

The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

A Christian Community of the Catholic Tradition

www.ccsjn.org / sjn@ccsjn.org

February 17, 2019

Volume 37 Number 7



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. Richard Rusk 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 7:00 a.m.
Wednesday 8:00 a.m.
Thursday 7:00 a.m.
Friday 8:00 am

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

Father Rick Rusk Pastor

Email ffrick@ccsjn.org

Sharon Janks Pastoral 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 Education **908-832-2162**

Renee Ciszewski . Director of Religious Education

Email renee@ccsjn.org

Social Ministry socialministry@ccsjn.org

Project Earth projectearth@ccsjn.org

Bulletin bulletin@ccsjn.org

Youth Ministry sjnygroup@gmail.com

This Week at Saint John's

Mass Intentions

Weekly Masses

Tuesday, February 19

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Wednesday, February 20

8:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Thursday, February 21

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Friday, February 22

8:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Saturday, February 23

5:30 p.m. Frank J. Tozzi, req.,
Cathy and Tm Bennett

Sunday, February 24

8:00 a.m. Margaret Portela, req.
Pete and Mary Cangelosi

10:30 a.m. Anita Sawczuk, req.

The Porto Family



Parish Calendar

Sunday, February 17 - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time / Snow and Heat Collection

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

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

Monday, February 18 - President's Day/ Office Closed

Tuesday, February 19 - Weekday

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

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

7:14 p.m. Bible Study (Upper Room)

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

Wednesday, February 20 - Weekday

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

7:30 p.m. Music Rehearsal for Prayer Svc (Church Center)

Thursday, February 21 - Saints Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

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

2:00 p.m. Photo Directory Photo Shoot (Church Center)

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

Friday, February 22 - The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

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

7:00 p.m. Addiction Prayer Service (Church Center)

Saturday, February 23 - Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

8:00 a.m. Men's Spirituality Breakfast (Office Center)

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

Mass Schedule - February 23/24

Saturday

5:30 p.m.

Celebrant Fr. Rick Rusk

Reader Kathleen Swindler

Altar Server Lowary Family

Ministers of the Eucharist Mary Connolly

..... Donna Torczon, Paul Fabiano

Sunday

8:00 a.m.

Celebrant Fr. Rick Rusk

Reader Allan Piechowski

Altar Server Mickley Family

Ministers of the Eucharist Tom Klawunn

..... Jane Klawunn, Maritza Perez Proano

Sunday

10:30 a.m.

Celebrant Fr. Rick Rusk

Reader Joann McNamara

Altar Server Heimall Family

Music Eucharistic Minister Bob Sobey

Ministers of the Eucharist Ron Pojedinec, Shirley Pojedinec

..... Patti Rittman, Donna Lance, Jim DeVito

The Office Will be Closed on
Monday for President's Day.

Sunday, February 24 - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time / Catholic Spirit Collection

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

10:30 a.m. Mass with Bell Choir (Church Center)

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

11:45 a.m. Discover St. John's (Office Centers)

Remembered at Mass



We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharist: **Diana Proano, Mr. James F. Checchio, Jr. Theresa Degnan-Templeton and Barbara Sansevere.**

Deceased: Diana Proano, sister of Edgar Proano, Mr. James F. Checchio, Jr., father of Bishop Checchio, Theresa Degnan-Templeton, former parishioner and Barbara Sansevere, mother of Mary Jane Medea. 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.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

Why the liturgy?

1066 In the Symbol of the faith the Church confesses the mystery of the Holy Trinity and of the plan of God's "good pleasure" for all creation: the Father accomplishes the "mystery of his will" by giving his beloved Son and his Holy Spirit for the salvation of the world and for the glory of his name.¹ Such is the mystery of Christ, revealed and fulfilled in history according to the wisely ordered plan that St. Paul calls the "plan of the mystery"² and the patristic tradition will call the "economy of the Word incarnate" or the "economy of salvation."

1067 "The wonderful works of God among the people of the Old Testament were but a prelude to the work of Christ the Lord in redeeming mankind and giving perfect glory to God. He accomplished this work principally by the Paschal mystery of his blessed Passion, Resurrection from the dead, and glorious Ascension, whereby 'dying he destroyed our death, rising he restored our life.' For it was from the side of Christ as he slept the sleep of death upon the cross that there came forth 'the wondrous sacrament of the whole Church.'"³ For this reason, the Church celebrates in the liturgy above all the Paschal mystery by which Christ accomplished the work of our salvation.

