

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, DD
Bishop Emeritus

www.diometuchen.org

Our Parish

Rev. Abraham Orapankal, PhD
..... 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, October 3

8:00 a.m. Rose Felitti, req.
Lehnert Family

Friday, September 29

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Saturday, September 30

5:30 p.m. Bill Ciszewski, req.
Sharon and Alan Janks

Sunday, October 1

8:00 a.m. Allen Kenngott, req.
Cathy and Tom Bennett
10:30 a.m. Kylie Andrejco, req.
Marlene and Tanya

*"The right to life is the first
among human rights."
Pope Francis*

Parish Calendar

Sunday, October 1 - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Yellow Brick Road Collection

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
9:00 a.m. Coffee sponsored by Connxions Ministry (Narthex)
10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy (Narthex)
11:30 a.m. Coffee sponsored by Connxions Ministry (Narthex)
1:00 p.m. Blessing of Animals (Church Center Parking Lot)
5:30 p.m. CP III Parent-Confirmandi Meeting (Church)
6:00 p.m. Jr. High Faith Formation (Church Center)

Monday, October 2 - The Holy Guardian Angels

7:00 p.m. Small Group (Office Center Kitchen)

Tuesday, October 3 - Weekday

8:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
11:00 a.m. Small Group (Church Center Loft)
7:00 p.m. Small Group (Neumann Residence)

Wednesday, October 4 - Saint Francis of Assisi

10:30 a.m. Small Group (Narthex)
5:30 p.m. Yoga (Church Center Loft)
7:00 p.m. R.C.I.A. (Drexel Room)
7:15 p.m. Small Group (Upper Room)

Thursday, October 5 - Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest

5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)
7:30 p.m. Small Groups (Upper Rom)
7:30 p.m. Music/Bells (Church Center)

Friday, October 6 - Saint Bruno, Priest; Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
7:00 p.m. First Friday Holy Hour (Church Center)

Mass Schedule - October 7/October 8

| Saturday | 5:30 p.m. |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Celebrant..... | Fr. Abraham Orapankal |
| Reader..... | Kathleen Swindler |
| Altar Server | Lowary Family |
| Ministers of the Eucharist..... | Mary D'Avella |
| | Gloria Cucchiara, Jim Oelkers |
| Sunday | 8:00 a.m. |
| Celebrant..... | Fr. Abraham Orapankal |
| Reader..... | Brent Herrig |
| Altar Server | Mastro Family |
| Ministers of the Eucharist..... | Barbara Martalus |
| | Gail Battell, Bob Martalus |
| Sunday | 10:30 a.m. |
| Celebrant..... | Fr. Abraham Orapankal |
| Reader..... | Steve Bauernfiend |
| Altar Server | Johnson Family |
| Music Eucharistic Minister..... | Mark Brisson |
| Ministers of the Eucharist..... | Anthony DeStefano, Jane Albert |
| | Anna Giametta, Patti Rittman, Jim DeVito |

Saturday, October 7 - Our Lady of the Rosary

7:00 a.m. Men's Spirituality Breakfast (Office Center)
5:30 p.m. Mass (Church Center)

Sunday, October 8 - 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Pray the Rosary at
First Friday Holy Hour



October 6th - 7:00 pm,
Church Center

Remembered at Mass



We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharist: **Thomas Regan, George Sekela, Santo Molinari, and Brandon Wieboldt.**

Deceased: Thomas Regan, father of Brian Regan, George Sekela, husband of Nadima Melhem-Sekela, Santo Molinari, brother of Rose Mastroianni, and Brandon Wieboldt, friend of the King Family and Gerry Brisson. 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,

After a successful Tag Sale (organized by Sandra Aaron, Suzanne Kozakowski and Cathy Bennett) a very happy Parish picnic (led by Jim Murray, Tom Klauwn and Pete and Mary Cangelosi), we can be proud of and grateful to all those many individuals who worked so hard to give us all such a great time. Please see their names in the bulletin. My hope is that seeing their good example, many more will be inspired to volunteer for the good of our great community.

