

The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

A Christian Community of the Catholic Tradition

www.ccsjn.org / sjn@ccsjn.org

January 20, 2019

Volume 37 Number 3



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.
Wednesday 8:00 a.m.
Thursday 8:00 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

Email.....fkennedy@ccsjn.org

Susanne Erz, PhD Financial Administrator

Email.....serz@ccsjn.org

Wayne Infusino Maintenance

Religious Education908-832-2162

Renee Ciszewski .Director of Religious Education

Email.....renee@ccsjn.org

Social Ministry..... socialministry@ccsjn.org

Project Earthprojectearth@ccsjn.org

Bulletin.....bulletin@ccsjn.org

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

This Week at Saint John's

Mass Intentions

No Weekday Masses

Tuesday, January 22

8:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Wednesday, January 23

8:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Thursday, January 24

8:00 a.m. Anita Sawczuk, req.

Saturday, January 26

5:30 p.m. Roberta Torsky, req.,
Donald and Terry Thomason

Sunday, January 27

8:00 a.m. Alfonso Russo, req.
Marie and Roger Malone
10:30 a.m. Mary Ellen McCarthy, req.,
Joann and Paul Fabiano



Parish Calendar

Sunday, January 20 - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time / Catholic Education Collection

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
11:30 p.m. Discover St. John's (Office Center)

Monday, January 21 - Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr / Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Office Closed

Tuesday, January 22 - Saint Vincent, Deacon and Martyr

8:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
7:00 p.m. Connxions Meeting (Office Center Kitchen)
7:14 p.m. Bible Study (Drexel Room)

Wednesday, January 23 - Saint Marianne Cope, Virgin

8:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
6:00 p.m. Parish Giving Meeting (Upper Room)
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi (Church Center Loft)

Thursday, January 24 - Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
10:00 a.m. S.H.I.P. (Church and Office Kitchen)
5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)
7:30 p.m. Music/Bells (Church Center)

Friday, January 25 - The Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle

Saturday, January 26 - Saint Timothy and Saint Titus Bishops

5:30 p.m. Mass (Church Center)
6:45 p.m. Movie (Church Center)

Mass Schedule - January 26/27

Saturday

5:30 p.m.

Celebrant Rev. Maurice Carlton
Reader Kathleen Swindler
Altar Server Uss Family
Ministers of the Eucharist Jim Oelkerrs
..... Lyle Garcia, Joann Gardner

Sunday

8:00 a.m.

Celebrant Rev. Maurice Carlton
Reader Needed
Altar Server Patterson Family
Ministers of the Eucharist Jane Klawunn
..... Tom Klawunn, Gail Battell


Sunday

10:30 a.m.

Celebrant Rev. Maurice Carlton
Reader Julie Weldon
Altar Server Souza Family
Music Eucharistic Minister Needed
Ministers of the Eucharist Jane Albert, Bob Sobey
..... Sheena Carew, Mary D'Avella, Patti Rittman


Sunday, January 27 - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
10:30 p.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word (Narthex)



BANNES OF MARRIAGE

II. Ryan Oelkers & Zhouo Gao
I. Reed Schneider & Angela Tagliareni



Remembered at Mass

We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharist: **Barbara Sansevere, Carol Sartorius, Fernando Bambalan, and Milagres Roque.**

Deceased: **Barbara Sansevere**, mother of Mary Jane Meade, **Carol Sartorius**, aunt of Kathy Altaville, **Milagres Roque**, and **Fernando Bambalan**, relative of Janice Lowary. 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.

ANOTHER YEAR HAS BEGUN

Another year has begun. We've marched past Christmas, and Lent waits around the corner. Presents unwrapped, privation not yet present. Perhaps this is an appropriate time to reflect on the time between birth and renewal, Christmas and Easter. These feasts celebrate the boundaries of Jesus' earthly time with us, but the Lenten season reminds us of the abstinence he maintained and temptation he suffered after baptism. The miracle at the wedding at Cana, taking place after his forty days in the desert, provides a fitting balance to his time of want.