1068 It is this mystery of Christ that the Church proclaims and celebrates in her liturgy so that the faithful may live from it and bear witness to it in the world:

For it is in the liturgy, especially in the divine sacrifice of the Eucharist, that "the work of our redemption is accomplished," and it is through the liturgy especially that the faithful are enabled to express in their lives and manifest to others the mystery of Christ and the real nature of the true Church.⁴

¹ Eph 1:9. ² Eph 3:9;cf. 3:4. ³ SC 5 § 2; CF. St. Augustine, *En. in Ps. 138, 2:PL37, 1794-1785* ⁴ SC 2.

(To be Continued)

ADDICTION PRAYER SERVICE

Finding HOPE through Faith - Friday • Feb 22 • 7pm

Please join us to pray for those suffering from addiction. Feel free to invite anyone that would benefit from this prayer service, including family and friends of someone afflicted. Take a flyer from the Narthex to invite or publicize the prayer session. Contact the parish office for more information 832-2513.

hope

Addiction Prayer Service

Finding Hope through Faith

Friday, February 22, 7pm

PRAYERS NEEDED!

On Friday, Feb 22 we are offering a Prayer Service for anyone fighting addiction. The evening prayer experience will give the opportunity for prayer, reflection and support to those with any dependency issue as well as anyone who has family or friends facing this struggle. We are asking parishioners to specifically pray for someone who is combatting this in their life. Cards are in the Narthex for you to sign up to pray for someone. Those attending the service will be handed a card and will feel the kindness of a stranger who is praying for their healing.

THE BIGGEST LIE BOOK DISCUSSION

Feb 27th at 7:30pm

Join us for a Winter Reading Event! Find the book we gave out at Christmas or pick one up in the Narthex – "The Biggest Lie". The easy to read format fits into your life a chapter at a time! Then come enjoy an evening of food, discussion and socializing on Wednesday, Feb 27 at 7:30pm.



PASTOR'S CORNER

Last weekend we held our St. Valentine's Dinner Dance and it was a great even! We need to thank Mary and Mike Connolly who worked tirelessly to make this happen. And all of you who helped with the set up, serving, clean up and to those of you who attended and donated.

So much work goes into an event like this and it is a true blessing for St. John's and Catholic Heart Work Camp which benefits from it. We need to come together and enjoy the blessing of one another's company. Remember that in the scriptures Jesus often was found at dinners and celebrations.

Fr. Rick



6TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

February 17, 2019

"Blessed are you when people hate you,...exclude and insult you, and denounce your name...on account of the Son of Man."
(Luke 6:22)

All of us have been in situations when someone has made a negative comment or joke about God or our Catholic faith. How did you respond? Did you stay silent or pretend to go along with the crowd because you didn't want to cause waves and then, later, you felt bad? Know that God is with you all the time, the Holy Spirit will put the right words in your mouth. Pray for the strength and courage to proclaim our faith to others, especially during uncomfortable situations.

JOIN US FOR THE BELLS



Sunday, February 24th, 10:30 Mass

Please join us at this Mass as the Bell Choir will be playing during the Mass.

BIBLE STUDY

*February 19th
7:14pm
in the
Upper Room*



**MEN'S SPIRITUALITY
BREAKFAST**

*Saturday, February 23rd, 7AM
Office Center*

Christian Formation

SOUP N STATIONS



Please join us for Soup n Stations each Friday in Lent. Soup Supper starts at 6pm and Stations of the Cross follow at 7pm.

Father Rick will be available for Reconciliation for anyone interested after the Stations are completed.

Each week a different group or Ministry from St. John's will sponsor the Soup Supper. Please let us know if your group would be interested in sponsoring a week.

This year we will also put out a collection box for alms giving or free will donations that will go to support our Social Ministry. If you have any questions contact the office 908-832-2513.