We enter into October - a very special month for various reasons. Our Parish begins a new tradition this Sunday with the blessing of animals, in honor of St. Francis of Assisi who showed us the right attitude of care for all of God's creatures. Francis had pets, a lamb, a pheasant, a rabbit, a cicada, a dog and a wolf! He was as polite and considerate to an earthworm, a slug, a bird, a beetle, or a mole, as amusedly tolerant, understanding and warmly loving as one would be to one's brother and sister. Indeed, he addressed them as his brothers and sisters!

October is Respect Life Month, highlighting and promoting respect for human life in light of our intrinsic dignity as having been created in God's image and likeness and called to an eternal destiny with him. Today is Respect Life Sunday and the theme for this year is: "Be Not Afraid." The U.S. bishops are asking Catholics around the country to help kick off the campaign by taking part in a Week of Prayer and Action: "Love Your Neighbor" from October 7-13, 2017. Today many will join the Life Chain which is a peaceful, prayerful demonstration in opposition to abortion, other attacks on human life and an end to all violence. The event is held 2 - 3:30 pm, rain or shine. The nearest locations for us are: Phillipsburg, Flemington and Great Meadows.

The Bishops are also urging support of the Dream Act of 2017 (S.1615/H.R. 3440) which would protect almost 800,000 DACA youth who entered the United States as children and know America as their only home. These youth call themselves Dreamers because they seek the American dream of liberty. The New Jersey Bishops have said this in their statement: "*While we support securing our nation's borders from those who would harm us, such actions and policies ought not to prevent us from protecting our Dreamers. Jesus taught that we will be judged on the basis of how we treat the most vulnerable members of society (Matthew 25: 31 -46). Today, our Dreamers are among the most vulnerable in our society. We urge our New Jersey Congressional delegation to stand on the right side of judgement by supporting the Dream Act of 2017.*" Please see elsewhere in this bulletin how we can support this Dream Act.

Our Parish has been promoting the 100th Anniversary of the Fatima apparitions thanks to the initiative of Gloria Cucchiara. Consider attending the Holy Hour and Adoration this First Friday evening, especially if you have never been to one.

Your brother in Christ.
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR & OUR LADY OF FATIMA

On Friday, October 6, 2017 @ 7 pm, we will be celebrating the sixth and final apparition of Our Lady of Fatima to the three children, Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco. As you know, Our Lady appeared to the three children only six times and asked them to pray the rosary each and every day. We are inviting you to join us at the Holy Hour & Adoration to have a beautiful experience of peaceful communion with our God. Please extend an invitation to members of your ministries, family and friends.

We look forward to seeing you. Thank you and may the good Lord bless us all.
Gloria Cucchiara

Tricky Tray



TRICKY TRAY - Oct. 20, 2017 - 6 P.M.

Come One.....Come All and Have Some Family Fun !

We are now accepting donations for our event. Gift cards, New household items, New games Tickets to Sports Events, Crafts. Leave your items in the Seton Room. Thank You for your generosity.

1/2 price tickets will be sold after the Masses of October 14th & October 15th.

26TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

October 1, 2017

"Do nothing out of selfishness; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves..."

PHILIPPIANS 2:3

Pride and ego are hard things to control. We see how others act or dress and think we are superior to them. We idolize our own self- image. But, if we truly believe everything is a gift from God, we recognize all the people that God has put in our lives as gifts! We are grateful for how they enrich our lives. Pray every day for the people in your life.

TAG SALE 2017

Thanks to all the people who donated, worked long, hot hours or purchased items. St. John's made \$5,523.30.

Sandra, Cathy and Suzanne

Now that the Tag Sale is over PLEASE NOTE...

We will no longer be accepting any donations of tag sale items at St. John's.

