings. The more input the better it is for the development of the CLOW homily. We also need new members to help on the Sunday mornings that we host Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 10:30 Mass. Please prayerfully consider helping this worthwhile ministry. Contact Regina DeStefano 908-713-6839.

## SILVER AND GOLD WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



We wish to congratulate and recognize **James and Gail Battell** who are celebrating twenty-five years of marriage.



In addition we are very happy to congratulate and celebrate **Bonnie and Lyle Garcia** and **Joe and Dorothy Sima** who are blessed to be celebrating fifty years of marriage.



## WELCOME

The parish welcomes two families this week. The **Weldon Family** just moved here from Texas, they are Brandon, Julie, Amelia, Emmett and Elijah. **The Kelemen's** are Simon and Debby's son and daughter-in-law, Kyle and Elizabeth and their children, Caleb, and twins; Sophia and Piper and Rory. Their Photos are displayed in the Narthex so you can recognize them and introduce yourself to them

## PARENTING TUNE-UP

Some grumbled when Jesus stayed at the house of Zacchaeus, a wealthy tax collector and sinner. (Luke 19:7) Who does your family consider wrong headed or bad? Accepting the innate (sometimes hidden) goodness of another can prompt them to become their better selves.

## MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

Oct. 31 is Halloween in which our culture celebrates spirits - both scary and beautiful. Nov. 1 is All Saints Day on which we remember the godly humans who came before us. Who inspires you to goodness? (Susan Vogt)

## ANNULMENTS

### *Information Session*

Two identical presentations offered:

1. St. Stephen's Church, Perth Amboy Wednesday, November 2, at 7:00 p.m.
2. Immaculata High School, Somerville Wednesday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m.



National Bible Week 2016

THE BIBLE:  
A BOOK OF MERCY

## **NOVEMBER 13-19 IS NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK**

National Bible Week will be celebrated by Catholics across the nation November 13-19. This year's theme, "The Bible: A Book of Mercy," builds on this year's observance of a Jubilee Year of Mercy, declared by Pope Francis.

Is your family's bible located in a public space where it is easy to access? If not consider making the family bible available to all family members. Do you read the bible as a family? Consider opening and reading the bible together as a family one time this week or visit Bishop Barron's Journey of Mercy site.

## **JOURNEY OF MERCY NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK 2016**

The following seven-day Journey of Mercy features the work of Bishop Robert Barron, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Bishop Barron's Word on Fire ministry and his beautiful video series on Catholicism have inspired millions of Catholics around the world. Bishop Barron will highlight biblical insights that show how God is Mercy, as well as demonstrating mercy given, mercy received, and mercy lived out.

<http://american-bible-society.journeymaker.org/mercy>



## **SUNDAY REFLECTION: Sully and US Airway Flight 1549**

*... [Zacchaeus] ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house . "*

*Luke 19: 1-10*

On the frigid morning of January 15, 2009, US Airways Flight 1549 took off from New York's LaGuardia Airport, bound for Charlotte, with 155 passengers and crew aboard. Within seconds of taking off, the plane collided with a flock of Canadian geese. The birds destroyed the engines and the plane immediately lost thrust. Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger and copilot Jeff Skiles brought the plane down in a miraculous water landing on the Hudson River. You may remember the remarkable pictures of the plane floating in the middle of the cold gray river, with the passengers and crew standing on the plane's wings. New York City police and EMTs got to the plane immediately. All 155 on board survived the ordeal. The mild-mannered, unassuming, gentlemanly Sully was a hero, right?

Not so fast. The new film **Sully** tells the story of what happened after those terrifying 207 seconds. The National Transportation Safety Board had questions. The NTSB's computer models indicated that the plane could have made it back to LaGuardia or to Tereborro in New Jersey, that Sully and Skiles did not have to ditch the plane in the Hudson. Not only did the passengers' lives not have to be put at risk, but the aircraft itself could have been saved. These are all legitimate questions, but the presumption of guilt seems to be built into the investigation process. This is when we realize the character of Sully. In the days of the inquiry, Sully himself second-guesses his decision. He keeps looping back to the near-disaster, obsessing over the endless chain of decisions made on the fly. "Maybe I blew it," he tells his wife at one point.

But in his confident but quiet professionalism, in his methodical approach to dealing with crises, in his humble conscientiousness, Sully knows exactly what happened. He shows that all the flight simulators, computer models and insurance statistics have it wrong and points to what technology can't re-construct: human judgment and skill. In real time, the "human" pilot got it right, with experience that comes from knowing the aircraft and its limitations - and the captain's faith in his abilities to bring the plane down safely. Sully Sullenberger is the cool-headed, courageous pilot you want flying your fully loaded Airbus A320 to Charlotte or to anywhere.

**It's easy to overlook the Sullys in our midst; we take those who do their jobs with unheralded efficiency for granted - until something goes wrong. We expect specific results; we have exacting standards for the way things - and people - should be. We have neither patience nor time for failures and frailties - even though we all possess such flaws ourselves. Zacchaeus does not measure up to such standards: he's rejected as a despised tax collector, a traitor to his people, a swindler protected by his Roman masters. But in today's Gospel, Jesus lifts up Zacchaeus and reveals him to be a man of generosity and humility. The goodness of the tax collector and the skill of the experienced pilot are vindicated. We are challenged by Christ to recognize the gifts of those in our midst whom we are quick to take for granted or dismiss as of little worth or consequence. God makes his presence known in the generosity and commitment to the common good of those around us. May salvation be realized in our lives in the wisdom and inspiration of the Sullys who bless our lives.**

## **SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY**

Two little neighbor girls about the same age, one Christian and one Jewish, were constant companions. After one Easter holiday, the grandfather of the Christian girl asked her what her friend had received for Easter. The girl looked at her grandfather in surprise, and said, "But Grandpa, you should know that Becky is Jewish and she wouldn't get anything for Easter." Then she went on to explain patiently, "You see, I'm Easter and she's Passover. I'm Christmas and she's Hanukkah." Then with a big smile, she added, "but I'm really glad that both of us are Halloween."

