



The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

A Christian Community of the Catholic Tradition

www.ccsjn.org / sjn@ccsjn.org

September 9, 2018

Volume 36 Number 36



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

Rev. Abraham Orapankal, PhD . Pastor
Earl Roberts Deacon

Trustees

Fred Heimall Trustee

Mary Cangelosi Trustee

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

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This Week at Saint John's

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, September 11

8:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Friday, September 14

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Saturday, September 15

5:30 p.m. Margaret Loughran, req.
Linda and Gary Caprio

Sunday, September 16

8:00 a.m. James Durham, req.
Jim and Roni Durham
10:30 a.m. Carmella Damiani, req.
Alan and Sharon Janks



Parish Calendar

Sunday, September 9 - Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time / Peter's Pence Collection

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Mass - Welcome Back GIFT (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word (Narthex)
6:00 p.m. Confirmation Retreat Team Meeting (Drexel Rm)

Monday, September 10 - Weekday

10:00 a.m. S.H.I.P (Office and Church Center Kitchens)
7:00 p.m. Meeting (Seton Room)

Tuesday, September 11 - Weekday

8:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
No Yoga
6:00 p.m. Catechist Meeting (Upper Room)
7:00 p.m. Budget Meeting (Drexel Room)

Wednesday, September 12 - The Most Holy Name of Mary

No Yoga
6:45 p.m. Tai Chi (Church Center Loft)
7:00 p.m. Social Ministry Meeting (Seton Room)
7:15 p.m. Bible Study (Drexel Room)
7:30 p.m. Stewardship Meeting (Reception Area)

Thursday, September 13 - Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)
7:00 p.m. Family Life Meeting (Drexel Room)
7:30 p.m. Music/Bells (Church Center)

Friday, September 14 - The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
4:00 p.m. Confirmandi Retreat (Crossroads)

Mass Schedule - September 15/16

Saturday

5:30 p.m.

Celebrant Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader Kathleen Swindler
Altar Server Lowary Family
Ministers of the Eucharist Lyle Garcia
..... Debby Kelemen, 1 Needed

Sunday

8:00 a.m.

Celebrant Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader Brent Herrig
Altar Server Mickley Family
Ministers of the Eucharist Joe Sima
..... Dorothy Sima, Diane Lehnert

Sunday

10:30 a.m.

Celebrant Fr. Abraham Orapankal
Reader Needed
Altar Server Religious Ed Class Mass Altar Servers
Music Eucharistic Minister Gloria Cucchiara
Ministers of the Eucharist Mary D'Avella, Ana Giametta
..... Donna Torczon, Sheena Carew, 1 Needed

Saturday, September 15 - Our Lady of Sorrows

8:00 a.m. Golf Outing (Minebrook-Hackettstown)
5:00 p.m. Confirmandi Retreat Return
5:30 p.m. Mass (Church Center)

Sunday, Sept. 16 - Twenty-Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Mass - Confirmandi Return Mass and
Elizondo Baptism (Church Center)
12:00 p.m. Confirmation Practice (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: **Catherine McVicker, Max Fox, and Eileen Kuhn.**

Deceased: Catherine McVicker, parishioner, Max Fox, friend of the Bauernfiends, and Eileen Kuhn, mother of Andrew Kuhn. 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,

Summer has officially ended even though we have been experiencing temperatures in the 90's this past week! With back-to-school busyness almost over, our families should be getting back to the feel of the normal life-cycle. St. John's is no exception to this ending of one season and the beginning of the next. The beautiful car at the entrance to our driveway is the prize for the hole-in-one winner of our Annual Golf Outing to be held on September 15th. Please see more details from Bob Martalus, our enthusiastic organizer, who unfailingly pulls off this great event to everyone's satisfaction. But the Tag Sale had to be cancelled this year for lack of a chair or co-chairs. We can never thank the past co-chairs enough. Susanne Kosakowski & Sandy Aaron lovingly undertook this labor-intensive task, with the help of a dedicated team of parishioners, for the past many years. I do hope that their good example will inspire others for resuming the Tag Sale next year.