WORD AMONG US

The new issue for Word Among Us is in the Narthex. Please advise if you enjoy this. The parish ordered a trial three month subscription to see if anyone wanted to order an annual subscription. Please contact the office if you are interested.

Parish Contact Information

Office Center 908-832-2513

Fax 908-832-7618

Email sjn@ccsjn.org

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Social Ministry socialministry@ccsjn.org

..... Greg Wilson

Bulletin..... bulletin@ccsjn.org

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

Christian Formation

FIRST RECONCILIATION CLASSES



First Reconciliation classes will begin on Saturday, October 21st, at 3:30 pm. in the Church Center. There will be a Parent Meeting at 8:30 a.m. on October 22nd at Valley View School.

NETWORKING BULLETIN BOARD

Do you need help?

Do you have a skill to offer?

We often get calls when our parishioners are looking for a reference for childcare/babysitting, a handyman or maybe someone who does home or office cleaning. If you are looking for someone to work for you or if you are looking for work, Please place a notice on the bulletin board in the Seton Room of the office Building and/or look to see if there is a notice there for what you need.

LAST FARMER'S MARKET OF THE SEASON



The last Califon Farmer's Market of the season will take place on Saturday, October 14 in the parking lot of the Califon United Methodist Church. Come out and say hello to our neighbors and enjoy some of the last fresh produce from the garden this year

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

Must Agree #1. In marriage, there are certain things that you can "agree to disagree" on and others that you absolutely must agree upon. For example, you must agree that your marriage is a top priority and you will do whatever you need to do to strengthen it.

PARENTING TUNE-UP

What is fair? Children often complain that a parent, a sibling, or playmate is not being fair - and it may be true. Life is not always fair. Talk with your child about a time when they had an advantage or disadvantage. Share how you cope when something unfair happens. (Susan Vogt)



CONFIRMATION 2017

Tuesday, October 17, 7:00 p.m., Church Center

We are pleased to announce that Bishop Emeritus Paul G. Bootkoski will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation here at St. John's on Tuesday, October 17, at 7:00 p.m. Mass. Please keep these young people and their families in your prayers as they prepare to celebrate Confirmation this October. They are: Casey Ayotte, ToniAnn Brezina, Oliver Kivett, Zachariah Lowary, Matthew Martino, Grace Medea, Lucy Meekings, Kevin Menzie, Shane Menzie, Thomas Menzie, Rafael Proano, Curran Regan, Daniella Sarubbi, Amanda Stanton, and Owen Tabor.



GIFT FAMILY FAITH FORMATION HAS BEGUN!

Family Formation is designed to help parents respond to the Church's call to be "the first and foremost educators of their children"* and to help families grow in the transforming love of God by understanding and living the Catholic Faith.

Gravissimum Educationis, 3

All parishioners are invited to join us for the adult formation session of the GIFT program. These sessions will be lead by Fr. Abraham and this years focus includes: **What we celebrate-Sacraments and What we believe-moral life.** and meet monthly on Sunday mornings at 9AM in Valley View School and Monday evenings at 6:15PM in the Church Center. Next sessions are **Sunday October 22 and Monday October 23.** Please contact Renee Ciszewski with any questions at renee@ccsjn.org. Hope to see you at our next session.

Social Ministry & Parish News

SEPTEMBER NOTES FROM THE GARDEN



Last week was harvest week! 250 pounds of potatoes, 28 butternut squash and 52 leeks were lifted from the earth. About half the potatoes, the butternut squash and the leeks will be delivered to Elijah's Promise in New Brunswick and the other half will be stored until Thanksgiving when they will feed about 200 folks at the SHIP soup kitchen Holiday Meal. The dahlias and zinnias are in full bloom and gracing the altar for the weekend Masses as well as providing a beautiful sight in the garden. Still to come, a second planting of broccoli, spinach and more beets. The season is flying by but there is still so much to see out in the garden. Come take a look!

