



# The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

www.ccsjn.org

March 11, 2018

Volume 36 Number 10



## Mission Statement

**Catholic Community of St. John Neumann**

*FOUNDED on the teachings of Jesus Christ,  
NOURISHED by the hospitality of the Califon Christian  
Communities,*

*FORMED with a commitment to Social Ministry, and  
STRENGTHENED by the Holy Spirit*

*The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann is  
a jubilant people on a continuing spiritual journey of hope:  
TO CELEBRATE and DEEPEN our faith  
TO SHARE our unique gifts, talents and treasures  
TO CHERISH all life  
TO LIVE in openness, acceptance and love.*

## Annual Parish Goal

*We, as ministers, will foster  
an inviting and spiritual Catholic community for all,  
especially to those away from the Church,  
by growing in and witnessing to our faith in the mercy of God.*

## *A Christian Community of the Catholic Tradition*

Diocese of Metuchen

Most Rev. James F. Checchio,  
JCD, MBA  
Bishop of Metuchen

Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, DD  
Bishop Emeritus  
www.diometuchen.org

## *Our Parish*

Rev. Abraham Orapankal, PhD .....  
..... Pastor  
Rev. J William Mickiewicz .....  
..... Founding Pastor Emeritus  
Earl Roberts ..... Deacon  
Mary Cangelosi ..... Trustee  
Fred Heimall ..... Trustee

## *Mailing Address:*

PO Box 455  
Califon, NJ 07830

## *Office Center:*

398 County Route 513  
Califon, NJ  
908-832-2513  
908-832-7618 fax  
www.ccsjn.org

## *Worshipping at:*

398 County Road 513  
(Church Center)

Saturday Vigil Mass ..... 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday ..... 8:00 a.m.  
Sunday ..... 10:30 a.m.  
First Friday Holy Hour ..... 7:00 p.m.

## *Worshipping at:*

390 County Road 513  
(Neumann Residence)

\*Check the bulletin for any changes\*

## **Weekday Masses:**

Tuesday ..... 8:00 a.m.  
Friday ..... 7:00 a.m.

## *Reconciliation:*

Saturday ..... 5:00 p.m.  
Or anytime by appointment.

# This Week at Saint John's

## Mass Intentions

### Tuesday, March 13

8:00 a.m. No Mass

### Friday, March 16

7:00 a.m. NO MASS

### Saturday, March 17

5:30 p.m. Thomas Regan, req.

Kathleen Arat

### Sunday, March 11

8:00 a.m. Frank Panek, req.

St. John Neumann Church

10:30 a.m. Marie Colabella, req.

Porto Family



## Parish Calendar

### Sunday, March 11 - 4th Sunday of Lent / Daylight Savings

#### Time Begins

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

9:00 a.m. Volunteer Appreciation Coffee (Narthex)

9:00 a.m. Small Group (Seton Room)

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

11:30 a.m. Volunteer Appreciation Coffee (Narthex)

### Monday, March 12 - Lenten Weekday

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

6:00 p.m. Family Faith Formation (Church and Office Centers)

7:00 p.m. Small Group (Drexel Room)

### Tuesday, March 13 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)

11:00 a.m. Small Group (Church Center Loft)

7:00 p.m. Small Group (Neumann Residence)

7:00 p.m. Budget Meeting (Drexel Room)

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

7:00 p.m. Teen Outreach (ICS, Annandale)

7:30 p.m. Stewardship Meeting (Seton Room)

### Wednesday, March 14 - Lenten Weekday

10:30 a.m. Small Group (Narthex)

6:00 p.m. Small Group (Office Center Kitchen)

6:00 p.m. Small Group (Drexel Room)

7:00 p.m. Community Reconciliation followed by Individual Confessions (Church Center & Reconciliation Room)

7:00 p.m. R.C.I.A. Reconciliation then Meet (Upper Room)

### Thursday, March 15 - Lenten Weekday

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

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

7:30 p.m. Small Group (Upper Room)

## Mass Schedule - March 17/18

### Saturday

5:30 p.m.

Celebrant .....Fr. Thomas Connery

Reader ..... Needed

Altar Server ..... Lowary Family

Ministers of the Eucharist..... Donna Lance

..... Jim Oelkers, 1 Needed

### Sunday

8:00 a.m.

Celebrant .....Fr. Thomas Connery

Reader ..... Anita Sawczuk

Altar Server ..... Kennedy Family

Ministers of the Eucharist..... Debbie Kelemen

..... Gail Battell, Dorothy Sima

### Sunday

10:30 a.m.

