



The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

www.ccsjn.org

March 5, 2017

Volume 35 Number 10



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 Mass5:30 p.m.
Sunday8:00 a.m.
Sunday10:30 a.m.
First Friday Holy Hour7:00 p.m.

Worshipping at:

390 County Road 513
(Neumann Residence)

Check the bulletin for any changes

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday8:00 a.m.
Friday7:00 a.m.

Reconciliation:

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

This Week at Saint John's

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, March 7

8:00 a.m. Mary Byrne, req.
The Griffin Family

Friday, March 10

7:00 a.m. Helen Confrey, req.
Paul Rodgers

Saturday, March 11

5:30 p.m. Linda Owens, req.
Gary and Linda Caprio

Sunday, March 12

8:00 a.m. Theodore J. Semper, req.
Arminda Barbone
10:30 a.m. Vincensa Murphy, req.
The Sepe Family



Parish Calendar

Sunday, March 5 - First Sunday of Lent Yellow Brick Road Collection

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
9:00 a.m. Faith Group (Seton Room)
10:30 a.m. Mass - 3rd Grade Class Mass (Church Center)
6:00 p.m. Jr. High Catechesis (Church and Office Center)

Monday, March 6 - Lenten Weekday

6:30 p.m. CPill Day of Reflection Parent Mtg (Church Center)
7:00 p.m. Military Outreach Meeting (Drexel Room)
7:00 p.m. Faith Group (Neumann Residence)

Tuesday, March 7 - Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs

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

Wednesday, March 8 - Saint John of God, Religious

10:30 a.m. Faith Group (Church Center Narthex)
12:30 p.m. Staff Meeting (Drexel Room)
7:00 p.m. Social Ministry Board Meeting (Seton Room)
7:00 p.m. Faith Group (Drexel Room)
7:00 p.m. Faith Group (Upper Room)

Thursday, March 9 - Saint Frances of Rome, Religious

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

Friday, March 10 - Lenten Weekday

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)
6:00 p.m. Soup Supper / Rel Ed Sponsored (Church Center)
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross (Church Center)

Mass Schedule - March II/12

Saturday	5:30 p.m.
Celebrant.....	Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader	Kathleen Swindler
Altar Server	Brezina Family
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	Donna Lance
.....	Debby Kelemen, 1 Needed
Sunday	8:00 a.m.
Celebrant.....	Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader	Brent Herrig
Altar Server	Mastro Family
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	Bob Martalus
.....	Barbara Martalus, Diane Lehnert
Sunday	10:30 a.m.
Celebrant.....	Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader	Jim Murray
Altar Server	Brisson Family
Music Eucharistic Minister.....	Cindy Carroll
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	Gloria Cucchiara, Mark Brisson
.....	Marlene Milko, Donna Torczon, Shirley Pojedinec

Saturday, March 11 - Lenten Weekday

5:30 p.m. Mass (Church Center)
6:30 p.m. Coffee Sponsored by Property Mgmt (Narthex)

Sunday, March 12 - Second Sunday Lent / Catholic Relief

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
8:00 a.m. K-6 Family Faith Formation (Valley View)
9:00 a.m. Faith Group (Seton Room)
9:00 a.m. Coffee Sponsored by Property Mgmt (Narthex)
10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
11:30 a.m. Coffee Sponsored by Property Mgmt (Narthex)
4:00 p.m. CHWC Meeting (Church Center)



Remembered at Mass

We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharistic: **Bill Ciszewski, Mildred Johnson, Barbara Jirouschek, Rita Price, Nancy Bourdeau, and Hayden Balboa.**

Deceased: **Bill Ciszewski**, father-in-law of Renee Ciszewski, **Mildred Johnson**, mother of Bill Hunt, **Barbara Jirouschek**, parishioner and daughter of Gloria Jirouschek, **Rita Price**, parishioner, **Nancy Bourdeau**, friend of Stanski family, **Hayden Balboa**, friend of the Bennett 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.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK....

