



Mission Statement

Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

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

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

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

TO CELEBRATE and *DEEPEN* our faith

TO SHARE our unique gifts, talents and treasures

TO CHERISH all life

TO LIVE in openness, acceptance and love.

Annual Parish Goal

We, as ministers, will foster

*an inviting and spiritual Catholic community for all,
especially to those away from the Church,
by growing in and witnessing to our faith in the mercy of God.*

A Christian Community of the Catholic Tradition

Diocese of Metuchen

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

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

www.diometuchen.org

Our Parish

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

Mailing Address:

PO Box 455
Califon, NJ 07830

Office Center:

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

Worshipping at:

398 County Road 513
(Church Center)

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

Worshipping at:

390 County Road 513
(Neumann Residence)

Check the bulletin for any changes

Weekday Masses:

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

Reconciliation:

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

This Week at Saint John's

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, May 9

8:00 a.m. Walter Cieslak, req.
The Kosakowski Family

Friday, May 12

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Saturday, May 13

5:30 p.m. Linda Owens, req.
Eileen McCabe

Sunday, May 14

8:00 a.m. Mary & Gordon Furlong,
req. Rachel Johnson
10:30 a.m. Julia Durham, req.
Jim and Roni Durham



Parish Calendar

Sunday, May 7 - Fourth Sunday of Easter / Yellow Brick Road Collection

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Mass-Robbins Baptism-May Crowning (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word (Narthex)
11:30 a.m. Discover St. John's (Drexel Room)
6:00 p.m. Jr. High Catechesis (Church Center)

Monday, May 8 - Easter Weekday

10:00 a.m. S.H.I.P (Church and Office Kitchens)
6:00 p.m. K-6 Family Faith Formation (Church & Office Centers)
7:00 p.m. Bereavement Session (Upper Room)
7:00 p.m. Tai Chi (Labyrinth)

Tues., May 9 - Easter Weekday

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

Wednesday, May 10 - Saints Damien de Veuster, Priest

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

Thursday, May 11 - Easter Weekday

12:30 p.m. Staff Meeting (Drexel Room)
7:30 p.m. Music/Bells (Church Center)

Friday, May 12 - Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; Saint Pancras, Martyr

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

Mass Schedule - May 13/14

Saturday

5:30 p.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader..... Linda Caprio
Altar Server..... Upwood Family
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Lyle Garcia
..... Debby Kelemen, Joan Eacovalle

Sunday

8:00 a.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader..... Alexa Johnson
Altar Server..... Patterson Family
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Jane Klawunn
..... Barbara Martalus, Bob Martalus

Sunday

10:30 a.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader..... Jane Albert
Altar Server..... Souza Family
Music Eucharistic Minister..... Mark Brisson
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Ron Pojedinec, Shirley Pojedinec
..... Anita Sawczuk, Mary D'Avella, Sheena Carew



BANNS OF MARRIAGE

III. Lawrence Bianco & Karolyn Donovan

Saturday, May 13 - Our Lady of Fatima

2:30 p.m. CPIII Day of Reflection (Church Center & Grounds)
5:30 p.m. Mass - Rite of Discernment (Church Center)

Sunday, May 14 - Fifth Sunday of Easter / Mother's Day / Trinity Dome Collection

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: **Susan Riemondy, John Morrison, Anthony Pellicano, Henry Edson Drucker, John Handy, and Jorge Bambalan.**

Deceased: **Susan Riemondy**, cousin of Linda Caprio, **John Morrison** uncle of Ray Klacik, **Anthony Pellicano**, father of Stephanie and husband of Lois, **Henry Edson Drucker**, brother of Veronica Drucker, **John Handy**, brother of Joann Gardner, and **Jorge Bambalan**, brother of Heidi and Noel and Uncle of Janice Lowry. 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,

'May Crowning' may be, for many of us, our first "Catholic" memory! Images of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Infant Jesus have been revered by Christians from ancient times. The reverence for the image is directed to the person represented, and so it is NOT idol worship as some would accuse us of! Crowning a statue of the Lord's Mother is symbolic of the honor we give her as the one chosen by God to bear His Son. It recognizes Mary as queen of heaven and earth. To a person of any age, this is a mighty big title. But to a child of five or six or seven, it expands to enchanting, magical proportions. How many queens does one get a chance to meet in a lifetime, much less crown? During the 10:30 Mass this Sunday, as our Religious Education Office holds this simple ceremony, we are giving our children a lasting memory of this unique Catholic practice.

