

# HOLY WEEK



## 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](http://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](http://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, April 11

8:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

### Thursday, April 13

8:00 p.m. Marie Sherry, req.  
Cathy and Tom Bennett

### Saturday, April 15

8:00 p.m. Josephine Handy, req.  
The Gardner Family

### Sunday, April 16

8:00 a.m. Eleanor Mastro, req.  
Bill and Barbara Gates  
10:30 a.m. Kyle Hargadon, req.  
Lou and Joan Eacovalle &  
Dorothy Byrne, Mary Byrne, Gordon  
Sollesx Families, req. Brisson Families



## Mass Schedule - April 13/14/15/16

### Holy Thursday 8:00 p.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal  
Reader.....Mary Sorgi  
Altar Server .....

### Good Friday 8:00 p.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal  
Reader (1) ..... David Geerinck  
Reader (2) .....

### Holy Saturday 8:00 p.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal  
Reader (1) ..... Music Cantor  
Reader (2) ..... Kathleen Swindler  
Reader (3) .....

### Easter Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal  
Reader (1) .....Brent Herrig  
Altar Server .....

### Easter Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal  
Reader (1) .....Linda Caprio  
Altar Server ..... Connery Family  
Music Eucharistic Minister .....

## **AUCTION – COME JOIN THE FUN**

Next auction meeting is after the 10:30 Mass this Sunday, Apr 9 in the church loft. The meeting is open to everyone who wants to be part of the volunteer effort - come join the fun!

## **Remembered at Mass**

We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharist: **Julie Suplee** and **Mary Casey Gerristead**.

**Deceased:** **Julie Suplee**, friend Barbara Pfeufer, and **Mary Casey Gerristead**, mother of Bill Gerristead. 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

## Parish Calendar

### Sunday, April 9 - Palm/Passion Sunday / Easter Flower Offering

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
9:00 a.m. Catechist Appreciation (Drexel Room)  
10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy (Narthex)  
11:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt (Church Center Grounds)  
4:00 p.m. Catholic Heart Work Camp Mtg (Church Center)

### Monday, April 10 - Monday of Holy Week

10:00 a.m. S.H.I.P (Church and Office Kitchens)  
7:00 p.m. Tai Chi (Church Center Loft)  
7:30 p.m. Chrism Mass (Cathedral - Metuchen)

### Tuesday, April 11 - Tuesday of Holy Week

8:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)  
6:30 p.m. Living Stations Practice (Drexel Room)  
7:00 p.m. Budget Meeting (Upper Room)  
7:15 p.m. Bells Rehearsal (Church Center)

### Wednesday, April 12 - Wednesday of Holy Week

7:00 p.m. Social Ministry Board Meeting (Seton Room)

### Thursday, April 13 - Holy Thursday / Holy Land Collection

6:00 p.m. Confirmandi Seder Meal (Church Center)  
8:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper (Church Center)  
9:30 p.m. Keeping Vigil (Seton Room)

### Friday, April 14 - Friday of the Passion of the Lord / Holy Land Collection / Office Closed at 12:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. Living Stations of the Cross (Church Center Grounds)  
5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)  
8:00 p.m. Good Friday Service (Church Center)

### Saturday, April 15 - Holy Saturday

8:00 a.m. Easter Environment/Decorating (Church Center)  
8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil (Church Center)

### Sunday, April 16 - Easter Sunday / Spring Giving Tree Starts

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK....

Dear Friends,

The pastoral visit of our Bishop James Checchio last Sunday was truly a memorable experience. What struck everyone was his pleasant, unassuming and personable way before, during and after the Mass. He went around the Church and shook hands with as many were present in the Church before the Mass began. His homily during Mass was centered on the readings of the day and he used the practice of "scrutiny" of the Catechumens to remind us of preparing our hearts for God as we are approaching the mysteries of the Holy Week and Easter. His concluding remarks at the end of the Mass touched everyone with its jovial informality. After the Mass he freely mingled with everyone in the narthex as we all enjoyed the community coffee. Later on Bishop Checchio and Fr. David Skoblow (who accompanied the Bishop as the Master of Ceremonies) came to the Neumann Residence and had a healthy meal – thanks to the initiative and good will of Gloria Cucchiara (who is also the Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council) who personally prepared it and served.

