

## 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, November 14

8:00 a.m. Mary Mavromattis, req.  
Niemic Family

### Friday, November 17

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

### Saturday, November 18

5:30 p.m. Susan Riemondy, req.  
Gary and Linda Caprio

### Sunday, November 19

8:00 a.m. Richard Henry Baumann,  
req. Baumann Family  
10:30 a.m. Lucy Pojedinec, req.  
Joan and Lou Eacovalle

"It's not how much we give but how  
much love we put into giving."

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta



## Parish Calendar

### Sunday, November 12 - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time / End Thanksgiving Food Collection / Christmas Giving Tree Begins

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
9:00 a.m. Small Group (Seton Room)  
10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
6:00 p.m. Jr. High Faith Formation (Church Center)

### Monday, November 13 - Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin

10:00 a.m. S.H.I.P. (Church and Office Kitchens)  
5:45 p.m. CPI Parent Candidate Meeting (Church Center)  
6:00 p.m. Family Faith Formation (CC/OC/DR/SR/OCK/VR)  
7:00 p.m. Small Group (Neumann Residence)

### Tuesday, November 14 - Weekday

8:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)  
11:00 a.m. Small Group (Church Center Loft)  
7:00 p.m. Bereavement Session (Upper Room)  
7:00 p.m. Budget Meeting (Drexel Room)  
7:30 p.m. Stewardship Meeting (Seton Room)  
7:00 p.m. Small Group (Neumann Residence)

### Wednesday, November 15 - Saint Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

10:30 a.m. Small Group (Narthex)  
5:30 p.m. Yoga - 2 Hour Class (Church Center Loft)  
7:00 p.m. R.C.I.A. (Drexel Room)  
7:15 p.m. Small Group (Upper Room)  
7:15 p.m. Small Group (Office Center Kitchen)  
7:30 p.m. Book Club (Seton Room)

## Mass Schedule - November 18 /19

### Saturday

5:30 p.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal  
Reader..... Linda Caprio  
Altar Server ..... Kucharski Family  
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Debby Kelemen  
..... Joan Eacovalle, Joann Gardner

### Sunday

8:00 a.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal  
Reader..... Allan Piechowski  
Altar Server ..... Patterson Family  
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Bob Martalus  
..... Diane Lehnert, Barbara Martalus

### Sunday

10:30 a.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal  
Reader..... Julie Weldon  
Altar Server ..... DeStefano Family  
Music Eucharistic Minister..... Donna Lance  
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Anthony DeStefano, Donna Torczon  
..... Mary D'Avella, Marlene Milko, Sheena Carew



## BANNS OF MARRIAGE

III. Raymond Richard Klacik, Jr. & Jennifer Eileen Anderson

### Thursday, November 16 - Saint Margaret of Scotland, Saint Gertrude, Virgin

5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)  
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi (Church Center Loft)  
7:00 p.m. Set up Boxes for Food Pack up (Church Center)  
7:30 p.m. Music/Bells (Church Center)  
7:30 p.m. Small Group (Upper Room)

### Friday, Nov. 17 - Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)  
7:00 p.m. Food Pack up (Church Center)

### Saturday, Nov. 18 - Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin; BVM

7:00 a.m. Men's Spirituality Breakfast (Office Center)  
8:00 a.m. Food Basket Delivery (Church Center)  
11:45 a.m. St. John Neumann Shrine Trip Departs  
(Philadelphia)  
3:30 p.m. 1st Reconciliation - Session #4 (Church Center)  
5:30 p.m. Mass (Church Center)

### Sunday, November 19 - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time / Campaign for Human Development

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)  
8:00 a.m. Family Faith Formation (Valley View)  
10:30 a.m. Mass - Youth Mass (Church Center)  
6:00 p.m. Jr. High Faith Formation (Church Center)



**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK....**

Dear Friends,

For 98 years, Americans have remembered those who served our country in uniform on 11 November – first as Armistice Day, and then, since 1954 as Veterans Day. In this 99th year of commemoration, the Department of Veterans Affairs is broadening that tradition of observance and appreciation to include both Veterans and Military Families for the entire month of November. Besides the annual rituals of remembering them with wreaths and visits to their tombs, many organizations celebrate this weekend honoring the veterans in various ways. Many popular restaurants and other retailers across the nation are giving them free meals, discounts, and other freebies on Veterans Day. Our own Parish was invited to attend the Patriotic Rosary at St. Magdalen's Church in Flemington last Thursday evening, with a reception that included patriotic songs.

