

The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

A Christian Community of the Catholic Tradition

www.ccsjn.org / sjn@ccsjn.org

September 16, 2018

Volume 36 Number 37



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

Office Center 908-832-2513

Fax 908-832-7618

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This Week at Saint John's

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, September 18

8:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Friday, September 21

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Saturday, September 22

5:30 p.m. Thomas Shannon, req.
Joann and Bob Gardner

Sunday, September 23

8:00 a.m. Patricia Gardner, req.
Stanski Family

10:30 a.m. Virginia Kluge, req.

St. John Neumann Church



Parish Calendar

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

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

10:30 a.m. Mass - Confirmandi Return Mass/Celebrate Youth & Elizondo Baptism (Church Center)

12:00 p.m. Confirmation Practice (Church Center)

Monday, Sept. 17 - Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7:30 p.m. Pastoral Council Meeting (Upper Room)

7:30 p.m. Confirmation Music Practice (Church Center)

Tuesday, Sept. 18 - Weekday

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

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga (Narthex)

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

7:00 p.m. Property Management Meeting (Drexel Room)

Wednesday, Sept. 19 - Saint Januarius, Bishop and Martyr

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

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

7:15 p.m. Bible Study (Drexel Room)

7:30 p.m. Stewardship Meeting (Reception Area)

7:30 p.m. Book Club (Seton Room)

Thursday, Sept. 20 - Saint Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest, and Paul Chong Ha-Song, and Companions, Martyrs

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

6:30 p.m. Labyrinth Walk (Labyrinth)

7:30 p.m. Spontaneous Prayer Workshop (Church Center)

Friday, Sept. 21 - Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

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

Mass Schedule - September 22/23

Saturday

5:30 p.m.

Celebrant Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Reader Jim Murray

Altar Server Religious Ed Class Mass Servers

Ministers of the Eucharist Donna Lance

..... Donna Torczon, 1 Needed

Sunday

8:00 a.m.

Celebrant Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Reader Allan Piechowski

Altar Server Paterson Family

Ministers of the Eucharist Marbara Martalus

..... Gail Battell, Bob Martalus

Sunday

10:30 a.m.

Celebrant Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Reader Julie Weldon

Altar Server Alligood Family

Music Eucharistic Minister Marlene Milko

Ministers of the Eucharist Mary D'Avella, Anthony DeStefano

..... 3 Needed

Saturday, Sept. 22 - Weekday

5:30 p.m. Mass - Class Mass Grades 7 + 8 (Church Center)

Sunday, Sept. 23 - Twenty-Fifth Sunday Ordinary Time / Kerala Flood Relief Collection

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

10:30 a.m. Mass - Catechist Commissioning (Church Center)

12:00 p.m. GIFT Program (Church and Office Centers)

2:00 p.m. Parish Picnic (Church Center and Grounds)

A PEARL OF WISDOM FOR THIS WEEK:

If You Are Right Then...

There is No Need to Get Angry And

If You Are Wrong Then...

You Don't Have Any Right to Get Angry

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**, and **Max Fox**.

Deceased: **Catherine McVicker**, parishioner and **Max Fox**, friend of the Bauernfiends. 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,

Full initiation into the Catholic Church consists of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Fifteen of our youth will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop James Checchio this Tuesday evening. Renee Ciszewski, our Director of Religious Education (DRE), will present the candidates to our Bishop who will formally ask the preparedness of the candidates and proceed with the prayers of the Sacrament. We have a wonderful preparation for this important sacrament with over two years of catechism sessions, group activities, covenant rites, spiritual retreats, variety of service projects, interview with the Pastor, etc. As I congratulate these students for completing their initiation, we must appreciate that this has been a parish program with so many of us involved: the Catechists, parents, sponsors, the Religious education office, parishioners who wrote letters of encouragement to the Candidates and the whole parish community praying for them.

Confirmation is an often misunderstood sacrament. It is looked at as a Catholic Bar Mitzvah, a sort of rite of passage into a mature faith. But if it is called a sacrament of initiation, it means the beginning, not the end. Our Confirmandi class of 2018 is called to go deeper and deeper into their faith so as to grow in their relationship with Christ and the church. That's why I asked them, during my personal interviews with them in the presence of their parents, to become living witnesses of their faith especially through two visible ways: 1) by continuing their regular Sunday attendance, and 2) by joining our Youth group. I asked the parents too to show by example that Sunday worship matters and to bring their sons/daughters to the youth group meetings and activities.