According to the Gospel of John, while Jesus, his disciples, and friends gathered to celebrate the marriage of a couple from the town, Mary, mother of Jesus informed her son that they had run out of wine. Concerned for the community and the couples wedding celebration, Mary asked her son to help. Jesus, although feeling it was not yet his time, obeyed his mother and had the servants fill containers with water and brought them to the chief steward. The water had been turned into wine, the best of all wines to be shared by all. Jesus, in performing this first miracle for his mother revealed his glory, beginning the journey of he and his disciples and their belief in him.

We can choose to interpret this story in any number of ways. As this was the first of the public miracles attributed to Jesus it coincides with the start of his ministry. But it also marks the transition from impoverishment to the promise of a bountiful future. We wander in the desert, suffer deprivation and temptation, then emerge from having nothing, to having water, to having wine. Note that this narrative proceeds from a state of isolation to a celebration of marriage in a community. This could be our community, notwithstanding the difference of two millennia. A clear message, that of hope. The best is yet to come.

In gratitude and love to the community which has sustained me for 20 + years,

Judy Ross



"ANNUAL AUCTION"

Planning usually begins in January. What we need right now is to identify an item management team with 2 or 3 people to lead that effort. This position basically entails overseeing the tracking of items that are donated, the coordination via spreadsheet, and combining of items into lots. We have written instructions, forms and seasoned consultants. All we need now is some lot management leadership. Can we count on you? Please contact the office if you can help.



LITTLE BROOK FLOWERS

The altar flowers this weekend are a "Thank You" from Little Brook Nursing Home. They are so grateful to our generous parishioners who made Christmas a lot brighter for their residents through our Giving Tree gifts!



VALENTINE'S DINNER DANCE THANK YOU FOR 16 YEARS OF SUPPORTING CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8 7:00pm

(Snow date Saturday, February 9 after 5:30 Mass at 7:30)

Soup and salad, Italian menu, dessert buffet and gluten-free options. Music and dancing with Mike Griffin and the GB's. ADMISSION IS FREE but donations gladly accepted! **Seating is limited so reserve soon.** Let us know your table needs and we will be happy to coordinate. Contact Jim Murray (Jim@cpamurray.com), Mary Connolly (mandmconnolly@gmail.com) or the office at 832-2513.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP: we could use you for set-up (2/6 from 4-6:00); running the dishwasher; serving; the awful job of scraping plates for the dishwasher, and clean-up. Contact Mary if you can help.



2ND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

January 20, 2019

"To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit."

(1 Corinthians 12:7)

St. Paul tells us that God has blessed each of us for a reason. How has God blessed you? Are you using your gifts according to God's plan? How are you helping to build God's kingdom here on earth? Remember that if you don't do the work God planned for you, no one else can do it. Live the life God has intended for you, feel His love, peace and joy!

ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO SERVE AT MASS?



If you enjoy when a Eucharist Minister offers you the Chalice with a smile, or been struck by a reader proclaiming the Word, maybe you are being drawn to participate more fully in the Mass and serve others by being a Reader, or a Eucharistic Minister or Altar Server. We all have talents that we can share with others by serving at Mass. Your service can be custom fit to your personal schedule. Please talk to a Liturgical Minister after Mass or contact the office to discuss sjn@ccsjn.org.

TAI CHI

Ever wanted to try Tai Chi? Now is the time. A new 6 week session is starting Jan 23 at 6:30pm. Something new for the New Year! Tai Chi tones muscles, improves your balance and helps improve meditation focus techniques.



IRELAND 2019 SOAK IN CELTIC WISDOM!

Fr. Abraham will be leading a pilgrimage April 22-May 1, 2019 to discover Celtic Ireland. This will be a unique opportunity to explore Celtic traditions and magnificent beauty.

The meeting on January 20th to learn more about this trip has been cancelled but if this sounds interesting please call Tony Varas at 732-395-7959 for more information.