SOCIAL MINISTRY IS HOLDING A COAT DRIVE

Starts: October 1st - Ends: November 11th



Please help us to keep our neighbors warm this year and donate gently used & cleaned coats, gloves hats and scarves. Please drop off coats under the portico at the front door of St. John Neumann church in the designated container. All donations will be given to local organizations for distribution to people in need of warm coats this winter. Please help spreading the word about this collection to help making it a success. The more coats we collect the more people we can help.

And he answered them, "He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." (Luke 3:11 RSV)

If anybody has deck boxes they can spare to be used as collection bins and/or garment racks and clothes hangers for easy sorting of coats for the duration of the coat drive (about 6 weeks), or have further questions regarding the coat drive please contact Susanne Erz at susanne.erk@gmail.com or (908)500-8441. There will be service hours opportunities for Confirmandi classes to help sorting coats for delivery. More information will be given at a later time.

God bless, Social Ministry

PICNIC THANKS & DUCK RACE RESULTS & THANKS

Thank you Jim and Jo Ann Murray for once again taking the lead to run our Annual Picnic. And to Pete and Mary Cangelosi for all they do to make sure it all goes well. Thanks Tom & Jane Klawunn for their work on the Duck Race. Thanks to Phyllis Baker, Tom Bennett, Jim Codd, Cathy Gagen, Fred & Shaun Heimall, Wayne Infusino, Alan & Sharon Janks, France Kennedy, Susan & Andrew Kuhn, Maureen Sepe, and Brandon Staten.

The Sorgi family was the big winner of the Duck Race, having both the first and second lucky ducky to reach the finish line. The Duck Trophy will be inscribed to commemorate this, and the Sorgi's get to house the trophy until the race next year.

The top 10 finishers are: 1 - #24 (Blue) - Sorgi; 2 - #39 (Yellow) -Sorgi; 3 - #61 (Blue) - Garcia; 4 - #168 - Jordan Erz; 5 - #368 - Janks; 6 - #42 (Pink) -Charlie F.; 7 - #386 - Hudson Connery; 8 - #76 (Yellow) - Janks; 9 - #416 - Stanski; 10 - #433 - Joe Sima.

The top 10 finishers are listed in the Narthex, who each get their own duck hat. The Sorgi's also get to keep the "big duck".

The Duck Race couldn't have happened without so many who helped make it possible. Thank You to everyone who bought ducks to help pay for the picnic.

Thanks to Wayne Infusino for doing such a great job clearing the trails and watching over of the ducks during the year; to Jim Codd, Tony Sorgi, Carolyn and Alan Pepperman, Steve Bauernfeind, Jim Murray, Jane Klawunn and Kurt Erz for selling ducks; to Phil Peluso, Chris Snyder, Alan Janks, Steve Leyden, Kurt Erz, and Colleen Peluso for putting up and taking down the net that stretches across the river at the finish line; to Chip Mullen, Steve Leyden, Anthony Leyden and Will Leyden for launching the ducks, and wading behind them and collecting the stragglers; to Alan Janks, Kurt Erz and Phil Peluso for determining the winning duck and top finishers; to Colleen Peluso for recording the numbers; to Phil Peluso, Kyle Kelemen, Dave Taylor, Steve Leyden, Chris Snyder, Todd Nonestied, Kurt and Suzanne Erz and Alan Janks for collecting ducks and watching out for the safety of everyone in the river; to Ezequiel Proano, Katelin Anderson, Declan Anderson, Megan Anderson, William Peluso, Bennett Peluso, William Peluso, "Izzi", Piper Kelemen, Caleb Kelemen, Sophia Kelemen, Dylan Caldero, Karissa Caldero, Olivia Sarubbi, Emmett Weldon, Oliver Wenger, Cooper Wenger, Eli Weldon, Holiday Piontkowski, Amelia Kuhn, Alex Kuhn, Olivia Osborne, Evelyn Osborne, Mateo Vazquez, Kelly Fraine, Charlie Wellbrock and Hannah Erz or getting in the water and safely retrieving the ducks so they can float again next year; to Jane Klawunn for listing the top finishers; to Richard Wellbrock for helping record the names of those helping and distributing door prizes; to everyone to everyone who helped retrieve the trail signs and bring back the ducks; to Fr. Abraham and the parish staff for promoting the picnic and duck race via pulpit announcements and the bulletin, for encouraging participation and for keeping track of proceeds.