In the context of yet another tragic mass shooting – this time in the First Baptist Church in Texas - peace and prosperity in our nation is a matter of grave concern and consideration. Every solution that has been proposed will not make our nation safe and secure unless we give priority to spirituality and family life. The profile of practically all shooters reveals emotional and mental issues arising from dysfunctional families. That's all the more reason for us to listen to what our Church has been at pains to promote. These words of Pope Francis, delivered at various events, are worth remembering and practicing:

*"The family is the foundation of co-existence and a remedy against social fragmentation."*

*"Every threat to the family is a threat to society itself. The future of humanity, as Saint John Paul II often said, passes through the family. So protect your families! Protect your families! See in them your country's greatest treasure and nourish them always by prayer and the grace of the sacraments."*

*"We need simplicity to pray as a family; it is very beautiful and a source of great strength! And also praying for one another! The husband for his wife, the wife for her husband, both together for their children, the children for their grandparents....praying for each other. This is what it means to pray in the family and it is what makes the family strong: daily prayer."*

*"Living together is an art, a patient, beautiful, fascinating journey. This journey of every day has a few rules that can be summed up in three phrases which I have already repeated many times to families, and which you have already learned to use among yourselves: May I? Thank you, and I'm sorry."*

Let us speak about these to our family and thus help every member of our family connect with God and with one another.

Your brother in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



**32ND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**

*November 12, 2017*

*"Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."*

**MATTHEW 25:13**

Many of us have put off doing something because we think we are too busy. We've all said, "I'll do it later when I have time." Unfortunately, too many of us apply this attitude to our Faith. Jesus' call is urgent, in the here and now, in your current circumstances. Don't delay, how is God calling you to use your gifts today?



**WELCOME**

Jennifer Anderson has officially joined the parish. Jennifer was welcomed at the 8am Mass though people at the 5:30 Service will also recognize her. This is a busy time for our new parishioner, you will notice the bans of marriage in this bulletin, announcing that Ray Klacik and Jennifer will be married at the end of this month.

**MY LIFE WITH MOTHER THERESA**

*Touched by Authentic Compassion*

An evening with: Jim Towey,  
President of Ave Maria University.  
Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.  
College Ave., Student Center Rutgers  
126 College Ave., New Brunswick

**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 ..... [earl1@verizon.net](mailto:earl1@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)
- Project Earth Garden... [projectearth@ccsjn.org](mailto:projectearth@ccsjn.org)
- Bulletin..... [bulletin@ccsjn.org](mailto:bulletin@ccsjn.org)
- Youth Ministry..... [sjnygroup@gmail.com](mailto:sjnygroup@gmail.com)




**ST. JOHN'S LABYRINTH**

Immortalize your family, friends, yourself - purchase a stone to honor those you love, mark a birthday, anniversary -- the possibilities are endless.

Thanksgiving or Christmas - such a perfect time to honor your family's Special Events with an engraved stone at the Labyrinth of the Catholic Community of St. John Neumann.

The pavers measure 5"X9" and can have 3 lines of engraving, or an 11"X11" which can be engraved with 5 lines. See the brochure in the Narthex for prices.

Commemorative pavers will serve as a permanent acknowledgement of your commitment to the Catholic Community of St. John Neumann.



**Remembered at Mass**

We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharist: **Marie Colabella, Mary Lorraine Fraine, Richard Scott, and Danny Mulvey.**

**Deceased:** Marie Colabella, mother of Joanne Fabiano, **Mary Lorraine Fraine**, mother of Bob Fraine, **Richard Scott**, relative of Renee Ciszewski, and **Danny Mulvey**, friend of the Pfeufer family. 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.

# Christian Formation

## **ST. JOHN NEUMANN SHRINE TRIP, PHILADELPHIA**

**Sat., Nov. 18, 2017**



All parishioners are welcome to join the 2018 Confirmation class on this annual pilgrimage to the recently renovated St. John Neumann Shrine in Philadelphia. The tour includes an inspirational talk and a film, a visit to the shrine, upper church (St. Peter the Apostle) and museum. There is no charge for this tour, only free will donations. If traveling on your own, you can meet our group at the shrine (1019 North Fifth Street, Philadelphia, PA) no later than 1:30 p.m. the day of the trip. Feel free to arrange car pools on your own. We are very fortunate to have the shrine of our parish's patron saint nearby; we hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to join us on this pilgrimage!

