

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 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, December 5

8:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Friday, December 8

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

7:00 p.m. Pasquale Pedoraro, req.
Celia Arthur

Saturday, December 9

5:30 p.m. Dorothy & William Lambert,
Theresa & Louis Eacovalle,
req. Joan & Lou Eacovalle

Sunday, December 10

8:00 a.m. Michael Specking, req.
The Barbone Family

10:30 a.m. Patriciano Baetiong, req.
Jim Codd

**The Immaculate Conception of
the Blessed Virgin Mary
A Holy Day of Obligation
Friday, Dec. 8th - Mass
7:00 a.m. - Residence Chapel
7:00 p.m. - Church Center**

Parish Calendar

Sunday, December 3 - First Sunday of Advent

Yellow Brick Rd. Collection

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Mass with Bells (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word (Narthex)
6:00 p.m. Jr. High Faith Formation (Church Center)

Monday, December 4 - Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Tuesday, December 5 - Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
7:00 p.m. Bereavement Session (Upper Room)

Wednesday, December 6 - Saint Nicholas, Bishop

12:30 p.m. Staff Meeting (Drexel Room)
7:00 p.m. R.C.I.A. (Drexel Room)

Thursday, December 7 - Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi (Church Center Loft)
7:30 p.m. Music/Bells (Church Center)

Friday, December 8 - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)

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

Saturday, December 9 - Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

7:30 a.m. Men's & Women's Combined Spirituality Breakfast
(Church Center)
5:30 p.m. Mass - RCIA Rite of Welcome (Church Center)

Mass Schedule - December 9/10

Saturday	5:30 p.m.
Celebrant.....	Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader.....	Gary Porto
Altar Server	Kucharski Family
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	Joann Gardner
.....	Donna Torczon, Mary Connolly
Sunday	8:00 a.m.
Celebrant.....	Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader.....	Allan Piechowski
Altar Server	Patterson Family
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	Joe Sima
.....	Dorothy Sima, Barbara Gates
Sunday	10:30 a.m.
Celebrant.....	Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader.....	Joan McNamara
Altar Server	Heimall Family
Music Eucharistic Minister.....	Jane Albert
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	Mary D'Avella, Anthony DeStefano
.....	Dick Wickel, Jim DeVito, Gloria Cucchiara

WHAT DOES THE WORD "EUCHARIST" MEAN?

The word Eucharist is from a Greek word that means thanksgiving. For us, it is another term used in conjunction with the Mass and holy Communion. When we celebrate the Eucharist, we give thanks to God for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Sunday, December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

Retirement Fund for Religious End Christmas Giving Tree

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

"Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come."

MARK 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. Our lives are so busy, many of us are planning our time - our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to what God is saying to you.

(Archbishop Carlson)

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**, and **Mary Lorraine Fraine**.

Deceased: **Marie Colabella**, mother of Joanne Fabiano, and **Mary Lorraine Fraine**, mother of Bob Fraine. 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,

As we enter into the New Liturgical Year on this First Sunday of Advent, I wish to share with you about the leadership transition in our Social Ministry. As we know, Social Ministry has been a vital part of St. John Neumann since the founding of the parish and proudly continues our 35 years of service to persons in need. It is through the efforts of Social Ministry that the parish community attempts to live out the commandment to love one another. Our programs serve all those in need regardless of race, color or creed!

- The card ministry with sympathy/get-well wishes cards to parishioners in suffering and congratulations cards on occasions like marriage and baptism;
- Food pantry ministry distributing groceries to 30 plus individuals and families in the area four times during the year and for emergencies
- Giving Tree that blooms in the Narthex four times a year with gift tags requesting items needed by people in difficult situations;
- Homebound ministry bringing Eucharist to homebound parishioners and to the residents of the Little Brook Nursing Home and a local group home for adults with disabilities
- Soup kitchen meals – SHIP (Samaritan Homeless Interim Program) and Elijah's Promise - serving noon meal at SHIP twice a month, and donating food harvested from our Project Earth Garden
- We support Interfaith Hospitality network/family promise (that provides temporary shelter for local homeless families), Pro-Life Ministry, Project Earth Garden/Gift of Good Land Community Garden, and many local agencies and groups engaged in helping those in need.

