



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, April 3

8:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Friday, April 6

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Saturday, April 7

5:30 p.m. Frank Thomas, req.
Kucharski Family

Sunday, April 8

8:00 a.m. Julia Durham, req.
Jim and Roni Durham

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



Parish Calendar

Sunday, April 1 - Easter Sunday of the the Resurrection of the Lord

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Mass with Bells (Church Center)

Monday, April 2 - Monday within Octave of Easter Office Closed

Tuesday, April 3 - Tuesday within Octave of Easter

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

Wednesday, April 4 - Wednesday within Octave of Easter

12:30 p.m. Staff Meeting (Drexel Room)

Thursday, April 5 - Thursday within Octave of Easter

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

Friday, April 6 - Friday within Octave of Easter

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
7:00 p.m. First Friday Holy Hour (Church Center)

Saturday, April 7 - Saturday within Octave of Easter

9:00 a.m. Spring Cleanup (Church & Office Center & Grounds)
5:30 p.m. Mass (Church Center)

Sunday, April 8 - Divine Mercy Sunday / Yellow Brick Road Collection / Spring Giving Tree Begins

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

Mass Schedule - April 7/8

Saturday	5:30 p.m.
Celebrant.....	Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader	David Geerinck
Altar Server	Geerinck/Torczon Family
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	Donna Torczon
.....	Jim Oelkers, Joan Eacovalle
Sunday	8:00 a.m.
Celebrant.....	Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader	Brent Herrig
Altar Server	Cucchiara Family
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	Gloria Cucchiara
.....	Gail Battell, Dorothy Sima
Sunday	10:30 a.m.
Celebrant.....	Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader	Gary Porto
Altar Server	Connery Family
Music Eucharistic Minister.....	Shirley Pojedinec
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	Mary D'Avella, Anita Sawczuk
.....	Bob Sobey, Patti Rittman, Ron Pojedinec

First Friday Holy Hour



April 6 - 7:00 pm
Church Center

WANT TO MAKE ST. JOHN'S YOUR HOME?

If you come to Mass but have never officially registered - we hope you consider finding out more. There are many events and opportunities you might be interested in and we would be happy to share with you more information about the parish so you feel at home. Contact France Kennedy on her cell 908-307-7879 for more information.

Remembered at Mass



We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharist: **Robert Cassidy, Charlie Olsson, Helen Boybo, and Bill Hackett.**

Deceased: Robert Cassidy, brother of Cookie DeVito, Charlie Olsson, uncle of Joann Fabiano, Helen Boybo, grandmother of Sheena Carew and Bill Hackett, friend of the Janks/Angeline family. May they find peace and comfort in the embrace of the Lord and may their families find strength in the Lord and comfort and support from family and friends.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK....

Dear Friends,

Should we say, "Lent is over, Alleluia!" or "He is Risen, Alleluia!"? We can truly be happy that our Lenten efforts can be celebrated with Easter, the most important feast of Christians. Easter brings so many promises of God to us: life is stronger than death, love can overcome hate, goodness ultimately triumphs over evil, and eternal glory with God in Heaven is our destiny.

The historical evidence for Jesus of Nazareth is both long-established and widespread. Besides the personal testimony of many in the New Testament, Jesus is mentioned by Jewish and Roman historians, as well as by dozens of Christian writings. These establish the historicity of Jesus beyond doubt. Compare that with, for example, King Arthur, who supposedly lived around AD500. The major historical source for events of that time does not even mention Arthur, and he is first referred to 300 or 400 years after he is supposed to have lived. The evidence for Jesus is not limited to later folklore, as are accounts of Arthur. Hence any challenge to the reality of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is not entertained in educated circles.

But the resurrection of Jesus from the dead is not simply a fact of history to be retold at Easter. The retelling we had these past days of the Holy Week is meant to remind us that this happy mystery is to be lived everyday. We congratulate our parishioners who received the Easter Sacraments during the Vigil Service. Their joyful expectation bore fruit as they are now full-fledged members of our parish community. Their joy is reminiscent of the joy of the disciples and early Christians who realized that Jesus was alive and well!