As all of us adult laity are confirmed, we are to fully participate in the Church's life. The Second Vatican Council document "The Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity" highlighted the dignity and role of lay people in the church and world. But the lay people today are very angry and ashamed of their Catholic identity due to the clergy sex abuse scenario. Our Bishop has sent another letter in which he candidly says: "I know that so much of the news regarding the Church this whole summer has been painful and very difficult for all of us. The bad news seemingly does not end. However, I write to you in order to hopefully be a voice of encouragement amidst the discouragement and a ray of light in what may seem endless dark clouds. My hope is to provide some assurance to you that indeed our diocese continues to seek to be in the light regarding clergy misconduct, and remain poised to respond in goodness and truth to whatever is placed before us." Please read the full letter on our website.

But the sad truth is that the lay people, who are the vast majority of the Church, do not have a proper forum to express their feelings in these present dark times of the clergy abuse revelations. That's why, as I mentioned in my homily last Sunday, I was happy to accept the proposal of our parishioner Greg Wilson to have 10 minutes of conversation at the beginning of every ministry/association meeting this month. From the few such meetings we already had, it has been found to be very helpful, healthy and healing. The participants were pleased with the opportunity to ask questions and propose suggestions. I wish to thank you all for your open communication that I believe will lead to greater unity among ourselves and greater commitment to the Church of Jesus Christ who is the foundation of our Church.

Your brother in Christ
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



THE ST. JOHN'S PHOTO DIRECTORY IS COMING!

It's time for us to update our photo directory. Get ready to sign up online or after masses next weekend. The photography dates are October 18th, 19th and 20th. You'll receive your pictures just in time for Christmas. Watch for more information in the bulletin and emails. Our directory won't be complete without you!



CAN WE 'REJOICE AND BE GLAD'?

Pope Francis comes to our Small Groups

Come enjoy practical guidance of Pope Francis of *Rejoice and Be Glad* in these small group settings.

Five week session will begin week of Oct 1. Groups take place weekday mornings and evenings and Sunday morning. Call, text or email to sign up or for more info 908-307-7879, francekenedy99@gmail.com



24TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

September 16, 2018

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." MARK 8:34

When we truly believe that all we have is a gift from God, then we must be willing to give up some things so that we can share our blessings as God intended. Living a stewardship lifestyle means not only being responsible for our own life, but the lives of others as well.



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.

KERALA FLOOD RELIEF

September 22 and 23

We received this information from the Diocesan Office.

The state of Kerala, India, which has the largest Christian population in the nation, has recently been devastated by the most extreme flash flooding and landslides in nearly a century. According to reports provided by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) which is actively working on site with the relief efforts, "hundreds of people are dead" and about 1,000,000 people have been displaced by the catastrophic flooding. These displaced people are in desperate need of food, clothing, potable water, medicine, and shelter. Next weekend, we will be participating in a diocesan second collection to assist in the relief efforts. We encourage your generosity to this collection. Those who wish to donate to the relief efforts online can go to the diocesan website <https://diometuchen.org/ways-to-give> and follow the link for "Kerala Flood Relief". Thank you for your assistance to our suffering brothers and sisters devastated by this historic flooding.

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, 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.

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

Research studies show that men who kiss their wives before leaving in the morning live 5 years longer than those who don't. Don't want to be a widower? Remember this. Although I haven't done the research, I suppose this works in the reverse too (wives kissing their husbands before leaving). (Susan Vogt)

PARENTING TUNE-UP

Have you had a Family Night recently? Don't know what to do? Try a walk down Memory Lane with your kids. Dig out some photos of their birth to more recent times and reminisce together. Maybe they'd even like to see photos of you growing up, if you dare.



WELCOME BACK STUDENTS MASS

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

Thank you to all our families and students who participated in our annual Welcome Back Mass! The donated food items were gratefully received by Social Ministry.

GIFT Family Formation begins on Sunday, Sept. 23 and Monday, Sept. 24. All parishioners are welcome to attend the 1 hour adult segment, either on Sunday or Monday.