The Parish Picnic on September 23rd is something we all look forward to. The duck sales are already on. As usual we have lots of fun planned. Renee Ciszewski and Jo Ann Jarvis are all set for Religious Education's new school year, beginning with a "Welcome Back Student Mass" for all grades. We are grateful to our committed Catechists who are returning and to those new volunteers who have stepped up this year for the faith formation of our children, especially the many teen catechists who must be commended for their goodwill to teach our children.

The Prayer Ministry members had asked me about helping people learn to say spontaneous prayers in a group or in family. So I will facilitate a session on September 20th for helping us learn to allow the Spirit of God to work in and through us to pray spontaneously. I consider this as an important part of faith formation for our parishioners who need to be conscious of our responsibilities as the People of God – a truth that the Church wants us to own up, a truth that I have been speaking about many times in the past years and especially during these past weeks. In this context, let me share with you a letter a parishioner sent me a few days ago: *"Your continued dialog on the current church scandal has been wonderful especially this past Sunday helping people realize that the laity is the church. I feel that this point has never been emphasized in the past and people forget. Growing up prior to Vatican II and even after, it was always emphasized that the clergy was the church. The laity have always been the church and I feel now more than ever people need to realize this as you so eloquently pointed out on Sunday. Thank you again."*

That is a clear indication of the still existing need to emphasize this truth. A prominent lay person rightly noted: *"Those of us who have remained Catholic in the wake of these horrors, I think, are propelled by this recognition that the church, at its essence, is the people of God."* Obviously there needs to be greater lay participation in the church. It is certainly heartening to hear the president of the U.S. bishops' conference, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, announcing recently that the conference is working on a reform plan, one aspect of which would be to increase lay involvement in the investigation of abuse, misconduct and cover-up. There is hope. Our trust is in the Lord Jesus Christ who promised to be with us always, even to the end of times (Matthew 28:20). In the meanwhile, let us pray this traditional prayer of the Church: *"Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth."*

Your brother in Christ
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

If you have ever considered becoming Catholic or know someone who may be interested, there is a process to help you discern whether it is what you want to do. RCIA stands for Rite of Christian Initiation. Every year teams in parishes meet with unbaptized persons and those baptized into other faiths to discuss and learn about the Catholic faith. The first stage is called Inquiry and simply put, is a time for you to ask any and all questions about God and the church. This is the period to help you find out if you are interested in becoming Catholic. So please don't think you have to know this is what you want to do. The Inquiry phase helps in that discernment. Please contact France Kennedy if you would like to find out more. Phone or text: 908-307-7879 or email fkennedy@ccsjn.org.

23RD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

September 9, 2018

"Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?"

JAMES 2:5

What is more important – being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society teaches us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith, we keep God first in all things and realize that material things really don't matter and that it's more important to share with those who have less.



PARISH PICNIC

Come enjoy a wonderful day, our Parish Picnic is a great time for everyone! Sunday Sept 23, the fun starts at 2pm with the Duck Race, plenty of things to do, inflatables, face painting and games for kids as well as great food that everyone brings their favorite picnic fare! It is a great time to just sit back and enjoy friends! It's a great time to meet parishioners if you are new to the parish. Even if you can't come the whole time – feel free to stop in and enjoy what you can. Hope to see you then. Please bring a side dish to share and if you can bring burgers or hotdogs with buns for your family.

Feeling a need to contribute?

Would you like to feel fulfilled?

VOLUNTEER TODAY

NEW TO THE PARISH?

**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

If you are attending St. John's but have not registered with the parish we invite you to come to our Discover St. John's Welcome Lunch where we share simple pizza and salad lunch and information on the parish to help you know what is what here at St. John's! First, stop by the narthex and receive a welcome packet from the greeters before or after Mass. Our welcome packet provides just enough info to get you acquainted. We ask that you fill out an information card so we can email you or just contact France Kennedy at the parish office - Fkennedy@ccsjn.org.