Special Thanks to anyone that was missed.

ACTION ALERT TO SUPPORT DREAM ACT OF 2017

The Dream Act of 2017 (S. 1615 / HR. 3440) was recently introduced in Congress as a bipartisan effort. The bills are intended to protect immigrant youth who entered the United States as children and know America as their only home. The bills offer qualifying immigrant youth "conditional permanent resident status" and a path to full lawful permanent residency and eventual citizenship. These bills would protect numerous youth, including the over 780,000 individuals who received temporary relief from deportation and employment eligibility through the Department of Homeland Security's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

The young people S. 1615 / H.R. 3440 seeks to protect are contributors to our economy, veterans of our military, academic standouts in our universities, and leaders in our parishes and communities. As Catholics, we have long supported DREAMers as we believe in protecting the dignity of every human being, especially that of our children. To make your voice heard visit: <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/action-alerts/action-alert-support-dream-act-2017/>

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Sunday, Oct. 1st -1pm

Got pets? Come and receive a blessing! Sunday, October 1st at 1:00pm here at the church. St Francis reminds us that the wonders of God's creation are present in animals and in our relationships with them. So, in honor of St Francis we invite everyone to bring their beloved animal companion for a fun service of blessing.

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS: WE ALL CAN USE DAILY

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not
so much seek

to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life. Amen.

"Some people argue that changing laws will not eliminate abortions. It is certainly true that a change of heart is more important than a change of law. What is forgotten, however, is that the law is the great teacher. Children grow up believing that if a practice is legal, it must be moral."

Cardinal John O'Connor

NJ RIGHT TO LIFE RAFFLE

Be A Winner!

Drawing on November 17, 2017
Winner need not be present.

**1st Prize - 2018 Volvo XC60 SUV
Valued at \$43,500**

2nd Prize Shop-Rite Gift Card \$1,000
3rd Prize Shop-Rite Gift Card \$750
4th Prize Shop-Rite Gift Card \$500

Proceeds For Benefit of
New Jersey Right to Life
Tickets will be on Sale after all Masses
October 21 and 22

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Joseph Angeline
 Pete Cangelosi
 Joan Cardierre
 Marie Colabella
 Jean Crickenberger
 John D'Almeida
 Barbara DelPiano
 Tino DeSantis
 Sophia DeVita
 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
 Megan Myers
 Mary Lou O'Brien
 Nicholas Pallai
 Nilsa Perez Parsons
 John Pfeufer
 Tommy Rack
 Ali Redling
 Anne & Joe Sacco
 Diane Siti
 Noah Skinner
 Michael Slivka
 Pam Stewart
 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
 C2C, 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

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI: A REFLECTION

While it is commonly known that St. Francis of Assisi was a lover of both creation and the Creator, his role as a grassroots environmentalist is often surprisingly underplayed in biographical synopsis of his life which center mainly upon his profound journey of faith.

Decreed the Patron Saint of the Environment/ Ecology and of Animals, Francis' latter life was not only an unblemished model of religious devotion, but an exemplary paragon of harmonious existence on Earth. He was a friend to man and beast, an admirer of the sun and of nature, and a peacemaker in every sense of the word. Francis was not merely at peace with his fellow man -- he was at peace with all living things, everything beautiful that his eyes could behold. He wrote hymns of praise to his God for the creations he felt so blessed to behold, and he wrote poems to his "Brother Sun" and "Sister Moon," even repeatedly praising his "Sister Death" upon his deathbed -- as he felt so much at one with creation that he considered the sun his brother, the moon, his sister, all men his siblings.

