



The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

A Christian Community of the Catholic Tradition

www.ccsjn.org / sjn@ccsjn.org

December 9, 2018

Volume 36 Number 49



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. Maurice Carlton.....
..... Temporary Administrator
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

Office Center.....908-832-2513

Fax / Email... 908-832-7618 / sjn@ccsjn.org

Rev. Abraham OrapankalPastor

Email.....abraham@ccsjn.org

Sharon JanksPastoral Administrator

Email.....sjanks@ccsjn.org

France Kennedy Pastoral Associate

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Wayne Infusino Maintenance

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Youth Ministry.....sjnygroup@gmail.com

This Week at Saint John's

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 11

8:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Wednesday, December 12

8:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Thursday, December 13

8:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Saturday, December 15

5:30 p.m. William Anthes, req.

Ray and Jennifer Klacik

Sunday, December 16

8:00 a.m. Richard Sepe, req.

Mary and Mike Mastro

10:30 a.m. Roy Rittman, req.,

Linda and Gary Caprio



Parish Calendar

Sunday, December 9 - Second Sunday of Advent / Retirement Fund For Religious / End of Christmas Giving Tree-Items Due Back

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

10:00 a.m. Rosary (Church Center)

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

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

Monday, December 10 - Advent Weekday

10:00 a.m. S.H.I.P. (Office and Church Center Kitchens)

7:00 p.m. Advent Book Club (Drexel Room)

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

Tuesday, December 11 - Saint Damasus I, Pope

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

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

Wednesday, December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

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

12:00 p.m. Staff Christmas Luncheon (Away)

7:00 p.m. Community Reconciliation (Church Center)

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

7:30 p.m. Social Ministry Meeting (Seton Room)

Thursday, December 13 - Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

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

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

7:30 p.m. Bell Choir Practice (Church Center)

Friday, December 14 - Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

10:00 a.m. Advent Book Club (Drexel Room)

5:00 p.m. Food Pack up (Church Center & Kitchen)

6:00 p.m. Narthex Christmas Tree Set Up (Narthex)

Saturday, December 15 - Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Food Deliveries (Church Center)

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

Mass Schedule - December 15/16

Saturday	5:30 p.m.
Celebrant.....	Fr. Maurice Carlton
Reader	Kathleen Swindler
Altar Server	Uss Family
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	Lyle Garcia
.....	Debby Kelemen, Joann Gardner
Sunday	8:00 a.m.
Celebrant.....	Fr. Maurice Carlton
Reader	Brent Herrig
Altar Server	Patterson Family
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	Tom Klawuun
.....	Jane Klawuun, Maritza Perez Proano
Sunday	10:30 a.m.
Celebrant.....	Fr. Maurice Carlton
Reader	Steve Bauernfeind
Altar Server	Allgood Family
Music Eucharistic Minister.....	Bob Sobey
Ministers of the Eucharist.....	Jane Albert, Peter Royal
.....	Doris Royal, Donna Lance, Sheena Carew

Sunday, December 16 - Third Sunday of Advent / Christmas Flower Offering

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

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

11:30 a.m. Visit with Santa (Narthex)

12:00 p.m. GIFT Session (Church and Office Center)



**Rediscover the joy
in preparing for Christmas.**

**Advent started December 1st
Sign up today for inspirational emails
BestAdventEver.com/Joy**

Remembered at Mass	
	We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharist: Jack Burns, Margaret Portelo, Lynn Jeffreys, and Michael Bosack.

Deceased: Jack Burns, brother of Nancy DuBeau, Margaret Portelo, sister of Joe Sima, Lynn Jeffreys, grandmother of Meredith Hungarter, and Michael Bosack, cousin of Faye Mocariski. 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.

GLORY AND GLOW



A hush descends in this season of anticipation. Advent brings candlelight, reflection, preparation, and prayer. As Christmas approaches, we can make time to do for others. We can strive to fill our days with kindness and purpose, and to ponder the path and the past in recognition of magnificence. Advent is a time of intention. Advent abounds in glimmers of glory. We get ready. We make gifts to give. We trim our trees. Mindful of the blessings of family, we share stories and memories. We position the crèche and think of the Holy Family. Quiet background carols repeat the messages of the season... this glowing and warm season of glory.

Where do we experience glory? How does it manifest? What does it mean for us in this century, in this season? Some associate glory with fame or victory, but the kind of glory Advent encourages is paired with honor, filled with praise, splendor and grace. Our faith contains much mention of glory, all during the Liturgical Year. We recite the Gloria at Mass. When we say the Rosary, we end each decade with the Glory Be. In the final segment of the Our Father, we intone *For the kingdom, the power, and the glory, are yours, now and forever.* The church year begins with Advent, with glory. Glory celebrates the greatness of God, the humility and humanity of Jesus, the gifts of the Spirit. Glory connects and carries us. Glory is the ultimate glow, the perfect circle of light.