Celebrant .....Fr. Thomas Connery

Reader ..... MacNamara

Altar Server ..... Souza Family

Music Eucharistic Minister ..... Marlene Milko

Ministers of the Eucharist..... Gloria Cucchiara, Mary D'Avella

.....Anthony DeStefano, Donna Torczon, JaneAlbert

### Friday, March 16 - Lenten Weekday

7:00 a.m. NO MASS

6:00 p.m. Soup Supper (Church Center)

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross (Church Center)

### Saturday, March 17 - Saint Patrick, Bishop

12:30 p.m. Private Ceremony (Church Center)

5:30 p.m. Mass (Church)

### Sunday, March 18 - 5th Sunday of Lent / Diocesan Clergy

#### Retirement Collection

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

9:00 a.m. Small Group (Seton Room)

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

10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word (Narthex)

11:30 a.m. Discover St. John's (Office Center)

6:00 p.m. Jr. High Faith Formation (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: **Charlie Olsson, Helen Boybo, Bill Hackett, Grady Gordon, Gladys Angeline, and Roy**

**Deceased: Charlie Olsson**, uncle of Joann Fabiano, **Helen Boybo**, grandmother of Sheena Carew, **Bill Hackett**, friend of the Janks/Angeline family, **Grady Gordon**, good friend of the Donovans, **Gladys Angeline**, aunt of Sharon Janks, and **Roy Rittman**. 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,

In the name of all of you, I am very happy to welcome our dear Bishop Checchio to our Parish Community. His desire to preside at our 10:30 Mass this Sunday is another sign of his pastoral outreach to be in touch with all the parishioners of the Diocese as its Chief Shepherd.

Though today is "Laetare Sunday" (Rejoice Sunday), one could argue that the past week's weather did not give us much to rejoice about. The vast majority of us had to suffer lots of inconveniences due to the prolonged power outage and another storm that followed it. Such an experience helps us all the more to appreciate the relevance of this Rejoice Sunday: the love God has for us is stronger than any trials, hardships, or sufferings we endure because God's love is constant while all the rest is temporary. That itself is cause for joy. Yes, let us rejoice, as the first word in the introductory antiphon for today's Liturgy, (based on the words of Isaiah 66:10) reminds us.

Today's gospel gives us further reason to rejoice. John 3:16 is probably the best loved verse in the Bible and it has been called "everybody's text" and the "Gospel of the Gospels." *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."* This is the summary of the Gospel message of salvation through Christ Jesus. This text is the very essence of the Gospel. It is certainly good news that God loved the world so much! It tells us that the initiative in all salvation is God's love for us. As St. Augustine puts it: "God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us to love." It also explains to us the universality of the love of God. After the great flood, God made the covenant not only with us humans, but also with the earth and all living creatures (see Genesis 9:8-15). This is why we Catholics consider the world as good; the earth is good. Let us rejoice and do everything in our power to preserve this goodness within us and radiate it to the world around us.

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. (March 16th and March 23rd) 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.

### ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR RETIRED PRIESTS

The second collection next weekend is for the Fund for our Retired Diocesan Priests. This collection is exclusively for the benefit of our 26 retired priests, which includes our own Fr. Bill, as well as for our active priests upon their retirement. May your generosity to this collection reflect your gratitude and love for our retired priests who have been dedicated and faithful to their priesthood over the years. Let's not forget.

### WHY CONFESSION? WEDNESDAY MARCH 14TH 7PM

Penance, aka confession, is the sacrament of the forgiveness of sin. You can't beat it for convenience. It's available practically whenever. Tell a priest you want to go to confession and you'll get his attention. One bishop I know was cornered on an airplane. Another passenger figured out what was going on and asked if he could confess too. It must have been an interesting game of musical seats. An interesting question for priests might be: Where was the strangest place you ever administered the sacrament of penance? The answers I've gathered include "in a sports bar, at a graduation party" and "on the golf course, walking up the fairway." Confession has benefits. Here are two:

1. Confidentiality guaranteed. There's nothing like confessing your sins to someone guaranteed not to tell anyone else. Sometimes you need to talk in absolute confidence. Even under subpoena, a priest can't tell anyone what's said to him in confession. He can't even hint at it. Now that's confidentiality.

2. Housekeeping for the soul. It feels good to be able to start a clean life all over again. Like going into a sparkling living room in your home, it's nice when clutter is removed – even if it's your own.

