

The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

www.ccsjn.org

March 12, 2017

Volume 35 Number 11



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 14

8:00 a.m. Charles Kelley, req.
Barbara and Fred Pfeufer

Friday, March 17

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Saturday, March 18

5:30 p.m. Eustace Ropen, req.
Mike and Sue Griffin

Sunday, March 19

8:00 a.m. Theodore J. Semper, req.
Barbara and Bill Gates
10:30 a.m. Jeffrey Michel, req.
Deidre Quinn



Parish Calendar

Sunday, March 12 - 2nd Sunday Lent / Catholic Relief Svc

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

Monday, March 13 - Lenten Weekday

10:00 a.m. S.H.I.P. (Church and Office Kitchens)
6:00 p.m. K-5 Family Faith Formation (Church & Office Centers)
7:00 p.m. Faith Group (Church Center Loft)

Tuesday, March 14 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
11:00 a.m. Faith Group (Church Center Cabrini Loft)
7:00 p.m. Budget Meeting (Drexel Room)
7:00 p.m. Bereavement Session (Upper Room)
7:00 p.m. Faith Group (Neumann Residence)

Wednesday, March 15 - Lenten Weekday

10:30 a.m. Faith Group (Narthex)
7:00 p.m. Faith Group (Office Center Kitchen)
7:00 p.m. Faith Group (Drexel Room)
7:15 p.m. Faith Group (Upper Room)

Thursday, March 16 - Lenten Weekday

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

Friday, March 17 - Saint Patrick, Bishop

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

Saturday, March 18 - Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

5:30 p.m. Youth Mass (Church Center)
6:30 p.m. Youth Nite (Narthex)

Sunday, March 19 - Third Sunday Lent

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
9:00 a.m. Faith Group (Upper Room)
10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy (Narthex)
11:30 a.m. Faith Group (Church Loft)
6:00 p.m. Jr. High Catechesis (Church & Office Centers)

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| | <h3>Remembered at Mass</h3> |
| <p>We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharist: Rosemary Cicchitti, Bill Ciszewski, Mildred Johnson, Barbara Jirouschek, and Rita Price.</p> | |

Deceased: **Rosemary Cicchitti**, aunt of Linda Caprio, **Bill Ciszewski**, father-in-law of Renee Ciszewski, **Mildred Johnson**, mother of Bill Hunt, **Barbara Jirouschek**, parishioner and daughter of Gloria Jirouschek, and **Rita Price**, parishioner. 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.

| Mass Schedule - March 18/19 | | |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Saturday | Youth Mass | 5:30 p.m. |
| Celebrant | Fr. Abraham Orapankal | |
| Reader | Youth Mass Reader | |
| Altar Server | Youth Group Altar Servers | |
| Ministers of the Eucharist..... | Joann Gardner | |
| | Mary D'Avella, Donna Torczon | |
| Sunday | | 8:00 a.m. |
| Celebrant | Fr. Abraham Orapankal | |
| Reader | Chris Bitters | |
| Altar Server | Patterson Family | |
| Ministers of the Eucharist..... | Barbara Gates | |
| | Joe Sima, Dorothy Sima | |
| Sunday | | 10:30 a.m. |
| Celebrant | Fr. Abraham Orapankal | |
| Reader | Jane Albert | |
| Altar Server | Souza Family | |
| Music Eucharistic Minister | Shirley Pojedinec | |
| Ministers of the Eucharist..... | Bob Sobey, Doris Royal | |
| | Peter Royal, Sheena Carew, Ron Pojedinec | |

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK....

Dear Friends,

Bishop James Chechio has just released his first Pastoral Letter to the whole Diocese. It is aptly titled, "Lighting a Fire in the Heart of the World" – taking inspiration from the meaning of the name of Metuchen which is of native American origin. It is his reflection about the priorities for the diocese, based on his visits to all the 90 parishes, observations and conversations with clergy, religious and lay faithful.

Addressing all lay men and women, the Bishop says *"You are the spirit of Christ dwelling and acting in Central New Jersey and the world needs you!"* The way to witness to this reality must begin with a personal knowledge of Jesus through prayer. He reminds us that we come to know Jesus in the Scriptures: *"The Sacred Scriptures constantly reintroduce us to Him. Learning to dedicate daily time to reflect and pray with the Scriptures is essential to developing a friendship with Jesus. I encourage the ancient practice known as Lectio Divina, which is a meditative, receptive way for our soul to interact with the Word of God."*

I felt very good to see the Bishop recommending 'Lectio Divina' to all. This was exactly our Fr. Bill's plan and vision when he introduced 'Lectio Divina' and other prayer methods to the different ministries in our parish. That's one of the reasons why our parish is so very unique: most of our ministries and associations begin their monthly meetings with an extended time of prayer using 'Lectio Divina' or some other prayer method.