In this week's readings, the Old Testament text about Jerusalem contains the word glory no fewer than half-a-dozen times! (*Repeat the sounding joy!*) And Saint Paul urges and prays *that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value ... filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.* As we process through Advent, let us discern what is of value.

In the film *Little Women* (directed by Gillian Armstrong, 1994), the March sisters lament several things – their lack of funds and presents, the sorry condition of a country torn by conflict, the absence of their father at Christmastime. Yet, as they ascend the stairs for the night, each carrying a glowing candle, the song they sing radiates their faith, hope and joy: *Ding dong! Merrily on high, in heav'n, the bells are ringing. Ding dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing: Glo-ria! Hosanna in excelsis!* Let us (despite our trials) quietly send strains of glory and joy into the Advent air. Let us believe. Let's make a special attempt to notice glory and glow as we move through upcoming weeks, readying for the miracle of Christmas.

Linda Caprio

<u>Christmas Season & New Year's Mass Schedule 2018-2019</u>	
<u>Community Reconciliation</u>	
Wednesday, December 12	7:00 p.m.
<u>Weekend Masses / 4th Sunday of Advent</u>	
Saturday, December 22	5:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 23	8:00 a.m.
Sunday, December 23	10:30 a.m.
<u>Christmas Eve Masses</u>	
Monday, December 24	4:30 p.m.
Monday, December 24 (with Bell Choir)	7:30 p.m.
<u>Christmas Day Mass</u>	
Tuesday, December 25	10:30 a.m.
<u>Weekend Masses</u>	
Saturday, December 29	5:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 30	8:00 a.m.
Sunday, December 30	10:30 a.m.
<u>Solemnity of Mary - New Year's Day Mass</u>	
Tuesday, January 1	10:30 a.m.

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 9, 2018

"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value ..."

(PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10)

Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God and to those that are in need.

COME ENJOY THE BELLS!



The Bells will be played at

the

10:30 a.m. Mass on

December 16th

and again at the

7:30 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve.

PRAYER FOR TRANSITION OF LEADERSHIP

Good and gracious God, we ask that you send your Spirit to help us during this transition of leadership. Please guide the efforts of those whom you have called to appoint our new Pastor. May they come to appreciate the needs of this faithful parish community, and may we, throughout this process of change, remain a jubilant people on a continuing spiritual journey of hope. We look forward to growing in our discipleship with a pastor who can journey with us in the coming years.

Amen

SONG REQUEST, SUNG BY FATHER ABRAHAM

*If you've a kind word to say, say it now;
If you've something to give, give it now;
If you can make someone glad, or another
less sad, do it now, do it now, do it now.*

*Now, before it is too late, Now's the
time for every good deed. Do not wait
until tomorrow, for it may be just a
little too late!*

*If there's goodness to show, show it now;
If there's friendship to give, give it now;
If there's hope you can raise, Or someone
you can praise, do it now, do it now, do it
now.*

*Now, before it is too late, Now's the
time for every good deed. Do not wait
until tomorrow, for it may be just a
little too late!*

Would you like to volunteer?
Call us today! We need you!

Christian Formation

PARTNERS IN FAITH



Family Formation is designed to help parents respond to the Church's call to be "the first and foremost, educators of their children" and to help families grow in the transforming love of God by understanding and living the Catholic Faith.

In support of this call, additional resource for formation are located on the religious education table in the narthex. The handouts are from our monthly GIFT Program. These handouts provide families with ideas and simple traditions that will foster faith formation within the home. *Please feel free to take one of these handouts homes when you pick up your church bulletin.*

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE



All Christmas Giving Tree Gifts are due back this weekend (by December 9th.) If you have not returned your gifts yet, please do so as soon as possible.

Contact Karen Porto with any questions at kporto@aol.com or 908-507-4359.

Santa Claus is coming to St. John's



*Sunday, December 16th
Following the 10:30 Mass
(bring your cameras)*

IRELAND 2019

SOAK IN CELTIC WISDOM!

Do you miss Fr. Abraham already? Join him on a pilgrimage to Ireland. Fr. Abraham will be the Spiritual Guide on this to Ireland trip April 22 to May 1. Pick up a card in the Narthex for information.



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>



RECONCILIATION

On Saturday December 1, 2018 our 2nd graders celebrated the Sacrament for First Reconciliation. Let us keep them and their families in our prayers as they prepare to receive First Eucharist in May. Thank you to Cathy Gagen for sharing her faith with our children and our music ministry for providing a joyful music.

