



## 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 25

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

### Thursday, April 28

7:00 a.m. Vern Michaud, req.  
Joann and Jim Murray

### Saturday, April 29

5:30 p.m. Bernard Helfrich, req.  
The Sieber Family

### Sunday, April 30

8:00 a.m. Mike Soller, req.  
The Stanski Family  
10:30 a.m. Eileen Roberts Plante, req.  
Laurie Slinger

#### EARTH DAY QUOTE FROM POPE FRANCIS

"The entire material universe speaks of  
God's love, his boundless affection for us.  
Soil, water, mountains: everything is,  
as it were, a caress of God."  
Pope Francis, in 'Laudato Si'  
his Encyclical 'On Creation'  
published last year.

## Parish Calendar

### 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)

### Mon., April 24 - Saints Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest & Martyr

7:00 p.m. Fund Raising Meeting (Office Center Kitchen)  
7:00 p.m. Bereavement Session (Upper Room)  
7:30 p.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word Meeting (Seton Room)  
7:30 p.m. Pastoral Council Meeting (Drexel Room)

### Tues., April 25 - Saint Mark, Evangelist

8:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)  
7:00 p.m. Connxions Meeting (Office Center Kitchen)

### Wed., April 26 - Easter Weekday

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

### Thurs., April 27 - Easter Weekday

10:00 a.m. SHIP (Office and Church Kitchens)  
7:30 p.m. Music/Bells (Church Center)

### Fri., April 28 - Saint Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr; Saint Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)  
5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)  
6:00 p.m. Willie Lynch (Church Center)

## Mass Schedule - April 29/30

### Saturday

5:30 p.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal  
Reader..... Kathleen Swindler  
Altar Server..... Kucharski Family  
Gift Bearers ..... Bavosa Family  
Ministers of the Eucharist ..... Donna Lance  
..... Joan Eacovale, Donna Torczon

### Sunday

8:00 a.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal  
Reader..... Linda Caprio  
Altar Server..... Mastro Family  
Ministers of the Eucharist ..... Diane Lehnert  
..... Joe Sima, Dorothy Sima

### Sunday

10:30 a.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal  
Reader..... Anthony DeStefano  
Altar Server..... DeStefano Family  
Music Eucharistic Minister ..... Anita Sawczuk  
Ministers of the Eucharist ..... Jane Albert, Marlene Milko  
..... Mark Brisson, Ron Pojedinec, Shirley Pojedinec,



## BANNS OF MARRIAGE

I. Lawrence Bianco & Karolyn Donovan

### Saturday, April 29 - Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

7:00 a.m. Men's Spirituality Coffee (Office Center)  
2:30 p.m. First Eucharist - Session #6 (Church Center)  
5:30 p.m. Mass (Church Center)

### Sunday, April 30 - Third Sunday of Easter

#### Mother's Day Intentions

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word (Narthex)



## Remembered at Mass



We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharist: **John Handy, Jorge Bambalan and Julie Suplee.**

**Deceased:** John Handy, brother of Joann Gardner, Jorge Bambalan, brother of Heidi and Noel and Uncle of Janice Lowry and Julie Suplee, friend Barbara Pfeufer. 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! Yes, Easter is for a whole season – not just for one day! That's why each Sunday of Easter is called '2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter' etc. Extending Easter for a whole season of 50 days is meant to help us appreciate the foundational nature of this event, meaning, there is no Christianity without Easter! So let us continue our celebration of this all important feast of Easter! This weekend we celebrate two significant events:

1. **The Earth Day** is this Saturday, April 22. It educates us about what we have and what we are losing by acting in ways that aren't environmentally friendly or energy efficient. Earth Day reminds us that we need to take action now to protect our environment before it's too late. But for us Christians it takes an added importance: In the Nicene Creed, we say, "I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth." How appropriate that the first sentence of our Creed mentions the fact that all of creation comes from God! Sing songs of praise such as "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow," "How Great Thou Art," and "Holy God We Praise Thy Name." We need to ponder the strength and wisdom of Pope Francis' encyclical, "Laudato Si: On Care of Our Common Home." Francis tells us "our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother, who opens her arms to embrace us... This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her." And then he tells us, "The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor are ONE. As true disciples of Jesus, we must take these words seriously and respond with concrete actions as well as a simple way of living.