Today, with the celebration of Palm/Passion Sunday, we enter the Holy Week, welcoming Jesus into our lives and asking Him to allow us a share in His suffering, death and Resurrection. This is the time of the year when we stop to remember and relive the events which brought about our redemption and salvation. The Holy Week liturgies present us with the actual events of the dying and rising of Jesus. These liturgies enable us to experience in our lives here and now what Jesus went through then. In other words, what we commemorate and relive during this week is not just Jesus' dying and rising, but our own frequent dyings and risings in Him, which result in our healing, reconciliation, and redemption.

Hence I invite you to keep the Holy Week schedule we sent you prominently in your kitchen or living room. Attentive participation in the Holy Week liturgies will also deepen our relationship with God, increase our Faith and strengthen our lives as disciples of Jesus. But let us remember that Holy Week can become "holy" for us only if we actively and consciously take part in the liturgies of this week. So please mark your calendars and attend each of these annual events of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday and be spiritually blessed.

Your brother in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

### 2017 EASTER & HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sun.	April 9	- <b>Passion/Palm Sunday</b> 8:00am Mass - Palm Distribution (Church Center) 10:30am Mass - Palm Distribution (Church Center)
Mon.	April 10	- 7:30pm Chrism Mass (Cathedral-Metuchen)
Tues.	April 11	- 8:00am Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
<b>SACRED TRIDUUM</b>		
Thurs.	April 13	- <b>Holy Thursday</b> 8:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (Church Center) 9:30pm-12:00am "Keeping Watch" (Seton Room)
Fri.	April 14	- <b>Good Friday</b> Passion and Death of the Lord 1:00pm Living Stations of the Cross (Grounds) 8:00pm Service (Church Center)
Sat.	April 15	- <b>Holy Saturday - NO 5:30pm MASS</b> 8:00pm Easter Vigil and Mass - (Church Center)
Sun.	April 16	- <b>Easter Sunday</b> 8:00am Mass (Church Center) 10:30am Mass (Church Center)

## WANT TO MAKE ST. JOHN'S YOUR HOME?



If you come to Mass but have never officially registered – we hope you consider finding out more. There are many events and opportunities you might be interested in and we would be happy to share with you more information about the parish so you feel at home. Contact France Kennedy on her cell 908-307-7879 for more information.

## PALM SUNDAY

April 9, 2017

*"As they were marching out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross."*

**MATTHEW 27:32**

The Lord calls us to love God and to love our neighbor. Every day we are presented with opportunities to love our neighbor and help him "carry his cross". These opportunities aren't usually big events, they are usually ordinary occurrences like helping someone carry their groceries or holding the door open for them. The key is putting the other person's needs before our own and not expecting anything in return.



## STORE CARDS

Thanks to **37 families** who purchased the grocery and store cards last week. The total cards sold totaled **\$5,710.00**. The stores gave us **\$279.37**.



## KEEPING WATCH

We will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 13 at 8:00 p.m. Please join us for the special Mass. Afterwards you are invited to stay for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Seton Room. Adoration will be ongoing until midnight.

## Parish Contact Information

<b>Office Center</b> .....	<b>908-832-2513</b>
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
<b>Religious Education</b> .....	<b>908-832-2162</b>
Renee Ciszewski .Director of Religious Education	Email .....
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

## 1ST EUCHARIST CLASSES



**Saturday, April 29th, 2:30 pm**

The last regular session for First Eucharist will be held on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, at 2:30 p.m. in the Church Center. Please note the earlier time.

## LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Please join our Confirmation class as they enact the Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 14, at 1:00 p.m., on the Church grounds. St. John's is happy to host this ecumenical event each year.



## CRS RICE BOWLS

Thank you to all who participated in CRS Rice Bowl this Lent to benefit Catholic Relief Services. You may leave your Rice Bowl boxes or checks in the CRS Rice Bowl donation box in the narthex or drop off at the Office Center anytime now through the first weeks of the Easter season. Thank you!