All these have been planned, coordinated, supervised and executed by Social Ministry under the leadership of Greg Wilson who had been chairing this ministry so admirably for so many years. Greg, together with Anne Germino as Co-chair, did an amazing job in making us all proud of our Social out reach to the less fortunate around us. Greg is known to us as a man with a passion for the poor. He spares no effort to help the needy. Even when he was faced with health issues, he never let that affect his responsibility to the Social Ministry activities. But faced with more challenges, he discerned the need to retire from this time-and-energy consuming ministry and pass on the leadership to the next generation. Anne Germino, besides her commitment to SHIP, wanted to focus more time to tending to our two gardens – Project Earth Garden/Gift of Good Land Community Garden – and so decided to remain and support the Social Ministry as a member. We as a community are indebted to both of these great individuals who have helped us to practice the corporal works of mercy that we heard and reflected in last Sunday's Gospel of Matthew 25:31-46.

The new co-chairs of the Social Ministry are Susie Donovan and Susanne Erz. These two wonderful and energetic young women have been members of the Social Ministry and have their heart with the poor and needy. They are an asset to our Community as they have already done a great job in continuing our tradition of helping and reaching out – especially with the Thanksgiving reachout. But they are fully aware that the success of this important ministry depends on you – each member of our parish. I invite you to pray for them and support this all important ministry which is truly an evangelization ministry of the whole parish.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 3, 2017

"Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come." **MARK 13:33**

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. Our lives are so busy, many of us are planning our time - our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to what God is saying to you.

MASS WITH BELLS



Besides this Sunday we will be celebrating Mass on Christmas Eve with the wonderful sound of the Bells.

December 24th..... 7:30 p.m.

WELCOME



Adam Mickley and his daughter Sabrina were welcomed at the 1030 Mass Nov 19. Please

look for their photograph in the narthex and be sure to introduce yourself when you see them.

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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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

Project Earth Garden... projectearth@ccsjn.org

Bulletin..... bulletin@ccsjn.org

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



EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE IN RECONCILIATION

Advent is a wonderful time to celebrate the reconciling love and the healing graces our Lord offers us. **Please join us for a Community Reconciliation Service at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13th.** This communal service is an opportunity to join our sisters and brothers in asking for forgiveness and healing during this important time of the year. Following this short service, Fr. Abraham will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As we begin the new liturgical year in the Church, we invite all to begin anew with souls nourished from the gifts of divine mercy and forgiveness God has for everyone.

Christian Formation

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD THANK YOU



It felt as though Christmas had come early as we collected 32 shoe box gifts from Religious Ed. students and parishioners for Operation Christmas Child! These gifts will be distributed through Samaritan's Purse to needy children around the world in time for Christmas. Thank you so much for your participation and thanks to those who donated toward shipping costs as well!

PARENTING TUNE-UP

Advent begins Dec. 3. Although too often considered as the Christmas shopping season our Church reminds us that it is a time to "Be watchful! Be alert!" (Mark 13:33) During this Advent each day watch your child and note one kind, joyful, or positive act. (Susan Vogt)

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

"Be watchful! Be alert!" (Mark 13:33) Advent has begun. Each day try to notice one act of helpfulness or kindness that your beloved does. Don't take each other for granted.



VISIT TO THE SHRINE OF ST. JOHN NEUMANN

Our Confirmandi made a pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. John Neumann and the Church of St. Peter the Apostle to spend some peaceful time to learn more about St. John Neumann who is our own Patron Saint and about the Redemptorist Order. We were greeted by Fr. Raymond Collins the director of the Shrine. We took a tour of the beautiful upper church and Shrine (lower church) where St. John Neumann is entombed. Then we viewed a 15-minute video re-enacting a local miracle. Our trip concluded with a visit to the gift shop.

Here's what our students learned in their own words!