Dear Friends,

It was great to see so many of our people making extra effort to begin Lent with the symbol of ashes, reminding us all to "turn away from sin and believe in the gospel." As I was considering the different ways of living Lent, I was fascinated by this "If-we-were-reflection" a friend sent me:

If we were:

knives, Lent would be a time to sharpen our cutting edges.
cars, Lent would be a time for an oil change and a tune-up.
swimming pools, Lent would be a time to filter the dirt out of our water.
gardens, Lent would be a time to fertilize our soil and dig out our weeds.
carpets, Lent would be a time to get power-cleaned.
VCRs, Lent would be a time to clean our heads and adjust our tracking.
computers, Lent would be a time to overhaul our disk drive.
highways, Lent would be a time to repair our cracks and fill our potholes.
TV sets, Lent would be a time to adjust our focus and our fine-tuning.
silverware, Lent would be a time to clean away our tarnish.
batteries, Lent would be a time to be recharged.
seeds, Lent would be a time to germinate and reach for the sun.

But the truth of the matter is that we are none of these things. We are people who sometimes do wrong things - we need to atone for them; sometimes get spiritually lazy - we need to get back into shape; sometimes become selfish - we need to stretch out of our narrowness and begin giving again; sometimes lose sight of our purpose on earth and the immense promise within us - we need to regain our vision. And because we are also people who sometimes tend to put those things off, we need a special sort of official time to concentrate on doing them. So we have Lent.

I'm sure we all have chosen some particular way or ways to spend these 40 days. Our small faith-sharing groups have already begun to meet weekly; anyone is still welcome to drop in and see what it is all about! I wish us all a happy experience of Lent as we make some Lenten action a regular practice during this holy season. Then the Easter candy will taste sweeter, the Easter flowers will bloom more brightly, the Easter Sunday sun will shine more warmly!

Happy and fruitful Lent!
Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

DAILY LENT JOURNEY

Have you decided your Lenten Plan yet? As Jesus had forty days in the desert, we too can take the time of Lent to take a spiritual journey to enrich our faith. Why not try Dynamic Catholic's video program that guides you through Lent using the Resisting Happiness Book that was the parish gift this Christmas. Sign up at <http://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever/> for daily three minute videos to help you explore your faith and your discipleship.



SOUP 'N STATIONS – FRIDAYS DURING LENT

Meatless Soup Supper 6 p.m. – Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.

Please join us for a simple meal of soup followed by the Stations of the Cross, as we embark on our Lenten journey together in prayer and fellowship. Soup, bread, salad and drinks will be provided by our ministries; however, if you wish you are welcome to bring a meatless soup to share. Fridays: March 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7.

ST. JOHN'S MILITARY OUTREACH

On Monday March 6 St. John's Military Outreach will host a screening of the documentary film **Veteran Nation**. Please join us at 7pm in the Drexel Room for light refreshments prior to the film. **Veteran Nation** is a moving 30-minute documentary on how America has treated our veterans and their families from Bunker Hill to Baghdad, the challenges facing this generation, and how the American people can best serve those who served. The goal of the film is to inspire all of us to give back to those who gave their all. After the film we will hold a conversation on "What can we do to make a difference?" For information contact Barbara Martalus at bmartalus@gmail.com or [201-669-9490](tel:201-669-9490).

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

March 5, 2017

"It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve." **MATTHEW 4:10**

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. How is God calling you to serve?



MASS BOOK DEDICATION

If you would like to dedicate one of our Gather Mass/Hymnal Books, the donation is \$50. Contact Sharon or France in the office with the names as you would like them to appear in the book along with whom you would like listed as 'requested by'.

Parish Contact Information

Office Center908-832-2513

Fax 908-832-7618

Email sjn@ccsjn.org

Rev. Abraham Orapankal Pastor

Email abraham@ccsjn.org

Earl Roberts Deacon

Email earl1@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 Education908-832-2162

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

..... Greg Wilson

Bulletin bulletin@ccsjn.org

Youth Ministry sjnygroup@gmail.com

Christian Formation

CPI PARENT-CANDIDATE MEETING



Sunday, March 12, 8:00 a.m. – Valley View

There will be a CPI Parent-Candidate Meeting on Sunday, March 12, during the family GIFT session at Valley View School. This is an introductory and welcoming meeting as our sixth graders begin to prepare for Confirmation. At least one parent should accompany their CPI student.



