

The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

A Christian Community of the Catholic Tradition

www.ccsjn.org / sjn@ccsjn.org

October 28, 2018

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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
Rev. J. Wm. Mickiewicz, Pastor Emeritus
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, October 30

8:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Thursday, November 1

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Friday, November 2

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

7:00 p.m. Dorothy Byrne, Mary Byrne & Gordon & Sollesx Families req., Brisson Family

Saturday, November 3

5:30 p.m. Mark Livoti, req. Livoti Family

Sunday, November 4

8:00 a.m. Edward J. Shaara, Jr., req. Marie and Roger Malone

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



Parish Calendar

Sunday, Oct. 28 - Thirtieth Sunday Ordinary Time / All Souls Intentions

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
 9:00 a.m. Small Group (Seton Room)
 10:30 a.m. Mass – Frey Baptism (Church Center)
 10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word (Narthex)

Monday, October 29 - Weekday

7:00 p.m. Small Group (Drexel Room)
 7:00 p.m. Bereavement Session (Upper Room)
 7:30 p.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word Meeting (Seton Room)

Tuesday, October 30 - Weekday

8:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
 10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga (Narthex)
 11:30 a.m. Small Group (Narthex)
 7:00 p.m. Small Group (Neumann Residence Chapel)

Wednesday, October 31 - Weekday

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (Drexel Room)
 10:30 a.m. Small Group (Narthex)
 5:30 p.m. Yoga (Church Center Loft)
 6:45 p.m. Tai Chi (Church Center Loft)
 7:15 p.m. Small Group (Upper Room)

Thursday, November 1 - All Saints (Holy Day of Obligation)

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
 5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)
 7:00 p.m. Mass (Church Center)
 7:45 p.m. Small Group (Upper Room)

Mass Schedule - November 1/3/4

Thursday	All Saints	7:00 p.m.
Celebrant	Fr. Abraham Orapankal	
Reader	Mary D'Avella	
Altar Server	Alligood Family	
Ministers of the Eucharist	3 Needed	
Saturday		5:30 a.m.
Celebrant	Fr. Abraham Orapankal	
Reader	Jen Kelly	
Altar Server	Upwood Family	
Ministers of the Eucharist	Mary Connolly	
.....	Lyle Garcia, Donna Torczon	
Sunday		8:00 a.m.
Celebrant	Fr. Abraham Orapankal	
Reader	Chris Bitters	
Altar Server	Kennedy Family	
Ministers of the Eucharist	Barbara Gates	
.....	Tom Klawunn, Jane Klawunn	
Sunday		10:30 a.m.
Celebrant	Fr. Abraham Orapankal	
Reader	Mary D'Avella	
Altar Server	Alligood Family	
Music Eucharistic Minister	Debby Kelemen	
Ministers of the Eucharist	Anthony DeStefano, Peter Royal	
.....	Doris Royal, Patti Rittman, Jim DeVito	

Friday, November 2 - All Souls Day

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
 4:30 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal - Lacy/Warren (Church Ctr)
 7:00 p.m. 1st Friday Holy Hour (Neumann Res. Chapel)

Saturday, Nov. 3 - Saint Martin de Porres, Religious; BVM

2:30 p.m. Lacy/Warren Wedding (Church Center)
 5:30 p.m. Mass (Church Center)

Sunday, November 4 - Thirty-First Sunday Ordinary Time Yellow Brick Road Collection

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
 9:00 a.m. Small Group (Seton Room)
 10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
 10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word (Narthex)
 12:00 p.m. Jr. High Operation Christmas Child Packing Event (Church Center)
 2:00 p.m. 50 Plus (Game Extravaganza) (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: **Luuc de Jong.**

Deceased: Luuc de Jong, friend of Alligood Family. May they find peace and comfort in the embrace of the Lord and may their families find strength in the Lord and comfort and support from family and friends.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

This coming week has three important celebrations: Halloween, All Saints Day and All Souls Day. Each has its own meaning as well as challenges.