But devotion to Mary is the most misunderstood and the most maligned Catholic practice among many Protestant and Non-Denominational Churches. Yet many educated and open-minded Protestants understand the role of Mary. I read an article titled: "Protestants and Marian Devotion -- What about Mary?" The author is Protestant Pastor Jason Byassee (pastor of Shady Grove United Methodist Church in Providence, NC). He writes: "Recently there has been a flurry of publications by Protestants on Mary, works that suggest she could be an ecumenical bridge -- or at least that the Protestant aversion to Marian devotion is eroding. Beverly Roberts Gaventa, a biblical scholar at Princeton Theological Seminary, has led the charge with *Mary; Glimpses of the Mother of Jesus* (1995) and with a collection of essays she coedited called *Blessed One; Protestant Perspectives on Mary* (2002). Meanwhile, Robert Jenson's monumental two-volume *Systematic Theology* (1997 and 1999) and another collection of coedited essays, *Mary; Mother of God* (2004), has given a certain pride of place to the Mother of God.

Church historians of all stripes have long granted that Marian teaching and devotion dates from the earliest days of the church. And they grant that devotion to Mary was not discarded even by the leading Reformation figures Luther, Calvin and Zwingli. The fruit of ecumenical labor on this topic can be seen in such balanced and helpful resources as *Mary in the Plan of God* and in the *Communion of the Saints* (1999), a product of years of dialogue between French Catholics and Protestants that calls for both Catholic and Protestant "conversions" on the subject."

Isn't it interesting? You can read the full article at: <http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=3156> Let us continue our devotion to Mary because her only desire for us is what she told the servants at the Marriage feast of Cana: "Do what He tells you" (John 2:5). Yes, let us do what He tells us. And Mary will be pleased!

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

WE HATE TO NAG, BUT.....

Today is the deadline for Auction donations. If you have not made a donation, it's not too late. There will be volunteers in the Narthex after Mass to assist with suggestions and/or filling out donation forms. Items need not be brought in till a later date. "It takes a Village" to have a successful fundraising auction, jump in, we need everyone's help.



COUNTDOWN TO AUCTION 27 DAYS! - JUNE 3RD

If you're not on our mailing list, pick up some books in the Narthex for our **two raffles!** **The Fab 5** – with great prizes, and **the 50/50 for a cash prize of up to \$25,000!** This major fundraiser

helps us meet the financial needs of the parish.

If you are on our mailing list you should have received 2 books for the Fab Five Raffle and 1 book for the 50/50 Raffle! More books are available in the Narthex, pick some up to sell to your friends, family and neighbors.



BIBLE STUDY

We will start the next bible study session continuing with the Gospel of Matthew on May 17 at 7:14 pm (per Jim Murray). The meetings will be in the Drexel Room each Wednesday for 6 weeks. Please contact the office or sign up in the narthex if you are interested. Please feel free to try the session to see if you enjoy it. Bring your Bible!

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 7, 2017

"And Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ..." ACTS 2:38

The word "repent" means to turn from sin, to change our actions. When it comes to change, do we take responsibility for change or do we think that others have to change instead? Change that is permanent comes from within, we must take control and be disciplined. Remember though that we are not alone, Jesus is there to help lighten the load.

2017-FAB FIVE RAFFLE ITEMS



Weber Genesis S-300 Propane Gas Grill
\$850 Value



Toro Power Clear Snow Blower
\$629 Value



Apple 9.7" iPad with Wi-Fi 32GB
\$600 Value



iRobot Roomba 650
\$375 Value



Fitbit Charge 2 Activity Tracker
\$130 Value

Parish Contact Information

Office Center..... 908-832-2513

Fax 908-832-7618

Email sjn@ccsjn.org

Rev. Abraham Orapankal..... Pastor

Email abraham@ccsjn.org

Earl Roberts Deacon

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Sharon Janks Pastoral Administrator

Email sjanks@ccsjn.org

France Kennedy Pastoral Associate

Email fkennedy@ccsjn.org

Kerri Caldaro Financial Administrator

Email kcaldaro@ccsjn.org

Wayne Infusino..... Maintenance

Religious Education..... 908-832-2162

Renee Ciszewski, Director of Religious Education

Email renee@ccsjn.org

Jo Ann Jarvis..... Office of Catechesis

Email jjarvis@ccsjn.org

Social Ministry..... socialministry@ccsjn.org

..... Greg Wilson

Bulletin..... bulletin@ccsjn.org

Youth Ministry..... sjnygroup@gmail.com

Christian Formation



MAY CROWNING

May 7th, 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 7th 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.