Christian Formation

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DIOCESAN SPELLING BEE



The students in the eighth grade religious education program will participate in the annual Metuchen Diocesan Spelling Bee, sponsored by the St. Joseph Council, Knights of Columbus. The event will begin at noon Sunday February 3, 2019 in the Church Center. Pizza and refreshments will be served.

BAPTISM



Quarterly we hold Baptism Preparation for families who are looking to baptize their child. Anyone who is expecting a birth of a child or have a child to be baptized contact France Kennedy at fkennedy@ccsjn.org or (908-832-2513) to register for the preparation program and discuss arrangements.



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Wed., Jan. 23..... G. Battell
Wed., Jan. 30.....L. Caprio

Store Cards

January 19 and 20

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

January 26 and 27

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

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of Jan. 20.....L. Livoti
Week of Jan. 27..... M. Cangelosi

Church Center Cleaning

January 24..... Team D
January 31.....Team E

Counting

Jan. 22.....Cangelosi / McCabe
Jan. 28.....Malone / Caprio



JUNIOR HIGH SOUPER BOWL OF CARING AND "ZITI FOR THE NEEDY"

Collection Weekends: January 26- February 3rd

Each year at St. John's, the Jr. High participates in the Souper Bowl of Caring. MORE THAN 25 YEARS AGO, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."

Since that day, more than \$125 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world—as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need. Prayerfully consider supporting this endeavor. Boxes will be located in the narthex for can donations and cash donations . On February 3,2019 the money collected will be used to fund the Jr. High "Ziti for the Needy"service project. All the food cooked will be donated to SHIP (Samaritan Homeless Interim Program). Any additional funds will be given to St. John's Social Ministry for holiday food baskets. Canned goods will be brought to a local food pantry. Contact Renee Ciszewski renee@ccsjn.org for additional information.

Social Ministry & Parish News

CROCHETING FOR CHRIST / KNITTING FOR NEEDY



A parishioner has been knitting scarves to give to those in need. She asked for donations of yarn to make more and the response was wonderful. She received so much yarn she wants to know if others would like to gather to knit or crochet and socialize. Contact the office if you are interested snj@ccsjn.org. Possible time to gather is either Monday 2 to 4pm in Long Valley or a weeknight in the Seton Room from 6:30 to8:30 or 7 to 9.



NEW TO THE PARISH?

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 acquainted. Then fill out an information card so we can email you some information or contact France Kennedy at the parish office: fkennedy@ccsjn.org.

STRESS IN YOUR MARRIAGE!

Upcoming Weekend: February 8-10, 2019

- Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage?
- Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse?
- Are you constantly fighting? Or, do you simply shut down?
- Have you thought about separation or divorce?
- Does talking about it only make it worse?

Retrouvaille is a Lifeline to Help Couples Heal and Renew their Marriages. The program consists of a weekend experience for married couples (no group discussions) with six follow-up sessions.

For more information call the Diocese of Metuchen Family Life Office at 732-243-4573. To register call Rich & Annette Colasuonno 732-236-0671 or email 3024@retrouvaille.org

CAREER & TRANSITION WORKSHOP

At St. John Neumann's - January 29, 2019, 7 to 9 p.m.

A seminar/workshop is being offered on careers and career transitioning on January 29 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the second floor of the St. John Neumann Office Building. Parishioner John Cole (experienced in career development matters) will lead a discussion on important considerations for career changes, personal marketing, resume development and LinkedIn. Participants can share thoughts, concerns and ideas about their careers as trends and current practices are examined. Cursory resume review opportunities will be available during the session. This session is free and open to those who are and are not parishioners. If you are interested, please contact France Kennedy at 908-832-2513 by January 23rd to register.

FOUNDATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Special Collection

The second collection this weekend is for the Foundation for Catholic Education, which provides scholarships to financially-deserving children attending a Diocese of Metuchen Catholic elementary or high school. Over 100 deserving children are enrolled in one of our schools today thanks to your generous support of last year's collection. Hundreds of families, hoping to give their children the gift of a Catholic school education, will seek financial assistance from the FCE Scholarship Program for the 2019-20 school year. Your gift will send a child to Catholic school, changing a life forever! Please be as generous as your means allow.