- "I learned a lot about St. John Neumann and his life and how he helped people. I liked the trip a lot and enjoyed St. Peter's Church."
- "I liked the part when we got to sit on the stope where St. John Neumann collapsed. I learned about St. John Neumann's life."
- "I learned about St. John Neumann, our church and the works of mercy."
- "I learned when Fr. Neumann came to America and became a priest. I enjoyed going on the trip."
- "I liked learning about the miracles that happen because of St. John Neumann."



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 December 17 and Monday, December 18.** Please contact Renee Ciszewski with any questions at renee@ccsjn.org. Hope to see you at our next session.

Social Ministry

CHRISTMAS FOOD PACKUP & DELIVERY



We are helping 29 households and will continue to collect food for Christmas. If you're interested there are many opportunities to help, please contact socialministry@ccsjn.org.

Sign up sheets for Christmas pack up and delivery are in the Narthex. Pack Up is Friday, December 15th at 7:00 pm and deliveries are Saturday, December 16th at 8:00 a.m.



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE-MANY TAGS STILL LEFT

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.

THANKSGIVING FOOD THANK YOU

Whether you were donating, picking up food, shopping, stocking the pantry, baking sweets, organizing, packing the food up, or making deliveries, you are the reason our holiday food drives are a success. We couldn't do it without each and every one of you. Thank you all & God bless!





SPIRITUALITY BREAKFAST AND SPEAKER

December 9th, 7:30 a.m. – Church Center

The Men's and Women's Spirituality groups are combining for breakfast on Saturday, December 9th, at 7:30 a.m. We will be hosting speaker Ray Zolnowski, as he discusses his "Journey to Rome." Ray has a doctorate in theology and was an Anglican priest for 14 years before converting to Catholicism. We're looking forward to a wonderful morning sharing prayer, good food and warm conversation. Feel free to invite your spouse, friend or neighbor – all are welcome!



CALLING ALL SINGERS AND MUSICIANS!

The Christmas Masses are at 4:30, 7:30 PM on Christmas Eve and 10:30 AM on Christmas Day. The music ministry would like to reach out to the congregation to invite you to join us and sing at one of these Masses.

This year Becky Germino and Maggie Baumann invite you to join us on Wednesday December 20th at 7:00 PM for a rehearsal of the music which will be sung at the 7:30PM and 10:30AM Masses.

This rehearsal will be held in the Church.

Please RSVP to Becky Germino as soon as possible at 908-644-9268. We hope to see you on Wednesday the 20th!

CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Diocese of Metuchen Office for Persons with Disabilities will host its 2017 Christmas Party for children and young adults with disabilities on **Saturday, December 16 (1:30 pm - 3:30 pm)** at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ. If you or someone you know would like to participate, please contact our Office for Persons with Disabilities at 732-765-6432 or e-mail: catholicswithdisabilities@gmail.com for more information.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING PARTY - Dec. 19th - 6pm

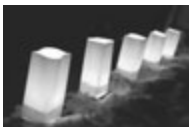


Everyone is invited to the St. John's Christmas Decorating Party. Adults and kids are welcome. While we enjoy socializing with fellow parishioners, with music, appetizers and desserts, we have something fun to do: decorate the church! You can bring a goodie to share- cookies, sweets, appetizers or any kind of drink. It is not required to bring food – there is always too much – we are just

happy to enjoy Christmas merriment with everyone! So please join us for an hour.

WHAT ABOUT ETERNITY?

We are so future-oriented concerning our life here on earth that we often forget the life beyond this life. We spend too much time trying to protect ourselves against future misfortunes. We save for a rainy day, to get married, to buy a home, to send the children to college, to retire in comfort and to protect ourselves against future misfortunes. But we need to be more spiritually wakeful and prepare for our eternal life because we can die any day, and that is the end of the world for us. Let this Advent season be the time of such a preparation for us.



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. It is time 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 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.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Pete and Mary Cangelosi would like to thank everyone from St. John's for all of your continued prayers and support for the last few months.



CONGRATULATIONS RAY AND JENNIFER!

Congratulations to parishioners, Ray Klacik and Jennifer Anderson, who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage here on November 25th. May God bless them as they start their new life together.