ADVENT CALENDARS ARE HERE

Look for the 2018 Advent Calendar on the GIFT table in the narthex. Prayerfully consider how your family may enrich the advent season at home.

Social Ministry



CHRISTMAS FOOD PACKUP & DELIVERY

Note New Time 5:00 p.m. for Pickup

We are helping 29 households and will continue to collect food for Christmas. If you're interested there are many opportunities to help, please contact socialministry@ccsjn.org.

Sign up sheets for Christmas pack up and delivery are in the Narthex. Pack Up is Friday, December 14th at 5:00 pm and deliveries are Saturday, December 16th at 8:00 a.m.

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

Much of our joy this holiday season comes from the comfort of home & family. Sadly, there are some who do not have a permanent residence to come home to. Family Promise's Interfaith Hospitality Network is there for them, and we can assist by volunteering to help during the next hosting at Spruce Run Lutheran Church from December 9-16. So before your calendar fills up with all of the holiday festivities, find a few hours to assist those less fortunate in any way you can. Check to see what you can do to help at the Sign up Genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e054eafad22a20-family8>. Or contact Debbie Hunt at dhuntfaml@comcast.net or 908-256-4916.

Parish News

DIOCESAN LISTENING SESSION

Tuesday November 27th, Msgr. Fell from the Diocesan Office for Priest Personnel, held a listening session at St. John's. Approximately 100 parishioners attended and were able to express their concerns and expectations about a new pastor. Msgr. Fell took the parish input back to the Diocese where it will help select our new pastor. The Bishop is hoping to have someone in place before the beginning of Lent so the parish and pastor can take their Lenten journey together.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PRO-LIFE MINISTRIES

2019 March for Life Rally

The Knights of Columbus and the Pro-Life Ministries will have a bus going to the "March for Life" in Washington, D.C. on Friday, January 18, 2019. We will begin with a Mass at 6:00am at Immaculate Conception Church, Annandale. The bus will leave following the Mass and will return approximately 10:30pm. A sandwich lunch will be provided on the bus ride down. We will stop for dinner on the way back at a Golden Corral. Please contact Bill Smith @908-797-7359 or Email; smithbuilders@hotmail.com for all cost and for more information.



LIGHTING HEARTS ON FIRE

Diocesan Marian Consecration Preparation Year

Bishop Checchio has announced his plan to consecrate the Diocese of Metuchen to Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2019. There will be a year - long preparation process launching **December 12th, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, with Evening Prayer at the Cathedral of St. Francis in Metuchen at 7:30pm. All of the faithful are invited to attend.** Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Americas and was also given the title, The Star of the New Evangelization, by St. John Paul II. The purpose of this consecration is to invoke her aid for our diocese so that we can be spiritually renewed and equipped to live out our call to evangelize more faithfully. For more info: www.LightingHeartsOnFire.com



EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE IN RECONCILIATION

Wednesday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Advent is a wonderful time to celebrate the reconciling love and the healing graces our Lord offers us. **Please join us for a Community Reconciliation Service at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 12th.** This communal service is an opportunity to join our sisters and brothers in asking for forgiveness and healing during this important time of the year. As we begin the new liturgical year in the Church, we invite all to begin anew with souls nourished from the gifts of divine mercy and forgiveness God has for everyone.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING PARTY - Dec. 18th - 6pm



Everyone is invited to the St. John's Christmas Decorating Party. Adults and kids are welcome. While we enjoy socializing with fellow parishioners, with music, appetizers and desserts, we have something fun to do: decorate the church! You can bring a goodie to share- cookies, sweets, appetizers or any kind of drink. It is not required to bring food – there is always too much – we are just happy to enjoy Christmas merriment with everyone! So please join us for an hour.

TASTING EVENT THANK YOU

We wish to thank the many heling hands for the success of the tasing on Friday night. We are so thankful for not only our helpers but the attendees, their guests and the people who helped advertise by handing our flyers.

Phyllis Baker	Paul Fabiano	Liz Livoti
Maggie Baumann	Joann Fabiano	Sabrina Mickley
Tom Bennett	Dana Fabiano	Marlene Milko
Rachel Blanco	Kelly Fraine	Barbara Pannone
Kristen Bolek	Donna Torczon	Hunt Patterson
Laurie Cirianni	David Geerinck	Karen Porto
Andrew Claussen	Wayne Infusino	Joelle Pilek
Jim Codd	Sharon Janks	Nicole Pilek
Julie Connery	France Kennedy	Anne Sacco
Mary D'Avella	Andrew Kuhn	Rob Sansone
Susanne Erz	Susan Kuhn	Donna Wellbrock
Jennifer Evanko	Alex Kuhn	

Donations from:

Solstice, Glen Gardner	Bourbon Street Wine and Spirits
Arminda & Fran Barbone	Physio Body Holistics, Califon
Carolyn Fraine	Lotus Spa, Califon

Thank you also for the Gifts from various anonymous parishioners

AGING RELIGIOUS NEED YOUR HELP

Senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests ministered for years for little or no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.