Like the first disciples, we too know that Jesus is not found among the dead but among the living. He lives among us whenever we gather in His name: not only when we celebrate the Eucharist or for Lenten faith sharing groups, but also when we come together for every association or ministry meeting and whenever we organize any parish event or activity. He is present in our homes when we gather as a family not only for meals or prayer, but also for any family event. When we reach out to the less fortunate and help people in need, it is the hand of Jesus that we lift up. In these and many other ways, we give witness to the mystery of Jesus living among us. Indeed, we become the Body of Christ for the world.

Let us experience more of that Easter Joy! Easter Blessings to you and to your dear ones! Yes, we are an Easter People!

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



EASTER SUNDAY

April 1, 2018

"Think of what is above, not of what is on earth."
COLOSSIANS 3:2

On this day we thank God for His Son, Jesus, who died and rose for us. We celebrate and sing "Alleluia." Let's try to keep the joy of this Easter season in our hearts throughout the year! Pray daily and listen for how He is calling each of us to joyfully use our gifts to fulfill His salvation plan.

SMALL GROUP

CONCLUDING CELEBRATION

April 11 - 7pm Church Center

Everyone is invited for a BIG "Small Group" Concluding Session and Celebration! On Wednesday April 11, we have prepared an interesting conclusion to the Lent Small Groups to be led by Father Abraham including abbreviated small group discussions. Even if you have not participated in a small group you are welcome to this general session. Anyone who enjoys sharing food, you are welcome to donate to our refreshments for socializing.



BAPTISM

If you have a child you want to baptize before August contact France Kennedy at 908-832-2513 to register for our Baptism Preparation Program in April.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR SPRING CLEANUP

WE NEED YOUR HELP - April 7th, 9am to 3pm

Each year the Property Management Committee puts together a list of tasks that need doing but we just can't get to throughout the year. We are here from 9 to 3 but if you can spare just an hour or two there are many jobs to be done. We will provide lunch. Please sign up in the Narthex if you can make it, or just show up. If you have any questions call or email Sharon 908-832-2513 or sjanks@ccsjn.org.

THE EASTER SACRAMENTS

This Easter we celebrate with Jennifer Anderson, Chris Sepe, Shannon Heimall, Michelle Regan, Tanya Schineller and Michelle Snyder all receiving the Easter Sacraments. The process of becoming full members in the Catholic Faith has been a wonderful time of learning, sharing and opening themselves up to the Holy Spirit's guidance in their lives. Our prayers are with them as they join us in fully living the joy of the Resurrection.



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 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

Susanne Erz Financial Administrator

Email serz@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

Sat., April 14, 2:30 p.m.



The next First Eucharist session will be held on Saturday, April 14, at 2:30 p.m. in the Church Center. Please note this class will start one hour earlier than previous sessions.

LENTEN RICE BOWLS FOR CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES



Thanks to all who participated in CRS Rice Bowl this Lent to benefit Catholic Relief Services. You may leave your Rice Bowl boxes or checks in the CRS Rice Bowl donation box in the narthex or drop off at the Office Center anytime now through Easter. Thank you!

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.

Social Ministry & Parish News

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

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.**

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

Lent is ending today with Easter and we should all be looking for ways to “pay it forward.” An easy way to do this, either individually or as a family, would be to sign up to help homeless families in Hunterdon through the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Our next chance to assist Spruce Run Lutheran Church with this will be from April 1-8. Your help is needed in many different ways – supplying a meal, staying overnight, or just being present, whatever you are most comfortable with. It requires just a few hours of your time; there is no long term commitment, and a great way to help those less fortunate right here in Hunterdon County. Since this is Easter break for some, it might be a good opportunity for Scout groups or other service clubs to assist and earn community service hours.

To see when & how you can help, check out Sign Up Genius at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e054eafad22a20-family6>, or contact Debbie Hunt at dhuntfam1@comcast.net for further info.



GIFT OF GOOD LAND COMMUNITY GARDEN OPENING WEEKEND

As one nor'easter after another comes up the coast and the ground remains covered in a thick blanket of snow, it is hard to believe that planting time is almost here. God always keeps His promises and the earth will soon come alive again!

Signups for raised beds in the Community Garden will begin on the weekend of April 14-15. Application forms will be available in the Narthex and Anne will be there to answer questions. For more information contact Anne Germino at project-earth@ccsjn.org.