Stewardship

A Way of Life

WRAP PRESENTS AND BE PRESENT!

Advent is the season we prepare for Christmas. We shop, bake, decorate, shop, cook, and visit till we are ready to drop. This is all part of the season, but at its heart, Advent is about getting ready to encounter Jesus. A free email program from Dynamic Catholic will help you slow down and focus on what really matters during this busy season. Sign up at: BestAdventEver.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 acknowledgment of your commitment to the Catholic Community of St. John Neumann.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Joseph Angeline
Pete Cangelosi
Linda Caprio
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
Nancy Patterson
Nilsa Perez Parsons
John Pfeufer
Tommy Rack
Ali Redling
Roy Rittman
Anne & Joe Sacco
Richard Sepe
Noah Skinner
Michael Slivka
Dick Slusher
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: Walk Slow...Enjoy Every Moment

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." Mark 13: 33-37

Every morning, she goes for a walk with her two daughters. The first half goes quickly. The three walk the third-of-a-mile up the road to the older daughter's kindergarten at the end of their street. She hugs her five-year-old goodbye and sends her on her way.

Then she and her four-year-old, Poesy, turn around and start back. The return trip home lasts as long as Mom is willing to let it. They cover the same third-of-a-mile, but the pace is slower and the path meandering, as Poesy stops to probe the mysteries along the way: investigating a storm drain, examining a fallen scarlet maple leaf, scaling a water puddle (missing the first couple of attempts). She discovers a twig and leaf and excitedly shows her mother how, together, they make a flag. "Mommy! Look!" Poesy cries as she points to a beautiful rainbow hovering over the mist created by a water sprinkler. Her attention constantly revolves, to a dog one second, to a feather the next, then to an eye-catching pebble. Mom hides her impatience. There's a great deal to be done today. Both have places to be. While Mom cherishes this time with her daughter, she's aware that the clock is ticking.

But still . . . "Watching her, I feel the rush of time," she writes, "and I realize just how soon these walks of ours will end. Come September she will be in kindergarten; I will leave both girls at school and walk on my own. Once again I'll travel as quickly as I want to, but the appeal of that has now faded away. These slow morning rambles with my four-year-old - the new day glimmering around us, the sun warm on our backs - are the most fleeting kind of pleasure. I'll try to remember, later, what she did and said, but the feeling of the moment, sweet and simple, will be gone. "I stop walking, looking over my shoulder for Poesy. When she gets to me, I reach down and take her hand."

On this First Sunday of Advent, Jesus urges us to appreciate what this mom comes to realize on her morning walk with her daughters: that life is precious, that our world changes, that our time is limited. Father Richard Rohr writes that faith and spirituality begin with "seeing. It's not about earning or achieving but about "paying attention": paying attention to the presence of God in every joy and sorrow, in every pain and trauma, in every victory and setback before us. Advent calls us to "watch," to be "alert" to the presence of God in the love of family and friends, to find the true meaning and purpose of our lives in moments of compassion, forgiveness and generosity.

AN ADVENT PROJECT

Every morning when we get up, let us pray, "Lord, show me someone today with whom I may share your love, mercy and forgiveness." Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, "Whatever you do in your family, for your children, for your husband, for your wife, you do for Jesus." Every night when we go to bed, let us ask ourselves, "Where have I found Christ today?" The answer will be God's Advent gift to us that day. By being alert and watchful we will receive an extra gift: Christ himself. Let us remember the saying of St. Thomas Aquinas: "Without God, I can't. Without me, He won't."



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



A young man agreed to baby-sit one night so a single mother could have an evening out. At bedtime he sent the youngsters upstairs to bed and settled down to watch football. One child kept creeping down the stairs, but the young man kept sending him back to bed. At 9pm the doorbell rang, it was the next-door neighbor, Mrs. Brown, asking whether her son was there. The young man brusquely replied, "No." Just then a little head appeared over the banister and shouted, "I'm here, Mom, but he won't let me go home!"

