

# The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

A Christian Community of the Catholic Tradition

[www.ccsjn.org](http://www.ccsjn.org) / [sjn@ccsjn.org](mailto:sjn@ccsjn.org)

January 12, 2020

Volume 38 Number 2



## 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](http://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](mailto:sjn@ccsjn.org)  
Father Rick Rusk..... Pastor  
Email .....[frick@ccsjn.org](mailto:frick@ccsjn.org)  
Sharon Janks..... Pastoral Administrator  
Email ..... [sjanks@ccsjn.org](mailto:sjanks@ccsjn.org)  
France Kennedy ..... Pastoral Associate  
Email .....[fkennedy@ccsjn.org](mailto:fkennedy@ccsjn.org)  
Susanne Erz, PhD ..... Financial Administrator  
Email .....[serz@ccsjn.org](mailto:serz@ccsjn.org)  
Wayne Infusino..... Maintenance

**Religious Education.....908-832-2162**  
Phyllis Baker..... [pbaker@ccsjn.org](mailto:pbaker@ccsjn.org)  
Mauricia Nacamuli ..... [mnacamuli@ccsjn.org](mailto:mnacamuli@ccsjn.org)

Social Ministry ..... [socialministry@ccsjn.org](mailto:socialministry@ccsjn.org)  
Project Earth ..... [projectearth@ccsjn.org](mailto:projectearth@ccsjn.org)  
Bulletin.....[bulletin@ccsjn.org](mailto:bulletin@ccsjn.org)  
Youth Ministry.....[sjnygroup@gmail.com](mailto:sjnygroup@gmail.com)



# This Week at Saint John's

## Mass Intentions

### Tuesday, January 14

7:00 a.m. No Intention

### Wednesday, January 15

8:00 a.m. No Intention

### Thursday, January 16

7:00 a.m. No Intention

### Friday, January 17

8:00 a.m. No Intention

### Saturday, January 18

5:30 p.m. Ruth Shump, req.  
Diane Lehnert

### Sunday, January 19

8:00 a.m. Linda Toohey, req.  
Jack Kearns  
10:30 a.m. Jim Holland, req.  
Tom and Elizabeth Nice

## Mass Schedule - January 18/19

### Saturday

5:30 p.m.

Celebrant ..... Fr. Rusk  
Reader ..... L. Caprio  
Altar Server ..... Kennedy Family  
Ministers of the Eucharist..... D. Lance  
.....P. Fabiano, 1 Needed

### Sunday

8:00 a.m.

Celebrant ..... Fr. Rusk  
Reader ..... O. Stanski  
Altar Server ..... Connery Family  
Ministers of the Eucharist..... J. Klawunn  
.....M. Perez Proano, G. Battell

### Sunday

10:30 a.m.

Celebrant ..... Fr. Rusk  
Reader ..... G. Porto  
Altar Server ..... Alligood Family  
Music Eucharistic Minister ..... R. Pojedinec  
Ministers of the Eucharist..... S. Pojedinec, P. Rittman  
..... S. Carew, D. Royal, 1 Needed

## LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

If you are gluten conscious or need to avoid gluten contact France Kennedy to discuss receiving low gluten host at Mass. We are happy to provide you the information on actual composite of the host and advise you of how to arrange receiving the host at Mass. [fkennedy@ccsjn.org](mailto:fkennedy@ccsjn.org)

## Parish Calendar

### Sunday, January 12 - Baptism of the Lord / Together in Charity Collection

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
8:45 a.m. Bell Choir Practice (Church Center)  
10:00 a.m. Rosary (Seton Room)  
10:30 a.m. Mass - Class Mass Grades 3-4 (Church Center)  
12:00 p.m. GIFT Program (Church and Office Centers)

### Monday, January 13 - Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

10:00 a.m. S.H.I.P. (Church and Office Kitchens)  
6:00 p.m. GIFT Program (Church and Office Center)

### Tuesday, January 14 - Weekday

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)  
7:00 p.m. Budget Meeting (Drexel Room)

### Wednesday, January 15 - Weekday

8:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)  
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (Drexel Room)  
7:30 p.m. Book Club (Seton Room)

### Thursday, January 16 - Weekday

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

### Friday, January 17 - Saint Anthony, Abbot

8:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)

### Saturday, January 18 - Weekday

8:30 a.m. Pastoral Council Meeting (Upper Room)  
5:30 p.m. Mass (Church Center)

### Sunday, January 19 - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
8:45 a.m. Bell Choir Practice (Church Center)  
10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word (Narthex)

## ROSARY



**This Sunday, January 12th, 10 a.m.**

Please join us in the Seton Room, on January 12 at 10am to pray the rosary.