HOPE EVERYBUNNY HAD FUN AT THE EASTER EGG HUNT

Thank you to members of the Youth Group who prepared for the Parish Easter Egg Hunt. Mia Ranallo, Lauren Tabor, Dan Uss and Jess Brynildsen had fun stuffing eggs! We also so appreciate all the youth that were able to set up the day of the event. Hope everyone enjoyed the fun!

EASTER GIVES US HOPE AND ENCOURAGEMENT

In this world of pain, sorrows and tears, Easter reminds us that life is worth living. It is our belief in the Real Presence of the Risen Jesus in our souls, in His Church, in the Blessed Sacrament and in Heaven that gives meaning to our personal, as well as to our common, prayers. Our trust in the all-pervading presence of the Risen Lord gives us strength to fight against temptations and freedom from unnecessary worries and fears. The prayer of St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland, reads: "Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ within me, never to part."

HEALING PRAYER SERVICE – APRIL 26, 2018



Please join us for a Healing Prayer Service on Thursday, April 26th at 7:15 PM in the Church Center. At various times in our lives we all need the healing power of the Lord. Sometimes our malady is physical, or emotional, or spiritual. We will look to the *Word*, to *Song*, and to the *Laying on Of Hands* as we seek God's healing grace for ourselves and our loved ones. The service will be conducted by Deacon Ray Chimileski from the Paterson Diocese.

2018 SPRING BEREAVEMENT GROUP TO MEET AT ST. JOHN'S TUESDAY EVENINGS FROM APRIL 10 THROUGH MAY 22

There will be a series of interrelated bereavement seminars at St. John Neumann, Califon, NJ, beginning April 10th. 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 April 10, 17; May 1, 8, 15, and 22. Please note that each session builds on the prior one. Attendance at all six sessions 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 with France at the parish office by calling her at 908-832-2513 on or before April 6th. 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 France or John.

JESUS IS UNIQUE!

E.P. Sanders (Jewish NT scholar, professor at Duke): "On a spring morning in about the year 30 C.E., three men were executed by the Roman authorities in Judea. Two were 'brigands'... the third was executed as another type of political criminal. He had not robbed, pillaged, murdered, or even stored arms. He was convicted, however, of having claimed to be 'king of the Jews'—a political title. Those who looked on... doubtless thought that... the world would little note what happened that spring morning... it turned out, of course, that the third man, Jesus of Nazareth, would become one of the most important figures in human history." [*The Historical Figure of Jesus* (Penguin Books, 1995) 1.]

BELONGING - TIME AND TALENT RENEWAL

Being a member of a parish is not the same as belonging to a parish. Being a member is filling out a registration card. Belonging is being actively involved in the life and spirit of a community. We invite YOU to be BELONG.

We have a new "Every Member a Minister" Booklet that describes the many ministries and activities of the parish in which you can participate. Use this resource as an aid to help you discern how your talents are best utilized for others and the parish community. We ask that each adult complete the Stewardship Talent form and return to the basket in the Narthex. If you have any questions on areas of service, you can use the email for each specific service to get detailed information on individual activities and ministries. Youth are also welcome to respond with a volunteer form.

THANK YOU FOR THE SOUP!



Thank you for all those who made all of those delicious soups and served us during lent..

FINANCE OFFICE CHANGE

Welcome to Susanne Erz who has assumed the position of bookkeeper in our Finance Office. We are grateful to Kerri Caldaro who has served in this role for several years. Our prayers and best wishes are with her and her family and we hope to see them at future parish events. You can reach the Finance Office by contacting Susanne at serz@ccsjn.org.

CONGRATULATIONS ABELES AND CONNERY FAMILIES



The parish family celebrated two baptisms recently. On Feb 18, Dave and Kristen baptized Peter Auden Abeles the younger brother of Suzie and Teddy. On March 17, the youngest Connery, Griffin Patrick was baptized by his uncle Rev. Tom Connery. Griffin's siblings are Karlie, Juli, Elly, Molly, Madielyn, Hudson and Declan. The parish celebrates with these families. Their photos are in the narthex for you to recognize them, congratulate and bless them on their journey of sharing their faith with their children.

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

Easter is a celebration of sorrow turning into joy. A struggling marriage involves falling out of love that pains the spouses but a successful marriage blooms when the spouses are willing to fall in love many times – always with the same person! Celebrate Easter by falling in love with your partner and rekindle the joy of your wedding day!