Little Johnny's kindergarten class was on a field trip to their local police station where they saw pictures, tacked to a bulletin board, of the 10 most wanted men. One of the youngsters pointed to a picture and asked if it really was the photo of a wanted person. "Yes," said the policeman. "The detectives want him very badly." So Little Johnny asked, "Why didn't you keep him when you took his picture?"

Parish and Community News



OPLATEK – THE CHRISTMAS WAFER

Start your own Family Tradition

The word Bethlehem means "House of Bread". The breaking of the bread is a sign of charity, unity, and friendship. Religious family traditions and customs bring the truths of Faith into the home. One of these beautiful Christmas customs is the Christmas Wafer. A Wafer bearing a simple design commemorative of Christ's birth is broken by the head of the family and distributed to each member. With a simple prayer for God's grace and the welfare of the present and absent members of the family, the head family member breaks the Wafer and distributes it, a piece to each one at the table. While doing so each member of the family is kissed and is wished a joyful feast. The other family members then greet one another in the same way.

All this brings to mind clearly out charity for one another, to seek salvation together. Family customs remind us that we seek and obtain salvation with the help of others at all times.

So try it with your family this year. There is Oplatek in the Narthex in envelopes. Take one and leave a donation

WHAT "IMMACULATE CONCEPTION" OF MARY MEANS

There's a popular misunderstanding that it refers to Jesus' conception by the Virgin Mary. It doesn't. Instead, it refers to the special way in which the Virgin Mary herself was conceived. This conception was not virginal. (That is, she had a human father Joachim as well as a human mother Anne.) But it was special and unique in another way. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (no.490) explains it this way: "To become the mother of the Savior, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role." The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace". Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin."

ADVENT! ... WAKE UP! ... BUT TO WHAT?

Do you remember the movie *Awakening*? Robert De Niro plays the part of a patient who, for thirty years, does not move or speak. A particularly, sensitive and enterprising doctor tries out some new theories and lo and behold, the patient begins to move around, talk and feel. For a brief period he returns to this world and announces to those amazed folks around him that he is back: "I have been away for quite some time.... now I am back." He becomes gradually aware of the love and concern that surrounds him and what is really alive inside of his heart and soul. ***-It is never too late to wake up. Morning is when you wake up. Advent is a nice time to wake up. Wake up to give an account of your stewardship. Wake up into a time for giving and sharing, a time that we are called to be thankful and prepare our hearts for the Christ child. Wake up and open your eyes in Faith to see God present and active in your life and in your world.***

YOUR AMAZON SHOPPING ALREADY GAVE US \$328



Please when shopping with Amazon use the Amazon's Associate program. 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.

STEWARDSHIP RESPONSES

316 Families

51..... Commitment Cards
20 Automated Giving



WEEKLY COLLECTION

November 26, 2017

65 Donors Weekly \$3,779.00
16 Donors Thanksgiving..... \$430.80
8 Donors Yellow Brick Rd.... \$675.00
2 Campaign Human Devel \$25.00

November 27, 2016

77 Donors Weekly..... \$3,545.00
16 Donors Thanksgiving \$627.25
2 Donors Yellow Brick Rd \$110.00

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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.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Wed., Dec. 6 J. Santoro
Wed., Dec. 13 C. Behrens

Store Cards

December 2 and 3

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

December 9 and 10

5:30 p.m. J. Gardner
8:00 a.m. V. Hoffart
10:30 a.m. G. Cucchiara

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of Dec. 3 B. Sobey
Week of Dec. 10 M. Proano

Church Center Cleaning

December 7 Team E
December 14 Team F

Altar Flowers

November 23 M. Connolly

Counting

Dec. 4 Kosakowski/Malone
Dec. 11 Kucharski/McCabe

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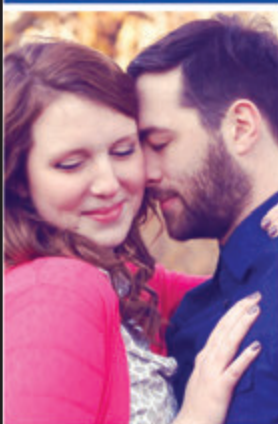
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