## SHIP'S GALLEY SOUP KITCHEN

We are in need of assistance for our April 27 date of service to the SHIP's Galley Soup Kitchen in Somerville. If you can help serve the meal from 11a -2p or can provide a casserole or dessert, please contact Anne Germino at [projectearth@ccsjn.org](mailto:projectearth@ccsjn.org).

## THE SPRING GIVING TREE



We are looking for a pair of volunteers to operate our Spring Giving Tree this year. The tree will be set-up on Easter Sunday.

This is a perfect project for a Mother-Daughter or a Father-Son team. We typically support four agencies, which you will contact and then make a list of items required, post the items on the tree and then at the end deliver the items to the agencies. There are plenty of people that can offer you guidance and we also have many notes available from past drives. Please contact Greg Wilson at: 908-338-7322 [gwilson962@gmail.com](mailto:gwilson962@gmail.com) or any member of Social Ministry or the Church Office if you are interested.



## CATECHISTS: PLANTING THE SEEDS OF FAITH

*By Collette Evanko, Our Catechist*

It has been my pleasure to be a part of St. John's Religious Education program for 19 years. The first of these was as a parent in the "Saturday family program" working to raise my own children in the Catholic faith. For the last 12 years I have also served as a volunteer catechist, working with 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and this year, in the inaugural Sunday morning GIFT Program, with a wonderful group of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. As we dedicate the month of April to celebrating Religious Education at St. John's, I would like to share that this ministry is one of the most rewarding and enjoyable I have experienced. I have the opportunity to embark on a faith journey with some great kids – *your* kids. We explore the gospels together, taking Jesus' lessons to heart and learning how we can apply them to our lives. We prepare to receive Confirmation by understanding what it means to confirm – and live – our baptismal promises and live our faith in new and more purposeful ways. We share with one another the moments when we have felt God's presence in our lives and how our faith has helped us manage life's difficulties. It is a joy to share in the development of these young people's spiritual lives. I am constantly amazed by their understanding of their spiritual selves and their interest in nurturing this aspect of their being. And did I mention we have fun? We participate in guided meditations, do skits, play games, make things, eat snacks, and enjoy learning about what makes our classmates special. With all of our endeavors – both serious and playful – we are building a community within our community, giving our young people the knowledge, courage, and connections they need to become enthusiastic and contributing members of our parish and dynamic Catholics in their own right. In closing, I would like to thank all of my students – both current and former – for all of the things *they* have taught *me* these many years, and I look forward to all they have to share with me still in the years to come!



## CATECHIST APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

**Sunday, April 9th, 9:00 a.m.**

All catechists and assistants in the Religious Education program are invited to attend an appreciation breakfast on Sunday, April 9th, at 9:00 a.m. in the Office Center. Please RSVP to [jjarvis@ccsjn.org](mailto:jjarvis@ccsjn.org).

# Social Ministry

## COMMUNITY GARDEN



There are still raised beds available for the 2017 growing season. The weather right now is perfect for starting cool weather crops like lettuce or broccoli. There is also an option to grow a row of potatoes this year. Please contact Anne Germino at [projectearth@ccsjn.org](mailto:projectearth@ccsjn.org) for more information or if you would like to sign up.



## 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 Cuperwich at Califon UMC 908-832-2318.

## WHAT IS EASTER TRIDUUM?

"Triduum" is a Latin word referring to a three-day period of prayer, usually in preparation for an important feast or in celebration of that feast. Easter Triduum is the liturgical name for the last three days of Holy Week: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday with Easter Vigil whereby we enter the joy of Easter Sunday. Here's a preview of how it is celebrated here at St. John's, as narrated by our parishioners Joann Gardner and Barbara Gates:

**Holy Thursday:** Our Sacred Triduum starts with the traditional Seder Meal on Holy Thursday, celebrated by the Confirmandi. These students enjoy the ritual meal that has been prepared by their parents. They are taught the meaning of the Seder meal (with bitter herbs, egg, lamb shank, salt and Elijah's Cup) according to the Hebrew custom.