## Remembered at Mass

We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharist: **Albert Bocchino, Lillian LaBuda, and Marie Costa.**

**Deceased:** **Albert Bocchino**, uncle of Pete Cangelosi, **Lillian LaBuda**, aunt of Phil Farrell and **Marie Costa**, friend of Silakowski family. May they find peace and comfort in the embrace of the Lord and may their families find strength in the Lord and comfort and support from family and friends.



## **BAPTISM OF THE LORD: At the river's edge**

*John tried to prevent [Jesus from being baptized, but] Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness . . ." . . . a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."* **Matthew 3: 13-17**

What would be the last thing you would give up?

What would be the last possession you would cling to before you had to let go?

Some of us would hold on to our phones or laptops or tablets for dear life - our entire lives are on that chip!

Or: *They'll have to pry my credit card from my cold, dead hand!*

Or, though we would never admit it, we would cling to our pride: our professional credentials, the reputation and respect that we have earned over a long career, the expertise or craft or art we have worked so hard to master. To the bitter end, we would refuse to surrender those things that make us better than others (at least in our own eyes), that justify our standing apart and above those of lesser accomplishment, that put us (so we believe) in a position to judge those we consider lesser lights.

Maybe the last thing we would give up is our identity as a spouse or a parent or a grandparent. No one could ever take that away — could they?

But that is exactly what happens at the River Jordan. Jesus leaves everything at the river's edge — including his very divinity. John, the fiery preacher who presides at those baptisms, is embarrassed by Jesus' coming forward for baptism. But Jesus insists. He empties himself of all that he is. He becomes the slave, the poor laborer, the leper, the forgotten man or woman he is standing next to in line. He plunges headlong into the dark, dirty water of the human condition.

And, as Matthew the Gospel writer notes, some remarkable things happen.

But the most remarkable of all: God is in our midst. God plunges with us into the turbulent waters of our days.

It's just a matter of what we're willing to surrender — and in what amount.

**To be baptized into Christ requires, first, that we let go of those things that we place ahead of the holy; to empty ourselves of our self-importance and pride in order to embrace the life of God that is manifested in the selfless compassion of Jesus — but, because of such humility, something new is possible, not just for us but for all of humanity: justice for the poor and enslaved can be imagined, reconciliation among the estranged and divided becomes a reality; our compassion can heal the broken-hearted. Hope that gives birth to new life, light that shatters the darkness of despair, love that lifts the fallen all become realistic possibilities-if we follow the lead of Jesus and let go and surrender our interests and needs for something greater.**

## **NEW TO THE PARISH?**

If you are attending St. John's but have not registered with the parish we invite you to come to our Discover St. John's Welcome Lunch where we share a simple pizza and salad lunch and information on the parish to help you know what is what here at St. John's! First, stop by the narthex and receive a welcome packet from the greeters before or after Mass. Our welcome packet provides just enough info to get acquainted. Then fill out an information card so we can invite you to our into lunch, or contact France Kennedy at the parish office 832-2513 - Fkennedy@ccsjn.org.

## **OFFERING ENVELOPES - Pick Up Your Envelopes**

Thank you for your support of St. John's. Your new envelopes started Jan. 1st. Pick up your box from the Narthex. Or take a Parish Giving form and use the link on our website (ccsjn.org) on the front page to begin on-line automated giving. One less thing to worry about forgetting!

## **PASTOR'S CORNER**

With the feast of the Baptism of the Lord we enter "Ordinary Time." Yes, it was a very short Advent/Christmas Season this year. Thank you to all who gave your time, talent and treasure to make the celebration of Christmas a very remarkable and beautiful one! Personally, I would like to thank you for your Christmas cards and gifts. This was my first Christmas here at St. John's and I am touched very deeply by your spirit of generosity! I pray that the graces that the Lord pours into our lives will reflect in the year ahead for all of us!

Many Blessings  
Fr. Rick

## **BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

*January 12, 2020*

***And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."***

***Matthew 3:17***

Two thoughts come to mind when reading this. First, God, Our Father, is so generous, that he gave his only son, whom he really loves, to us so that we can have eternal life with him in heaven. God, Our Creator, really loves us, too! Second, Jesus was obedient to his Father's will, even to the point of death. This is a reminder that our own lives are pure gifts from God and meant to serve God and others.