## **FIRST RECONCILIATION CLASSES**



The next First Reconciliation class will be held on Saturday, November 18th, at 3:30 pm. in the Church Center.



## **GIFT ADULT FORMATION- WHAT'S NEW?**

Recent history bears witness that if adults are not well-formed in the Faith, the younger generations will lack formation as well. A solid and vibrant adult faith formation provides all adults an opportunity to learn about the church and develop a personal relationship with Christ. The Sacraments begin to take on more relevance to everyday life. Simply put, the benefits are incalculable!

Consider joining us for the adult formation session of the GIFT program. These sessions will be lead by Fr. Abraham and this year's sessions focus on: **What we celebrate-Sacraments and What we believe-beatitudes/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 November 19 and Monday November 13.** Please contact Renee Ciszewski with any questions at [renee@ccsjn.org](mailto:renee@ccsjn.org). Hope to see you at our next session.



## **5<sup>TH</sup> & 6 GRADE CLASS MASS**

Thank you to all the students who enthusiastically participated in the celebration of Mass on Sunday from gift bearers to music. It is wonderful to watch the students grow in faith as they become active members of the parish community.



## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Parishioners are invited to participate in Operation Christmas Child and prepare a "shoe box" full of presents for a needy child. These will be delivered to poor children around the world along with a booklet in the child's own language telling them about the birth of Jesus, His life and how He saved us. This is an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus and bring joy to a child! All Religious Education students will be given a brochure with detailed instructions on how to make their "shoe box" present. Extra brochures are available in the narthex for any parishioner wishing to participate in this program. All shoe box gifts should be dropped off in the narthex or office center **no later than November 12<sup>th</sup>**. Please contact Jo Ann Jarvis or visit [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org) for further information.

# Social Ministry

## **FROZEN TURKEY / MEAT DONATIONS**



Please place the **frozen turkeys, meats or other frozen items for the Thanksgiving Food Baskets in the freezer located in the barn behind the Church Kitchen off the covered walkway.**

## **MASS BOOK DEDICATION**



Would you like to dedicate one of our Mass Books to a loved one? This is a nice way to honor someone you love.

You can either dedicate it in honor of or in memory of someone who is important to you. If you are interested please contact the office. \$50 per book.

## **OUR THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE**

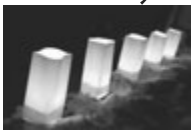
We have 24 individuals (mostly elderly) and 10 families on our list seeking assistance for the holidays. We want to provide everyone on that list with items for a Thanksgiving meal and packages containing everyday food staples. The individuals require small Chickens, Cornish Hens, Turkey Breasts or Jenny-O-Turkey Meats. The families would like large Roasting Chickens or Frozen Turkeys. The list for this food drive can be found in the Narthex at the Social Ministry Table.

We are in need of volunteers for the food pack up on Friday Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and the food delivery is Saturday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at 8am. For more info contact [social-ministry@ccsjn.org](mailto:social-ministry@ccsjn.org). To volunteer sign up at the Social Ministry table.

## **CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**

St. John's Christmas Giving Tree is set up in the Narthex. We need your help to make a difference in the lives of so many challenged by their circumstances. We are supporting six different organizations this year: Anderson House, Freedom House, Little Brook Nursing Home, Newton's Guest House, SHIP and St. John's individuals and families in need. Some tags have more than one gift listed, feel free to purchase one or more of the gifts on the tag.

Please: 1. Take a tag from the Tree, 2. Sign it out on the appropriate Log Sheet. 3. Purchase and wrap your gift, attaching the tag you took as the label. 4. Drop off your gift in the Narthex or the Seton Room by Sunday, December 10th. If you have any questions, contact Karen Porto 908-832-9820 or [kporto@aol.com](mailto:kporto@aol.com).



## IT'S TIME TO PASS THE TORCH

*(actually the Christmas Luminaries)*

We are seeking a family who would like to begin their own Christmas Eve tradition. What began as a service project when our boys were young, grew into family tradition lasting into their college years. Our family has enjoyed preparing the luminaries and placing them out on the church driveway for the Christmas Eve Masses. The boys are grown and starting out on their own and we have decided to pass the torch to an interested family. You will find it's a fun and meaningful family tradition that you will all share in to help ready the Church for the celebration of Christmas. If you are interested in this experience with your family for Christmas 2016 or would like more information, please contact us now or the parish office. We are happy to lend you a hand if needed! Linda and Hunt Patterson @ 537-9488 or the parish office @ 832-2513.



## WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

**November 19, 2017**

**"Let us love, not with words but with deeds."**

At the end of the 2015-2016 Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis established the "World Day of the Poor," a new celebration to be held annually on the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time. All of the faithful are invited to join Bishop Checchio at Evening Prayer for the first World Day of the Poor on Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 5 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen. This will be an occasion for our community to reflect on how poverty is at the heart of the Gospel and an opportunity for those who work to aid, care for and comfort those in greatest need to be affirmed, inspired and sent forth with a renewed commitment to building a "culture of encounter" and bringing people together across differences with tenderness & solidarity. Please consider attending! If you can attend please let us know.



## ALL SOULS INTENTIONS



Audrey Baumann  
Richard Baumann  
Tom Blasky  
Siegmond deHass  
George Dickinson  
Kenneth Dickinson  
Madeline Dickinson  
Daniel Fenton  
Jeanette Fenton  
Paulette Fogle  
Frank Fraine  
Lorraine Fraine

Louise Freeman  
Frances Gelona  
Tony Gelona  
Frederick Helbling  
Margaret Helbling  
Julia Kleinsmith  
Thomas Kleinsmith  
Francesca Miceli  
Hank Miceli  
Sal Miceli  
Anna Olekcik  
Andrew Olexson, Sr.

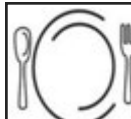
Andrew Olexson, Jr.  
George Olexson, Sr.  
Margaret Olexson  
Colin Petre  
Ken Petrie  
Francesca Yadicus  
Marie Yodar

### Members of the:

Janas Family  
Petrona Family

## EXCUSES WON'T WORK ON THE LAST DAY!

These are the ten best things to say if you get caught sleeping at your desk: #10. "They told me at the blood bank this might happen." #9. "This is just a 15-minute power-nap like they raved about in that time management course you sent me to." #8. "Whew! Guess I left the top off the White-Out. You probably got here just in time!" #7. "I wasn't sleeping! I was meditating on the mission statement and envisioning a new paradigm." #6. "I was testing my keyboard for drool resistance." #5. "I was doing a highly specific Yoga exercise to relieve work-related stress. Are you discriminating against people who practice Yoga?" #4. "Darn! Why did you interrupt me? I had almost figured out a solution to our biggest problem." #3. "The coffee machine is broken . . ." #2. "Someone must've put decaf in the wrong pot . . ." And the #1 best thing to say if you get caught sleeping at your desk . . . " . . . in His name. Amen." **Jesus tells a parable in today's Gospel about ten young women --bridesmaids-- five of whom forgot their specific responsibility in a wedding celebration. The Master did not heed their excuse. They lost the chance to go in with the wedding party!**



## 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. Please contact Lucy Meekings if you would like to volunteer for this fun family service opportunity. Father Abraham loves all food and is appreciative of the variety, which makes it easy for our volunteers. It is not necessary to provide a dessert. To volunteer or inquire as to what is involved contact [lucybmeekings@comcast.net](mailto:lucybmeekings@comcast.net) or by cell 732-672-0539.

## EIGHT STEPS TOWARDS A MORE SATISFYING LIFE

In a recent *TIME* magazine sidebar, there were "Eight Steps Toward a More Satisfying Life."

Here are the Eight Steps:

1. Count your blessings.
2. Practice acts of kindness.
3. Savor life's joys.
4. Thank a mentor.
5. Learn to forgive
6. Invest time and energy in friends and family.
7. Take care of your body.
8. Develop strategies for coping with stress and hardship.

*(TIME, 17 (January 2005), A8-A9.)*

**Today when we reflect on the parable of the ten virgins, we add one more step, a 9th Step to the strategy: Be prepared. Be prepared to step off life's planned paths, and trust the Spirit. After all, the Spirit can appear in many guises, disguises, and surprises.**

## PARENTING TUNE-UP

November is National Adoption Month. 30% of the nation's homeless adults have a history of foster care. Consider whether your family is in a position to provide a permanent home for a foster child. A loving family can break this sad cycle.

## MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

"Whoever seeks Wisdom shall quickly be free from care." (Wisdom 6:15) Besides marrying you, what is a wise thing your beloved recently did or said?

