

The Catholic Community of St. John Neumann

A Christian Community of the Catholic Tradition

www.ccsjn.org / sjn@ccsjn.org

March 3, 2019

Volume 37 Number 9



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 frrick@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, March 5

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Wednesday, March 6

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

7:00 p.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Thursday, March 7

7:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

Friday, March 8

8:00 a.m. Dorothy D. Byrne, req.
Brisson Family

Saturday, March 9

5:30 p.m. John McCabe, req.,
Eileen McCabe

Sunday, March 10

8:00 a.m. Anita Sawczuk, req.
Mike and Mary Mastro

10:30 a.m. Rich Sepe, req.
Ron and Shirley Pojedinec



Parish Calendar

Sunday, March 3 - *Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time / Stewardship Weekend / Yellow Brick Road Collection*

8:00 a.m. Mass (Church Center)
10:30 a.m. Mass - Gallione Baptism - Class Mass (Church)
12:00 p.m. GIFT Session (Church and Office Centers)

Monday, March 4 - *Saint Casimir*

6:00 p.m. GIFT Session (Office Center Kitchen)
7:00 p.m. Small Group (Meeting Room)

Tuesday, March 5 - *Weekday*

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
11:00 a.m. Small Group (Narthex)
7:00 p.m. Small Group (Upper Room)

Wednesday, March 6 - *Ash Wednesday*

7:00 a.m. Mass and Ashes (Church Center)
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (Drexel Room)
10:30 a.m. Small Group (Narthex)
4:30 p.m. Service and Ashes (Church Center)
7:00 p.m. Mass and Ashes (Church Center)
7:45 p.m. Small Group (Upper Room)

Thurs., March 7 - *Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs*

7:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
5:00 p.m. Cleaning (Church Center)
7:30 p.m. Music/Bells (Church Center)
7:30 p.m. Small Group (Upper Room)

Friday, March 8 - *Saint John of God, Religious*

8:00 a.m. Mass (Neumann Residence Chapel)
6:00 p.m. Soup Supper (Church Center)
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross (Church Center)
7:30 p.m. Reconciliation (Reconciliation Room)
7:30 p.m. Lent Music Rehearsal (Church Center)

Mass Schedule - March 6/9/10

Ash Wednesday - Mass & Ashes - Church Center - 7:00 a.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Rick Rusk
Reader Jim Murray
Altar Server Needed
Ministers of the Eucharist..... 1 Needed

Ash Wednesday - Service & Ashes - Church Center-4:30 p.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Rick Rusk
Reader Gary Porto
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Debby Kelemen
.....Lyle Garcia, Sharon Janks

Ash Wednesday - Mass & Ashes - Church Center - 7:00 p.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Rick Rusk
Reader Mary D'Avella
Altar Server Needed
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Shirley Pojedinec
..... Bob Sobey, Ron Pojedinec

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Rick Rusk
Reader David Geerinck
Altar Server Klacik Family
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Donna Lance
..... Joann Gardner, Jim Oelkers

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Rick Rusk
Reader Chris Bitters
Altar Server Stanski Family
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Tom Klawunn
..... Jane Klawunn, 1 Needed

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Celebrant..... Fr. Rick Rusk
Reader Jen Kelly
Altar Server Alligood Family
Music Eucharistic Minister..... Mary D'Avella
Ministers of the Eucharist..... Gloria Cucchiara, Peter Royal
..... Sheena Carew, Jane Albert, 1 Needed

Saturday, March 9 - *Saint Frances of Rome, Religious*

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

Sunday, March 10 - *First Sunday of Lent*

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



Remembered at Mass

We stand together in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The following will be remembered during the Holy Eucharist: **Anne Jacobson, Carmen Lina Perez Serrano, Barry Danziger, and Diana Proano.**

Deceased: Anne Jacobson, Carmen Lina Perez Serrano, friends of Cruz Family, **Barry Danziger**, former parishioner, and **Diana Proano**, sister of Edgar Proano, 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
PART THREE: LIFE IN CHRIST

1691 "Christian, recognize your dignity and, now that you share in God's own nature, do not return to your former base condition by sinning. Remember who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Never forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of the Kingdom of God."¹

1692 The Symbol of the faith confesses the greatness of God's gifts to man in his work of creation, and even more in redemption and sanctification. What faith confesses, the sacraments communicate: by the sacraments of rebirth, Christians have become "children of God,"² "partakers of the divine nature."³ Coming to see in the faith their new dignity, Christians are called to lead henceforth a life "worthy of the gospel of Christ."⁴ They are made capable of doing so by the grace of Christ and the gifts of his Spirit, which they receive through the sacraments and through prayer.