## **STEWARDSHIP RESPONSES**

***Received 41 out of 305 Families***

Thank you for your support of your parish! We are here to share God's Word, minister to those in need spiritually and materially, and we are able to do so only with your financial support! Please complete a commitment card for your intended support for 2020.

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

***Sunday, February 2***

Mark your calendars to enjoy uplifting music performed by Darren O'Neill and Katie Meo Cudworth to benefit St. John Neumann.





# Christian Formation / Social Ministry



## **BAPTISM**

Quarterly we hold Baptism Preparation for families who are looking to baptize their child. Anyone who is expecting a birth of a child or have a child to be baptized contact France Kennedy at [fkennedy@ccsjn.org](mailto:fkennedy@ccsjn.org) or (908-832-2513) to register for the preparation program and discuss arrangements.

## **LAST CALL FOR CHWC 2020**

There are still spaces available for Saranac Lake this summer. The trip is from Sunday, June 21 to Friday, June 26. Please be in touch ASAP if you might be interested as the unused reserved spots will be cancelled as of February 1, 2020. If you will be entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in September 2020 you are eligible to join us. Any questions contact Mary Connolly at [mandmconnolly@gmail.com](mailto:mandmconnolly@gmail.com) or 908-930-0784.



## **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

**NOTE: Date Change**

**Saturday, February 1st, 7:00 am**



You are invited to join others discussing faith on Sat., Feb. 23rd at 7am, Come share coffee and inspiring conversation.



## **CONCERT**

**February 2nd, 2pm,  
Church Center**

Come enjoy an hour interlude of classical, spiritual and inspiring music to support SJN Music Ministry.

Performed by Darren O'Neill, on classical guitar and Katie Meo Cudworth, soprano. Refreshments. We appreciate your donation to support St John's Music Ministry needs.



## **CLASS MASS GRADE 3 & 4**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students **Class Mass** is **Sunday January 12, 2020. Please arrive at 10:00 AM.** The students will participate in the Mass and roles will be assigned. During the Mass the students will join Fr. Rick at the altar. Loyola Press, Sunday Connection is a wonderful site to review this week's readings. [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com).

**Please contact me by email if you are not able to attend the session**  
[mnacamuli@ccsjn.org](mailto:mnacamuli@ccsjn.org)

Preview this insightful YouTube video about the Mass

[https://youtu.be/Zm-HxgixdvQ\\_C4](https://youtu.be/Zm-HxgixdvQ_C4) Ignite Your Catholic Faith What happens at the Mass



[tacklehunger.org](http://tacklehunger.org)

## **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**

The Super Bowl is the weekend of February 1-2 and our Junior High will once again be participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring, which started many years ago with a single youth group's prayer:

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."

In this spirit, our youth will be collecting dollar donations and cans of soup after the Masses on the weekend of February 1st and 2nd to benefit the hungry. Thank you for your generosity!

## Parish News

### **PASSING THE CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP TORCH: A CHANCE FOR A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE**

In 2003, Bill Harrison and Judy Wade took 8 teens to Catholic Heart Workcamp in Rockford, IL. Our son, Zach, was one of those brave kids who said "yes" to serving others. When he returned home, he said that he wanted to go again the following summer asked, "Mom, will you help?". I freely admit I was hesitant to commit to one more thing, but his enthusiasm convinced me to step up. One of the most impactful decisions I have ever made. Now I am asking for you to step up. It's my time to ask, "WILL YOU HELP?".

For 17 years I have had the life-changing experience of joining just under 500 teens and adults from our community in living our Baptismal call to love thy neighbor. I could have never imagined this amazing faith journey when I first told Zach I would help. It has humbled and enriched me. I also know that this week-long service mission trip has made a lasting impression on most of those who were brave enough to say "yes". I want someone else to have this experience!

