

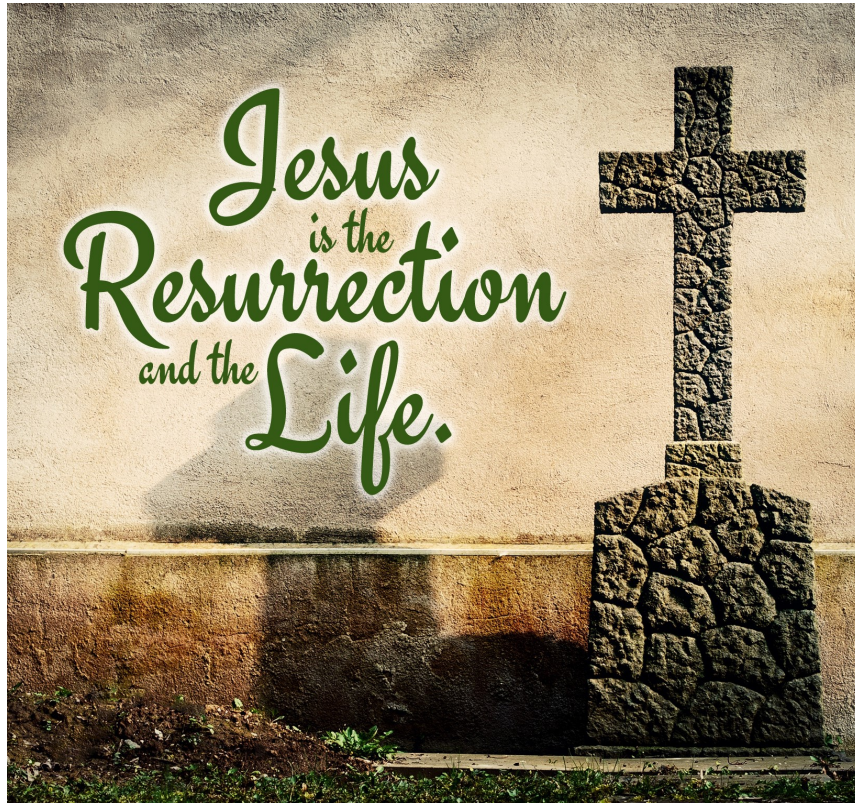
The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

A Christian Community of the Catholic Tradition

www.ccsjn.org / sjn@ccsjn.org

March 29, 2020

Volume 38 Number 13



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

**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.**

Diocese of Metuchen

Most Rev. James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA,
Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen
www.diometuchen.org

Rev. Richard Rusk Pastor
Rev. J. Wm. Mickiewicz.....Pastor Emeritus

Trustees

Fred Heimall Trustee
Mary Cangelosi Trustee

Church and Office Center:

398 County Route 513, Califon
PO Box 455, Califon, NJ 07830
908-832-2513 Office / 908-832-7618 Fax

Office Hours

Mon.-Thurs.....9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Friday.....9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Worship at Church Center:

Saturday Vigil Mass..... 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 a.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

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

Weekday Masses at

Neumann Residence Chapel:

390 County Road 513

Tuesday..... 7:00 a.m.
Wednesday 8:00 a.m.
Thursday 7:00 a.m.
Friday.....8:00 a.m.

Parish Contact Information

Office Center..... 908-832-2513

Fax / Email .. 908-832-7618 / sjn@ccsjn.org

Father Rick Rusk..... Pastor

Emailfrrick@ccsjn.org

Sharon Janks..... Pastoral Administrator

Email sjanks@ccsjn.org

France Kennedy Pastoral Associate

Emailfkennedy@ccsjn.org

Susanne Erz, PhD Financial Administrator

Emailserz@ccsjn.org

Wayne Infusino..... Maintenance

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

Phyllis Baker..... pbaker@ccsjn.org

Mauricia Nacamuli mnacamuli@ccsjn.org

Social Ministry..... 862-217-7457

socialministry@ccsjn.org

Project Earth projectearth@ccsjn.org

Bulletin.....bulletin@ccsjn.org

Youth Ministry.....sjnygroup@gmail.com

This Week at Saint John's

The following Masses with these intentions will be said privately by Father Rick

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 28

5:30 p.m. No Mass

Sunday, March 29

8:00 a.m. Dennis Borecki, req.