Halloween: History tells us that somewhere along the way, Halloween or All Hallows Eve got hijacked. What started as a day to prepare for All Saints' Day (November 1st), became a spooky, evil, and candy-filled observance. The term "Halloween" from its beginnings, had nothing to do with any pagan or evil beliefs. The Christian festival All Hallows Eve morphed into our current term *Halloween*, and so it is considered a *pagan festival*. Is that a good enough reason for Christians to ignore or avoid it? The establishment of Christmas and Easter in Europe had pagan connections but we do not abandon these holidays. Neither should we abandon All Hallows Eve. We can make a conscious attempt to provide an alternative and re-focus the day away from ghouls, goblins, ghosts, witches and other "haunted" experiences. Hence many Christians have decided to allow their children to dress in more "innocent" costumes of pumpkins, princesses, Superman, cowboy, etc. Some churches encourage the children to dress up as saints and martyrs of the Church or heroes and heroines of the Bible. Such creative ways provide an environment that also makes room for heaps of fun while using the day as a "teachable moment" to celebrate God's protection, provision and purpose for our lives.

All Saints Day is intended to honor the memory of countless unknown and non-canonized people who are in heaven. Today we thank God for giving ordinary men and women a share in His holiness and Heavenly glory as a reward for their Faith. The Church reminds us that all of us are called to holiness and to make God's love real in our lives and in the lives of those around us. This is the truth that Pope Francis has brought out clearly in his Apostolic Exhortation "Rejoice and Be Glad" that our Parish is reflecting upon through the many faith groups as well as through the sessions for the Parents in our GIFT program. A very common misunderstanding that many non-Catholic Christians have is that we pray to the saints. No we don't. We can pray only to God. But we can ask others to pray for us, as we do before going for a surgery or an interview or a test. Intercession is the right word for such requests. We believe that saints are alive in heaven and they are interested in our welfare and so they can intercede with Jesus Christ who is *the only mediator between God and man* (I Tim. 2:5). Thus saints become instruments that God uses to work miracles at present, just as God used the staff of Moses (Ex 4:2,17), the bones of the dead (II Kgs 13:21), the towel of Paul (Acts: 19:12) and the shadow of Peter (Acts 5:15) to work miracles.

All Souls' Day is a day specially set apart that we may remember and pray for our dear ones who have gone for their eternal reward. Even though they are no more with us physically, we love them still and care for their life with God in eternity. Besides the All Souls Mass on Friday, we will also have special remembrance of our dearly departed ones at all the Masses at the weekend Masses to thank God for the gift of their lives to us.

Let us celebrate all three feasts and grow more in holiness. Pope Francis destroys the myth that holiness is unattainable by all. He gives us a very good tip: *"The important thing is that each believer discern his or her own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts rather than hopelessly trying to imitate something not meant for them."*

Your brother in Christ
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

DO YOU SUFFER FROM SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS?

Each one of us suffers from spiritual blindness. Hence, we need the light of the Holy Spirit to enlighten us. Anger, hatred, prejudice, jealousy, evil habits, etc., make us spiritually blind and prevent us from seeing the goodness in our neighbors and God's presence in them. We are blind to a sense of justice when we refuse to pay our debts, or when we collect our wages though we have not done an honest day's work for that day's pay or have cheated our employer by taking time or items that belong to the company. We are blinded by greed when we are never satisfied with what we have and incur debts to buy luxury items. Hence, let us pray to have a clear vision of Christian values and priorities in our lives and to acknowledge the presence of God dwelling in ourselves and in our neighbors. A clear spiritual vision enables us to see the goodness in others, to express our appreciation for all that they have been doing for us, and to refrain from criticizing their performance.

30TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

October 28, 2018

***"And Jesus said to him, 'Go your way; your faith has made you well.' And immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way."* (MARK 10:52)**

Faith is believing in something even though you may not be able to see it. Many people think that miracles don't happen anymore. But, if you focus on the positive, not the negative, focus on your blessings instead of your hardships, miracles will seem common and you will see God's active presence in your daily life.