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

Nourish and enrich your faith and spiritual formation by joining us during the adult faith sharing portion of the GIFT program at Valley View Elementary School on Sunday, March 12th, at 8:30 AM or in the Church Center on Monday, March 13th, at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend! **You do not need to have a child in the program to participate.**

HUNGERING FOR THE JOURNEY



Join our parish community—and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Throughout Lent we will pray, fast, learn and give as a way to reach out in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world. Religious Ed is happy to partner with Social Ministry in this effort to support CRS Rice Bowl. Prayerfully consider participating in this Lenten program – 25% of your giving goes to help needy families in our diocese and 75% goes to Catholic Relief Services' developmental projects around the world such as agricultural, water, education and microfinance projects that help families to support themselves. Rice Bowl packets will be available in the Narthex and will be distributed at all catechetical gatherings in March. Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

3RD GRADE CLASS MASS



Please join our 3rd Grade Religious Education students on Sunday, March 5th, at 10:30 a.m. as they celebrate their Class Mass. It is a wonderful chance to witness our youth deepen their faith and understanding of the Liturgy by playing an active role during the Mass.

1ST EUCHARIST CLASSES

Saturday, March 25th, 3:30 p.m.



The next First Eucharist class will be held on Saturday, March 25th, at 3:30 p.m. in the Church Center.

CPIII DAY OF REFLECTION PARENT PLANNING MEETING

Monday, March 6, 6:30 p.m.

At least one parent of each Confirmation Candidate should attend this parent planning meeting in the Church Center. The purpose of this meeting is to organize and brainstorm activities for the CPIII Day of Reflection. Please refer to the mailing you received to prepare for this meeting.

Social Ministry

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

Lent has just begun but too easily it can go the way of New Year's resolutions - Good idea but soon forgotten. Help each other. If you choose the same practice you can reinforce each other. If you choose different ones support each other's growth - but don't nag. It's not a contest. For some creative ideas:

<http://www.susanvogt.net/blog/>

PARENTING TUNE-UP

Lent has just begun. March 3 or 4 was also National Day of Unplugging. Can your family do a "tech fast" of a day without TV or the internet? If not today, choose another day soon. What kind of homemade fun can you substitute?

<http://nationaldayofunplugging.com/about-us/>

GIFT OF GOOD LAND COMMUNITY GARDEN 2017



The Community Garden at the Catholic Community of St. John Neumann will open for the 2017 growing season on the weekend of March 25-26. We have 31 raised beds and sign-ups will take place after all three Masses. There will also be a tomato planting and growing seminar on the patio outside the narthex (weather permitting) after each Mass. Tomato seeds, pots, soil and instruction will be provided or bring your own tomato seeds to plant. Contact Anne Germino at 908-832-2513 for more information.



2017 CALIFON FARMER'S MARKET

Califon United Methodist Church and Califon Area Merchants and Professional Association (CAMPA) are once again joining together to co-sponsor a farmer's market in downtown Califon. The market will be held on the front lawn around the gazebo at Califon UMC situated next to the popular Top O' the Barn Thrift Shop and overlooking the Raritan River. There will be 8 market dates for June-October 2017. If you are interested in participating as a farmer/vendor and would like more information, contact Pastor Kyle Cuperwicz at Califon UMC 908-832-2318.

CAN YOU GIVE UP THESE FOR LENT?