2. **Today is Divine Mercy Sunday:** Pope St. John Paul II made this surprise announcement at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000: "It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church, *will be called 'Divine Mercy Sunday.'*" The Second Sunday of Easter was already a solemnity as the Octave Day of Easter; nevertheless, the title "Divine Mercy Sunday" does highlight and amplify the meaning of the day. In this way, it recovers an ancient liturgical tradition, reflected in a teaching attributed to St. Augustine about the Easter Octave, which he called "the days of mercy and pardon," and the Octave Day itself "the compendium of the days of mercy."

May we recognize and act on our duty to preserve and pass on our common home of the Earth which is given to us in the infinite mercy of God.

Your brother in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



### PRAYER REQUEST COORDINATOR NEEDED

The Prayer Ministry team is actively seeking an individual to serve as "Prayer Request Coordinator". It is a simple but important task of receiving prayer requests from parishioners and notifying the Prayer Ministers via a monthly email of these requests. The time required is minimal however occasionally there would be the need of additional updates during the month. 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.

### ONE WHO SINGS PRAYS TWICE

You may have heard this the old proverb, "One who sings prays twice." This reminds us that our music and singing here at Saint John Neumann is not entertainment or background music for our prayer. Our singing *is* our prayer. Putting our prayer into music not only helps to unite us in the prayer we make, it also gives a unique expression to our prayer that words alone cannot achieve!

Join us Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the church for a reflective session on "Music as Prayer". We look forward to seeing you there!

### 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 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.

## SUNDAY OF EASTER

**April 23, 2017**

***"Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'"***  
**JOHN 20:19**

Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, a new neighbor, a new work colleague, a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home? Many of us can probably do a much better job at this. When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded. A simple "hello" and a smile goes a long way.

### COUNTDOWN - AUCTION 31



Auction31 is 41 days away! Have you ever donated to St. John's Annual Auction? We love the variety of items that people do-

nate. Now is the time to think, talk and decide what you want to donate. If you need some ideas – call the office for some great suggestions. You can complete a donation form in the narthex, contact the office to advise us of your donation, or drop it off in the Seton Room end of the office, which is always open for your convenience. Don't forget to fill out your donation form for your tax receipt. The Auction mailing is on it's way to you. Hopefully it does not take as long as the Easter mailing did!

### 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 ..... [kcaldaro@ccsjn.org](mailto:kcaldaro@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

## Religious Education Program

### 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.

### 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!

### 2017-2018 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION



Registration for the 2017-2018 Religious Ed. program is now open! Information and forms have been mailed home and will be posted on the parish website, [ccsjn.org](http://ccsjn.org).

### 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!

# Christian Formation

## **MAY CROWNING – May 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m. Mass**

The month of May is the "month which the piety of the faithful has long dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which will soon be paid to the Queen of Heaven in every corner of the earth. For this is the month during which Christians, in their churches and their homes, offer the Virgin Mother more fervent and loving acts of homage and veneration; and it is the month in which a greater abundance of God's merciful gifts comes down to us from our Mother's throne." (Paul VI: *Encyclical on the Month of May*, no. 1).

Please join our parish community on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 a.m. Mass as our children lead the procession to crown the statue of the Blessed Mother in the church center. All are welcome to bring in flowers from their gardens for this special celebration. All children participating in the procession should gather in the narthex by 10:15 a.m.

## 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.



### **OUR COMMUNITY SPRING GIVING TREE**

Once again this year we are helping the Three Agencies that we provide for with Our Spring Giving Tree. Please read and follow the instructions regarding our collection of items. We will run this event until May 14. We thank you in advance for your support of all our endeavors to assist the needy. Please find a description of the three agencies at the Social Ministry station in the Narthex.



**Parish  
Pastoral  
Council**

### **INVITATION FROM 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.



### **HELP NEEDED TO PREPARE MEALS FOR FATHER**

About twenty parishioners prepare meals for Fr. Abraham once every 4 to 6 weeks. We want to add a few more people to the schedule to keep each person's participation to a 6 week commitment. We will be preparing the new quarterly schedule shortly. Please contact Lucy Meekings if you would like to volunteer for this fun service. Father Abraham loves all food and is appreciative of the variety, which makes it easy for our volunteers. To volunteer or inquire as to what is involved contact [lucybmeekings@comcast.net](mailto:lucybmeekings@comcast.net) or by cell 732-672-0539.



### **SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY**



Traffic cop's mercy: A priest was forced by a police officer to pull over for speeding. As the officer was about to write the ticket, the priest said to him, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." The police officer handed the priest the ticket, and said, "Go, and sin no more."

Stan: My wife treats me like I'm a god.

