



2ND SUNDAY OF Advent

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.*

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

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.

This Week at Saint John's

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 6

8:00 a.m.. Intention of the Celebrant

Thursday, December 8

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

7:00 p.m. Donald and Gwendolyn Schmaltz, req. Jim & Terry Trotta and Diane & Charles Burke

Friday, December 9

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Saturday, December 10

5:30 p.m. Francis Hansberry, req. Connolly Family

Sunday, December 11

8:00 a.m. Mark Johnson, req. Marie and Roger Malone
10:30 a.m. Richard Cousins, req. Susan and Mike Griffin

Parish Calendar

Sun., Dec. 4 - 2nd Sunday of Advent / Yellow Brick Road Collection / End Christmas Giving Tree

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
9:00 a.m. Liturgy Enrichment (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Mass - Carew and Sepe Baptism (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word (Narthex)
12:00 p.m. Christmas Cash Drawing (Church Center)
3:00 p.m. Nativity Practice (Church Center)
6:00 p.m. Jr. High Catechesis (Church Center)

Mon., Dec. 5 - Advent Weekday

6:00 p.m. OCP Practice (Church Center)

Tues., Dec. 6 - Saint Nicholas, Bishop

8:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
7:14 p.m. Bible Study (Church Center)

Wed., Dec. 7 - Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

12:30 p.m. Staff Meeting (Drexel Room)

Thurs., Dec. 8 - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Holy Day of Obligation

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

Fri., Dec. 9 - Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)
5:30 p.m. Nativity Dress Rehearsal (Church Center)
7:00 p.m. Tree Set up (Narthex)

Mass Schedule - December 10/11

Saturday	5:30 p.m.
Celebrant	Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader	Kathleen Swindler
Altar Server	Upwood Family
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	Violetta Olesiak
.....	Bob Martalus, Barbara Martalus
Sunday	8:00 a.m.
Celebrant	Rev. Abraham Orapankal
Reader	Brent Herrig
Altar Server	Kennedy Family
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	Debby Kelemen
.....	Joe Sima, Dorothy Sima
Sunday	10:30 a.m.
Celebrant	Rev. Abraham Orapankal
Reader	Jane Albert
Altar Server	Souza Family
Music Eucharistic Minister	Gloria Cucchiara
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	Ron Pojedinec, Shirley Pojedinec
.....	Marlene Milko, Bob Sobey, Mark Brisson

Sat., Dec. 10 - Advent Weekday

9:00 a.m. Pastoral Council Retreat (Neumann Residence)
5:30 p.m. Mass (Church Center)

Sun., Dec. 11 - 3rd Sunday of Advent / Retirement Fund for Religious Collection

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
8:00 a.m. K-6 Family Faith Formation (Valley View)
10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Nativity Pageant (Church Center)-(during Mass)
3:00 p.m. OCP Reading (Church Center)

Bells will be playing at the 10:30 Mass on Sunday, December 18th and at the 7:30pm Mass on Saturday, December 24th, Christmas Eve and at the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, January 1st.



Remembered at Mass

We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharistic: **Erna Harvst, Eleanor Mastro, Eleanor Fazekas, Joseph Aulert and Susanne Dauguste.**

Deceased: Erna Harvst, mother of Shirley Harvst, Eleanor Mastro, mother of Mike Mastro, Eleanor Fazekas, mother of Nadine Fotta, Joseph Aulert, uncle of Brandon Aulert and Susanne Dauguste, wife of Deacon Frank Dauguste. 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,



Our Social Ministry was honored last Sunday during 10:30 Mass. I wish the rest of the parish to know what it was all about. Bishop James Checchio had asked for nominations to be considered for "Disciple of Mercy" Awards from the various parishes of the Diocese of Metuchen. Award qualifications stated that the individual or group must be: a volunteer who is engaged in a bold, creative, effective ministry rooted in the mercy of Jesus Christ and serving those who are poor and vulnerable; someone who has shown a long commitment to their ministry; and someone who inspires others to get involved in ministering to those in need of God's mercy. I immediately thought of our parish's special focus on social ministry and was convinced that our Social Ministry team undoubtedly qualified for it. After discussing this with the Parish Pastoral Council, we nominated Greg Wilson (an individual) and SJN Social Ministry (as a parish group) to be recognized as being disciples of Mercy.