"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

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.

PRAYER ENRICHMENT SESSION - SPONTANEOUS PRAYER

Thursday, September 20, at 7 PM

While no style of prayer is better or worse than another, Catholics often find it more challenging to engage in "spontaneous prayer" than prayers that are prescribed and offered to us in written form. However, St. Therese of Lisieux describes all prayer as "the lifting of our hearts to God". Whether we pray formularized prayer or spontaneous prayer it should come from our hearts.

Jesus is very direct about this: "These people draw near me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me (Matthew 15:8).

If you think about it, we all use spontaneous prayer every day usually without thinking – maybe that's the key to this spirit-filled approach to prayer.

Come join us this Thursday evening at 7 pm in the Church Center. Fr. Abraham will share his insights and experience with "spontaneous prayer" and guide us in developing this approach to prayer in our daily lives.

LABYRINTH



You've heard of First Friday Holy Hour and Women's Spirituality on the Second Saturday. Now we are introducing Labyrinth Walk on Third Thursday. For the months of September and October come walk the Labyrinth between 6:30 and 7pm. Though the labyrinth is solitary communication between you and God, others can walk the path at the same time. If you haven't walked the labyrinth and would like to know about how to do it, contact France Kennedy 908-307-7879 / fkennedy@ccsjn.org or show up on the this Thursday Sept 20th for some direction on how to find your path! This week the Labyrinth Walk will be followed by the Spontaneous Prayer Workshop by Fr Abraham.

"TAKE UP YOUR CROSS?" WHO WILL WANT TO!!

Taking up one's cross seems to be an unpleasant or unacceptable notion in today's world. Yet, in a national study, when the nation's top achievers were asked to rate the factors they consider most important in contributing to their own success, hard work emerges as the highest-rated factor. Not talent or luck but hard work. Psychologists followed the careers of violinists studying at the Music Academy of West Berlin. By the time they were 18, the academy's best students had already spent about 2,000 more hours in practice, on average, than had their fellow students. That is denying yourself and taking up a cross. Business Guru Tom Peters recalls a wonderful story of a musician, it may have been cellist Pablo Casals, who died at almost one hundred years of age. The morning he died he was downstairs practicing at 6:00 a.m. "That's just lovely," says Peters. It is lovely if being the best at what you do is important to you. So we have a choice. We can heed part of Jesus' words, "Deny yourself and take up your cross," and have all the success this world has to offer. And there's nothing really wrong with that. Jesus wants us to be the very best of whatever we choose to be, as long as it does not cost us our souls. There is a better way, however. Use Jesus as your guide. Follow Jesus. Deny yourself by giving yourself for others in Jesus' name. That's where real happiness lies. That's what ultimate success is all about.

"DENY YOURSELF??" WHO WANTS TO!!

"Deny yourself and take up your cross." Jesus said so, but who likes to practice this? The University of Chicago did a five-year study of leading artists, athletes, and scholars. Directed by Dr. Benjamin Bloom, the research was based on anonymous interviews with the top twenty performers in various fields. These people included concert pianists, Olympic swimmers, tennis players, sculptors, mathematicians, and neurologists. Bloom and his team of researchers from the University of Chicago probed for clues as to how these achievers developed. For a more complete picture, they interviewed their families and teachers. The report stated conclusively that drive and determination, not great natural talent, led to the extraordinary success of these individuals. Bloom noted, "We expected to find tales of great natural gifts. We didn't find that at all. Their mothers often said it was another child who had the greater talents." What they found were extraordinary accounts of hard work and dedication: The pianist who practiced several hours a day for seventeen years; the swimmer who rolled out of bed every morning at half past five to do laps for two hours before school, etc. [Dr. Denis E. Waitley, *Winning the Innovation Game* (New York: Berkley Books, 1986).]

CONFIRMATION MUSIC

All are welcome!

Come join the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation with our Confirmandi by singing! Confirmation will be on Tuesday at 7pm. Rehearsal will take place on Monday night at 7:30pm. And plan to arrive early on Tuesday for final practice at 6pm – and don't forget to wear red!

LOST AND FOUND

Housekeeping

We have lots of items hanging around the church, prescription glasses, jackets, hoodies, dishes of all styles, please take a look on the table in the church kitchen to see if you own anything.