Steve: You mean she worships you, honors you, and obeys you?

Stan: No, she ignores me until she wants something.

### **PARENTING TUNE-UP**

April 22 is Earth Day.

(<http://www.earthday.org/earthday/>)

This year's focus is Climate Literacy. (<http://www.earthday.org/campaigns/education/climate-education-week/>) for ideas on how to teach your child some basics about the environment. Want something less academic? Take a hike or clean up a nearby park. (Susan Vogt)

### **MARRIAGE TUNE-UP**

Over the years people develop little quirks and annoying habits. In healthy marriages both partners learn to overlook a lot and do little favors to accommodate the other. Jim knows I don't like him to scrunch the carpet with his feet when sitting on the couch. He obliges me by putting his feet on a piece of cardboard. It's silly, but it means a lot.



### **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 [project-earth@ccsjn.org](mailto:project-earth@ccsjn.org).

### **VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES**

#### **Office Angels**

Wed., April 26	S. Griffin
Wed., May 3	J. Santoro

#### **Store Cards**

##### **April 22 & 23**

5:30 p.m.	B. Cestone
8:00 a.m.	G. Battell
10:30 a.m.	S. Pojedinec

##### **April 29 & 30**

5:30 p.m.	L. Livoti
8:00 a.m.	P. Nanna
10:30 a.m.	D. Royal

#### **Church Center Plant Watering**

Week of 4/23	L. Livoti
Week of 4/30	M. Cangelosi

#### **Church Center Cleaning**

April 28	Team C
May 5	Team D

#### **Counting**

April 24	Kucharski / McCabe
May 1	Malone / Kosakowski

## 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

## EASTER FLOWER INTENTIONS

John Aquino  
Angelo Cucchiara  
Josephine Cucchiara  
Tony Perez  
Kristine Swarbe

## SPIRITUAL BOUQUET

Dorothy and Frank McLaughlin  
Lily Tippel

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER: *The Spirit of "cool and daring"*

***"Peace be with you . . ." And when he said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."***  
**John 20: 19-31**

In her book **Jesus Freak**, Sara Miles writes about her San Francisco church's weekly food pantry. Parishioners have worked hard over the years to build up the pantry, feeding hundreds poor and struggling families in the Bay area. The church is most proud that the pantry is run by poor people, for poor people. Visitors to the parish are impressed and deeply moved by what Sara and her community have done. But there is often a sadness to their flattery; there seems to be a sense of resignation and resentment of the church's work. Sara writes:

"People insisted that . . . our food pantry was so special, that they couldn't possibly do anything like it themselves. It was as if they wanted to explain away the possibility of their own power. Of course, they'd say, you can experiment as much as you like out there in California; we could never get away with that in the South. Of course you must have a lot of creative folks in your congregation, not like our boring Midwestern grandmothers. Of course you have a wonderful bishop, a lot of money, a better class of poor people, some mysterious kind of permission that allows you to be so cool and daring. "I wanted to cry. What more permission do they need . . . 'Receive the Holy Spirit' isn't enough?"

**The Spirit that Jesus breathes on the Eleven on Easter night is "breathed" upon us, as well. It is the grace that enables us to live our lives with the belief that the good is always possible; it is the grace that enables us to transform our doubts and fears into reconciliation, justice and peace. We can let ourselves become so beaten down by life that our cynicism begins to destroy our spirit: we are no longer able to realize God's presence among us; we fail to see this life of ours as a gift from God, given in order that we might find God and, in the process, find ourselves. May we realize God's Spirit in our midst, enabling us to re-create this time and place of ours in the peace of the Risen One.**

## ST. FAUSTINA AND DIVINE MERCY

St. Faustina of Poland is the well-known apostle of Divine Mercy. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 2000, at 10:00 AM on the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday, the Feast Jesus requested in His communications with St. Faustina), His Holiness Pope St. John Paul II celebrated the Eucharist in Saint Peter's Square and proceeded to the canonization of Blessed Sister Faustina. [John Paul himself would be canonized on this same Feast Day—April 27, 2014—by Pope Francis.] Saint Faustina invites us by the witness of her life to keep our Faith and Hope fixed on God the Father, rich in mercy, Who saved us by the precious Blood of His Son.