These awards were given out by Bishop Checchio on Sunday, Nov. 20, at the concluding Service of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy at St. Francis Cathedral. Greg Wilson, representing the SJN Social Ministry, accepted both the awards. Last Sunday, as the 10:30 congregation applauded him, Greg thanked all and reiterated that this was an award for our entire parish, and that each one of us, parishioners, is a saint who practiced being a disciple of Mercy in his/her life. Together with Greg, the entire Social Ministry deserves our admiration for the lead they have been taking and hence I wish to thank and acknowledge the rest of the team in the name of our community: Anne Germino, Susie Donovan, Gerri Ambrosky, Nancy DuBeau, Debbie Hunt, Andy Koszowski, Susan Erz and Joanne Fabiano.

I wish to use this occasion to gratefully remember our dear Fr. Bill who put us on the road to Social Ministry, with meticulous catechesis on the Gospel imperative of loving our neighbor by reaching out to those who are in need. It was he who patiently educated us on the social teachings of the Catholic Church and the need to practice justice through charity to those around us. In this context, I invite you to attend a talk on "Catholic Social Teaching" on Dec 11 Sunday morning at 9 am during our GIFT program at Valley View School. The speaker is Dr. Dominic Scibilia, (the Chairperson of the Religion Department at St. Peter's Prep in Jersey City), arranged by Fred Galano and Religious Ed Office. Let this talk and the award help us all reaffirm our commitment to social ministry, keeping in mind what Pope Francis said when he symbolically closed the Door of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, that *"our acts and works of mercy should last and endure forever. Just as the psalmist tells us in Psalm 136 that the love and mercy of God endure forever, so we too must be constant, faithful and unwavering in our acts of love and works of mercy."*

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 8th - Holy Day of Obligation

Mass - 7:00 am, Neumann Residence Chapel / Mass 7:00 pm, Church

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on December 8 is the patronal feast of the United States and a Holy Day of Obligation. This feast honoring Mary, the Mother of God, celebrates one of the most important events in salvation history.

PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE ON THE FRONT PLAZA

Repairs Completed

We have just completed repairs and some changes to the front plaza for safety and to make it easier for those with walkers. Please do not drive vehicles onto the area for unloading or loading now or in the future. Thanks.

GIVE A TRY: TOPIC-BASED BIBLE STUDY

Do Catholics still believe in Limbo? Can a Protestant receive Communion in our church? A host of similar questions will be dealt with at our new initiative: "Topic-based Bible Study!" Join us on this Tuesday (December 6) at 7:14pm (Parish Office Center) for a one hour discussion with Fr. Abraham. Bring your Bible; also questions you have been curious about!

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 2016

"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." Matthew 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or, do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter and junk. Our time, our talent and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them is our gift back to God. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

ADVENT STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:

Advent comes every year no matter what. We always say we are not going to get caught up in the parties, shopping, traffic, shopping, secular culture, and then more shopping. Maybe this year is when you become more mindful of the reason for the season, more gracious toward others, and grow as a good steward of all God has given. Let's make it an Everyday Stewardship Advent!"

Grow in generosity and maturity of spirit during this Advent season.

Parish Contact Information

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

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

Fax 908-832-7618

Email..... sjn@ccsjn.org

Rev. Abraham Orapankal..... Pastor

Email..... abraham@ccsjn.org

Earl Roberts..... Deacon

Email..... earlr1@verizon.net

Sharon Janks..... Pastoral Administrator

Email..... sjanks@ccsjn.org

France Kennedy Pastoral Associate

Email..... fkennedy@ccsjn.org

Kerri Caldaro Financial Administrator

Email..... kcaldaro@ccsjn.org

Wayne Infusino..... Maintenance

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

Renee Ciszewski . Director of Religious Education

Email..... renee@ccsjn.org

Jo Ann Jarvis..... Office of Catechesis

Email..... jjarvis@ccsjn.org

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

Anne Germino and Greg Wilson

Bulletin..... bulletin@ccsjn.org

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

Christian Formation - Catechesis

DR. DOMINIC SCIBILIA SPEAKS ON CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING



"Catholic social teaching is a central and essential element of our faith." All are invited to attend the adult formation part of GIFT Family Faith Formation on **Sunday December 11, 2016 9AM at Valley View School. Dr. Dominic P. Scibilia is the Chairperson of the Religion Department at Saint Peter's Prep** a Jesuit High School in Jersey City. He has written and spoken extensively in the areas of Christian Ethics, Catholic Social Teaching, and Church History. Consider joining us in December for more information contact the Religious Education Office or renee@ccsjn.org

DECEMBER SOUP KITCHEN SERVICE



Service to the SHIP Soup Kitchen in Somerville will take place on Monday, December 12 and Thursday, December 22 from 11am-2pm on both days. If you would like to help serve the meal or can provide food for either dates, please contact Anne Germino at socialministry@ccsjn.org.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS

The next due date to have all of the food donations turned in is December 11, with deliveries scheduled for the following weekend. Here is a list of the items needed and there will be lists in the Narthex.

Social Ministry needs the following items for our Christmas Gift baskets: coffee, tea and hot chocolate; cereal, rice, pancake mix, syrup, pasta, pasta sauce, juices, easy meals like Hormel completes, dish soap, shampoo, toilet paper, toothpaste, small hams/cornish hens, large hams.

A REMINDER

Please check our table in the Narthex for an envelope that may have your family name on it



MONTHLY ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation is more than a subject to be taught it is an invitation to a way of life.
Joe Paprocki

Consider joining us during the adult faith sharing portion of the family faith formation program at Valley View Elementary School on Sunday, December 11th, at 8:30 AM or Monday, December 12th, in the Church Center at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend! You do not need to have a child in the program to participate. For more information, contact Renee or Jo Ann 832-2162.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD THANK YOU

It felt like Christmas came early as we collected many shoe box gifts from Religious Ed. students and parishioners for Operation Christmas Child! These gifts will be distributed through Samaritan's Purse to suffering children around the world in time for Christmas. Thank you so much for your participation!

ADVENT CALENDAR



Advent is the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. Advent means 'Coming' in Latin. This is the coming of Jesus into the world and into our hearts. It also reminds us of his second coming. Christians use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas. Advent calendars were distributed to each family this month as a great way to focus as a family on the meaning of Christmas. Remember to use your calendar this Advent season!

Social Ministry



CHRISTMAS CAROLING - LITTLE BROOK NURSING HOME

Join us on Thursday, December 15 at 10am as we bring Christmas cheer to the residents of Little Brook Nursing Home in Califon. All ages are welcome--bring the little ones! If you can provide a tray of Christmas cookies to share that would be very much appreciated. For more information contact Anne Germino at socialministry@ccsjn.org.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

For all of those that assisted with the Thanksgiving Food Drive that included Shopping, Packing Up and Delivering.

Some very special ladies helped with the last minute shopping: Lori Cirriani, Joanne Fabiano, and Annete Uss. And of course, we had Stacy Niemiec (aka Superwoman) who all by herself picked up and delivered all of the perishables donated by Shop-Rite from their store to our door. On Friday evening the following kids helped out with the packing of the food: ToniAnn Brezina, Tess Rodenberger, Casey Ayotte, Melissa Nanna, Rafael Proano, Emma Cantelmi and the Quartuccio brothers; James and Christopher.

On Saturday, two of our regulars could not help and consequently all 38 deliveries were done either by Bill and Debbie Hunt or Mike and Claudia Cantelmi. All we can say is...Wow! and Thanks so much. Stacy must be giving lessons. We also extend thanks to Girl Scout Troop 1290 for their help in collecting food and their Gift Card donation. Brownie Troop 80059 helped too by making brownie trays for our families/individuals. What else would Brownies make?