Marion and Kay Dabrowski

10:30 a.m. Bettina Parolari, req.

Sharon and Alan Janks

Tuesday, March 31

7:00 a.m. No Mass

Wednesday, April 1

8:00 a.m. Estella Hernandez, req.

Maureen Gillespie

Thursday, April 2

7:00 a.m. No Mass

Friday, April 3

8:00 a.m. Estella Hernandez, req.

Lourdes and Zeus Quijano

Saturday, April 4

5:30 p.m. No Mass

Sunday, April 5

8:00 a.m. People of the Parish

10:30 a.m. Lorraine Schwetje, req.

Karen and Gary Porto

The Fab 5 Raffle Drawing for this Sunday is postponed. We will notify you when a new date is set.

Parish Calendar

Sunday, March 29 - 5th Sunday of Lent / Diocesan Retirement Collection

8:00 a.m. Private Mass

10:30 a.m. Private Mass

Fab 5 Drawing Postponed (New Date TBD)

Monday, March 30 - Lenten Weekday

7:30 p.m. Fund Raising Meeting (On-Line)

Tuesday, March 31 - Lenten Weekday

7:00 a.m. No Mass

Wednesday, April 1 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. Private Mass

Thursday, April 2 - Saint Francis of Paola, Hermit

7:00 a.m. No Mass

5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)

Friday, April 3 - Lenten Weekday (Abstinence)

8:00 a.m. Private Mass

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT: Farewell

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

John 11: 1-45

A Vietnamese woodcutter is returning home after a long day working in the dense tropical forest. He comes across the remains of a soldier — an American. Time removed any traces of identity or personal effects long ago. With respect for life and the honor and dignity afforded to all human beings that is central to his Buddhist faith, the woodcutter carefully and respectfully buries the body.

The moment is captured in a poem from the Vietnamese poet, Tran Thi My Nhung:

Was your plane on fire, or did you die of bullet wounds, or fall down exhausted?

Just so, you died in the forest alone.

Only the two of us, a woodcutter and his wife, dug this grave for you, burned joss sticks, prayed for you to rest in peace.

How could we know there would be such a meeting between you and I, once separated by an ocean, by the color of our sky, by language?

But destiny bound our lives together.

And today, by destiny's grace, you are finally going home.

I believe your American sky is as blue as the sky above this country where you have rested for twenty years.

Is it too late to love each other?

Between us now, the ocean seems so small. How close are our two continents in this moment.

I wish a tranquil heaven for your soul, gemmed with twinkling stars and shining moon.

May your soil rest forever in the soil of your home.

Death is the great equalizer and unifier: in the moment of death, we are all one and the same before our God. In these final weeks of Lent, may we see our lives and world in the light of Easter: that every one of us is the beloved of God; that in death God calls our souls "home" to God's dwelling place; that the dignity we all possess by virtue of being created in the image and likeness of God will be honored in our being raised up to the new life of God's Christ. For us who seek to follow Jesus, the reality of death should neither be denied nor terrify us but be a prism through which we see our lives and define the meaning and purpose we seek to realize in this precious gift of time.

Saturday, April 4 - Saint Isidore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

5:30 p.m. No Mass

Sunday, April 5 - Palm Sunday / Building and Grounds Maintenance Collection

8:00 a.m. Private Mass

10:30 a.m. Private Mass



Remembered at Mass

We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharist: **Dawn Farley** and **Paul Vitale**.

Deceased: **Dawn Farley** friend of the Weldon family; and **Paul Vitale**, father of Paul E. Vitale. 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.