### 4th SUNDAY OF LENT

March 11, 2018

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..."* John 3:16

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we are grateful and generous with our God-given gifts. That we nurture and devel-

### DAILY LENT JOURNEY

Sign up at <http://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever/> for daily three minute videos to help you explore your faith and your discipleship.

### NEW AT ST. JOHN'S?

If you are new at St. John's, see one of our greeters at Mass to receive a small information packet to introduce you to the parish. Contact France Kennedy at 908-307-7879 to register at the parish.



### Parish Contact Information

**Office Center ..... 908-832-2513**

Fax ..... 908-832-7618

Email ..... [sjn@ccsjn.org](mailto:sjn@ccsjn.org)

Rev. Abraham Orapankal ..... Pastor

Email ..... [abraham@ccsjn.org](mailto:abraham@ccsjn.org)

Earl Roberts ..... Deacon

Email ..... [earlr1@verizon.net](mailto:earlr1@verizon.net)

Sharon Janks ..... Pastoral Administrator

Email ..... [sjanks@ccsjn.org](mailto:sjanks@ccsjn.org)

France Kennedy ..... Pastoral Associate

Email ..... [fkennedy@ccsjn.org](mailto:fkennedy@ccsjn.org)

Susanne Erz ..... Financial Administrator

Email ..... [serz@ccsjn.org](mailto:serz@ccsjn.org)

Wayne Infusino ..... Maintenance

**Religious Education ..... 908-832-2162**

Renee Ciszewski ..... Director of Religious Education

Email ..... [renee@ccsjn.org](mailto:renee@ccsjn.org)

Jo Ann Jarvis ..... Office of Catechesis

Email ..... [jjarvis@ccsjn.org](mailto:jjarvis@ccsjn.org)

Social Ministry ..... [socialministry@ccsjn.org](mailto:socialministry@ccsjn.org)

Project Earth Garden... [projectearth@ccsjn.org](mailto:projectearth@ccsjn.org)

Bulletin..... [bulletin@ccsjn.org](mailto:bulletin@ccsjn.org)

Youth Ministry..... [sjnygroup@gmail.com](mailto:sjnygroup@gmail.com)

# Christian Formation

## 1ST EUCHARIST CLASSES

**Saturday, March 24, 3:30 p.m.**



The next First Eucharist session will be held on Saturday, March 24, at 3:30 p.m. in the Church Center.

## TEEN OUTREACH

**"Because I'm Worth It"**

**Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.**

Each Confirmation Candidate in CP III, along with a parent, will be attending "Because I'm Worth It," a Teen Outreach event on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., at Immaculate Conception School in Annandale. Speaker, Pam Stenzel, will cover the topic of chastity in her captivating and inspiring talk for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and up. Please arrive early to check in with Renee Ciszewski and to be seated with the rest of St. John's Confirmandi.

**For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45**



Thank you to all the families that prepared soup and food to enjoy before reciting the stations on Friday evening.

It was wonderful to see our young people participating as servers and readers for the Lenten stations of the Cross. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their faith journey in preparation for Confirmation.

## PARENTING TUNE-UP

March 9-10 was the National Day of Unplugging <https://www.nationaldayofunplugging.com/> from our devices (TV, Cell phones, computers...) Maybe you were not aware of it. But you can still challenge yourself and your children to go 24 hours without media. What will you do instead? What will you learn?

## MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

Do you ever get stuck in an argument? Of course we know that there are two sides to every argument but practicing this truism can be difficult. Next time you reach an impasse discipline yourselves to try to state each other's side as neutrally as you can.

## ADULTS INVITED TO GIFT SESSIONS WITH FR. ABRAHAM



Each month during the Adult segment of the GIFT program, Fr. Abraham gives a presentation on a topic of interest. Recently he reflected on *Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)* – the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis. It was well attended and well appreciated as it gave a greater understanding of the efforts of Pope Francis to bring about Pastoral changes for the good for the whole church.

The next session will focus on the Catholic Social Teaching which is known as the "best kept secret" of the Catholic Church! We will have a discussion of:

**The Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching. These are:**

- Life and Dignity of the Human Person. ...
- Call to Family, Community, and Participation
- Rights and Responsibilities. ...
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable. ...
- The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers. ...
- Solidarity. ...
- Care for God's Creation.

As our Parish is on the forefront of Social Ministry and outreach to the less fortunate, please consider joining this session which, as usual, will be interesting and engaging. Please contact Renee Ciszewski [renee@ccsjn.org](mailto:renee@ccsjn.org) with any questions.

