

## Mission Statement

*Catholic Community of St. John Neumann*

*FOUNDED on the teachings of Jesus Christ,  
NOURISHED by the hospitality of the Califon Christian  
Communities,*

*FORMED with a commitment to Social Ministry, and  
STRENGTHENED by the Holy Spirit*

*The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann is  
a jubilant people on a continuing spiritual journey of hope:*

*TO CELEBRATE and DEEPEN our faith*

*TO SHARE our unique gifts, talents and treasures*

*TO CHERISH all life*

*TO LIVE in openness, acceptance and love.*

## Annual Parish Goal

*We, as ministers, will foster*

*an inviting and spiritual Catholic community for all,  
especially to those away from the Church,*

*by growing in and witnessing to our faith in the mercy of God.*

## *A Christian Community of the Catholic Tradition*

Diocese of Metuchen

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

Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, D.D.  
Bishop Emeritus

www.diometuchen.org

## *Our Parish*

Rev. Abraham Orapankal, Ph.D. ....  
..... Pastor  
Rev. J William Mickiewicz.....  
..... Founding Pastor Emeritus  
Earl Roberts .....Deacon  
Mary Cangelosi ..... Trustee  
Fred Heimall..... Trustee

### *Mailing Address:*

PO Box 455  
Califon, NJ 07830

### *Office Center:*

398 County Route 513  
Califon, NJ  
908-832-2513  
908-832-7618 fax  
www.ccsjn.org

### *Worshipping at:*

398 County Road 513  
(Church Center)

Saturday Vigil Mass .....5:30 p.m.  
Sunday .....8:00 a.m.  
Sunday .....10:30 a.m.  
First Friday Holy Hour .....7:00 p.m.

### *Worshipping at:*

390 County Road 513  
(Neumann Residence)

\*Check the bulletin for any changes\*

### *Weekday Masses:*

Tuesday .....8:00 a.m.  
Friday .....7:00 a.m.

### *Reconciliation:*

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

# This Week at Saint John's

## Mass Intentions

### Tuesday, April 18

8:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

### Thursday, April 21

8:00 p.m. Intention of the Celebrant

### Saturday, April 22

8:00 p.m. Linda Owens, req.  
Kenna and Eddie Doerr

### Sunday, April 23

8:00 a.m. Gordon Furlong, req.  
The Pepperman Family  
10:30 a.m. Kyle Hargadon, req.  
The Pojedinec Family



## Parish Calendar

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

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

### Mon., April 17 - Monday within the Octave of Easter

**OFFICE CLOSED**

7:00 p.m. Tai Chi (Church Center Loft)

### Tues., April 18 - Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

8:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)  
7:00 p.m. Property Management Meeting (Drexel Room)

### Wed., April 19 - Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

7:30 p.m. Book Club (Seton Room)

### Thurs., April 20 - Thursday within the Octave of Easter

10:00 a.m. Staff Calendar Meeting (Drexel Room)  
7:15 p.m. Quarterly Prayer Enrichment (Church Center)

### Fri., April 21 - Friday within the Octave of Easter

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)  
5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)  
7:15 p.m. Baptism Program (Church Center)

### Saturday, April 22 - Saturday within the Octave of Easter

9:00 a.m. Spring Cleanup (Church Center and Grounds)  
5:30 p.m. Mass (Church Center)

### Sunday, April 23 - Divine Mercy Sunday

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
8:00 a.m. K-6 Family Faith Formation (Valley View)  
10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
11:30 a.m. Coffee hosted by Religious Education (Narthex)  
2:00 p.m. Wedding Music Rehearsal (Church Center)  
6:00 p.m. Jr. High Catechesis (Church and Office Centers)

## Mass Schedule - April 22/23

### Saturday

5:30 p.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal  
Reader..... David Geerinck  
Altar Server..... King Family  
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Debbie Kelemen  
..... Lyle Garcia, Joann Gardner

### Sunday

8:00 a.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal  
Reader..... Brent Herrig  
Altar Server..... Patterson Family  
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Bob Martalus  
..... Barbara Martalus, Tom Klawunn

### Sunday

10:30 a.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal  
Reader..... Joann McNamara  
Altar Server..... Erz Family  
Music Eucharistic Minister..... Bob Sobey  
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Anita Sawczuk, Mary D'Avella  
..... Sheena Carew, Doris Royal, Peter Royal



### 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.



### 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 from family and friends.

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

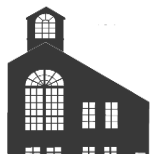
Dear Friends,  
Happy Easter!