Califon Community Cares

for our homebound or medically compromised

In this most difficult time the Community of Califon is reaching out to those in need.

- ♥ Are you looking for food or medicine delivery?
- ♥ How about a friendly voice/call to see how you are doing?

We are local volunteers who want to help you!
Call anytime and let us know how we can help.

(908) 975-3535

Servicing: Califon, Tewksbury, High Bridge, Glen Gardner and Lebanon Township

We are looking for more volunteers as well!
Call (908) 975-3535 or email califoncares@gmail.com for more info.



PASTOR'S CORNER

These are very difficult times with the virus so please, make sure that you read the Bishops Directives. It is very upsetting that we have to suspend the celebration of Public Mass but let us commit ourselves to daily prayer for the world at this time. As the Bishop has stated this is a very fluid situation and we will take things as they unfold. Together as God's family we walk through this together trusting in the love of our Heavenly Father.

God Bless
Fr. Rick

WE NEED YOUR EMAIL

Have you received a few emails from the parish of late? If you are not on our mailing list. Send your name and email to snj@ccsjn.org. and we will get you on our email list so you will be aware of all the current announcements

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 29, 2020

"Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?'"

John 11:40

Many of us say that we believe in God. We go to church on Sunday. We volunteer for events at our parish. But when life gets hard and the pressure is on, when things aren't going our way, do we really believe and put our trust in the Lord? When we live a life of gratitude, being thankful for the gifts we have been given, we really do see that God is providing all that we need. It opens our hearts to see God's active presence in our daily lives.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Although we are not coming to Mass Weekly at this time, we are asking our parishioners to please continue to donate if possible.

Our donations are all we have to sustain us and this will be a difficult time for all.

One suggestion is to use our on-line giving program as listed below.

PARISH GIVING - ONLINE GIVING PROGRAM

Go to our website: ccsjn.org

Click on the link on the website and follow the directions to sign up.

Or

You can put this address into your web browser and follow the directions.

<https://www.parishgiving.org/?>

[e=A6EDB8C2E3F41749464472052EF2D6F7BCB6824123050DC2](https://www.parishgiving.org/?e=A6EDB8C2E3F41749464472052EF2D6F7BCB6824123050DC2)

Follow this link
On the front page
Of our website to
sign up



Parish Giving

simple. secure. convenient.

CLICK HERE TO ENROLL IN ONLINE GIVING
OR TO ACCESS ACCOUNT

WEEKLY COLLECTION

March 22, 2020

12 Weekly Donors \$1,090.00
 1 Bldg & Ground Maint \$80.00
 5 Clergy Retirement..... \$255.00
 8 Easter Flowers..... \$200.00

March 24, 2019

73 Weekly Donors \$4,723.00
 2 Bldg & Ground Maint, \$230.00

If you want to pick up store cards they are available at the office.

Our normal business hours are:

**Monday-Thursday 9-5
 Friday 9-12 (Call 1st)
 Sharon 908-638-4251 or
 France 908-307-7879**

STORE CARDS



Thanks to the **8** families who purchased **.00** in store cards, the stores gave us a profit of **\$.00**.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

No Schedule at this time

Store Cards

No Schedule at this time

Church Center Plant Watering

No Schedule at this time

Church Center Cleaning

Confirm With France 908-307-7879

March 26..... Team E

April 2 Team F

Counting

No Schedule at this time

AMAZON LINK QR CODE



This QR Code will bring you directly to the St. John's web-site ccsjn.org and click on the Amazon link. By doing this you will be contributing to St. John's Thank You for your support



EUCCHARISTIC CHAPEL

The Eucharist Chapel is open 24 hours for you to visit the Blessed Sacrament. At this time when we are restricted with much of our normal life, you are welcome to visit the chapel to pray. The chapel can be accessed by the pathway to the white picket fence from the back parking lot. Through the gate you will see the Mary Garden which the Fotta's help in spring to a beautiful garden. Enter through the Icon Room and the door to your left is open and will lead you to the Chapel. Please use the Lysol wipes to wipe down any surface you touch, chair, kneeler, door handles, push bars so the room is ready for the next person to use safely.