1693 Christ Jesus always did what was pleasing to the Father,⁵ and always lived in perfect communion with him. Likewise Christ's disciples are invited to live in the sight of the Father "who sees in secret,"⁶ in order to become "perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect."⁷

1694 Incorporated into Christ by Baptism, Christians are "dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus" and so participate in the life of the Risen Lord.⁸ Following Christ and united with him,⁹ Christians can strive to be "imitators of God as beloved children, and walk in love"¹⁰ by conforming their thoughts, words and actions to the "mind . . . which is yours in Christ Jesus,"¹¹ and by following his example.¹²

1695 "Justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God,"¹³ "sanctified . . . (and) called to be saints,"¹⁴ Christians have become the temple of the Holy Spirit.¹⁵ This "Spirit of the Son" teaches them to pray to the Father¹⁶ and, having become their life, prompts them to act so as to bear "the fruit of the Spirit"¹⁷ by charity in action. Healing the wounds of sin, the Holy Spirit renews us interiorly through a spiritual transformation.¹⁸ He enlightens and strengthens us to live as "children of light" through "all that is good and right and true."¹⁹

1696 The way of Christ "leads to life"; a contrary way "leads to destruction."²⁰ The Gospel parable of the two ways remains ever present in the catechesis of the Church; it shows the importance of moral decisions for our salvation: "There are two ways, the one of life, the other of death; but between the two, there is a great difference."²¹

1697 Catechesis has to reveal in all clarity the joy and the demands of the way of Christ.²² Catechesis for the "newness of life"²³ in him should be:

- a catechesis of the Holy Spirit, the interior Master of life according to Christ, a gentle guest and friend who inspires, guides, corrects, and strengthens this life;
- a catechesis of grace, for it is by grace that we are saved and again it is by grace that our works can bear fruit for eternal life;
- a catechesis of the beatitudes, for the way of Christ is summed up in the beatitudes, the only path that leads to the eternal beatitude for which the human heart longs;

- a catechesis of sin and forgiveness, for unless man acknowledges that he is a sinner he cannot know the truth about himself, which is a condition for acting justly; and without the offer of forgiveness he would not be able to bear this truth;
- a catechesis of the human virtues which causes one to grasp the beauty and attraction of right dispositions towards goodness;

- a catechesis of the Christian virtues of faith, hope, and charity, generously inspired by the example of the saints; -a catechesis of the twofold commandment of charity set forth in the Decalogue;
- an ecclesial catechesis, for it is through the manifold exchanges of "spiritual goods" in the "communion of saints" that Christian life can grow, develop, and be communicated.

1698 The first and last point of reference of this catechesis will always be Jesus Christ himself, who is "the way, and the truth, and the life."²⁴ It is by looking to him in faith that Christ's faithful can hope that he himself fulfills his promises in them, and that, by loving him with the same love with which he has loved them, they may perform works in keeping with their dignity:

I ask you to consider that our Lord Jesus Christ is your true head, and that you are one of his members. He belongs to you as the head belongs to its members; all that is his is yours: his spirit, his heart, his body and soul, and all his faculties. You must make use of all these as of your own, to serve, praise, love, and glorify God. You belong to him, as members belong to their head. and so he longs for you to use all that is in you, as if it were his own, for the service and glory of the Father.²⁵

For to me, to live is Christ.²⁶

To Be Continued

PASTOR'S CORNER

This week we begin the great season of Lent with the distribution of ashes. This is the reminder that we are but dust and ashes and in need of the saving hand of God in our poverty. The good news is that we have a "Saving" God! Through the death and resurrection of Jesus we have hope of eternal life! May everyone have a grace filled Lent!

Fr. Rick

8TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

March 3, 2019

"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit."
(Luke 6:43)

Are you using your God-given gifts in the way God intended? Do you compare yourself to others and complain about what you don't have instead of being thankful for what you do have? God gives each of us unique gifts and a unique plan. Listen to how God is calling you to use your gifts, to bear good fruit, for the glory of His name.

ASH WEDNESDAY
MARCH 6TH

Mass and Ashes: 7:00 a.m.
Service and Ashes: 4:30 p.m.
Mass and Ashes: 7:00 p.m.