If you have not attended a Holy Thursday Mass, you should try to be there. It is the time when the Oils of Chrism are presented to the Priest and Congregation after our representative has attended the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral in Metuchen and brings them to St. John's. During this Mass the priest performs the washing of the feet, a very humbling experience. As an extension of this act and to remind us that we all are Christ to one another, those whose feet were washed then wash the hands of the rest of the community. This practice, that is unique to St. John's, really makes us all participants in this sacred rite. At the conclusion of the Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is taken to the beautifully flower-decorated Seton Room where parishioners come in turns to "watch and pray" with Our Lord until midnight.

**Good Friday:** In the afternoon our Confirmation students present the Living Stations of the Cross outside. This presentation is quite moving as parishioners and Pastors of different Christian Churches of our neighborhood follow the path of Jesus on the road to His death on the cross. The students enact vignettes at each station and the congregation join in prayer, song, and meditation along the way. The students always do a splendid job.

At night, there is a solemn service in the church. The atmosphere is somber with low lighting and music. We hear readings from the Old Testament and the Gospel (the Passion Narrative), and there is time for reflection during the intercessions. After the intercessions, we each venerate the cross with a bow or a kiss. This service is not a Mass because there is no consecration of hosts, but communion is received with the extra Eucharist from the Mass on Holy Thursday. At the end of the service, we depart the church in prayerful silence.

**Holy Saturday:** This is the day of prayer and waiting. The Easter Vigil begins at 8 pm when it is still dark. The congregation moves outside to the bonfire or the Easter Fire. It is truly spectacular. The flames rise to 50-60 feet high and there has been more than one time when the local fire company has arrived! We then process into the Church with the Paschal Candle lit. We use candles lit from the Paschal Candle and as the vigil progresses, the Church is flooded with light representing new life. It is at the Easter Vigil that the Catechumen and the Elect receive the sacraments of initiation as full members of the Catholic Church. It is a spiritually uplifting experience. Consider being a part of this most holy and inspirational time

## ANNUAL SPRING CLEANUP

**April 22nd - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Please consider helping out with some of the necessary cleaning, maintenance and repairs around the Church, Office, Residence and grounds. Lunch will be provided. We can use your help for all or any part of the day. Please sign up in the Narthex, or just show up. We appreciate your help for all or any part of the day. If you have any questions, call Sharon in the office 908-832-2513.



## MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

**Palm Sunday.** Because we know how this Palm Sunday parade turns out, isn't it amazing how quickly the praise turns to condemnation. How fickle we humans are. St. Paul reminds us, "He humbled himself..." (Phil. 2:8) Who is the more humble of the 2 of you? (trick question)

## PARENTING TUNE-UP

On this Palm Sunday, tell your children the story of how the people praised Jesus by waving palms. Of course just a few days later we remember Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday. Go to this site to learn how to make a palm cross with your child: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmtg7m7lon8>

**Good Friday:** God so loved us that he gave us his only Son. The gift was not pain-free, however, as we know from the crucifixion. When your child becomes a cross to you, remember Jesus words, "Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34) (Susan Vogt)



## BAPTISM

For any family that wants a child baptized, contact France at the office 832-2513, to register for the preparation program. On Friday, April 21st.

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

### Office Angels

Tues., April 11	L. Caprio
Wed., April 12	C. Behrens
Wed., April 19	M. D'Avella

### Store Cards

#### April 8 & 9

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

#### April 15 & 16

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

### Church Center Plant Watering

Week of 4/9	C. Fortenbacker
Week of 4/16	B. Lee

### Church Center Cleaning

April 14	Team A
April 21	Team B

### Counting

April 10	Kucharski / Bauernfiend
April 17	Malone / Cangelosi

## 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  
 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  
 Seaman, Devin Jenkinson, U.S. Air Force  
 Spec. Jon Tyler Jablonski, U.S. Army  
 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  
 Airman, Justin Vardian, U.S. Air Force

## PALM/PASSION SUNDAY REFLECTION: *Be A Humble Donkey!*

*"They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them, and he sat upon them. The crowds kept crying out and saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David .."*

*(Matthew 21: 1-11)*

**Jesus rides on a lowly donkey:** In those days, kings used to travel in such processions on horseback during wartime, but preferred to ride a donkey in times of peace. I Kings 1:38-41 describes how Prince Solomon used his father David's royal donkey for the ceremonial procession on the day of his coronation. Jesus entered the Holy City as a King of peace, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah. The Gospel specifically mentions that the colt Jesus selected for the procession was one that had not been ridden before, reminding us of a stipulation given in I Samuel 6:7 concerning the animal that was to carry the Ark of the Covenant.