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.

CPII DAY OF DISCERNMENT

Saturday, May 20, 3:00 p.m.



The CPII Day of Discernment will be held on Saturday, May 20, at 3:00 p.m. in the Church Center. All CPII candidates and their parents are expected to attend. CPII candidates for Confirmation will celebrate the Rite of Covenant at the 5:30 p.m. Mass following their Day of Discernment.



MONTHLY ADULT FAITH FORMATION - Last 2 Sessions *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 Fr. Abraham for the adult faith sharing portion of the GIFT program in the Church Center on Monday, May 8th, at 6:30 PM or at Valley View Elementary School on Sunday, May 21st, at 9:00 AM. All are invited to attend! **You do not need to have a child in the program to participate.**



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

On Saturday, May 6th, ten of our young church family members received the treasure of Jesus in First Holy Communion. 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. Celebrate and share in their joy! Also, please check out their beautiful photos on the banner hung in the Narthex!

CPIII DAY OF REFLECTION

Saturday, May 13, 2:30 p.m.



The CPIII Day of Reflection is on Saturday, May 13, at 2:30 p.m. in the Church Center. All 2017 Confirmation Candidates will be participating in this retreat on the gifts of the Holy Spirit and participating in the 5:30 p.m. Confirmandi Mass that follows. CPIII parents involved in facilitating this retreat need to email their final plans to Renee Ciszewski as soon as possible.



CATECHISTS: PLANTING THE SEEDS OF FAITH

By Renate Bernard, Our Catechist

How the GIFT program has helped our family: Most of my religious education was done when I was a child between the ages of 6-14 years old. I forgot much of what I learned all those years ago. By involving ourselves in our son's education and in the adult religious formation we are deepening our own understanding of the catholic faith. SJN is a parish of participation and thru participation we feel a deeper connection to the SJN community.

Our reflections on preparing Sean for the sacraments for Reconciliation and Holy Communion: Cathy Gagen has the Reconciliation and First Holy Communion classes tweaked to perfection. I've heard thru other parents whose children went thru the course that we would enjoy it immensely. Cathy engages the children. My son (and myself) enjoy the classes taught by Cathy. The fact that my son enjoys going to her class and talks about the movies means in my view that he is more likely to continue his involvement in our parish community and deepen his faith.

Final thoughts...

Sharing our faith as a family. We are learning together, increasing our knowledge thru shared experience. My wishes are that we continue to Be more prayerful, Be mindful, Live in the moment. Religious education gives another important opportunity to listen, to hear the spiritual guidance of Father Abraham and the holy people around us.

The old adage the family that prays together stays together.

It is important we continue to learn with our children in order to grow in our faith.

Social Ministry



SPRING PLANTING--PROJECT EARTH GARDEN

Join us in the Project Earth Garden on Saturday, May 20 from 9a-5p and Sunday, May 21 from Noon to 5pm to plant the Project Earth Garden (weather permitting). All ages are welcome! We have lots of seeds to put in the ground. Come for a few hours or bring a picnic lunch and spend the day. On Sunday we will also have a tomato pruning and trellising seminar in the Community Garden following the 10:30am Mass.



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.

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 for more information or if you would like to sign up.

Parish News



CALLING GRADUATES!

Do you have a graduate this year? We want to celebrate with all graduates from eighth grade, high school, college, vocational school or from a graduate or doctoral program. You are invited to our Graduate Mass here at St. John Neumann on Sunday, June 18, at 10:30 a.m. Please send the following information to France Kennedy: name, school, major, degree, future school (if applicable) at fkennedy@ccsjn.org. You may provide this information even if you cannot attend the Mass that day. Our community will be celebrating and praying for all our graduates. We hope you can join us! Thank you and congratulations!

Are you an **adult** who graduated, finished your course of study, or passed the test? Join us to recognize and celebrate our parishioner's graduations at the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday June 18. Please contact the office and give us your name and graduation information.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



Good news/bad news jokes aimed at pastors

GOOD NEWS: You baptized seven people today in the river. BAD NEWS: You lost two of them in the swift current.

GOOD NEWS: The Women's Missionary Society voted to send you a get-well card. BAD NEWS: The vote passed by 31-30.

