



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 26

NO MASS

Friday, December 29

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Saturday, December 30

5:30 p.m. Sawczuk Family, req.

Anita Sawczuk

Sunday, December 31

8:00 a.m. Salvacion San Carlos, req.

Barbara & Bill Gates

10:30 a.m. Lucy Pojedinec, req.

Mary & Mike Connolly

Monday, January 1

10:30 a.m. Joseph Sacco, req.

Betty Ihle



Parish Calendar

Sunday, December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Weekly Mass (Church Center)

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Masses

4:30 p.m. Mass (Church Center)

7:30 p.m. Mass with Bells (Church Center)

Monday, December 25 - The Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Day

Office Closed

10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)

Tues., December 26 - Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

Office Closed / No Mass

7:00 p.m. Connxions Meeting (Office Center Kitchen)

Wednesday, December 27 - Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

7:00 p.m. RCIA (Drexel Room)

Thursday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

10:00 a.m. S.H.I.P. (Office and Church Center Kitchens)

5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)

7:30 p.m. Music/Bells (Church Center)

Friday, December 29 - Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

Office Closes at 12:00 Noon

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

Saturday, December 30 - Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

5:30 p.m. Mass (Church Center)

Mass Schedule - December 30/31 and January 1

Saturday	5:30 p.m.
Celebrant.....	Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader.....	Anita Sawczuk
Altar Server.....	King Family
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	Jim Oelkers
.....	Debby Kelemen, Lyle Garcia
Sunday	8:00 a.m.
Celebrant.....	Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader.....	Chris Bitters
Altar Server.....	Needed
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	Gail Battell
.....	Donna Lance, 1 Needed
Sunday	10:30 a.m.
Celebrant.....	Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader.....	Steve Bauernfiend
Altar Server.....	DeStefano Family
Music Eucharistic Minister.....	Kathy Kelly Pagliuca
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	Bob Sobey, Anothny DeStefano
.....	Shirley Pojedinec, Ron Pojedinec, Patti Rittman
Monday	Solemnity of Mary (Obligation)
Celebrant.....	Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader.....	Needed
Altar Server.....	Needed
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	3 Needed
.....	

Sun., December 31 - Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)

10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)

Monday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
Office Closed

10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)

The Solemnity of Mary

Monday, January 1st 10:30 a.m.

**Join us to begin the New Year
with the Holy Mass in the 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: **Mary Dino, Joseph Sacco, and Frank Panek.**

Deceased: **Mary Dino**, friend of the Janks', **Jospeh Sacco**, husband of Anne and father of Barbara Pannone, and **Frank Panek**, husband of Marlene. 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,

Merry Christmas! Yes, even though today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, tonight is Christmas Eve and tomorrow is Christmas Day! This happens once in about ten years! Hence it is easy to feel quite frenzied and get trapped into an all too familiar paradox: the person whose birthday we are supposed to be celebrating is left out of the celebration! He is ignored. It may not be intentional, but Jesus is often overlooked as undue importance is given to all the external trappings of Christmas and to Rudolph, Frosty the Snowman, Santa Claus, the Grinch, elves, and a long list of celebrated fictional characters that the media and companies present to us. Let me suggest three easy solutions:

1. Take seriously the good news announced by the Angels: *"Fear not, for behold, I announce to you glad tidings of great joy, which shall be to all the people"* (Luke 2:10). We all know how fear can cripple us and take away our joy and peace. With all our intellect and innovations, we have not made our world safe and secure for ourselves and for our children. But we can destroy this fear and live joyfully if only we can take the message of Christmas seriously by believing in the Prince of Peace.
2. Give Baby Jesus one very special gift. Let this gift be something personal so that you don't need to reveal it to anyone. What gift will please Jesus? May be the gift to forgive someone you've wanted a long time. If you do that, you will have the happy surprise of finding out that you were the one who really got the gift, because as Lewis B. Smedes wrote in his book, *Forgive and Forget*, *"When you release the wrongdoer from the wrong, you cut a malignant tumor out of your inner life. You set a prisoner free, but you discover that the real prisoner was yourself."*
3. Read the Christmas story with your family this week. Matthew and Luke are the Evangelists who we can depend on for the birth and infancy narratives of Jesus. The first two chapters from each of these gospels are ideal for this purpose. Read at least one chapter each day starting from today.