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Donna Angeline  
 Joseph Angeline  
 Pete Cangelosi  
 Joan Cardierre  
 Jean Crickenberger  
 John D'Almeida  
 Barbara DelPiano  
 Sophia DeVita  
 Jennifer Bennett Duckworth  
 Paul Ferri  
 Sophie Geist  
 Father Luigi Hargen  
 Liz Harmon  
 Jay Heyman  
 Fred Holub  
 Manuel Jimenez, Sr.  
 Miriam Jiminian  
 Bonnie Lieberwirth  
 Lou Livoti  
 Dick McCall  
 Maggie McKeon  
 Jan McLeavey  
 Christine Meyer  
 Fran Miceli  
 Joan & Megan Myers  
 Mary Lou O'Brien  
 Nilsa Perez Parsons  
 John Pfeufer  
 Tommy Rack  
 Ali Redling  
 Roy Rittman  
 Anne & Joe Sacco  
 Richard Sepe  
 Noah Skinner  
 Michael Slivka  
 Dick Slusher  
 Pam Stewart  
 Nicholas Troiano  
 Don Velli  
 William Weimer  
 Josh Wilkes  
 Dana & Greg Wilson  
 Mari Wilson  
 Caden & Jill Zane  
 Joey Zieba

## MILITARY PERSONNEL

**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, Jenkinson, Devin, U.S. Air Force  
 Spec. Jablonski, Jon Tyler, 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, Vardian, Justin, U.S. Air Force  
 Ensign, Webster, Justine, U.S. Navy

## SUNDAY REFLECTION: Lessons from the Dying

***"The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps."***  
**Matthew 25: 1-13**

A hospice nurse writes about the valuable lessons she has learned from her care of the dying:

"Although I struggle, like every other human being, with the daily challenges of overwork, impatience, fear, anger, and disappointment, I know that it is always my choice instead to choose happiness, forgiveness, compassion, and joy, to live each day as if it were my last, and to be grateful for every day that I have. "Working with the dying has brought light into my own life, illuminating the shadowy corners of negativity that I alone have the choice to relinquish or to transform into something more positive. Even though the work I do is with the dying, it has also been work within myself, and I thank God every day for both of those opportunities.

"So, in the end, what is it that the dying teach others around them? They teach how to love and how to allow ourselves to be loved; how to forgive and how to ask for forgiveness; how to find our joy and how to spread that joy around to others. They also teach us how to spend valuable time connecting our earthly self with our spiritual self so that these two separate but vital aspects of our being aren't strangers when they meet as the time of our own death draws near. "And so it is perhaps meant to be that, with every person's dying, another person is learning to live well. "Although I can't know for certain, I suspect from what I have witnessed that, possibly, the very best part of living might actually be the dying."

**The parable of the ten bridesmaids reflects what this dedicated hospice nurse has learned from those entrusted to her care: that we have only so many opportunities to become part of Jesus' work of mercy and reconciliation; that we have only so much oil in our lamps to illuminate the love of God in our lives. There is so much we want to accomplish in our lives - but the many demands on our time to make a living derail us from making a life, a life that is centered in the love of family and friends, in an awareness of God's loving presence in our midst, in a yearning to contribute to the greater good of all. Christ warns us not to fall into the trap of the five "foolish" bridesmaids who squander their time before the Bridegroom's arrival, but to embrace the wisdom of the five "wise" bridesmaids, trimming our "lamps" with the "oil" of compassion, generosity and forgiveness in the precious time we have until Christ's coming.**



## YOU SHOP & AMAZON GIVES TO ST. JOHN'S!

Our Finance Council has been keeping themselves busy not only with the judicious management of our money but also with reflections and discussions on generating income for our Church. One bright idea they have come up with is shopping through Amazon's Associate program, with. It is a very easy way to help St. John with no additional cost to you at all! You just buy the things you'd buy anyway, but buy them through Amazon. When you click on this link it takes you to the Amazon home page, and the only clue that St. John's is getting a commission on your purchase is the small phrase "ccsjn-20" that you will see in the middle of the Amazon URL address - everything else is transparent to the user. <https://www.amazon.com/?&tag=ccsjn-20&camp=0&creative=0&linkCode=ur1&adid=15TJKAQ2QN89EK2VDBZA&>

Once you land on the Amazon site - simply bookmark it for future use. The members of the Finance Committee, Pastoral Council and our Parish Staff have already tested it and found it easy. Thanks to our Finance Council for this initiative about which they will familiarize us more next weekend.