GOOD NEWS: Church attendance rose dramatically the last three weeks. BAD NEWS: You were on vacation.

GOOD NEWS: Your biggest critic just left your church. BAD NEWS: He has been appointed the Head Bishop of your denomination.

It's been said that every pastor ought to have six weeks of vacation each year, because if he is a really good shepherd, he deserves it; and if he is not a very good shepherd, his congregation deserves it.

WELCOME NEW FAMILIES



We want to welcome two new families to the parish, Brendan and Janet Gattone and their son who will be baptized here in early June! Jake and Corinne Robbins were welcomed with their children, Jackson and Taiga. Taiga will be baptized this weekend! Please take the opportunity to welcome these young families to the parish family.

VISIT THE BLUE ARMY SHRINE

The 100th anniversary of the first apparition at Fatima will be celebrated on Saturday May 13 at the Blue Army Shrine in Washington/Asbury. Bishop James Checchio will be the celebrant for the Mass at 12 noon. There will be other programs and speakers.

REMEMBER MOTHERS



Welcome to all and in a special way all mothers next Sunday as we celebrate Mother's Day. As every year, the Knights will be presenting carnations to Mother's following Mass on May 13th and 14th.

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

The couple that shops together - may learn something. Many women enjoy shopping as an "experience" while many men shop with a "hunter" mentality (get what you need as quickly as you can.) Although these are stereotypes and not always true, shopping together can often be frustrating. Just once try shopping as a date. Enter into your beloved's world and learn something new about them.

PARENTING TUNE-UP

The first week of May is both Children's Book Week <http://everychildareader.net/cbw/> and Screen-Free Week. <http://www.screenfree.org/> Why not let these two themes support each other. Ask your child if they'd be willing to substitute a book for screen time? If you missed the start of the week, never fear, the week can start when your family is ready. This applies to you parents also. (Susan Vogt)

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

SUNDAY REFLECTION: "Play On . . ."

Jesus said: "I am the gate for the sheep . . . "John 10: 1-10

It was the worst autumn of her life. She had just begun teaching at Harvard - for a first-generation college student fresh out of graduate school, that was stressful enough. But three weeks into the semester, just as she was feeling something "approximating normal," her beloved father died. A month after that, she and her husband were unexpectedly evicted from their apartment. A month after that, her mom was diagnosed with breast cancer. And, during the spring semester, she suffered from adrenal fatigue and didn't fully recover until well into the summer.

No one would have blamed her if she skipped church during those troubled months, but she didn't. She couldn't. Because a few weeks before that awful fall semester began, her church's long-time pianist moved away. She volunteered to take on the role - and, in the end, what started as an imposition turned out to be a blessing.

"The church I attend is not a wealthy one, so it is difficult to find a skilled musician who is willing to work dependably for what we can pay," she writes. I grew up playing the piano in church. It's a routine I know well; I know all the songs inside and out, and it's a skill that comes easily to me. It's something I enjoy. Thanks to my day job at Harvard, I don't need extra cash. Still, the most stressful year of my life seems like a strange time to take on a *pro bono* side gig as a church musician. And, honestly, if the position had opened up even one month later, I might never have agreed to start.

"In many ways, though, it was precisely that additional 'job' that saved my sanity during such a hard year. There were so many weeks that it would have been tempting just to sleep in or to spend those hours on Sunday with Netflix, in order to simply rest. But I couldn't, because I had to be there. There had to be music. And, in subtle ways that I didn't appreciate at the time, being in that space meant being surrounded by loved ones, [but]by people . . . whose lives and struggles were also drastically different from my own. Being in that simple sanctuary every week, under the arched ceiling, before the cross, surrounded by the hum of friendly chaos, furnished me with a broader and more robust sense of self by de-centering my own central importance.

"When I played that music, my body became a conduit through which the bonds between all of the people gathered there - old and young, poor and less poor, every shade of tan and brown - grew stronger as we sang together. While I wasn't fully aware of it at the time, the experience of sharing music with others turned out to be what I needed most during a time when everything else felt uncertain and shaky."
[From "On Habit" by Michelle C. Sanchez, Harvard Divinity Bulletin, Summer-Autumn 2016.]

Despite the stresses of work and the family crises she had to deal with, this young college professor managed to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd and heed his call to be a source of peace and support for his "flock." Like Jesus the "gate," she becomes a "conduit through which the bonds of all people gathered there . . . [grew] stronger as we sang together. Every life is created by God for one purpose: to manifest his love for all. That is the ultimate test of the Christian vocation, that is the Good Shepherd's call to everyone in his flock: to live faith that takes on the Good Shepherd's work of being a "gate" to God's Kingdom of reconciliation and peace.