May your Christmas be filled with the wonder of "Emmanuel" (Mt.1:23: God-with-us). May his peace and joy illumine your hearts and your homes. Merry Christmas!

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

'EMMANUEL' MEANS GOD WITH US. BUT ARE YOU AWARE OF THAT?

"Excuse me," said a small river fish that happened to reach the ocean to a larger fish he saw there, "You are older than I, so can you tell me where to find this thing they call the ocean?" "The ocean," said the older fish "is the thing you are in now." "Oh, this? But this is only salty water. What I'm seeking is the ocean," said the disappointed fish as he swam away to search elsewhere. *Christmas Gospel introduces God as Emmanuel, one living with us. Christmas celebration should enable us to experience this God within us and all around us. Or are you still searching?*

RITE OF WELCOME TO PARISHIONERS BECOMING CATHOLIC

Three parishioners currently meet weekly in our parish's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process in their journey to enter into the Catholic faith. Jennifer Anderson Klacik, Chris Sepe and Shannon Heimall received a Rite of Welcome this past weekend. Through the process they are having a great time of enrichment and happy fellowship as they discuss and learn about the Catholic Church while discerning how to deepen their relationship with God and how to actively live their faith in their daily life.

If you have thoughts about becoming Catholic or have any questions about the Catholic faith please feel free to talk to our RCIA team, Father Abraham, Annette Schettino or France Kennedy who can be reached after Mass or thru the office. 908-832-2513, rcia@ccsjn.org

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24, 2017

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"
LUKE 1:28

Faith is a gift from God. Take time in silence and thank Him for all the gifts He has given you. Try to set aside any anger or resentment you have and really open your heart to receive the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others.

A SIMPLE INVITATION

In our busy lives, that are even busier at this time of the year, you never know what an invitation could mean to someone. Take the time to call a friend or a neighbor and invite them to share Christmas Mass with you. Even if they decline, the invite may stay with them as a gesture of friendship.



BAPTISM

Quarterly we hold Baptism Preparation for families who are looking to baptize their child. Anyone who is expecting a birth of a child or have a child to be baptized should call France Kennedy at the office (908-832-2513) to register for the preparation program and discuss arrangements.

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

Email earlr1@verizon.net

Sharon Janks Pastoral Administrator

Email sjanks@ccsjn.org

France Kennedy Pastoral Associate

Email fkennedy@ccsjn.org

Kerri Caldaro Financial Administrator

Email kcaldaro@ccsjn.org

Wayne Infusino Maintenance

Religious Education 908-832-2162

Renee Ciszewski Director of Religious Education

Email renee@ccsjn.org

Jo Ann Jarvis Office of Catechesis

Email jjarvis@ccsjn.org

Social Ministry socialministry@ccsjn.org

Project Earth Garden... projectearth@ccsjn.org

Bulletin bulletin@ccsjn.org

Youth Ministry sjnygroup@gmail.com

Parish News & Christian Formation

#WHERE THE WISE MEN ARE

Have you seen the Wise Men as they journey around the property. Follow them on Facebook and guess their location and share it. Spread the fun and encourage others to be looking for what's important this Christmas.

Christmas begins with Christ.

DON'T JOURNEY ALONE THIS CHRISTMAS

The Wise Men are on their journey to find the Christ Child. And we are on our journey to find Christ in our lives. Invite others to join us on the journey this Christmas.

ADULTS INVITED TO GIFT SESSIONS WITH FR. ABRAHAM



**Adult Faith
FORMATION**

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 part of the GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) program. These sessions will be led by Fr. Abraham and will focus on "What We Celebrate: Sacraments" and "What We Believe: Beatitudes/Moral Life" and will meet monthly on Sunday mornings at 9 AM in Valley View School and Monday evenings at 6:15 PM in the Church Center. Just drop in at one of the next sessions: Sunday, January 7th or Monday, January 8th. Please contact Renee Ciszewski with any questions at renee@ccsjn.org. Hope to see you at our next session!

Parish News

HAND STAMPED CARDS

Buy your greeting cards and support the St. John's Food Pantry. Hand Stamped Cards are located at Social Concerns table in Narthex on a card rack. Cost is \$3.00 per card. \$10 for 4. Put money in the cash box found near the rack. Checks get made out to St. John's.