DIVERSITY OF SAINTS

One thing that strikes you first about the Saints is their diversity. It would be very difficult to find one pattern of holiness, one way of following Christ. There is Thomas Aquinas, the towering intellectual, and John Vianney (the Curé d'Ars), who barely made it through the seminary. There is Vincent de Paul, a saint in the city, and there is Antony who found sanctity in the harshness and loneliness of the desert. There is Bernard kneeling on the hard stones of Clairvaux in penance for his sins, and there is Hildegard of Bingen singing and throwing flowers, madly in love with God. There is Albertus Magnus, the quirky scientist, half-philosopher and half-wizard, and there is Gerard Manley Hopkins, the gentle poet. There is Peter, the hard-nosed and no-nonsense fisherman, and there is Edith Stein, secretary to Edmund Husserl and colleague to Martin Heidegger, the most famous philosopher of the twentieth century. There is Joan of Arc, leading armies into war, and there is Francis of Assisi, the peacenik who would never hurt an animal. There is the grave and serious Jerome, and there is Philip Neri, whose spirituality was based on laughter. How do we explain this diversity? God is an artist, and artists love to change their styles. The saints are God's masterpieces, and He never tires of painting them in different colors, different styles, and different compositions. What does this mean for us? It means we should not try to imitate any one Saint exactly. Look to them all, study their unique holiness, but then find that specific color God wants to bear through you. St. Catherine of Siena was right: "Be who God meant *you* to be and you will set the world on fire." (Fr. Robert Barron).

Christian Formation

GIFT FAMILIES SAY "THANK YOU"



Every Operation Gratitude Care Package includes a bundle of letters from the American people, thanking Troops, Veterans, New Recruits, Wounded Heroes and their Caregivers, or First Responders for their service to our country. Care Package recipients tell us these letters, notes, and drawings are the most cherished items in their box. As part of our family activity, children and families in our GIFT Family Formation Program made cards that will be included in care packages to veterans it is our way of saying thank you for your service!

PARENTING TUNE-UP

When families work well, jobs are shared according to age, ability, and interest. Just for fun, why not shake it up once in a while. Try trading jobs. You just might learn something new. (Susan Vogt)

MARRIAGE TUNE-UP

Even when Jesus knew what Bartimaeus wanted, he wanted to listen to him expressing his needs (Mark 10:46-52). How do you listen to your spouse? When you speak to your partner, do you consciously focus on his/her feelings and personal struggles? Before any serious personal talk with your spouse, decide not to become defensive or interrupt each other. Remember that your partner might not want solutions - he or she needs you to just sit back and listen.

VOLUNTEERS FOR CLEANING

We are in need of volunteers to help with church cleaning, once every six weeks. One task is vacuuming and mopping narthex floor, and the other for cleaning bathrooms. Contact the office if you want to try it.

MORE UPDATES

Updates on other projects like "Christmas Angels" and "Christmas Cheer and Comfort" will be announced soon.

"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: Immaculate Conception, Annandale –

7 p.m., Class available: 11/8 and 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.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PACKING PARTY

Parishioners are invited to participate in Operation Christmas Child and prepare a "shoe box" full of presents for a needy child. These will be delivered to poor children

around the world along with a booklet in the child's own language telling them about the birth of Jesus, His life and how He saved us. This is an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus and bring joy to a child. GIFT Family Formation will be holding its own OCC Packing Party on **Sunday November 4 from 12:00-1:00PM!** *This is a great family activity.*

Completed shoeboxes can be dropped off in the narthex **no later than November 9. Please remember to include \$9.00 cash or check to cash for postage.** Extra brochures are available in the narthex for any parishioner wishing to participate in this program. Please contact Renee Ciszewski or visit samaritanspurse.org for further information.

Social Ministry

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE



Please join us on November 16th at 5:00 pm for packing up the food baskets for the families and individuals in need of food on Thanksgiving. We also need volunteers for delivery on November 17th at 8:00 am. If you are unable to volunteer, please consider donating items for the Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive. Thank you for your generosity and all your help!

A PUMPKIN STORY:



"What is it like to be a Christian saint?" "It is like being a Halloween pumpkin. God picks you from the field, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off you. Then he cuts off the top and



scoops out the yucky stuff. He removes the pulp of impurity and injustice and seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light of holiness inside you to shine for the entire world to see." This is the Christian idea behind the carved pumpkins during the Halloween season.

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH:

Generous and loving God, We give thanks to you for the gifts you have given us, our lives, families, friends, time, talent, and material possessions. All that we have comes from you. Help us to remember this and walk in your goodness. Help us on our spiritual journey, so that we may constantly renew our relationship with you in our believing, belonging and becoming the People of God in this Community of St. John Neumann. Give us the strength and courage to become better followers and disciples of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen

TWO DAYS ADDED TO THE ST. JOHN'S PHOTO SESSIONS!