## LENTEN RICE BOWLS FOR CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES



Join our parish community—and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Throughout Lent we will pray, fast, learn and give as a way to reach out in solidarity with our brothers and sisters

around the world. Prayerfully consider participating in this Lenten program – 25% of your giving goes to help needy families in our diocese and 75% goes to Catholic Relief Services' developmental projects around the world such as agricultural, water, education and microfinance projects that help families to support themselves. Rice Bowl packets will be available in the Narthex. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more.

## Social Ministry

### IT IS TIME AGAIN TO THINK ABOUT OUR EASTER FOOD DRIVE

Please save the following dates: Food pack up at church March 23, 2018 after Soup & Stations 7:40pm and Food delivery will take place on March 24, 2018 at 8am. Donations must be in no later than March 21, 2018. Items required: 9 Large Hams and 19 Small Hams/Cornish Hens, Juice, Coffee, Tissues, Rice, Small Cooking Oil, Apple Sauce/Fruit, Dish Soap, Paper Towels, Hand Soap. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any members of the Social Ministry or send an email to [socialministry@ccsjn.org](mailto:socialministry@ccsjn.org). Thank you for your continuing generosity.

### THE SPRING GIVING TREE

We are looking for volunteers to operate our Spring Giving Tree this year. The tree will be set-up for Easter weekend. We typically support three agencies, which you will contact and then make a list of items required, make tags, hang on the tree, sort, pack and then deliver the items to the agencies. There are plenty of people who can offer you guidance and we also have many notes available from past drives. If you are interested to take on the Giving Tree Project or just a part of it e.g. delivering the donated items, helping sort out or contacting the agencies, please contact Social Ministry at [socialministry@ccsjn.org](mailto:socialministry@ccsjn.org)

## THE MOST FAMOUS QUOTE FROM THE BIBLE!

A number of years ago, these two verses, John 3:16 and John 3:17, took on extra-special meaning for many Bible readers. You may recall the episode. It involved our astronaut program. Space engineers were designing space suits for the command module pilot and the lunar module pilot. A part of the design of each space suit was an umbilical cord, consisting of a long flexible tubing. The purpose of the umbilical cord was to supply oxygen to the astronauts when they "walked" in space or passed from one module to another. The suit receptacle into which the command pilot's cord fit was called J 3:16. Designer Frank Denton said he named the two suit receptacles after the two gospel passages: John 3:16 and John 3:17. Just as J 3:16 and J 3:17 supply the astronauts with what they need to survive in their journey from one module to another, so John 3:16 and John 3:17 supply us with what we need to survive in our journey from earth to heaven.

## **LIVE LENT!**

If you are interested in what the small groups are like – here is a cheat: grab a LIVE LENT book from the Narthex ( \$10) use the book for your own Lenten Journey. The small groups use the Sunday scripture, writings and reflection prompts for our group discussions. If you have any questions contact France at the office.

## NICODEMUS IN ART

One of Rembrandt's most famous etchings portrays the scene. The limp, dead body of Jesus was slowly taken down from the cross. Joseph of Arimathea, dressed as the person that he was, in all his finery, stands close by. In the darkness, further away, veiled in shadow as only Rembrandt could do it, with his face lined in sorrow, is Nicodemus. He is holding in his hands the linen cloth in which Jesus' body would be buried. The Gospel says that Nicodemus also brought with him a mixture of spices, myrrh and aloes, "about a hundred pounds". One wonders what Nicodemus must have been thinking as he stood there, waiting for the body of Christ to be taken down from the cross. Obviously, much was going on in his life -- this wealthy man, bringing fine linen and a bountiful amount of expensive spices to anoint the body of one who had died as a common criminal. Was he still mystified as he had been when Jesus told him that he must be born again? Was he still puzzled by the response of Jesus when he pressed his question about how one could be born again? Jesus' answer had been totally unsatisfying for his rational mind: "The Spirit blows where it wills -- you feel it, and you hear the sound of it -- but you don't know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

## NEW JOY IN PRAYING AS A FAMILY!

Mother Teresa was interviewed on American television a few years ago. She said, "It is very, very important, that the families teach their children to pray and pray with them." Then she added, "And we have enough reason to trust God, because when we look at the cross, we understand how much Jesus loved us. It is wonderful to be able to come to Jesus! That's why God made Him – to be our bread of life, to give us life! And with His life comes new life! New energy! New peace! New joy! New everything! And I think that's what brings glory to God, also, and it brings peace." Then she said, "I've seen families suffer so much, and when they've been brought to Jesus, it changes their whole lives." I have also seen lives changed by the power of the cross. Have you? ***Today's Gospel gives a parallel between the bronze serpent erected by Moses to heal the Israelites bitten by snakes and Jesus raised on the cross to save mankind.***



**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](http://www.ccsjn.org)**

## BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

### *Lighting a Fire in the Heart of Our World*

To date, the Development Office has received pledges and payments totaling \$18,991 from 56 parishioners. This represents 50% of our \$38,000 goal.