CONGRATULATIONS HEIMALL FAMILY



Alanna Doris and Brynna Gaye were baptized on December 1st. We welcome them into our community of faith. Parents are Shaun and Shannon Heimall and brother is Declan. Grandparents are Fred and Kristen Heimall.

GETTING THE CONVERSATION STARTED

Since we do not have a Pastor doing many of the important things of late. We do believe we should be able to continue Fr. Abraham's joke in the bulletin as so many people have implored. Another item we would like to continue is the Pastor's letter in the bulletin. We have started to ask parishioners who are so inclined to write in the pastor's stead. If you would consider this a wonderful challenge, please speak to Sharon or France to discuss this opportunity.

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.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Clara Alvarez
 Gary Anderson
 Andrew Arias
 Miguel Astacio
 Diane Bosack
 Joan Cardierre
 John D'Almeida
 Percy Davids
 Barbara DelPiano
 Sophia DeVita
 Anthony DeVito
 Dawn Farley
 Cindy Feighan
 Emma Finnegan
 Bob Gardner
 Elaine Gode
 Debbie Gregorakis
 Joseph Gruszczynski
 Liz Harmon
 Fred Holub
 Stephanie Illescho
 Manuel Jimenez, Jr.
 Michael Kucharski
 Bonnie Lieberwirth
 Dick McCall
 Jan McLeavey
 Jennie 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
 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

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT REFLECTION: *Two prophets for our time*

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins . . . Luke 3: 1-6

Tomorrow [December 10] this year's Nobel Peace Prize will be awarded in Oslo, Norway. The recipients are not world leaders or internationally recognized authorities in law or economics or science or philanthropy. The 2018 Nobel Peace Prize will be shared by a 63-year-old physician working in Africa and a 25-year-old survivor of sexual violence.

Dr. Denis Mukwege is gynecologist who has seen the damage from Congo's brutal civil war play out in the bodies of women. In 1999, he opened a hospital that specializes in treating the victims of sexual violence and rape: the Panzai Hospital treats thousands of women each year. More than five million have been killed in the Congo, where militia groups frequently target civilians. At the risk of his life and that of his family, Dr. Mukwege continues to operate his struggling hospital, with little electricity and never enough medical supplies, and campaigns relentlessly to call attention to the plight of his innocent patients. Dr. Mukwege was in the operating room when he was told that he won the Nobel.

When the Islamic State overran her homeland in Northern Iraq in 2014, Nadia Murad was abducted along with thousands of other women and girls from the Yazidi minority. Nadia Murad was sold into sexual slavery. She managed to escape — but rather than remain silent and anonymous as her culture dictates, Ms. Murad has openly and courageously told her story, calling the world to act on behalf of millions of women and girls who have been sexually brutalized by war. She has spoken before the United Nations Security Council, the British Parliament, and the U.S. House of Representatives — but while other Iraqi survivors testified before the same bodies with faces covered so as not to be identified on television, Nadia Murad insisted on showing her face. She is considered an icon in the villages of her homeland. She finds her work of public activism exhausting but “I will go back to my life when women in captivity go back to their lives, when my community has a place, when I see people accountable for their crimes.” As she writes in her autobiography *The Last Girl*, “I want to be the last girl in the world with a story like mine.”

This year's Nobel Peace Prize casts a spotlight on two regions in the world where women have paid a devastating price for years of armed conflict. In their courage and perseverance, Nadia Murad and Denis Mukwege are nothing less than prophets in the spirit of the great prophets of Scripture, in the spirit of John the Baptist's heralding of the Christ, in the spirit of the prophets of our own time who have given their lives for the sake of what is right and just. In Baptism, God has called all of us to be his prophets: to “proclaim” his Word of justice and reconciliation here and now, along our own Jordan Rivers.

NEW OPPORTUNITY - WORD AMONG US

Each month we have copies of the Word Among Us in the Narthex for people to enjoy. This small booklet contains each day's Mass readings and daily reflections as well as a few articles on a specific topic. If you are one of the parishioners who use this resource regularly, we are offering an opportunity that might interest you. We would like to form an online group that can comment or discuss the daily meditations. Contact France if you would like to find out more. If you have never tried The Word Among Us - pick it up and try it to see if you like this method to expand your spiritual searching. Text 908-307-7879 or email francekennedy99@gmail.com.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon. “How do you know what to say?” he asked.