**The mode of reception given:** Jesus was given the royal reception usually reserved for a King or military commander. I Maccabees 13:51ff describes such a reception given to the Jewish military leader Simon Maccabaeus in 171 BC. II Maccabees 10:6-8 refers to a similar reception given to another military general, Judas Maccabaeus, who led the struggle against the Roman commander, Antiochus IV Epiphanes and liberated the Temple from the Romans in 163 BC.

**The slogans used:** The participants sang the "Hallel" Psalm (Psalm 118), and shouted the words of Psalms 25 and 26. The Greek word "*hosiana*" originally meant "save us now" (II Samuel 14:4). The people sang the entire Psalm 118 on the Feast of the Tabernacles when they marched seven times around the Altar of the Burnt Offering. On Palm Sunday, however, the people used the prayer "Hosanna" as a slogan of greeting. It meant "God save the King of Israel."

**Are we ready to become like the humble donkey that carried Jesus? As we "carry Jesus" to the world, we can expect to receive the same welcome that Jesus received on Palm Sunday, but we must also expect to meet the same opposition, crosses and trials later. Like the donkey, we are called upon to carry Christ to a world that does not know Him. Let us always remember that a Christian without Christ is a contradiction in terms. Such a one betrays the Christian message. Hence, let us become transparent Christians during this Holy Week, enabling others to see in us Jesus' universal love, unconditional forgiveness and sacrificial service.**

**Can we face these questions on Palm Sunday? Are we willing to follow Jesus, not just to Church but in our daily life? Are we willing to entrust ourselves to Him even when the future is frightening or confusing, believing God has a plan? Are we willing to serve Him until that day when His plan on earth is fulfilled? These are the questions of Palm Sunday. Let us take a fresh look at this familiar event. We might be surprised at what we see. It could change us forever.**



## ST JOHN'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

*Following 10:30 Mass this Sunday April 9*

Children up to ten years old should gather on the patio behind the church after the 10:30 Mass. Mia Ranallo and Lauren Tabor will ring the gong to start the hunt. There are separate areas to accommodate the various ages. Please listen to the instructions before the event begins. You can take the candy and place in your bag to bring home and return the eggs in the plastic container. Please help others to have fun in finding their own eggs.

## 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. Currently the council has ten members, five of whom will complete their terms in May. **Interested parishioners are invited to attend the April 24<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Council meeting, held at 7:30 p.m. in the Office Center.** For more information, contact Fr. Abraham or Gloria Cucchiara.

## CHRISM MASS

**Monday, April 10, 2017—Cathedral, Metuchen**



On Monday, April 10, 2017 Bishop James Checchio will celebrate the Chrism Mass with the priests of the Diocese. At this Mass, the Bishop will bless the Holy Oils which each parish receives for the rites of anointing. Saint Ambrose [340-397] began this custom - which we now call the Chrism Mass - in his Cathedral in Milan. The Holy Oils, which are used to sanctify the Faithful, have been channels of holiness for centuries! The **Oil of Catechumens** is used to anoint the chest of infants and hands of adults before their Baptism; the **Oil of the Sick** is used on the forehead and hands of the infirm in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick; and **Sacred Chrism** is used to anoint the head of the newly baptized, the foreheads of confirmandi, the hands of a priest at his ordination, the head of the a bishop at his ordination, and the altar and walls of new churches. At the Mass, all priests make a **Renewal of Commitment to Priestly Service**, recommitting themselves to their Bishop and to their ministry to God and His People; the Bishop and all Priests then ask the people for a pledge of their prayerful support. All are strongly encouraged to join in the ancient, grace-filled Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen at 7:30 p.m.