The Bishop further states: *"Our baptismal mission to evangelize the world will primarily arise from our relationship with, and dedication to, Jesus. Sometimes it will mean giving explicit witness to Jesus — His love, His friendship, His salvation and His Church — through our words: "Always be prepared to give a reason to anyone who asks you for the hope that you have" (1Pt 3:15)."*

I believe this is what is being accomplished through our adult faith formation programs like "Live Lent" faith sharing groups, GIFT that has the segment for adults, prayer ministry's enrichment sessions etc. We have an amazingly high number of participation in these. Certainly everyone can benefit from these as this enables us to be more confident to speak about our faith.

I encourage all to read this important and meaningful Pastoral Letter of our Bishop. Pick up a copy from the narthex. You can also read it from the diocesan website www.diometuchen.org or from the diocesan paper www.catholicspirit.com Prayerful reading it will give us an additional energy to our Lenten practices.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

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 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 our goal of reaching 100% participation. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated.

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 12, 2017

"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you."

GENESIS 12:1

God calls all of us to leave behind our old ways and to follow Him, placing our complete trust in Him. Some of the old ways that we may have to struggle to leave behind might be materialism, selfishness and greed. Yet God promises to show us a new land and a better way to live.

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 17, 24, 31 and April 7.

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 earlr1@verizon.net

Sharon Janks Pastoral Administrator

Email sjanks@ccsjn.org

France Kennedy Pastoral Associate

Email fkennedy@ccsjn.org

Kerri Caldaro Financial Administrator

Email kaldaro@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.

CLASS MASS GRADE 3



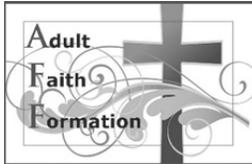
Thank you to all the third grade students who participated in their first class Mass and their siblings who enthusiastically helped in the celebration of Mass on Sunday. It is wonderful to watch the students grow in faith as they become active members of the parish community.

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.



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.

TEEN OUTREACH PROGRAM

“Because I’m Worth It” - Wednesday, March 29th, 7:00 p.m.

Each Confirmation Candidate in CP III, along with a parent, will be attending “Because I’m Worth It,” a Teen Outreach event on March 29th at 7:00 p.m., at Immaculate Conception School in Annandale. Speaker, Pam Stenzel, will cover the topic of chastity in her captivating and inspiring talk for 8th grade students and up. Please arrive early to check in with Renee Ciszewski and to be seated with the rest of St. John’s Confirmandi.

Social Ministry

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

There are probably few other groups that value the meaning of caring for and looking for help from our own than veterans. For reasons known to them they value highly the bonds created by suffering together. So, we’d like to ask veterans here in our Community to step forward and offer help to some of your fellow vets. We now, coincidentally assist 3 or 4 veterans or their families with food during the Food Drives/ Financial Assistance and we think it would mean more if these acts were conducted by veterans who volunteered to assist their brothers/sisters, who have all served our country. We can supply you with a few contacts and a place that has many more to be serviced. Please contact Barbara Martalus @bmartalus@gmail.com to assist.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

During this Season of Lent we are putting away our Change for Change Program, so that we can concentrate more fully on The Rice Bowl Project, which in its fullness is truly a Family Project. For more on this follow the lead of Religious Education as it instructs you regarding your Family Faith Sharing/ GIFT Program. If followed properly your family might share recipes, discuss the living conditions of the impoverished and in the spirit of Pope Francis learn to appreciate the cultures of a diverse global population so that we can better understand the causes of and solutions to employ regarding this plight and blight on our world. One of the easiest solutions is PRAYER, but unfortunately while right under our nose it is often forgotten. A suggestion: use prompts like the rice bowls, change jars etc. also that when you see them you’ll be reminded of acting out prayer.

We are blessed to have so many in our Community, who without any reminders at all, always continue to bring in food for our Food Pantry. Thank you for all that you do. Soon we will be preparing a special food list for our Easter Food Drive. Look for it!