PARENTING TUNE-UP

It's getting close...and its here... Christmas is here... Although we can't control its suddenness, and how our culture celebrates it, we can keep the spirit of Christmas in our own home by teaching our children the value of delayed gratification. Wait for the party, to light the tree, to open a present...

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

Christmas. The birth of a baby reminds us of our past ("Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is 14 generations" Mt. 1) and into our future (What will this child become?) Today, ponder the lives of your ancestors and your unknown future together. (Susan Vogt)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place 2 times a month during the 10:30 Mass in the Narthex for children aged 5 to 11 years old. Please bring your children and encourage them to attend.

Christmas Season & New Year's - Mass Schedule - 2017-2018

Weekend Masses / 4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 24 8:00 a.m.

Please Note: NO 10:30 a.m. MASS

Christmas Eve Masses

Sunday, December 24 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 24 (with Bell Choir) 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Mass

Monday, December 25 10:30 a.m.

Weekend Masses

Saturday, December 30 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 31 8:00 a.m.
Sunday, December 31 10:30 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary - New Year's Day Mass

Monday, January 1 10:30 a.m.

First Friday (The Feast of St. John Neumann)

Friday, January 5 7:00 a.m.
First Friday Holy Hour 7:00 p.m.

WHY IS IT CALLED THE MASS?

The word Mass comes from the Latin word missa, which means to send. The Mass prepares us spiritually and sends us out to live as authentic followers of Jesus Christ in our everyday lives.

TAI CHI FOR MEDITATION AND HEALTH

In January we will start a six week series entitled "Tai Chi for Meditation". The sessions will include the Eight Brocades of Silk, a sequence which encompasses eight posture positions, helpful in promoting health, relaxation, personal meditation, and breathing techniques. In addition we will introduce the "24 Form", a set of movements which encourage more physically active meditation. Space is limited; sign up by contacting Bonnie Garcia at 908-975-3003 or bonnie.garcia210@yahoo.com. There will be a \$5 charge per session. Sessions will start Wednesday, Jan 3 at 6:30pm.

WHAT'S THE ORIGIN OF THE WORD 'CHRISTMAS'?

The word "Christmas" comes from the Old English phrase *Christes maesse* ("Christ's Mass") - that is the Mass celebrated in honor of Christ's birth. From this original reference to a particular Mass celebrated in the Church's liturgical year, the term came to apply both to the day on which the Mass was celebrated and to the liturgical season associated with it (i.e., the Christmas season, aka *Christmastide*). The term *Christes maesse* began to be written in English as one word in the mid-1300s.

Note that this *only* applies to English and languages that English has influenced. Other terms are used for this day (and season) in other languages. For example, in Spanish, Christmas is *Navidad*, in Italian it is *Natale*, and in French it is *Noël*. These terms are derived from the Latin root *nativitas*, from which we also get the word "Nativity" (i.e., birth).

"WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THIS BABY JESUS?"

Wade Burton tells about a man who was riding a bus from Chicago to Miami. He had a stop-over in Atlanta. While he was sitting at a lunch counter, a woman came out of the ladies' restroom carrying a tiny baby. She asked the man, "Will you hold my baby for me, I left my purse in the restroom." He did. But as the woman neared the front door of the bus station, she darted out into the crowded street and was immediately lost in the crowd. The man couldn't believe his eyes. He rushed to the door to call the woman, but could not see her. What should he do? Put the baby down and run? When calmness settled in he went to the Traveler's Aid booth, and they soon found the real mother. The woman who had left him holding the baby was not the baby's mother. She had taken the child, perhaps to satisfy a motherly urge to hold a child. The man breathed a sigh of relief when the real mother was found. After all, what was he to do with a baby? *In a way each of us is in the same situation as this gentleman. We are left with the question, "What will we do with the Baby?" Have we really come to terms with the fact that this Baby is not simply extraordinarily gifted, but that he is himself a gift from the heart of God?*

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

2018 Pro-Life Ministries - March For Life Rally

The Knights of Columbus and Pro-Life Ministries will have a bus going to the "March for Life" in Washington, D.C. on Friday, January 19, 2018. We will begin with Mass at 6:00am at Immaculate Conception Church, Annandale. The bus will leave following Mass and will return approximately 10:30pm. A sandwich lunch will be provided on the bus ride down. We will stop for dinner on the ride home at a Golden Corral. Please contact Bill Smith at 908-797-7359 or smithbuilders@hotmail.com for all costs and more information.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



Christmas Celebration: A priest, a minister, and a rabbi are discussing how each celebrates Christmas. The priest says, "We have a 12 o'clock high Mass, then we go home and gather around the Christmas Tree and sing 'Ave Maria'". The Minister says, "Our traditions are very similar. We have an 11 o'clock candlelight service, then gather around the Christmas Tree and sing 'O Come all Ye Faithful'". The rabbi says, "Well, we close the stores early, gather around cash register, and sing 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus.'"