***If the bones of Jesus were to be found...?*** What a ridiculous question to ask on this Easter Sunday!! Yet, hypothetically speaking, if the bones of Jesus were to be found, the foundation of Christianity would crumble. After all, we know that our Christian faith is totally dependent on the fact of the Resurrection as Paul rightly said: *"If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless ..."* (1 Corinthians 15:14). **But do you know that there is a surprising number of theories trying to disprove the resurrection?** The Swoon theory (Jesus only swooned and so was resuscitated to life), the Hallucination theory (the disciples hallucinated that Jesus was alive), the Impersonation theory (people saw the look alike of Jesus), the Theft theory (soldiers were bribed to say the body was stolen: Matthew 28:11-15), the Unknown Tomb theory (those crucified were thrown into a pit), the Spiritual Resurrection theory (real resurrection is of spiritual nature), etc. Hence here's the question worth reflecting as we celebrate Easter: if someone tells you that he or she does not believe that Jesus rose from the dead, **are you able to speak convincingly of your firm faith in the resurrection?** We should be. There are many arguments. But here are just three that we can easily use: Crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are recorded not only in the Bible, but also in extra-biblical sources of non-Christian historians like Josephus (a Jew) and Tacitus (a Roman).

The disciples experienced the risen Christ, even though they had lost all hopes with his crucifixion. In fact when the women reported the resurrection, they refused to believe (Luke 24:11). Jesus himself had to rebuke their unbelief *"because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen."* (Mark 16:14) We cannot explain the conversion of Saul of Tarsus (the persecutor of Christians) into Paul (the greatest missionary of Christianity) without his experience of the Risen Christ as he himself narrates in Acts 9:1-19)

Every one of the false theories fails to explain the reality of Resurrection evidenced in the phenomenal growth of Christianity into the largest and greatest religion in the world. Yes, we need to make Paul's words our own: *"And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless ..... And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins."* (1 Corinthians 15:14-17). Let us reinforce our reasons for believing in the One who rose from the dead!

Happy Easter!  
Your brother in the Risen Lord,  
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



### 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.



### 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.



### GUEST SPEAKER: SR. THERESA RICKARD, O.P.

*Author of Live Lent! - Save the Date—May 3rd*

As you have heard, there are over 100 parishioners and friends who are using the *Live Lent!* resource to aid them on their daily Lenten journey. We are excited to announce that we will have the author, Sr. Theresa Rickard, O.P., from RENEW International as our guest speaker the evening of Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sr. Terry is a dynamic, nationally-known speaker on evangelization and small communities, and all parishioners are welcome to join us for her presentation.

### EASTER SUNDAY

*April 16, 2017*

*"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."* COLOSSIANS 3:2

Do you put God first in all things? Possessions, money, power, ego can easily become gods to many of us. Do a quick check of what is important to you. Is God at the very top of the list? If not, your priorities need to be re-adjusted. Don't let earthly things become a god before God.

### MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

Easter. The resurrection of Jesus which we celebrate on Easter was a pretty hard story for the women and apostles to believe. Today, we believe on the testimony of others and thousands of years of retelling the story. Unconditional love is so hard to believe. Believe your spouse's love anyway.

### PARENTING TUNE-UP

Leaving a basket full of candy unattended is an open invitation for children to eat as much as they want. There is no written rule that states an Easter Basket must be filled with only candy. Adding small prizes and presents of Easter-themed toys or puzzles to the basket is a great way to offset the amount of candy included. Kids will be just as happy with a basket filled with both candy and fun little gifts.