This has been a difficult decision. But when we learned that our daughter in New Hampshire was expecting her first child, and our third grandchild, I knew it was time to ask for help. So, I am asking. I am happy to meet/have a conversation with anyone who might be interested. I will walk you through the paperwork process and always be a phone call away from assisting you with this mission. Also know that the community of St. John Neumann is incredibly supportive of this ministry. It would be wonderful if you were able to join us this summer (June 21-26) so you could get a feel for what the week is like. Please be in touch: [mandmconnolly@gmail.com](mailto:mandmconnolly@gmail.com) or 908-930-0784. Thank you, Mary Connolly



## YOU ARE INVITED TO SERVE AT MASS

At Mass, Christ is present in the Readings and the Eucharist and Christ is present in all Ministers. The "action" of Ministry brings Christ present to the assembly. The Ministers are the conduit to Christ's presence at the Mass. God invites all of us to His table, to the Eucharist to receive Him. And we come, all of us, with our weaknesses and struggles, to hear the Word of God and receive his strength and forgiveness in the Eucharist. Father Rick and parishioners, who serve at Mass, are doing what Jesus taught us – serving others. We ask you to consider serving at Mass, in whatever way suits you.

### **ALTAR SERVERS**

Altar Servers can be a family or a couple or a single person. The tasks can be modified to accommodate the amount of participants. Altar serving involves leading the procession in and out of Mass with the cross and setting the altar at the offertory time.

### **EUCHARIST MINISTERS**

Ministers of the Eucharist assist Father with the distribution of Holy Communion. Serving the Host or the cup is special as you are blessed to bring Jesus to others as well as connect with parishioners individually.

### **MUSIC MINISTRY**

We so appreciate those parishioners who share the gift of song that God has blessed them with. With three different Masses the music ministry welcomes more people to be involved as a musician or a singer. For anyone who has a talent of music we hope you will consider participating.

### **READERS**

We want readers who feel comfortable being in front of the congregation and have the talent to speak with inflection, slowly and audibly to proclaim scripture.

Please consider being an Altar Server, Reader, Eucharist Minister or part of Music Ministry. With any position, you will be trained and instructed so you feel comfortable in your service. You also have complete control over what Mass time and how often you serve.

Scheduling is tailored to our personal availability. Every minister has easy access to the schedule on line. Each of us provide specific dates when we are available. We also can limit how often we serve. Even once a schedule is active, and a conflict arises, it is a simple matter to request a sub.

Sign up in the narthex, talk to one of the ministers after Mass or contact the office [sjn@ccsjn.org](mailto:sjn@ccsjn.org)

*Would you like to volunteer?*  
Call us today! We need you!



### **SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY**

#### *Hymn #365*



A minister was completing a temperance sermon. With great emphasis he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."

With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."

And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."

Sermon complete, he sat down.

The song leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, nearly laughing, "For our closing song, Let us sing Hymn #365, "Shall We Gather at the River."

## Prayer Ministry



### **YOU ARE GOD'S CHILD**

Ever since the day of his baptism, Jesus has been going out into the world. First he did it himself. Then he sent out Peter and Paul and the other apostles. And now he is sending you.

But don't worry; he's not sending you out alone. You are part of the "world" that Jesus is going out to minister to. Today and every day, he comes to fill you with the same Spirit that filled him at his baptism. So place yourself in today's readings. You are God's child, and he is pleased with you. He is asking you to "bring forth justice: to the little corner of "the nations" where you live and he is with you to help you do it.

***"Here I am, Lord! Send me out to share your good news."***

*If you enjoyed this reflection pick up a copy of the Word among us from the Narthex.*

## **VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES**

### **Office Angels**

Wed., January 15..... C. Behrens  
Wed., January 22.....L. Caprio

### **Store Cards**

#### **January 11/12**

5:30 p.m.....J. Eacovalle  
8:00 a.m..... V. Hoffart  
10:30 a.m.....D. Hunt

#### **January 18/19**

5:30 p.m..... C. Crescenti  
8:00 a.m.....M. Kearns  
10:30 a.m..... H. Quigley

### **Church Center Plant Watering**

Week of Jan. 19.... C. Fortenbacker  
Week of Jan. 26.....B. Lee

### **Church Center Cleaning**

January 16 .....Team A  
January 23 .....Team B

### **Counting**

Jan. 13 ..... Malone/Kosakowski  
Jan. 21 .....Cangelosi/McCabe



# Parish & Diocesan News

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Carolyn Anderson  
Dana Colabella  
Steven Geist  
Tulio Hargain  
Jay Heyman  
Madi Kinney  
Bonnie Lieberwirth  
Samantha Livoti  
Tom Malley  
Declan Maloney  
Karen Moore  
Florence Nawrocki  
John Pfeufer  
Ali Redling  
Earl & Denise Roberts  
Michael Rubright  
Tracy Schauer  
Edward E. Sharpe  
Gayle Stinson  
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



## CUSTODIAN POSITION FULL TIME

The hours are 6:00 am-2:30 pm Monday-Friday. Criminal background, fingerprinting references are required.