GIFT FAMILY FORMATION REMINDER AND INVITATION



Our February session will meet on **Sunday February 10 at noon in the church center and Monday February 11, 2019 at 6:00PM. First Eucharist Parents will meet with Cathy Gagen in the Narthex at noon, then return to the adult formation session.**

Please contact me with any questions at renee@ccsjn.org All parishioners are invited and encouraged to join the adult segment of the formation. **Note:** The **adult session begins on Sunday at 12:30 in the church center and Monday at 6:30PM**

Parish News

AWAKENING NIGHTS HELD AT LOCAL PARISHES



As part of the preparations for consecration to Our Lady of Guadalupe, parishes throughout the diocese will be hosting "Awakening Nights." Parishioners will come together for an evening of prayer, preaching and testimony centered on the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531 and the miraculous image left on his cloak (tilma). All are invited to attend any of these events beginning at 7 p.m. at the following local parishes:

Our Lady of Lourdes, Whitehouse Station – Wed., Feb. 27
Immaculate Conception, Annandale – Thurs., March 14
St. Brigid, Peapack – Tues., March 19th
St. Bernard, Bridgewater - Mon., March 25 (7:30 p.m.)

For a full listing of Awakening Night dates and locations, please visit lightingheartsonfire.org.

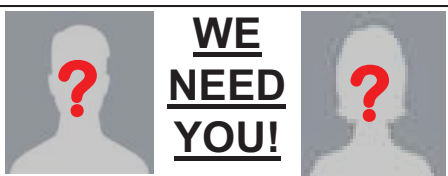


PHOTO DIRECTORY

Is this you? Will you be one of the unknown parishioners? This is YOUR chance to be part of the parish directory. The last photo session is on Thursday, February 21 from 2 to 9pm. Call the office 832-2513 to schedule your appointment. This is your opportunity. Come help build the parish community and be in the Parish Directory - you get a free 8x10 photo of your family and a directory and help our new pastor!

MARRIAGE TUNE UP

"Love is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, but rejoices with the truth..." (1 Cor. 13: 6)

Which of these qualities of love best describes your beloved.

PARENTING TUNE UP

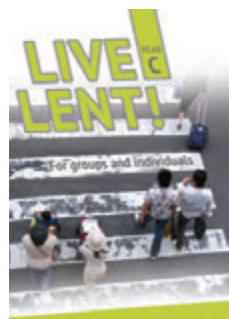
"Blessed are you who are poor...hungry...weeping...when people hate you." (Luke 6:20-22)

Can you as a family identify with being poor, hungry, crying, or hated? Certainly as a parent you've at least had times when your child complained about you. Dig deep and ponder how to recognize this as a blessing...in time.

JOIN A SMALL FAITH GROUP & LIVE LENT!

Have you ever wished you had more time to think about the more important things in life? Lent is an opportunity to rearrange our priorities. Lent can come and go or you could make a plan to get something out of Lent.

Part of your plan can be trying a small group. Small Faith Groups meet once a week for six weeks of Lent. You are invited even if you can only attend a couple of sessions! Sign up in the narthex or contact France Kennedy for more information francekennedy99@gmail.com or 908-307-7879..



Groups begin March 4.



"ANNUAL AUCTION"

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.

CATHOLIC SPIRIT NEWSPAPER

The annual drive to support our diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Spirit*, is taking place during the month of February, National Catholic Press Month. Please support their good work by using the envelope in your packet. Any amount you contribute will show your support for the ministry of *The Catholic Spirit* and will be greatly appreciated. And please remember to take home a copy of the paper – it has a special role to play in your life as a practicing Catholic.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES - MARIAN APPARITION



On 11 February 1858, Bernadette Soubirous went with her sister Toinette and neighbor Jeanne Abadie to collect some firewood and bones in order to buy some bread. After taking off her shoes and stockings to wade through the water near the Grotto of Massabielle, she said she heard the sound of two gusts of wind (coups de vent) but the trees and bushes nearby did not move. A wild rose in a natural niche in the grotto, however, did move.

"...I came back towards the grotto and started taking off my stockings. I had hardly taken off the first stocking when I heard a sound like a gust of wind. Then I turned my head towards the meadow. I saw the trees quite still: I went on taking off my stockings. I heard the same sound again. As I raised my head to look at the grotto, I saw a lady dressed in white, wearing a white dress, a blue girdle and a yellow rose on each foot, the same color as the chain of her rosary; the beads of the rosary were white....From the niche, or rather the dark alcove behind it, came a dazzling light..."

Three days later, 14 February, Bernadette returned to the Grotto. She had brought holy water as a test that the apparition was not of evil origin/provenance: "The second time was the following Sunday. ... Then I started to throw holy water in her direction, and at the same time I said that if she came from God she was to stay, but if not, she must go. She started to smile, and bowed ... This was the second time.