BEST PRACTICES FOR PARISHIONERS OF A NEW PASTOR

- Pray for the intentions of the new pastor and for the parishioners of Saint John Neumann
- Be open to the new pastor's needs, wants, and views
- Pastoral Council members extend a personal welcome to the new pastor
- Introduce self to the new pastor
- Let the new pastor know the activities and ministries in which they are engaged
- Let the new pastor know what is important to them in being a member of the Community of Saint John Neumann
- By words and actions show the new pastor how they are invested in Saint John's and its future
- Make every effort to participate in welcoming sessions with the new pastor
- Encourage pastor to attend ministry meetings in which one is a member
- Show interest in the new pastor's background and experience
- Volunteer to assist the new pastor in getting oriented to the area and the local community
- Invite the new pastor to meet with other parishioners in more informal and social settings
- Recognize that some changes will be made
- Show support by volunteering in specific ways to achieve parish objectives
- Maintain Stewardship commitment to Time, Talent, and Treasure
- Share their vision for the parish with the new pastor
- Be willing to dialogue with the new pastor about the overall mission of Saint John's
- Avoid constant evaluation of the new pastor's actions and views
- Work on preventing dissension and get people to dialogue
- Avoid comparing pastoral styles
- Avoid pursuing one's own agenda
- Speak for self and avoid representing the views of other parishioners
- Avoid negativity and gossiping about past events in ways that can bias the new pastor towards activities or others
- Seek information before making judgments

MAKING A PRAYER REQUEST AT ST. JOHN'S

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

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

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



STORE CARDS



Aqui cards are available with 10% to St. John's:

Thanks to the families who purchased grocery & store cards for the following weeks:

Dec. 7-12, 20 Families, \$4,480 for a profit of \$213.53

Dec. 14-26, 38 Families, \$6,725 for a profit of \$334.90

Christmas, Card Sales of \$7,425 for a profit of \$315.36

Dec. 28-31, 6 Families, \$1,000 for a profit of \$47.25

Jan. 1st, 2 Families, \$400 for a profit of \$17.25

Jan. 5th, 14 Families, \$2,150 for a profit of \$107.50

Jan. 12th, 11 Families, \$2,100 for a profit of \$115.00

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
 Debbie Gregorakis
 Joseph Gruszczynski
 Liz Harmon
 Fred Holub
 Stephanie Illetscho
 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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME:

When Sturdy Love is What You Need...

"Everyone serves good wine first, and the when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." **John 2: 1-11**

Michelle was at work when a friend texted the link to a newspaper article from her hometown newspaper. It included a photo of an icy Montana highway, a pickup with the hood smashed in and a blue Subaru Outback that had been cut cleanly in half. According to the story, the woman who had been driving the Outback was their former high school classmate Deirdre. Deirdre survived, but her three-year-old daughter Zoe was killed.

The tragedy dredged up painful memories for Michelle. Three years before, Michelle and her husband, Eric, lost their 22-month son, Seamus, when they were struck in a crosswalk by a careless driver. Michelle writes that their marriage became "like a ship that had weathered a bad storm — grateful and relieved to be afloat, but the damage was extensive."

The couple had just become parents again. The twins, a boy and a girl, had just turned one and the family was about to celebrate Christmas for the first time in three years. "Having more children did not reduce the sadness that had become the identifying feature of our marriage, but it did force our hearts to expand to accommodate other, happier emotions," Michelle remembers.

Michelle had not talked to Deirdre in 20 years. Michelle wasn't sure what to do. One afternoon, while the twins were napping, Michelle retrieved from the basement a wicker basket of cards they had received when Seamus died. *There are no words . . . You are in our hearts . . . I cannot imagine your pain.* No one can think of the perfect thing to say at such times. But Michelle remembered the comfort the notes had brought her, and so decided to send Deirdre a note. To her surprise, Deirdre replied by e-mail and the two were soon regularly exchanging texts. In April, Michelle had a trip planned to Montana, and they arranged to meet.