Send resume to Al Kielce, Immaculate Conception School, 314 Old Allerton Road, Annandale, NJ 08801. No Phone calls will be accepted.

## THE HUNGER FOR BLESSING

In his book **Against an Infinite Horizon: The Finger of God in Our Everyday Lives**, Father Ronald Rolheiser writes of preaching on Jesus' baptism one year and remarking that the words God speaks over Jesus — "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" — are words that God speaks over us, every day of our lives.

Father Rolheiser was later approached by a young man who had heard the sermon and was both moved — and distraught — by the priest's words. Father Rolheiser writes:

"[The young man] had not been to church for some time but had gone on this particular Sunday because he had, just that week, pleaded guilty to a crime and was awaiting sentence. He was soon to go to prison. The sermon had struck a painful chord inside him because, first of all, he had trouble believing that God, or anyone else, loved him; yet he wanted to believe it. Secondly, and even more painful, he believed that nobody had ever been pleased or delighted with him: 'Father, I know that in my whole life nobody has ever been pleased with me. I was never good enough! Nobody has ever taken delight in anything I've ever done!' This man had never been blessed. Small wonder he was about to go to prison."

Then Father Rolheiser recalls how different his own family experience was:

"When I left home as a seventeen-year-old boy, my father and mother blessed me. They made me kneel on the old linoleum floor of our kitchen, placed their hands on my head, and said the ritual words of Christian blessing. In effect, however, what they were saying to me was: *We love you, we trust you, we are proud of you, and we send you off with our full spirit. You are our beloved child and in you we are well pleased.* I suspect that had the young man I spoke [with] had been blessed in the same way by his parents, or by anyone else significant to him, he would not have been on his way to prison. To be unblessed is to be bleeding in a very deep place.

"So much of our hunger is a hunger for blessing. So much of our aching is the ache to be blessed. So much of our sadness comes from the fact that nobody has ever taken delight and pleasure in us . . . When has anyone ever made you the object of delight? When has anyone taken . . . delight in . . . your beauty, your intelligence, your person? When have you last felt that you are someone in whom others, and God, take pleasure and delight?"

**In Baptism, God claims us as his own, expressing his delight in us as his own beloved daughters and sons. From the waters of our baptisms, God then sends us forth to be a source of blessing to others: the work of reconciliation and forgiveness revealing to others that they are loved by God; the work of justice that honors the dignity of every human being as made in God's image; the work of peace that realizes God's vision for the world God so lovingly fashioned. On this feast of the Lord's Baptism, may we hear the Father's expression of joy in his beloved Son as addressed to us, as well and, with gratitude, may we seek to be God's "blessing" to all.**



## MUSIC

Do you play piano? Guitar? St. John's Music Ministry could use accompanists to substitute when our regular accompanists are unavailable. Training and guidance would be provided. Your service to this ministry would be needed only on a substitute basis, depending upon your availability. Please consider sharing your talent! Contact Arminda at [quiltingblockhead@gmail.com](mailto:quiltingblockhead@gmail.com) or 908-537-2637 or come talk to us after Mass!

Do you like to sing? Join Music ministry at one of our Masses. We welcome new singers any time of the year. Let us know if you are interested in participating year round or only for special seasons, such as Christmas or Easter. Talk to us after Mass or contact Gerry Brisson at [gbrisson1@hotmail.com](mailto:gbrisson1@hotmail.com) or 908-500-8308 or Arminda Barbone [quiltingblockhead@gmail.com](mailto:quiltingblockhead@gmail.com) or 908-537-2637.



# Parish & Diocesan News



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

## DIocese OF METUCHEN

St. John Neumann Pastoral Center • P.O. Box 191, Metuchen, New Jersey 08840-0191  
P: 732.562.2458 • F: 732.562.1427 • E: bishop@diometuchen.org

January 12, 2020

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Last month we consecrated our Diocese to Our Lady of Guadalupe with the intention to live our faith more boldly and to use our Blessed Mother as an inspiration to accomplish great things. We now take a step forward together with a renewed sense of mission and commitment to live the Gospel message.

The work of our Catholic schools is a living example of the Gospel message. To see the students, our teachers, administrators and our principals, dedicated to education and service gives me great joy and hope that we can provide a future for our children. A future that is a demonstration of God's kingdom at work, where disciples are formed and our youth are prepared to serve the community under God's blessings of mercy and justice.