Christian Formation & Parish News

CONFIRMATION 2018

Tuesday, September 18, 7:00 p.m.



We are pleased to announce that Bishop James F. Checchio will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation here at St. John's on Tuesday, September 18, at 7:00 p.m. Mass. Please keep these young people and their families in your prayers as they prepare to celebrate Confirmation: Katelin Anderson, Annalee Bergmann, Alexandra Bush, Benjamin Crescenzi, Tara Crescenzi, Kyle Erz, Alexander Kuhn, Beatriz Leite, Christopher Quartuccio, Andrew Ranallo, Darby Roskowski, Gavin Rudin, Cassidy Sieber, Brooke Solomon, Alina Staten, and Rose Weber.



CLASS MASSES

Once again, this year we would like to invite our religious education students in grades 3 through 8 to participate in a Class Mass. Each grade will have the opportunity to take part in the Mass as a class community. These Masses will take place over the course of the school year during our regularly scheduled Mass times. We encourage family and friends to attend Mass. The children will be happy to have you join them in prayer! The first Class Mass will be with the 7th & 8th graders on Saturday, September 22nd, during the 5:30 p.m. Mass.

CATECHISTS' MEETING

September 11 at 6:00 p.m.



All catechists (K-8) in the GIFT program are invited to a brief welcome meeting on September 11th at 6:00 p.m. in the office center to distribute materials and outline of the program for the coming year. Fr. Abraham will provide words of wisdom and inspiration. Refreshments will be served. RSVP jjarvis@ccsjn.org.



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>



TODAY IS WELCOME BACK MASS – ALL GRADES!

Sunday, September 9th at 10:30 AM

Jesus, Fill our children with your peace, teach our children how to pray, show our children how to love.

All students are invited to join us for a Welcome Back Student Mass on September 9th at 10:30 a.m. Students should arrive by 10:10 a.m. If you would like to send in an item for the food pantry with your child, the children will be bringing these gifts up to the altar during Mass. The pantry is in need of juice (including small juice boxes), school snacks, pasta sauce, pancake mix and syrup. Thank you!



CONFIRMATION PRAYER SPONSOR LETTERS

Return Letters by September 10th

The 2018 Confirmation class will celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop James F. Checchio on Tuesday, September 18, at 7:00 p.m. At this time, we are inviting the community of St. John's to participate as Confirmation Prayer Sponsors. Parishioners are asked to take home a photo of a Confirmation candidate from the tri-fold board that is set up in the narthex. Be sure to sign your name next to the candidate's name in the log provided. Then pray for your candidate and write a letter of support that will be given to your candidate during their retreat at Cross Roads. Letters should be returned no later than September 10th to the basket in the narthex or to the Office Center.

"PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN" UPCOMING SESSIONS

Whether you're a current or future catechist or even just considering helping out sometime in the future in one of the many programs in our parish that involve children, please consider attending one of the following "Protecting God's Children" upcoming workshops: St. Magdalen de Pazzi, Flemington – 7 p.m., 9/24

Immaculate Conception, Annandale –

7 p.m., Classes available: 9/27 and 11/8

7 p.m., Men Only Class on 10/24



Protecting God's Children® for Adults is training conducted by VIRTUS® certified facilitators on the prevention of child sexual abuse. The Diocese of Metuchen requires every adult who is ministering to children and teens to attend one of these programs. A link to register for one of the above workshops, as well as a complete listing of other sessions in the diocese, can be found on diometuchen.org and click on the "Sign up now for Virtus Sessions" link on the bottom of the home page. Some sessions book quickly, so please register early. Check the link often as sessions are continuously added.



GIFT FAMILY FAITH FORMATION PART-TIME CATECHIST NEEDED

Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received--only what you have given." St Francis of Assisi

Our parents are sharing the formation experience this year but we do need a helping hand. This program meets one time each month from September to May. Prayerfully consider sharing your time and faith with our youth Sunday noon-2PM or Monday 6PM-8PM. Being a catechist is an enriching and rewarding experience! Please contact Renee Ciszewski at renee@ccsjn.org.