COMMUNITY GARDEN SIGN-UP

Sign-ups for a raised bed in the community garden for the 2020 growing season will take place in the Narthex on April 18 and 19 after all of the weekend Masses. We have 32 beds available--28 traditional 'low' beds and 4 'high' beds for those who have physical limitations. There is no monetary charge to use a bed but each member will be required to contribute 12 service hours of help in the garden. If you have any questions or need more information contact Anne Germino at project-earth@ccsjn.org.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Knights of Columbus St. Joseph Council offers high school seniors who are parishioners of St. John Neumann Church, an opportunity to apply for a Joseph F. Labuta scholarship.

You may access the scholarship by accessing <http://kofc10627.org> and following these directions—Click “Programs & Activities” on the left menu—Click “SCHOLARSHIPS” under “Family & Youth Activities” on the right menu—Click the “Scholar Cap” icon to access the St. John Neumann Scholarship criteria and document needs.

Deadline for qualifying students is May 1, 2020. The address to send the completed scholarship is: Knights of Columbus #10627, 59 Main Street, High Bridge, NJ 08829. All information on submission of the application is included. Good luck to all applicants.

MAKING A PRAYER REQUEST AT ST. JOHN'S

Prayer is the way we talk with and listen to God, and the St. John Neumann Prayer Ministry is here to support you in times of need. If you would like the Prayer Ministers to include your request in their prayers, there are three ways to reach them:

- Fill out a Prayer Request Card, which can be found at the Prayer Station in the Church. It is located on the left side as you enter the Church proper from the Narthex.
- Email prayerministry@ccsjn.org.
- Call Parish Office at 908-832-2513 and speak with someone about your request

All requests for confidentiality are honored, and should be noted when making the request. We all know how powerful prayer can be, and many have experienced the peace, guidance, healing and answers to their needs that prayer can bring. As a community we support one another in prayer.

FIND MASS ON LINE

Metuchen Diocese Masses <https://www.diometuchen.org/parish-live-streams>
 St. Patrick's Cathedral , NY <https://saintpatrickscathedral.org/live>
 Bishop Barron's Daily Mass <https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/>
 Daily Mass over the world <https://mass-online.org/daily-holy-mass-live-online/>

LAZARUS' TOMB

So there you are, isolated in your tomb, a massive stone of anger and resentment sealing the grave you've dug for yourself. Maybe you've tried with all your might to push it away, but it won't budge. And just maybe the other person is just as angry and hurt as you are. So you — and they — remain buried in the sad, pointless darkness of Lazarus' tomb.

Yeah, it stinks. But what do you expect? There's a stench to being dead: the constant cynicism, the relentless fear, the refusing to embrace or be embraced by happiness or daring to hope. Isn't it about time to let some fresh air into Lazarus' tomb?

What has you tied up: Some substance or drug? An obsession with food or money? The constant need to be plugged into some device or eyes buried in some screen? A perception or attitude or conviction that alienates you from others? A family battle that has gone on too long? Often, the silliest and most irrational "burial bands" can keep us tied hand and foot in Lazarus' tomb.

The Gospel Jesus who calls Lazarus from his tomb calls us out of the tombs we dig for ourselves in order to walk in the light of hope and possibility. He calls us to live life to the fullest, to bring the love of God into our cold, winter world. Jesus calls not only to Lazarus but to all of us: Come out! Untie yourselves from the wrappings of death! Live to the fullest the life given to you by a loving God. As Jesus instructs Lazarus' friends to roll away the stone and free Lazarus from his tomb, Jesus calls us to the work of Easter healing and transformation, the work of freeing one another from our graves of hopelessness, alienation and fear.

