



The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

www.ccsjn.org / sjn@ccsjn.org

May 6, 2018

Volume 36 Number 18



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.

Diocese of Metuchen

Most Rev. James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA,

Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen

www.diometuchen.org

A Christian Community of the Catholic Tradition

Rev. Abraham Orapankal, PhD Pastor
Earl Roberts Deacon

Church and Office Center:

398 County Route 513, Califon
PO Box 455, Califon, NJ 07830
908-832-2513 Office
908-832-7618 Fax

Worship at 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.

Reconciliation: Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Or anytime by appointment

Weekday Masses at

Neumann Residence Chapel:

390 County Road 513

Tuesday 8:00 a.m.

Friday 7:00 a.m.

Holy Day Masses

Residence Chapel 7:00 a.m.

Church Center 7:00 p.m.

See Parish Calendar Inside for changes

Parish Contact Information

Office Center 908-832-2513

Fax 908-832-7618

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Project Earth projectearth@ccsjn.org

Bulletin bulletin@ccsjn.org

Youth Ministry sjnygroup@gmail.com

This Week at Saint John's

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, May 8

8:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Thursday, May 10

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

7:00 p.m. James DiLeo, req.

Tim Barrow

Friday, May 11

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Saturday, May 12

5:30 p.m. Joseph Sacco, req.

Betty Ihle

Sunday, May 13

8:00 a.m. Maria L. Sepe, req.

Sepe Family

10:30 a.m. Barbara Mason, req

Jim and Roni Durham

Parish Calendar

Sunday, May 6 - Sixth Sunday of Easter / Yellow Brick Road Collection

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

8:00 a.m. Family Faith Formation (Valley View)

10:30 a.m. Mass - May Crowning (Church Center)

6:00 p.m. Jr. High Formation (Church Center)

Monday, May 7 - Easter Weekday

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

Tuesday, May 8 - Easter Weekday

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

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga (Church Center Loft)

7:00 p.m. Bereavement Session (Upper Room)

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

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

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

Wednesday, May 9 - Easter Weekday

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (Drexel Room)

5:30 p.m. Yoga (Church Center Loft)

6:45 p.m. Tai Chi (Church Center Loft)

7:00 p.m. Social Ministry (Seton Room)

Thursday, May 10 - Ascension of the Lord (Obligation) Saint Damien de Veuster, Priest

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

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

7:00 p.m. Mass (Church Center)

Friday, May 11 - Easter Weekday

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

Mass Schedule - May 12/13

Saturday

5:30 p.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Reader Kathleen Swindler

Altar Server Confirmandi Altar Servers

Ministers of the Eucharist..... Bob Martalus

..... Lyle Garcia, Barbara Martalus

Sunday

8:00 a.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Reader Allan Piechowski

Altar Server Malone Family

Ministers of the Eucharist..... Sharon Janks

..... Gail Battell, Barbara Gates

Sunday

10:30 a.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Reader Julie Weldon

Altar Server Needed

Music Eucharistic Minister..... Ron Pojedinec

Ministers of the Eucharist..... Anita Sawczuk, Patti Rittman

..... Sheena Carew, Jim DeVito, Shirley Pojedinec

Saturday, May 12 - Saint Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; Saint Pancras, Martyr

8:00 a.m. Women's Spirituality Coffee (Drexel Room)

3:00 p.m. CP III Day of Reflection (Church Center)

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

6:30 p.m. Youth Night (Church Center)

Sun., May 13 - Mother's Day / Catholic Communications Campaign / Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

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

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

Garden Party - Saturday June 2nd

*St. John's 32nd Annual Grand Auction/Dinner Dance
A great evening of fun, fine food, dancing and an exciting array of items to bid on!*

Reservations can be made in the Narthex or contact the office for additional details.

Free babysitting will be available.

Come out and enjoy the evening with us!



Remembered at Mass

We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharist: **John Akasala**, and **Lester Gardner**.

Deceased: **John Akasala**, uncle of John Matthews, **Lester Gardner**, brother of Bob Gardner. 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,

Forty days after Easter is the Feast of Ascension which is this coming Thursday. After the resurrection, Jesus taught his disciples about God's kingdom for forty days (Acts 1:3) "He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight" (Acts 1:9). Two angels then tell the disciples that Jesus was "taken into heaven" (Acts 1:11) But the ascended Jesus is still with us through his indwelling Holy Spirit as he has promised, "I am with you always; yes, to the end of time." What is celebrated is Jesus' exaltation and the end of his earthly existence as a prelude to the gift of the Spirit. Hence this feast is a celebration of Jesus' final glorification after his suffering, death and Resurrection – a glory in which we also hope to share.