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.



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.

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
 Joey 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: The Vocation of the "Anvil"

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." Mark 8: 27-35

Among the horrors of the Nazi regime during World War II was a plan to euthanize all mentally and physically challenged children and adults throughout Germany and its occupied territories. The Catholic bishop of Münster in the Rhineland would have none of it. Bishop Clemens August von Galen exhorted the people of the region to take into their homes or find hiding places in their barns for all the exceptional children and adults being cared for by Church-related schools and institutions - and then dared the government to try to find them. In a famous sermon preached in his cathedral on July 20, 1941, Bishop von Galen called Catholics to resistance:

"At this moment we are the anvil rather than the hammer. Other men, strangers, renegades, are hammering us . . . Ask the blacksmith and hear what he says. The object which is forged on the anvil receives its form not alone from the hammer but also from the anvil. The anvil cannot and need not strike back: it must only be firm, only be hard! However hard the hammer strikes, the anvil stands firmly and silently in place and will long continue to shape the objects forged upon it. If it is sufficiently tough and firm and hard, the anvil will last longer than the hammer. The anvil represents those who are unjustly imprisoned, those who are driven out and banished for no fault of their own."

Discipleship often calls us to be the "anvil": to sacrifice our own safety and security to absorb the blows directed at the poor, the vulnerable, the powerless. In resisting injustice, in remaining constant in seeking what is right, our lives are "shaped" in the spirit of Jesus' servanthood and "formed" in his Gospel of justice and mercy. To be an authentic disciple of Jesus means to put ourselves in the humble, demanding anvil-strong role of servant to others, to intentionally seek the happiness and fulfillment of those we love regardless of the cost to ourselves.

LITHUANIA'S PRIDE: THE HILL OF CROSSES

The people of Lithuania take their cross-bearing a little more seriously than we do. For them, the cross symbolizes Faith, Hope and Love. There are crosses everywhere in the countryside, on roads, in city parks and village squares. Communities and individuals erect crosses to bring them health and to commemorate events like weddings, births and christenings. Crosses are also erected to commemorate historical events. One of these is the Baltic Way, in which millions of people linked hands stretching across the Baltics from Estonia to Lithuania on August 25, 1989. About 9 monuments commemorate this extraordinary event. The nation's pride is the Hill of Crosses, located north of Siauliai. Lithuanians erected crosses there as early as the mid-19th century. The Soviet government couldn't tolerate that kind of spiritual expression, so they totally destroyed the hill in 1961, then again in 1973 and 1975. But people kept erecting more crosses, until in 1980 their destruction stopped. Today the crosses number in the thousands. They are different sizes and shapes, some simple, some ornate, but they immortalize Lithuania's troubles, misfortunes, joys, hope and Faith. (<http://lithuanian-american.org/folklife/crosses.htm>) For the Lithuanian people, the cross is more than a symbol in the Church. It is symbol for the world to see, a symbol that will not go away. It is a symbol of sacrifice, a sacrifice that gives each and every one of us Hope and Faith and courage.

How many of us know that we have a wall of such crosses in the Neumann Residence Chapel? In this rare collection that our Fr. Bill began, there is also the "hill of crosses" from Lithuania.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



College student: "Hey, Dad - I've got some great news for you!" **Father:** "What, son?" **College student:** "Remember that \$500 you promised me if I made the Dean's list?" **Father:** "I certainly do." **College student:** "Well, you get to keep it!"

A college student could not take his seminar final exam because of a funeral. "No problem," the teacher told him. "Make it up the following week." That week came, and again he couldn't take the test due to another funeral. "You'll have to take the test early next week," the professor insisted. "I can't keep postponing it." "I'll take the test next week if no one dies," the undergrad replied. By now the instructor was suspicious. "How can you have so many people you know pass away in three weeks?" "I don't know any of these people," the student exclaimed. "But I'm the only gravedigger in town."

SOME FALSE PUBLIC OPINIONS ABOUT CHRIST!