Tues. & Wed., Nov. 6th & 7th from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

So when you are sitting there wondering the name of the person in the next pew....you will wish you could have found their photo in the directory! Is your photo in the directory? The parish directory is a useful tool for all of us. You have your photo taken. You get your photo in the directory and get a free 8x10 photo. You can buy other copies but you do not have to. And you also get a copy of the directory. If you don't get your photo in the directory but want a directory you can order one for \$10. We have two more days scheduled for photos – Nov 6 and 7. Please go online and schedule your appointment or call the office to do so. If you can't make these dates call the office for options.

50 PLUS CLUB - FOR PARISHIONERS 50 AND ABOVE

The 50 Plus Club had a great meeting last Sunday to kick off the new group. We enjoyed socializing, refreshments and gathered ideas on activities, trips and events that parishioners are interested in. A small team will review the feedback and start planning a few activities. You are welcome to join in. Shoot an email to 50plus@ccsjn.org or sign up in the narthex to receive emails about upcoming activities. If you would like to help organize one of the activities please call the office. Our first event is scheduled for November 4th. Sign up for information and your invite.



AQUIRE THE FIRE



Acquire the Fire, a Catholic Young Adult group based at Our Lady of Lourdes in Whitehouse Station, will be having their Fall kick off meeting on Sunday, October 28th at 7 PM in the Old Church Hall of Our Lady of Lourdes (390 County Road 523, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889). Join us as we watch some videos on Evangelization from some dynamic Catholic speakers followed by a discussion. Save the date for the next meeting which will take place on Sunday, November 11th at 7 PM at Our Lady of Lourdes. To join the list serve please email Susan at acquirethefire@ollwhs.org.

2018 FALL BEREAVEMENT GROUP AT ST. JOHN'S

TUESDAY EVENINGS FROM OCTOBER 29 THROUGH DECEMBER 4

A six week bereavement session begins this week. The meetings will be at 7pm and start Oct 29. You must be registered so call the office on Monday if you want to attend. 908-832-2513.

OPERATION CHILL OUT

To Help Homeless Veterans - Backpacks are Due Back by Nov. 10th

Please return your back pack no later than November 10, 11th, for distribution that week.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Periodically we review the list of the sick that we pray for. If you recognize any of the following names please advise. We will be removing any people whom we do not know the connection to. Joan Cardierre, Barbara DelPiano, Debbie Gregorakis, Nancy Patterson, Ali Redling, Joe Romanger, Nicholas Troiano or Don Velli. If you have someone on the prayer list that can be removed please call or email the office. The list is constantly growing so we need to review it regularly.



ORDER YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS NOW!

If you give Gift cards for Holiday presents please pick up the list of Cards available in the Narthex along with a gift card order form. Fill out the form and return it with your payment in the envelopes supplied. Orders will be placed on **November 5th**

and **December 3rd** and will be ready for pick up 2 weeks after the order is placed.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

THANK YOU for your generous response to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith last weekend on World Mission Sunday. Our parish raised \$1,004.00. You may stay connected year round to the Pope's missions, continuing the commitment of World Mission Sunday by visiting MISSIO.org.

TAI CHI

We began a new six week series of Tai Chi. Tai Chi is helpful in promoting health, relaxation, personal meditation, and breathing techniques. Space is limited; contact Bonnie Garcia at 908-975-3003 or bonniegarci-a210@yahoo.com. There is a \$5 charge per session. Wednesdays at 6:45pm.

First Friday Holy Hour



November 2 - 7:00 pm
Neumann Residence Chapel

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH!