And yet, humanly speaking, the concept of bodily Ascension is a mystery that we cannot fully understand. Pope Francis doesn't shy away from the reality of mystery. In the Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* (Rejoice and be Glad) he speaks of "Contemporary gnostics", who leave no room for mystery or the Spirit. They wish to perfectly explain the complexities of doctrine and the Gospel as if God has been figured out. "When somebody has an answer for every question, it is a sign that they are not on the right road," the pope says. "God infinitely transcends us; he is full of surprises." Francis writes that "in the Church there legitimately co-exist different ways of interpreting many aspects of doctrine and Christian life; in their variety, they 'help to express more clearly the immense riches of God's word'." Kindly read elsewhere in this bulletin an explanation by Bishop Arthur Serratelli of Paterson Diocese about this Gnostic heresy.

We began the month of May with the feast of St. Joseph the Worker about which I had written last week. Today our children remind us the importance of honoring Mary during the month of May by crowning her statue. May Crowning is a long-standing tradition with beautiful blossoms representing Mary's beauty and virtue. It's also a reminder to the faithful to strive to imitate our Blessed Mother's virtue in our own lives. May Crowning, in some areas, is a huge celebration. The Catholic Church proclaims the great nobility of the Mother of Jesus, and presents her as the supreme model for all mothers. Next Sunday as we celebrate Mother's Day, presenting all mothers on the altar, let us sing the beautiful song we sing frequently in this church, "Gentle woman, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom, teach us love." Let us show our love and appreciation for both of our mothers, and let us ask our Heavenly Mother to take care of our earthly mothers. We need to be persons for others, sacrificing our time, talents and lives for them, as our mothers are.

Happy Mother's Day in advance to all Mothers!

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

MAKING A PRAYER REQUEST AT ST. JOHN'S

Prayer is the way we talk with and listen to God, and the St. John Neumann Prayer Ministry is here to support you in times of need. If you would like the Prayer Ministers to include your request in their prayers, there are three ways to reach out to them:

- *Please fill out a Prayer Request Card, which can be found at the Prayer Station in the Church. It is located on the left side as you enter the Church proper from the Narthex.
- *Send a Prayer Request through the Parish website (www.ccsjn.org). The link is located on the Home Page on the left side. Follow the guide.
- *Call the Parish Office at 908-832-2513 and speak with someone about your request

All requests for confidentiality are honored, and should be noted when making the request. We all know how powerful prayer can be, and many have experienced the peace, guidance, healing and answers to their needs that prayer can bring. As a community we support one another in prayer.

BIBLE STUDY STARTS THIS TUESDAY

Will you be there?

Let us know if you are joining the six week bible study on Tuesdays. We start May 8. We will meet in the Office Meeting Room at 7:15 p.m.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 6, 2018

"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends"

JOHN 15:12-13

Do you love Jesus? Do you consider Him your friend? Jesus says that if we love Him we would be willing to offer whatever we have to Him, not because we want praise and glory, but simply because we love Him. Does your giving seem mechanical out of obligation or do you share freely out of love?

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Ages 5-10



CHILDREN'S
Liturgy of the Word

If you are a parent and have wondered why children leave during the 10:30 Mass on some Sunday's, it's because every few weeks our parishioners present the gospel and homily in a kid friendly version for children 5 to 10 years old.

The next Children's Liturgy of the Word is on May 13th. Children younger than 5 may come with their parent.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY COFFEE



May 12, 8am, Office Center

The Women's Spirituality group will meet next Saturday morning. Join us as we reflect on Sunday's Scripture, while we enjoy good company, coffee and conversation. Group contact: Jo Ann Jarvis, jjarvis@ccsjn.org.

AUCTION SIGN UPS

Sign up sheets for food donations and Auction help are in the Narthex this weekend. Please stop by and sign up. Thank You!

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

Looking for 6-8 men and 4 additional assistants to help a disabled senior woman move to a new apartment. The moving will take place Friday May 11, 2:30 pm thru 5:30 pm and/or Saturday May 12, 8:30 am thru 11:30 am.

Call Jim Murray if you can assist. 908-310-6877.

YOGA IS BACK!