JESUS KNOWS ALL OF US BY NAME!

There have always been people with a good memory for names: Napoleon, "who knew thousands of his soldiers by name . . ." or James A. Farley, "who claimed he knew 50,000 people by their first name . . ." or Charles Schwab, "who knew the names of all 8,000 of his employees at Homestead Mill . . ." or Charles W. Eliot, "who, during his forty years as president of Harvard, earned the reputation of knowing all the students by name each year . . ." or Harry Lorayne, "who used to amaze his audiences by being introduced to hundreds of people, one after another, then giving the name of any person who stood up and requested it." But can you imagine Christ knowing all his sheep by name? That's millions and millions of people over 2,000 years. No wonder we call him Master, Lord, Savior - watching over his flock, calling each by name.

Diocesan and Community News



DIocese of METUCHEN

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

April 18, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

We who live in New Jersey are fortunate to be only a few hours' drive from one of our nation's – indeed the world's – most magnificent churches: the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Many of you have, I'm sure, visited "America's Catholic Church"; perhaps on one of the Diocese's eleven pilgrimages to the Shrine over our 35 year history.

The Shrine is, of course, more than a beautiful church. It is a powerful witness to our Catholic faith and a symbol of the historic importance of that faith in our national discourse, even – perhaps especially – today. As St. John Paul II proclaimed when he visited it in 1979, "The Shrine speaks to us with the voice of all America!"

As the Shrine approaches its centennial anniversary (2020), Catholics throughout the country are being encouraged to support the mosaic ornamentation of the Shrine's central and largest dome: the Trinity Dome. The mosaic, whose preliminary segment was blessed by Pope Francis during his own visit to the Shrine in 2015, will depict the Most Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Immaculate Conception, and a procession of saints who have an association with the United States and the National Shrine. Encircling the base of the Dome will be the Nicene Creed. You can see a visual representation of how the Dome will look when completed at www.trinitydome.org.

On Mother's Day Weekend, May 13-14, a collection will be taken up in all parishes in the United States to help complete the Shrine with the completion of the Trinity Dome. As a member of the Shrine's Board of Governors, I ask you to be as generous with the collection as your means allow so that the Diocese of Metuchen can do its part for this worthy project. I thank you in advance for your support of this church representing the peoples, cultures, and traditions that are the fabric of our Catholic faith and our nation.

With my prayerful good wishes for a grace-filled Easter Season, I remain

Yours in Christ,

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

2017 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Ambassadors for Christ

Just as important as our financial goal of \$7 million is our non-monetary goal of 100% participation. The Appeal is more than just a request for financial contributions; it is an invitation to witness to our faith and to share concretely in the mission of the Church throughout Middlesex, Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren counties. If you have already made a gift to the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal, thank you. If you have not yet made your gift, it's not too late. 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>.

To date, the Development Office has received pledges totaling \$ 32,029.10 and payments totaling \$ 26,962.85 from 111 parishioners. This represents 84.3% of your \$38,000.00 goal.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

April 30, 2017

72 Donors Weekly\$3,148.00
1 Easter Offering\$100.00
1 Yellow Brick Road\$50.00
50 Mother's Day Intentions . \$1,031.00

May 1, 2016

72 Donors Weekly\$4,688.00
45 Yellow Brick Road\$1,311.00
27 Initial Offerings\$102.00



STORE CARDS

Thanks to **28 families** who purchased the grocery and store cards last week. The total cards sold totaled **\$5,205.00**. The stores gave us **\$260.58**.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Tues., May 9	L. Caprio
Wed., May 10	S. Griffin
Tues., May 16	A. Sawczuk
Wed., May 17	C. Behrens

Store Cards

May 6 & 7

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

May 13 & 14

5:30 p.m.	J. Eacovalle
8:00 a.m.	G. Battell
10:30 a.m.	D. Hunt

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of 5/7	B. Sobey
Week of 5/14	B. M. Proano

Church Center Cleaning

May 12	Team E
May 19	Team F

Altar Flowers

May 13	Perez (Mother's Day)
May 20	Heimall

Counting

May 8	Kucharski / Bauernfeind
May 15	Malone / Cangelosi



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"

Basking Ridge Electric Co, LLC

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