Thanks again to all those mentioned above and also to our entire community for your encouragement, donations and support.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES - NOVEMBER 7

The opening prayer was Lectio Divina based on Luke 21:5-19. It was followed by a reflection on our Annual Goal. In the ensuing discussions, the following conclusions were important for our community:

- Evaluated the Parish Town Meeting: though we had a higher number of attendees, it was less than we hoped for with the change of timing; we supported following up with the idea of a Subcommittee to look into sustaining the financial health of the parish.
- All agreed Father presented well about the financial situation of the parish at all the Masses for the Stewardship Weekend. At the same time, the gravity of our financial health could have been stressed more. Fr. Abraham announced there will be a follow up to homily about finances.
- Greg Wilson presented the 5-year plan for the Social Ministry. He discussed the ways in which Social Ministry works to find and help families in need. The aim is not only to give material help but also to build up a relationship that would encourage their spiritual life by inviting them to attend Mass if possible. Suggestion was made for parishioners to bring items for the Food Pantry to the Altar before Mass begins or during the Presentation of the gifts. All were pleased to hear that Greg and the Social Ministry were chosen for the Disciple of Mercy Award from the Diocese.
- Explored ways to advertise our parish events in the media. Announcing our Tricky Tray on the WDVR by John Cole our Parishioner on his show was the first step in this direction. It was aired on his radio show for the parish.
- Very pleased with the Religious Ed program (GIFT) that the parish has transitioned into and its adult faith formation segment led by Fred Galano. The Council appreciated the efforts of the Religious Ed Office led by Renee and Jo Ann. The meeting adjourned with a concluding prayer.



CHRISTMAS DECORATING PARTY

Tuesday, December 20, 6:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to the St John's Christmas Decorating Party. Adults and kids are welcome. While we enjoy socializing with fellow parishioners, music, appetizers and desserts, we have something fun to do – decorate the church. You can bring a goodie to share, but it's not required; cookies, sweets, appetizers or any kind of drink. Come join us for decorating, connecting, eating, drinking, and Christmas merriment.

ADVENT PARISH PRAYER FAMILY

Thank you for supporting the parish in prayer. Advent is here, for the next three weeks pray for the families that you picked. Ask your family to pray with you. Bring in a Christmas card to the families that you are praying for! Drop it off in the basket in the narthex by Dec 18 with their name on the envelope.

If you don't have a Christmas card we have some in the narthex you can use.

TAI CHI FOR MEDITATION AND HEALTH

The Prayer Ministry Team of the Parish will be presenting a six week series entitled "Tai Chi for Meditation". Sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings beginning on January 11 and ending on February 15. Sessions will be held in the Church Center, beginning at 7 pm.

The sessions will include the Eight Brocades of Silk, a sequence which encompasses eight posture positions, helpful in promoting health, relaxation, personal meditation, and breathing techniques. Depending upon group interest, we may introduce the initial elements of the "24 Form", a more complex and physically active set of movements which encourage more physically active meditation.

Space is limited to 20 parishioners, sign up early by contacting Bonnie Garcia at 908-975-3003 or bonnie.garcia210@yahoo.com.

There will be a \$5 charge per session.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE



All Christmas Giving Tree Gifts are due back this weekend (by December 4th.) If you have not returned your gifts yet, please do so as soon as possible. Contact Karen Porto with any questions at 908-832-9820 or kporto@aol.com

WRAP PRESENTS AND BE PRESENT

Advent is the season we prepare for Christmas. We shop, bake, decorate, shop, cook, and visit till we are ready to drop. This is all part of the season, but at its heart, Advent is about getting ready to encounter Jesus. A free email program from Dynamic Catholic will help you slow down and focus on what really matters during this busy season.

Sign up at: BestAdventEver.com



WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

Jackie and Lauren Alligood were welcomed at the 10:30 Mass on Nov 20 along with the Sepe Family, Anthony, Chris and Adriana. Check out their photos in the narthex so you can introduce yourself when you see them.

GROCERY CARDS



Thanks to **38 families** who purchased Shop Rite and Kings and Bishops gift cards the last week, totaling **\$6,425.00**. The stores gave us **\$179.63**. Cards are available after Mass or at the office weekdays.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

For November 20 & 27, 2016

154 Donors Weekly.....	\$8,244.26
2 Yellow Brick Road	\$80.00
47 Camp. Human Devel.....	\$996.60
16 Thanksgiving.....	\$627.25