We have a thought regarding all of our Food Drives that may result in a very meaningful way for FAMILIES TO HELP FAMILIES. As a family, if you have the means and see the merit of adopting another family during this Holy Season please contact Greg Wilson either personally or by phone/email @ 908 338 7322/ gwilson962@gmail.com and we can discuss. Or feel free to discuss with any member of the staff or member of the Social Ministry Team. We’re on the edge of our seats awaiting your response.

“LORD, GIVE ME THE GRACE FOR TRANSFORMATION”

The word transfiguration means a change in form or appearance. Biologists call it metamorphosis (derived from the Greek word *metamorphoomai* used in Matthew's Gospel), to describe the change that occurs when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. As children we might have curiously watched the process of the caterpillar turning into a chrysalis and then bursting into a beautiful Monarch butterfly. Fr. Anthony De Mello tells the story of such a metamorphosis in the prayer life of an old man. "I was a revolutionary when I was young, and all my prayer to God was: 'Lord, give me the grace to change the world.' As I approached middle age and realized that half of my life was gone without changing a single soul, I changed my prayer to: 'Lord, give me the grace to change all those who come in contact with me; just my family and friends and I shall be satisfied.' Now that I am old and my days are numbered, I have begun to see how foolish I have been. My one prayer now is: 'Lord, give me the grace to change myself.' If I had prayed for this right from the start, I should not have wasted my life."

CALLING OUR MEN FOR A RETREAT!

On March 31st, St. Luke Parish in Long Valley will be holding its 9th Mens' Cornerstone Retreat, a 27-hour fellowship experience starting Friday evening at 6:00 PM and ending on Saturday evening. It will take place at St. Mary's Retreat Center on the campus of Delbarton in Morristown. The mission of Cornerstone is to provide a comfortable environment where men can meet as Brothers in Christ to discern openly their relationship with the Lord. Cornerstone men's group is a parish-based organization with groups in towns across the country. Our retreats and meetings serve as a conduit to strengthen our faith and personal growth in Christian community. "Incredible," "transforming," really worth it," "I'm glad I did it" – are some of the responses of those who attended such a retreat. If you are interested in attending this special event, brochures are available in the Narthex, or you can contact Dan Furnald at 908-399-2125 or danfurn@gmail.com



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

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk" (Gn. 12: 1) Moving to a new home can be exciting, exhausting, and scary - all at the same time. Share the best and worst part of a move you've made together.

PARENTING TUNE-UP

If your child is old enough to choose a Lenten sacrifice, help them to see beyond just giving up candy. Consider how the devil tempted Jesus with food, power, and money. Let the tangible sacrifice be a reminder to love someone who is hard to love. (Susan Vogt)



SPRING BEREAVEMENT SEMINARS AT ST. JOHN'S

The Bereavement Seminar 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 welcome. 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 908-832-2513 on or before March 10. If you have 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.

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
 Liz Harmon
 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: *Movie Preview*

“Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them.”
(Matthew 17:1-10)

You go into the movie theatre, find a seat that's suitable. You find a place for your coat, sit down, and get ready to watch the movie. The house lights dim; the speakers crackle as the dust and scratches on the soundtrack are translated into static, and an image appears on the screen. It is not the film you came to see. It is the preview of coming attractions, a brief glimpse of the highlights of a film opening soon. The moviemakers and theater owners hope the preview will pique your interest enough to make you want to come back and see the whole film.

On the Mount of the Transfiguration, Peter, James and John, the inner circle of Jesus' disciples, were given a preview of coming attractions. Today's Gospel gives us a splendid preview of Jesus radiant in Divine glory, his mortal nature brilliantly, though only momentarily, transfigured; a dazzling preview of His Divinity, unalloyed and perfectly pure, shining in glory like the very sun. A sneak preview, in other words, of Easter and of His final coming in Glory to take us Home, the triumphant climax of the epic love story between God and humanity.

We need these 'mountain-top' experiences in our own lives. We can share experiences like those of Peter, James and John when we spend some extra time in prayer during Lent. Perhaps we may want to fast for one day, taking only water, thus releasing spiritual energy, which in turn, can lift our thoughts to a higher plane. Such a fast may also help us to remember the starving millions in the world, and make us more willing to help them.