Bernadette's companions are said to have become afraid when they saw her in ecstasy. She remained ecstatic even as they returned to the village. On 18 February, she spoke of being told by the Lady to return to the Grotto over a period of two weeks. She quoted the apparition: "The Lady only spoke to me the third time. ... She told me also that she did not promise to make me happy in this world, but in the next."

The next day, she said the apparition asked her to dig in the ground and drink from the spring she found there. This made her dishevelled and some of her supporters were dismayed, but this act revealed the stream that soon became a focal point for pilgrimages. Although it was muddy at first, the stream became increasingly clean. As word spread, this water was given to medical patients of all kinds, and many reports of miraculous cures followed. Seven of these cures were confirmed as lacking any medical explanations by Professor Verges in 1860. The first person with a "certified miracle" was a woman whose right hand had been deformed as a consequence of an accident. Several miracles turned out to be short-term improvement or even hoaxes, and Church and government officials became increasingly concerned. The government fenced off the Grotto and issued stiff penalties for anybody trying to get near the off-limits area. In the process, Lourdes became a national issue in France, resulting in the intervention of Emperor Napoleon III with an order to reopen the grotto on 4 October 1858. The Church had decided to stay away from the controversy altogether.

Bernadette, knowing the local area well, managed to visit the barricaded grotto under cover of darkness. There, on 25 March, she said she was told: "I am the Immaculate Conception" ("*que soy era immaculada concepciou*"). On Easter Sunday, 7 April, her examining doctor stated that Soubirous, in ecstasy, was observed to have held her hands over a lit candle without sustaining harm. On 16 July, Bernadette went for the last time to the Grotto. "I have never seen her so beautiful before," she reported.

The Church, instituted an investigative commission on 17 November 1858. On 18 January 1860, the local bishop finally declared that: "The Virgin Mary did appear indeed to Bernadette. These events established the Marian veneration in Lourdes, which together with Fátima, is one of the most frequented Marian shrines in the world, and to which between 4 and 6 million pilgrims travel annually. Bernadette Soubirous was later canonized as a saint in 1933.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



- I'm proud of myself. I finished a jigsaw puzzle in 6 months, and the box said 2-4 years.

- A car's weakest part is the nut holding the steering wheel.

APPROACHING LENT

If we treat Lent no different than any normal day, Easter will just be eggs and chocolate bunnies. Lent is a time of preparation, a time to evaluate our priorities. We can do the simple task of getting ashes on Ash Wednesday. But then what? For Lent to rejuvenate us and bring us to true Easter joy we need to consider what our goal is this Lenten season.

Lent is what we make of it, and that needs a plan.

Just giving up desserts, can help you lose weight, but unless money saved on the desserts is given to others in need, what is the true value of our effort? What is the point of giving up something unless it results in a benefit?

Giving up TV or Internet may provide more time to clean, take a nap or talk on the phone, but wouldn't the time be better used to pray, meditate, or focus on encouraging a spiritual habit? Its 10am, have I talked to God today? A daily focus to be more in touch with God during the forty days of Lent would result in true joy at Easter.

What do I want out of Lent? What am I doing for Lent? Do I have a plan?



CALLING ALL CHRISTIANS



"Calling all Christians" Join the upcoming global effort from March 6th through April 14th for 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. Offer time to peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood, 66 East Main St. Washington. There will be an opening rally on March 3rd between 2-4 outside the Planned Parenthood. Please pledge to lift the local 40 Days for Life campaign up in prayer, as well as asking for God's protection on all human life from conception until natural death. For more information contact: Jennifer English, amjadopt@comcast.net 973 525-6692. or visit <https://40daysforlife.com/>

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Clara Alvarez
 Gary Anderson
 Andrew Arias
 Miguel Astacio
 Diane Bosack
 Joan Cardierre
 John D'Almeida
 Percy Davids
 Barbara DelPiano
 Denis DeVirteuil
 Sophia DeVita
 Anthony DeVito
 Dawn Farley
 Cindy Feighan
 Emma Finnegan
 Vince Gallipoli
 Bob Gardner
 Debbie Gregorakis
 Joseph Gruszczynski
 Liz Harmon
 Fred Holub
 Stephanie Illetscho
 Manuel Jimenez, Jr.
 Michael Kucharski
 Bonnie Lieberwirth
 Declan Maloney
 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 Galati Stafford
 Margaret Thornsbury
 Nicholas Troiano
 Don Velli
 Dana & Greg Wilson
 Jason and Matthew Witkop
 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

SIXTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME: *Hope isn't only about the future*

"Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours . . . but woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation." Luke 6: 17, 20-26

She once saw her life as an uninterrupted line from birth to decline. She had married and given birth to a wonderful little boy, Zach, and was teaching at the divinity school of a major university. The next part of the plan was to achieve tenure, master the Russian language, and watch Zach grow up. She called it "pragmatic determinism."