Francis felt compelled to reach out to the voiceless, the rejected, and the needy. He embraced and assisted lepers, whom, at the time, were outcasts of society, their skin condition causing them to be feared. He visited hospitals and cared for the sick. He sent food to thieves. He befriended women and recognized their abilities and their intelligence, a concept foreign in that time.

Yet again, his allegiance did not only lie with human beings. He was deeply committed to the well-being of the environment and of all of creation in as grass roots a fashion as has ever been seen. He lived with animals. He rejoiced amongst nature. He preached to the birds to remind them to praise their Creator for the blessings they had. He tamed a wild wolf and made it one of his many pets. Yet, he understood the plight of nature and the circle of life, albeit brutal at times. Despite, he felt that his Creator would not create evil, and hence, everything around him was good and accordingly, should be treated with courtesy and kindness and generosity, from the earthworm to the lamb, the cicada to the wolf. It is perhaps because they recognized his genuine sincerity towards their existence that the animals felt so drawn to him as well. *(Claudia Herrera Hudson)*

YOU ARE INVITED

St. John's Connxions Ministry will be in the Narthex after Masses this weekend to share refreshments and information for the various parish teams and activities that Connxions would like you to be aware of. If you are in need of help in any of these areas or interested in being involved please join us in the narthex.

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Baptism | Children's Liturgy of the Word | Community Life |
| Consolation | Discover St. John's | Evangelization |
| Family Life | Prayer Ministry | RCIA |
| SJN Support | Spiritual Life | Welcome |

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND RESUME WRITING WORKSHOP

Here at St. John's, October 24

There will be a career development discussion and resume writing workshop on October 24th from 7 to 9 p.m. in the upper room of the St. John Neumann office building. To participate, please call France Kennedy at the Parish Office (908-832-2513) on or before October 23rd. There is no charge for this event, we just need your name. Parish membership is not necessary. The session will be led by John Cole, a parishioner and transition specialist.

COMMUNICATION GAP!!!

A father once tried to talk to his son about how college was going: The father said, "How are things going?" The son said, "Good." The father said, "And the dormitory?" He said, "Good." The father said, "How are your studies going?" He said, "Good." The father said, "Have you decided on a major yet?" He said, "Yes." "Well, what is it?" asked the father. The son said, "Communication." So it goes as parents and children try to talk to each other. So it was for the two sons in Jesus' story.

Parish and Community News



SMALL GROUPS START THIS WEEK

The Small Groups start this week! When the wine ran out at a wedding feast that Jesus and Mary attended, Mary told the servers, "Do whatever he tells you."

She tells us the same thing today, urging us by her own example to put our trust in her son. Let Mary lead you closer to Jesus by taking part in At Prayer with Mary, our small group focus this fall. Consider being part of a small group that will gather for seven weekly sessions. Call, text or email today to sign up 908-307-7879, francekennedy99@gmail.com

If you are already registered: Please pick up your book for the small group session at Mass this weekend from the narthex. Place a check next to your name if you took the book. You can pay \$9 for the book at your session this week.

ON THE TWO SONS IN THE PARABLE OF JESUS:

It isn't about how the journey starts, it is about how it ends!