Our parishioners Richard and Mauricia Nacamuli will attend this Mass to receive the Holy Oils for our Parish which will be presented here at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.



## AQUIRE THE FIRE



The combined young adult group of Our Lady of Lourdes and St John Neumann, will be having their next meeting on Sunday, Apr 9th 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. We will participating in RHA's Stream Cleanup at Spruce Run Reservoir on Sat, Apr 22nd from 9 AM to 12 PM. Save the date for our next meeting on Apr 30th. For more information and to join the list serve please email Susan at [acquirethefire@ollwhs.org](mailto:acquirethefire@ollwhs.org).



## SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



Little Johnny was sick on Palm Sunday and stayed home from Church with his mother. His father returned from Church holding a palm branch. The little boy was curious and asked, "Why do you have that palm branch, dad?" His father explained, "You see, when Jesus came into town, everyone waved palm branches to honor Him; so we got palm branches today." "Aw, shucks," grumbled Little Johnny. "The one Sunday I can't go to Church, and Jesus shows up!"

Did you hear this story about the husband and the wife who had quarreled? It had been a pitched battle of wills, each digging heels in to preserve the position each had vehemently taken. Emotions had run high. As they were driving to attend a family wedding in a distant city, both were nursing hurt feelings in defensive silence. The angry tension between them was so thick you could cut it with a knife. But, then the silence was broken. Pointing to a donkey standing in a pasture out beside the road, the husband sarcastically asked, "Relative of yours?" The wife quickly replied, "Yes, by marriage!"



## WILLIE LYNCH BAND

**Friday April 28, 2017**

Doors open 6:30pm Ceili Dance Lessons 7pm Band starts at 8pm

**Bring your own Food & Beverage.** Water and Soft Drinks available for purchase Limited Reserve Tables available. Advance Tickets: \$20 Adult, **\*Teens \$10**, Children, 12 and under free. (**\*accompanied by a parent or guardian**) Call or Text Fred @ 908-229-5879, Patti @ 732-371-9698 Or call the Parish Office at 908-832-2513 to reserve tables or tickets.



## STORE CARDS DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know...that the store card sales after Mass is the second largest fundraiser of the parish!

Last year 20 families buying store cards on a regular basis brought in \$21,000 dollars to the parish!

There is no cost to you. You get a \$100 card for \$100. The stores give us between 5 and 16% of every dollar you spend .

You can get cards for your grocery shopping, for you daily coffee store, eating out, for amazon purchases – Walmart and home depot, and for giving cards as gifts to your family and friends.

The First Presbyterian Church in Washington makes \$40,000 from this fundraiser and St. Lawrence in Chester makes \$80,000.

You can purchase the cards after Mass, place an order that would be ready for you. You can pay by check, cash or CREDIT!

We are asking for you participate in this easy, no hassle fundraiser. Will you try it?

## PRAYER REQUEST COORDINATOR NEEDED



The Prayer Ministry team is actively seeking an individual to serve as "Prayer Requests Coordinator". Basically, serve as the the primary contact for Prayer requests and send updates weekly and/or monthly via email to the Prayer Ministers. The time required is minimal. Please contact Bonnie Garcia ([bonniegarcia210@yahoo.com](mailto:bonniegarcia210@yahoo.com)) or Phyllis Baker (908-268-1268, [phyllis14baker@gmail.com](mailto:phyllis14baker@gmail.com)), with any questions. Thank you for your support of this very important ministry.

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

**April 2, 2017**

90 Donors Weekly .....\$5,323.26  
50 Yellow Brick Road .....\$1,886.10  
2 Retired Clergy .....\$50.00

**April 3, 2016**

86 Donors Weekly .....\$6,057.00  
54 Yellow Brick Road .....\$2,081.00

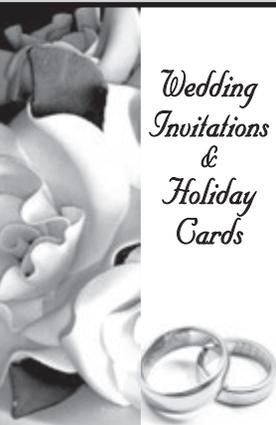
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