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. **Statistics are shocking!** In the United States, an average of 20 people experience intimate partner physical violence every minute. This equates to more than 10 million abuse victims annually. In Canada, 25% of all violent crimes reported to police involve family violence. In the United Kingdom, an estimated 4.3 million women aged 16-59 have experienced domestic abuse. In Mexico, a 2016 nationwide survey reported that 43.9% of women have suffered some form of intimate partner violence in their lifetime. **Hunterdon County** has a Domestic Violence Response Team. These wonderful and caring volunteers respond to victim crisis calls 24/7 (Toll Free Hotline: 1-888-988-4032) at police stations and hospitals. Many events for awareness campaign are held this month. Domestic violence and abuse are **sinful patterns** that need to be confronted. Churches can educate men and women in the roles of husbands and wives. They can emphasize love and respect in marriage. Women need to be taught how to apply assertiveness and boundaries in their relationships.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Clara Alvarez
 Andrew Arias
 Miguel Astacio
 Fariba Brady
 Joan Cardierre
 John D'Almeida
 Percy Davids
 Barbara DelPiano
 Sophia DeVita
 Anthony DeVito
 Dawn Farley
 Cindy Feighan
 Emma Finnegan
 Bob Gardner
 Debbie Gregorakis
 Liz Harmon
 Fred Holub
 Stephanie Illetscho
 Manuel Jimenez, Jr.
 Michael Kucharski
 Bonnie Lieberwirth
 Dick McCall
 Jan McLeavey
 Naim Melhem
 Christine Meyer
 Joan & Megan Myers
 Nancy Patterson
 Nilsa Perez Parsons
 John Pfeufer
 Ali Redling
 Earl & Denise Roberts
 Joe Romanger
 Noah Skinner
 Michael Slivka
 Dick Slusher
 Patty Galoti Stafford
 Margaret Thornsbury
 Nicholas Troiano
 Don Velli
 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, Michael Tyler D'Avella, U.S. Air Force
 SSO, Andrew Fabiano, U.S. Navy Reserve
 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: Right Now Matters!

Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging. "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me . . . ! "Master, I want to see." Mark 10: 46-52

Samantha had just finished college and was about to embark on the "real world." Her mother warned her: "You are about to enter a really weird time in your life, and I can't prepare you for it. Just be aware." Eager to move on from college in Tennessee, she moved back to her hometown of St. Louis and landed a job as a nanny with a wealthy and extremely likable family. It was a great job for a nanny - but this was not what she envisioned her life to be. While her friends were going off to law school or beginning promising new careers in great cities or getting married, she was mastering toasting the perfect Eggo waffle.

Samantha second-guessed her decision to flee Tennessee and tortured herself with feelings of insignificance and failure. It was turning into that "weird time" her mother warned her about. Then came one of those "aha!" moments when things become unmistakably clear. She was playing outside with her little charges when one of them came up and said, "You're so great. You don't even have to play with us but you do it anyway. Our other nannies never did that. We love you!" Samantha was floored. Not only did she underestimate the kids' ability to be so gracious, but they made her realize that it's truly not about what life hands you but what you do with it. Samantha writes:

"I could easily just patrol these girls, make sure they don't run out in the street or draw all over the walls, but I don't. I play with them. I make my life part of theirs and vice versa. And together, we have perfected the fine art of Eggo toasting. How many people can say that?" Samantha discovered that "self-worth is where you find it and that the most beautiful form of self-worth occurs when you maximize the amount of love you share with the world, no matter how mundane or humble the circumstances may be . . . Just because you have a college degree doesn't mean you need a job with a Blackberry."

In today's Gospel, a blind man asks to see. Jesus responds not by mixing mud or touching the man's eyes or looking to heaven in prayer; Jesus says, basically, *Look with the eyes of the faith you already possess.* Not only does he restore Bartimaeus' physical sight but Jesus also "restores" Bartimaeus' realization of God's love in his life, enabling him to embrace, with hope, the life God has called him to live: a life that finds its meaning in selfless giving and reconciling peace. In the same way, Samantha comes to realize the possibilities she has to be the means of love and joy for the children entrusted to her and, in that role, she discovers meaning and joy in her own life. Jesus opens the eyes of our hearts as well, enabling us to realize the opportunities we have to bring life and light, healing and peace, justice and mercy to others along our way to the dwelling place of God. Faith calls us to "see" with the human heart, to perceive in the spirit.

RENEW INVITES YOU!

All parishioners are cordially invited to RENEW International's 40th Anniversary Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Park Ridge on Sunday, November 4th at 2 PM. Founded in the Archdiocese of Newark in 1978, RENEW has served over 25 million people on six continents and 24 countries. Be part of thanking God for this powerful ministry.