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinselitis!

What Christmas Carol is a favorite of parents? Silent Night

Net News: The rumor is that the Vatican's interactive website has many great new features, including a downloadable picture of Jesus Christ which will bounce around your screen after a preset length of time. It has been christened the 'screen saviour'

PUT YOUR FAMILY'S ORNAMENT ON THE TREE



If you haven't added your family ornament to the Narthex Christmas Tree, please bring one to represent your family.

Put your name and date on it and hang it on the tree.

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"

LUKE 1:28

Faith is a gift from God. Take time in silence and thank Him for all the gifts He has given you. Try to set aside any anger or resentment you have and really open your heart to receive the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. (Archbishop Carlson)

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.

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
 Cindy Feighan
 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
 Joan & Megan Myers
 Mary Lou O'Brien
 Nancy Patterson
 Nilsa Perez Parsons
 John Pfeufer
 Ali Redling
 Roy Rittman
 Anne 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: Welcoming the "Holy" Family!

"Behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father . . . "
Luke 1: 26-38

In his book 'Once Upon a Time in Africa', Maryknoll Father Joseph Healey recounts a true story of a young couple expecting their first child. Late on December 24, the young mother-to-be sensed something was wrong. The couple was alone; all their neighbors were away or busy with preparing for the great Christmas feast; some were involved in campaigning for the general election that was just a few weeks away. The couple went to the nearest maternity hospital, but there was no one to attend to her because the doctors and nurses were on strike and the watchman wanted a bribe before he would let them in.

On the way home, they met a homeless family who were living on the streets. They immediately recognized what was wrong and made a comfortable place for the expectant mother to lie down. Then they helped with her delivery. She gave birth to a healthy baby boy whom they named Samuel. Street children gave the newborn baby simple gifts, including their only toys: glue and a ripped ball. The couple made their way home, deeply grateful for the help offered by this homeless family. Could Mary and Joseph and the Child Jesus have been better cared for?

Remember this story today as you busy yourself with the final preparations for tomorrow - and keep in mind that those you welcome, those you share the holiday with, are Christ, and that the love of God is in your midst. Welcome them as you would welcome the Holy Family; offer them not only the hospitality of your table and hearth but welcome them with the compassion and peace of the heart that makes the simplest gift and fare celebrations of the love of God in our midst.

JOY TO THE WORLD!

In the prologue to his book *Joy*, William Schutz tells how the birth of his son Ethan inspired him to write the book. Ethan begins his life by giving joy to his parents. The joy continues as Ethan sees, touches, tastes and hears things for the first time. But something happens to Ethan as it does to all of us. Somehow his joy diminishes with growth, never to return fully. Schutz wrote his book to help readers recapture some of this joy. Like Ethan, Jesus too begins his life by giving joy. Even before he is born his very presence brings joy to people. --Even when we cannot achieve our full human potential in some of those areas Schutz outlines, we can still experience a profound interior joy because Jesus is in our midst. The power of his presence enables us to endure any difficulty, transcend any trial or overcome any obstacle. His presence can bring peace where there is anxiety, sharing where there is selfishness and dreams where there is despair. Isaac Watts was right when he composed a Christmas carol entitled "Joy to the World!" Indeed, there is real joy in the world at Christmas time because the Lord is come. He is Emmanuel, God with us!

THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT YOU CAN GIVE

Christmas is a time of giving gifts – to families, to charities, to church. But giving an invitation to church could be the best gift you can give to someone who really needs God's presence in their lives. You are acting as a disciple of Jesus (remember "Every Member A Minister!") by introducing those who are hurting to the same Savior. Our Church is that place where they can meet the God who loves them, understands their greatest fears, sees their deepest longings, and sent His Son to save us. From the testimonies of those joining us, we can be certain that, true to our mission statement, we are "a jubilant people on a continuing spiritual journey of hope ..." So see you at Christmas with your invited guest!