The great wit, C. S. Lewis, started out a doubter. He saw British Christianity as a pale and bloodless business. It did not excite him. In fact, to his reasoned, calculating way of thinking, Christianity made very little sense. It smelled of superstition and made promises about the future he was sure it could not make good on. But C. S. Lewis came to see that he was missing something. He began to slide into a cynicism about life that frightened him. He wanted something to believe in. Someone who was on the Christian pilgrimage helped him to see that there was room for him in the parade. Not suddenly, but rather quietly, unspectacularly, Lewis came into the Christian camp. We know the rest of the story: He became a great intellectual apologist for Christianity, writing and speaking to confound the critics of the Faith. He was the reverse of Ralph Vaughan Williams, taking on the critics of the Christian faith in Britain in a series of radio broadcasts which became enormously popular among a population growing steadily more indifferent to Christ. A similar story can be told of Malcolm Muggeridge, a British thinker who in later life came to see that the Christian Faith made far more sense to him than clinging to agnosticism. He, like Lewis, became an apologist for Christianity. He said "yes" to the invitation, after he first had said "no." It isn't how the journey starts that counts. It's how it ends that matters.

Through selfless and humble love, two "outsiders" are able to bridge chasms of distrust and greed and tear down walls of race and class, creating a "United Kingdom" of God's justice, compassion and peace. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus shatters labels and stereotypes in order to uphold the sacred dignity of all men and women in the eyes of God. Christ calls us to move beyond our own contemporary version of the designations of "tax collector" and "prostitute" to recognize, instead, the holiness that resides within the soul of every person, who is, like us, a child of God.

2017 FALL BEREAVEMENT SEMINARS AT ST. JOHN'S

There will be a series of interrelated bereavement seminars at St. John Neumann beginning November 1st. John Cole, transition professional, will facilitate the sessions. This program has been highly rated by past participants. The conversations will take us from understanding loss and normal reactions to steps, guided by faith, towards acceptance and recreation of hopeful lives. While a primary focus is the death of a significant other, those who have experienced severe loss because of divorce, separation, or other substantial life altering events are welcomed. The 1st session starts at 7:30pm and all other sessions start at 7pm. The sessions dates are November 1, 6, 14, 20, December 5 and 12. Please note that each session builds on the prior one. Attendance at all six sessions would be best to derive optimal benefit.

All sessions are in the upper floor of the parish office building, unless participant mobility issues arise.

To register contact France Kennedy at the parish office 908-832-2513. For questions about the seminars or participation, call John Cole 908-399-4234. This series is open to individuals from all faiths and religious communities. If you are aware of anyone who may benefit, suggest that he or she call France Kennedy.

SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY

☺ A Non-Catholic Minister ☺ recently quit the ministry after more than 20 years of faithful, dedicated service and became a funeral director. When asked why he had changed vocations, he said: "I spent 10 years trying to straighten out John and he's still an alcoholic. Then I spent three and one-half years trying to straighten out Harold and Susan's marriage problems and they ended up getting a divorce. Later I tried for two years to help Bob kick his drug habit and he is still an addict. Now, at the funeral home, when I straighten them out, they stay straight! Perfect obedience!"

"Two things I dislike about my granddaughter – when she won't take her afternoon nap, and when she won't let me take mine."

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September 26, 2016

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VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Wed., Oct. 4 J. Santoro
Wed., Oct. 11 C. Behrens

Store Cards

September 30 & October 1

5:30 p.m. E. McCabe
8:00 a.m. R. Durham
10:30 a.m. J. Varcadipane

October 7 and 8

5:30 p.m. J. Gardner
8:00 a.m. V. Hoffart
10:30 a.m. D. Hunt

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of Oct. 1 B. Lee
Week of Oct. 8 L. Livoti

Church Center Cleaning

October 5 Team B
October 12 Team C

Altar Flowers

September 30 K. Heimall
October 7 L. Mullen

Counting

Oct. 2 Kucharski/McCabe
Oct. 10 Malone/Cangelosi

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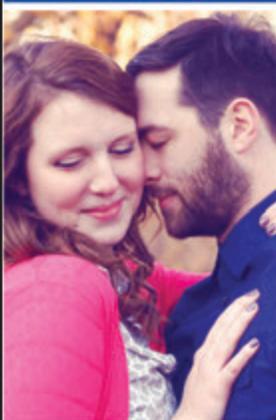
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