



The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

www.ccsjn.org

February 11, 2018

Volume 36 Number 6



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.
Sunday.....8:00 a.m.
Sunday.....10:30 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, February 13

8:00 a.m. Robert Donnelly, req.
James Murray

Friday, February 16

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Saturday, February 17

5:30 p.m. Tracy Coombs, req.
Mullen Family

Sunday, February 18

8:00 a.m. Linnea Janks, req.
Sharon and Alan Janks
10:30 a.m. Ellenore Clare, req.
Carroll Family



Parish Calendar

Sunday, February 11 - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time /

Catholic Spirit Collection / Begin Easter Food Collection

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
9:00 a.m. Coffee-sponsored by Fund Raising (Narthex)
9:00 a.m. Group Facilitator Training (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Mass (Church)
10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word (Narthex)
11:30 a.m. Coffee-sponsored by Fund Raising (Narthex)
6:00 p.m. Jr. High Formation (Church Center)

Monday, February 12 - Weekday

10:00 a.m. S.H.I.P. (Office and Church Enter Kitchens)
6:00 p.m. Family Faith Formation (Office & Church Center)
7:00 p.m. Small Group (Neumann Residence)

Tuesday, February 13 - Weekday

8:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
11:00 a.m. Small Group (Church Center Loft)
7:00 p.m. Budget Meeting (Drexel Room)
7:00 p.m. Social Ministry Meeting (Office Center Kitchen)
7:00 p.m. Small Group (Neumann Residence)
7:30 p.m. Stewardship Meeting (Seton Room)

Wednesday, February 14 - Ash Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Mass & Ashes (Neumann Residence)
10:30 a.m. Small Group (Church Center)
4:30 p.m. Service & Ashes (Church Center)
7:00 p.m. Service & Ashes (Church Center)
7:30 p.m. R.C.I.A. (Upper Room)
7:30 p.m. Small Group (Office Center Kitchen)
7:30 p.m. Small Group (Drexel Room)

Thursday, February 15 - Weekday

5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)
7:00 p.m. Lenten Reflection (Razberry's-Frenchtown)
7:30 p.m. Music/Bells (Church Center)
7:30 p.m. Small Group (Upper Room)

Mass Schedule - February 17/18

Saturday

5:30 p.m.

Celebrant Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader Kathleen Swindler
Altar Server Kucharski Family
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Mary Connolly
..... 2 Needed

Sunday

8:00 a.m.

Celebrant Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader Brent Herrig
Altar Server Malone Family
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Sharon Janks
..... Jane Klawunn, Tom Klawunn

Sunday

10:30 a.m.

Celebrant Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader Mary Sorgi
Altar Server Johnson Family
Music Eucharistic Minister Ron Pojedinec
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Donna Torczon, Shirley Pojedinec
..... Donna Lance, Marlene Milko, Mark Brisson

Friday, February 16 - Weekday

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
6:00 p.m. Soup Supper (Church Center)
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross (Church Center)

Saturday, February 17 - Weekday

5:30 p.m. Mass (Church)

Sunday, February 18 - 1st Sunday of Lent / Snow & Heat Collection

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
9:00 a.m. Small Group (Seton Room)
10:30 a.m. Mass - Abeles Baptism (Church Center)
3:00 p.m. Rite of Election for RCIA (Cathedral)

SMALL GROUP FACILITATOR TRAINING SESSION

This Sunday, Feb 11 at 9am - Worship Space
Join Father for this short session to help each of us in the small group setting.



Remembered at Mass

We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharist: **Galdys Angeline, Roy Rittman, Grace Meleo, Pablo Perez, Virginia Kluge, Marilyn Pepperman and Joseph Melhem.**

Deceased: Gladys Angeline, aunt of Sharon Janks, Roy Rittman, father or Roy Rittman, Grace Meleo, Aunt of Jim King, Pablo Perez, father of Maritza Proano/Perez, Virginia Kluge, mother of Lynn Johnson, Marilyn Pepperman, mother of Alan Pepperman and Joseph Melhem, brother of Nadima Melhem.. 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,

"Thank you" to our dear Fr. Bill for his beautiful columns during my absence. I am glad to resume this column after my home-visit. This annual chance of being with my family was very important for me. For three weeks I was totally immersed in the community living – surrounded always by people, doing things together, busy with celebrating weddings, baptisms, and house-blessings. I had to attend a funeral even though it was a relative of a relative of my relative! That's the sort of communal involvement we have back there.