All Masses will take place
At the Church Center

Daylight Savings Time
Starts next weekend
March 10th
Set your clocks ahead so
you don't miss Mass.

← **Footnotes for Adjacent Article**

PART THREE: LIFE IN CHRIST (continued)

1 St. Leo the Great Sermo 22 in nat. Dom., 3: PL 54, 192C. **2** Jn 1:12; 1 Jn 3:1[ETML:C/]. **3** 2 Pet 1:4. **4** Phil 1:27. **5** Cf. Jn 8:29. **6** Mt 6:6[ETML:C/]. **7** Mt 5:48. **8** Rom 6:11 and cf. 6:5; cf. Col 2:12. **9** Cf. Jn 15:5. **10** Eph 5:1-2. **11** Phil 2:5. **12** Cf. Jn 13:12-16. **13** 2 Cor 6:11. **14** 1 Cor 1:2. **15** Cf. 1 Cor 6:19. **16** Cf. Gal 4:6. **17** Gal 5:22, 25. **18** Cf. Eph 4:23. **19** Eph 5:8, 9. **20** Mt 7:13; cf. Deut 30: 15-20. **21** Didache 1, 1: SCh 248, 140. **22** Cf. John Paul II, CT 29. **23** Rom 6:4. **24** Jn 14:6. **25** St. John Eudes, Tract. de admirabili corde Jesu, 1, 5. **26** Phil 1:21.

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.

Pastoral Council will be hosting March 8th and Religious Education will be hosting March 15th. Please let us know if you would like to join a group and prepare a soup.

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.

SMALL GROUPS BEGIN THIS WEEK!



Lent is an opportunity to rearrange our priorities and evaluate your life. Last chance to join a group.

Text France Kennedy at 908-307-7879 and give name and day or evening you want to join or call to discuss options.

LENTEN PRACTICES

During Lent, we are asked to devote ourselves to seeking the Lord in prayer and reading Scripture, to service by giving alms, and to sacrifice self-control through fasting. Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. Contemplate the meaning and origins of the Lenten fasting tradition in this reflection. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446).



ENCOUNTER LENT 2019

GIFT Family Formation will coordinate our faith community—and join with more than 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl in the narthex March 6, 2019 Ash Wednesday. During the 40 days of Lent, we will encounter the needs of the world. And don't

forget to download the CRS Rice Bowl app!



GIFT STUDENTS ENCOUNTER MARY

In support of Bishop's initiative to light the hearts of the faithful on fire an enthusiastically live the Gospel message, the students and families learned about Our Lady of Guadalupe. A prayer chain was created and made into a rosary. Mother of the Americas and Star of the New Evangelization, Pray for us

Parish News

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:

- 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) or email the office sjn@ccsjn.org.
- 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.



50 PLUS CLUB TRIP

'Jesus' at the Sign and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA

Tuesday, May 14th

The 50s Plus Club is sponsoring a trip to the Lancaster Sight and Sound Theater to see the play, Jesus, on May 14th. The price of \$155 per person covers the ticket, bus, lunch and gratuities. Send your check (payable to Elaine Tours, LLC) to Shirley Pojedinec (7 Symonds Lane, Glen Gardner, 08826) by March 5 to reserve your

seat. On March 6, we will be opening the trip to other groups and parishes. To avoid being put on the waiting list, send your check ASAP. Flyers are available in the narthex. Any questions, contact Shirley at 908-537-6241 or rjsapoje@comcast.net.



Are you on social media? Your stewardship could be keeping St. John's activities present on the web! Contact the office and find us on Facebook, "St. John Neumann RC Church, Califon NJ"

LENTEN OBLIGATIONS

So that the Church of Metuchen may be spiritually one in a common observance of Lent, the following days of fast and abstinence are to be observed by all Catholics of the Diocese who enjoy the blessings of good health:

1. The days of fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
2. All other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.
3. From the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday until the celebration of the Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday, the Easter fast should be observed so that, with uplifted and welcoming hearts, we may be ready to celebrate the joys of the Resurrection. This ancient tradition, intimately connected with the *Rites of Holy Week* and the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, is encouraged, especially in those places baptizing catechumens at the Easter Vigil.