ST. JOHN NEUMANN INCOME AND EXPENSE SUMMARY

July 2016 through December 2016

Income:

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Weekly Collections..... | \$158,527 |
| Yellow Brick Road | 26,026 |
| Christmas | 52,675 |
| Fund Raising | 30,840 |
| All Other | 14,994 |
| Total Income | \$283,062 |

Expenses:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Salaries and Benefits | \$129,911 |
| Office Expenses | 15,717 |
| Maintenance & Repairs..... | 29,272 |
| Utilities..... | 10,494 |
| Insurance | - |
| Parish Ministries..... | 3,761 |
| Extraordinary Expenses | 6,838 |
| Total Expenses | \$195,973 |

Income greater than Expenses \$87,089

Comments:

Thank you for your continued generosity.

The weekly and monthly Yellow Brick Road collections have seen a slight increase over last year.

The Christmas collection was double the amount of the prior year. Thanks to the anonymous donors challenge.

Expenses are being watched closely.

Some of our major expenses such as the diocesan assessment payment and auto/property insurance are not due until April – June.

Reminders:

There is a link now on the parish website for those of you who would like to donate on-line using your credit card.

Remember to purchase gift cards for your grocery shopping and other purchases. It's an easy way to have money donated to St. John's.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Minutes of February 27, 2017

We began with a short prayer service where the members had a faith-sharing on the gospel of the coming Sunday. These were the main points of discussions:

- Reflecting on the Annual Goal, especially on segment on attracting people back to the church, the Council proposed these suggestions to be given to Connxions for their consideration: to have a Banner at the Carriage house displaying the words "All Are Welcome;" and to send a Postcard to area residents welcoming them to give St. John's a try.
 - The community coffee hosted by the Pastoral Council was well attended. 5 parishioners gained interest in joining the Council. Two were present at this session as observers. Need to invite more parishioners to attend and observe a meeting and to consider joining our ministry.
 - Advertising for our parish on 99.1 radio station is an idea that can be seriously looked into. Possible cost for parish would be \$100 for a year. Community events are already being promoted on WDVR – thanks to the good will of John Cole, our parishioner.
 - Mary Connolly gave a report of the Catholic Heart Work Camp and explained how the money our parish raises through the very successful Valentine's Day dinner dance fundraiser is utilized for helping the youth of our parish.
 - Over 75 people have already signed up for the Lenten faith-sharing groups. We are hopeful of some more joining.
 - The duration for Bishop's Annual Appeal is reduced to 3 months and our parish's target is \$38,000, which is little less than last year, and there will be an incentive: half of the amount collected over the target will be returned to the parish. Promotion for the appeal in our parish will be held on March 18-19.
 - Different ministries will host the Soup and Stations on all Fridays of Lent. The Council will do it on the last Friday of Lent.
- The meeting concluded with a short prayer.

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.

☺ SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY ☺

A certain missionary on a study trip to the Holy Land was visiting Jaffa (Joppa) where Peter was residing when he baptized Cornelius (Acts 10). The breath-taking beauty of this small seaside town was such that it inspired the missionary to come up with this joke: At the Transfiguration Peter offered to build three tents, one for Jesus, one for Moses and one for Elijah. Jesus said, "And what about you, Peter?" And Peter replies, "Don't worry about me Lord, I got a better place in Jaffa."

When I was in second grade, I decided to write the Lord's Prayer to post on my bedroom wall (and impress my mother). I didn't understand her uproarious laughter at my attempts until years later when I ran across the faded page with the child's writing..... "and lead a snot into temptation".....



WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

we want to welcome three new families Bill, Kristen and Jake Butka; Meredith, Marc, Will and Rowan Hungarter and Charlie and Kim Connerly and Karlie, Elly, Molly, Madilyn, Hudson and Declan. Introduce yourself to them! You are Christ! They are the stranger.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Ambassadors for Christ

To date, the Development Office has received pledges totaling \$13,902.60 and payments totaling \$10,783.85 from 41 parishioners. This represents 36.6% of St. John's \$38,000.00 goal.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

March 5, 2017

87 Donors Weekly \$3,509.00
55 Yellow Brick Road \$1634.00

March 6, 2016

92 Donors Weekly \$4,797.73
57 Yellow Brick Road \$1996.00

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**.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Wed., March 15 M. D'Avella
Wed., March 22 S. Griffin

Store Cards

March 11 & 12

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March 18 & 19

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Week of 3/12 L. Livoti
Week of 3/19 M. Cangelosi

Church Center Cleaning

March 17 Team C
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