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Join Ana Giametta once again for her relaxing Yoga Classes. No experience necessary. Contact Ana with any questions ana.giametta@gmail.com.

Christian Formation

CPII DAY OF DISCERNMENT

Saturday, May 19, 3:00 p.m.



The CPII Day of Discernment will be held on Saturday, May 19, at 3:00 p.m. in the Church Center. All CPII candidates and their parents are expected to attend. CPII candidates for Confirmation will celebrate the Rite of Covenant at the 5:30 p.m. Mass following their Day of Discernment.

SEEDS OF FAITH BEGIN TO GROW WITH PROJECT EARTH



The seeds our families planted in April are beginning to take root and grow! They are under the watchful eye of Anne Germino and the member of social ministry as they begin to prepare the garden for a bountiful harvest. The same is true for the shared faith experience of our families and children this year. We enjoyed many fun and faith filled experiences that encouraged families to grow in faith. The May session concludes the scheduled GIFT Family Faith for 2017-2018. Our faith journey will continue into the summer months. Look for monthly family activities and articles to help enrich Catholic family life. They are located on the religious education table in the narthex. A summer mailing will include registration for 2018-2019 GIFT sessions. In our busy culture, families can have fun learning about their faith. We need to provide the time and place for them to do it, that is what GIFT Family Faith Formation provides. For more information about GIFT contact Renee Ciszewski at renee@ccsjn.org



2018-2019 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

Information and forms for the 2018-2019 GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) program have been mailed home and will be posted on the parish website, ccsjn.org, soon! Completed registrations are due back by May 20th.

ADULTS INVITED TO DISCUSS CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING WITH FR. ABRAHAM

During the Adult segment of the GIFT program, Fr. Abraham gives a presentation on a topic of interest. We have been discussing and reflecting upon, **The Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching**. Catholic Social Teaching is known as the "best kept secret" of the Catholic Church! The last GIFT session for this academic year is on **Monday May 7th at 6:15 PM in the church center, or Sunday May 6th at 9:a.m in Valley View Elementary School.**

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.



The discussion and reflection for this session will cover **Solidarity** and **Care for God's Creation**. As our Parish is on the forefront of Social Ministry and outreach to the less fortunate, these two principles are integrated and lived in our parish community. We will learn and explore other opportunities to live these principles. We invite you to consider joining this interesting and engaging formation session. Light refreshments will be served.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



On Saturday, May 5th, eight of our young church family members received the treasure of Jesus in First Holy Communion. Please congratulate and pray for our First Communicants: Victoria Brynildsen, Jake Butka, Caleb Kelemen, Juliana Pascale, William Peluso, Austen Slinger, Felipe Souza and Elijah Weldon. Please celebrate and share in their joy! Also, please check out their beautiful photos on the banner hung in the Narthex!

CELEBRATING CATECHISTS!



Wine & Cheese Party Friday, May 18th, 7pm Neumann Residence

All catechists and parents who have generously shared their faith with the children in the GIFT program, please join us for a Wine and Cheese Party at Fr. Abraham's residence on May 18th as we celebrate you, our catechists! Also invited is anyone who is interested in helping out in the GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) program next year. Please RSVP to Jo Ann Jarvis by May 9th, 832-2162 or jjarvis@ccsjn.org.

CPIII DAY OF REFLECTION

Saturday, May 12, 3 pm



The CPIII Day of Reflection will be held on Saturday, May 12, at 3:00 p.m. in the Church Center. All 2018 Confirmation Candidates will be participating in this retreat on the gifts of the Holy Spirit and participating in the 5:30 p.m. Confirmandi Mass that follows. CPIII parents involved in facilitating this retreat need to email their final plans to Renee Ciszewski as soon as possible.



STATUE OF MARY AVAILABLE FOR HOME VISITS

This beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima has returned from her travels to parishioners' homes and dates are now available to sign up to host the statue in your home. We encourage family prayer as you spend time with Our Lady. To schedule a visit, call 832-2162 or email jjarvis@ccsjn.org.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GOLF OUTING

The Knights of Columbus Council #10627 invite you to their 5th Annual Golf Outing on Friday, June 8th at High Bridge Hills Golf Club. There is a 9:00 shotgun start, team scramble format. It includes a continental breakfast, open range at 7:30 am, refreshments, and cookout lunch under a tent. The cost is \$125 per player, scramble format. Pick up a flyer in the Narthex for details. Sponsorships are also available.