The obligation to fast applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59. To fast in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal during the day so as to experience hunger. The obligation of abstinence affects all Catholics who have reached the age of 14. Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat. The obligation of fast and abstinence, as a whole, is a serious obligation. While failure to observe any penitential day in itself may not be considered serious, the failure to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of them without good cause, would be considered a grave matter. Those unable to abstain for a valid reason on any given Friday of Lent are asked to perform some other penitential act, or to abstain on another day.

STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND / MARCH 3 AND 4

Giving Your Best

God gives us talents not to build ourselves up with pride, but so we will have something we value to share and give to others.

One winter I spent Wednesday evenings teaching art classes to mentally handicapped adults. I planned a variety of art projects these young men and women could make and enjoy. One young man worked each week, but never smiled or spoke. Andy had trouble working with his hands and seemed displeased with everything he made.

One evening I taught candle making. Andy dropped in ice cubes and poured melted blue wax into the empty milk carton to make his candle. Once it cooled, Andy peeled off the cardboard. I lit the wick and watched Andy's face light up! He quickly blew it out then cradled his masterpiece. Andy took it and gave it to his counselor. He beamed as he presented his gift. He had so little, but he gave away the best he had made.

I felt so humbled, for when I first learn to make things well, I want to keep them and hoard my workmanship. God gave us his best in giving us Jesus, God's only Son. Jesus gave us his best, in giving his life for us.

Please return your Stewardship Forms at Mass!

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:

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.

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?

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.

VOLUNTEERS FOR CLEANING



We are in need of volunteers to help with church cleaning, once every six weeks. One task is vacuuming and mopping narthex floor, and the other for cleaning bathrooms. Contact the office if you want to see if this could fit into your schedule.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Clara Alvarez
 Gary Anderson
 Andrew Arias
 Miguel Astacio
 Diane Bosack
 Joan Cardierre
 John D'Almeida
 Aiden Day
 Barbara DelPiano
 Denis DeVirteuil
 Sophia DeVita
 Anthony DeVito
 Dawn Farley
 Cindy Feighan
 Emma Finnegan
 Bob Gardner
 Debbie Gregorakis
 Joseph Gruszczynski
 Liz Harmon
 Fred Holub
 Stephanie Illetscho
 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 Thornsby
 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

EIGHTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME:

You want the Plunger Pushed, You push it...

"... remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother's eye."

Luke 6: 39-45

And as [Jesus] was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.

Luke 9: 28-36, (37-43a)

Semon Frank Thompson served as superintendent of the Oregon State Penitentiary from 1994 until 1998. As superintendent, Thompson carried out two executions — Ohio's only two executions in the last half-century. Thompson supervised the medical technicians who strapped the inmate to the gurney and hooked up the intravenous lines and trained the executioner who depressed the plunger of the syringe injecting the lethal chemicals into the condemned's veins. And it was Thompson who asked the condemned if he had any last words.

And then he watched as the man died. Sometimes the condemned died quietly and quickly; sometimes the condemned writhed and gasped in pain.

Frank Thompson once supported capital punishment, but, he says, "being involved in the taking of two lives forced me to reckon, on a moral level, with the reality of capital punishment."

So Thompson offers this challenge: "If politicians refuse to outlaw state-sponsored killing, then a minimum condition of their public service should be their inclusion in a lottery where they are randomly selected and trained to provide hands-on assistance in an execution . . . a sort of jury service for executions."

Despite its legality and the clinical conditions in which it is carried out, Thompson points out that assisting at an execution "does not insulate a person from having to deal psychologically with killing another person . . . The results of participating in an execution are exactly what you'd expect: post-traumatic stress disorder, with all its related maladies — substance abuse, suicide, depression."

Thompson concludes: "Capital punishment in the United States is cloaked in a cloud of indifference and moral passivity. Requiring Americans who are responsible for its continuation to bear more of its costs is the only way to ensure that it is soon abolished altogether

The Boston Globe, September 2, 2018.] Often the "splinter" in our own "eye" is our indifference and passivity to the pain and hurt suffered by those around us. Warden Thompson challenges lawmakers — and we who elect them — to realize the consequences of our ignorance and obliviousness to the impact of such policies and practices as the death penalty. Jesus challenges all who would be his followers to dare to remove from our own eyes the "wooden beam" of self-centeredness that prevents us from seeing the obstacles we lay in the road to 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.



SMILE WITH YOUR FAMILY



A boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?"

"Sixteen", the boy responded.

"How do you know that?"