For November 23 & 29, 2015

150 Donors Weekly.....	\$7,659.00
43 Camp. Human Devel....	\$1,011.00
22 Thanksgiving.....	\$428.00

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Virgilio Alves
Joan Cardierre
Eugene Cifranic
Bill Ciszewski
Jean Crickenberger
John D'Almeida
Barbara DelPiano
Tino DeSantis
Sophia DeVita
Brent Evans
Paul Ferri
Helen Gallagher
Sophie Geist
Marion Hergert
Jay Heyman
Fred Holub
Barbara Jiroushek
Lou Livoti
Iole Matthews
Dick McCall
Maggie McKeon
Jan McLeavey
Christine Meyer
Fran Miceli
Danny Mulvey
Joan Myers
Mary Lou O'Brien
Floyd Opdyke
Nilsa Perez Parsons
John Pfeufer
Ali Redling
Anne & Joe Sacco
Diane Siti
Noah Skinner
Michael Slivka
Al Sterphone
Julie Suplee
Nicholas Troiano
Don Velli
William Weimer
Josh Wilkes
Caden Zane
Jill Zane
Joey Zieba

MILITARY PERSONNEL

If you have someone in the military you would like us to pray for, call the office or drop the name into the collection basket. As military personnel leave the Service, please notify us so 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
C3C, Geerinck, Joshua, U.S. Air Force
Private, Linzer, Matthew, U.S. Army
Seaman, Linzer, Stephanie, U.S. Navy
SR O'Leary, Thomas, U.S. Navy
Captain Royal, Benjamin P., USMC
Lieutenant JG Simila, Nicole, U.S. Navy

ADVENT SUNDAY REFLECTION - Be a Prophet!

John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.
Matthew 3: 1-12

Here are some examples of today's prophets. 1) One afternoon a week she carves out a couple of hours in her already packed schedule to head to the clinic operated out of a downtown church hall. There she and a team of volunteer nurses give flu shots, treat any number of injuries, make referrals and dispense not only medical help to the poor and elderly, but compassion and caring — clad in the "camel hair" of nursing scrubs. 2) He's part of a group that spends Saturdays at the little track house his parish is rehabbing. The church got the building for a song from the city and plan to use it as a safe house for families in crisis. A tool belt is the "leather belt" around his waist. 3) Parishioners keep a freezer in the church basement stocked with food. Anyone going through a hard time because of illness, emergency or an unexpected job loss can contact the church office and they'll be in touch with supper and anything else they need — "locusts and wild honey" in the form of casseroles and apple pies.

In the spirit of John the Baptizer, "prophets" make crooked roads straight and rocky paths level by their compassionate generosity and humble giving. In our Advent care, we "proclaim" (the Greek word for "prophet") the presence of God in our midst in our simple and ordinary acts of compassion, mercy and justice. Putting on our own versions of "camel hair" and strapping on our own "belts" of "leather," may we be about the work of proclaiming and building the Kingdom of God; in the offering of our own "locusts and wild honey," may we be signs of God's presence in this Advent of our lives."

COMMUNITY RENEWAL DURING ADVENT

I am sure you are familiar with the amazing story of the migration of the monarch butterfly, a lovely little creature who blesses our gardens and forests in the summer. Every autumn, millions of monarchs from all over the eastern United States and Canada migrate thousands of miles to a small handful of sites in Mexico where they rest for the winter. Then in the spring, they begin their return trip to the north. The amazing thing is that no individual monarch ever makes the trip to Mexico and back. A butterfly that leaves the Adirondack Mountains in New York will fly all the way to Mexico and spend the winter. In March, it begins the trip northward, but after laying eggs in the milkweed of Texas and Florida, it will die. Those butterflies will continue northward, laying eggs along the way until some of them, maybe three or four generations removed from the original, make it back to mountains of New York. But when August comes, they will head south, aiming for the exact place their great grandparents visited, a place they have never been. Sue Haplern says: "The monarchs always migrate in community and depend on each other. Although a single monarch may make it from New York to Mexico, it is the next generation who completes the journey." Now here is the word for the Church. She says: "No one completes the Advent journey solo. It is only as a community that we discover the fullness of God's plan for us."

NATIVITY PLAY

Join us Sunday, Dec. 11th, at the 10:30 Mass. For a simple Christmas Pageant of contemporary Christmas songs with Nativity story passages of the Bible. Enjoy the season of Christ's birth with these young beautiful children!