PARENTING TUNE-UP

Ask your children the difference between the mood of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Show them the similarities to their own negative energy and moods when bad things happen and the positive and energizing joy when good things come later. Life is not a bed of roses. Sufferings can make them better and more mature.

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
 Spec. Bitters, Christian, 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
 Ensing, Webster, Justine, U.S. Navy

EASTER SUNDAY REFLECTION: Unlocking the Music!

*"You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here."
 Mark 16: 1-7*

He was a software engineer by profession - but music was his passion. An accomplished pianist, he composed marvelous pieces. He wrote his first song to impress a girl in his class. And she was impressed. They were 15. They married five years later and have been together 46 years. Then one day he sat down at the piano to play. He started a song, but stopped. How did it go? He couldn't remember. It happened again and again. It was the first sign that he had Alzheimer's disease. All those years, he never wrote or recorded any of his songs. Every note and phrase and chord progression were in his head. And soon it would be lost forever. Another piece of this husband and dad would be lost.

One day, his daughter confided to her best friend what was happening to her father. Her friend was an extraordinary musician and pianist: she possessed the rare gift of being able to hear a piece of music once and play it. She offered to work with her friend's father to reconstruct his music. After much prodding, the father agreed. Each time they met, he would play whatever notes he could remember and she would play them back; she would suggest various paths and would begin reconstructing the piece. She immediately understood his music - she found hints of themes, counter themes, harmonies and rhythms. She found his music beautiful - and worth saving.

For two years they worked together every other week. With the help of some of her musician friends, they recorded a CD of his music. She also convinced him to compose one last song. With her help, he composed a piece called "Melancholy Flower." The Oregon Repertory Singers included it in their 2016 Christmas concert. For the first time, one of his songs would be performed in public. Despite all that Alzheimer's had taken from him, the music of his soul would live on.

The compassion and dedication of a young musician helps preserve the music locked in the brain of its composer suffering from Alzheimer's. Her work is the work of Easter: to open tombs; to restore life to the lost, the despairing, the forgotten; to free the dead from the shackles of hopelessness. The empty tomb of Easter morning is God's vindication of his Son's life among us: that no tomb can contain the mercy and hope of God. May we be about the work of Easter: to unlock the music of God's peace in our lives that has for too long been entombed by fear, anger and hurt.

WANT TO MAKE ST. JOHN'S YOUR HOME?

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RETREAT TO THE SETON SHRINE

Saturday, April 28, 2018

Please join Saint Catherine of Siena Parish on a retreat to the Seton Shrine in Emmitsburg, MD on Saturday, April 28. We have an exciting day planned including a guided tour of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's Historic Homes and Cemetery. We will also tour the Basilica and attend mass with Father Chester as the celebrant. Cost is \$60 per person. For more information visit <https://setonshrine.org/> or contact Denise Botto at denisebotto@gmail.com or 908-996-6760.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



Rented for a weekend: Joseph of Arimathea was a very wealthy Pharisee, a member of the council, and a secret follower of Jesus. It was Joseph who went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body after the crucifixion. And it was Joseph who supplied the tomb for Jesus' burial. I wonder if someone pulled him aside and said, "Joseph that was such beautiful, costly, hand-hewn tomb. Why on earth did you give it to someone else to be buried in?" "Why not?" Joseph answered. "He only needed it for the weekend."

Commercials in the Church: A little girl was taken to the Church for the first time. As she was leaving with her parents, the pastor asked how she had liked the Mass. "I liked the music," she replied, "but the commercial was too long!"

Parish and Community News

WHY BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION?