***During her short life, the Lord Jesus assigned to St. Faustina three basic tasks: 1. to pray for souls, entrusting them to God's incomprehensible Mercy; 2. to tell the world about God's generous Mercy; 3. to start a new movement in the Church focusing on God's Mercy.***

At the canonization of St. Faustina, Pope St. John Paul II said: "The cross, even after the Resurrection of the Son of God, speaks, and never ceases to speak, of God the Father, Who is absolutely faithful to His eternal love for man.... Believing in this love means believing in mercy." "The Lord of Divine Mercy," a drawing of Jesus based on the vision given to St. Faustina, shows Jesus raising his right hand in a gesture of blessing, with His left hand on his heart from which gush forth two rays, one red and one white. The picture contains the message, "Jesus, I trust in You!" (*Jezu ufam Tobie*). The rays streaming out have symbolic meaning: red for the Blood of Jesus, which is the life of souls and white for the water of Baptism which justifies souls. The whole image is symbolic of the mercy, forgiveness and love of God.



**Are you on social media? Your stewardship could be keeping St. John's activities present on the web! Contact the office and find us on Facebook, "St. John Neumann RC Church, Califon NJ"**

# Parish News



## **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.

## **GUEST SPEAKER: SR. THERESA RICKARD - MAY 3**

Come enjoy a spiritual evening with Sr. Theresa Rickard, O.P., nationally-known speaker next Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm at the Church Center.

## **FORGIVE YOUR SON'S MURDERERS?**

Mary and her husband suffered the tragic loss of their son, and it was her understanding of Divine Mercy that helped her and her family forgive those that took his life during a robbery. Mary tells us how her attendance at a Mother of Mercy Messengers (MOMM) Divine Mercy Program helped her overcome great obstacles and allowed her to forgive and even to pray for them. Knowing that as long as there is life, there is hope, the family did not seek the death penalty for his murderers. How differently does the person filled with God's mercy see and react to the world. ([http://mercyimages.com/video\\_MaryDuray.php](http://mercyimages.com/video_MaryDuray.php))

## **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.

Ministering to those experiencing pain, confusion and fear, and those preparing for death is the role of the clergy assigned as **Hospital Chaplains**. They respond to calls at every hour of the day and night providing sacramental and pastoral presence when needed most. The Bishop's Annual Appeal helps to support the work of the priests serving as chaplains in more than 15 hospitals and health care facilities located in the Diocese of Metuchen. Last year, our hospital chaplains made over 40,000 pastoral visits.

**If you have yet to make your gift to the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal, please prayerfully consider doing so today. Mail your check made payable to the Bishop's Annual Appeal to Diocese of Metuchen, PO Box 4000, Metuchen, NJ 08840-4000 or visit our secure online site at <http://diometuchen.org/BAA>. Thank you.**

To date, the Development Office has received pledges totaling \$30,699.10 and payments totaling \$24,732.85 from 104 parishioners. This represents 80.8% 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%

## **K of C SCHOLARSHIP**

We apologize for the tardiness of this announcement...A high school senior student who is the child of a St. John Neumann parishioner or the child of a St. Joseph council member who is a parishioner at SJN or elsewhere are now eligible to apply for the 2017 Joseph F. Labuta Scholarship application. The form is available at [www.kofc10627.org/council-scholarships.html](http://www.kofc10627.org/council-scholarships.html). You may access the site [www.koc10627.org](http://www.koc10627.org) and use the pull down menu for COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and YOUTH ACTIVITIES to access the application as well. Please use the correct form for the scholarship as there are two forms at the website. **High school seniors should note that the deadline to file this application is April 30, 2017 (before May 1st)!** For more information, contact chairman of scholarships for council #10627, Mario Bernardo, at 638-6118 or [mbern67@yahoo.com](mailto:mbern67@yahoo.com).

## **WEEKLY COLLECTION**

### **April 9, 2017**

103 Donors Weekly ..... \$5,874.00  
58 Easter Flower Offering .. \$1,491.00  
5 Yellow Brick Road ..... \$445.00

### **April 10, 2016**

92 Donors Weekly ..... \$4,578.00  
13 Yellow Brick Road ..... \$570.00  
6 Easter Donors ..... \$355.00

### **April 16, 2017**

49 Donors Weekly ..... \$2,405.25  
111 Easter Donors ..... \$10,185.00  
25 Holy Land Donors..... \$719.00

### **April Automated Giving**

41 Weekly Donors ..... \$8,607.50  
35 Easter Donors ..... \$2,190.00  
24 Holy Land Donors..... \$440.00  
25 Easter Flower Offering ... \$460.00

### **April 17, 2016**

80 Donors Weekly ..... \$4,524.00  
145 Easter Donors ..... \$13,051.00



## **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**.



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