FAMILY FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM - GIFT

Welcome Back!

We are excited for this year's start-up of our family faith formation program, called GIFT, for grades K-8 here at St. John Neumann! *Family Faith Formation works for parishes!* It combines a Monthly Gathering (including grade-specific classes, adult formation, and group activities) with Family Home Lessons where parents, equipped with materials and an understanding of the lessons, continue to teach their children the faith.

Sessions begin:

Sunday Family Formation – Sunday, September 23 at 12 Noon – Church Center

Monday Family Formation – Monday, September 24 at 6:00 PM – Church Center



NEW CHANGE FOR CHANGE JARS

The Social Ministry has newly designed quart & pint size jars and coin bags for your change. ALL proceeds will go toward food and gift cards for our food pantry. If you did not get a new jar or bag and want one, please email socialministry@ccsjn.org and we will supply more!

If you need a tax receipt or are just curious about the amount, write your name or your parishioner envelope number on a piece of paper and add it to your change jar/bag and we'll get you a receipt! Thank you for your continuous support in our effort to provide food in our community. God Bless, Social Ministry

THE "EPHPATHA PRAYER"

There is a little ritual in the rite of Baptism whose name and form are taken from today's Gospel: "The Ephphatha." The celebrant touches the ears and then the lips of the one to be baptized saying: "*The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May He soon touch your ear to receive His word and your mouth to proclaim His Faith.*" We are reminded that Jesus has the power to heal the spiritual deafness caused by habitually ignoring god's promptings. Hearts that have become hardened by a refusal to hear, can be changed by: "*Ephphatha! Be opened!*" Let us bring Jesus' holy word "Ephphatha" to a generation blighted by the materialistic cultural aggression of our times: In their day, the Romans imposed their language and culture on Palestine. Modern secular culture, in fact, is no better. Religion and God are being evicted from schools, colleges, courtrooms, politics and public life. One cannot speak of virginity or marital fidelity without a contemptuous laugh from others. The unborn child with a precious soul is often considered a "mere nuisance," a "product of conception," a "fetus," "a blob of tissue," or a "tumor that can be gotten rid of," with no human rights. In today's motion pictures, all religious gestures are either forbidden or relegated to the ignorant or superstitious. We are told that sixty-five percent of our Catholic youth have no formal religious education beyond the eighth grade. They are exposed to the culture of free sex, loose relationships, liquor, drugs and violence. No wonder, then, if they become deaf and blind to Christian ideals of morality, holiness in life and social justice! May our Lord touch us through this Gospel so that we also can say "Ephphatha" ("*Be thou opened!*") to everything and everyone shut in from or closed to God and His loving Providence.

DEAF HEATHER WHITESTONE DID THAT.

When Heather was a child, Daphne, her mother, was advised to send Heather to a school for the deaf and not to expect her to receive more than a third-grade education. But her mother had greater ambitions for Heather. With her mother's encouragement Heather has been able to turn a hearing disability into an asset. Many of you will recognize Heather Whitestone's name as Miss America 1995. In Heather's hometown there is a poster featuring a photo of Heather, taped on a storefront. The poster reads: "They said she would only be able to get a third-grade education. Fortunately, she wasn't listening!" (Denise George, "Capturing a Nation's Heart," *Pursuit*, Vol. III No. 4, p. 26). Today's Gospel tells us how a deaf and mute man receives Jesus' healing touch.

THE BUZZARD, THE BAT, AND THE BUMBLEBEE

If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 8 feet and is entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of 10 to 12 feet. Without space to run, as is its habit, it will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top. The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkable nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash. A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

In many ways, we are like the buzzard, the bat, and the bumblebee. We struggle about with all our problems and frustrations, never realizing that all we have to do is look up! That's the answer, the escape route and the solution to any problem! Just look up.