But after being diagnosed with stage IV cancer at the age of 35, time no longer pointed to the future. Time was a "loop": start treatment, manage side effects, recover, start treatment again. She now lived "in the present." The sicker she became, the more "hope" was a word that pointed to the unbearable: a husband and child left behind, an end without an ending.

Kate Bowler is an associate professor at Duke Divinity School. She tells the story of her sudden and unexpected confrontation with her mortality in her best-selling book **Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved**. In a New Year's essay in **The New York Times** [December 30, 2018], she writes of her struggle to find tangible reasons to hope:

"Approaching the new year, I wondered how I might renew hope for a future I can no longer see. So I rummaged around for inspiration in well-used daily planners and to-do lists, only to discover a stack of cards I had intended to mail long ago. Thank you for reintroducing me to tuna casserole. Thank you for inviting Zach to make a maze out of boxes. Yes, my dog often licks the television and thank you so much for taking him. There were photos that friends had hung by my bed of our last (surprisingly violent) round of Mennonite board games and of my misguided attempt to take my cello Christmas caroling. Someone had framed an image of Zach, grinning on my lap, my chemotherapy fluids hidden by a series of elaborate sock puppets we had created.

"The terrible gift of a terrible illness is that it has in fact taught me to live in the moment. But when I look at these mementos, I realize that I am learning more than to seize the day. In losing my future, the mundane began to sparkle. The things I love — the things I should love — become clearer, brighter. This is transcendence, the past and the future experienced together in moments where I can see a flicker of eternity.

"So instead of New Year's resolutions, I drew up a list for 2019 of experiences that had already passed: a record not of self-mastery but of genuine surprise. 1. My oncology nurse became a dear friend. 2. Even in the hospital I felt the love of God. 3. Zach is under the impression that I never get tired. These are my small miracles scattered like bread crumbs, the way forward dotting the path behind me."

Kate Bowler's perspective of time and the direction of her life have been turned upside down. Life's meaning is not something to be fulfilled at some future point but is realized now; hope is to be found in the present, in every day joys that suddenly become miracles. In today's Gospel, Luke's version of the Beatitudes, Jesus turns upside down our own understanding of power and wealth, of joy and fulfillment. Jesus challenges everything our me-first, bottom-line-centered culture holds dear. Jesus' Sermon on the Plain articulates a new vision, a new attitude in approaching life, a vision and attitude Kate Bowler has come embrace: the treasure of life and time itself, the hope that can be realized in compassion and generosity, the fulfillment that is experienced in freeing ourselves from the pursuit of the things of this world so as to embrace the small but lasting "miracles" of the kingdom of God.

2019 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Help Build a Civilization of Love

Please watch your mailbox for a letter from Bishop Checchio coming to you this week announcing the 2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal. The campaign will again be conducted during Lent and our parish can earn a rebate of 50% of the amount collected over goal.

Through your support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal you help those in our diocese whose needs are the greatest—the poor, the homeless, and those struggling with illness or grief. Among other needed pastoral ministries, your gift also supports our Cultural Diversity Ministries and enhances the work of forming our youth. The many pastoral, educational and charitable ministries of the Diocese of Metuchen would not be possible without a generous contribution from every household. Please be as generous as your means allow.

Parish and Community News

A "BEATITUDE" KIND OF SATURDAY MORNING

It's Saturday morning. Her alarm goes off at 8 a.m. Her hand misses the button several times before she finally slaps it off. She desperately wants to turn over for another hour or two. She and her study group were at until after two in the morning prepping for their organic chemistry final next week. But she's a member of "Big Sisters" and she and her "little sister" planned to meet for breakfast at nine. She could send an e-mail to postpone, but her little sister has had a rough time lately and she doesn't need another adult letting her down. So she drags herself out of bed and heads out to meet her "little sister" at the coffee shop downtown. The youngster's smile when she sees her "big sister" is nothing less than "blessed."