“Why God tells me,” the clergyman replied.

“Oh,” said the lad. “Then why do you keep crossing things out?”

ABOUT OUR ADVENT QUILT

Fr. Bill Mickiewicz, founding Pastor of our parish, purchased this Advent quilt. What did he see in this quilt that said "Advent" to him? Here is the story that might help you see Advent in it as well.

Fr. Bill was drawn to the colors and the pattern. The midnight blue represents the darkness before creation as well as the darkness that takes over the earth just before the longest, darkest night of the year. At the center the colors are almost like an aurora borealis moving and swirling in a flowing yet chaotic pattern.

How can the colors and pattern be interpreted? The shades from dark to light represent the ever-shortening daylight until the winter solstice when a few days later Christ is born as the light slowly begins to increase and we feel more at peace. The chaotic pattern can be compared with the chaos we feel in our lives during this busy season that will end on December 26. But think back to the chaos surrounding Christ's birth. Mary is pregnant and unmarried; Joseph finds his betrothed expecting a child that is not his; then the chaos of getting to Bethlehem for the census, finding there is no room, and giving birth in a stable. But through all this chaos comes light when this Baby, the Light of the World, is delivered and the Angels sing. To be sure there was continued turmoil in their lives as there is in ours, but we can refresh ourselves in the light of Christ. Meditate upon this quilt and discover your own spiritual symbolism in it..

CHRISTMAS CASH RAFFLE

Thanks to all who participated in the Christmas Cash Raffle. We raised \$5,525.00. First Prize of \$1,381.25 went to Barbara Pannone
Second Prize of \$828.75 went to Robert Hahn
Third Prize of \$552.50 went to Jack Horan

OPLATEK – THE CHRISTMAS WAFER

Start your own Family Tradition

The word Bethlehem means "House of Bread". The breaking of the bread is a sign of charity, unity, and friendship. Religious family traditions and customs bring the truths of Faith into the home. One of these beautiful Christmas customs is the Christmas Wafer. A Wafer bearing a simple design commemorative of Christ's birth is broken by the head of the family and distributed to each member. With a simple prayer for God's grace and the welfare of the present and absent members of the family, the head family member breaks the Wafer and distributes it, a piece to each one at the table. While doing so each member of the family is kissed and is wished a joyful feast. The other family members then greet one another in the same way.

All this brings to mind clearly out charity for one another, to seek salvation together. Family customs remind us that we seek and obtain salvation with the help of others at all times.

So try it with your family this year. There is Oplatek in the Narthex in envelopes. Take one and leave a donation



DON'T FORGET TO USE LINK WHEN CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ON AMAZON

We are set up with a wonderful way for you to donate to the parish without costing you anything! You just do your Christmas shopping on Amazon using our parish link. When you click on this link it takes you to the Amazon home page, and the only clue that St. John's is getting a commission on your purchase is the small phrase "ccsjn-20" that you will see in the middle of the Amazon URL address, everything else is transparent to the user. <http://tinyurl.com/lx7c83s>. Or go to our website and click on the Amazon link www.ccsjn.org. The parish will receive a donation for every dollar you spend!

WEEKLY COLLECTION

December 2, 2018

79 Donors Weekly	\$4,455.00
45 Yellow Brick Road	\$1,410.00
1 Retirement Fund	\$100.00
1 Thanksgiving	\$40.00
2 Christmas Flowers	\$80.00
1 Initial Offering	\$3.00

December 3, 2017

88 Donors Weekly	\$5,034.00
54 Yellow Brick Road	\$1,416.00
10 Retirement Fund	\$55.00
1 Campaign Human Dev.....	\$40.00

STORE CARDS



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

Thanks to the families who purchased grocery & store cards the Weeks of **Nov. 12 & 18, 43** Families purchased **\$5,980** for a profit of **\$315.15**.

FR ABRAHAM'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Abraham Orapankal
St. Matthias
168 John F. Kennedy Blvd
Somerset, NJ 08873
Phone 732-828-1400
Email: Abraham@ccsjn.org

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

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

Store Cards

December 8 and December 9

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

December 15 and December 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 Dec. 9..... L. Livoti
Week of Dec. 16..... M. Cangelosi

Church Center Cleaning

December 13..... Team E
December 20..... Team F

Counting

Dec. 10..... Kucharski / Kosakowski
Dec. 17..... Malone/ Cangelosi

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