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

Most adult Americans remember Sept. 11, 2001 as a day of terror. What kinds of things terrorize you? Do you know and understand your beloved's fears? See if you can guess what your spouse will say.

PARENTING TUNE-UP

Jesus cured the blind, deaf, lame, and mentally ill. Are you a healer? Maybe you're not in the medical profession, but every parent has times when they are a physical or emotional healer for their child. Remember, you walk in the shoes of the Master Healer. (Susan Vogt)

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.

Please join us on Wednesday in the Drexel Room for a Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark.

TAI CHI

We will begin a new six week series of Tai Chi starting on September 12th. Tai Chi is helpful in promoting health, relaxation, personal meditation, and breathing techniques. Space is limited; sign up by contacting Bonnie Garcia at 908-975-3003 or bonnie.garcia210@yahoo.com. There will be a \$5 charge per session. Sessions are Wednesdays through October 17 at 6:45pm.

PRAYER ENRICHMENT SESSION ON

SPONTANEOUS PRAYER

Thursday, Sept. 20th at 7:00 p.m.

The Prayer Ministry is happy to sponsor a special evening with Fr. Abraham who will share with us his approach to "Spontaneous Prayer". We have all benefitted from Father's gift of praying in the Spirit. Is this something we can learn? Can we shed our self-consciousness and put our trust in the Lord as we converse with Him? This session is meant to help us understand the obstacles, and practice spontaneous prayer with ease. Come join us on Thursday evening, September 20th at 7pm.

SAVE THE DATES

Golf Outing	Sept. 15
Spontaneous Prayer	Sept. 20
Church Picnic	Sept. 23
Tricky Tray	Oct. 12
Tasting Event.....	Nov. 30

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Clara Alvarez
 Andrew Arias
 Joan Cardierre
 Jean Crickenberger
 John D'Almeida
 Percy Davids
 Barbara DelPiano
 Sophia DeVita
 Anthony DeVito
 Dawn Farley
 Cindy Feighan
 Debbie Gregorakis
 Father Luigi Hargen
 Liz Harmon
 Fred Holub
 Eleanor Horan
 Stephanie Illetscho
 Manuel Jimenez, Sr.
 Manuel Jimenez, Jr.
 Miriam Jiminian
 Bonnie Lieberwirth
 Dick McCall
 Maggie McKeon
 Jan McLeavey
 Naim Melhem
 Christine Meyer
 Joan & Megan Myers
 Mary Lou O'Brien
 Nancy Patterson
 Nilsa Perez Parsons
 John Pfeufer
 Joe Romanger
 Ali Redling
 Joel Rivera
 Earl & Denise Roberts
 Joe Romanger
 Anne Sacco
 Noah Skinner
 Michael Slivka
 Dick Slusher
 Margaret Thornsbury
 Nicholas Troiano
 Don Velli
 Josh Wilkes
 Dana & Greg Wilson
 Caden & Jill Zane
 Jim Zgoda
 Joe Zieba

MILITARY PERSONNEL

Please remember in your prayers:

Captain Baumann, Katherine, U.S. Army
 Spec. Bitters, Christian, U.S. Army
 Cavallo, Chris, USMC
 2LT, Molly Ferguson, U.S. Air Force
 C1C, 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 Simila, Nicole, U.S. Navy
 Airman, Vardian, Justin, U.S. Air Force
 Ensign, Webster, Justine, U.S. Navy

SUNDAY REFLECTION: Five Minutes That Reveal A Great Deal

"Ephphatha!" - that is, "Be opened!" Mark 7: 31-37

A renowned marriage therapist and counselor says he can tell in five minutes of listening to a married couple's conversation what their relationship is like and whether it will endure.

Five minutes. What he listens for is the way in which they are attuned or not attuned to one another. If they pay attention and actually listen to their partner before formulating their response; if their response is conveyed with directness and respect; if there is an underlying interest in the well-being of the other person of the relationship. If these things are present in the conversation, the relationship is strong and likely to endure, even when there are considerable differences the couple is struggling to overcome.