There is a special collection next weekend (January 18/19) that supports the *Foundation for Catholic Education's* annual scholarship program. This program provides needs-based grants to children attending a Catholic elementary or high school in our Diocese. Thanks to the generosity of our faithful to this collection last year we were able to provide larger scholarships to students and send over 79 children to one of our schools in September.

Your gift makes an impact and provides great promise to so many young lives. Your sacrifice makes it possible for families to send their children to a school with a safe and nurturing environment while still being provided an academically rich educational experience with an emphasis on character development.

Our children are our future and our hope. The gift of a Catholic school education can forever change a child's life. I invite you to consider supporting this effort and to please be as generous as your means allow. Thank you!

With renewed best wishes, I remain

Yours in Christ,

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

P.S. We celebrate the ministry of Catholic Education during Catholic Schools Week, which runs from January 26 – February 1, 2020. If you are interested in giving your children or grandchildren the benefit of a great Catholic education, please visit <https://diometuchen.org/csw>.

## INVITATION TO MEN'S CORNERSTONE EVENT

**FRIDAY Night & Saturday - January 24th and 25th**

To be held at Immaculate Conception parish Hall in Annandale. Full details and More Info: <https://www.wiccannandale.org/mens-cornerstone> or call 908-287-2822. Brochures and Registration info available in the Narthex.

## LETTER TO A SUFFERING CHURCH

If you are troubled with the crisis in the church, you are welcome to pick up Bishop Robert Barron's book *Letter to a Suffering Church* from the Narthex. After reading it you can return it to the Narthex or pass along to someone who may benefit from it. Please contact the office if you want to discuss 832-2513 or [fkennedy@ccsjn.org](mailto:fkennedy@ccsjn.org). We can organize a discussion session with anyone who is interested.



**Are you on social media? Your stewardship could be keeping St. John's activities present on the web! Contact the office and find us on Facebook, "St. John Neumann RC Church, Califon NJ"**

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

### December 22, 2019

55 Donors Weekly .....	\$1,916.00
1 Yellow Brick Road .....	\$75.00
34 Religious Retirement .....	\$851.00
3 Christmas Flowers .....	\$37.00
5 Christmas Offering .....	\$380.00

### December 23, 2018

67 Donors Weekly .....	\$2,879.00
3 Yellow Brick Road .....	\$2,050.00
3 Christmas Flowers .....	\$45.00
142 Religious Retirement ..	\$22100.85

### December 29, 2019

56 Donors Weekly .....	\$3,744.00
1 Yellow Brick Road .....	\$600.00
2 Initial Offering .....	\$11.00
2 Christmas Flowers .....	\$10.00
1 Immaculate Conception .....	\$5.00
2 Solemnity of Mary .....	\$31.00
5 Religious Retirement .....	\$60.00
139 Christmas Offering .....	\$19,758.00

### December 30, 2018

59 Donors Weekly .....	\$3,387.00
23 Yellow Brick Road .....	\$442.00
1 Christmas Flowers .....	\$25.00
10 Christmas Offering .....	\$966.00
10 Initial Offering .....	\$32.00

### January 5, 2020

69 Weekly Donors .....	\$3,924.00
30 Bldg & Ground Maint .....	\$926.00
22 Initial Offering .....	\$318.00
1 Together in Charity .....	\$5.00
2 Christmas Offering .....	\$20.00
24 Solemnity of Mary .....	\$541.00

### January 1, 2019

70 Weekly Donors .....	\$7,358.00
44 Yellow Brick Road .....	\$1,275.25
4 Solemnity of Mary .....	\$45.00
1 Together in Charity .....	\$20.00
1 Christmas Offering .....	\$200.00
12 Initial Offering .....	\$155.00



## HOW TO REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE

If you were sexually abused by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or you know of someone who was, you are encouraged to report that abuse to law enforcement and/or by contacting the Diocesan Response Officer at (908) 930-4558 (24 hours/7 days a week). For more information on how to report abuse, visit our diocesan website: <https://diometuchen.org/report-a-suspected-abuse>.



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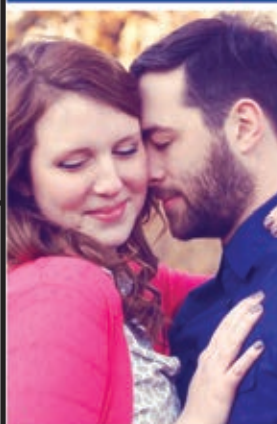
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