- GIVE UP grumbling! Instead, "In everything give thanks." Constructive criticism is OK, but "moaning, groaning, and complaining" are not Christian disciplines.
- GIVE UP 10 to 15 minutes in bed! Instead, use that time in prayer, Bible study and personal devotion.
- GIVE UP looking at other people's worst points. Instead concentrate on their best points. We all have faults. It is a lot easier to have people overlook our shortcomings when we overlook theirs first.
- GIVE UP speaking unkindly. Instead, let your speech be generous and understanding. It costs so little to say something kind and uplifting. Why not check that sharp tongue at the door?
- GIVE UP your hatred of anyone or anything! Instead, learn the discipline of love. "Love covers a multitude of sins."
- GIVE UP your worries and anxieties! Instead, trust God with them. Anxiety is spending emotional energy on something we can do nothing about: like tomorrow! Live today and let God's grace be sufficient.
- GIVE UP TV one evening a week! Instead, visit some lonely or sick person.
- There are those who are isolated by illness or age. Why isolate yourself in front of the "tube?" Give someone a precious gift: your time!
- GIVE UP buying anything but essentials for yourself! Instead, give the money to God. The money you would spend on the luxuries could help someone meet basic needs. We are called to be stewards of God's riches, not consumers.
- GIVE UP judging by appearances and by the standard of the world! Instead, learn to give up yourself to God. There is only one who has the right to judge, Jesus Christ.

(Craig Gates, Jackson, MS, "What to Give up for Lent")



AUCTION VIABILITY

The continuation of our annual auction (this would be the 31st year!), this very successful and necessary fundraiser, is in jeopardy. While we have several sub-committees formed or forming, we have no one to lead the event. There will be an emergency meeting after 10:30 Mass next weekend (March 12) in the church loft to discuss what to do about this dilemma. All are urged to attend. (Don't forget to set the alarm clock since that is the beginning of Daylight Savings). There is an auction help signup list in the narthex. Please prayerfully consider circling and/or entering your name in an area of interest. There is now an instruction booklet to guide any potential chairs. Look for it in the narthex. If you would like to take a copy home, let France or Father know. The tasks of the chair person(s) are:

- establish committees (with help)
- decide on theme/logo (together with team)
- secure DJ and auctioneer (we have leads)
- develop letter to parishioners (sent out w/Fab5 tickets)
- develop parishioner gift signup (for bulletin/narthex)
- propose updates for the introductory pages of previous year's booklet
- direct sub-teams where necessary (each should have their own team lead)
- create thank you list and letter



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"



AQUIRE THE FIRE



Young Adults

Acquire the Fire, the combined young adult group of Our Lady of Lourdes and St John Neumann, will be having their next meeting on Sunday, Mar 5th at 7 PM in the Old Church Hall of Our Lady of Lourdes (390 County Road 523, Whitehouse Station). Join us for a night of fellowship, games, and snacks. Save the date for our next meeting on Mar 26th. To join the list serve please email Susan at acquirethefire@ollwhs.org.

SPRING BEREAVEMENT SEMINARS AT ST. JOHN'S

The Bereavement Seminars series has been very well received at St. John Neumann over the past several years. Because of that positive reception, and need, another series of six interrelated sessions is scheduled beginning March 14.

The supportive conversations will take us from understanding loss and normal reactions, to steps, guided by faith; to acceptance and the recreation of hopeful lives. While a primary focus will be the death of a significant other, those who have experienced severe loss because of divorce, separation, or other substantial life altering events are welcomed. The dates of the seminars will be March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 25, and May 2. All sessions will be led by John Cole, transition professional, of St. John's Bereavement Ministry. Registration can be made with France Kennedy at the parish office by calling France at 908-832-2513 on or before March 10. If anyone has any questions about the seminars or participation, please call John Cole directly at 908-399-4234. This series is open to people of all faiths and religious communities. If you are aware of anyone who may benefit from attendance, please suggest that he or she call France Kennedy.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Ambassadors for Christ

To date, the Development Office has received pledges totaling \$12,322.60 and payments totaling \$9,692.60 from 33 parishioners.