A taste of what it really means to be in a community is what we experience through our small faith sharing groups that are beginning this week. It is wonderful that we already have eight groups ready to meet and share God's Word based on the resource "Live Lent." I invite those of you who never had this experience to give a try. This is something that you can do as an experiment. You will be amazed that you are not alone, struggling to live a good life. Hearing others share their own challenges, efforts and results will boost your own life of faith and family. Know that you are not late to join any of these groups.

Yes, the holy season of Lent is upon us with Mardi Gras this Monday, followed by Fat Tuesday leading to Ash Wednesday. It was with the intention of doing a meaningful spiritual event collaboratively that the Deanery Pastoral Council, with the approval of the Deanery Clergy, had decided to invite the prolific writer and theologian Fr. James Martin, S.J., to give a Lenten reflection on "Jesus – fully human and fully divine" on February 15, at 7pm. But some radical Catholics wanted us to dis-invite Fr. Martin as they were upset with one book he wrote last year (Bridging the Gap) inviting Catholics to have a compassionate approach to our LGBTQ brothers and sisters and threatened to protest. As I explained last Sunday, we have kept the same date and the speaker but the location is at the Razberry Banquet and Conference Center in Frenchtown. You are most welcome to attend and be enriched.

As we receive ashes on our forehead, let it be a visible symbol of our acknowledgement of our mortality and our dependence on a God who offers us His merciful love always. May the weeks following Ash Wednesday help us to learn how to live the way of Jesus. That's why I am inviting us all to consciously choose some of the opportunities that our parish is offering: Faith sharing in small groups, Soup and Stations on Fridays of Lent, Lenten Reflection by Fr. James Martin, and do any other spiritual practice on a personal level.

Happy Lent!
Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



SOUP N STATIONS

Please join us for Soup n Stations each Friday in Lent. Soup Supper starts at 6pm and Stations of the Cross follow at 7pm.

The following is a list of the groups/ministries that will be sponsoring each of the soup suppers.

Feb. 16th - High School Youth Group	Mar. 9th - R.C.I.A
Feb. 23rd - Religious Education	Mar. 16th - Mary Connolly
Mar. 2nd - Fund Raising/Finance	Mar. 23rd - Pastoral Council

If you have a special soup you like to make or just like to make any soup, please contact the office, 908-832-2513, and let us know which Friday will work for you. We hope that everyone can make at least one of the weeks during lent.

POPE FRANCIS ENCOURAGES SMALL GROUPS

In his Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium (the Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis calls Catholics to be "an evangelizing community" that is "filled with joy," a community that is "permanently in a state of mission" and a community that practices a "fraternal communion and missionary fruitfulness." He urged Catholics to live in fraternity and to share a "fraternal love capable of seeking the sacred grandeur of our neighbor, of finding God in every human being." He wrote: "I especially ask Christians in communities throughout the world to offer a radiant and attractive witness of fraternal communion. Let everyone admire how you care for one another, and how you encourage and accompany one another."

6TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

February 11, 2018

"Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God."

1 Corinthians 10:31

Do a quick check of your priorities. Where does God rank in that list? If He's not first, you have some work to do. Putting God first in everything helps us from putting other "gods" (like our pride and ego, money and possessions to name a few) before God. Before making a decision, ask yourself I'm I doing this for the glory of God or for the glory of me?

A LENTEN REFLECTION ON JESUS

Rev. James Martin, SJ

Thursday, February 15th, 7:00 p.m.

**Razberry's Banquet &
Conference Center**

**834 NJ Route 12
Frenchtown, NJ 08825
908-782-2379**

***PLEASE NOTE* Change of Venue
We have carpools going.
If you are interested in
carpooling, contact the office.
(908) 832-2513**

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

Christian Formation

1ST EUCHARIST CLASSES

Saturday, March 3, 3:30 p.m.



The next First Eucharist session will be held on Saturday, March 3, at 3:30 p.m. in the Church Center.



SPELLING BEE FUN!

The 8th grade students in the religious education program participated in the Diocese of Metuchen Annual Spelling Bee sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The Knights from St. Joseph's in High Bridge officiated the Spelling Bee. Kyle Erz placed first, Christopher Quartuccio, Alex Kuhn and Alex Bush took the other top spots and cash prizes. These students move on to the next level. We are very proud of all our students!



ADULTS INVITED TO GIFT SESSIONS WITH FR. ABRAHAM

Amoris laetitia (English: *The Joy of Love*) is a post-synodal apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis addressing the pastoral care of families and was released on 8 April 8, 2016. It follows the Synods on the Family held in 2015.