The same Saturday morning. He's not a morning guy — especially on weekends. He worked late at the restaurant the night before and fell into his bed at the dorm sometime around three. His plan is to sleep in and then finish his political science paper that's due on Monday, before heading back to work for the evening. But a little after nine his phone rings. Once he manages to pry his eyes open, he recognizes the restaurant phone number on the screen. Oh, no. They want me to come in early. He could let it ring through, but the restaurant is a small family-owned business and the couple who run the place have been like second parents to him. So he takes the call. And sure enough, one worker is sick and a young single mom who works at the restaurant can't come in because her child is ill. O.K., he says, I'll be right there. Another long day ahead — with an even longer Sunday to finish the paper. But he's come to understand the meaning of responsibility; he's learned what it means to be a contributing part of a working team. No, this is not a reason for "woe." He'd never use the word, but it applies: "Blessed."

These two college students mirror the attitude and perspective of the Beatitudes in Luke's Gospel. In the Sermon on the Plain, Jesus challenges us to put aside the "woe" of self-centeredness and embrace the "blessedness" that can only be experienced by seeing ourselves not as the center of the world but as a means for transforming the world for the "blessedness" of all. Jesus teaches throughout Luke's Gospel that wealth and power are not the stuff of the reign of God, but humility, selflessness and compassion are the treasures of God's kingdom. Jesus calls us to measure our life's worth not in terms of wealth or power or fame but to embrace a vision and perspective of life that honors humility and compassion, that places the common good before our own, that frees us from the pursuit of the things of this world in order to seek the lasting things of God.

50 PLUS CLUB TRIP

*'Jesus' at the Sign and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA
Tuesday, May 14th*



The 50 Plus Club is sponsoring a trip to see the play Jesus at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA. on Tuesday, May 14th.

The cost of the trip is \$155 per person which includes the luxury motor coach, lunch at Miller's Smorgasbord, the ticket for the 3 PM performance, taxes, gratuities and the driver's tip.

Money will be due by March 31st. Checks are coming in. Extra flyers are in the narthex. Ensure your spot by supplying the information on the stub with your check!

Contact Shirley Pojedinec at 908-537-6241 or rjsapoje@comcast.net for more information.

Elaine Tours will graciously make a donation to St. John's.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

February 10, 2019

78 Donors Weekly	\$3,820.50
6 Yellow Brick Road	\$165.00
2 Snow/Heat	\$45.00
1 Together In Charity	\$20.00
2 Catholic Education	\$20.00
1 Initial Offering	\$3.00

February 11, 2018

74 Donors Weekly	\$3,619.00
11 Yellow Brick Road	\$522.00
2 Snow/Heat	\$150.00
20 Catholic Spirit	\$404.00

STORE CARDS



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

Thanks to the 15 families who purchased **\$2,875.00** in grocery & store cards, for the last 2 weeks the stores gave us a profit of **\$161.25**.



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>

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Wed., Feb. 20	G. Battell
Wed., Feb. 27	L. Caprio

Store Cards

February 16 and 17

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

February 23 and 24

5:30 p.m.	B. Cestone
8:00 a.m.	P. Nanna
10:30 a.m.	R. DeStefano

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of Feb. 17 ...	C. Fortenbacker
Week of Feb. 24	B. Lee

Church Center Cleaning

February 21	Team B
February 28	Team C

Counting

Feb. 19	Cangelosi / McCabe
Feb. 25	Malone / Caprio

Altar Flowers

February 16	Klacik
February 16	Klacik

Basking Ridge Electric Co, LLC

Electrical Contractor



CHARLES F. FORTENBACKER
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

Coughlin Funeral Home

Dean W. Sulpy, Manager

NJ Lic. No. 4737

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www.coughlinfuneralhome.com 908-832-2414

John F Rimmel

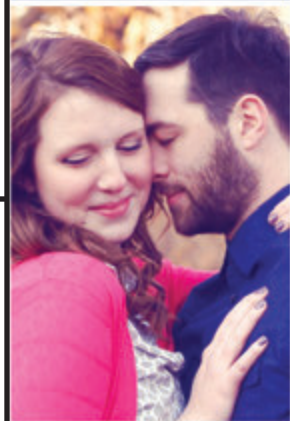
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