If someone challenges you to prove the resurrection of Jesus, here are **TEN good answers:** (1) Jesus himself testified to his Resurrection from the dead (*Mark 8:31; Matthew 17:22; Luke 9:22*). (2) The tomb was empty on Easter Sunday (*Luke 24:3*). Although the guards claimed (*Matthew 28:13*) that the disciples of Jesus had stolen the body, every sensible Jew knew that it was impossible for the terrified disciples of Jesus to steal the body of Jesus from a tomb guarded by an armed, 16-member Temple Guard detachment. (3) The initial disbelief of Jesus' own disciples in His Resurrection, in spite of His repeated apparitions, serves as a strong proof of His Resurrection. Their initial disbelief explains why the Apostles started preaching the Risen Christ only after receiving the anointing of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. (4) The transformation of Jesus' disciples: Jesus' Resurrection and the anointing of the Holy Spirit transformed men who were hopeless and fearful after the crucifixion (*Luke 24:21, John 20:19*), into men who now were confident and bold witnesses to the Resurrection (*Acts 2:24, 3:15, 4:2*). (5) Neither the Jews nor the Romans could disprove Jesus' Resurrection by presenting the dead body of Jesus. (6) The Apostles and early Christians would not have faced martyrdom if they were not absolutely sure of Jesus' Resurrection. (7) The Apostle Paul's conversion from a persecutor of Christians to a zealous preacher of Jesus supports the truth of Jesus' Resurrection (*Galatians 1:11-17, Acts 9:1, Acts 9:24-25, Acts 26:15-18*). (8) The sheer existence of a thriving, empire-conquering early Christian Church, bravely facing and surviving three centuries of persecution, supports the truth of the Resurrection claim. (9) The New Testament witnesses do not bear the stamp of dupes or deceivers. The Apostles and the early Christians were absolutely sure about the Resurrection of Jesus. (10) If Jesus had not been raised bodily from the dead, Christianity would never have survived as a Messianic movement on a lie!

HE IS RISEN INDEED!

You probably do not remember the name Nikolai Ivanovich Bukharin. Many years ago, he was one of the most powerful men on earth. A Russian Communist leader, he took part in the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. He was the editor of the Soviet newspaper *Pravda* and was a full member of the Politburo. His works on economics and political science are still read today. There is a story told about a journey he took from Moscow to Kiev in 1930 to address a huge assembly of Communists. The subject was atheism. Addressing the crowd, he attacked Christianity, hurling insults and arguments against it. When he had finished, he looked out at the audience. "Are there any questions?" he demanded. Deafening silence filled the auditorium. Then one man stood up, approached the platform and mounted the lectern. After surveying the crowd, he shouted the ancient greeting of the Russian Orthodox Church: "CHRIST IS RISEN!" The crowd stood up and shouted in a thundering voice: "HE IS RISEN INDEED!" Amazed and dejected, Bukharin left the stage in silence. Finally, he had learned the lesson that Faith in Christ's Resurrection was deeply rooted in his Russian Orthodox Communist followers!

WILLIE LYNCH BAND

Friday, April 20th, 7pm

Tickets are now on sale in the Narthex for The Willie Lynch Band Event.

Doors open 6:30pm - Ceili Dance Lessons 7pm- Band starts at 8pm

Bring your own Food & Beverage. Water & Soft Drinks available for purchase.

Limited Reserve Tables available, \$20 Adult, Teens* \$10 Children 12 & under Free*

*accompanied by a parent or guardian

Call or Text Fred @ 908-229-5879 or Patti @ 732-371-9698 to Reserve Table or Tickets <http://www.ccsjn.org/Directions>

AUCTION NEWS

Mark your calendar, the 32nd Annual Auction/Dinner Dance will take place on Saturday, June 2nd. Our theme this year is Garden Party! Donations are coming in. Check out the list on the Auction Board in the Narthex. Next week there will be sign up sheets for ways you can help and forms to be filled out for donations. See the insert in today's bulletin for additional details.

Don't forget to use our



Amazon Link

Whenever ordering from Amazon. Go to our website ccsjn.org and click on the button on the front page.

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



COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS!
ONLY 261 DAYS TO OUR DECORATING PARTY!
WE NEED YOUR HELP!
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
DECEMBER 18, 2018

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Lighting a Fire in the Heart of Our World

To date, the Development Office has received pledges and payments totaling \$23,696 from 68 parishioners. This represents 62.4% of our \$38,000 goal.



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Wed., April 4 J. Santoro
Wed., April 11 C. Behrens

Store Cards

March 31 and April 1

5:30 p.m. C. Crescenti
8:00 a.m. P. Nanna
10:30 a.m. G. Cucchiara

April 7 and April 8

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

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of April 1 M. Cangelosi
Week of April 8 B. Sobey

Church Center Cleaning

April 5 Team D
April 12 Team E

Counting

April 4 Kucharski/Kosakowski
April 9 Malone/Bauernfiend

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