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



A woman who is expecting her third child was heard telling the other two children that the baby is kicking a lot. She further explained that when she had the first one, Micky, he didn't kick too much. Micky gently said to his mother, "That's because I knew you were my mommy!" Out of the mouths of our sweet babies!!

Molly and Peter had been married for 50 years, raised 12 kids and are blessed with 23 grandchildren. When asked about their secret of staying together all these years, Molly replied: "Many years ago we made a promise to each other: the first one to pack up and leave has to take all the kids!"

PRAYERS FOR LIGHTING THE 2ND CANDLE

(Assign readings among family member)

Reader #1: Today is the second Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for God to send divine love and light into our dark world.

Reader #2: How does this happen?

Reader #1: God's light comes through Jesus, who became a human being just like you and me, so that he could show us the way back to God's divine love and light.

All: "Merciful God, give us grace to heed the warnings of the prophets and forsake our sins, so that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer."

Reader #3: A reading from the prophet Malachi: "I the LORD All-Powerful, will send my messenger to prepare the way for me. Then suddenly the Lord you are looking for will appear in his temple. The messenger you desire is coming with my promise, and he is on his way. (Malachi 3:1)

Reader #1: We continue to wait for the coming of Jesus. Last Sunday, we began in the dark, then lit one candle. Today, on the second Sunday of Advent, we light two candles.

First and second candles are lit. While this is being done, the following is read:

Reader #2: Every week in Advent, we light another candle. Each candle that we light reminds us that the Light of the World will soon come to us in the human form of the baby Jesus.

All: The Way of the Lord is being prepared in our hearts. May every valley be filled and every mountain and hill be made low. May the crooked paths be made straight and the rough ways smooth. When our Lord comes, may all of us then see the salvation of God. Amen.

VALENTINE'S DINNER DANCE

For our Catholic Heart Workcamp 2017 trip.

Friday, February 10, 2017 at 7:00pm

It will be here before we know it!

More information to follow but for questions or to get involved please contact Mary Connolly at mandmconnolly@gmail.com or 908-930-0784.

THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE - By Oldwick Community Players

Sunday, December 11th, 3 to 6 PM - at St. John's

Oldwick Community Players invites you to a staged reading of "The Christmas Truce" and a carol sing-along. The event is at St. John's and will run from 3 PM until 6 PM.

The "Christmas Truce" is set in World War 1 on the battle line between the British Soldiers and the German soldiers. Told from the point of view of 4 soldiers, it is based on a true story about a truce on Christmas eve where both sides put down their weapons and celebrated Christmas eve together.

It is open to all of St. John's parishioners – after the reading we will sing some Christmas carols and enjoy holiday refreshments.

For more info about Oldwick Community Players, please visit www.oldwickplayers.org or call 908-832-2207.

IS RECONCILIATION FOR YOU?

Come and see for yourself! Our Advent Reconciliation Service will be an experience of God's touch of mercy to us. On Wednesday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m., we have our Community Reconciliation Service followed by Individual Reconciliation. I invite all of us to come and celebrate God's forgiving love and mercy and experience the freedom of the children of God.

PARENTING TUNE-UP

"Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you." (Romans 15:6) As we approach Christmas many families will be planning family gatherings. What a joy it usually is to reunite with relatives. But some families are separated by war, forced immigration, or ill will. Does your family have a black sheep you need to make amends with? Does your country welcome all? (Susan Vogt)

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

Many parents put a small treat in their children's shoes the night before St. Nick's Day, December 6. Consider putting a treat in your spouse's shoe (a Hershey kiss, a love note, a coupon for a favor like a backrub or a chore you'll relieve your spouse of the next day).

*Santa Claus is coming to St. John's
Sunday, December 18th
Following the 10:30 Mass
(bring your cameras)*



Stewardship

A Way of Life

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Wed., December 7	S. Griffin
Tues., December 13	A. Sawczuk
Wed., December 14	M. D'Avella

Store Cards

December 3 & 4

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

December 10 & 11

5:30 p.m..	B. Cestone
8:00 a.m.	V. Hoffart
10:30 a.m.	D. Hunt

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of 12/4	B. Lee
Week of 12/11	L. Livoti

Church Center Cleaning

December 9	Team A
December 16	Team B

Altar Flowers

December 3
December 10

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