Easter Flower Offering

Deceased:

Walter Ader
Eleanor & Querino Angeline
Rose & Frank Felitti
Albin Janks
Linnea Janks
Bruce Kennedy
Betty & Louis Livoti
Mark Livoti
Dorothy Murphy
Alice O'Connor
Marcy O'Connor
Linda Owens
Madeliene Owens
Jean Stasick
Joe Stasick
Eva Testa
Marion & John Zelinka

Deceased Members of:

Angeline Family
Bennett Family
Cangelosi Family
Crescenti Family
D'Armiendo Family
DeVincenzo Family
Goski Family
Kelemen Family
King Family
Kostecki Family
Malone Family
Mikrut Family
Notaroberto Family
Prandato Family
Ruscetta Family
Shump Family

Prayer Ministry



FULL OF GRACE

Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you. (Luke 1:28)

Why do you think the angel Gabriel greeted Mary with these words? Perhaps because he wanted Mary to know that God had already filled her with all the grace she would need to say yes to bearing God's Son into the world. Maybe he also wanted to reassure her: she could count on God always being with her, not just in that blessed moment.

Mary might not have had much time to reflect on the angel's greetings until later, after she had said yes to God's plan. But as the baby grew in her womb, she probably thought about it often. She knew that what God was asking of her wasn't going to be easy. No doubt this was a special child. How was she going to raise Jesus to be a king and sit on the throne of David, as the angel had said? (Luke 1:32-33). When such questions swirled in her mind, she could always go back and recall the angel's words: God was with her, and so was his grace.

When has the Lord asked you to do something difficult? Maybe you were given a special needs child to raise or you are caring for an ailing spouse or parent or you're trying to work through tensions in your marriage. We all are faced with situations in which God is asking us to do what seems beyond us. We may have to say yes to the Lord not once but many times as we struggle to be obedient to his plan for our lives.

But what the angel said to Mary is also true of us. Mary was born without original sin, but because of our baptism, we are also filled with God's grace. He dwells in us. That means he is always with us and that his grace is always available to us.

When Mary said yes to the angel, Jesus came into the world to save us and share his divine life with us. Now we can move forward, day by day and one step at a time, to do what God is asking of us—because we too are "full of grace" (Luke 1:28)

"Lord, thank you for giving me the grace to say yes to whatever is your will for me."

WHAT DO YOU WANT THIS LENT

Well I think we may have all changed our minds about what we want this Lent. Our normal routine is gone, hard to focus on much of anything. Maybe we just pray that we find a way to remain calm, be good to others, help others, pray for others. Let us remember to pray and talk to God, giving to him our insecurities and worry.

Parish & Diocesan News

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Carolyn Anderson
Dana Colabella
Marie Damiano
Steven Geist
Tulio Hargain
Jay Heyman
Madi Kinney
Bonnie Lieberwirth
Samantha Livoti
Tom Malley
Declan Maloney
John Meyer
Catherine Mills
Karen Moore
Florence Nawrocki
John Pfeufer
Ali Redling
Earl & Denise Roberts
Michael Rubright
Tracy Schauer
Edward E. Sharpe
Patti Galati Stafford
Gayle Stinson
Walter Touchette
Tom Wiles
Joey Zieba



MILITARY PERSONNEL

Please remember in your prayers:

Captain Baumann, Katherine, US Army
Spec. Bitters, Christian, US Army
Cavallo, Chris, USMC
2LT, Michael Tyler D'Avella, US Air Force
SSO, Andrew Fabiano, US Navy Reserve
2LT, Molly Ferguson, US Air Force
2LT, Geerinck, Josh, US Air Force
Spec. Jablonski, Jon Tyler, US Army
Private, Linzer, Matthew, US Army
Seaman, Linzer, Stephanie, US Navy
SR O'Leary, Thomas, US Navy
Lieutenant Simila, Nicole, US Navy
Airman, Vardian, Justin, US Air Force
Jr. Lieutenant, Webster, Justine, US Navy

CATHOLIC HEART WORCAMP

DEADLINE EXTENDED

If you are interested in joining us at CHWC this summer you now have until March 31 to contact me. We are going to Saranac Lake, NY from June 21-26. You must be entering 9th grade in the Fall to attend. Please be in touch if you have any questions or if you are interested. Mary Connolly at mandmconnolly@gmail.com or 908-930-0784.