"Easy, All you have to do is add it up, like the preacher said: 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

Parish and Community News

GOD TRANSFIGURED IN LIFE'S MESSES

A church organized a Tuesday morning mom-and-tots group, where the kids would play and the moms could indulge in adult conversation and sip coffee while it was still hot. The group became very close, laughing and crying, talking and praying.

One day the group took up a book on prayer. The author wrote that making quiet time for personal prayer was crucial to the spiritual life. Most of the moms said they tried to fit in such "quiet time" during nap tie or laundry time or dishwashing time or shower time, but all agreed that a set daily "quiet time" was an impossible luxury.

The book offered a solution for the quiet-time dilemma: "Get up earlier." All moms have to do is get up and have their quiet time in the dark before everyone else is awake, because — quoting the book — "you can sleep when you're dead."

In other words, "a bunch of baby-brained, undernourished, zombie moms were being told that what they really needed to make their lives better was **less sleep.**"

One young mom spoke up: "Sleep was the one thing I knew I needed to have if I was going to be a decent mom for another day. I needed sleep, because my kids needed me to get dressed and go to the park and read the same book 400 times and kiss boo-boos and settle disputes over Legos and cut a single grape into 11 pieces and scoop turds out of the bathtub and not kill anybody, either by accident or on purpose. Sleep was *life.*"

How could God entrust her, she asked, with the care and protection of three kids and then expect her to get up at the crack of dawn to "be quiet with him" because "I can sleep with him when I'm dead."

"I don't think that's how it works. I really don't. I think God is with us. Like, day in and day out, in the chaos and the noise and the silliness of life, he is there . . . never absent from the clamor of our kids' laughter, their squeals, their skinned knees, their fussing and whining and raging fits in the Target parking lot. God is not withholding himself from us, waiting for us to come to him in the wee hours of the morning as a measure of our devotion . . .!"

"So I'm gonna honor God intentionally in my sleep, because I'm pretty sure God wants me to be the very best mother I can possibly be to my boys . . . Tomorrow I'll be sleeping in. And I'm not even gonna worry about it, because I'm pretty sure I'll have plenty of quiet time with God *when I'm DEAD!*"

In her call to motherhood, this woman has experienced "transfiguration": the light of God's presence radiates in her love and care for her children; the presence of Christ's peace "transfigures" their home into the very dwelling place of God. What Peter, James and John witness in Christ on the mountain exists within each one of us, as well: God is present within us, animating us to do good and holy things, guiding our steps as we try to walk justly and humbly in the ways of God, enlightening our vision with wisdom and selflessness to bring the justice and mercy of God into our world.



Be part of the parish plan! Write down what action(s) you will take during Lent in the areas of prayer, fasting and almsgiving and share it in the narthex!

WEEKLY COLLECTION

February 24, 2019

71 Donors Weekly	\$3,591.00
1 Yellow Brick Road	\$50.00
6 Snow/Heat	\$110.00
17 Catholic Spirit	\$248.00

February 25, 2018

78 Donors Weekly	\$4,374.00
2 Yellow Brick Road	\$165.00
13 Snow/Heat	\$450.00
26 Develop. of Peoples	\$417.00



STORE CARDS

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

Thanks to the **16 families** who purchased **\$2,800.00** in grocery & store cards for last week, the stores gave us a profit of **\$153.85.**



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Or go to <http://tinyurl.com/lx7c83s>

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Office Angels

Wed., March 6	J. Santoro
Wed., March 13	C. Behrens

Store Cards

March 2 and 3

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

March 9 and 10

5:30 p.m.	B. Cestone
8:00 a.m.	V. Hoffart
10:30 a.m.	D. Royal

Church Center Plant Watering

Week of March 3	L. Livoti
Week of March 10	M. Cangelosi

Church Center Cleaning

March 7	Team D
March 14	Team E

Counting

March 4	Cangelosi / Gagen
March 4	Malone / Kosakowski

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baskingridgeelectric@gmail.com
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Califon Area: 908.832.6228

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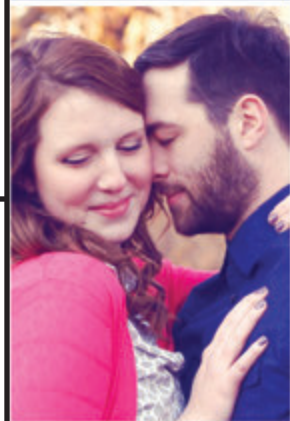
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