The exhortation covers a wide range of topics related to marriage and family life as well as the contemporary challenges faced by families throughout the world. It encourages both pastors and members of the laity to accompany and care for families and others in situations of particular need. *Amoris laetitia* also includes an extended reflection on the meaning of love in the day-to-day reality of family life.

During adult formation in February Fr. Abraham will be discussing the topics discussed in Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 8. Please join us on Monday February 12 6:15 PM in the Church Center. Please contact Renee Ciszewski renee@ccsjn.org with any questions. Hope to see you at our next session.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STATION

Visit the religious education station! The table is located in the narthex next to the sacristy. This table will contain materials that are distributed to the GIFT Faith Formation families. The take home material provides additional reading, craft ideas and suggestions to enrich your family's faith journey. Our sacramental preparation class will display their most recent craft, sharing what they are learning as they prepare for First Eucharist. If you missed a session, are a grandparent or just looking for activities to share with your family, consider bring home some of the materials displayed on the table. Contact renee@ccsjn.org with questions or comments.

Parish News



NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

February 7th to 14th is a collaborative campaign to strengthen individual marriages, reduce the divorce rate, and build a culture that fosters strong marriages. National Marriage Week USA and World Marriage Day are opportunities to celebrate the gift and blessing of marriage. Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia: "Promoting and strengthening marriage remains a pastoral priority of our Conference. Marriage, both as a natural institution and as a Christian sacrament, is an irreplaceable good for society and all people."

LIVE LENT! YEAR B

Don't just observe Lent... Live It and join a small faith group!

Small Faith Groups start this week! Call the office if you want to try a session!

It is not too late to join a group. Contact France at 908-307-7879 to try a session. There are groups Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday mornings, and Monday through Thursday evenings.

We have two young families that want to have a Play Group/Faith Group. Please text me if you want to be a part of this.

Books are in the Narthex for \$10 – even if you can't participate in a group, you can use the book for your own Lenten Journey. Come find out what people are benefiting from the small group experience

WHAT IS COURAGE AND ENCOURAGE?

Courage is a spiritual support group helping Catholic men and women live in accordance with the Catholic Church's teaching about same-sex-attraction and discipleship. **Courage** members strive to develop lives of interior chastity in union with Christ, through participation in the Sacraments, prayer, fellowship and moral support. **Courage** meets within the Diocese with a priest chaplain. **EnCourage** is a separate spiritual support group for family members and friends of loved ones with same-sex attraction. For information about locations and meeting times for each of these groups call: **732-562-2476** for **Courage** (e mail: couragecnj@gmail.com) and **732-248-9460** for **EnCourage**. Also visit the national website at Couragerc.org. All contacts are confidential.

2018 ST. JOHN PARISH LIFE SURVEY

After months of development, numerous revisions and lots of discussion, the St. John's 2018 Parish Life Survey is now live! The survey was developed and sponsored by the Stewardship Ministry. The survey is an opportunity for us to learn about those features and elements of St. John's that are important to our parishioners and to learn about areas of parish life you would like to see improvements.

- The survey will take you about 15 minutes to complete, a little shorter or longer depending on how much time you need to consider the various questions.
- Individuals (not families) complete the survey. Meaning each attending Parishioner should complete the survey independently so we get the most accurate profile of the Parish.
- You may complete the survey by pen & paper (available in Narthex) or online at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StJohn2018ParishSurvey>. The link is also available on the home page of our website: www.ccsjn.org.
- Please complete the survey by February 25th.
- The Stewardship Ministry will share the results of the survey in March.

We would greatly appreciate if you would consider completing the survey online rather than paper/pencil. This would reduce the need for hand tallying the results, which can be extremely time consuming. The electronic version will tally automatically for us! Thanks! We appreciate your time and look forward to your input!

LENTEN OBLIGATIONS

So that the Church of Metuchen may be spiritually one in a common observance of Lent, the following days of fast and abstinence are to be observed by all Catholics of the Diocese who enjoy the blessings of good health:

1. The days of fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
2. All other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.
3. From the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday until the celebration of the Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday, the Easter fast should be observed so that, with uplifted and welcoming hearts, we may be ready to celebrate the joys of the Resurrection. This ancient tradition, intimately connected with the *Rites of Holy Week* and the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, is encouraged, especially in those places baptizing catechumens at the Easter Vigil.