Social Ministry & Parish News



PROJECT EARTH GARDEN SPRING PLANTING

May 12th - Save the Date - 9am to 4pm

Join us from 9am to 4pm on Saturday, May 12th, to plant the garden. Come for a while or stay all day - whatever fits your schedule. All ages welcome. Contact Anne Germino at projectearth@ccsjn.org for more information.

GREAT COMMISSIONS AND THE ASCENSION!

Actually, there have been many persons given exciting commissions in their lifetimes. There was Michelangelo's commission to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, Sir Christopher Wren's commission to re-build St. Paul's Cathedral in London following the Great Fire (September 2-6, 1666), Walter Reed's assignment to stop yellow fever at the "Big Ditch" in Panama, Chamberlain's orders to stop the Confederates at Little Roundtop in Gettysburg and the mission of the U.S. Navy Seals to get the terrorist master-mind, Bin Laden, dead or alive. But I tell you, in my life and yours, there is an even greater commission. It is found here in Matthew 28:18-20 where Jesus Christ turns to his disciples and says, "*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.*"

WHAT IS GnosticISM?

Bishop Arthur Serratelli explains: Gnosticism embraces many schools of thought. But, all of them hold in common the one tenet that the created, material world is evil. Only the spiritual is good. Redemption comes from being liberated from matter by elite forms of knowledge (gnosis). The Pope has spoken of neo-Gnosticism as "a purely subjective faith whose only interest is a certain experience or a set of ideas and bits of information which are meant to console and enlighten, but which ultimately keep one imprisoned in his or her own thoughts and feelings" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 94). Pope Francis sees neo-Gnosticism "in elite groups offering a higher spirituality, generally disembodied, which ends up in a preoccupation with certain pastoral "*quaestiones disputatae*"

Gnosticism looks upon the body as a mere instrument of the mind. This leads to seeing the body as an object, something to be manipulated by man. It separates the body from the provident hand of God who orders all creation according to his wise disposition. This attitude of seeing the body as not essential to the person has poisoned our culture. It has led to the acceptance of abortion, euthanasia, free sex and same-sex marriages. In contrast, our faith teaches that spirit and body are unified.

Unlike any form of neo-Gnosticism, Catholicism firmly teaches that the body is important. Christ's graces fills our souls and affects our bodies. Our bodies become the very temples of the Holy Spirit. Salvation is not merely an interior reality. By grace, we are incorporated into the Church, a visible community. This certainly goes against all those neo-Gnostics who distance themselves from the visible Church by claiming that they are "spiritual, but not religious." "In the Church, we touch the flesh of Jesus, especially in our poorest and most suffering brothers and sisters... salvation consists in being incorporated into a communion of persons that participates in the communion of the Trinity"

"TERMINAL HOSPITAL" IN LONDON!!

There is a special hospital in London for those whom other hospitals consider a lost cause. It is a hospital for those who are diagnosed as "terminal." Most people would consider such a hospital to be a very sad place, but it is not. Actually, it is a hospital filled with hope and a lot of life. The emphasis in this London hospital is on life and not on death. The truth is that several of the patients have seen remissions in the disease process instead of death. A great deal of the credit is given to the way the facility is run. The basic philosophy is different from most other hospitals. In this program the patients are expected to give themselves away in service to the other patients. Each patient is given another patient for whom to care. So, for example, a person who is unable to walk might be given the task of reading to another who is blind. The blind person would then push the wheelchair of the one who could not walk but who gives directions on where to push the chair. Is this not the new commandment to which Jesus referred? He calls us to be disciples who love one another. We are the ones who are healed and strengthened when we learn how to give and how to love.

OUR COMMUNITY SPRING GIVING TREE



Once again this year we are helping the Three Agencies that we provide for with Our Spring Giving Tree. Please read and follow the instructions regarding our collection of items. We will run this event until May 20. We thank you in advance for your support of all our endeavors to assist the needy. Please find a description of the three agencies at the Social Ministry station in the Narthex.

FOOD DRIVE THANKS

Thank you for helping out with our Easter Food Drive. We were able to help 32 families/individuals in need during the Easter holiday. There were so many different ways you all helped, from shopping & donating food, packing up & delivering. We could not help so many people without your support and generosity.

We wish to give a big shout out to **Samuel Meekings** who collected food at his birthday party. That collection of food & gift cards helped support our Easter food drive. What a wonderful example of helping & thinking of others in need. Thank you Samuel, family & friends.