### *Parish Contact Information*

**Office Center..... 908-832-2513**  
 Fax ..... 908-832-7618  
 Email ..... [sjn@ccsjn.org](mailto:sjn@ccsjn.org)  
 Rev. Abraham Orapankal ..... Pastor  
 Email ..... [abraham@ccsjn.org](mailto:abraham@ccsjn.org)  
 Earl Roberts ..... Deacon  
 Email ..... [earlr1@verizon.net](mailto:earlr1@verizon.net)  
 Sharon Janks ..... Pastoral Administrator  
 Email ..... [sjanks@ccsjn.org](mailto:sjanks@ccsjn.org)  
 France Kennedy ..... Pastoral Associate  
 Email ..... [fkennedy@ccsjn.org](mailto:fkennedy@ccsjn.org)  
 Kerri Caldaro ..... Financial Administrator  
 Email ..... [kaldaro@ccsjn.org](mailto:kaldaro@ccsjn.org)  
 Wayne Infusino ..... Maintenance  
**Religious Education..... 908-832-2162**  
 Renee Ciszewski, Director of Religious Education  
 Email ..... [renee@ccsjn.org](mailto:renee@ccsjn.org)  
 Jo Ann Jarvis ..... Office of Catechesis  
 Email ..... [jjarvis@ccsjn.org](mailto:jjarvis@ccsjn.org)  
 Social Ministry ..... [socialministry@ccsjn.org](mailto:socialministry@ccsjn.org)  
 ..... Greg Wilson  
 Bulletin ..... [bulletin@ccsjn.org](mailto:bulletin@ccsjn.org)  
 Youth Ministry ..... [sjnygroup@gmail.com](mailto: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.



## 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!

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT COFFEE – RELIGIOUS FORMATION



**After 10:30 Mass, April 23**

Please join us for coffee and snacks after the 10:30 Mass on April 23<sup>rd</sup> as we put the spotlight on the ministry of Religious Formation! Let's celebrate religious formation within the family and the parish community, as together we continue to plant and nourish the seeds of faith. There will also be a craft for the children!

## FIRST COMMUNION CLASS RETREAT



**Wed., May 3, 4:00 pm,  
Church Center**

The First Communion Class Retreat is on Wednesday, May 3, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. in the Church Center. All children should bring their completed banners and their own choice of a snack (food/drink) with them. Parents (or at least one parent or caregiver who will be attending the First Communion Mass) need to arrive by 6:00 p.m. to witness the First Communicants' renewal of their baptismal vows and receive First Eucharist ceremony instruction led by Father Abraham.



## 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, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 9:00 AM or in the Church Center on Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend! **You do not need to have a child in the program to participate.**

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

**Saturday, May 6, 11:00 a.m., Church Center**



On Saturday, May 6, 2017, at 11:00 a.m., we will culminate our journey that began in the fall learning about reconciliation and forgiveness, continuing through God's amazing sacrifice and love for us, and will end in the treasure of receiving Jesus in First Holy Communion for 10 of our young church family members. Please congratulate and pray for our First Communicants: Megan Anderson, Sofia Bavosa, Sean Bernard, Ellyse Connery, Caden Cookson, John D'Andrea, Anthony Leyden, Olivia Osborne, Sheridan Sieber, and Nicole Staten. All of this was made possible through the heartfelt commitment of the children's families bringing their children regularly to our gatherings, our devoted catechists, Fr. Abraham and Jo Ann Jarvis. Our devoted catechists this year are: Cathy Gagen, Renate Bernard, Erin Cookson and Sharon Pojedinec. Please celebrate and share in our joy!

## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

### 1ST RECONCILIATION & 1ST EUCHARIST

***By Cathy Gagen, Our Catechist***

The sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist are at the crux of our faith encompassing the forgiveness of God and His great love for each of us. Our program provides a very kid-friendly experience that connects to the church community. As a group we go on a journey to celebrate First Holy Communion in a fun, nourishing way for everyone involved, and it is a very special milestone in the child's faith.

In the fall, we travel towards Reconciliation via Saturday afternoon gatherings where we hear about the forgiveness of God through His Son Jesus. These gatherings incorporate special aspects of living out our faith by belonging to God, Church, and Families, giving and getting forgiveness, making good (godly) choices, and finally returning home to Jesus.

While the children receive their First Reconciliation with Father Abraham, the other children and their parents enjoy a very moving set of videos, challenging us to realize how much God changes our lives and how God loves children through their parents. After our liturgy, we celebrate, based on the scripture story of the Prodigal Son, together with a party which includes the favorite foods of the children!

In the New Year, our journey takes us traveling to learn more about the Eucharist, God's great love for each of us through Jesus' life, His Last Supper, and His great sacrifice on the cross. We learn that we celebrate (at Mass), when we gather together (at Mass), while we listen to God's words (at Mass), and remember Jesus' great sacrifice (at Mass), and we share what we have and follow the example of Jesus of serving others.