Christ's gift of *Ephphatha* is the ability to put aside one's ego and wants and the need to control in order to listen with the ear of the heart to hear every word that is not said as well as said. Our self-centeredness can make us deaf to the presence of God, isolating us from God's compassion in the midst of conflict and anger, in the midst of brokenness and hurt - but *Ephphatha*, while not pretending disagreements do not exist, is to listen to one another with empathy: to love enough to listen from the perspective of the other and to seek the meaning of our lives in securing happiness and fulfillment in theirs.

3 MOST POPULAR LANGUAGES IN THE US?

Did you know, by the way, that the three most popular languages in the United States are English, Spanish, and American Sign Language? There are more non-hearing people in our land than you might imagine. One of the saddest instances of deafness that I know is that of the immortal composer of classical music, Ludwig van Beethoven. For a musician, deafness would be the tragedy of tragedies. As he himself wrote on one occasion, "How sad is my lot! I must avoid all things that are dear to me." There was a terrible time when Beethoven was struggling to conduct an orchestra playing one of his own compositions. He could not hear even the full orchestra. Soon he was beating one time and the orchestra was playing another, and the performance disintegrated in disaster. There is a pathetic picture of him after he had given a piano recital, bent over the keyboard, oblivious to the applause that thundered about him. He wrote on another occasion, "For two years I have avoided almost all social gatherings because it is impossible for me to say to people 'I am deaf.' If I belonged to any other profession it would be easier, but in my profession it is a frightful state." Beethoven died a broken, bitter man. You and I who have our hearing, have our vision, who are able to get around with a minimum of impediments, ought to thank God every day, and we ought to salute those who overcome obstacles that we cannot even imagine.

MIRACULOUS TRANSFORMATION

A working man was strongly drawn towards a beautiful vase he saw in a stall down in the town market. He bought the vase and brought it home. The vase was so beautiful that it made his front room look drab, dull, and indeed plain ugly. So he got bright paints and transformed the whole house. He got colorful curtains to match the paint, a brightly patterned carpet, and he even stripped down and varnished the furniture. Because of the beauty of the vase the whole room was transformed. - When Jesus enters my heart, the areas in need of attention become, oh, so obvious. Holiness consists in discovering that I need to do much more to be a disciple of Jesus than I ever thought! The closer I come to God the more obvious the contrast! When Jesus comes to our lives, his touch, and his presence make all the difference! This is a good prayer: "Jesus make my heart like unto your heart."

ATTENTION GIRL SCOUTS IN GRADES 4 AND ABOVE

Please join us on September 29 from 9:30 to 3 PM at St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Route 22 East, Bridgewater

We will be providing workshops to complete several activities for the following Catholic Girl Scout awards: I Live my Faith, Mary the First Disciple, Spirit Alive. Come and learn more about your faith while having fun and enjoying the companionship of other scouts. The cost is \$15; breakfast and lunch will be provided.

For information or registration forms, contact DOMgirlscouts@gmail.com

REFLECTION ON GROUND ZERO

(Father Joseph Bayne, OFM Conv., is chief chaplain of the Erie County Emergency Services, chaplain of the Buffalo Fire Department, NY)

As a follower of Francis of Assisi, I'm challenged to bring joy to a broken and sorrow-filled world. In the days following September 11, 2001, I was challenged to take this ministry to Ground Zero as an emergency services chaplain. The experience changed me, and 10 years later, I still feel the emotion, and tears still come easily.

My role as chaplain for emergency services is a "ministry of presence." I roamed around Ground Zero in my turnout gear, speaking to the rescue personnel as they came off the smoking burning pile that was holy ground. I shook hands, hugged, gave bottles of water and often prayed quietly with them. I even mustered some smiles and laughter. I met the CEO of Cantor Fitzgerald, the man who lost over 700 of his staff. I spoke with cops and fire fighters. In true St. Francis of Assisi style, I patted and blessed the rescue dogs as they came off the pile after their shift.