CHAIR YOGA

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Chair yoga offers the ability to improve your health through a form of adaptive exercise. You are supported by a chair so you can receive yoga's healing and restorative benefits that have been known for thousands of years. Yoga relaxes your body and mind, improves your musculoskeletal fitness and flexibility, and elevates your overall health and well-being. Good for seniors!

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

"Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." (1John 3:18) Saying "I love you." is good. Doing an act of kindness is an even stronger testament of love. Use both "love languages" once today.

PARENTING TUNE-UP

On March 9, I challenged families to unplug for a day. Whether you did this or not, ask your family if they are willing to free themselves of digital devices (with the exception of work or school) for one full week. Experiment with human or outdoor entertainment.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Joseph Angeline
 George Bernard
 Linda Caprio
 Joan Cardierre
 Jean Crickenberger
 John D'Almeida
 Barbara DelPiano
 Sophia DeVita
 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
 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
 Ensign, Webster, Justine, U.S. Navy

SUNDAY REFLECTION: *Creamer and Sugar Bowl on a Blue Table Cloth*

"This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you." John 15: 9-17

For some time, Mother and Daughter lived at an affectionate arm's length, a kind of truce after a long siege of parent-teenage conflict. Part of their differences were temperamental: Mother loved designer clothes, keeping a perfect house, loving the grand gesture; Daughter preferred walking on the beach in her khakis, a table for two, the intimate chat. But the times each grew up in also defined their different perspectives: the elder woman sacrificed her dream of a career in music to raise a family; the younger woman headed off to graduate school to write about the social ills her mother's generation had created - or failed to solve. Then one day, Daughter was passing through a crafts shop. She saw a creamer and sugar bowl she knew her mother would love. Call it a delayed epiphany. She bought them and sent them to her mother. She can still hear the joy in her mother's voice when she called to thank her. A week later, a package arrived from her mother: a beautiful table cloth, a simple cotton print in blue, her daughter's favorite color.

After this exchange of gifts, Mother and Daughter found a new ease. Mother offered her matchless color sense for sweaters Daughter was knitting for her toddler. Daughter consulted her mother for recipes. The two began attending plays and concerts together - their favorite: Beethoven. The daughter came to see that, despite all that divided them, her mother simply loved being with her. And they didn't need the best table in the house. After her mother died, she found a folder in which her mother kept every article her daughter had ever written. She had never mentioned it. But by now her daughter understood. It wasn't her achievements that her mother cherished, any more than the ornaments of her own ambitions. What mattered all along was very simple. They just had to stop wanting what they thought the other *should* want and be, and, instead, honoring and appreciating who the other actually *is* and wants her life to be.

Sometimes the hardest love to express is our love for those who matter most to us. A daughter re-imagines her relationship with her mother through a simple gift meant only to bring her joy - a generational divide is bridged by grace and gratitude for the gifts each woman is able to give to the other. The love that Jesus asks us to embrace - "commands" us to embrace - is centered in the happiness of the other, not what we think their happiness should be. Such love is possible only when we put aside our own expectations, demands and interests in order to realize the joys and dreams of those we love. Jesus asks us to love one another as he has loved us: to put others before ourselves, to seek our joy in bringing joy to those we love and who love us, to honor and cherish one another simply because we are all sons and daughters of the God of mercy and compassion.

STEWARDSHIP

Fill out your stewardship form on line!

It only takes a moment.....to fill out your stewardship form on line!
 We only have 43 responses to Stewardship. How sad. We have a lot more people volunteering and participating, people just haven't filled out the form. The link is on the Home Page of the parish website- ccsjn.org. Want to continue what you currently do? check off the "C" box for the stewardship you do. If you want to try something new - check "I". Please let us know how you live your stewardship!



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



A four-year-old was in church when the wine and communion wafers were passed out. He was very interested in this, and started to get up. His mother leaned over and told him that he was not old enough to partake in the Communion. Later, when the collection plate came by, he ignored it. His mother again leaned over and tried to coax the nickel out of him. He steadfastly refused, stating, "If I can't eat, I'm not paying."