Our program includes a unique component, a retreat! This is a fun and very busy time where the children step back to reflect on receiving their First Eucharist. They watch a video that parallels Jesus life, participate in a meditation led by Father, walk around our church property at specific stopping points that reflect our faith (fire, water) and plant bulbs in our garden which are later used to decorate our worship space.

Our celebration of First Eucharist is previewed by the community with the children's photo banner hanging in the narthex a few weeks before the big event. Then, on the BIG day, we all gather together, celebrate, and listen to God's word while the children receive their First Eucharist and go forth to share and serve as Jesus did. It is a joyous journey with a beautiful new beginning of receiving the Eucharist often!

# Social Ministry and Parish News



## 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.

## 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.



## 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!



## SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



**Christ did not really die!** One lady wrote in to a question and answer forum. "Dear Sirs, Our preacher said on Easter, that Jesus just swooned on the cross and that the disciples nursed Him back to health. What do you think? Sincerely, Bewildered. She got this answer: *"Dear Bewildered, Beat your preacher with a cat-of-nine-tails, nail him to a cross; hang him in the sun for 6 hours; run a spear through his side...put him in an airless tomb for 36 hours and see what happens. Sincerely, Charles."*

**Resurrection in election:** Presidential candidate Mike Huckabee was once asked if he believed in the Resurrection. "Of course, I do," said Huckabee. "Dead people vote in every election we have in Arkansas. Resurrection is very real to us."

## 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).



## 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.

## 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 ([bonniegarci210@yahoo.com](mailto:bonniegarci210@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.

## 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

## EASTER MEDITATION: *Real Easter Egg is a Broken One!*

*"He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ... He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him."*  
(Matthew 28:1-10)

A small chick begins the long journey to birth. The not-yet-a-bird weighs little more than air; its beak and claws are barely pin pricks. The bird-to-be is in its own little world: protected by the rigid shell, warmed by the mother hen's body, nourished by the nutrients within the egg's membrane. But then the chick begins the work of life. Over several days the chick keeps picking and picking until it can break out from its narrow world — and into an incomparably wider one. But for this to happen, the egg has to go to pieces. New life demands shattering the old.

**That is the real Easter egg. Not a complete egg dyed and painted with so many designs and colors. Not an egg that has been hardboiled, impossible to shatter. Not an egg made of chocolate. The real Easter egg is shattered and destroyed. The real Easter egg exists in broken pieces. The real Easter egg is cracked and opened, yielding new life that has moved out to live in the open. For centuries, the world has marked the Resurrection of the Lord with eggs. But the Easter meaning of the egg is found in the struggle of the chick to free itself from its confines so as to move into much bigger world beyond it. We struggle to break out of a world that we perceive is going to pieces; we pick away at an existence that leaves us dissatisfied and unfulfilled. The promise of the Easter Christ is that we can break out of our self-contained little worlds and move into a world where peace and justice reign, a world illuminated by hope and warmed by love, a world that extends beyond time and place into the forever of God's dwelling place.** [From a meditation by Brother David Steindl-Rast, O.S.B.]

## EASTER GIVES US HOPE: "I'M WITH YOU ALWAYS!"

*Have you heard the story of the man whose hobby was growing roses? When he worked in his rose garden, he always whistled. It seemed to everyone that he was whistling much louder than was needed for his own enjoyment. One day a neighbor asked him why it was that he always whistled so loudly. The man then took the neighbor into his home to meet his wife. The woman was not only an invalid, but was completely blind as well. The man, you see, was whistling, not for his benefit, but rather for the benefit of his wife. He wanted his blind wife to know that he was nearby, and that she was not alone. That story is a wonderful illustration of the significance of Easter Day. The affirmation, "Christ is risen!" reminds us that God is near, and the experiencing of His presence strengthens us in our weakness. The living presence of the Risen Lord gives us lasting peace and celestial joy in the face of the boredom, suffering, pain and tensions of our day-to-day life. "Peace be with you" was Jesus' salutation to his disciples at all post-Resurrection appearances. For the true Christian, every day must be an Easter Day lived joyfully in the close company of the Risen Lord.*

## 2017 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

### *Ambassadors for Christ*

It's not too late to participate in the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal. In addition to our parish goal, we are looking to achieve our non-monetary goal of 100% participation. A gift from every household, no matter the size, will make a powerful statement about our commitment to our faith. Please prayerfully consider a gift today. Mail your pledge to: Bishop's Annual Appeal, PO Box 4000, Metuchen, NJ 08840 or give online at [www.diometuchen.org/BAA](http://www.diometuchen.org/BAA).