MORMONS: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, more commonly called the Mormons, incorporates the Lord's name in its title, but its beliefs about Jesus are fatally flawed. A basic compendium of the Mormon gospel, entitled *Mormon Doctrine*, was written by apostle Bruce Redd McConkie, an influential Mormon theologian. According to McConkie, Mormons believe that "Lucifer, the son of the morning, is our elder brother, and the brother of Jesus." The *Journal of Discourses*, a 26-volume Mormon publication presenting public sermons by many early Mormon leaders, includes such statements as this: "Jesus, our elder brother was begotten in the flesh by the same character that was in the Garden of Eden, and who is our father in Heaven." The same volumes assert, "Jesus was married at Cana of Galilee and had many wives ... he also had many children." From these writings, it is clear that the Mormons fail the test when it comes to answering Jesus Christ's question, "Who do you say I am?" (v. 29).

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES: "Who do you say Jesus is?" The Jehovah's Witness publication, *New Heavens and New Earth*, declares by way of response, "Michael the Archangel is no other than the only begotten Son of God, now Jesus Christ."

ISLAM: Ask the Muslim who Jesus is and the answer we get from official publications is "Jesus was no more than a mortal whom Allah favored and made an example to the Israelites. They are unbelievers who say God is Messiah, Mary's son" (Sura 43:59, *Quran*).

Public opinion about Jesus Christ, even by those who claim to be Christians, is false or incomplete. Until people see Jesus as Peter did, as "the Christ, the Son of the Living God," they all miss the mark

DIOCESAN SCOUTING COMMITTEE CALLING ...

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

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.

ARE YOU IN THE 12% OF AMERICANS?

According to research conducted by George Gallup, 12% of Americans are "highly spiritually committed." They are those who truly understand what Jesus meant when he said, "Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me." Gallup says the members of this group are "a breed apart from the rest of the populace in at least four ways: 1. They're happier. 2. Their families are stronger. 3. They're more tolerant of people of different races and religions. 4. They're community-minded." They're involved in service to others. That is cross-bearing that really makes a difference.

Do we have enough Faith to offer up a genuine sacrifice for Christ's sake? Can a Church in today's self-centered culture ask its people to sacrifice something for the sake of the Gospel? Jesus' challenge to all would-be disciples requires more than a "feel-good" spirituality. A true disciple asks, "Am I willing to sacrifice something for the God Who loves me?" What made it possible for first-century Christians to choose a martyr's death? What has kept generations of Christians from losing Faith and falling apart when confronted by the violence and hatred of this world? Can we offer even the day-to-day sacrifices asked by Jesus when they demand things we don't want to do? Can we sacrifice some of our time in order to visit Him in a homeless shelter or soup kitchen? Can we sacrifice our job security and refuse to "go along" with a policy that is unjust? Can we sacrifice our need to be in control and let Christ do with us what he will? Can we refuse to let our children watch television programs filled with sex and violence?

WEEKLY COLLECTION

September 9, 2018

77 Donors Weekly.....\$4,010.00
6 Yellow Brick Road.....\$340.00
28 Peter's Pence.....\$473.10

September 10, 2017

82 Donors Weekly.....\$3,784.00
10 Yellow Brick Road.....\$490.00
37 Assumption.....\$726.00



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 9, 2018, 12** Families purchased **\$1,600.00** for a profit of **\$85.63**

SAVE THE DATES

Spontaneuos Prayer.....Sept. 20
Church Picnic.....Sept. 23
Tricky Tray.....Oct. 12
50 Plus Club.....Oct. 14
Tasting Event.....Nov. 30

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.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

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

Store Cards

September 15 and September 16

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

September 22 and September 23

5:30 p.m. B. Cestone
8:00 a.m. G. Battell
10:30 a.m. S. Pojedinec

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of Sept. 16 B. Sobey
Week of Sept. 23 M. Proano

Church Center Cleaning

September 20 Team D
September 27 Team E

Counting

Sept. 17 McCabe / Kosakowski
Sept. 24 Malone / Cangelosi

Altar Flowers

September 22 Needed
September 29 Germino

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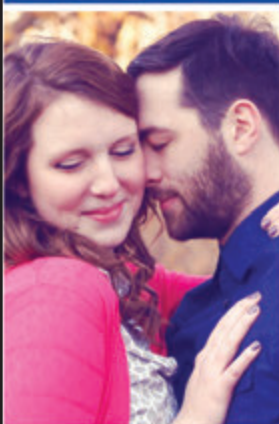
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