During a break, some of us visited one of the World Trade Center buildings still standing and still safe, despite its windows being blown out. This spot allowed us to go up a floor or two and literally look down into Ground Zero. Here, I stopped my friends and said that I needed to pray for Father Mychal Judge. They instinctively huddled around me, joining hands, and surrounded me in support. I prayed quietly, then openly and I wept.

This experience changed me in some ways. I'm still a sinner, still a bit of a workaholic, still at times trying to "save the world, with my messiah complex." But this tragedy and the humbling opportunity to minister at Ground Zero made me reflect lots on the gift of life, relationships, on making every day good in some way and using the opportunities and gifts God pours upon us. It made me be more conscious of trying "not to sweat the small stuff" as my father had taught me. Life is so precious and yet so fragile. A hug, a smile, an embrace, a kind word, a strong or gentle handshake – all took on new meaning for me.

In the days following the tragedy, some said they saw the face of the devil in the smoke at Ground Zero. Many asked me about the same, and my answer hasn't changed in 10 years. No, I did not see the devil's face at Ground Zero. I saw the face of God in the people working, caring, sweating, crying, rescuing, recovering and being very spiritual in their very humanness. I was moved and changed and felt God's hand in the goodness that followed such tragedy. My ministry embodied the prayer of Saint Francis, "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace."

CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP 2019

It is time to register for CHWC next summer. We are going to Dover, Delaware from June 23-28. You must be currently in 8th grade through Senior year to attend. If you are interested, please contact Mary Connolly at mandmconnolly@gmail.com or 908-930-0784. The reserved spots tend to fill quickly so if you think you'd like to join us it is better to get on the list soon. Adult chaperones are also needed!

For more information about CHWC, check out their website at www.heartworkcamp.com.



ST. JOHN GOLF OUTING

Sat., Sept. 15, 8:00am-2:00pm, Minebrook Golf Club, Hackettstown

Reserve the date on your calendar for our upcoming St. John's annual Golf Outing. We had a great turnout last year. **Hugh McKenna (one of our parishioners) of Johnson Dodge-Chrysler-Jeep** has once again offered the opportunity to win a brand new Jeep for the Hole-in-One prize. To Register: Please e-mail Bob Martalus at bob.martalus@gmail.com or call him at 908-439-3732.

Registration Fee: \$125 per golfer

Sponsor a Hole Fee: \$125 (includes a sign)



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



For one reason or another, a group of friends missed an exam in a class they all had together, they decided to tell the professor they'd been stranded with a flat tire. When they came in for the make-up exam they were handed out test booklets and when they opened the booklets the only question was "Which Tire?"

Son: I'm not going back to school ever again! **Mother:** Why not? **Son:** The teacher doesn't know a thing, all she does is ask questions!

WEEKLY COLLECTION

September 2, 2018

76 Donors Weekly.....\$5,104.00
51 Yellow Brick Road.....\$1,414.00

September 3, 2017

79 Donors Weekly.....\$4,177.00
41 Yellow Brick Road.....\$1,210.00
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STORE CARDS

Aqui cards are available as Gift Certificates with a 10% return to St. John's:

Thanks to the families who purchased grocery and store cards the Week of **September 2, 2018, 13** Families purchased **\$1,950.00** for a profit of **\$117.50**



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Wed., Sept. 12 C. Behrens
Wed., Sept. 19 G. Battell

Store Cards

September 8 and September 9

5:30 p.m. J. Gardner
8:00 a.m. V. Hoffart
10:30 a.m. D. Royal

September 15 and September 16

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

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of Sept. 9 M. Cangelosi
Week of Sept. 16 B. Sobey

Church Center Cleaning

September 13 Team C
September 20 Team D

Counting

September 10 Malone / Bauernfiend
September 10 McCabe / Kosakowski

Altar Flowers

September 15 Heimall
September 15 Needed

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