**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 and Community News

## **"BURY ME WITH A FORK IN MY HAND!"**

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. As she was getting her things in order, she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house to discuss her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the funeral Mass, what Scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. Everything was in order and as the pastor was preparing to leave, the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. "There's one more thing," she said excitedly. "What's that?" asked the pastor. "This is very important," the young woman continued. **"I want my body to be buried with a fork in my right hand."** The pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say. "That surprises you, doesn't it?" the young woman asked. "Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the pastor. The young woman explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and that's where I got the idea. I have, also, always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. In all my years of attending Church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, **'Keep your fork!'** It was my favorite part of the meal because I knew that something better was coming, like chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance! So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder, "What's with the fork?" Then I want you to tell them: "Keep your fork--the best is yet to come."

## **A TRUE STEWARDSHIP STORY!**

Not long ago, two ministers of the gospel were waiting in line for seating at a restaurant. There were two immediate problems. First, the restaurant was popular because it served good food and secondly, the restaurant was smaller than your average fast food place. But the ministers, who frequently preach on patience, were offering a visible sermon by their calm demeanor. No matter that several people already seated appeared to be eating their meals extremely slowly. The ministers were next in line when suddenly like a mighty wind a group of six people came in behind them. And as luck sometimes has it, the next table to become available was one which could easily sit both ministers with room to spare. It could also seat all six of the people behind them in line.

If this were you, what would you do? Sit down when seating became available? After all, you were there first and we live in a first come, first served society. Or might the Jesus thing to do be to step aside and let the larger party have the larger table while waiting for the "next" available spot? Relax! This is a true story and thus, I can tell you exactly what happened. The ministers, being true to their convictions, gladly let the group of six have the table and they continued to wait patiently. In good time, they were able to sit down and order meals which they then took their own sweet time to devour. But no bill came because the people they allowed to eat ahead of them picked up the tab.

Jesus does not call us to be kind to others because we might get a free meal out of it. It is simply the right thing to do. Sometimes there is a reward, and it does not matter when there is not. Look at this story from God's point of view. Every day we receive blessings. Every day there are acts of kindness. Few of us need worry too much about whether we can afford our next meal. We have many reasons to pick up the tab for all the blessings God sends our way. That's what it means to be a good Steward! (Duane Grady in [www.stewardshipresources.org](http://www.stewardshipresources.org))



## **SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY**



You are like God? My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo while I asked, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

It depends: A tour group was riding in an elevator to the top of the Empire State Building. At about the 102nd floor, a woman asked the tour guide, "If the cables on this elevator break, do we go up or down?" The tour guide answered, "Well, that depends on the kind of life you are living."

## **STEWARDSHIP RESPONSES**

### ***316 Families***

43..... Commitment Cards  
15 ..... Automated Giving

## **RESTORATIVE YOGA CLASS - 2 HOUR**

***November 15th 5:30 p.m.***

Join us for a 2 hour restorative Yoga Class. Students are asked to bring 3 blankets/towels each to make it a memorable experience. I will have some available to share. If you have any questions, please contact Ana Giametta at [ana.giametta@gmail.com](mailto:ana.giametta@gmail.com).

## **STORE CARDS**



Thanks to the **51 families** who purchased **\$6,995.00** in grocery and store cards the last 2 weeks. The stores gave us **\$336.18**.

## **WEEKLY COLLECTION**

### **November 5, 2017**

92 Donors Weekly .....\$6,746.50  
54 Donors Yellow Brick Rd . \$1,814.00  
10 Donors All Souls.....\$301.90

### **November 6, 2016**

100 Donors Weekly ..... \$5,257.55  
49 Donors Yellow Brick Rd . \$1,516.00

## **VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES**

### **Office Angels**

Wed., Nov. 15 M. D'Avella  
Tues., Nov. 28 L. Caprio

### **Store Cards**

#### **November 11 and 12**

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

#### **November 18 and 19**

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

### **Church Center Plant Watering**

Week of Nov. 12 B. Lee  
Week of Nov. 19 L. Livoti

### **Church Center Cleaning**

November 16 Team B  
November 23 Team C

### **Altar Flowers**

November 11 M. Proano  
November 18 M. Connolly

### **Counting**

Nov. 13 Kucharski/Kosakowski  
Nov. 20 Malone/Bauernfiend



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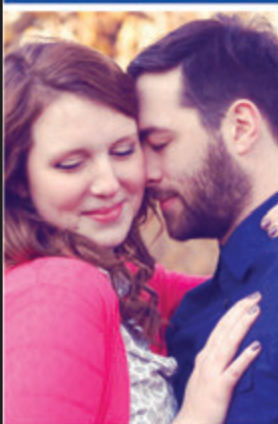
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