### **Don't forget to use our Amazon Link**

Whenever ordering from Amazon. Go to our website [ccsjn.org](http://ccsjn.org) and click on the button on the front page.

Or go to <http://tinyurl.com/lx7c83s>

## WILLIE LYNCH BAND

*Friday, April 20th, 7pm*

Tickets will go on sale starting this weekend for The Willie Lynch Band.



## PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND, ISRAEL & JORDAN

**11 DAYS, NOV 6-16, 2018.**

Walk in the footsteps of Jesus, Moses, Mary & The Apostles. Daily Mass, FR ABRAHAM ORAPANKAL, Tour Chaplain. \$3360. Includes RT Airfare from Newark Intl, Daily Breakfast/Dinner, Top Hotels, Guided Tours, Tips to Driver, Guides, Servers, Porters, etc. **JULIET BANAAG-HOBSON 732-439-2835.**

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Joseph Angeline  
George Bernard  
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  
Eleanor Horan  
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  
Carmen Ruscetta  
Anne Sacco  
Richard Sepe  
Noah Skinner  
Michael Slivka  
Dick Slusher  
Nicholas Troiano  
Don Velli  
William Weimer  
Josh Wilkes  
Dana & Greg 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 REFLECTION: Nicodemus learns how to be born again

Nicodemus, the wealthy Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin, meets Jesus by night and begins a long religious discussion. But Jesus interrupts him, stating that he had to be reborn. This confused him totally. How can a person be reborn from his mother again! Jesus clarified that he meant rebirth by water and the Spirit as an essential condition for entering the Kingdom of God. Jesus explains to him that Nicodemus must believe Jesus' words because he is the Son of God. Jesus further explains God's plan of salvation by referring to the story of Moses and the brazen serpent. He also reveals the Good News that God will show His love for mankind by subjecting His own Son to suffering and death.

One rainy Sunday afternoon, a little boy was bored and his father was sleepy. The father decided to create an activity to keep the kid busy. So, he found in the morning newspaper a large map of the world. He took scissors and cut it into a good many irregular shapes like a jigsaw puzzle. Then he said to his son, "See if you can put this puzzle together. And don't disturb me until you're finished." He turned over on the couch, thinking this would occupy the boy for at least an hour. To his amazement, the boy was tapping his shoulder ten minutes later telling him that the job was done. The father saw that every piece of the map had been fitted together perfectly. "How did you do that?" he asked. "It was easy, Dad. There was a picture of a man on the other side. When I put him together right, the world was right."

***A person's world can never be right until he or she is right, and that requires the miracle of new birth. Don't you dare stop asking God for the experience of new birth until you can shout from the housetops, "Through Jesus Christ, God has fundamentally changed my life!" This is what Nicodemus had to learn from Jesus.***

The renewal of the Spirit comes when we work with Him to be liberated from the bondage of evil habits by using the Divine strength we receive through prayer, Bible reading and frequenting the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.



## ST JOHN'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Join the fun at our Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, April 9 after the 10:30 Mass! There will be 'hidden' Eggs for ages 1 – 10. Bring your baskets if you have them – but we will have bags available if you forget. Be prepared for weather - dress for outside temperature and wet grass! We have separate hunting grounds to accommodate the ages. Thank you to the members of the High School Youth Group for hosting this for St. John's younger parishioners!

## PARISH WEBSITE

What do you think of the parish website? Have you used it? Has it been helpful? What is your impression of it? If you are at all interested in our parish website we would love to get your feedback or input. If you are graphically gifted or want to help the parish reach out to others consider joining the Technology Team which manages the website. We are open to new ideas and feedback for improvements. Contact the office if you would like to help: 832-2513 / [sjn@ccsjn.org](mailto:sjn@ccsjn.org).



## SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



A customer was really hassling an airline agent at the ticket counter, yelling and using foul language. However, the agent was polite, pleasant and smiled while the customer continued to abuse her. When the man finally left, the next person in line said to the agent, "Does that happen often? I can't believe how nice you were to him." The agent smiled and said, No problem, I took care of it. He's going to Detroit. His bags are going to Bangkok.