## WHY ALL SAINTS DAY?

All Saints Day is *intended* to honor the memory of countless unknown and non-canonized saints who have no feast days. Today we thank God for giving ordinary men and women a share in His holiness and Heavenly glory as a reward for their Faith. This feast is observed to teach us to honor the saints, both by imitating their lives and by seeking their intercession for us before Christ, *the only mediator between God and man* (I Tim. 2:5). The Church reminds us today that God's call for holiness is universal, that all of us are called to live in His love and to make His love real in the lives of those around us. *Holiness* is related to the word *wholesomeness*. We grow in holiness when we live wholesome lives of integrity, truth, justice, charity, mercy and compassion, sharing our blessings with others.

## DIVERSITY OF SAINTS

One thing that strikes you first about the Saints is their diversity. It would be very difficult to find one pattern of holiness, one way of following Christ. There is Thomas Aquinas, the towering intellectual, and John Vianney (the Curé d'Ars), who barely made it through the seminary. There is Vincent de Paul, a saint in the city, and there is Antony who found sanctity in the harshness and loneliness of the desert. There is Bernard kneeling on the hard stones of Clairvaux in penance for his sins, and there is Hildegard of Bingen singing and throwing flowers, madly in love with God. There is Albertus Magnus, the quirky scientist, half-philosopher and half-wizard, and there is Gerard Manley Hopkins, the gentle poet. There is Peter, the hard-nosed and no-nonsense fisherman, and there is Edith Stein, secretary to Edmund Husserl and colleague to Martin Heidegger, the most famous philosopher of the twentieth century. There is Joan of Arc, leading armies into war, and there is Francis of Assisi, the peacenik who would never hurt an animal. There is the grave and serious Jerome, and there is Philip Neri, whose spirituality was based on laughter. How do we explain this diversity? God is an artist, and artists love to change their styles. The saints are God's masterpieces, and He never tires of painting them in different colors, different styles, and different compositions. What does this mean for us? It means we should not try to imitate any one Saint exactly. Look to them all, study their unique holiness, but then find that specific color God wants to bear through you. St. Catherine of Siena was right: "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." (Fr. Robert Barron).

## REASONS WHY WE HONOR SAINTS

- 1) The saints put their trust in Christ and lived heroic lives of faith. St. Paul asks us to serve and honor such noble souls. In his Epistles to the Corinthians, to Philip and to Timothy, he advises Christians to welcome, serve and honor those who have put their trust in Jesus. The saints enjoy Heavenly bliss as a reward for their Faith in Jesus. Hence, they deserve our veneration of them.
- 2) The saints are our role models. They teach us by their lives that Christ's holy life of love, mercy and unconditional forgiveness can be lived by ordinary people from all walks of life and at all times.
- 3) The saints are our Heavenly mediators who intercede for us before Jesus, *the only mediator between God and us*. (Jas 5:16-18, Ex 32:13, Jer 15:1, Rv 8:3-4.). 4 - **The saints** are the instruments that God uses to work miracles at present, just as He used the staff of Moses (Ex), the bones of the dead (II Kgs 13:21), the towel of Paul (Acts: 19:12) and the shadow of Peter (Acts 5:15) to work miracles.



### A PUMPKIN STORY: "What is it like to be a Christian saint?"

"It is like being a Halloween pumpkin. God picks you from the field, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off you. Then he cuts off the top and scoops out the yucky stuff. He removes the pulp of impurity and injustice and seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light of holiness inside you to shine for the entire world to see." This is the Christian idea behind the carved pumpkins during the Halloween season.

## ALL SOULS DAY

All Souls' Day is a day specially set apart that we may remember and pray for our dear ones who have gone for their eternal reward. Even though they are no more with us physically, we love them still and care for their life with God in eternity. Welcome to the All Souls Day Mass at 7pm this Wednesday evening at the Residence Chapel, to pray for them, and to thank God for the gift of their lives to us.

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

### **For October 23, 2016**

58 Donors Weekly ..... \$4,049.58  
39 World Mission Sunday .... \$1091.00

### **For October 25, 2015**

69 Donors Weekly ..... \$3,568.00  
46 Yellow Brick Road ..... \$1,357.00

## GROCERY CARDS



Thanks to **17 families** who purchased Shop Rite and Kings and Bishops gift cards the last week, totaling **\$2,550.00**. The stores gave us **\$126.62**. Cards are available after Mass or at the office weekdays.

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

### **Office Angels**

Wed., November 2 L. Caprio  
Wed., November 9 C. Behrens

### **Store Cards**

#### **October 29 & 30**

5:30 p.m.. J. Gardner  
8:00 a.m. P. Nanna  
10:30 a.m. S. Pojedinec

#### **November 5 & 6**

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

### **Church Center Plant Watering**

Week of 10/30 M. Cangelosi  
Week of 11/6 B. Sobey

### **Church Center Cleaning**

November 4 Team B  
November 11 Team C

### **Altar Flowers**

October 29 M. D'Avella  
November 5

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