The obligation to fast applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59. To fast in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal during the day so as to experience hunger. The obligation of abstinence affects all Catholics who have reached the age of 14. Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat. The obligation of fast and abstinence, as a whole, is a serious obligation. While failure to observe any penitential day in itself may not be considered serious, the failure to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of them without good cause, would be considered a grave matter. Those unable to abstain for a valid reason on any given Friday of Lent are asked to perform some other penitential act, or to abstain on another day.

VALENTINE'S DAY IS EVERY DAY

No reason why Valentine's Day should be just one day each year. Why not give your spouse a gift that lasts every day?

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage.

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held April 20-22. Early registration is advisable as space is limited.

Phone **1-732-904-9636** for registration and information. Visit us at www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org for more information.



Like us on Facebook! Find us as "St. John Neumann RC Church, Califon NJ" or follow the link from the home page of our website at www.ccsjn.org

ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14!

That means it is time for us to think of our LENT FAITH GROUPS! Get back to the experience of fellowship, deepening of the Bible, prayer and the chance of knowing our parishioners. Sign up will start soon. Encourage others for a "try out" of a session or two.

LENTEN PRACTICES

During Lent, we are asked to devote ourselves to seeking the Lord in prayer and reading Scripture, to service by giving alms, and to sacrifice self-control through fasting. Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. Contemplate the meaning and origins of the Lenten fasting tradition in this reflection. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446).

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

This year Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day are both on February 14. How might we reconcile these two seemingly opposite themes? The Ash Wednesday reading beckons you to "Return to me with your whole heart. (Joel 2:12) The "me" can be God or the spirit of God within your beloved.

PARENTING TUNE-UP

February is Black History month but sensitivity to people of a race different from your own is bigger than just one color. Enrich your child's life by mixing with people of different races. If your children are old enough try this [Erasing Racism](http://susanvogt.net/ErasingRacism) activity. (<http://susanvogt.net/ErasingRacism>)

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Joseph Angeline
Linda Caprio
Joan Cardierre
Jean Crickenberger
John D'Almeida
Barbara DelPiano
Sophia DeVita
Jennifer Bennett Duckworth
Cindy Feighan
Paul Ferri
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
Joel Rivera
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
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 SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean."
Mark 1: 40-45

All three readings today contain the Christian teaching on the need for social acceptance even when people are different from us. They also tell us that it is purity or holiness of soul coming from God that cleanses our lives. Today's Gospel describes how Jesus heals a leper, liberating him both from the disease of leprosy and from the unjust and inhuman social isolation and ostracism to which the lepers were subjected.

In India, high caste Hindus treated the low caste people as untouchables whose touch brought defilement and contamination to the person touched. Different castes drink from different wells. Some temples have two doors. One is for people from lower castes. In the USA, until the Civil Rights Movement, African-American heritage was such a social disability that white shopkeepers would slap a black customer's change on the counter to keep from touching his/her hands. In some restaurants, dishes or glasses used by blacks would be broken immediately after they had finished eating. If a black swam in a public pool, it would immediately be closed, drained, and disinfected. Even in some of our Catholic parishes, black parishioners had to wait until all the white parishioners had received the Eucharist before presenting themselves at the altar for Communion.

The issue, however, is not only a matter of race. It's a question of all people in our society who are "different" from us. Our modern society ostracizes the gays, the lesbians, the AIDS victims, the alcoholics, the drug addicts. We tend to marginalize the divorced, the cohabiting, the unemployed single mothers, Gypsies, the homeless, migrant workers and asylum seekers. People with AIDS also report that they don't get touched as much as they used to before they became HIV positive. Church workers and volunteers tend to steer clear of teenagers. It's hard to get people to work among them. Their awkward stage of development makes a lot of us uncomfortable. Their music, their dress, their attitudes and thoughts are viewed as alien. But such attitudes are unchristian. They have no place among Jesus' disciples, as He teaches us today by touching a leper with affection and healing him with compassion. We must open our hearts and minds to those outside the pale of society if we are going to truly follow Jesus.

"If you wish, you can make me clean," the leper says to Jesus. The leper's request is a challenge to each one of us, as well. We can transform our lives and world in the goodness of God - if we "wish." We can perform our own miracles of healing and reconciliation, we can restore to health and community those society considers "lepers," we can be vehicles of God's grace to the broken-hearted, the lost, the despairing - if we choose to embrace the compassion of Jesus Christ the Healer and Reconciler who promises us the grace to be imitators of his compassion and forgiveness whenever we are ready to take the first step in healing the wounds and cleaning the "leprosy" that isolate us from others.

DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO FOR LENT?