Michelle and Deirdre greeted each other with a hug. There was no small talk. Walking together through the streets of Deirdre's neighborhood, they talked about watching their children die, moving easily between medical terms and "mother" terms. Michelle asked Deirdre how her marriage was holding up. And Deirdre opened up about the struggle her husband was having over the decision to withdraw care for Zoe. Michelle listened, giving Deirdre space to voice her fears, and then offering the assurance of a wife and mother who had been through the same devastating experience herself, and found the way to move on.

Michelle later wrote that she hoped Deirdre would discover what she learned: "that grief is exactly as painful as you think it will be, but with time you will learn to love your sadness because of the tiny shoots of joy and gratitude that sprout around it, like new growth on scorched earth.

As she drove home from Deirdre's, Michelle "thought about the comfort of sturdy, unglamorous things, my marriage among them. Ours may not be a great love story, but set against a backdrop of cruel nature and boundless beauty, I didn't need it to be."

Good marriages, imperfect but "sturdy," manifest the love of God at its most powerful: love that enables spouses to navigate together life's hard roads of fear, heartache and illness. As ministers of the marriage sacrament, wives and husbands, in their love for one another, help all of us to recognize the great love of God the Father made real for us in the person of his Christ, the Bridegroom. Throughout Scripture, God speaks of his love for humanity in terms of espousal; Christ, who performed his first miracle at a wedding, called himself "the Bridegroom" who comes to bring his people to the wedding feast of the Father. Spouses, in their "sturdy" love centered in selfless trust, are living signs to all of us of the hope of God's great wedding banquet.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



On vacation with her family in Montana, a mother drove her van past a church in a small town and pointing to it, told the children that it was St. Francis' Church. "It must be a franchise," her eight-year-old son said. "We've got one of those in our town too."

Parish and Community News

FROM POLITICS TO REAL LIFE

They were at the same rally — but for different reasons.

Joe Weidknecht was there, wearing the signature *Make America Great Again* baseball cap, to support the president he believed in. Amina Amdeen was a student at the University of Texas. A Muslim, she wears the traditional hijab. She was at the rally to protest administration policies.

At one point, Amina saw this guy, Joe, surrounded by a group of angry, threatening marchers, who were all wearing masks. One grabbed Joe's *Make America Great Again* hat and was about to set it on fire. As Amina describes it, something "snapped inside of me because I wear a Muslim hijab. And I've been in situations where people tried to snatch it off my head." Amina rushed toward Joe, screaming at his attackers to leave him alone. She tried, unsuccessfully, to rescue Joe's hat.

The incident gave the two a chance to talk about their lives and discovered that they had much in common: Amina was born in Baghdad and moved to the United States when she was ten; as a Muslim girl in Middle School, she stood out in almost every way you can. Joe was home-schooled as a youngster and found the transition to public high school difficult and isolating. His political views have cost him friends, as well.

Joe says, "I don't think we could be any further apart as people. And yet, it was just kind of this common that's-not-OK moment." Amina is "genuinely the only Muslim person I know. It's not that I've actively avoided [others], it's just, I've never been in a position where I can interact for an extended period of time." Until their unexpected meeting, Joe says his view of the Muslim community was based on what he saw on the news.

Amina responds: "I feel like a lot of times in the media you don't see the normal Muslims, the ones who listen to classic rock, like I do. You don't meet that Muslim . . . I'd like for this [moment] to encourage other people to engage in more conversations with people you don't agree with."

In an unexpected time and place, two very different people experience a new insight and understanding of the other's life. They become much more than the stereotypes and labels which others assign to them. They have gone from the "water" of anger and distrust to the "new wine" of empathy and respect. Jesus' changing simple water into choice wine is a fitting first sign of what Jesus has been sent by God to do: to transform our world from the brokenness of sin and the deadness of despair into God's banquet table of generosity, hope and healing. In Christ, the "watered-down wine" of fear and self-centeredness is replaced with the "new wine" of compassion and gratitude for the life God has given us, of honor and respect for every human being as a child of God, of the justice, mercy and peace of God, the Host of the great Wedding Feast.