When my son Gavin was four years old he loved to "play" piano. Once he was done, we forgot to close the lid to the keys. As we walked by later, he said, "I better close the piano, or the boogeyman will play some scary songs!"

# Parish and Community News

## 2018 BEREAVEMENT GROUP TO MEET AT ST. JOHN'S

There will be a series of interrelated bereavement seminars at St. John Neumann beginning March 20th. John Cole, transition professional, will facilitate the sessions. This short-term program has been highly rated as helpful by past participants. The conversations will take us from understanding loss and normal reactions to steps, guided by faith, towards acceptance and the recreation of hopeful lives. While a primary focus is the death of a significant other, those who have experienced severe loss because of divorce, separation, or other substantial life altering events are welcomed. All sessions are on Tuesdays and start at 7 p.m. The dates of the seminars will be March 20, 27; April 10, 17; May 1, 8. Please note that each session builds on the prior one. Attendance at all six session would be best to derive optimal benefit. All sessions are in the upper floor of the parish office building, unless participant mobility issues arise.

Registration can be made by calling the Parish Office 908-832-2513 before March 19th. If anyone has any questions about the seminars or participation, please call John Cole directly at 908-399-4234. This series is open to individuals from all faiths and religious communities. If you are aware of anyone who may benefit from attendance, no matter their affiliation, please suggest that he or she call the Office or John.

## A SHORT STORY THAT MAKES US WONDER!

"Today, as my father, three brothers, and two sisters stood around my mother's hospital bed, my mother uttered her last coherent words before she died. She simply said, "I feel so loved right now. We should have gotten together like this more often."



## AUCTION NEWS

Planning started with a productive meeting; watch the bulletin for future meeting announcements...all are welcome to attend! We have prizes trickling in (Beaver Brook foursome with cart!), but soliciting is our greatest challenge right now. Can you take a small territory and help out? Please! Contact the office or Steve Bauernfeind ([fugitivesteve@hotmail.com](mailto:fugitivesteve@hotmail.com)) if you can visit local merchants or make calls. Let Father Abraham know if you would like to solicit or join our co-chair – step in for the fun of it!!!

### 2018 EASTER & HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- Wed. Mar. 14 - 7:00pm Community Reconciliation followed by Individual Confessions (Church Center)
- Sat. Mar. 24 - **Blessing of Palms** Procession (Portico)  
5:30pm Mass - Palm Distribution (Church Center)
- Sun. Mar. 25 - **Passion/Palm Sunday**  
8:00am Mass - Palm Distribution (Church Center)  
10:30am Mass - Palm Distribution (Church Center)
- Mon. Mar. 26 - 7:30pm Chrism Mass (Cathedral-Metuchen)
- Tues. Mar. 27 - 8:00am Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
- SACRED TRIDUUM**
- Thurs. Mar. 29 - **Holy Thursday**  
8:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (Church Center)  
9:30pm-12:00am **"Keeping Watch"** (Seton Room)
- Fri. Mar. 30 - **Good Friday** Passion and Death of the Lord  
1:00pm Living Stations of the Cross (Grounds)  
8:00pm Service (Church Center)
- Sat. Mar. 31 - **Holy Saturday - NO 5:30pm MASS**  
8:00pm Easter Vigil and Mass - (Church Center)
- Sun. April 1 - **Easter Sunday**  
8:00am Mass (Church Center)  
10:30am Mass (Church Center)



**COUNTDOWN TO  
CHRISTMAS!  
ONLY 283 DAYS TO  
OUR CHRISTMAS  
DECORATING PARTY!  
WE NEED YOUR HELP!  
PLEASE MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!  
DECEMBER 18, 2018**



### STORE CARDS

Thanks to **14 families** who purchased the grocery and store cards last week. The total cards sold totaled **\$2,200.00**. The stores gave us



## NETWORKING BULLETIN BOARD

***Do you need help?  
Do you have a skill to offer?***

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

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

### **Office Angels**

Tues., March 13 A. Sawczuk  
Wed., March 14 S. Griffin

### **Store Cards**

#### **March 10 and 11**

5:30 p.m. L. Livoti  
8:00 a.m. V. Hoffart  
10:30 a.m. D. Royal

**Church Center Plant Watering**  
Week of March 11 C. Fortenbacker

### **Church Center Cleaning**

March 15 Team A  
March 22 Team B

### **Counting**

March 12 Malone/Baernfeind



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