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE OF ST. JOHN'S

Although the Parish Office is closed you can still reach us by phone or email for assistance and you can:

- Pick up a hard copy of the bulletin. We will also email a copy during this time
- Buy store cards
- Drop off or mail raffle tickets
- Drop off Easter Flower Offering Intentions
- Drop off Diocesan Retired Religious Offering
- Drop off or mail weekly offering
- Get assistance in signing up for Parish Giving

**You can reach Sharon at 908-638-4251 or sjn@ccsjn.org
Or France at 908-307-7879 or francekennedy99@gmail.com**

DIRECTIVES ISSUED BY BISHOP CHECCHIO IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AS OF MARCH 16, 2020

Temporary Suspension of Public Masses

All public Masses throughout the Diocese of Metuchen will be temporarily suspended beginning no later than March 18 and resume no earlier than April 3, 2020, when the situation will be re-evaluated as circumstances unfold. Despite the suspension of public Masses, a private Mass will be celebrated daily at 7 a.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Francis of Assisi and can be viewed at that time on their website: <http://www.stfranciscathedral.org>. Televised or online celebrations of the Mass and other religious programming are available for use of the faithful on several television channels.

Since the Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life, all priests of the Diocese of Metuchen must celebrate Mass privately for the good of all the Christian faithful entrusted to their care and for all people during this critical time. Priests are reminded of the obligation to offer Mass for the intentions of those who have made an offering for the Mass. Weekday and other Masses can still be celebrated to fulfill intentions but, the faithful should not be present.

Remember the words of Jesus to the Twelve as they were tossed on the waves of an uncertain sea, "It is I. Do not be afraid" (John 6:20). The Lord is faithful and always calls on us to trust. With such a situation, we are called to more prayer, as are all of the faithful.

Please note that this is a fluid situation. We do not know how long the restrictions imposed on New Jersey residents will be in effect. Please be patient and look for regular updates from the Diocese of Metuchen. For the latest up-to-date information and resources, please visit [https:// diometuchen.org/coronavirus](https://diometuchen.org/coronavirus).

PASTORAL COUNCIL INVITATION

The Pastoral Council is a consultative body to the Pastor in developing and implementing the vision and mission of the parish. It currently has ten members, including Fr. Rick. Four parishioners are needed to replace those members that will complete their 3-year terms in May. If you would like to consider joining the Pastoral Council, please speak to one of the members who will be representing the pastoral Council at the Stewardship Weekend coffees on February 29th and March 1st. Interested parishioners are also invited to attend the March 9th Pastoral Council meeting, held at 7:30 p.m. in the Office Center. For more information, contact Fr. Rick or any Pastoral Council member.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



These actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services.

- The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan 1st Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours'.
- The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

DON'T MISS OUT!
GET YOUR FAB FIVE RAFFLE IN NOW !

5 Prizes - 5 Winners

Drawing date has been postponed
There is still time to get tickets in!

**You Pick
Your Prize !!!**

**Mail or drop off
tickets to the
Seton Room!**

**Prize Choice in
Order of Ticket
Drawn**



**Craftsman 17.5HP
42" Riding Lawn
Mower**



**Set of (4) Classes
Farm Cooking School
in Lambertville**

**Winners need
not be present**



**Yeti Hopper
BackFlip 24
Backpack Cooler**



**Blackstone 36" Flat
Top Outdoor Griddle**



Apple AirPods Pro