ST. JOHN'S MENS CORNERSTONE 2019

The Men's Cornerstone Weekend is scheduled for January 25-26th 2019 at the ICC Parish Hall in Annandale NJ. Men's Cornerstone is a 26-hour spiritual experience for the men of all area Catholic parishes hosted by the men of Immaculate Conception parish. It is a chance to explore faith in a low pressure, non-judgmental way. Whether its barely audible over life's noise or a voice clearly calling your name, we hope you will consider a small step in faith this year. You can find details and register at <http://www.iccannandale.org/menscornerstone.aspx>. Or, you can also contact St. John's parishioner Jim Murray at 908-310-6877 with further questions.

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; smithbuild-ers@hotmail.com for all cost and for more information.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

December 16, 2018

62 Donors Weekly	\$2,715.00
40 Christmas Flowers	\$960.00
5 Retirement Fund	\$95.00
3 Yellow Brick Road	\$285.00

December 17, 2017

97 Donors Weekly	\$8,272.00
45 Christmas Flowers	\$871.00
8 Retirement Fund	\$295.00
2 Immaculate Conception	\$30.00
6 Yellow Brick Road	\$485.00

Automated Giving December

43 Donors	\$7,380.75
34 Yellow Brick Road	\$1,900.00
20 Christmas Flowers	\$410.00
19 Retirement Fund	\$500.00
21 Christmas	\$1,580.00

December 23, 2018

67 Donors Weekly	\$2,879.00
3 Yellow Brick Road	\$2,050.00
3 Christmas Flowers	\$45.00
142 Christmas	\$22,100.85

December 24, 2017

33 Donors Weekly	\$1,360.00
2 Yellow Brick Road	\$125.00
4 Christmas Flowers	\$75.00
169 Christmas	\$33,366.75
2 Immaculate Conception	\$15.00

December 30, 2018

59 Donors Weekly	\$3,387.00
23 Yellow Brick Road	\$442.00
10 Christmas	\$966.00
10 Initial	\$32.00

December 31, 2017

75 Donors Weekly	\$3,798.00
15 Christmas	\$1,410.00
23 Solemnity of Mary	\$595.00
3 Retirement Fund	\$65.00

January 6, 2019

70 Donors Weekly	\$7,358.00
44 Yellow Brick Road	\$1,275.25
5 Solemnity of Mary	\$545.00
12 Initial	\$155.00

January 7, 2018

70 Donors Weekly	\$5,616.00
46 Yellow Brick Road	\$1,471.00
23 Solemnity of Mary	\$115.00

January 13, 2019

61 Donors Weekly	\$2,919.00
5 Yellow Brick Road	\$145.00
41 Together In Charity	\$851.00
2 Christmas	\$449.00
8 Initial	\$26.00

January 14, 2018

71 Donors Weekly	\$4,990.00
8 Yellow Brick Road	\$470.00
2 Solemnity of Mary	\$25.00
38 Together In Charity	\$880.00
1 Christmas	\$25.00

Basking Ridge Electric Co, LLC

Electrical Contractor



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 NJ Elec Lic. #10007
 25 Stonehouse Road
 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
 baskingridgeelectric@gmail.com
 Office: 908.766.1846
 Cell: 908.797.3866
 Califon Area: 908.832.6228

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Dean W. Sulpy, Manager

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John F Rimmel

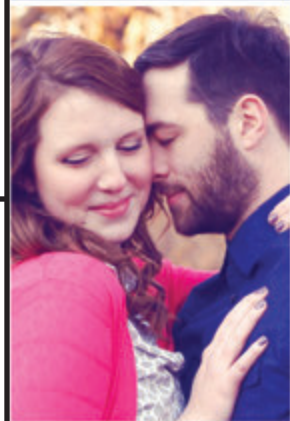
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