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

IS IT OKAY TO WRITE X'MAS?

Some people are uncomfortable with writing X'Mas, because X in English stands for nothing, and they even accuse those who use it of destroying the meaning of Christmas. In fact it is a linguistic abbreviation - a practice that the earliest Christians *did* frequently with sacred terms. Scholars studying early Christian manuscripts are familiar with a phenomenon known as the nomina sacra ("sacred names") in which terms like "God," "Jesus," "Lord," and "Christ" were *regularly abbreviated precisely because they were sacred*. 'X' is the 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet known as *chi*. This *chi* is the first part of the word *chirios* which is expanded to *Christos*, which means the anointed one. The earlier way to abbreviate the word in English was *Xp-* or *Xr-* (corresponding to the "Chr-" in Greek *Χριστος*), and the form *Xres mæsse* for "Christmas" appears in the "Anglo-Saxon Chronicle" (c.1100). It's just an abbreviation, and there is no intention to demean Christ or Christianity. But without this background information, it is understandable that some people can be upset with the use of X'Mas.



VALENTINE'S DINNER DANCE 2018



Friday, February 9 from 7:00-11:00 (Snow date: Sunday, February 11, 6:00-9:30)
Remember February? By then we will be so tired of the cold and possible snow. Well, we have a fun night out that includes a delicious homemade Italian dinner buffet, a yummy dessert assortment, and great dance music from Mike Griffin's band, the GB's. Round up some friends and join us! The cost is \$35 per person, \$260 for a table of 8 and \$325 for a table of 10. We are happy to help you make up a table. Contact the office (832-2513) or Jim Murray at 832-5273 or jmurray@eclipse.net.

This event benefits our teens' Catholic Heart Workcamp experience. This summer we will be serving in the Cumberland, MD area. Our youth follow Pope Francis' call to service!

If you can't attend the dance or would like to help in some other way, consider:

- Sponsoring a teen (\$350)
- Helping with set up/wait staff/clean up
- Donating towards our transportation costs, our t-shirts, or partially sponsoring a teen

For more information, contact Mary Connolly at mandmconnolly@gmail.com or 930-0784.



OPLATEK – THE CHRISTMAS WAFER

Start your own Family Tradition

A beautiful Christmas custom is the Christmas Wafer. On Christmas Eve or Christmas, the wafer 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 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. Try it with your family this year. There is Oplatek in the Narthex in envelopes. Take one and leave a donation.



USE OUR LINK WHEN SHOPPING ON AMAZON

We are set up with a wonderful way for you to donate to the parish without costing you anything! You just use this link <http://tinyurl.com/lx7c83s> and it will take you to the Amazon home page and log in as yourself.. When you click on this link it takes you to the Amazon home page, you'll see "ccsjn -20" in the middle of the Amazon URL address, everything else is transparent to the user. <http://tinyurl.com/lx7c83s>. The parish will receive a donation for every dollar you spend! There is a button on our website to take you to this link or go to our **Facebook Page** and use the 'SHOP NOW' button.

STEWARDSHIP RESPONSES

316 Families

54 Commitment Cards
21 Automated Giving



WEEKLY COLLECTION

December 10, 2017

59 Donors Weekly \$,2351.00
29 Donors Retirement..... \$567.00
8 Donors Immac. Concept. . \$145.00
6 Donors Yellow Brick Rd ... \$175.00

December 11, 2016

77 Donors Weekly \$2,941.93
51 Donors Retirement \$1,422.00
19 Donors Immac. Concept. .. \$429.00



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Wed., Jan. 3 J. Santoro
Wed., Jan. 10 S. Griffin

Store Cards

December 23 and 24

5:30 p.m. B. Cestone
8:00 a.m. C. Bennett

December 30 and 31

5:30 p.m. L. Livoti
8:00 a.m. G. Battell
10:30 a.m. D. Royal

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of Dec. 24 B. Lee
Week of Dec. 31 L. Livoti

Church Center Cleaning

December 28 Team B
January 4 Team C

Altar Flowers Advent

Counting

Dec. 27 Kucharski/McCabe
Jan. 3 Malone/Cangelosi

Basking Ridge Electric Co, LLC

Electrical Contractor



CHARLES F. FORTENBACKER
NJ Elec Lic. #10007
25 Stonehouse Road
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
baskingridgeelectric@gmail.com

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