This represents 32.4% of St. John's \$38,000.00 goal.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Virgilio Alves
 Joan Cardierre
 Eugene Cifranic
 Marie Colabella
 Jean Crickenberger
 John D'Almeida
 Barbara DelPiano
 Tino DeSantis
 Sophia DeVita
 Brent Evans
 Paul Ferri
 Helen Gallagher
 Sophie Geist
 Jay Heyman
 Fred Holub
 Lou Livoti
 Dick McCall
 Maggie McKeon
 Jan McLeavey
 Christine Meyer
 Fran Miceli
 Danny Mulvey
 Joan Myers
 Mary Lou O'Brien
 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 and 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
 Cavallo, Chris, USMC
 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
 Lieutenant JG Simila, Nicole, U.S. Navy

SUNDAY REFLECTION: *Micro-Chipping your Dogs and Cats?*

"One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God. ... Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him." (Mt 4:1-11)

An increasing number of responsible pet owners have now "micro-chipped" their dogs and cats. A small "chip" is injected under the skin and when a special scanner is run over the chip, the creature's whole history is made available—pet's name, owner's name, home address, home phone, vet's name, vet's phone, medications taken. It's all there. Most animal shelters now have these scanners. When a lost or wandering animal is brought in, "scanning" is the first procedure. Often the "lost" is "found," immediately. Parents of teenagers have gotten the message too. An increasing number of parents—with or more often without their teen's knowledge—"bug" their kids' car to keep track of where they are at all times. Tiny spy cameras can also keep an eye on driving habits, speed, and who gets in and out of the car. . . . A parent said: *"I see some teenagers looking at their parents very nervously right now. . . More familiar are parental controls put on e-mail accounts, alerting mom and dad when inappropriate web sites are accessed or e-mails received. For example, we have an AOL alert on our 10- and 12-year old's email accounts. But think again. Even in such a "Big Brother is watching" world, the truth is there is just too much temptation, and too strong an urge to misbehave, to ever keep track of everything."*

Today's Gospel (Matthew 4:1-11) teaches us how to defeat temptations using Jesus' techniques. It teaches us how the "desert experience" of fasting, praying, and soul-strengthening was a kind of spiritual "training camp" for Jesus which enabled him to confront his temptations successfully and then to preach the Good News of salvation. The Gospel also prescribes a dual action plan for Lent: (1) We should confront our temptations and conquer them as Jesus did, by fasting, prayer and the Word of God. (2) We should renew our lives by true repentance and live the Good News of God's love, mercy and forgiveness.

AN INVITATION FROM THE PASTORAL COUNCIL



Parish Pastoral Council *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace... (1 Peter 4:10)*

The Pastoral Council is a call to share our talents as a consultative body to the Pastor in developing and implementing the vision and mission of the parish. Each year, parishioners are asked to consider this leadership position for themselves or another member of the community. Nominations are reviewed and through prayerful discernment, an invitation is then extended by the Council to new members. Currently the council has ten members, five of whom will complete their terms in May. **Interested parishioners are invited to attend the March 20th Pastoral Council meeting, held at 7:30 p.m. in the Office Center, to see what it's all about.** For more information, contact Fr. Abraham or Gloria Cucchiara.



LENT FAITH GROUPS

The Small Faith Groups just started last week, it is not too late to join a group. Contact France at 908-307-7879 to try a session. There are groups Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday mornings, and Monday through Thursday evenings. We even have a Faith Group/Play Group on Sunday at 11:30am for families do have a session while their children play. Books are in the Narthex for \$10 – even if you can't participate in a group, you can use the book for your own Lenten Journey. We are very pleased that we have a record number of people enriching their faith through the small group experience.

TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY OF MEL GIBSON

Every one of us knows who Mel Gibson is and how he messed up his life after making *The Passion of the Christ*. It wasn't coincidence. My theory is that he did so much good through this movie that it brought on him a lot of attacks by the evil one as revenge for the spiritual good done by the film. Because he wasn't "careful" enough, or didn't look on what happened to him in his spiritual battlefield, Gibson wasn't ready for battles that came after he had finished the *Passion* movie. Because of his well-documented paranoia, he repeatedly roared threats to kill his estranged ex-wife of 28 years and burn down her house. He alludes to having earlier hit her hard enough to break several of her teeth—something he claims she "deserved." Mel's former wife surely knows that not only is Mel a racist, homophobe, misogynist, and anti-Semite, he is a drug and alcohol abuser and a violent or potentially violent man. Why did he have all these tragedies after the great triumph of his career *The Passion of the Christ* which grossed over \$604 million worldwide? Because he ignored Peter's advice, **"Stay sober and alert. Your opponent the devil is prowling like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, solid in your Faith. (1 Peter 5:8-9a)**