To date, the Development Office has received pledges totaling \$28,012.60 and payments totaling \$22,046.35 from 98 parishioners. This represents 73.7% of St. John's \$38,000.00 goal.

As of 3/30/17, the Bishop's Annual Appeal Diocesan Totals are: Goal \$7,000,000 / Pledges \$6,399,466.19 / Paid \$5,212,713.85 / Donors 19,936 % Pledged to Goal 91.42%

Thank you for joining us as *Ambassadors for Christ* with your gift to the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal.



## THANK YOU TO BISHOP CHECCHIO

*(Mary Cangelosi, representing the Parish Trustees, and Paul Gagen, representing the Parish Pastoral Council, delivered these "Words of gratitude")*

Dear Bishop Checchio, It is a special joy for us to have you with us today. Representing the Trustees and the Pastoral Council, we have the privilege to say thank you for your presence with us today and for your words of inspiration and encouragement. As most of us could not be present on the day of your Episcopal Consecration, we are glad that you have given us this opportunity to see you in person.

I am sure that you have already noticed that ours is a very unique parish. We thank God that we have been nurtured as the People of God, in the vision of the Second Vatican Council – thanks to our founding Pastor Fr. Bill Mickiewicz who served us for some 30 years. Conscious of the importance of the role of the laity, as taught by our Popes and Bishops, we try to be credible witnesses of the Gospel by sharing in our common mission of evangelization.

Our life is centered on the Word of God and enriched by the Holy Eucharist. We are very proud to let you know that transitioning into Intergenerational/Family Catechesis as well as promoting small groups of 'Scripture-sharing' have engaged a very high percentage of our parishioners in adult faith formation. These have brought new vitality to our already vibrant community that has numerous other ministries. The Word of God always made us very conscious of our mission to the less fortunate, evident through our active Social Ministry and our Community Garden with its raised beds where families come and cultivate.

Dear Bishop Checchio, we wish to thank you for your recent Pastoral letter which you have aptly titled: LIGHTING A FIRE IN THE HEARTS OF OUR WORLD. You wrote there: "Imagine if every person just affected one other person to consider Jesus again in their lives." This is the effort we are making as a parish community. And you will be glad to know that "Lectio Divina"- the prayer method you have recommended in your Pastoral Letter - is what we have been practicing in the monthly meetings of our different ministries and committees. We thank you for encouraging us to keep alive that fire of Jesus Christ.

We wish to assure you of our prayers especially as we pray for you at every Mass. May God continue to give you good health to carry out your duties as our Chief Shepherd.

Thank you and please visit us again. Please accept this simple token of remembrance from us, the Catholic Community of St. John Neumann.

## CATECHISTS: PLANTING THE SEEDS OF FAITH

*By Phillip Peluso, Our Catechist*

My experience with St. John Neumann's Growing in Faith Together or GIFT program has been exciting and challenging. I have enjoyed the opportunity to be creative and to help in provide lessons that are meaningful and fitting. I am currently an elementary technology teacher so I have experience with working with children. I also grew up going to catholic school for my elementary and high school years so I have a strong background in the Catholic faith. But how well does that translate on a Monday evening, once a month? I see large smiles when I see my students coming into the lesson, and a big smile leaving the lesson. I see them actively participating in discussions that can be deep at times. I also hear their comments and conversation. Besides being appropriate and on task, a plus for any and all teachers, but there is also a willingness to work with everyone. The class Laura Mario and I teach has students ranging from 1st grade through 4th grade. Some of these children only know each other from Catechism but when we are all working toward the same goal it is as if we have been working together for a long time. Are we tired on a Monday evening? Yes. Are we hungry on a Monday evening? Yes! Are we a little restless? Oh yes. Are we willing to receive God's message and celebrate our Catholic traditions and values? That is a big yes! That has been my experience with St. John Neumann's Growing in Faith Together or GIFT program.