Are you wondering what you should do different for this Lent? Joining the small groups is the answer. But some may wonder, what's the point of joining a small group? In fact a pastor was asked this question. He gave many reasons, but at the end he said: *"But what I feel is one of the most important reasons to join a small group is time. Time is a limited commodity and, frankly, most of us use it badly. We commit to things that are temporal and will pass away, and waste so much of our precious energy growing in everything except love and knowledge of Christ. We unintentionally teach our kids that Church comes after sports and social obligations, and then we are surprised when they grow up and live the lesson we taught. By committing to a small group and being faithful to that obligation, you are declaring to yourself, your schedule and all who know you that you have faith as a priority in your life. A declaration like that will always bear good fruit."*

So, what do you think? We already have eight groups beginning this week. Is it too late for you to join? NO! You are most welcome to join, or at least to give a try. Just contact France at the Parish Office.

Parish and Community News

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK & WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

This week's observances of **National Marriage Week (Feb. 7-14)** and **World Marriage Day (Sunday, Feb. 11)** are an opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. This annual event invites us all to join with other churches and organizations to bring attention to the value of marriage and to the many resources available to help couples succeed in developing healthy, enduring relationships. As members of the human family, let us continually pray for all of our married couples and for the strengthening and protection of marriage. **Honor your marriage by following these simple tips to celebrate National Marriage Week!**

1. Hug you spouse often...it helps relieve stress.
2. During the week call your spouse and say "I love you".
3. Take out your wedding pictures and share a memory with family and friends
4. Bring a gift to your spouse for no reason.
5. Fix his or her favorite meal this week.
6. Share your love for each other with your children one evening.
7. Ask your spouse for a date this week.
8. Tell each other how much your marriage means to you.
9. Share the joys and sacrifices that have made your marriage lasting with engaged couples!
10. Visit our website at <https://www.nationalmarriageweekusa.org/> for more information!

TODAY IS WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

February 11 is World Day of the Sick, an observation started by St. John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses. The Pope initiated the day in 1992 to encourage people to pray not only for those who suffer from illness but also for their caregivers. The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes. People around the world take the time to pray for the sick and for those who work very hard to alleviate the sufferings of the sick on this day in a very special way. Offer special prayers for a sick person you know personally. And why not consider a visit to that person?

GOD HEALS AND THE DOCTOR TAKES THE FEES!

Professor Henry Mitchell wrote about a time when his wife was recovering from a critical illness. He approached the doctor to thank him for his attentiveness and care for his wife Ella. The doctor's response amazed him. The doctor said, "First of all, give God the praise. Then thank the people for their fervent prayers. Then maybe I come in somewhere on down the line." Henry Mitchell thought this was unusual modesty, and maybe even undue modesty, to which the doctor replied that he was just being honest. "You see," he said, "we doctors don't ever heal anybody. We may be effective in removing obstacles to healing, such as infections, but the actual healing process is not ours to control." And that is true. As Mark Twain once said, "God heals; the doctor collects the fee." We do not understand the ways of God. Why are some people healed and others are not? We don't know. Truly, only God knows. Today's Gospel describes how Jesus heals a leper.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals."

Johnny had been misbehaving and was sent to his room. After a while he emerged and informed his mother that he had thought it over and then said a prayer. "Fine", said the pleased mother. "If you ask God to help you not misbehave, He will help you." "Oh, I didn't ask Him to help me not misbehave," said Johnny. "I asked Him to help you put up with me."

WEEKLY COLLECTION

February 4, 2018

77 Donors Weekly.....\$4,315.00
42 Yellow Brick Road\$1,211.00
1 Catholic Education\$10.00

February 5, 2017

87 Donors Weekly \$4,804.00
49 Yellow Brick Road \$1,533.00
1 Catholic Education..... \$25.00



Stewardship

A Way of Life



STORE CARDS

Thanks to the **26 families** who purchased **\$3,625.00** in grocery and store cards the last two weeks. The stores gave us **\$182.00**.

Happy Valentine's Day

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Tues., Feb. 13 A. Sawczuk
Wed., Feb. 14 S. Griffin
Wed., Feb. 21 C. Behrens

Store Cards

February 10 and 11

5:30 p.m. L. Livoti
8:00 a.m. J. Klawunn
10:30 a.m. D. Hunt

February 17 and 18

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

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of Feb. 11 L. Livoti
Week of Feb. 18 M. Cangelosi

Church Center Cleaning

February 15 Team C
February 22 Team D

Altar Flowers

February 10 Kristen Heimall

Counting

Feb. 12 Malone/Bauernfiend
Feb. 19 Kucharski/McCabe

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