Please RSVP for the mass and reception at www.renew_mass.eventbrite.com or contact RENEW at marybethh@renewintl.org / 908-769-5400 X114. We hope to see you at this free event.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



Two little neighbor girls about the same age, one Christian and one Jewish, were constant companions. After one Easter holiday, the grandfather of the Christian girl asked her what her friend had received for Easter. The girl looked at her grandfather in surprise, and said, "But Grandpa, you should know that Becky is Jewish and she wouldn't get anything for Easter." Then she went on to explain patiently, "You see, I'm Easter and she's Passover. I'm Christmas and she's Hanukkah." Then with a big smile, she added, "but I'm really glad that both of us are Halloween."

Q: Why did the policeman ticket the ghost on Halloween?

A: It didn't have a haunting license!

"WHAT I LIKE TO SEE!"

Helen Keller, so brave and inspiring to us in her deafness and blindness, once wrote a magazine article entitled: "Three Days To See." In that article she outlined what things she would like to see if she were granted just three days of sight. It was a powerful, thought-provoking article. On the first day, she said, she wanted to see friends. Day two she would spend seeing nature. The third day she would spend in her home city of New York, watching the busy city and the workday of the present. She concluded it with these words: "I who am blind can give one hint to those who see: Use your eyes as if tomorrow you were to be stricken blind."

The gospel this Sunday is the healing of blind Bartimaeus who tried to get the attention of Jesus. In the midst of the crowd, Jesus called him and wanted him to articulate what his need was. Bartimaeus who had lots of things in his mind (unhappiness and all other feelings due to his inability to see and manage his life as he was a blind beggar), got a chance to share his needs with Jesus. Like Bartimaeus, we must seek Jesus with trust in his goodness and mercy. Sometimes our fears, anger and habitual unhealthy habits prevent us from approaching God in prayer. At times, we even become angry with God when He seems slow in answering our prayers. In these desperate moments, let us approach Jesus in prayer with trusting Faith as Bartimaeus did and listen carefully to the voice of Jesus asking us: "What do you want me to do for you?" Let us tell Him all our heart's intentions and needs. Let us imitate Bartimaeus, the man of faith and vision, a man unafraid to recognize his need for healing and to cry out, "I want to see!"



JOIN TODAY! ADVENT BOOK CLUB STARTS WEEK OF NOVEMBER 4TH

Experience Advent in an entirely new way by reading, *Gaze Upon Jesus: Experiencing Christ's Childhood through the Eyes of Women*. "It's part Bible study, part reflection on virtues, part introduction to *Visio Divina* (prayerfully praying with Sacred Art), and discussion guide ... all tied together with a fabulous biblical historical mini-novel about women who cared for, encountered, and were transformed by the Christ Child."

There's still time to join us! **There are two groups to choose from: Monday evenings at 7 p.m. OR Friday mornings at 10 a.m.** Order your book from Catholicvineyard.com (with optional journal) and contact Jo Ann Jarvis to join a group: jjarvis@ccsjn.org.

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.

A PEARL OF WISDOM FOR THIS WEEK:

*"Happiness keeps you sweet;
But being sweet brings happiness."*

HOW TO REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE

If you were sexually abused by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or you know of someone who was, you are encouraged to report that abuse to law enforcement and/or by contacting the Diocesan Response Officer at (908) 930-4558 (24 hours/7 days a week). For more information on how to report abuse, visit our diocesan website: <https://diometuchen.org/report-a-suspected-abuse>.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

October 21, 2018

70 Donors Weekly\$4,268.25
4 Yellow Brick Road\$140.00
35 World Mission.....\$1004.00

October 22, 2017

62 Donors Weekly\$3,276.00
1 Yellow Brick Road\$10.00
43 World Mission.....\$907.00

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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 **October 15, 2018, 17 Families** purchased **\$3,925** for a profit of **\$231.25**.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Wed., Oct. 31 L. Caprio
Wed., Nov. 7 J. Santoro

Store Cards

October 27 and October 28

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

November 3 and November 4

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

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of Oct. 28 L. Livoti
Week of Nov. 4 M. Cangelosi

Church Center Cleaning

November 1 Team D
November 8 Team E

Counting

Oct. 29 Cangelosi / McCabe
Nov. 5 Malone / Bauernfeind

Altar Flowers

November 3 Mullen
November 10 Needed

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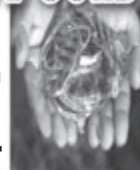


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