☺ SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY ☺

Smart Penance: A priest spied a parishioner enjoying some tasty smoked sausage on Friday during Lent -- a strict no-no in the church. The priest, being a pragmatic soul, told the man for his penance he was to bring a load of lumber to the church to help repair the roof. The man was not happy and he grumbled, but went off to do his penance. He arrived at the church on the next Friday and proceeded to dump a huge load of sawdust into the parking lot. "What's this?" the priest wanted to know. "I told you your penance was a load of lumber, not sawdust." The man replied coolly, "Well, if that sausage I ate was meat, then this sawdust is lumber."

Giving up what? A man took his young son to a baseball game. While they were sitting there, he asked the boy what he was going to give up for Lent. The boy replied, "I don't know, Dad. May be candy. What are you going to give up?" His father said, "I've thought about this a lot and decided to give up liquor." Later in the game, the beer man came by, and the man ordered a beer. His son objected, "Hey, I thought you were giving up liquor!" His dad answered, "Hard liquor, son. I'm giving up hard liquor. This is just a beer." To which the boy replied, "Well then, I'm giving up hard candy."

2017 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Ambassadors for Christ

By now you have received a letter from Bishop Checchio inviting your participation in the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal. The diocesan ministries supported by the Appeal directly impact many of the parishioners here in St. John Neumann. Your gift provides information opportunities for our catechists, deacons, youth and young adults. Among other important ministries, your sacrificial giving also allows our hospital chaplains to minister to those experiencing physical and emotional pain and helps to prepare our seminarians for a lifetime in the priesthood.

If you have yet to make your pledge to this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal, you will have the opportunity to do so on March 18/19, which has been designated as Bishop's Annual Appeal In-Pew Weekend here at St. John's. Please prayerfully consider a gift to the Bishop's Appeal to help our parish reach it's goal. If we can exceed our goal, 50% of the amount collected over goal will be returned to us in the form a parish rebate. Just as important as our financial goal is, so also our goal of reaching 100% participation. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated.

MARIAN PILGRIMAGE

Celebrate FATIMA's 100 YEARS
*SPAIN *FRANCE *PORTUGAL
12 Days AUG 4 -15, 2017.

BARCELONA, LOURDES, MADRID, MONSERRAT, ZARAGOZA, LISBON, SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, SANTAREM and FATIMA. Daily Mass, Fr Roy Quesea, Tour Chaplain. Land Tour \$2640. W/RT Airfare & Taxes from Newark \$3800. Includes First Class Hotels, Breakfasts / Dinner, Deluxe Motorcoach, Transfers. Please call Juliet Banaag Hobson 732-439-2835.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

February 26, 2017

88 Donors Weekly \$3,807.00
39 Development of Peoples .. \$967.00
6 Snow and Heat..... \$210.00
1 Catholic Education \$5.00
2 Yellow Brick Road \$45.00

February 28, 2016

86 Donors Weekly \$4,511.50
41 Catholic Relief Services ... \$892.00
8 Snow and Heat..... \$165.00

GROCERY CARDS



Thanks to **19 families** who purchased Shop Rite and Kings and Bishops gift cards the last week, totaling **\$3,525.00**. The stores gave us **\$191.25**. Cards are available after Mass or at the office weekdays.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Wed., March 8 C. Behrens
Wed., March 15 M. D'Avella

Store Cards

March 4 & 5

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

March 11 & 12

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

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of 3/5 B. Lee
Week of 3/12 L. Livoti

Church Center Cleaning

March 10 Team B
March 17 Team C

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