## COUNTDOWN - AUCTION 31

Welcome to the Countdown - Auction 31! The Auction is 48 days away! That is not much time and lots to do. Each week our Countdown will give you opportunities where you can help our Auction succeed. First up, we need donations! Donations of items, gift certificates, day or weekend trips, home and garden items, services – it can be anything, we love new and different ideas so call us at 832-2513 to discuss.



## STORE CARDS

Thanks to **31 families** who purchased the grocery and store cards last week. The total cards sold totaled **\$5,970.00**. The stores gave us **\$313.75**.



## 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?*

## 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

# Basking Ridge Electric Co, LLC

Electrical Contractor



CHARLES F. FORTENBACKER  
NJ Elec Lic. #10007  
25 Stonehouse Road  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
baskingridgeelectric@gmail.com

Office: 908.766.1846  
Cell: 908.797.3866  
Califon Area: 908.832.6228



Wedding Invitations & Holiday Cards

Log Onto [www.jpcc.net](http://www.jpcc.net)  
conveniently from your home or office.  
ONLINE CATALOG • ONLINE ORDERING • ONLINE PROOFING  
All Major Credit Cards Accepted  
FREE UPS GROUND SHIPPING!

## Coughlin Funeral Home

Dean W. Sulpy, Manager

NJ Lic. No. 4737

P.O. Box 294, 15 Academy St., Califon, NJ

[www.coughlinfuneralhome.com](http://www.coughlinfuneralhome.com) 908-832-2414

## John F Rimmele

Attorney at Law

Estates, Wills, Bankruptcy, Real Estate  
Concierge Estate and Financial Services  
438 Route 513, Califon, NJ  
(908) 268-1472



order online [myPizza.com](http://myPizza.com)

FREE DELIVERY

Your Neighborhood Pizzeria  
GOURMET PIZZA & PASTA

Neighbor's Plaza  
427 County Road 513, Califon

Mention this Ad for \$2 OFF with \$10 Purchase

(908) 832-0024

[www.nicolaspizzeriaicalifon.com](http://www.nicolaspizzeriaicalifon.com)

In New Jersey:  
Flemington,  
Clinton,  
Greenwich



In Pennsylvania:  
Yardley,  
Bethlehem



## WE BUY GOLD

Coins  
American & Foreign  
Scrap Gold  
Gold & Silver  
Paper Money  
Old Jewelry  
Estates  
Collections



Tues-Fri 10am-5pm  
Saturday 10am-3pm  
or By Appt.

## RAAB COINS

Established in 1974

56 Main Street, Flemington, NJ  
800-819-9875  
908-782-0840



## catholicmatch<sup>®</sup> New Jersey



[CatholicMatch.com/dateNJ](http://CatholicMatch.com/dateNJ)

## MARTIN

FUNERAL HOME, LLC  
CLINTON NEW JERSEY

Christopher J. Knoll, Manager, NJ Lic. No. 4460  
(908) 735-7180 • [www.martinfh.com](http://www.martinfh.com)  
1761 Route 31, Clinton, New Jersey 08809



Make a Difference in Your Community

## VOLUNTEER

with the American Red Cross

Join today at [redcross.org/Volunteer](http://redcross.org/Volunteer)



Commercial Rates are at an **All Time Low**.  
Contact us today to get a free analysis to see if we can help **Save you money** with your monthly payments on your commercial property. Multi-Family, Retail, Office Building, Apartment and Condos.  
Can close in as little as 45 days! Four season customer service is our top priority.

Call us today 215-586-1575 or 267-251-0341

[www.duqfunding.com](http://www.duqfunding.com)

3900 City Avenue, Suite 107 • Philadelphia, PA 19131

## BUILD YOUR COMMUNITY!



Patronize the Advertisers who make this bulletin possible!

# CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING

DOES YOUR ADVERTISING

- Establish a relationship?
- Build a friendship?
- Earn referrals?
- Generate a testimony?
- Capture repeat business?

Community support worthy of patronizing!

This happens for thousands every day with church bulletin advertising!  
The constant visual presence your business needs to succeed.



FAMILIAR • TRUSTED • PROVEN EFFECTIVE... NOW THAT'S ADVERTISING!

1.800.333.3166 ext.161 | [www.JPPC.net](http://www.JPPC.net)