Dearest Kate, no words could ever express the great unhappiness I've felt since breaking our engagement. Please say you'll take me back. No one could ever take your place in my heart, so please forgive me. I love you, I love you, I love you! Yours forever, Jim...P.S. And congratulations on winning the 20 million state lottery

A man introduced his two new dogs to me. Their names were Rolex and Timex. I asked why these names, and he said, "Da, they are watch dogs"

Parish and Community News

AUCTION DONATIONS

Forms are due this Friday, May 11th. Stuck for ideas? Here are some suggestions:

Vacation Homes	Small appliances	
Airline Miles	Boat Cruises	
Theme Baskets	Handyman/Women Services	
Weekend Getaways	Small Ethnic Home Dinners	
Anything Garden:		
Plants	Shrubs	
Fountain	Arbor	Thank You!

TAI CHI FOR MEDITATION AND HEALTH

Tai Chi is on Wednesday evenings at 6:45pm thru the end of May. If you have any interest in seeing Tai Chi up close to see if you would be interested in learning this technique which aids in meditation and health benefits contact Bonnie Garcia 908-975-3003 or bonniegarcia210@yahoo.com

NOT SLAVES BUT FRIENDS!

Jesus tells his followers that he does not call them slaves anymore, but calls them friends. In the Bible, *doulos*, the slave, the servant of God was no title of shame; it was a title of the highest honor. Moses was the *doulos* of God (Deuteronomy 34:5); so was Joshua (Joshua 24:29); so was David (Psalm 89:20). It is a title which Paul counted it an honor to use (Titus 1:1); and so did James (James 1:1). The greatest men in the past had been proud to be called the *douli*, the slaves of God. But Jesus says: "I have something greater for you yet. You are no longer slaves; you are friends." Christ offers an intimacy with God which not even the greatest of men knew before Jesus came into the world. The idea of being the friend of God also has a Biblical background. Abraham was the friend of God (Isaiah 4 1: 8). In Wisdom 7: 27, Wisdom is said to make us the friends of God. In Rome in the first century, the Friends of the king and the emperor were those who had the closest and the most intimate connection with him. Jesus has called us to be his friends and the friends of God. Jesus has given us this intimacy with God, so that He is no longer a distant stranger, but our close friend.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES: APRIL 16, 2018

After the introductory Lectio Divina prayer, the Stewardship Committee members Anthony De Stefano and Sharon Lohrmann presented their five year plan. The highlights: The Stewardship Committee:

- Will present the data of the parish survey at the Town Hall Meeting on April 23rd.
 - Need a way to collect photos from parish activities for the proposed Parish Picture Book.
 - Are looking into system to compile and edit the Parish directory that will place it on-line.
 - As with some Committees, having problems recruiting new members.
 - Promote social justice and environmental causes, and will again offer products from 10,000 villages and sell butterfly plants. Will also continue to promote our parish support of St Mary's in Virginia.
- Next we discussed the following points:
- Promotion of the Town Hall meeting through the bulletin, announcement at the masses and signs put up in narthex, with offering of child care by our parish teens.
 - Interest shown by some of our parishioners in joining the Pastoral Council;
 - The pastoral council retreat to be scheduled in the early part of June.
 - Pope Francis's latest paper entitled "Rejoice and Be Glad" is on St. John's web site. It is only 40 pages long and Father recommends that the parish read it.
 - The wrap up meeting for the small faith groups had very positive feedback. The message given that night was the empowering of the people in our parish to evangelize and witness to all.

We concluded with a short prayer, after fixing the date of the next Meeting for May 19th.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

April 29, 2018

69 Donors Weekly	\$3,394.00
1 Mother's Day Intention	\$713.00
2 Yellow Brick Road	\$70.00
5 Initial Offering	\$73.00

April 30, 2017

74 Donors Weekly	\$3,205.00
50 Mother's Day Intention ...	\$1,031.00
1 Yellow Brick Road	\$50.00
1 Easter Donation	\$10.00

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

To date, the Development Office has received pledges and payments totaling \$34,016.75 from 103 parishioners. This represents 89.5% of our \$38,000 goal.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSE

Thanks to the parishioners who donated a chair to our to be new meeting area in the office center.

And a big thank you for our newest cleaner!



STORE CARDS

Thanks to the families who purchased grocery and store cards the Week of April 16, 2018
15 Families \$2,850 Sold \$157.00 Profit

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Wed., May 9	S. Griffin
Wed., May 16	C. Behrens

Store Cards

May 5 and May 6

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

May 12 and May 13

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

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of May 6	M. Cangelosi
Week of May 13	B. Sobey

Church Center Cleaning

May 10	Team C
May 17	Team D
Counting	
May 7	Malone/Bauernfiend
May 14	Kucharski/McCabe

Altar Flowers

May 12	A. Germino
May 19	Needed

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